

# CLOUD – MORE SECURE OR LESS SECURE

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Vince Wan

Cloud Security Alliance Hong  
Kong & Macau Chapter



# ABOUT THE CLOUD SECURITY ALLIANCE

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“To promote the use of best practices for providing security assurance within Cloud Computing, and provide education on the uses of Cloud Computing to help secure all other forms of computing.”



**BUILDING SECURITY BEST PRACTICES  
FOR NEXT GENERATION IT**



**GLOBAL, NOT-FOR-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION**



**RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRAMS**



**CLOUD PROVIDER CERTIFICATION –  
CSA STAR**



**USER CERTIFICATION – CCSK**



**THE GLOBALLY AUTHORITATIVE  
SOURCE FOR TRUST IN THE CLOUD**



88,000+  
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

80+  
CHAPTERS

400+  
CORPORATE MEMBERS

40+  
ACTIVE WORKING  
GROUPS



Strategic partnerships  
with governments,  
research institutions,  
professional associations  
and industry



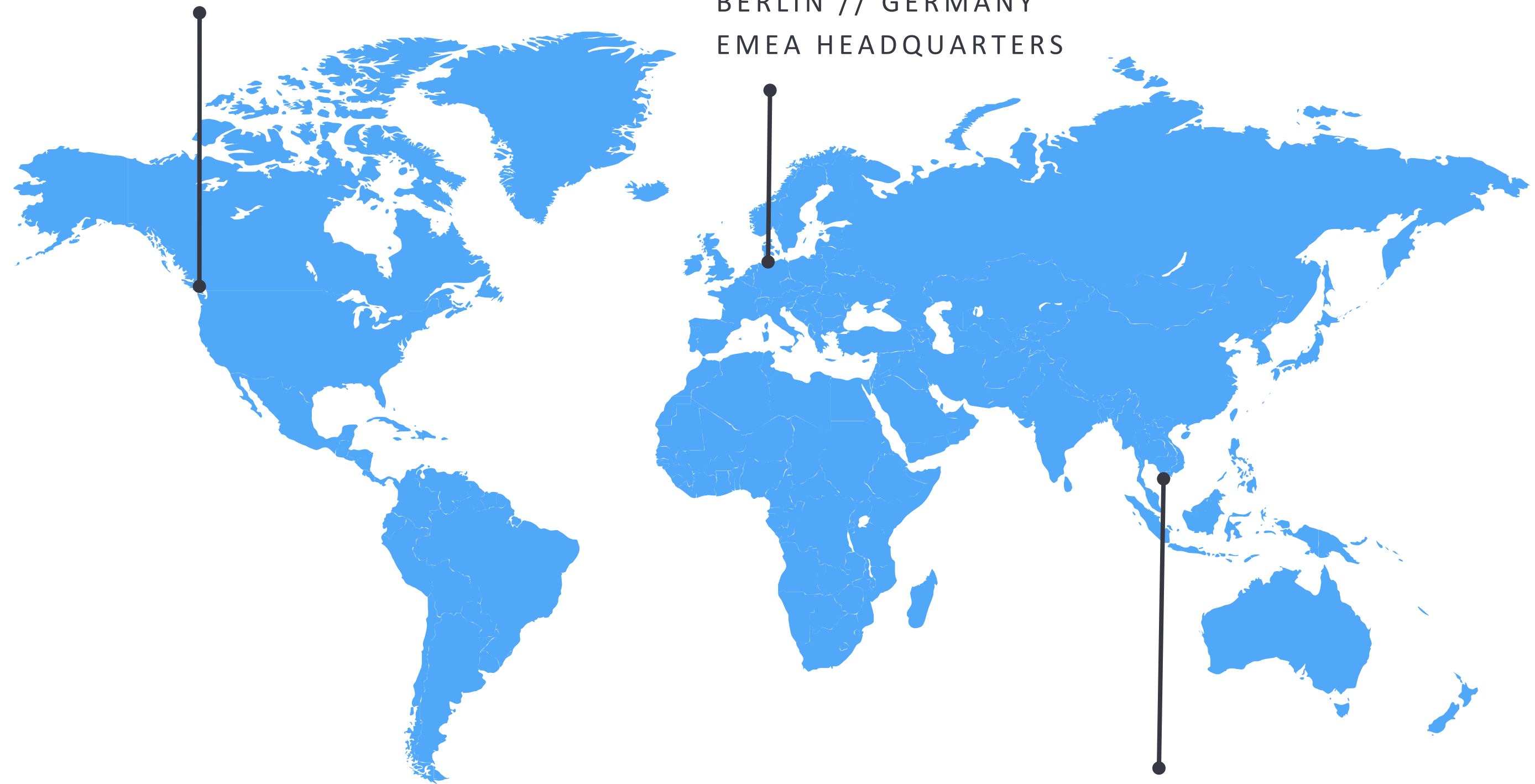
CSA research is  
FREE!

