



# Streamline compliance to rapidly accelerate cloud migration for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG)

## OVERVIEW

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG) is the largest inspector general in the federal government. The office is responsible for fighting fraud, waste, and abuse in the \$1.3 trillion portfolio of HHS. As with other federal agencies, the office is under tremendous pressure to deliver modern digital services and improve mission capabilities to protect taxpayers from healthcare fraud. Establishing a modern cloud infrastructure that meets federal security and compliance guidelines is a first step in that journey. VRTL Space leveraged a General Support System (GSS) based approach in automating security compliance to create a pre-authorized, foundational platform with shared capabilities and integrated security that can be inherited by applications from the beginning. This helped HHS-OIG quickly assess and authorize its cloud infrastructure and enabled the rapid deployment of new digital services and advanced analytics capabilities. The approach helped HHS-OIG increase development velocity, freed up millions in contract expenses, and allowed for quicker delivery of mission capabilities.

## CHALLENGE

As healthcare fraud activities have significantly increased due to the prevalence of technology, it was crucial for HHS-OIG to modernize IT and transform its fraud detection capabilities. Legacy manual security compliance assessment process created a significant impediment to the agility the agency needed to rapidly deliver mission capabilities - drastically impairing cloud migration. Historically, the process to complete an Authority to Operate (ATO) was around 18 months.



## SOLUTION

VRTL Space provided management consulting and technical engineering services for cloud migration leveraging a General Support System (GSS) approach. The GSS serves as a foundational environment with common shared services such as authentication, logging, databases, etc. This allows the deployment of applications that inherit pre-authorized controls. The approach replaces the traditional individual application-based approach and streamlines the assessment and authorization process for all applications and tools. Benefits of our approach are as follows:



Creates a pre-authorized environment of shared services to simplify deployment of future capabilities and accelerate authorization.



Shared services-based architecture to consolidate, simplify and streamline legacy workloads.



Common security architected into the environment from the beginning aligning to NIST RMF and simplifies standardization.



Automating SSP documentation as code to ensure consistency between documentation and actual environments.

## RESULTS

Before this approach recommended by VRTL Space, the HHS-OIG was averaging a completed ATO every 18 months. In the first year alone, VRTL Space was able to finalize four ATO packages and saved the office nearly four years of time and resources. By providing a new GSS based approach, VRTL Space was able to significantly increase the agility of HHS-OIG to modernize its mission capabilities.



**79% Decrease in Project Timelines.**



**\$14m Freed up in Expenses.**



**Achieved Authority to Operate (ATO) in less than 7 months for GSS and deployed 3 enterprise applications into production 4 months thereafter.**