

WHY HAS LEVEL 3
CONTINUOUS MONITORING
NOT YET BEEN RELEASED:

The Perception Over Reality



CSA STAR Level 3, focused on continuous monitoring for enhanced cloud security assurance, remains delayed, impacting compliance strategies reliant on automated, ongoing oversight.

01

The Perception: Complexity of Continuous Monitoring

The CSA may perceive that organisations face technical and financial challenges in implementing continuous monitoring for CSPs, including real-time tracking, process automation, and continuous reporting.

The Reality

Automation in continuous controls monitoring reduces manual effort, simplifying processes compared to traditional methods. By automating tasks like compliance checks, controls degradation, and reporting, CSPs achieve continuous oversight with minimal human involvement. CCM platforms' scalability enables them to adapt to infrastructure changes, growing data volumes, and evolving threats, delivering robust, cost-effective monitoring.



02

The Perception: Lack of Standardised Metrics

Organisations may believe continuous monitoring requires standardised metrics, and without universal benchmarks or frameworks, ensuring consistency and reliability will be challenging.

The Reality

A Continuous Controls Monitoring Platform vendor can provide centralised dashboards and cross-environment integrations, unifying tools and data across cloud and on-premises systems. Real-time analytics simplify monitoring and deliver a single source of truth for security metrics.



03

The Perception: CCM is a Cost and Resource Drain

Concerns may arise about the cost of implementing a CCM platform and the significant resource demands required for its maintenance.

The Reality

Consider the potential cost of a breach due to a lack of continuous monitoring. Many CCM providers offer customisable platforms that evolve with your organisation, allowing you to prioritise high-risk areas and expand as needed. You can start with specific controls and add features like asset visibility and regulatory frameworks over time. With a vendor offering support through scoping, onboarding, and post-implementation, your organisation gains full visibility without the burden of managing the entire platform alone.



04

The Perception: The Evolving Threat Landscape

Businesses face increasing challenges as AI evolves the threat landscape, requiring CSPs to continually update monitoring. This dynamic environment may necessitate constant revisions to Level 3 standards, delaying their finalization and implementation.

The Reality

CCM solutions align with frameworks like the CSA Cloud Controls Matrix and ISO 27001, updating controls automatically to keep pace with regulatory changes. This reduces CSPs' operational and financial compliance burden by eliminating the need for in-house control development and maintenance.



05

The Perception: Not Ready for Compliance Readiness

Many CSPs may lack the tools or practices for continuous monitoring, raising concerns about audit impacts on operations and penalties for technical issues during audits.

The Reality

With a CCM platform, CSPs gain real-time insights into risks, enabling proactive issue resolution and reducing costly incident responses.

Continuous oversight prioritises emerging risks, ensuring constant compliance readiness. Automated reporting and evidence logs simplify audits, cutting costs and minimising disruptions.



Continuous Controls Monitoring

A Strategic Investment with Long-Term ROI and Enhanced Visibility

Although CCM requires an initial investment, it offers substantial long-term ROI by streamlining compliance, improving operational efficiency, and reducing the risks and costs of security incidents. Over time, CSPs save significantly on compliance and operations, making continuous monitoring a strategic, value-driven asset. Additionally, many customers report a more than 75% improvement in organisational visibility!



To learn more about CCM and how it can enhance your organisation's security, streamline compliance, and improve operational efficiency, visit our website.

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