THE OFFERING

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION SECURE AND COMPLIANT?

The CORD Index is a structured practitioner-led assessment that benchmarks your security and compliance posture across five critical dimensions, producing a composite score, gap analysis, and prioritized roadmap to strengthen your defenses.

5	163	4	100
DIMENSIONS ASSESSED	EVALUATION CRITERIA	WEEK ENGAGEMENT	POINT SCALE

FIVE DIMENSIONS OF ASSESSMENT

Scored independently, weighted equally

01

Governance & Compliance

A policy nobody has revisited since it was written is not a security program. We assess security governance, policies and standards, regulatory and certification readiness, audit readiness, data governance, and executive oversight, scoring the accountability and evidence that would hold up in front of an auditor.

02

Identity Governance & Access Management

Most access problems are not bad grants. They are grants nobody came back to remove. We evaluate the identity lifecycle, joiner, mover, and leaver processes, role and permission design, privileged access, authentication, access reviews, and secrets governance, scoring whether least privilege is enforced and revocation is provable.

03

Security Operations

Owning a scanner is not the same as closing what it finds. We assess vulnerability management, security monitoring, threat detection, endpoint security, penetration testing, and security metrics, scoring whether real exposure gets prioritized and resolved or simply reported.

04

Risk & Third-Party Management

A risk register built for the assessor protects no one. We evaluate enterprise and security risk, vendor and supply chain risk, asset management, data classification, and risk acceptance, scoring whether risks are tiered, owned, and tracked to resolution.

05

Operational Resilience & Incident Response

A plan that has never been rehearsed is a hypothesis. We assess incident response, business continuity, disaster recovery governance, tabletop exercises, crisis communications, and recovery validation, scoring what your team has tested rather than what sits in a binder.

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DIMENSIONS & SUB-FACTORS

The full evaluation architecture behind every CORD Index engagement: five dimensions, eight sub-factors each, scored against evidence rather than opinion.

GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE 01

Is there a governed, documented, and enforced security program with named accountability and audit-tested evidence, or a set of policies nobody has revisited since they were written?

- Security governance
- Policies & standards
- Risk management
- Regulatory & certification readiness
- Audit readiness
- Data governance
- Third-party governance
- Executive oversight

IDENTITY GOVERNANCE & ACCESS MANAGEMENT 02

Is access governed by an authoritative identity source, enforced least privilege, and provable revocation, or by ad hoc grants nobody circles back to remove?

- Identity governance
- Joiner / mover / leaver
- Role & permission governance
- Privileged access
- Authentication
- Access reviews
- Secrets governance
- Third-party access

SECURITY OPERATIONS 03

Does the organization continuously detect, prioritize, and close out real exposure, or does it own tools that scan, alert, and generate reports nobody acts on?

- Vulnerability management
- Security monitoring
- Threat detection
- Endpoint security
- Security tool governance
- Penetration testing
- Security metrics
- Continuous improvement

RISK & THIRD-PARTY MANAGEMENT 04

Are risks and vendors actively tiered, monitored, and tracked to resolution, or does a register exist mainly to have something to show an assessor?

- Enterprise risk
- Security risk register
- Vendor risk
- Supply chain security
- Asset management
- Data classification
- Risk acceptance
- Regulatory risk

OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE & INCIDENT RESPONSE 05

Has the organization rehearsed surviving an incident or disruption, or does it hold plans and backups that have never been put to the test?

- Incident response
- Business continuity
- Disaster recovery governance
- Tabletop exercises
- Security awareness
- Crisis communications
- Recovery validation
- Lessons learned

Built for balance, not bias.

Every dimension is assessed against eight sub-factors, and every sub-factor is graded item by item against an artifact, a system, or live data. No dimension is left unscrutinized, and no dimension is weighted more heavily by default. The depth of review in Risk & Third-Party Management matches the depth in Security Operations. That structural balance is what makes the composite score defensible: a high mark reflects even performance across the security program, not strength in the areas that happened to get the most attention.

SCORING TIERS



Emergent

0 – 39

Significant audit, breach, or compliance liabilities are present. Foundational governance and defense work comes first.

Transitional

40 – 74

Foundational controls exist, but material gaps remain. Close the highest-severity exposure first, then build the evidence trail an audit requires.

Leveraged

75 - 100

Controls across governance, access, security operations, third-party risk, and resilience are mature and evidenced. The organization is ready to pursue certification and a clean audit.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE

- Composite Score & Confidence Ratings
- Scorecard Across All Five Dimensions
- Roadmap - 4 Quarters
- Risk Register & Recommended Remediation
- Proposed Engagement Models & Cost Estimates
- Executive Reporting

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

01 Discovery

Stakeholder interviews, documentation review, access provisioning, current-state mapping across all five dimensions.

02 Assessment

Technical deep dive, automated scanning tools, manual review of policies, access controls, defense tooling, and resilience planning.

03 Analysis

Findings synthesis, severity classification, roadmap sequencing, deliverable drafting, internal review with First Factory senior leadership.

04 Readout

Executive presentation of full findings, technical deep-dive session with engineering and compliance leads, recommended next-phase proposal.

TIMELINE

4 weeks, end-to-end

DELIVERED BY CERTIFIED PRACTITIONERS

Ready to diagnose your security preparedness?

Our certified practitioners score what the evidence shows, against a proven methodology. We deliver clarity, not just a score.

REQUEST AN ASSESSMENT