

Choose the Right Common Criteria Test Lab

Deciding to work toward Common Criteria certification of your product represents a huge commitment, and no part of that decision is more important than choosing the right test lab to evaluate your product for validation and certification. What questions do you need to ask to ensure that you choose the best partner to help you achieve your goals?

☑ Is the test lab an industry leader, helping to promote and shape the Common Criteria standard?

atsec's leadership in the Common Criteria industry is demonstrated by our commitment to helping shape the standard itself. Our senior management and consultants take leadership roles in the organizations that create and promote IT security standards, including the Common Criteria. Our employees are editors of ISO/IEC 15408 (Common Criteria), ISO/IEC 15446 (Guide for the production of protection profiles and security targets), and the ISO/IEC 27000 series of standards for information security management. Our leadership and commitment to the Common Criteria standard includes helping to test new versions of the standard, contributing to Scheme publications, and pushing the boundaries of the standard by applying it to large, complex systems.

☑ Does the test lab have a proven record of successful, on-time evaluations?

atsec has performed 75+ CC evaluations since 2002, and we leverage our experienced staff to produce quality results, on-time and on budget. To further enable sponsors to reap the maximum benefit from Common Criteria certification, we have performed evaluations of complex products in parallel with their development so that those products achieved CC certification almost at the same time the products hit the market.

☑ Is the test lab able to pursue certifications through multiple CC Schemes at all assurance levels?

atsec is fully qualified according to rigorous accreditation requirements to conduct evaluations for Common Criteria certification through the German BSI, the U.S. NIAP CCEVS, and the Swedish CSEC schemes.

☑ Does the test lab go beyond evaluation; does it also add value by improving the customer's product and processes?

atsec's evaluation reports reveal thoughtful analysis of the content of document evidence presented (not just a cursory look at the titles of documentation evidence). The reports provide real value to sponsors, going well beyond simply filling out a checklist of requirements to achieve certification. The depth and scope of our examination can result in a better product and more robust processes. As an added value, we share copyright of these valuable reports with the evaluation sponsor. The benefits of evaluation including the often-overlooked value of quality reports are summarized in this invited lecture by Helmut Kurth, atsec Chief Scientist, at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology: www.zisc.ethz.ch/events/ISC2005Slides/KurthCertifications.pdf.

☑ Is the test lab able to offer expertise and evaluation experience in many different technologies?

atsec's experience in evaluation ranges from limited-purpose software applications to large, complex applications and operating systems. We don't have to limit the scope of projects we are willing to take on, because our staff's collective experience lets us bring the appropriate level of expertise to any project. What's more, because our experts are experienced in many



types of IT security-related projects (not only Common Criteria evaluation), they frequently catch vulnerabilities and issues that other evaluators might miss.

☑ Does the test lab bring significant experience with complex evaluations?

Operating system evaluation is the greatest test of competence in the evaluation field, and atsec is the world leader in Common Criteria evaluation of operating systems. We have evaluated IBM z/OS, IBM AIX, and six Linux versions on five different platforms, totaling 25 of the 48 recorded OS evaluations worldwide. In addition, we have performed 3 evaluations of IBM PR/SM at EAL5+, working with BSI to develop an enhanced methodology including methods to analyze covert channels and assess modularity in design.

☑ Is the test lab financially independent?

atsec is financially independent, with no debt or dependence on external partners for financial support. Our business model is to self-finance company growth. In addition, we neither develop nor resell any hardware or software from any vendor.

☑ Who are the test lab's customers?

atsec is the chosen lab for leading global customers who could go anywhere, like IBM, HP, Oracle, SGI, and Cray. atsec also provides consultancy services for information security to companies like BMW, Vodafone, RWE, and Wincor-Nixdorf. These customers have the industry leadership position to engage any vendor they want for IT security testing and consulting services ... and they selected atsec.

So ... challenge candidate test labs to answer each of these questions. We're confident that no test lab can match atsec's proven record of successful, quality Common Criteria evaluations. Contact us today!