SmartSuite

Framework / Cloud Security / CSA STAR

CSA Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM) v4

CSA's Cloud Controls Matrix v4.1 has 207 cloud security controls in 17 domains, with the CAIQ questionnaire and mappings to ISO/IEC 27001, NIST SP 800-53, PCI DSS and SOC 2.



What it is

The Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM) is the Cloud Security Alliance's security control framework for cloud computing. Version 4.1, released in January 2026, has 207 controls in 17 domains and succeeds version 4.0 (197 controls, issued January 21, 2021). Cloud providers use it to document their security, and cloud customers, auditors and procurement teams use it to assess providers. Adoption is voluntary, and the CCM is free for internal use.

At a glance

PUBLISHER
Cloud Security Alliance (CSA)

TYPE
Control Framework

VERSION
4.1 (succeeds 4.0.13; version 4.0 released January 21, 2021)

EFFECTIVE
Voluntary. v4.1 in use for STAR from January 2026; required for new STAR submissions after December 2027

DOMAIN
Cloud Security

FAMILY
CSA STAR

REGION
International

INDUSTRY
Cloud & Technology Providers

ADOPTION MODEL
Voluntary

IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY
Medium

Source: cloudsecurityalliance.org/research/cloud-controls-matrix

Why it matters

- **Shared responsibility is explicit** The CCM defines the security roles of cloud service providers and customers for each control, so ownership is settled before an assessment starts.
- **A questionnaire built into the framework** The CAIQ restates the controls as yes/no questions. CAIQ v4.1 has 283 of them, and a provider can answer once instead of repeating evaluations for each customer.
- **Mappings reduce duplicate work** By May 2024 CSA had mapped the CCM to 15 references, including NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5, NIST CSF 1.1 and 2.0, PCI DSS v3.2.1 and v4.0, ISO/IEC 27001, 27002, 27017 and 27018, AICPA TSC 2017 and CIS v8.0.
- **A route to external assurance** STAR Level 1 publishes a self-assessment in the STAR Registry. Level 2 adds a third-party audit: STAR Attestation for SOC 2 or STAR Certification for ISO/IEC 27001, each built on the CCM.

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How SmartSuite supports CSA CCM v4

Control Library by Domain

Hold the 207 controls under their domain codes, such as IAM or LOG, with an owner and review date for each.

Shared Responsibility Ownership

Record whether the provider, the customer or both implement each control, for each cloud service in scope.

Evidence Against Auditing Guidelines

Attach evidence to each control and keep a history of changes, so auditors can trace the answer back to its support.

CAIQ Answers and Control Testing

Answer the CAIQ v4.1 questions from the same control records and schedule tests of each control.

Cloud Provider Due Diligence

Send the CAIQ to cloud providers, record their answers and STAR Registry status, and link findings to the controls they affect.

v4.1 Transition and STAR Readiness

Track which controls changed between v4.0 and v4.1 and report readiness ahead of the December 2027 STAR deadline.

Common framework mappings

ISO 27001:2022 · ISO 27002:2022 · ISO 27017 · ISO 27018 · NIST 800-53 Rev.5 · NIST CSF 2.0 · PCI DSS 4.0.1 · SOC 2 (AICPA TSC 2017) · CIS Controls v8.1 · CSA STAR

Official resources

CSA Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM)

Defines a controls framework aligned with CSA STAR requirements and standards.

cloudsecurityalliance.org/research/cloud-controls-matrix

CSA STAR Program Overview

Describes the structure and benefits of participating in the CSA STAR assurance program.

cloudsecurityalliance.org/star

CSA CCM and CAIQ v4.1 Download

Official CSA artifact page for the CCM v4.1 bundle: controls, CAIQ, implementation and auditing guidelines, and metrics catalog.

cloudsecurityalliance.org/artifacts/cloud-controls-matrix-v4-1

CSA CCM Machine-Readable Bundle

JSON, YAML, and OSCAL editions of the Cloud Controls Matrix for loading into compliance tooling.

cloudsecurityalliance.org/artifacts/ccm-machine-readable-bundle-json-yaml-oscal

Frequently asked questions

How many controls and domains does CCM v4.1 have?

CCM v4.1 has 207 controls in 17 domains, according to the CSA download page. Version 4.0 had 197 controls in the same 17 domains. CSA's research page still describes 197 control objectives, so check the version before quoting a count.

What changed between CCM v4.0 and v4.1?

CCM v4.1, released in January 2026, adds 11 new control specifications in Datacenter Security, Logging and Monitoring, Security Incident Management, Supply Chain Management and Threat and Vulnerability Management. It removes one Identity and Access Management control, revises existing controls and moves the CAIQ to 283 questions. It also adds a Code of Practice for key metrics and a Continuous Auditing Metrics Catalog.

How does the CCM relate to the CAIQ and CSA STAR?

The CAIQ restates the CCM controls as yes/no questions. A provider submits the STAR Level 1 CAIQ to the STAR Registry as a self-assessment. At Level 2 a third-party audit builds on the CCM: STAR Attestation for SOC 2 or STAR Certification for ISO/IEC 27001. The CAIQ bundled with the CCM download is a reference copy and cannot be submitted.

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When must STAR submissions use CCM v4.1?

CSA's transition timeline accepts both v4.1 and v4.0 submissions from March 2026 until December 2027. After December 2027 all new STAR submissions use v4.1, and CCM v4.0.x and CAIQ v4.0.x are withdrawn in January 2028. Providers already in the registry have a two-year transition period.

Is the CCM free to use?

Yes for internal use: CSA lets organizations download the CCM and CAIQ without a license for their own purposes. A CCM license is required to customize the CCM, use it commercially or use it in consulting projects, and CSA Corporate Members receive a discount on licensing.

License included / downloadable: Yes The CCM and CAIQ v4.1 bundle is free to download from the Cloud Security Alliance for internal use. A CCM license is required to customize the CCM, use it commercially or use it in consulting projects, and SmartSuite does not include the text in the platform.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/csa-cloud-controls-matrix-ccm-v4