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NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 – Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations

NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 is the NIST catalog of security and privacy controls in 20 families, mandatory for federal systems under OMB A-130 and FISMA; Release 5.2.0 issued August 27, 2025.



What it is

NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5, Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations, is the NIST catalog of security and privacy controls, organized into 20 control families (Table 1), whose use is mandatory for federal information systems under OMB Circular A-130 and FISMA (Section 1.1). FIPS 200 requires agencies to select one of the three tailored baselines drawn from the most current version of SP 800-53, and Revision 5 moved those baselines into the companion publication NIST SP 800-53B .

NIST published Revision 5 on September 23, 2020 through the Joint Task Force, with an errata update on December 10, 2020, and issued Release 5.2.0 on August 27, 2025 as a minor release that adds SA-15(13), SA-24 and SI-02(07), revises SI-07(12), updates the discussion of SA-04, SA-05, SA-08, SA-08(14), SI-02 and SI-02(05) and updates related controls across the catalog. Any organization that processes, stores or transmits information can implement the controls; state, local and tribal governments and private sector organizations are encouraged to do so (Section 1.1).

At a glance

PUBLISHER National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	TYPE Standard	VERSION Revision 5 (September 2020; Release 5.2.0, August 27, 2025)
EFFECTIVE September 23, 2020	DOMAIN Cybersecurity	FAMILY NIST Special Publications
REGION United States	ADOPTION MODEL Regulatory Compliance	IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY High

Source: csrc.nist.gov/pubs/sp/800/53/r5/upd1/final

Why it matters

- **One catalog for security and privacy** The Revision 5 changes list integrates information security and privacy controls into a consolidated catalog, with the PT family covering PII processing and transparency.
- **Controls that any organization can state as outcomes** Removing the responsible entity from the control statement lets the same control be implemented by a system, an organization or a developer.
- **Supply chain covered** The SR family, Supply Chain Risk Management, is new in Revision 5 and is one of three families that address mandates emergent since FIPS 200 (Table 1 footnote).
- **Selection separated from the catalog** Baselines and tailoring guidance moved to SP 800-53B, so the catalog can be used with the RMF, the Cybersecurity Framework, the Privacy Framework or a systems engineering process.

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How SmartSuite supports NIST 800-53 Rev.5

Control Catalog Records (Chapter Three)

Load the controls and enhancements of the 20 families as records with identifier, control text, discussion and related controls, and record the Release 5.2.0 changes against the affected controls.

Parameter Assignments (Section 2.2)

Store the value chosen for every organization-defined parameter, such as the audit record retention requirement in AU-4, beside the control it belongs to.

Implementation Approach and Inheritance (Section 2.3)

Mark each control as common, system-specific or hybrid, name the common control provider and show which systems inherit it.

Security and Privacy Collaboration (Section 2.4)

Flag controls that serve both programs so the security and privacy teams review the same record, following the collaboration index NIST publishes.

Assessment Evidence (SP 800-53A Rev. 5)

Attach assessment results and evidence to each control and track findings to closure for the authorization package.

Supply Chain and Acquisition Controls (SA and SR families)

Assign the System and Services Acquisition and Supply Chain Risk Management controls to suppliers and developers and track their attestations and reviews.

Common framework mappings

CIS Controls v8.1 | ISO 27001:2022 | ISO 27002:2022 | MITRE ATT&CK | NIST CSF 2.0 | NIST 800-171 Rev. 3 | NIST 800-37 Rev.2 | SOC 2

Official resources

NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5

Defines the security and privacy controls for federal information systems.

csrc.nist.gov/publications/detail/sp/800-53/rev-5/final

NIST Security and Privacy Controls Implementation Guide

Outlines methods to implement NIST SP 800-53 controls effectively.

csrc.nist.gov/publications/detail/sp/800-53a/rev-5/final

Risk Management Framework (RMF) Overview

Outlines the RMF and details integration of NIST SP 800-53 controls.

csrc.nist.gov/publications/detail/sp/800-37/rev-2/final

Frequently asked questions

How many control families does NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 have?

Twenty, listed in Table 1: Access Control, Awareness and Training, Audit and Accountability, Assessment, Authorization and Monitoring, Configuration Management, Contingency Planning, Identification and Authentication, Incident Response, Maintenance, Media Protection, Physical and Environmental Protection, Planning, Program Management, Personnel Security, PII Processing and Transparency, Risk Assessment, System and Services Acquisition, System and Communications Protection, System and Information Integrity and Supply Chain Risk Management. Seventeen align with FIPS 200; PM, PT and SR address later mandates.

Who must use NIST SP 800-53, and under what authority?

Section 1.1 states that use of the controls is mandatory for federal information systems in accordance with OMB Circular A-130 and FISMA, and a federal information system includes one operated by a contractor or another organization on behalf of an agency. FIPS 200 requires agencies to include one of the three tailored baselines from the most current version of SP 800-53. Other organizations are encouraged to use the controls.

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What changed in Release 5.2.0 of August 27, 2025?

The CSRC planning note lists new controls and enhancements SA-15(13), SA-24 and SI-02(07); a revision to SI-07(12); updated discussion for SA-04, SA-05, SA-08, SA-08(14), SI-02 and SI-02(05); and related-control updates to all -01 controls, AU-02, AU-03, CA-07, IR-04, IR-06, IR-08, SA-15, SI-02 and SI-07. SP 800-53A Rev. 5 received matching assessment procedures, and SP 800-53B's version number was updated with no change to the baselines.

Where are the low, moderate and high baselines for Rev. 5?

Not in SP 800-53 itself. The Revision 5 changes list says the control baselines and tailoring guidance were removed and transferred to NIST SP 800-53B, Control Baselines for Information Systems and Organizations, so that the catalog can be used with different selection processes. SP 800-53B marks each control and enhancement for the low, moderate, high and privacy baselines.

How is a control in NIST SP 800-53 structured?

Section 2.2 gives each control a control section that prescribes the capability, a discussion, related controls, control enhancements and references. Organization-defined parameters are set through assignment and selection operations; the text uses AU-4, Audit Storage Capacity, as its example, with the retention requirement as the parameter and AU-4(1) as an enhancement. Enhancements always require the base control.

License included / downloadable: Yes NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 is a U.S. government publication available free of charge from NIST, including the OSCAL version of the controls, and its control catalog is included with the platform.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/nist-sp-800-53-rev-5

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