

**Opening Remarks** [as prepared]  
Ranking Member Rob Portman  
*FedRAMP Reform: Recommendations to Reduce Burden, Enhance  
Security, and Address Inefficiencies in the Government Cloud  
Authorization Process*  
November 30, 2021 @ 2:30pm

I am glad we're holding this roundtable today to examine FedRAMP. Thank you to our participants for joining us today, and especially to Mr. Fistic who joins us from OCLC in Dublin, Ohio. We appreciate your attendance here today to provide your insights on your experiences with the FedRAMP program.

FedRAMP's "do once, use many times" framework has many benefits. For example, the reuse of authorized cloud systems has helped the government avoid an estimated \$716 million in costs.

The current program, however, also has weaknesses which have left it vulnerable to foreign-backed hackers targeting cloud systems, like China and Russia. Right now, we do not have sufficient safeguards in place to identify and prevent foreign interference in our cloud systems and that must change before we codify this program.

This is especially important in light of FedRAMP's emphasis on reuse and the program's influence beyond the federal government. State and local governments often procure FedRAMP authorized products because the FedRAMP label implies these products and services are secure.

Further, FedRAMP heavily relies on the security assessments performed by private sector third-party assessment organizations. Surprisingly, cloud service providers choose

which 3PAO will conduct the security assessment of their cloud system -- and pays the 3PAO for the assessment.

Finally, despite best efforts to improve the program, FedRAMP still suffers from high costs, long timelines, and inconsistent review processes across agencies. As a result, federal agencies have fewer cloud service offerings to choose from compared to their private sector counterparts, hindering agencies from procuring the best service for their needs. As of today, there are roughly 240 FedRAMP authorized providers, compared to the thousands available in the private market.

I look forward to a productive conversation on how to address the inefficiencies and burdens in the FedRAMP program, and how to improve the security posture of the government's cloud systems.

Thank you.