

# Cyber Essentials

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The Cyber Essentials scheme is a Government certification to help businesses understand the basics of cyber security.

As a Cyber Essentials accredited assessor, NCC Group can help guide you through the certification process, for both Cyber Essentials (Stage 1) & Cyber Essentials Plus (Stage 2).

## What is Cyber Essentials?

The scheme is aligned with the primary objective of the UK Government's National Cyber Security Strategy to make the UK a safer place to conduct business online by building a vibrant, resilient and secure cyberspace.

The Cyber Essentials scheme provides guidance to help organisations of all sizes to measure their defences against common forms of cyber-attacks. Selected by industry experts, the technical controls within the scheme reflect those covered in well established standards. Cyber Essentials offers a sound foundation of basic hygiene measures that all types of organisations can implement and potentially build upon.

## Who is Cyber Essentials for?

Cyber Essentials is applicable to organisations of all sizes, in all sectors. The Government is encouraging all organisations to look at the requirements and to adopt them.

## Why is it important?

Cyber Essentials identifies some fundamental sound technical security controls that an organisation needs to have in place, and can potentially build on to help defend against cyber threats. By going through Cyber Essentials, organisations can lower their risk of serious data and financial loss by placing cyber security on the board agenda and taking responsibility.

## How can I show I have been certified?

Organisations can choose a level of assessment that is appropriate for their business and upon completion are awarded a certificate that shows they have been assessed to an appropriate level.

## How does it work?

### Stage 1

- Stage 1 involves a self-assessment questionnaire which evaluates some of the basic controls that an organisation has in place to protect against cyber attacks along with an external vulnerability assessment. The CEO has to sign the questionnaire off before it is sent to the certifying body for review.
- The organisation will then undergo an external vulnerability scan to test the controls to ensure they have been implemented correctly. The scan may also recreate various attack scenarios to check whether a compromise with commodity capabilities can be achieved.

### Stage 2

- When an organisation has passed Stage 1, they are eligible to apply for Stage 2, which is known as Cyber Essentials Plus.
- The assessment is based on an internal vulnerability scan of the system(s) in scope and tests that the individual controls have been implemented correctly or recreates various attack scenarios to see whether a compromise with commodity capabilities can be achieved.

## What does it cover?

The Cyber Essentials (Stage 1) and Cyber Essentials Plus (Stage 2) Scheme covers five key areas:



## About NCC Group

NCC Group is a global expert in cyber security and risk mitigation, working with businesses to protect their brand, value and reputation against the ever-evolving threat landscape.

With our knowledge, experience and global footprint, we are best placed to help businesses identify, assess, mitigate & respond to the risks they face.

We are passionate about making the Internet safer and revolutionising the way in which organisations think about cyber security.

- 1. Secure configuration:** The security measures required when building and installing computers and network devices to reduce unnecessary vulnerabilities.
- 2. Boundary firewalls and internet gateways:** Providing a basic level of protection where an organisation connects to the internet.
- 3. Access control and administrative privilege management:** Protecting user accounts and helping prevent misuse of privileged accounts.
- 4. Patch management:** Keeping the software used on computers and network devices up to date and resisting low level cyber-attacks.
- 5. Malware protection:** Protecting against a broad range of malware, including computer viruses, worms, spyware, botnet software and ransomware.

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