FACTSHEET

SINGAPORE BECOMES A
COMMON CRITERIA CERTIFICATE AUTHORISING NATION

Singapore attained the status of a Certificate Authorising Nation in January 2019 under the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA). Common Criteria (CC), also known as ISO/IEC 15408, is a technical standard applied to the evaluation and certification of cybersecurity products. It is the de facto standard for product certification, adopted by both governments and the industry.

2   The CCRA is an international arrangement for the mutual recognition of CC certificates across 30 nations. Among the 30 nations, 18 nations – including Singapore – are Certificate Authorising, while the others are Certificate Consuming (i.e. cannot issue certificates, but instead accepts them from the authorising nations[1]).

3   A CC Certification Body has been set up by the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA). It is responsible for ensuring that product evaluation that is undertaken conforms to the strict requirements of the CC standards. The Certification Body is also responsible for maintaining a pool of approved Common Criteria Testing Laboratories (CCTL) that perform product evaluation. The processes and rules governing the Certification Body's work, along with the approved evaluation labs, make up the Singapore Common Criteria Scheme (SCCS).

4   For developers to have their products certified, they will have to engage an approved CCTL to evaluate their product. The Certification Body will assess if the evaluation was performed according to the CC methodologies, and issue a CC certificate if the outcome is positive.

5   With Singapore attaining the status of a Certificate Authorising Nation, local developers no longer need to send their product overseas for certification. Developers based in Singapore can enjoy lower costs and shorter time in attaining an internationally-recognised certification mark. This facilitates the exportability of cybersecurity products produced in Singapore and strengthens Singapore's competitiveness in the global cybersecurity market. Through mutual

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[1] The 30 CCRA nations are:

• Authorising (18 countries) – UK, Germany, France, US, Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Japan, Turkey, India, South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore.

• Consuming (12 countries) – Israel, Austria, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic, Denmark, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Qatar, Poland, Indonesia.
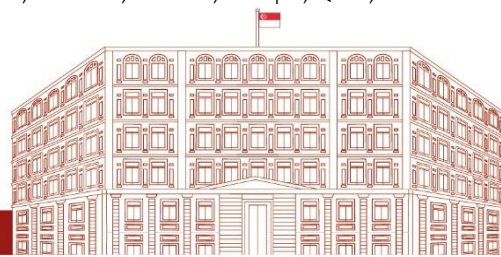
recognition, there is no further requirement for CCRA nations importing cybersecurity products from Singapore to conduct duplicate testing.

Launch of SecureTech Track under the Accreditation@SG Digital programme

6   To improve the quality of cybersecurity products of SMEs in Singapore through the adoption of CC certification, the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and CSA will be launching a new SecureTech track under the Accreditation@SG Digital programme from Q1 2019. This is part of the efforts to grow the cybersecurity ecosystem in Singapore and enable companies to expand internationally by tapping on the track record built in Singapore. Through this programme, IMDA and CSA will also encourage and ease the adoption and procurement of SecureTech products by government agencies and enterprises.

7   Under this new track, companies are required to obtain CC certification for the product to be accredited. CSA and IMDA are the approving authorities to award the accreditation status to companies under the new SecureTech track. Please refer to IMDA's Accreditation@SG Digital website at https://www.imda.gov.sg/accreditation for more details.

Creating job opportunities and attracting established laboratories to Singapore

8   As a CC Certificate Authorising Nation, Singapore can create more job opportunities for skilled cybersecurity professionals, spanning from IT product evaluators and certifiers, to product architects, designers and developers who can play a part in the entire process from production to certification.

9   In addition, Singapore will be able to attract global evaluation and testing laboratories to anchor their operations here. T-Systems International GmbH from Germany is one such company that has set up an evaluation lab in Singapore under the Singapore Common Criteria Scheme. Companies like T-Systems bring with them expertise in niche cybersecurity segments that permit knowledge and skills transfer to Singapore. This will contribute towards Singapore's efforts to become a certification hub in Southeast Asia.

10   For more details on the Singapore Common Criteria Scheme, please visit https://www.csa.gov.sg/programmes/csa-common-criteria.

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