FAQs: Cloud Data Management Capabilities (CDMC™) Framework

What exactly is the Cloud Data Management Capabilities framework and who developed it?
The CDMC™ Framework is a comprehensive assessment and certification framework, encompassing business, operations, and technology best practices for Cloud Data Management. It incorporates standards and best practices for cloud, multi-cloud and hybrid-cloud implementations, incorporating automated key controls for protecting sensitive data.

Who was involved in the development process of the CDMC Framework?
The framework was developed over an 18-month period by EDM Council’s CDMC Workgroup (which was established in May 2020), with participation from leading financial industry firms, consultancies, technology companies, including Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud, IBM and Microsoft. The Workgroup is chaired by Morgan Stanley and LSEG, with project management provided by Capco.

Which industries does the CDMC framework apply to?
Although the CDMC framework was initially developed with input from the financial sector, it was designed “industry agnostic”, available to all industries, to define the best practices for managing and protecting data in the cloud.

What are some of the components of the CDMC Framework?
The CDMC Framework is composed of 6 components, 14 capabilities, and 37 sub-capabilities that allow companies to effectively manage their cloud environments. The 6 components encompass data governance and accountability, cataloguing and classification, data accessibility and usage, data protection and privacy, data lifecycle and technical architecture.

Are Regulators familiar with the CDMC Framework?
EDM Council engages with international regulators on a regular basis. Regulators around the world have been briefed on the CDMC Framework and a number of key regulators are members of EDM Council.

What is the difference between the CDMC 14 Key Controls & Automations and the CDMC Framework?
The CDMC 14 Key Controls were the first publication of the CDMC Workgroup in July 2021 and encompass the key controls and “always on” automations required for protecting sensitive data in cloud and multi-cloud environments. The CDMC Framework represents the complete model, addressing the broader governance and operational requirements for managing data in the cloud, including the 14 Key Controls.

Do I need to be a member of the EDM Council to use the CDMC Framework?
No. The CDMC framework is available as a free license to all industry for internal use including both EDM Council members and non-members.

How can companies access and begin leveraging the CDMC Framework?
The CDMC framework can be downloaded for free from the EDMC website by visiting the CDMC webpage.
What is the difference between a CDMC Readiness Assessment and a CDMC Certification Assessment?

A Readiness Assessment is a scorable analysis of existing cloud capabilities, in alignment with the capabilities and sub-capabilities of the CDMC Framework. Readiness Assessments can also be used to benchmark the maturity of your cloud capabilities and can be used to prepare for a full Certification Assessment. Readiness Assessments can be self-administered or can be conducted by a CDMC Authorized Partner.

A Certification Assessment is a formal audit of your cloud capabilities, similar to a SOC 2 or ISO 27001 assessment and must be conducted by a CDMC Authorized Partner. To achieve CDMC Certification, substantiated evidence must be produced in alignment with the capabilities and sub-capabilities of the CDMC Framework. Upon successfully completing a Certification Assessment, a CDMC Certification Digital Badge from the EDM Council will be awarded, which is valid for 12 months.

What is a CDMC Authorized Partner?

A CDMC Authorized Partner is a vendor member of the EDM Council, authorized to conduct training, assessments and certifications with CDMC trained and certified personnel.

As a cloud service consumer, can my organization assess and certify portions of the CDMC Framework?

No. The CDMC Framework has been designed to encompass all best practices for managing data in Cloud. CDMC certification requires successfully evidencing compliance to the full CDMC Framework standard.

As a cloud vendor, what if some of the 14 Key Controls do not apply to my cloud product or service?

Cloud vendors must assess and certify against specific CDMC controls applicable to their offering. Certification requires evidence to the specific controls, as conducted by an independent CDMC Authorized Partner.

Can cloud service and cloud solution providers get CDMC certified?

Yes, Cloud Service and Cloud Solution providers can get CDMC certified on specific or all 14 CDMC Key Controls by engaging an independent CDMC Authorized Partner to conduct a CDMC Certification Assessment for their respective cloud offering. Cloud vendor offerings that evidence successful completion of a CDMC Certification Assessment will receive a CDMC Certification Digital Badge from the EDM Council which is valid for 12 months.