2009

CSA FOUNDED

SEATTLE/BELLINGHAM, WA // US  
HEADQUARTERS

BERLIN // GERMANY  
EMEA HEADQUARTERS



SINGAPORE // ASIA  
PACIFIC  
HEADQUARTERS



OUR COMMUNITY

# CSA Research Working Groups



The CSA Maintains Working Groups across 29 Domains of Cloud Security

- Application Containers and Microservices
- Artificial Intelligence
- Blockchain/Distributed Ledger
- CloudCISC
- Cloud Component Specifications
- Cloud Controls Matrix
- Cloud Incident Response
- Cloud Key Management
- Cloud Security Services Management
- Consensus Assessments
- DevSecOps
- Enterprise Architecture
- Enterprise Resource Planning
- Financial Services Stakeholder Platform
- Health Information Management
- High Performance Computing
- Hybrid Cloud Security Services
- Industrial Control Systems
- Internet of Things
- Mobile Application Security Testing
- Open API
- Open Certification Framework
- Privacy Level Agreement
- Quantum-safe Security
- SaaS Governance
- Security as a Service
- Security Guidance
- Software Defined Perimeter
- Top Threats

# What Is CCM?

- **First ever baseline control framework specifically designed for cloud supply chain risk management**
- Delineates control ownership (provider, customer)
- An anchor for security & compliance posture measurement
- Provides a framework of 16 control domains
- Controls map to global regulations & security standards
- **Industry driven effort: 120+ peer review participants**
- **Participants: AICPA, Microsoft, McKesson, ISACA, oracle**
- **Backbone of open certification framework & STAR**



