# LIAISON PROPOSAL between the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) and OMG

## OMG Doc No: liaison/6/15/2022

**15 June 2022**

A proposal for a formal liaison between our two organizations. The proposal must be ratified by the relevant OMG TC and Board of Directors before coming into effect.

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| **Introduction: Concise statement of the proposed relationship between the organization and the OMG.** |
| CSA and OMG will collaborate to advance the education of cloud customers and the standardization of practices and technologies in cloud computing, with a specific focus on improving the security and privacy of information stored in the cloud and facilitating the understanding of and compliance with data residency laws and regulations. |
| **1. What does the organization do? To what OMG processes is the organization's work related and why?** |
| The Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) is the world’s leading organization dedicated to defining and raising awareness of best practices to help ensure a secure cloud computing environment. For more details on the CSA mission, see <https://cloudsecurityalliance.org/about/>. |
| **2a What is the benefit to OMG of liaison with the organization?** |
| CSA is the focus of significant activity on elaborating guidance for secure usage of the cloud. It operates a cloud provider security certification program, STAR, which assures cloud customers that their providers follow a certain standard of security practices. It is currently developing a Zero Trust concept implemented through a Software Defined Perimeter mechanism. The CSA Maintains Working Groups across 30 Domains of Cloud Security; including (but not limited to): Artificial Intelligence (AI/ML), Blockchain, IoT, and Software Defined Perimeter (SDP).  CSA members can bring to OMG’s Cloud Working Group the benefits of this expertise, and help OMG update its existing library of papers or develop new ones that will benefit OMG members and the public in general. CSA members who attend OMG Cloud Working Group meetings will add value to our discussion.  The Industrial Internet Consortium (IIC), a managed program of OMG, is also looking at distributed computing and concerned about the security of Industrial IoT systems. Closer collaboration between OMG and CSA will bring better visibility of CSA recommendations to IIC members. The CSA’s IOT Working Group initiatives include outlining best practices for securing IoT implementations, identifying gaps in standards coverage for IoT security, and identifying threats to IoT devices and implementations.  The Consortium for IT Software Quality (CISQ), another managed program of OMG, is concerned with the automatic detection of weaknesses in software. Closer collaboration between OMG and CSA will raise the possibility of collaboration between CSA and CISQ to adapt automatic source code measures for security to cloud environments.  Both CSA and OMG have a blockchain group. We expect communication and collaboration between those two groups to bring benefits to both organizations. |
| **2b What is the benefit to the CSA of liaison with OMG?** |
| CSA will be better able to publicize its library of research artifacts to members of the OMG, ensuring greater visibility of CSA’s work started in 2009.  CSA members will be better informed about OMG initiatives and will have an opportunity to influence OMG’s work. They will provide a select audience for OMG to solicit input and reviews for work in progress.  OMG holds “publicly available specification” (PAS) status with ISO, and thus may be able to accelerate the adoption of CSA-proposed standards by ISO if those standards are first adopted by OMG. This liaison relationship will enable us to do this, including by having joint members propose a CSA standard as an OMG RFC.  Both CSA and OMG have a blockchain group. We expect communication and collaboration between those two groups to bring benefits to both organizations.  We also anticipate communication and collaboration in the domains of (including but not limited to: Zero Trust, APIs (primarily REST and secondarily SOAP), and Secured DevOps). |
| **2c What are the overall benefits to the industry of this liaison?** |
| OMG and CSA will be able to more consistently provide guidance to cloud providers and cloud customers, especially as it relates to security and privacy in the cloud.  The following paragraphs outline the benefits expected from the overlap between the members of both organizations.  **Networking:**  The members of both CSA and OMG are able to build long-term relationships and partnerships that are mutually beneficial for CSA and OMG, as well as the members.  **Training and Education:**  CSA and OMG hold events with seminars, workshops and classes that help their respective members to learn and grow in their profession. With this new liaison arrangement, members will see a synergistic increase in opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and mentorship that allow members of both organizations to share experience and knowledge.  **Certification:**  The CSA and OMG offer industry-wide certification. The certifications and licenses available by both organizations provide a level of prestige and reliability in the minds of clients and customers that is invaluable. There is little overlap in the respective certifications so duplication of effort is minimized.  **Influence:**  The combined resources of the members of both CSA and OMB can be used to lobby lawmakers and sway public opinion more positively towards the goals of both organizations. With the increased level of government regulation in many industries, this is an absolute necessity for the survival of all businesses in the field.  **Information:**  Outside of the usual communication of members to each other, associations generally provide newsletters, email updates and informative resources that help its members stay on top of recent developments in the field. This liaison agreement will foster an increased flow of information.  **Best Practices:**  CSA and OMG both produce best practice documents on a regular basis. The fast pace of technology and market competition means that best practices are constantly updating and changing, and it is important to take advantage of any practices that can improve your business. CSA’s focus on security will help OMG members implement best practices on a fine-grained level.  **Exchange of Ideas:**  This liaison agreement will provide a forum for CSA and OMG members to share ideas and develop new ways to improve the industry. This will also allow for more experienced members to help newer ones grow, and provides the opportunity for all members to share innovative ideas that can help foster and grow both organizations.  **Relationships:**  The agreement will also provide an opportunity for members of both organizations to build friendships and personal relationships that can last a lifetime. |
| **3a How should the organization act as a requirements source for OMG?** |
| CSA members will be indirectly solicited for input into the creation and revision of OMG Cloud Working Group documents.  OMG can implement CSA requirements and guidance for members.  CSA can be used as a reference for OMG members on the guidance for cloud security and other technologies.  Inviting CSA members to contribute to IIC and CISQ deliverables will be at the discretion of those organizations. |
| **3b How should OMG act as a requirements source for the organization?** |
| OMG members include end-user cloud customers to whom CSA has not had a direct conduit to solicit input for their work. OMG Cloud Working Group leaders will collaborate with CSA to publicize to OMG members, as well as to non-members who follow OMG’s CWG work, the opportunity to contribute to CSA efforts. |
| **4. How and when should OMG adopted specifications be introduced into the organization?** |
| OMG’s Cloud Working Group has not yet created any specifications – it has published a library of discussion papers. While these papers are available to the public, most CSA members are probably unaware of their existence. They will be widely publicized to CSA members upon signature of the liaison agreement. |
| **5. Does the organization maintain standards? If NO, skip questions 6 through 9 which concern divergence of the organization's standards from OMG specifications:** |
| The International Standardization Council (ISC) within the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) has been designated to coordinate all aspects of standardization efforts within CSA. Efforts are jointly executed by CSA Global, standard developing organizations (SDOs), and relevant working groups. Specifically, working groups refers to those working groups whose work is instrumental in global standardization efforts or whose work has been identified as an offering that will be instrumental in bridging the gap existing in current global standardization efforts. Thus, the council is formed with the purpose to coordinate execution of this work. Additionally, ISC provides an avenue for corporate members to participate and influence standardization efforts worldwide represented under the CSA banner.  CSA maintains:   * CSA’s Cloud Control Matrix (CCM), which maps to standards such as (but not limited to): ISO-27001, NIST SP800-54, PCI-DSS) * CSA’s Certification of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK) * CSA’s Security, Trust and Assurance Registry (STAR)   CSA has a number of additional best practices and guidance documents; such as, but not limited to: CSA’s Security Guidance for Critical Areas of Focus in Cloud Computing; IoT Security Controls Framework guide; Software Defined Perimeter Architecture Guide. |
| **6. How should OMG best minimize divergence from OMG specifications arising during the organization's adoption process?** |
| OMG will incorporate CSA input into revisions of its library of discussion paper, ensuring eventual convergence. Such revisions must be agreed upon by both CSA and OMG.  It is expected that future revisions of OMG papers related to cloud security can be co-branded by both organizations. Co-branding will be on a case-by-case basis. |
| **7. How should OMG handle divergence from OMG specifications in the organization's newly-adopted product?** |
| CSA is expected to incorporate OMG Cloud Working Group member input into their processes. OMG Cloud Working Group members are to adhere to the established CSA process for contributions to CSA-guided research artifacts.  The answer to Question 6 also applies here. Co-branded OMG papers will ensure convergence. |
| **8. What role should OMG play in the organization's amendment and interpretation processes after OMG specifications have been adopted by the organization?** |
| A number of organizations are part of both OMG and CSA. Those common members can have a privileged role in bringing CSA feedback into the OMG specification finalization and revision processes.  Initially, this is a moot point since OMG’s Cloud Working Group has not published specifications. |
| **9. Who will provide conformance testing?** |
| The conformance testing requirement is initially irrelevant since OMG’s Cloud Working Group has not published specifications. We will address this point jointly if and when the need arises. |