



Protect your business against cyber threats

Cyber Essentials is a new Government-backed and industry supported scheme to guide businesses in protecting themselves against cyber threats.

Cyber Essentials is FREE to download, and any organisation can use the guidance to implement essential security controls.



The Cyber Essentials scheme provides businesses small and large with clarity on good basic cyber security practice. By focussing on basic cyber hygiene, your company will be better protected from the most common cyber threats.

Cyber Essentials is for all organisations, of all sizes, in all sectors - we encourage all to adopt the requirements as appropriate to their business. This is not limited to companies in the private sector, but is also applicable to universities, charities, and public sector organisations.

The Cyber Essentials badge allows your company to advertise the fact that it adheres to a government endorsed standard.

The Cyber Essentials Scheme has been developed as part of the UK's National Cyber Security Programme and in close consultation with industry.

“Increasing awareness of the cyber security threat to business is an important issue to the CBI, so we are pleased to be one of the first organisations to take part in the Cyber Essentials scheme. Business leaders will benefit from the access to helpful and authoritative cyber security guidance. Encouraging firms to adopt this scheme is a positive step towards greater awareness of cyber security and more widespread action to manage the risks”

John Cridland, Director General, CBI

“The Information Commissioner’s Office supports the Cyber Essentials scheme and encourages businesses to be assessed against it. Protecting personal data depends on good cyber security, and the threats and challenges are getting ever more sophisticated. All too often organisations fail at the basics. This scheme focuses on the core set of actions that businesses should be taking to protect themselves, their customers, and their brand. Cyber Essentials enables businesses to demonstrate that they are taking action to control the risks”

Christopher Graham, Information Commissioner, ICO

“Cyber crime poses a real and growing threat for all businesses and small firms in particular and should not be ignored. Many businesses take steps to protect themselves but the cost of crime can act as a barrier to growth. For example, some businesses refrain from embracing new technology as they fear the repercussions and do not believe they will get adequate protection from crime. In the face of an ever increasing threat of cyber attacks, the FSB supports the Cyber Essentials scheme as an additional and important tool, designed to help reduce the risk to small firms and improve the resilience of the sector”

Mike Cherry, National Policy Chairman, FSB

“ICAEW Chartered Accountants frequently handle sensitive financial information, making data security and risk management central to the work we do. This is why the ICAEW is committed to raising standards of cyber security within the profession, and the wider business community as a whole. The Cyber Essentials scheme provides an industry standard to show that a business cares about its own data - and its customers. That’s why ICAEW worked with government and other industry professionals to develop the scheme, in order to provide a greater standard of cyber hygiene amongst all UK businesses, regardless of size or sector”

Michael M D Izza, Chief Executive, ICAEW

“Swiss Re Corporate Solutions supports the Cyber Essentials scheme since it defines well the basic requirements in cyber risk management and believes it will be valuable to insurers in making judgements about how well businesses are managing their cyber security risks”

Willy Stoessel, Global Head of Cyber, Swiss Re Corporate Solutions

“Our customers depend on us to provide secure infrastructure for broadcast and telecommunications services and so we are always looking at ways to improve how we manage cyber security threats. Cyber Essentials is as relevant to large, critical infrastructure businesses as it is to organisations with lower levels of cyber risk”

Richard Beck, Head of Information Security, Arqiva