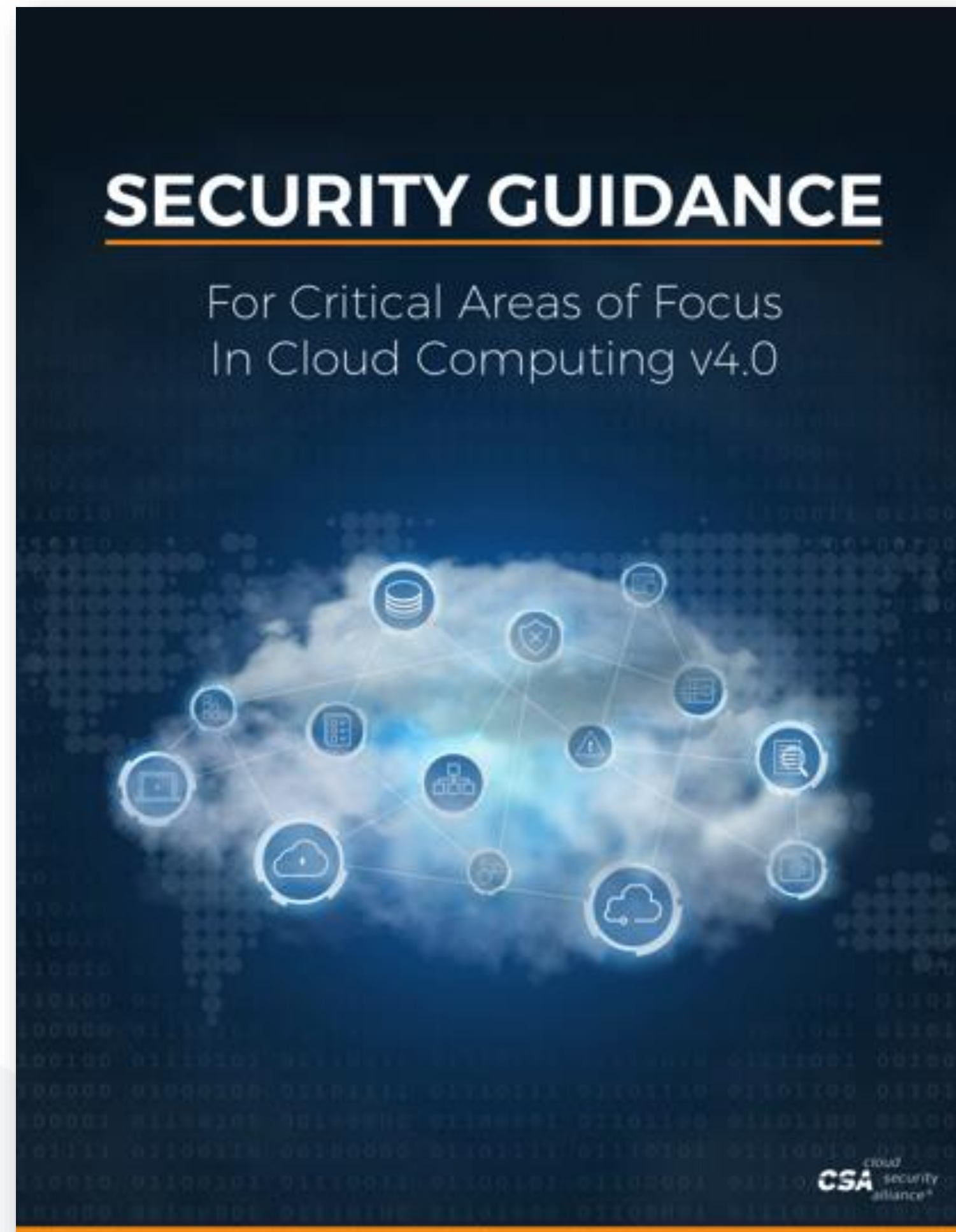


# CCM V3.0.1 – 16 Control Domains

<b>AIS</b>	Application & Interface Security	<b>HRS</b>	Human Resources Security
<b>AAC</b>	Audit Assurance & Compliance	<b>IAM</b>	Identity & Access Management
<b>BCR</b>	Business Continuity Mgmt & Op Resilience	<b>IVS</b>	Infrastructure & Virtualization
<b>CCC</b>	Change Control & Configuration Management	<b>IPY</b>	Interoperability & Portability
<b>DSI</b>	Data Security & Information Lifecycle Mgmt	<b>MOS</b>	Mobile Security
<b>DSC</b>	Datacenter Security	<b>SEF</b>	Sec. Incident Mgmt, E-Disc & Cloud Forensics
<b>EKM</b>	Encryption & Key Management	<b>STA</b>	Supply Chain Mgmt, Transparency & Accountability
<b>GRM</b>	Governance & Risk Management	<b>TVM</b>	Threat & Vulnerability Management

