STAR Program Overview

The World’s Premier Cloud Assurance Program

The CSA Security, Trust, Assurance, and Risk (STAR) program is the most complete and largest cloud assurance program in the world that constitutes an ecosystem of the best practices, standards, technology, and auditing and consulting partners. Launched in 2011, STAR’s mission is to improve the security and trust of cloud computing by delivering best practices via assurance, education, and technology.

Why STAR is Essential

Both enterprise cloud customers and cloud service providers are experiencing a tremendous amount of pressure due to the accelerated growth and adoption of cloud computing. Cloud customers are looking to rapidly onboard and ensure the security of the thousands of cloud services that they use. At the same time, cloud providers want to prove the security of their products to millions of customers. To ease these pressures, the industry requires a cloud security assurance program that is standards-based, recognized globally, able to quickly adapt to changes in the industry, and supported by experienced partners. The STAR program is the holistic solution that answers these needs for customers and cloud service providers alike.
Pillars of STAR

The CSA STAR program is comprised of the following six pillars that provide a rich set of capabilities to promote a high standard of assurance for the cloud age:

Cloud Controls Matrix

The foundation of CSA STAR, the Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM) is CSA’s framework of cloud-native control objectives and is used and mapped pervasively throughout the industry. A tool derived from CCM is the Consensus Assessment Initiative Questionnaire (CAIQ), the most common way to assess CCM control objectives in cloud provider environments.

Assurance Education

The STAR program offers two professional certificates with associated training:

- The Certificate of Cloud Auditing Knowledge (CCAK), a partnership with ISACA, which allows professionals to demonstrate their expertise in auditing cloud computing systems.
- STAR Lead Auditor Training, a partnership with BSI, which helps professionals learn how to audit cloud providers against the STAR Certification scheme.

STAR Assessment Portfolio

CSA provides many ways for cloud providers to demonstrate adherence to the cloud-native controls of CCM with a diverse and easily-expanded portfolio of security and privacy assessments. The assessments are offered at two levels of assurance: STAR Level 1 includes security and privacy self-assessments, while STAR Level 2 provides third-party assessments.

STAR Registry

The STAR Registry is CSA’s public repository of STAR Assessments. This community resource allows cloud providers to leverage a small number of assessments for their entire customer base, reducing the complexity and effort required to respond to customer concerns. The transparency provided by this public registry is a bedrock principle of CSA.

Learn More

Learn more about CCM and CAIQ and check out the STAR Registry. For specific inquiries, contact support@cloudsecurityalliance.org.

STAR Enabled Solutions

STAR Enabled Solutions include CSA’s global network of authorized firms, who perform third-party assessments of cloud providers; CSA’s Trusted Cloud Consultants, organizations that provide critical services to enable cloud providers and enterprises to deliver and consume the cloud securely; and technology partner licensees of the CCM and STAR API.

STAR Extended

CSA has the capability to deliver STAR pillars in part or in whole in a customized fashion to allow governments, industries, and other consortia to achieve state-of-the-art, relevant cloud assurance for the unique needs of their constituents while maintaining control over the requirements cloud providers must comply with.