CCM and CAIQ FAQ

The globally recognized standard for cloud security assurance and compliance

The Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM) is the backbone of the CSA Security, Trust, Assurance, and Risk (STAR) program, the largest cloud assurance program in the world that constitutes an ecosystem of the best practices, standards, technology, and auditing partners. STAR supports organizations to effectively and efficiently address how to define trust in the cloud, foster accountability, evaluate risk, measure assurance, and simplify compliance and procurement.

What is CCM?

CCM is a framework of controls (policies, procedures, and technical measures) that are essential for cloud computing security. It is created and updated by CSA and aligned to CSA best practices. The controls in CCM cover all key aspects of cloud technology and can be used to assess and guide the security of any cloud implementation. CCM is considered the de-facto standard for cloud security assurance and compliance.

What is CAIQ?

CSA has arranged CCM’s controls in both spreadsheet and machine-readable versions of yes/no questions that are easy to read and use. Known as the Consensus Assessment Initiative Questionnaire (CAIQ), a cloud service provider (CSP) can use either version of CAIQ to document what security controls exist in their services and define attributions of control responsibilities according to the Shared Security Responsibility Model (SSRM), increasing transparency for current and potential customers.

Why are they important?

CCM and CAIQ provide:

- **Security**: With 197 control objectives across 17 domains of cloud security, vendors that adhere to CCM can develop and maintain a robust security program.
- **Efficiency**: CCM aligns with approximately 40 of the leading standards and regulations, eliminating the need for other frameworks.
• **Standardization:** Organizations with multiple cloud platforms and services can use CCM as a framework for how to build out security capabilities that apply to all platforms and services.

• **Specialization:** CCM is the first cybersecurity framework developed specifically for the cloud. It provides a foundational layer of security that keeps cloud-specific concerns top of mind.

• **Flexibility:** CCM and CAIQ can be used by both cloud consumers and cloud providers.

• **Global Accessibility:** CCM is not specific to any one country and is internationally recognized.

• **Agility:** CCM is continuously updated and evolves with the industry.

### How do CCM and CAIQ fit into the STAR program?

CSPs can **fill out a CAIQ** as a self-assessment and submit it to the [STAR registry](#), a publicly accessible registry that documents the security and privacy controls put in place by popular cloud computing offerings. Submitting a CAIQ to the STAR registry means an organization has achieved **STAR Level 1**.

### How do you use CCM and CAIQ?

CCM and CAIQ can be used in many ways:

• Assess your own cloud security posture.

• Compare your organization’s strengths and weaknesses against those of other organizations.

• Assess the cloud security posture of your current or potential cloud vendors.

• Compare vendors’ level of compliance with relevant standards like ISO 27001.

• Document controls for multiple standards in one place. The controls in CCM are mapped against several industry-accepted security standards, regulations, and control frameworks.

• Clarify the security responsibilities of the CSP versus the cloud customer.

### How does using CCM and CAIQ benefit me?

If you are a cloud customer, make sure that your CSP is secure by looking up their CAIQ on the STAR registry or requiring them to fill out a CAIQ. If a cloud vendor isn’t transparent about their security controls, you should consider the risk of doing business with them.

If you are a CSP, solidify your position as a trusted and transparent provider of cloud services by filling out a CAIQ and submitting to the STAR registry. It will also help you build, establish, and maintain a robust and internationally accepted security program.

### Learn more

• [Read more about CCM and CAIQ.](#)

• [Learn how to submit a CAIQ to the STAR registry.](#)

• [Look up a cloud provider’s CAIQ.](#)