**133 CONTROLS**  
Cloud Controls Matrix v3.0.1

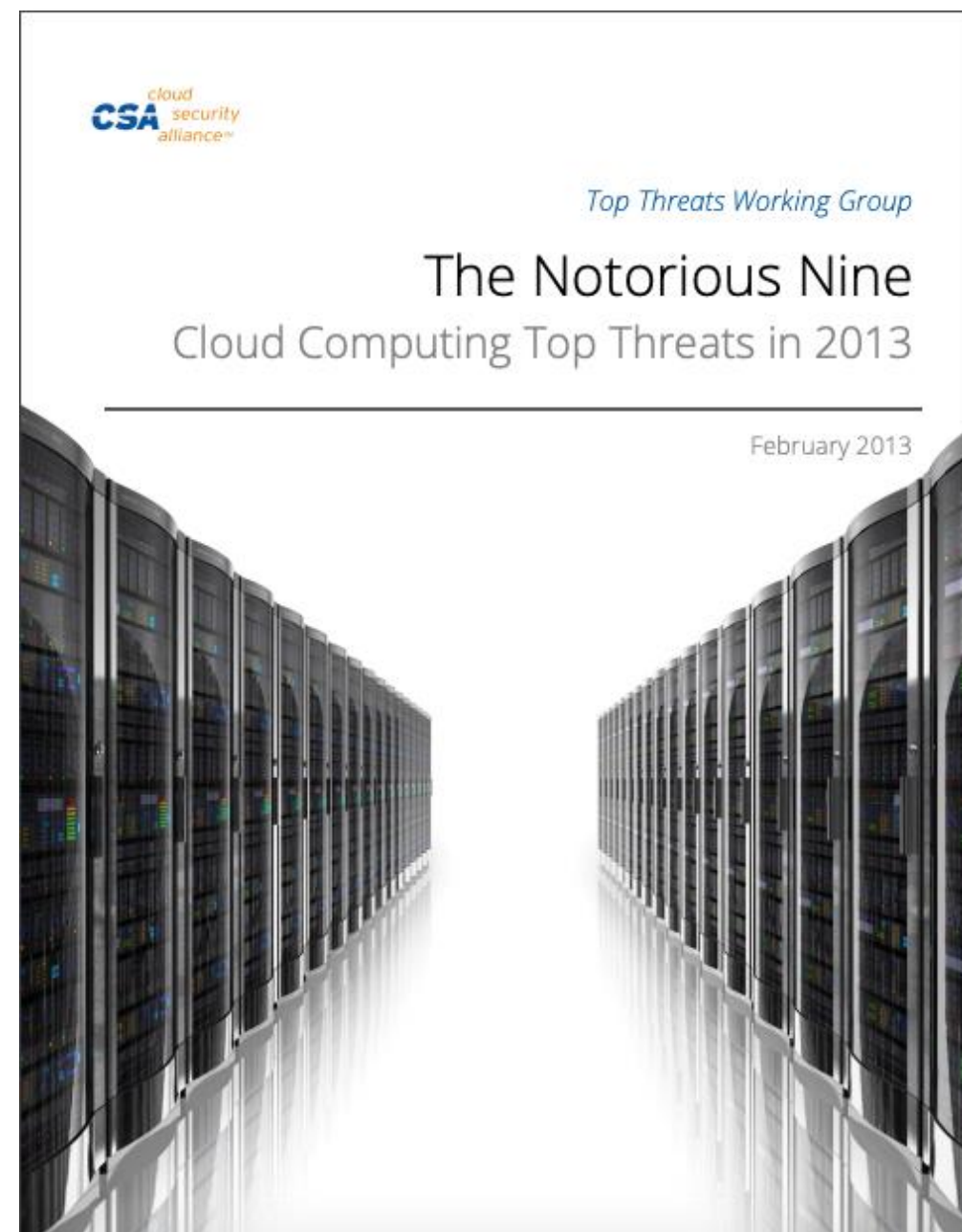
# CSA Security Guidance v4.0



- Fundamental cloud security research that started CSA
- Foundation for certificate of cloud security knowledge (CCSK)
- 4<sup>th</sup> version, released July 2017
- Architecture
- Governing in the cloud
  - Governance and enterprise risk management
  - Legal
  - Compliance & audit management
  - Information governance
- Operating in the cloud
  - Management plane & business continuity
  - Infrastructure security
  - Virtualization & containers
  - Incident response
  - Application security
  - Data security & encryption
  - Identity management
  - Security as a service
  - Related technologies



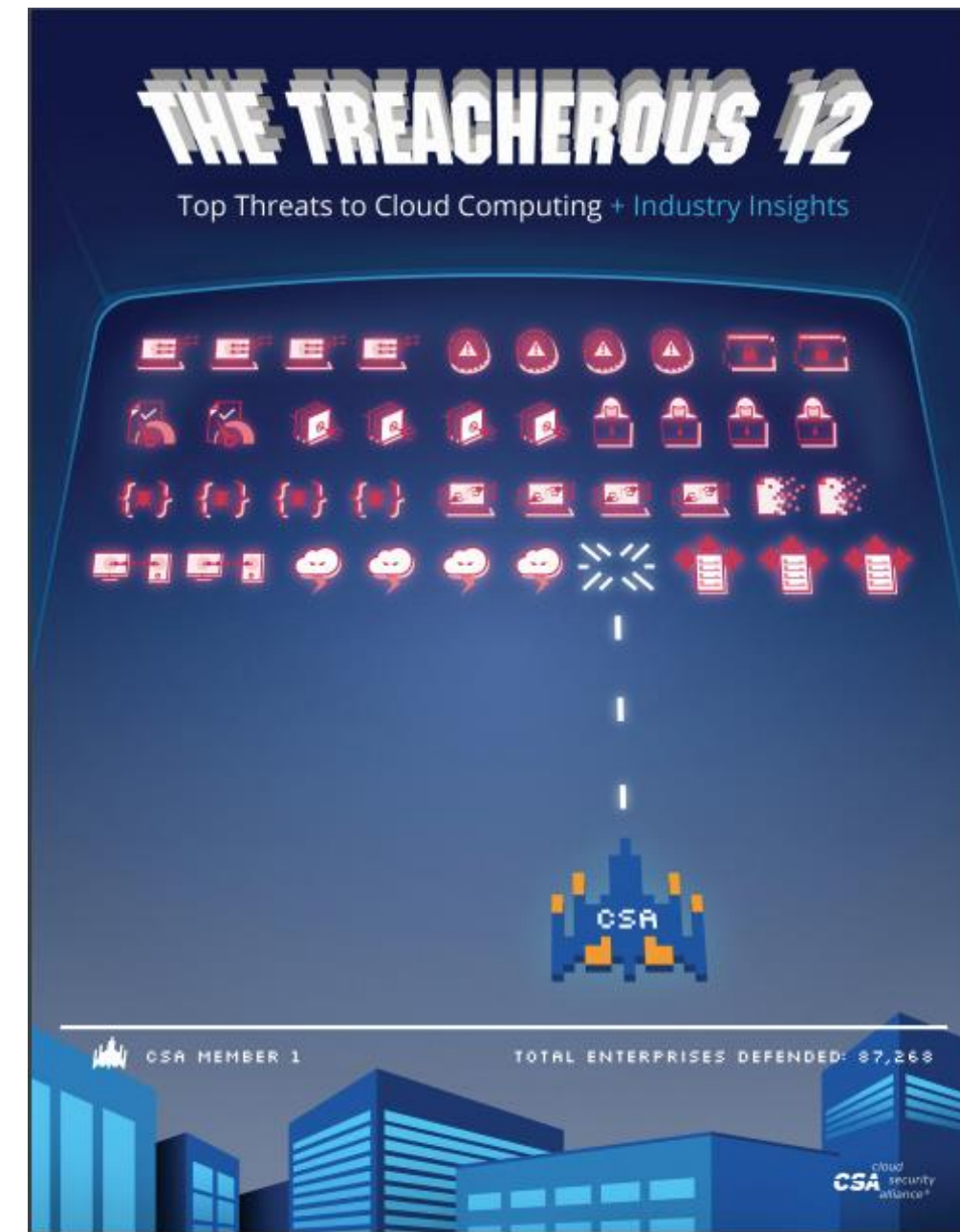
# Top Threats Research Artifacts in CSA



The Notorious Nine

2013

+Link [here](#)



The Treacherous 12

2017

+Link [here](#)



Deep Dive

2018

+Link [here](#)



The Egregious 11

2019













+Link [here](#)

