March 2019

ETHISPHERE®
GOOD. SMART. BUSINESS. PROFIT.®

6991 E. Camelback Rd. Ste. B-210
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
p: 888.229.3207

Frequently Asked Questions about Applying the Terminology of the NIST Cybersecurity Framework

The *CREATe Leading Practices for Cybersecurity* assessment presents questions in a way that directly adheres to the NIST Cybersecurity framework's subcategories to allow for global benchmarking and calibration. Because of this, there may be certain terms used that law firms may be unfamiliar with or that do not appear to apply. Following specific terms used in the NIST Framework, we provide specific guidance below for law firms on applying these terms to their organization in order to appropriately and accurately select an answer within the assessment.

You may also reference the "Guidance" tab within the platform (available in each question) for additional guidance while completing the assessment.

NIST TERMS

1. **Partners:** [e.g., ID.AM-6]

   In this context, "partners" means companies that your firm has a partnership with – it could be a joint venture, a cooperative referral agreements, etc. It does not refer to partners in your firm.

2. **Supply Chain:** [e.g., ID.BE-1, ID.BE-2]

   In this question, NIST is using "supply chain" broadly. It may be more useful to think about your overall role in the "value chain" as a legal service provider. You are part of the value chain of your clients.

3. **Systems developer:** [e.g., PR.IP-2]

   NIST uses the term "systems developer" in a broad way. We suggest it is answered in the context of how your firm manages the process related to developing information systems used internally or with clients.

4. **Critical infrastructure:** [e.g., ID.RM-3]

   Law firms are not directly considered part of the critical infrastructure as defined by the US Department of Homeland Security. However, many of your client organizations may be considered part of the critical infrastructure. As a result, law firms may be accessing networks or information of organizations that are considered to be critical infrastructure. Please consider this as you answer any questions related to critical infrastructure. Here is a list of the sectors considered to be critical infrastructure:

Chemical	Information Technology	Food & Agriculture
Communications	Transportation Systems	Healthcare & Public Health
Dams	Commercial Facilities	Nuclear Reactors, Materials &
Emergency Services	Critical Manufacturing	Waste
Financial Services	Defense Industrial Base	Water & Wastewater Systems
Government Facilities	Energy	