TCG Certification FAQ

Q. Why does TCG have certification?
A. TCG has created certification programs to promote secure and correct implementations of products built to TCG specifications and to assist customers in verifying products built to TCG specifications.

Q. Which TCG technologies offer certification?
A. Currently, Trusted Platform Module (TPM) and Trusted Network Communications (TNC) are the two TCG technologies offering TPM. In particular, TCG's TPM Certification Program will include security evaluation requirements, based on the established international Common Criteria framework, and compliance testing requirements, based on TCG developed test suite tools. TCG's TNC Certification Program also has its own suite of compliance test tools.

Q. How are certified products promoted by TCG?
A. Products that successfully meet the requirements of each respective technology's TCG Certification Program, such as security evaluation, compliance, and interoperability testing, will be awarded recognition on the Certified Products List of the TCG website.

Q. How do companies apply for certification?
A. Application procedures for each certification are available to on the TCG website.

Q. Can non-TCG members receive certification?
A. TCG gauges interest for non-TCG members to be able to apply for TCG certification. Current, the TPM Certification Program is only open to members, but the TNC Certification is open to members and non-members alike. Companies that are not currently TCG members but are interested in certification should contact certification@trustedcomputinggroup.org.

Q. What does it cost to achieve certification?
A. Each certification program has its own pricing structure. Please visit the TCG website page of the technology you are interested in certifying with to understand what fees are applicable to your product certification.

Q. Why did TCG choose Common Criteria (CC)?
A. Common Criteria (CC) is the most widely accepted information security standard. Common Criteria certification can be performed around the world, with certification labs available to our members in many countries to perform security evaluation of their products.

Q. What TCG technologies are anticipated for future certification programs?
A. TCG evaluates which TCG specifications are best positioned within their market for a certification program in an on-going process.

Q. Does TCG use third parties for certification?
A. Each TCG Technology's Work Group has the opportunity to choose the certification method that is best suited for their industry. Many of our groups strive to make compliance testing possible at the company's own lab through self-certification or through a third party lab of choice. If a group chooses to use Common Criteria (CC) security evaluation, however, that evaluation must be processed through an approved CC laboratory.

Q. Will individual technology certification programs change after launch?
A. As specifications themselves mature and begin to encompass additional features, the TCG Certification Program evolves with it. A revision history and concise description of specification and features covered by each revision can be found on the individual technologies web page.

Q. What is the benefit of certification for vendors and for users?
A. For vendors, certification offers a way to help ensure consistency of implementation and interoperability of their products with those from other vendors using TCG specifications. Public recognition of certified products may translate into increased sales. For users, certification helps the selection of products that are tested to implement specific capabilities and specifications, and that will be interoperable with other products using those specifications.