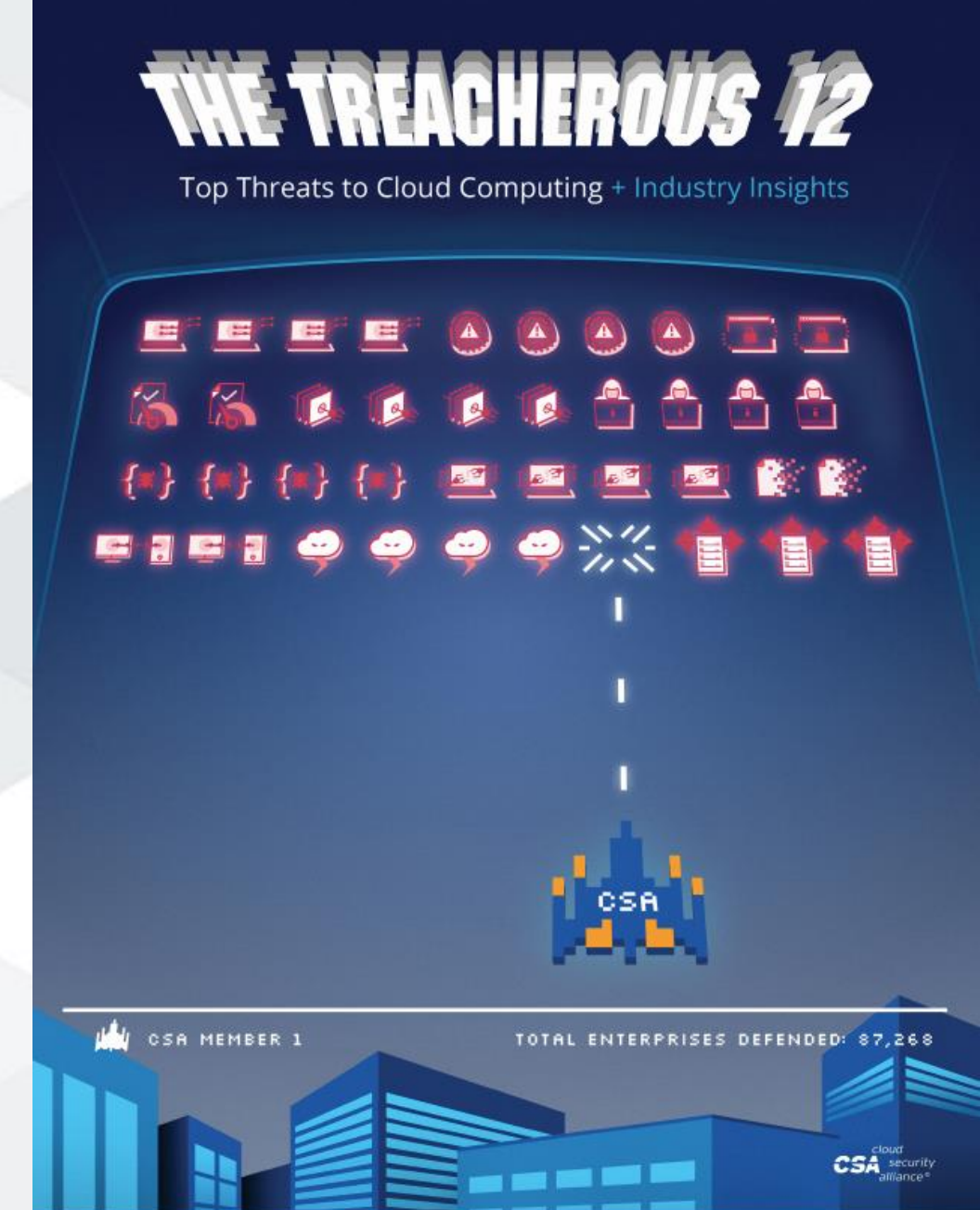


# CSA's Treacherous 12

## – Top Threats to Cloud Computing

Current consensus among security experts in CSA community about the most significant security issues in the cloud

1. Data breaches 
2. Insufficient identity, credential and access management 
3. Insecure interfaces and apis 
4. System vulnerabilities 
5. Account hijacking 
6. Malicious insiders 
7. Advanced persistent threats 
8. Data loss 
9. Insufficient due diligence 
10. Abuse and nefarious use of cloud services 
11. Denial of service 
12. Shared technology vulnerabilities 





# THE TREACHEROUS 12

Top Threats to Cloud Computing + Industry Insights

1. Data Breaches
2. Insufficient Identity, Credential and Access Management
3. Insecure Interfaces and APIs
4. System Vulnerabilities
5. Account Hijacking
6. Malicious Insiders
7. Advanced Persistent Threats
8. Data Loss
9. Insufficient Due Diligence
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12. Shared Technology Vulnerabilities

