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FACTSHEET ***Multi-Tier Cloud Security Singapore Standard***

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 was published in November 2013 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 CSPs. With Singapore's drive as a Smart Nation, such clarity is a key part of building trust through transparency as cloud becomes ever-more important.

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.

IDA has been 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 and vice versa. It will also assist such CSPs, including foreign ones, offering cloud services that serve both domestic and APAC markets. As part of this, there is now a published set of guidelines for CSPs with ISO27001 certification to help them attain MTCS certification and vice versa. A similar set of guidelines for harmonizing with the CSA OCF will be made available soon.

Key Highlights

The MTCS SS document costs \$149.85 (including GST). To encourage early adoption, SPRING will be having a 20 percent discount on the price of the document till 6 November 21 2014 which will work out to \$119.88 (including GST).

Local CSPs which are keen to adopt the MTCS SS can tap on SPRING's Capability Development Grant based on their eligibility. This covers up to 70 percent of qualifying project costs. For further information on CDG please refer to <http://bit.ly/1Dogov6>

IDA also worked together with the Singapore Accreditation Council, under the aegis of SPRING, to develop an accreditation programme for MTCS certification. The programme provides a stringent set of criteria to ensure that Certification Bodies (CBs) conduct good certification practices in accordance with international best practices.

CSPs can currently certify themselves at any of the following qualifying CBs's – the British Standard Institute, Certification International, DNV Business Assurance, SGS International Certification Services, Singapore ISC, TUV Rheinland and TUV SUD PSB Certification.

Tiering System

MTCS SS has three different levels of security, Level 1 being the base and Level 3 being the most stringent.

- **Level 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)
- **Level 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)
- **Level 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)

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