

CYBER ESSENTIALS

What is the Cyber Essentials scheme?

Cyber Essentials is a certification designed to help UK businesses exploit and display their secure approach to information and cyber security.

Level 1 comprises of five basic controls:

- Secure configuration
- Boundary firewalls and internet gateways
- User access and administration management
- Malware protection
- Patch management

This is self-certified through a questionnaire with an external verification by an accredited certification body.

Level 2 (Cyber Essentials Plus), which became mandatory for UK Government suppliers from October 2014*, then a more rigorous assessment is required in addition to Level 1, an internal and external vulnerability assessment is completed.

Why should this matter to my organisation?

Good cyber security is a business enabler and being able to demonstrate that you have good information governance at the heart of your organisation can help in many areas:

- You are hoping to bid for a Government contract in any of the sectors that have a mandatory requirement for Cyber Essentials*
- Survival in a tough and competitive business landscape
- Protection from the reputational damage a breach can cause
- Protection from job loss due to breach-enabled business damage
- Reduced Business Interruption or Cyber security insurance premiums
- Provide assurance for customers and other key stakeholders including supply chain partners
- Open up a potential new customer stream of business who will only partner with cyber assured organisations.

ARE YOU HOPING TO TAKE YOUR ORGANISATION THROUGH CERTIFICATION TO CYBER ESSENTIALS OR CYBER ESSENTIALS PLUS?

If you are interested in taking advantage of this scheme and are looking to gain certification, you may want to consider some options for how to gain certification and therefore apply for your badge as quickly as possible.

The correct and accurate completion of the paperwork as well as understanding all of the requirements of the assessment is vital. Your competitors may already be doing this.

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You have options for how you choose to go through the Process:

- Self-complete the paperwork and submit it yourself. However, if you are unfamiliar with the requirements you may experience difficulty in completing/interpreting the questionnaire successfully.
- Get some expert support in implementing the controls and completing the assessment. This can take the form of one to one interview(s) to collect the required information or one of our consultants assisting you complete the questionnaire live.

Dependent on the scope of your business it may be that the answers to the questionnaire are held by several members of your organisation. If this is the case allow one of our consultants to meet with each individual and compile the required answers on your behalf, thus saving time and resources.

We can offer you support throughout the CE process before it moves to the certification body. We have been driving certification for Information Security (IS) over many years through ISO27001 and have a string of successful client certifications to this de facto IS standard.

Cyber Essentials is a far less complicated offering focusing on preventing on-line cyber-attacks and we are pleased to be able to bring our experience to bear for the benefit of organisations seeking to demonstrate their cyber security resilience. Those who already have ISO27001 certification will find that this is a complimentary certification.

Our support is flexible and scalable so you will not need to worry about a 'onesize fits all' approach. Whether your organisation needs just a little help or a lot, we can provide the expertise needed to reach the final certification stage. You can be assured that the wealth of expert experience at your disposal will place you in the strongest position possible for a successful certification to Cyber Essentials.

What to do next

Talk to us. It doesn't matter if you have already started the process and it has stalled or if you are not sure where to start, we can help you. Our unique mentoring style means you will be well placed to maintain the certification yourselves when it is due for renewal. If that doesn't suit your needs then we can manage the whole process for you.