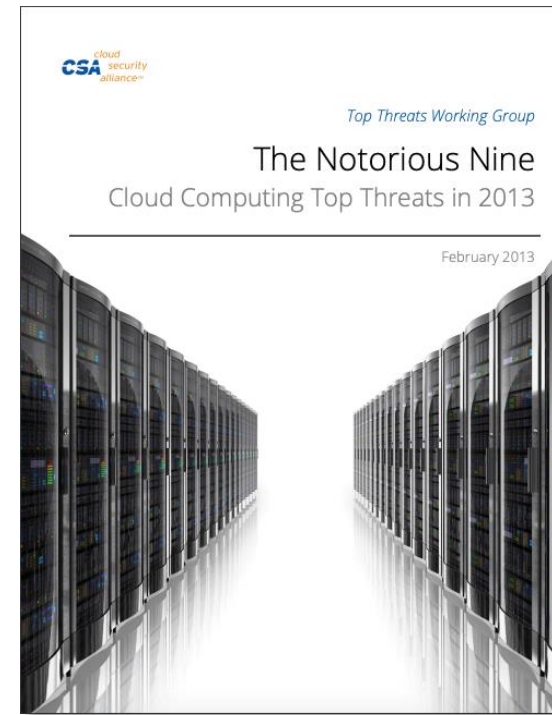
# VS

# Top Threats to Cloud Computing The Egregious 11

1. Data Breaches
2. Misconfiguration and Inadequate Change Control
3. Lack of Cloud Security Architecture and Strategy
4. Insufficient Identity, Credential and Access Management
5. Account Hijacking
6. Insider Threat
7. Insecure Interfaces and APIs
8. Weak Control Plane
9. Metastructure and Applistructure Failures
10. Limited Cloud Usage Visibility
11. Abuse and Nefarious Use of Cloud Services



# The Overarching Trends



The Notorious Nine

2013



The Treacherous 12

2017



The Egregious 11

2019

**Nuanced issues pertaining to cloud environments**

Lack of Cloud Architecture and Strategy

Weak Control Plane

Metastructure and Applistructure Failures

**Traditional cloud security issues stemming from concerns about having 3<sup>rd</sup> service provider**

Data Loss

Denial of Service

Insufficient Due Diligence



# Why the Deep Dive?

- Top Threats – Survey of business leaders
- Marketing term
- Threat has a very specific meaning in the security space
  - Threat \* Vulnerability = Risk
- CSA Volunteer Driven - Working Group *needed* to prove they know the difference
- Full TT coverage with nine case studies
- Attack chain
- Technical and business impacts
- Mitigating controls
  - Preventative, Detective, Corrective







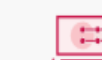












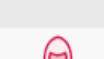

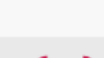
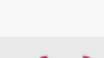

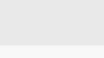

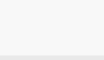

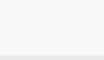
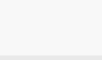



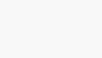

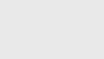
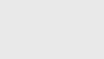


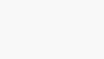
## Top Threats to Cloud Computing: Deep Dive

A case study analysis for 'The Treacherous 12: Top Threats to Cloud Computing' and a relative security industry breach analysis





# TT Coverage by Case Study

TOP THREATS ITEM #	LINKEDIN	MONGODB	DIRTY COW	ZYNGA	NET TRAVELER	YAHOO!	ZEPTO	DYNDNS	CLOUDBLEED
TT 1 									
TT 2 									
TT 3 									
TT 4 									
TT 5 									
TT 6 									
TT 7 									
TT 8 									
TT 9 									
TT 10 									
TT 11 									
TT 12 									

1. Data Breaches
2. Insufficient Identity, Credential And Access Management
3. Insecure Interfaces & APIs
4. System Vulnerabilities
5. Account Hijacking
6. Malicious Insiders
7. Adv Persistent Threats
8. Data Loss
9. Insufficient Due Diligence
10. Abuse & Nefarious Use Of Cloud Services
11. Denial Of Service
12. Shared Tech Vulnerabilities



# Top Recommended CCM Controls

CCM CONTROL DOMAIN	LINKEDIN	MONGODB	DIRTY COW	ZYNGA	NET TRAVELER	YAHOO!	ZEPTO	DYNDNS	CLOUDBLEED
AIS			X	X					
AAC			X		X			X	
BCR			X		X		X	X	
CCC			X						X
DSI				X					
DCS									
EKM	X								X
GRM	X		X			X		X	
HRS		X	X	X	X	X	X		
IAM	X	X	X	X			X		X
IVS	X							X	X
IPY									
MOS									
SEF	X			X	X	X	X	X	
STA									
TVM	X	X			X	X	X	X	X

1. AIS – Application & Interface Security (2)
2. AAC – Audit Assurance & Compliance (3)
3. BCR – Business Continuity Mgmt & Resilience (4)
4. CCC – Change Control & Config Mgmt (2)
5. DSI – Data Security & Info Lifecycle (1)
6. DCS – Data Center Security (0)
7. EKM – Encryption & Key Management (2)
8. GRM – Governance & Risk Mngmt (3)
9. HRS – Human Resources (6)
10. IAM – Identity And Access Management (5)
11. IVS – Infrastructure & Virtualization Security (3)
12. IPY – (0)
13. MOS – Mobile Security (0)
14. SEF – Sec Incident, eDiscovery & Forensics (6)
15. STA – Supply Chain (0)
16. TVM – Threat & Vulnerability Mngmt (7)



