This FAQ has been deprecated by CCSK V3, but made available for those seeking to take the CCSK V2.1 test until December 31, 2013. For more information, see
https://cloudsecurityalliance.org/certifyme

Cloud Security Alliance CCSK Certification FAQ

Q. What is the Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK)?

A. The CCSK is a web-based examination of individual competency in key cloud security issues.

Q. When will the CCSK be publicly available?

A. Starting September 1, 2010, interested individuals will be able to take the CCSK examination.

Q. What is the cost of the CCSK?

A. The CCSK will cost $295 USD. From our certification launch on September 1, 2010 through the end of 2010, we will be offering the CCSK examination for $195 USD.

Q. What is the body of knowledge covered by CCSK?

A. The body of knowledge that the first version of the CCSK examination will cover is the CSA Guidance V2.1, English language version. We will also have examination questions covering ENISA's report "Cloud Computing: Benefits, Risks and Recommendations for Information Security".

CSA Guidance: http://cloudsecurityalliance.org/guidance/csaguide.v2.1.pdf
ENISA: http://www.enisa.europa.eu/act/rm/files/deliverables/cloud-computing-risk-assessment

Q. Is the CCSK a viable substitute for other industry certifications?

A. The CCSK is NOT a substitute for other certifications in information security, audit and governance. Many certification programs help personal development within specific professional roles and job duties, and also provide vetting of individuals, which the CCSK does not do. The CCSK augments these other credentialing programs by encouraging a competency in cloud computing security best practices, which we believe will help individuals better cope with the increasingly pervasive cloud computing issues they are now facing. The Cloud Security Alliance is a strong supporter of popular professional certification programs within our industry and looks forward to developing formalized relationships with these programs in the future.

Q. Are there any plans to "grandfather" individuals with other certifications into the CCSK program?

A. No. The CCSK is not a user accreditation, but a certificate of knowledge for a specific topic. Grandfathering would not serve the purpose of encouraging competency in cloud security best practices.

CCSK™
Certificate of
Cloud Security Knowledge

cloud
security
alliance℠
CSA

Q. Does the Cloud Security Alliance plan other certifications?

A. The CSA certification board is studying this issue with a plan to release our roadmap in Q4 2010. Our mission is to research and understand how cloud computing is impacting IT-related professions and to respond with certifications that address market gaps.

Q. Will the CSA provide training programs for CCSK test preparation?

A. CSA does not plan extensive formal training programs for the CCSK at this time. We feel this is a natural area for CSA chapters and third party training providers to fulfill. In conjunction with the CCSK launch, we will release a short document advising test takers as to how to read the source documents, to optimize their study time.

The CSA will announce a program for training partners in Q4 2010. In advance of this program, the CSA is very interested in working with any training providers who want to work with us on mutually beneficial programs to educate professional on cloud security issues and best practices.

Q. Who is on the CSA Certification Board?

A. Our board is a diverse group of cloud security experts from around the world, listed here:
http://www.cloudsecurityalliance.org/ccsk_certification_board.html

Q. Does the CCSK have industry support?

A. The CCSK in strongly supported by a broad coalition of experts and organizations from around the world. The collaboration with ENISA means that the world's two leading organizations for vendor neutral cloud security research are providing the foundation for the industry's first cloud security certification.

www.cloudsecurityalliance.org/certifyme