Center for Financial Industry Information Systems (FISC) Japan

Microsoft enterprise cloud services meet the requirements of the FISC Security Guidelines in Japan.

Microsoft and the FISC

Microsoft engaged outside assessors to validate that Microsoft Azure, Microsoft Dynamics 365 and Microsoft Office 365 meet the requirements of the FISC Security Guidelines on Computer Systems for Financial Institutions 9th Edition Revised. Microsoft provided evidence of compliance in each of the following areas:

- Control guidelines for policies and framework
- Practice guidelines for the technical implementation of controls for IT systems (except facilities)
- Facilities monitoring guidelines for buildings and computer rooms, power, and air conditioning
- Audit guidelines for auditing the IT systems of financial institutions

Financial institutions can rely on this evaluation of compliance for the in-scope infrastructure and platform services of these services.

Microsoft in-scope cloud services

- Azure
  Learn more
- Dynamics 365
  Learn more
- Office 365
  Learn more

How to implement

- **Compliance checklist: Japan**
  Financial firms can get help conducting risk assessments of Microsoft business cloud services.
  Learn more

- **Cloud and financial services**
  A guide for legal and compliance professionals in Japan planning to use the Microsoft Cloud.
  Learn more

- **Risk Assessment & Compliance Guide**
  Create a governance model for risk assessment of Microsoft cloud services, and regulator notification.
  Learn more

- **Financial use cases**
  Case overviews, tutorials, and other resources to build Azure solutions for financial services.
  Learn more

About the FISC

The Center for Financial Industry Information Systems (FISC) (Japanese and English) is a not-for-profit organization established under the Minister of Finance in 1984 to promote security in banking computer systems in Japan. Some 700 corporations in Japan are supporting members, including major financial institutions, insurance and credit companies, securities firms, computer manufacturers, and telecommunications enterprises.

Microsoft

In collaboration with its member institutions, the Bank of Japan, and the Financial Services Agency (a government organization responsible for overseeing banking, securities and exchange, and insurance in Japan), the FISC created guidelines for the security of banking information systems. These include basic auditing standards for computer system controls, contingency planning in the event of a disaster, and the development of security policies and standards encompassed in more than 300 controls.

Although the application of these guidelines in a cloud computing environment is not required by regulation, most financial institutions in Japan that implement cloud services have built information systems that satisfy these security standards, and it can be very difficult to justify diverging from them. (The latest guidelines, Version 8 Supplemental Revised, issued in 2015, added two revisions relating to the use of cloud services by financial institutions and countermeasures against cyberattack.)

Conformance with this framework is not required by regulation and is not audited or otherwise validated by the FISC.

Frequently asked questions

To whom do the FISC guidelines apply?
Banks and other financial institutions in Japan that want to validate their approach to system security, reliability, and auditing, and align with established best practices in Japan, follow the FISC guidelines.

Where can I get more information on Version 8 of the FISC requirements?
The FISC has published two reports from its Council of Experts:

- Usage of Cloud Computing by Financial Institutions (FISC) (English)

- Countermeasures Against Cyber Attacks on Financial Institutions (English)

Where can I get the details of Microsoft responses to the FISC framework?

A copy of the completed assessment framework is available to customers who have signed a nondisclosure agreement with Microsoft by contacting their account representative. Potential customers can make a request at support.microsoft.com/contactus.

Can I use the Microsoft responses to this framework in my organization's qualification process?
Yes. However, although Microsoft responses to this framework are confirmed compliant by third parties, customers are responsible for validating the compliance of solutions they have implemented on Azure or Office 365.

Additional resources

- Azure Compliance with Japanese Security and Privacy Requirements

- Microsoft Financial Services Compliance Program

- Financial services compliance in Azure

- Microsoft business cloud services and financial services

- Shared responsibilities for cloud computing

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