# Top Control Red Flags

CCM CONTROL DOMAIN	LINKEDIN	MONGODB	DIRTY COW	ZYNGA	NET TRAVELER	YAHOO!	ZEPTO	DYNDNS	CLOUDBLEED
TVM	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
HRS		X	X	X	X	X	X		
SEF	X			X	X	X	X	X	
IAM	X	X	X	X			X		X
GRM	X		X			X		X	
BCR			X		X		X	X	
AAC			X		X			X	
IVS	X							X	X
AIS			X	X					
CCC			X						X
EKM	X								X
DSI				X					
IPY									
MOS									
DCS									
STA									

- TVM – Threat & Vulnerability Mngmt
  - AV Installed & Patch Management
- HRS – Human Resources
  - Training & Awareness
- SEF – Sec Incident, eDiscovery & Forensics
  - Legal Preparation & Metrics
- IAM – Identity And Access Management
  - Credentials & Segregation
- GRM – Governance & Risk Mngmt
  - Leadership Oversight & Involvement
- BCR – Business Continuity Mgmt & Resilience
  - Planning & Testing
- AAC – Audit Assurance & Compliance
  - Independent Audits
- IVS – Infrastructure & Virtualization Security
  - Network Security
- AIS – Application & Interface Security
  - Data Log Integrity
- CCC – Change Control & Config Mgmt
  - Quality Testing
- EKM – Encryption & Key Management
  - Sensitive Data Protection
- DSI – Data Security & Info Lifecycle
  - Data Inventory/Classification



# Deep Dive Layout

## At A Glance

### LinkedIn (Password Hack 2012)

THREAT ACTOR	THREAT	VULNERABILITY	TECHNICAL IMPACTS	BUSINESS IMPACTS	CONTROLS
Internal Skipped basic standards	1 TT 11 Denial of Service	TT 2 Insufficient Identity, Credential and Access Management	2 TT 1 Data Breach Loss of user credentials, PII.	Financial – Forensics and cleanup cost \$1M – Users lawsuit \$1.25M (not including legal fees)  Operational – TWO calls to users to reset their passwords	Preventative – EKM-02 – IAM-12 – GRM-03 – GRM-06  Detective – IVS-01 – IVS-06 – SEF-04 – GRM-05 – GRM-10 – TVM-02
External Malicious hacker—Eastern European	TT 12 Shared Technology Vulnerabilities		TT 5 Account Hijacking, using the stolen passwords (password re-use in other services)	Compliance – Failure to protect PII  Reputational – Negative impacts on long term service usage	Corrective – GRM-07 – GRM-08 – GRM-09 – SEF-01 – SEF-05

## Attack

#### ATTACK DETAILS

**Threat actor:** Russian citizen Yevgeny Nikulin was arrested by Czech police for his alleged involvement in the LinkedIn breach.

**Threat:** The hacker stole a LinkedIn employee's credentials. Once inside the network, the hacker leaked the username and password database.

**Vulnerability:** The vulnerabilities divided into two main issues: (1) the hacker was able to steal credentials; and, (2) the password database was not salted.

#### TECHNICAL IMPACTS

**Data breach:** There was a potential breach of confidentiality regarding company intellectual property; furthermore, a wave of brute force attacks was identified after this incident. In 2012, LinkedIn disclosed that six million passwords were stolen, but revised the number to 167 million in 2016.

**Account hijacking:** This breach led to account hijacking incidents in other services due to password reuse.

#### BUSINESS IMPACTS

**Financial:** The forensics investigation and post-incident expenses were an estimated \$1 million. Additionally, a class-action lawsuit awarded a total of \$1.25 million to victims who had a premium account during the 2012 breach.

**Operational:** The company issued two notifications to users to reset passwords—first in 2012 and again in 2016. In 2016, users who had an account in were forced to reset their passwords again.

**Compliance:** LinkedIn failed to adequately protect user data. This is a violation of local, national and European Union (EU) rules/regulations (e.g. GDPR). Infractions may result in penalties, including fines.

**Reputational:** LinkedIn was sued for the data loss, but didn't realize negative impacts on long-term service usage.

## Controls

#### PREVENTATIVE CONTROLS

**EKM-02: Key Generation**—Employees must take good care of all access management tools, keys, passwords and cryptosystems.

**IAM-12: User ID Credentials**—The organization needs to take proper steps to verify identity, restrict access and maintain adherence to industry standards and compliance.

**GRM-03: Management oversight**—Leaders within the various corporate divisions (e.g. SOC, GRC, CIRT) had a clear responsibility to disclose the breach after detection. Under some United States sectoral regulations (e.g., the Sarbanes-Oxley Act [SOX]), executive management could be held personally liable and receive fines or lose previously awarded bonuses.