Is training available for the CDMC Framework?

Yes, the EDM Council offers open and dedicated company virtual CDMC training classes. The class is a two day (6-hour each day) course and upon completion students will receive a digital CDMC Accredited badge. Many of the CDMC Authorized Partners offer dedicated company CDMC training courses. EDM Council will provide an on-demand, self-paced eLearning version of the CDMC Framework Course, including an online CDMC Certification Exam. That course is expected to be available in the first half of 2022. Click here to contact us or learn more about CDMC training.

How can my company become an EDM Council Authorized Partner?

Vendor companies that are EDM Council members can optionally become Authorized Partners by approving the EDMC Authorized Partner agreement. The Partner Agreement permits EDMC Framework
(CDMC and/or DCAM) training, assessments, certifications and marketing rights to use DCAM and CDMC authorized partner logos. Click here to contact us or learn more about becoming an EDM Council Authorized Partner.

Has the EDM Council developed any other frameworks?
EDM Council created the Data Management Capability Assessment Model (DCAM™) in 2014 as a holistic best practice assessment framework for data and analytics management. DCAM is designed to establish data management foundations and its capabilities are required across all environments whether on-premises, cloud or hybrid and. DCAM emphasizes the formality needed to support a robust and sustainable data and analytics management initiative.

How is CDMC different from DCAM?
While DCAM is an assessment framework for data and analytics management, CDMC is a best practice assessment and certification framework for the management and control of data in cloud, multi-cloud and hybrid-cloud environments. CDMC focuses and expands on capabilities that are critical to the control of sensitive data. It assumes that you have strong foundations of data management capabilities and highlights areas where the features of modern cloud platforms present opportunities for standardization and automation of data management and control.

- Firms should use DCAM to assess if they have established the foundations of a data and analytics management initiative.
- Firms should use CDMC to assess if you have the capabilities to underpin a controlled adoption of and migration to cloud

Do I need to do both a DCAM and a CDMC assessment and if so, which do I perform first?
It depends. A DCAM assessment provides insight to your data and analytics management capabilities across all environments, while a CDMC assessment addresses the capabilities needed to control sensitive data in cloud environments. Consider these factors:

- Only perform a CDMC assessment if you are considering cloud migration or adoption or if you already manage data in cloud environments
- Consider both DCAM and CDMC assessments If you are considering cloud migration or adoption or already manage data in cloud environments, and you do not understand or you have concerns about your fundamental data and analytics management capabilities
- A CDMC assessment should only be performed without having completed a DCAM assessment if you already understand your foundational data and analytics management capabilities
- While EDM Council recommends performing DCAM first, there is no strict dependency

Can I share any scores between DCAM and CDMC?
There are some capabilities (such as Data Ethics and Data Quality) where results from one assessment can be used as the basis for the results of the other. However, you will need to ensure that the context, scope and participation of each assessment is equivalent and that is appropriate not to re-assess.
If my DCAM score is low, is there any point in considering CDMC?
Yes. If you have not established the foundational data and analytics management capabilities you can still assess your cloud data management capabilities, but you should be aware that your ability to manage data in the cloud will be limited by the absence of sound data management foundations across all environments.

Will DCAM and CDMC ever come together?
No. Each framework has a different focus and there is no plan to consolidate them in a single framework. However, it is likely that some of the capabilities addressed in CDMC with a cloud-focus may be incorporated more generally in DCAM in a future version.

Can I report any fixes or enhancements for CDMC?
Yes. We welcome your feedback and have created a simple online form for you provide us with recommended updates and improvements. The CDMC has an active CDMC Governance Review Committee of industry representatives that help prioritize new releases and updates to the CDMC Framework and considers all enhancements. Please click here to provide your feedback.

How can I access the test procedures for the 14 Key Controls?
The CDMC 14 Key Controls test procedures are planned for availability in October 2021 and can be downloaded as a free-license resource from the EDM Council website.