

Principality IT's guide to Cyber Essentials

What is Cyber Essentials?

Cyber Essentials, and the more advanced Cyber Essentials Plus, are government-backed cyber security certification schemes. They are suitable for all types of organisation in all sectors.

The government want every organisation to be Cyber Essentials accredited by 2020 in order to improve cyber security across the UK. It has already made certification essential to bid for any UK government contract and many other organisations are already following suit and requesting it as a requirement to pitch for their work too.

Principality IT is an accredited provider of Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus, helping other organisations to achieve accreditation and protect their business.

What are the benefits?

Of course, the scheme's overall aim is to protect your organisation against cyber threats - but the benefits spread further than that.

As well as allowing organisations to bid for more work as mentioned, the scheme serves to demonstrate to your customers, insurers, investors etc... that you take cyber security seriously and have taken the necessary precautions to reduce the risk of cyber threats, which can be a significant competitive advantage.

Not only can it win businesses extra work, it can cut also costs as many insurance companies offer lower premiums to businesses with Cyber Essentials certification.

How does it work?

The scheme addresses five 'key controls' that, if implemented correctly, can prevent around 80% of cyber attacks.

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The five key controls are:

1. Secure configuration

By ensuring computers and network devices are configured properly, you will have the opportunity to reduce your overall storage and bandwidth consumption as well as reducing security risks

2. Boundary firewalls and Internet gateways

Using these helps you block external threats and hackers when on the Internet, as well as helping you better understand your bandwidth requirements

3. Access controls and administrative privilege management

This helps businesses remove any threats from inside their operations and stops staff from installing unauthorised software on their computers which could pose a risk.

4. Patch management

Keeping software up to date prevents issues such as crashing and congested networks, as well as protecting against low-level security threats. It keeps businesses more productive and more secure.

5. Malware protection

Keeps your business safe from computer viruses, worms, spyware, botnet software and ransomware by protecting computers, data and other important documents from cyber attacks.

What's the difference between Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus?

These are two different levels of certification:

The Cyber Essentials certification process involves a self-assessment questionnaire and an external vulnerability scan.

The Cyber Essentials Plus certification includes the same assessments as Cyber Essentials but includes an additional internal scan and an on-site assessment.

Principality IT is an accredited provider of both Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus certification.

To find out more about achieving certification, contact us on **0845 413 0009** or **hello@principality-it.co.uk**.