**GRM-06: Policy**—It is unclear whether the LinkedIn policies were non-existent, deficient or simply not followed. Due to the severity of the breach, breach disclosure notification should not have been delayed.

#### DETECTIVE CONTROLS

**IVS-01: Audit logging / Intrusion detection**—Proper logging is required for legal and compliance reasons, along with incident response and forensics needs. This ensures a clear documentation of user actions in the case of an incident or intrusion.

**IVS-06: Network security**—The environment and infrastructure should be designed to restrict access and monitor traffic. This configuration should be verified and maintained with proper documentation.

**SEF-04: Incident response legal preparation**—Proper forensic procedures must be followed, especially if future criminal prosecution will take place. The inclusion of legal representation in incident response is important.

**GRM-05: Management support/involvement**—The fact a password change was only “recommended” for some users—and not forced on all users—indicates that management was either unaware of the scale of the problem or ignoring it.

**GRM-10: Risk assessments**—Any independent internal or external auditor should have tested the organization for appropriate incident response policy, processes and procedures. At some level, the disconnects between policy, reviews, support, oversight and/or incident cleanup must be uncovered and rectified.

**TVM-02: Vulnerability/patch management**—During a penetration test, passwords are typically tested for their strength using a variety of techniques (e.g. rainbow tables).

#### CORRECTIVE CONTROLS

**SEF-01: Contact/authority maintenance**—Including the applicable authorities and law enforcement in the initial incident response team would make the lack of disclosure a non-issue.

**SEF-05: Incident response metrics**—Metrics for accounting and future budget ramifications, including response time and resources spent, would bubble up through management and provide visibility to executive leadership.

**GRM-08: Policy impact of risk assessments**—The use of a risk-assessment feedback loop to better grasp the pitfalls of the initial breach would help avoid a second breach.

**GRM-09: Policy reviews**—Business leadership should take the lead in policy review, and ensure policies match organizational activities and strategic direction. Either the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or Chief Counsel (legal) would designate an assignee to “sign on the bottom line”—especially in publicly traded companies where the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and SOX compliance come into play.

**GRM-07: Policy enforcement**—Proper policy should be created and enforced uniformly. Employees should know they are responsible for their actions.






#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Always hash and salt databases containing user credentials
- Implement careful logging and behavioral anomaly analysis

## Takeaways



# LinkedIn (Password Hack 2012)

THREAT ACTOR	THREAT	VULNERABILITY	TECHNICAL IMPACTS	BUSINESS IMPACTS	CONTROLS
<b>Internal</b> Skipped basic standards	<b>TT 11</b> Denial of Service 	<b>TT 2</b> Insufficient Identity, Credential and Access Management 	<b>TT 1</b> Data Breach Loss of user credentials, PII. 	<b>Financial</b> – Forensics and cleanup cost \$1M – Users lawsuit \$1.25M (not including legal fees)	<b>Preventative</b> – EKM-02 – IAM-12 – GRM-03 – GRM-06
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				<b>Compliance</b> – Failure to protect PII	<b>Corrective</b> – GRM-07 – GRM-08 – GRM-09 – SEF-01 – SEF-05
				<b>Reputational</b> – Negative impacts on long term service usage	



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# CSA STAR: Security, Trust & Assurance Registry



- Searchable registry to allow cloud customers to review the security practices of providers, accelerating their due diligence and leading to **higher quality procurement experiences**
- STAR is a **publicly accessible** registry that documents the security controls provided by cloud computing offerings
- Helps users to assess the security of cloud providers
- It is based on a multi-layered structure defined by **Open Certification Framework** working group

Launched in 2011, the CSA STAR is the first step **improving transparency and assurance in the cloud.**



# Open Certification Framework

	AUDIT FREQUENCY	Security	Privacy
TYPE OF AUDIT		<b>STAR Level 3</b> Continuous Auditing	_____
		<b>STAR Level 2 Continuous</b> Level 2 + Continuous Self-Assessment	_____
		<b>STAR Level 2</b> 3rd Party Certification	GDPR CoC Certification
		<b>STAR Level 1 Continuous</b> Continuous Self-Assessment	_____
		<b>STAR Level 1</b> Self-Assessment	GDPR CoC Self-Assessment

TRANSPARENCY & ASSURANCE

The CSA open certification framework is an industry initiative to allow global, accredited, trusted certification of cloud providers.

# Certification of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK)

Since CSA first released the CCSK in 2010, thousands of IT and security professionals have taken the opportunity to upgrade their skillsets and enhance their careers by obtaining the CCSK.



The CCSK helps you

- Validate your competence gained through experience in cloud security
- Demonstrate your technical knowledge, skills, & abilities to effectively develop a holistic cloud security program relative to globally accepted standards
- Differentiate yourself from other candidates for desirable employment in the fast-growing cloud security market
- Gain access to valuable career resources, such as tools, networking & ideas exchange with peers



# THANK YOU

If you want to be CSA personal or corporate member  
Please contact us as below

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Twitter: @Cloudsa

Site: [www.cloudsecurityalliance.org](http://www.cloudsecurityalliance.org)

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