

Cyber Essentials Certification

The Cyber Essentials Scheme, developed with the UK Government, helps organisations protect against common online threats and demonstrate compliance with security standards.



What is it?

Cyber Essentials is a highly effective, government-backed initiative designed to safeguard organisations of all sizes from a wide variety of common cyber threats.

Most cyber attacks are unsophisticated and opportunistic, often executed by attackers with limited skills. These attacks are comparable to a thief testing your front door to see if it's unlocked. The guidance provided through Cyber Essentials is tailored to protect your organisation from such vulnerabilities.

The scheme focuses on five critical areas to bolster your cybersecurity defenses: Firewalls and Internet Gateways, Secure Configurations, Access Control, Malware Protection and Patch Management.

By implementing these essential measures, your organisation can significantly reduce its risk of falling victim to cyber attacks.



Firewalls & Internet Gateways

Establishing secure barriers to keep out unwanted traffic.



Secure Configuration

Ensuring systems and devices are set up securely to reduce risks.



Access Control

Managing user permissions to prevent unauthorised access.



Malware Protection

Defending against harmful software that can compromise systems.



Patch Management

Keeping software and systems updated to address known vulnerabilities.

Benefits

Cyber Essentials accreditation provides robust protection against today's most common cyber threats, ensuring your organisation stays secure from attacks like phishing, malware, and ransomware. By implementing these essential controls, you **significantly reduce vulnerabilities and safeguard your business operations**.

Earning this accreditation **builds trust and credibility with clients, partners, and stakeholders**, showcasing your dedication to cybersecurity and responsible data handling. It positions your organization as a reliable and professional choice, boosting your reputation in the market.

Additionally, Cyber Essentials can help you **achieve compliance with regulations like GDPR** and opens the door to lucrative opportunities, including eligibility for UK government contracts. This accreditation is more than a security measure—it's a strategic move to enhance your organisation's resilience and competitiveness.

Certification Levels

The Cyber Essentials certification comes in two levels, offering organisations flexibility depending on their security needs and resources.



Cyber Essentials

This is the basic level of certification, designed to help organisations protect themselves against the most common cyber threats. It involves completing a self-assessment questionnaire to demonstrate that the five key security controls are in place (firewalls, secure configuration, user access control, malware protection, and patch management).

- **Purpose:** It's an entry-level certification aimed at establishing foundational cybersecurity measures.
- **Process:** You'll answer questions about your organisation's practices, which are then reviewed by an accredited certification body.
- **Ideal For:** Small-to-medium-sized businesses or organisations starting their cybersecurity journey.



Cyber Essentials Plus

This is the advanced level of certification, offering the same protections as Cyber Essentials but with an additional layer of assurance. Unlike the basic certification, Cyber Essentials Plus involves an independent technical assessment by a qualified assessor.

- **Purpose:** To validate and verify your cybersecurity controls through real-world testing, such as vulnerability scans and penetration tests.
- **Process:** External testing is performed on your systems, such as workstations and internet-facing services, to ensure security controls are effective.
- **Ideal For:** Organisations that want a higher level of assurance, work with sensitive data, or are required to demonstrate a rigorous security standard to clients or regulators.



Key Differences

- Cyber Essentials focuses on self-declared compliance.
- Cyber Essentials Plus includes third-party testing to validate your security measures.

Both certifications are valid for one year and serve as stepping stones to a more robust cybersecurity framework, with **Cyber Essentials Plus providing greater confidence and credibility.**