

# CCSK Guidance v4



## *Frequently Asked Questions*

**Q: Why has CSA decided to update the CCSK content, exam, and training?**

**A:** CSA is committed to providing the best guidance possible to its members and the greater information security community. Since its inception, the CCSK has served as a benchmark for information security practitioners, IT users, and decision makers. It is meant to reflect the changing landscape in cloud computing security.

Typically, within our organization, major industry changes are first captured in the Cloud Security Guidance and then reflected in the CCSK. We released the Guidance v4 in July 2017, and consequently we are updating the CCSK training and certification exam.

**Q: When will the CCSK v4 exam will be available?**

**A:** The CCSK v4 exam will be available December 1, 2017.

**Q: How long will the CCSK v4 certificate be valid?**

**A:** Your CCSK v4 certificate will not expire. However, information technologies in general, and cloud computing in particular, are rapidly progressing fields, and it is advisable to stay up-to-date with the most current version of CCSK.

**Q: What's the difference between CCSK v3 and CCSK v4?**

**A:** The CCSK Version 4 is a significant update, with approximately 85% new content. The lectures are aligned with CSA's Security Guidance v4, and the labs for the CCSK Plus course have also been updated to reflect current real-world cloud security practices.

**Q: I am already a CCSK certificate holder based on a previous version. Will I need to update to v4 in order to maintain my CCSK status?**

**A:** A person who has successfully passed any version of the CCSK exam will continue to be considered a CCSK certificate holder. The actual digitized certificate that is awarded specifies the version of the exam that was completed. Because the CCSK v4 is considered to cover state-of-the-art knowledge, it is highly recommended that all existing CCSK v2 and v3 certificate holders begin planning to upgrade their skillsets and pass the CCSK v4 exam.

**Q: I am already a CCSK certificate holder based on a previous version and I would like to update my certificate to v4. How can I do that?**

**A:** CCSK certificate holders are eligible to receive a special CCSK upgrade token, which allows the holder two attempts to take the CCSK v4 exam. For individuals who passed an earlier version of the CCSK exam within 12 months prior to the release of CCSK v4 (i.e., between December 1, 2016 and December 1, 2017), the new token will be available at no cost. For individuals who achieved CCSK certification prior to December 1, 2016, you may purchase the CCSK upgrade token for a discounted rate of \$75. To take advantage of this offer, login to the CCSK portal at [ccsk.cloudsecurityalliance.org](https://ccsk.cloudsecurityalliance.org) after CCSK v4 is released and either claim your free token or purchase the upgrade.

**Q: I have a CCSK v3 (or v2) certificate. Is there a way that I can obtain the material or training that covers only the new content in v4?**

**A:** No. Given that each domain has undergone substantial revisions to address the current state of cloud security, an estimated 85% of the content is new. CSA therefore recommends that all students study the complete, updated body of knowledge.

**Q: I have bought a CCSK token for CCSK v3, will it be suitable for taking the CCSK v4 exam?**

**A:** Yes. Any student that has already purchased a CCSK v3 token and not used it, can instead take the CCSK v4 exam once it is available.

**Q: I have already started studying for the CCSK exam based on the v3 material, will I still be able to take the CCSK test based on v3 of the exam after December 1, 2017?**

**A:** Yes, the CCSK v3 exam will be available for an additional 12 months after the v4 launch, (i.e. until November 31, 2018).