

CSA STAR Certification

Your implementation guide





Introducing CSA STAR

The global cloud security market is projected to grow to USD 68.5 billion by 2025¹. As organizations embrace new digital ways of working, upcoming regulations, as well as the increasing number of sophisticated cyber-attacks, are driving the need for greater transparency and trust in the cloud.

Cloud service providers (CSPs) need to instil confidence in their provisions, ensuring they remain current and continually evolve with the threat landscape. And that's where internationally recognized frameworks such as CSA STAR Certification can help.

Based on a control set that was created and is owned by the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA), our CSA STAR certification supports CSPs to enhance their ability to maintain data confidentiality, integrity and availability in the cloud.

As co-authors of CSA STAR, we have the experience and the support services to help make sure you get the most from the framework, making you more agile and secure in the changing digital environment.

This guide shows how you can apply the control set in your organization to remain resilient over the long term, reassuring clients and supporting business growth. We also showcase our additional support services, which help you not only achieve certification, but continue to deliver a quality service, reduce risk and protect your business.

What does CSA STAR Certification deliver for you and your customers?

CSA STAR Certification addresses issues specific to cloud computing through the control set known as the cloud control matrix (CCM). It provides organizations with a useful tool for reviewing their compliance against a wide range of cloud-based standards and industry best practices. It requires roles and responsibilities to be assigned so both providers and users are clear on where accountability sits. This helps support successful business relationships and increase security, trust and assurance in the services offered, giving users a key differentiator when selecting their Cloud Service Provider (CSP).

Benefits of CSA Star

- Provides a competitive advantage
- Shows commitment to best practice and drives maturity optimization
- Inspires trust and customer assurance
- Enhances cloud security controls

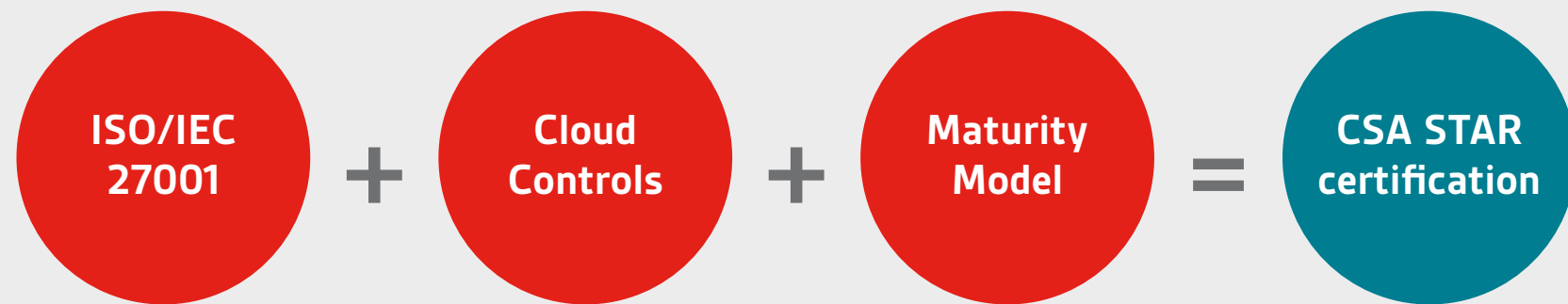
“By achieving compliance to CSA STAR, the most comprehensive cloud security standard to date, users can rest assured relying on Ribose for their success.”

Ronald Tse
Ribose, Hong-Kong based cloud service provider



How does CSA STAR Certification work?

CSA STAR certification builds upon an ISO/IEC 27001 information security management system. It involves being assessed against additional controls outlined in the CSA Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM). It also contains a management capability (maturity model) which gives CSPs a benchmark model for managing and analysing the performance of their cloud services to support with continually driving improvement.



What is ISO/IEC 27001?

ISO/IEC 27001 is the internationally recognized best practice standard for an information security management system (ISMS). It's an excellent framework which helps organizations manage and protect their information assets, so they remain safe and secure.

By embedding an ISO/IEC 27001 system you can better identify risks and put in place the security measures that are right for your business. Building in the additional controls with CSA STAR Certification, you can ensure you have also addressed risks specific in the cloud environment. This will give you confidence that you are protecting your business, your reputation and adding value.



Cloud Control Matrix

The CSA regularly review the CCM to ensure it remains up to date with industry best practice. It's widely adopted by leading cloud service providers and other organizations that have a dedicated focus on cloud services and the resources to regularly adapt.

Key requirements of CSA STAR

The CSA STAR framework provides 17 control areas that align with 5 capability factors.

Control areas

A&A	Audit and assurance	IAM	Identity and access management
AIS	Application and interface security	IPY	Interoperability and portability
BCR	Business continuity management and operational resilience	IVS	Infrastructure and virtualization security
CCC	Change control and configuration management	LOG	Logging and monitoring
CEK	Cryptography, encryption and key management	SEF	Security incident management, e-discovery and cloud forensics
DCS	Datacenter security	STA	Supply chain management, transparency and accountability
DSP	Data security and privacy lifecycle management	TVM	Threat and vulnerability management
GRC	Governance, risk and compliance	UEM	Universal endpoint management
HRS	Human resources		

Control areas

- Communication and stakeholder engagement
- Policies, plans and procedures, and a systematic approach
- Skills and expertise
- Ownership, leadership and management
- Monitoring and measuring

