



Zephon's AISE Zero Trust Maturity Assessment and Continuous Progress Tracker – Executive Overview

Overview

Zephon's **AISE** (pronounced "easy - Assess, Identify, Strategize, Execute) **Zero Trust Maturity Assessment and Continuous Progress Tracer** provides government agencies with a **structured, repeatable, and policy-aligned approach** to accurately assess their current Zero Trust posture against the **DoW / DoW Zero Trust Reference Architecture and Course of Action (CoA)**. The assessment is designed to support informed decision-making, modernization planning, and defensible progress tracking over time.

Purpose

The assessment enables agency leadership to:

- Establish an objective Zero Trust baseline
- Identify gaps relative to DoW Zero Trust requirements
- Prioritize investments based on risk and mission impact
- Track measurable progress across funding cycles

The approach focuses on **outcomes and maturity**, not vendor tools or point solutions.

Standards Alignment

The assessment is explicitly aligned to:

- DoW / DoW Zero Trust Reference Architecture
- DoW Zero Trust Course of Action (CoA)
- NIST Risk Management Framework (RMF) principles

This ensures results are **policy-relevant, audit-defensible, and acquisition-ready**.



Scope

The assessment evaluates maturity across all Zero Trust pillars, including:

- Identity
- Devices
- Network / Environment
- Applications & Workloads
- Data
- Visibility & Analytics
- Automation & Orchestration
- Governance

Each pillar is assessed against defined capabilities and activities derived directly from the DoW CoA.

Methodology

Zephon uses a **consistent, evidence-based methodology** that includes:

- Structured, role-appropriate questionnaires
- Objective scoring mapped to DoW Zero Trust activities
- Equal and transparent weighting across pillars
- Vendor-agnostic evaluation of architecture, controls, and operations

This approach avoids subjective assessments and provides consistent results across organizations and reassessments.



Outputs

The assessment produces:

- Clear maturity ratings (e.g., baseline, target, advanced)
- Pillar-level and enterprise-level scoring
- Identified gaps mapped directly to DoW Zero Trust activities
- Actionable insights suitable for executive briefings and program planning

Roadmap and Progress Tracking

Beyond a point-in-time assessment, the approach supports:

- Prioritized Zero Trust roadmaps aligned to mission risk
- Phased improvement planning tied to budget cycles
- Repeatable reassessments to measure progress over time

This enables agencies to **demonstrate tangible Zero Trust advancement**, not just compliance intent.

Value to the Government

- Objective and repeatable Zero Trust maturity measurement
- Direct alignment to DoW Zero Trust guidance
- Reduced acquisition and modernization risk
- Clear decision support for leadership and oversight

Zephon's assessment helps agencies move forward with Zero Trust **deliberately, measurably, and cost-effectively**, while remaining aligned to mission and policy priorities.



Why This Reduces Program and Acquisition Risk

Zephon's Zero Trust Maturity Assessment reduces program and acquisition risk by providing an **objective, policy-aligned baseline** before major Zero Trust investments are made. By mapping findings directly to the DoW / DoW Zero Trust Reference Architecture and Course of Action, agencies avoid misaligned procurements, over-engineering, and premature tooling decisions.

The assessment establishes **clear, evidence-based requirements** that inform acquisition strategies, sequencing, and funding decisions. This enables agencies to prioritize high-impact capabilities, reduce rework, and minimize downstream scope changes. The repeatable nature of the assessment also supports **ongoing oversight**, allowing leadership to track progress, validate vendor claims, and demonstrate measurable Zero Trust advancement across program phases.

As a result, agencies gain improved cost control, reduced delivery risk, and greater confidence that Zero Trust investments directly support mission and policy objectives.