Tom Cornelius
Senior Partner
Compliance Forge

Tom Cornelius currently serves as both the Senior Partner at ComplianceForge and Senior Director at the Secure Controls Framework (SCF) Council. He brings over two decades of leading teams of professionals and innovating solutions to complex problems in both the public and private sectors.

His skillset is unique in that it blends hands-on leadership, technical skills, an understanding of business need and a thorough understanding of cybersecurity operations, Governance, Risk, Compliance (GRC) and privacy. Technology without strategy is chaos - Tom brings order through applying industry-recognized practices and aligning Information Technology, cybersecurity, and privacy requirements with business objectives. Through implementing industry-recognized practices and risk mitigation strategies, he works with organizational leadership to focus on brand protection measures by identifying and reducing vulnerabilities, which could otherwise be exploited and do serious harm to an organization's reputation and bottom line.

After graduating from the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, NY, Tom spent 9 years in the United States Army from roles at the tactical to operational level. Tom holds two master's degrees and multiple industry certifications. His experience has him well-versed in Information Assurance (IA) operations. He held civilian Department of Defense (DoD) roles that range from being a cybersecurity analyst at US Joint Forces Command to successfully leading the effort to obtain a DoD Information Assurance Certification and Accreditations Process (DIACAP) Authority To Operate (ATO) for a defense contractor. He was also Nike's first director for cybersecurity compliance and stood up that organization's 24x7 Security Operations Center (SOC).

As a passion project, Tom founded the SCF to provide a free cybersecurity and privacy metaframework that businesses can use to help become both secure and compliant. He believes in knowledge being half the battle for organizations in grappling cybersecurity issues, where it is critical for an organization to clearly understand its Minimum Security Requirements (MSR) that involves the process of distilling applicable statutory, regulatory and contractual obligations to establish the foundational "must haves" to be both secure and compliant. He led the development of the SCF to help solve that problem.