

CRITICALSTART[®] IncidentGuard

Protect your organization with fortified defenses and rapid response

KEY BENEFITS

- ✓ **Faster incident response**
Minimize downtime and losses during a security incident with a pre-negotiated, expert team always on standby
- ✓ **Enhanced security posture**
Strengthen security controls with Purple Teaming exercises, blending offensive and defensive strategies for comprehensive security
- ✓ **Maximized ROI**
Take advantage of more ways to help protect your organization for a cost similar to a traditional IR retainer but with a better Return on Investment (ROI)
- ✓ **Compliance alignment**
Align with key regulatory and industry compliance standards by proactively identifying vulnerabilities and ensuring rapid incident response
- ✓ **Lowered overall cost**
Reduce the risk of a breach and the threat of business disruption to prevent the possibility of more significant, long-term financial losses

Critical Start IncidentGuard gives you a **24x7x365** trusted partner that works behind the scenes to fortify your cyber defenses and ensure rapid recovery to keep your business secure and resilient in the face of ever-evolving cyber threats. IncidentGuard offers more value than traditional Incident Response (IR) retainers (**Fig 1**) by validating security controls and strengthening defenses to help prevent breaches before they start.

We back up this commitment with our **Zero-Dollar Incident Response Retainer**, which protects your budget while providing you with the advantage of value-added, threat-prevention services and the assurance of expert help at a moment's notice. You negotiate terms at the time of your contract, but with no money down, you only pay if and when you need incident response services.

Zero-Dollar Incident Response Retainer

Having money tied up in an IR retainer without it working to help your organization reduce risk is a thing of the past. With IncidentGuard's Zero-Dollar Incident Response Retainer, you can take advantage of more ways to protect your organization from the possibility of a breach happening in the first place—something a traditional retainer can't offer.

When a security incident does occur, you'll avoid slow or mismanaged responses that can exacerbate damage and instead look forward to:

- **Readiness:** Keeps Incident Response teams on standby without the financial burden of a retainer
- **Immediate Response:** Guarantees fast and prioritized action in the event of a security incident
- **Cost Savings:** Eliminates traditional retainer fees for incident response services

Purple Teaming & Security Controls Validation

Fortify your defenses through collaborative attack and defense exercises. IncidentGuard merges integrated testing with collaborative **Purple Team** exercises that stimulate real-world attacks to identify and rectify vulnerabilities before they can be exploited. This proactive approach minimizes potential damage from evolving threats and helps ensure business continuity through:

- **Strengthened Defense:** Enhances protection against sophisticated cyber threats
- **Engagement Refinement:** Reviews and fine-tunes engagement rules with Managed Detection and Response (MDR) or Security Operations for real-world alignment
- **Attack Simulations:** Conducts simulations with cutting-edge tools for defense testing and improvement
- **Collaborative Exercises:** Merges attack and defense strategies for enhanced security readiness

IncidentGuard Comparison Chart

See the additional value IncidentGuard brings above and beyond a traditional IR retainer.

Features	IR Retainer	IncidentGuard
Immediate Response – Guarantees fast and prioritized action in the event of a security incident	✓	✓
Readiness – IR teams on standby and contractual terms are done in advance	✓	✓
Pre-paid at the beginning of the term	✓	✗
Can be converted into other proactive services (e.g., NIST Risk Assessments, IR Plans/Playbooks, etc.)	✓	✗
Request for Information (RFI) (In addition to the RFI that comes with MDR services)	✗	✓
Zero-Down Retainer – Paid only upon use of IR services	✗	✓
Security Controls Validation – Simulations for defense testing and improvement	✗	✓
Security Controls Validation – Merges attack and defense strategies for enhanced security readiness	✗	✓
Security Controls Validation – Engagement Refinement review and fine-tunes engagement rules with MDR or SecOps for real-world alignment	✗	✓

(Fig 1) Comparison: Incident Response (IR) Retainer vs. IncidentGuard