Microsoft STAR Self-Assessment details how Azure, Dynamics 365, and Office 365 fulfill Cloud Security Alliance requirements.

Microsoft and CSA STAR Self-Assessment

As part of the STAR Self-Assessment, cloud service providers (CSPs) can submit two different types of documents to indicate their compliance with CSA best practices: a completed Consensus Assessments Initiative Questionnaire (CAIQ), or a report documenting compliance with the Cloud Computing Matrix (CCM). For the CSA STAR Self-Assessment, Microsoft publishes both a CAIQ and a CCM-based report for Microsoft Azure, and CCM-based reports for Microsoft Dynamics 365 and Microsoft Office 365.

Microsoft in-scope cloud services

- Azure and Azure Government
  Learn more

- Dynamics 365
  Learn more

- Office 365
  Learn more

Audits, reports, and certificates

- Azure, Dynamics 365, and Office 365 CSA STAR Self-Assessment

- Azure standard response for request for information

- Azure Responses to the CSA CAIQ v3.0.1

- Office 365 Mapping of CSA Cloud Control Matrix

How to implement

- **Azure responses to the CSA CAIQ**
  Get an understanding of how Azure meets the requirements set forth by the CSA.
  Learn more

- **Office 365 Mapping of CSA CCM**
  Find out how Office 365 maps to the security, privacy, compliance, and risk management controls in the CSA CCM.
  Learn more

About CSA STAR Self-Assessment

The Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) is a nonprofit organization led by a broad coalition of industry practitioners, corporations, and other important stakeholders. It is dedicated to defining best practices to help ensure a more secure cloud computing environment, and to helping potential cloud customers make informed decisions when transitioning their IT operations to the cloud.

In 2010, the CSA published a suite of tools to assess cloud IT operations: the CSA Governance, Risk Management, and Compliance (GRC) Stack. It was designed to help cloud customers assess how CSPs follow industry best practices and standards, and comply with regulations.

In 2013, the CSA and the British Standards Institution launched the CSA Security, Trust & Assurance Registry (STAR), a free, publicly accessible registry in which CSPs can publish their CSA-related assessments.

CSA STAR is based on two key components of the CSA GRC Stack:

- Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM): a controls framework covering fundamental security principles across 16 domains to help cloud customers assess the overall security risk of a CSP.

- The Consensus Assessments Initiative Questionnaire (CAIQ): a set of more than 140 questions based on the CCM that a customer or cloud auditor may want to ask of CSPs to assess their compliance with CSA best practices.

STAR provides three levels of assurance—CSA STAR Self-Assessment is the introductory offering at Level 1, which is free and open to all CSPs. Going further up the assurance stack, Level 2 of the STAR program involves third-party assessment-based certifications, and Level 3 involves certifications based on continuous monitoring.

Frequently asked questions

Which industry standards does the CSA CCM align with?

The CCM corresponds to industry-accepted security standards, regulations, and control frameworks such as ISO/IEC 27001, PCI DSS, HIPAA, AICPA SOC 2, NERC CIP, FedRAMP, NIST, and many more. To get the current list, go to the Cloud Controls Matrix Working Group page, and click **Cloud Control Matrix v3.0.1.**

Why is the CSA STAR Self-Assessment important?

It enables CSPs to document compliance with CSA published best practices in a transparent manner. Self-assessment reports are publicly available, thereby helping cloud customers gain visibility into the security practices of CSPs, as well as compare various CSPs using the same baseline.

Which CSA STAR levels of assurance have Microsoft business cloud services attained?

- Level 1: CSA STAR Self-Assessment: Azure, Dynamics 365, and Office 365.
  The Self-Assessment is a complimentary offering from CSPs to document their security controls to help customers assess the security of the service.

- Level 2: CSA STAR Certification: includes Azure, Cloud App Security, Intune, and Power BI.
  STAR Certification is based on achieving ISO/IEC 27001 certification and meeting criteria specified in the CCM. It is awarded after a rigorous third-party assessment of the security controls and practices of a CSP.

- Level 2: CSA STAR Attestation: Azure, Azure Government, and Intune.
  CSA and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) has collaborated to provide guidelines for CPAs to use in conducting SOC 2 engagements, using criteria from the AICPA (Trust Service Principles, AT 101) and the CSA CCM. STAR Attestation is based on these guidelines and is awarded after rigorous independent assessments of cloud providers.

Additional resources

- Azure standard response for request for information