Fact Sheet

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New Multi-Tier Cloud Security (MTCS) Standard In Singapore

Background

The development of the **Multi-Tier Cloud Security (MTCS) Standard For Singapore (SS 584)** commenced in April 2012 after a Working Group was formed under the IT Standard Committee (ITSC). The standard is now available from SPRING's standards publication website.

Overview

The **SS 584** is the **world's first cloud security standard that covers multiple tiers** and can be applied by Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) to meet differing cloud user needs for data sensitivity and business criticality.

This standard seeks to assist in driving cloud adoption across industries by giving clarity around the security service levels of cloud providers, while also increasing the level of accountability and transparency from these companies.

With the new standard, certified CSPs will be able to better spell out the levels of security that they can offer to their users. This is done through third-party certification and a self-disclosure requirement for CSPs covering service-oriented information normally captured in Service Level Agreements. The disclosure covers areas including: Data retention; data sovereignty; data portability; liability; availability; BCP/DR; incident and problem management.

While the adoption of MTCS SS is voluntary, being certified under SS 584 will be a requirement for CSPs participating in future public cloud services bulk tenders from the Government.

CSPs can certify themselves at any of the five qualifying certification bodies – the British Standard Institute, Certification International Pte Ltd, DNV Business Assurance, SGS International Certification and TUV SUD PSB Certification.

Moving forward, IDA will be working to cross-certify the MTCS SS with other international standards or certification schemes – such as the International Standard Organization (ISO) 27001 Information Security Management System (ISMS) and Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) Open Certification Framework (OCF) – to help those CSPs already certified against them to meet SS 584. It will also assist such CSPs, including foreign ones, offering cloud services that serve both domestic and APAC markets.

Pricing

It will cost $140.05 (Excluding GST). To encourage early adoption, SPRING will be having a discount on the price of 20% off **till November 21** which will work out to $112.04 (Excluding GST). IDA will also have an early adoption grant scheme that will help defray specific costs in MTCS certification. The scheme will provide a grant up to 50% or S$15,000, whichever is lower, for costs of certification and consultancy services.

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Page 1 of 2

Tiering System

MTCS SS has three different tiers of security, Tier 1 being the base level and Tier 3 being the most stringent.

- Tier 1:
  Designed for non-business critical data and system, with baseline security controls to address security risks and threats in potentially low impact information systems using cloud services (e.g.: Web site hosting public information)

- Tier 2:
  Designed to address the need of most organizations running business critical data and systems through a set of more stringent security controls to address security risks and threats in potentially moderate impact information systems using cloud services to protect business and personal information (e.g.: Confidential business data, email, CRM – customer relation management systems)

- Tier 3:
  Designed for regulated organizations with specific requirements and more stringent security requirements. Industry specific regulations **may be applied** in addition to these controls to supplement and address security risks and threats in high impact information systems using cloud services (e.g.: Highly confidential business data, financial records, medical records)

ISSUED BY CORPORATE AND MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
INFOCOMM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

About Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore

The mission of the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) is to develop information technology and telecommunications within Singapore with a view to serve citizens of all ages and companies of all sizes. IDA does this by actively supporting the growth of innovative technology companies and start-ups in Singapore, working with leading global IT companies as well as developing excellent information technology and telecommunications infrastructure, policies and capabilities for Singapore. For more news and information, visit www.ida.gov.sg

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Page 2 of 2