STAR Extended FAQ

Customize CSA’s state-of-the-art cloud security assurance program

The CSA Security, Trust, Assurance, and Risk (STAR) program is 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. STAR Extended allows relevant parties to customize the offerings of the STAR program to uniquely fit their needs.

What is it?

STAR Extended delivers the elements of the globally-recognized STAR program in a customized fashion. This allows governments, industries, and other entities to achieve state-of-the-art cloud assurance for their members while maintaining control over the various requirements that need to be met. Any or all of the various components of the STAR program can be leveraged to build a customized portfolio of tools to help meet the unique needs of the business.

Why is this important?

STAR is a broad program for cloud assurance that includes standards, tools, a third-party audit community, training and education, and a public repository. STAR Extended is all about making these critical cloud security features available while still allowing customization. Collaborating with CSA on the creation and maintenance of a cloud assurance program saves valuable time and resources, especially if organizations are struggling to keep up with rapidly changing technology and global standards.

Who can leverage it?

STAR Extended is designed for any entities, public bodies, or institutions that regulate or are involved in the cloud service market, especially if their industry or region has specific requirements that cloud services and their providers need to comply with.
How can this benefit me?

STAR Extended reduces complexity, cost, and risk. The many benefits include:

- Providing state-of-the-art cloud security assurance for an entire industry or region, without needing to create a new dedicated team of cloud security experts
- Taking advantage of a cloud security assurance program that has already been created and tested for over a decade by CSA
- Saving time and resources by not creating and maintaining an entire program or training from scratch
- Creating a cloud assurance program or training that is unique to the requirements of an industry or region
- Maintaining compatibility with global standards
- Maintaining control over what requirements need to be met

What is included?

STAR Extended is a fully customizable set of solutions tailor-made for each unique situation. CSA will craft the distinct offering that works for the organization, with STAR being the foundational set of standards. The STAR Program consists of five other primary components that can be leveraged:

- **Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM):** CSA's framework of cloud-native control objectives that is used and mapped pervasively throughout the industry
- **STAR Assessment Portfolio:** A diverse portfolio of security and privacy assessments that allow cloud providers to demonstrate adherence to the cloud-native controls of CCM
- **STAR Registry:** CSA's public repository of STAR Assessments, a community resource that allows cloud providers to leverage a small number of assessments for their entire customer base
- **Assurance Education:** Two professional certificates with associated training: The Certificate of Cloud Auditing Knowledge (CCAK) and STAR Lead Auditor Training
- **STAR Enabled Solutions:** Organizations including CSA's global network of authorized firms, who perform third-party assessments of cloud providers; CSA's Trusted Cloud Consultants; and technology partner licensees of the CCM and STAR API

Learn More

To find out how your organization or association could benefit from STAR Extended, contact us at starextended@cloudsecurityalliance.org.