

Building a Standalone CISO Organization for Federal Compliance

CSC Government Services

VALUE / SCOPE **\$90-110M infrastructure investment**

SITUATION

CSC made a strategic decision to separate CSC Government Services from the commercial CSC business in preparation for sale. However, many federal contracts prohibited offshore development, required independent cyber governance, and demanded strict operational segmentation. CSC Government Services needed its own CISO function, security infrastructure, network backbone, compliance program, and independent audit readiness—all in under 12 months.

TASK

My task was to temporarily serve as the CISO and lead the full cyber and infrastructure separation. This required building a standalone security organization, duplicating key capabilities where federal rules prohibited sharing, and ensuring that CSC Government Services would pass CMMC, FedRAMP High, and ICD 503 audits without relying on the parent company.

ACTION

I led a four-phase structured separation:

Phase 1 – Governance & Compliance (Months 1–3)

- Established a new CISO office and board reporting structure
- Conducted compliance gap analysis
- Decided what could be inherited vs. duplicated
- Allocated \$10–15M for legal, governance, and license restructuring

Phase 2 – Infrastructure Build-Out (Months 4–6)

- Stood up new 24x7 NOSCs
- Deployed separate SIEM, SD-WAN, IAM, and EDR
- Hired cleared cyber analysts
- Allocated \$20–25M for facilities, staffing, and technology

Phase 3 – Integration & Tooling (Months 7–9)

- Unified SIEM/EDR/IAM visibility
- Rewrote SOPs under CSC Government Services governance
- Implemented encryption, DLP, vendor risk tools
- Allocated \$25–30M for tooling and engineering

Phase 4 – Audit Readiness & Zero Trust (Months 10–12)

- Implemented Zero Trust pillars
- Finalized insider threat and monitoring

- Prepared for audits (CMMC, FedRAMP High, ICD 503)
- Allocated \$30–35M for migration & audits

RESULT

CSC Government Services reached full operational and cyber independence in 12 months. Audit posture was strengthened, federal compliance risks were eliminated, and the cost of separation (\$90–110M) was less than half of a full greenfield build. The new entity became viable for sale with zero operational disruption to federal customers.

LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES DEMONSTRATED

- Ownership — took full responsibility for a high-risk, enterprise-wide separation.
- Insist on the Highest Standards — aligned the new entity with top-tier DoD and IC compliance requirements.
- Dive Deep — analyzed every inherited control and rebuilt what federal policy required.
- Bias for Action — executed a 12-month transformation under a hard deadline.

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