Understanding the maturity model

A performance score is given to each capability factor for every control area to indicate the maturity of the system and how well it is managed. There are clear criteria for each individual score that allow a maturity rating to be provided. For example, the communication and stakeholder engagement performance scores are defined as follows:

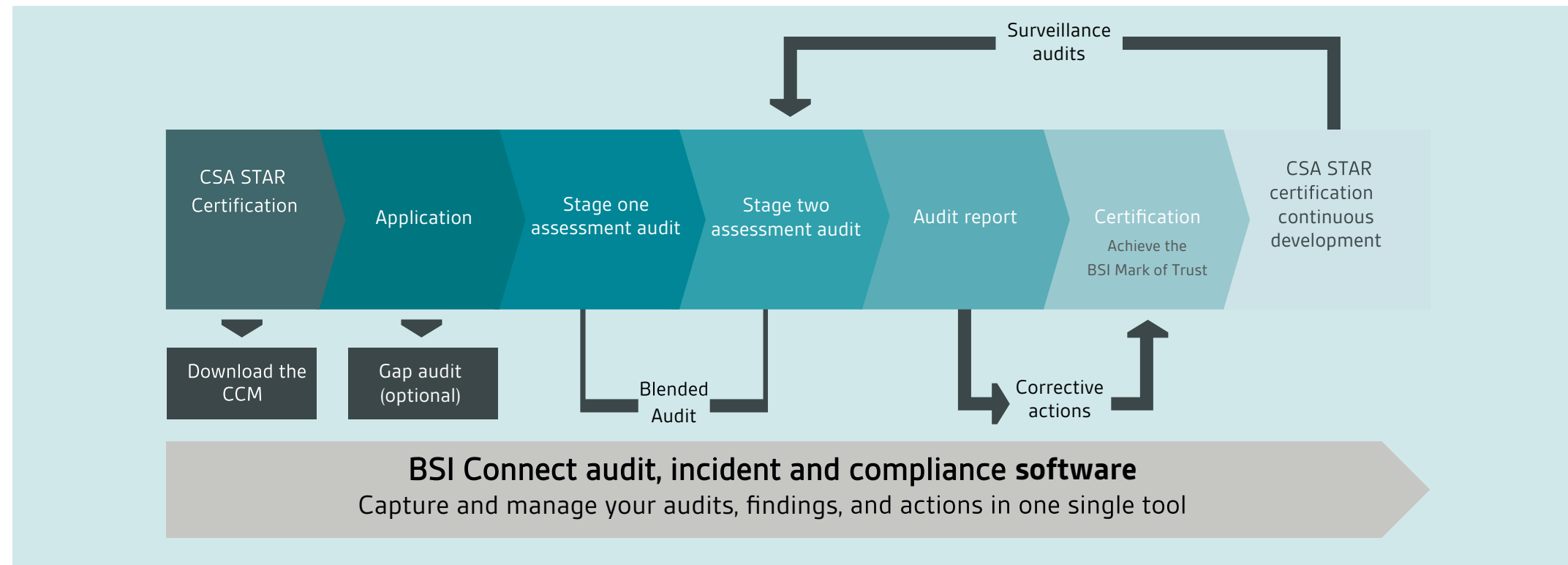
Performance score criteria	1-3	No formal approach	4-6	Reactive	7-9	Proactive	10-12	Improving	13-15	Innovative
	Identification of stakeholders is limited or nonexistent. There is limited or no communication.		Some evidence that stakeholders are identified and some communication is effective.		Stakeholders are systematically identified, and consulted with effective communication.		Stakeholders are actively engaged in improving measures and understand how changes effect them.		Relevant stakeholders monitor and measure processes and how they need to develop to meet the strategic objectives.	

BSI's assessment process will provide you with a score, which will help you to identify areas for improvement and enhance your offering to clients.

You can download the cloud control matrix from the CSA website, along with a useful self-assessment tool to help you work through the controls and identify any gaps before your assessment.

CSA STAR certification journey

Whether you're new to CSA STAR, or looking to enhance an existing certification, it demonstrates you have a robust approach to cloud security - one that aligns with business strategies and is continually reviewed and improved against the evolving risk landscape. No matter where you are in your journey, our team are on hand to support.



CSA STAR training courses

Get the skills to maximize CSA STAR Certification for your organization.

Our training courses will help you understand CSA STAR Certification and the Cloud Control Matrix. You can learn best practice implementation and audit techniques to help ensure it delivers value to your organization.

Our courses include:

- Introduction to Cloud Security and CSA STAR Certification – one-day introduction
- Auditing Cloud Security for CSA STAR Certification – one-day audit techniques
- Advanced Auditing Cloud Security for CSA STAR Certification – two-day audit and maturity model techniques

Our courses use high-impact, accelerated learning approach proven to enhance knowledge retention and skill application.



Why BSI?

For over a century BSI has championed what good looks like and driven best practice in organizations around the world. BSI has been at the forefront of information security standards since 1995, having produced the world's first standard, BS 7799, now ISO/IEC 27001, the world's most popular information security standard. And we haven't stopped there, addressing the new emerging issues such as cyber and cloud security. That's why we're best placed to help you. For over a century our experts have been challenging mediocrity and complacency to help embed excellence into the way people and products work. With over 120,000 clients in 193 countries, BSI is an organization whose standards inspire excellence across the globe.

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