

# Considering CSA STAR

## What is CSA STAR?

The **CSA Security, Trust, Assurance, and Risk (STAR) Program** is the largest and most complete cloud assurance program in the world that enables organizations to assess and manage the security risks of cloud services.

## The Two Levels of CSA STAR

The CSA STAR program has two main certifications: **CSA STAR Level 1** and **CSA STAR Level 2**. Both levels audit against the Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM), which is aligned to international standards like ISO 27001, SOC 2, and NIST.



**Level 1:** Level 1 is a self-assessment for cloud providers beginning their security certification journey, offering less complex services. It is often used to build trust before moving to a more in-depth audit.



**Level 2:** Level 2 is a third-party verified certification for providers to demonstrate a serious commitment to maintaining strong security and compliance standards.

## Levels of CSA STAR

Feature	STAR Level 1	STAR Level 2
Level of Trust	Lower trust (self-reported)	Higher trust (verified through independent audit)
Transparency	Publicly available self-assessment	Publicly available third-party audit results
Compliance with CSA CCM	Self-reported compliance	Verified compliance with CSA Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM)
Who Typically Uses It	Small or early-stage CSPs	Larger providers or those seeking higher levels of assurance
Frequency of Updates	Annual updates by the provider	Annual audits and re-certification by a third party
Common Use Cases	Entry-level demonstration of security commitment	Meeting higher security and compliance expectations, especially for regulated industries
Cost	Lower cost	Higher cost due to third-party audit
Security Assurance	Basic assurance	High assurance (third-party validated security)

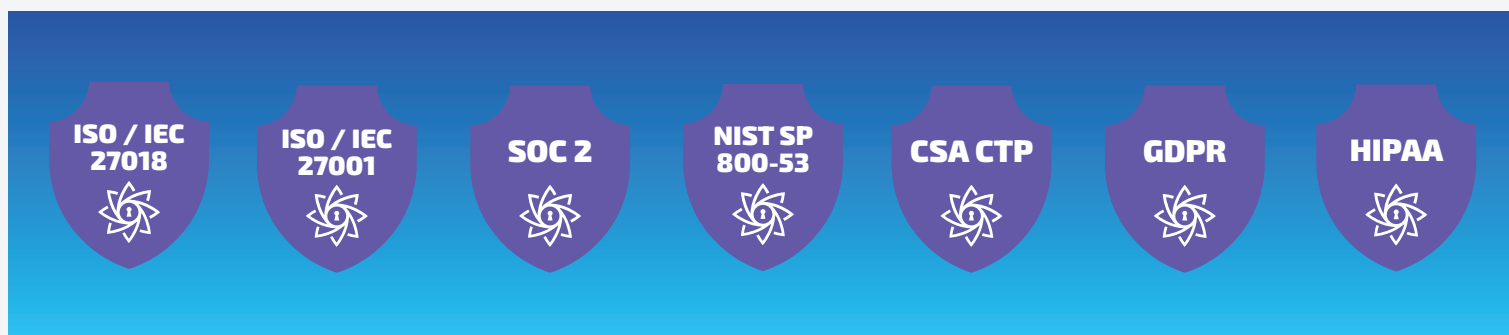
## The CSA STAR Registry

Once organizations begin their STAR certification process, they can publish to the **CSA STAR Registry**, demonstrating their commitment to cloud security by showing current and potential customers their security and compliance posture, which includes the regulations, standards, and frameworks they adhere to.

There are multiple levels of assurance for companies to obtain and submit to the STAR registry. The level of assurance obtained by an organization should be determined by company-specific goals and the risk of their environment.

## CSA STAR Prepares Organizations For Additional Standards

CSA STAR Level 2 also prepares CSPs for alignment with various additional standards, particularly those related to information security, risk management, and privacy, including:



## Prescient Security & CSA STAR

Prescient Security, a global leader in cybersecurity, empowers over 5,000 customers worldwide through acute expertise in cloud-native technologies and as a Certified STAR Auditor, available to help organizations achieve their CSA STAR Certification goals.

A Global Top 20 Independent Audit and Penetration Testing Company, Prescient Security delivers unparalleled quality in audits, attestations, and certifications to ensure excellence and client success. Using a Risk-Based Audit Approach versus a Requirement-Based Audit Approach, paired with the ability to customize audit deliverables based on specific client needs, Prescient Security operates from a cybersecurity standpoint first, is comprehensive yet granular, and in a fraction of the time.