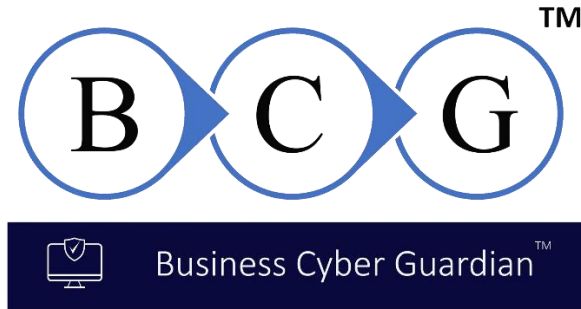




SAG-CTR™ and the Case for a Public Trust Infrastructure (PTI)

Executive Brief

SAG-CTR™ (Software Assurance Guardian – Community Trust Registry) is the first U.S.–built, U.S.–operated, production-ready Trust Registry designed to make trust in digital products *verifiable rather than assumed*. Operating since 2021, it implements the IETF SCITT transparency-service model, recording cryptographically sealed evidence about software, devices, APIs, and other digital resources.

Every product registered in SAG-CTR carries a **trust score (SAGScore™)** backed by verifiable artifacts: SBOMs, VDRs, provenance data, vulnerability analysis, support status, commercial status, and continuous assurance signals. Anyone—consumer, enterprise, regulator—can scan a QR code or enter a Product ID and instantly verify whether a digital product is trustworthy *today*, not just at release.

This represents a shift from **Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)**—which verifies identity—to **Public Trust Infrastructure (PTI)**, which verifies *trustworthiness*. In a world of AI-generated fakes, opaque supply chains, and high-velocity cyberattacks, identity alone is insufficient. PTI adds the missing layer: **radical transparency**, continuous evidence, and a neutral, tamper-proof registry.

Why PTI Is Now a Social Necessity

The digital world has reached a point where trust can no longer be inferred. As the World Economic Forum warns, “*If trust can’t be made suitable for the digital age, the digital age won’t function.*”

Three forces make PTI essential:

- **Software supply-chain fragility** — Events like the CrowdStrike update failure that disabled 8.5 million Windows machines show the societal cost of blind trust.

- **Regulatory pressure** — CISA Secure by Design, GSA Secure Software Attestation, FDA SBOM mandates, and SEC cyber-risk governance rules all require verifiable evidence.
- **AI-driven deception** — Deepfakes, synthetic software artifacts, and automated exploitation make it impossible for consumers to judge trustworthiness without a neutral verification layer.

PTI Trust Registries like SAG-CTR provide that layer.

Social Benefits of PTI Trust Registry Services

1. Consumer Protection at Population Scale A PTI registry gives every citizen the ability to check whether a product is safe before installing it—just as restaurant grades or UL labels protect physical safety. SAG-CTR’s trust labels and Glasswing Verified Product indicators help consumers avoid risky software.

2. Reduced Systemic Risk Across Critical Infrastructure Hospitals, utilities, schools, and small businesses often lack the expertise to evaluate software risk. PTI democratizes access to high-integrity risk intelligence.

3. Accountability for Producers PTI shifts the burden of cybersecurity away from consumers—who cannot inspect code—to producers, who must provide verifiable evidence of secure-by-design practices.

4. Transparency That Strengthens Markets Trust scores create competitive pressure. Vendors with strong security practices gain advantage; those with weak practices cannot hide behind marketing claims.

5. Legal and Regulatory Assurance SAG-CTR preserves tamper-proof evidence of good-faith cyber-risk management, protecting executives and boards in litigation or regulatory actions.

6. Enabling Zero Trust for the Real World SAG-CTR assigns **Zero Trust Digital Network Access IDs (ZTDNAIDs)** to entities and resources, enabling gateways (e.g., ZTBouncer) to verify trust before granting access.

Bottom Line

A functioning society depends on trust. PTI Trust Registries like SAG-CTR transform trust from a guess into a verifiable, evidence-backed fact. They protect consumers, strengthen markets, reduce systemic cyber risk, and provide the transparency required for a safe digital future.

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