



An Approach to Implementing NIST SP 800-171

Most requirements in NIST SP 800-171 are about **policy, process, and configuring** IT securely, but some may require security-related **software or hardware**. For companies new to the requirements, a reasonable approach would be to:

1. Examine each of the requirements to determine
 - Policy or process requirements
 - Policy/process requirements that require an implementation in IT (typically by either configuring the IT in a certain way or through use of specific software)
 - IT configuration requirements
 - Any additional software or hardware required

Note that the complexity of the company IT system may determine whether additional software or tools are required.

2. Determine which of requirements can readily be accomplished by in-house IT personnel and which require additional research
3. Develop a plan of action and milestones to implement the requirements.



