

Service Description Tabletop Exercises G Cloud 15



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Service Overview

Background

Tabletop exercises are provided by Quorum Cyber as structured, scenario-based workshops designed to help organisations rehearse how they would respond to a cyber incident or crisis in a safe, controlled environment. During an exercise, key stakeholders such as executives, IT, security, legal, communications, and operational teams work through a realistic incident scenario, discussing decisions, actions, and communications as the situation unfolds. The goal is not to test technical systems, but to test people, processes, and decision-making under pressure.

Tabletop exercises will centre around scenarios and common challenges organisations face during real incidents. They help to reveal gaps in incident response plans, unclear roles and responsibilities, and weaknesses in communication or escalation pathways. They also highlight where leadership may lack confidence in decision-making, where cross-team coordination breaks down, or where regulatory and reputational considerations are not well understood. By exposing these issues before a real incident occurs, tabletop exercises from Quorum Cyber help organisations improve preparedness, reduce response times, strengthen governance, and build confidence that the business can respond effectively to a cyber crisis.

Quorum Cyber's Solution

Our Tabletop exercises strengthen business preparedness for incident response by addressing readiness at three critical levels of the organisation:

- Strategic
- Tactical
- Operational

At a strategic level, they support C-suite and executive leadership by testing decision-making under pressure, clarifying risk ownership, and rehearsing governance, regulatory, and communications responsibilities. Executives gain confidence in when and how to escalate incidents, engage regulators and customers, and balance business continuity, legal, and reputational considerations.

At a tactical level, tabletop exercises help middle management validate coordination across teams, ensuring roles, responsibilities, and escalation paths are clearly understood and effective. This level focuses on translating strategic intent into coordinated action, highlighting dependencies and potential bottlenecks.

At an operational level, exercises enable technical and response teams to rehearse procedures, validate playbooks, and identify practical gaps in tools, processes, and communication. Together, these perspectives ensure the organisation is aligned from boardroom to operations, enabling a faster, more confident, and more effective response when a real incident occurs.

Differentiators

Quorum Cyber's Incident Response Centre of Excellence is underpinned by highly accredited and experienced professionals who are trusted to provide leadership and drive meaningful outcomes during tabletop exercises. Our teams bring real-world incident response expertise, ensuring exercises are practical, realistic, and focused on improving decision-making, coordination, and organisational readiness at the executive and operational levels.

Our credentials reflect our commitment to excellence, integrity, and doing the right thing for our customers. These include accreditation to the NCSC Cyber Incident Response (CIR) Standard, CREST Incident Response certification, and extensive SANS and GIAC qualifications spanning malware analysis, threat intelligence, digital forensics, industrial defence, and cloud incident response. This depth of capability enables us to support organisations in strengthening preparedness, validating response plans, and building confidence through structured, outcome-driven tabletop exercises.

| Service Features

- **Realistic Exercise Design:** Planned and delivered using relevant, plausible scenarios tailored to the organisation and its operating environment.
- **End-to-End Delivery:** Full lifecycle support covering planning, development, facilitation, and completion of the exercise.
- **Structured Lessons Learned Review:** Post-exercise session to capture insights, validate outcomes, and encourage continuous improvement.
- **Executive-Level Reporting:** Clear, concise report including an executive summary and high-level scenario overview for senior stakeholders.
- **Actionable Findings and Recommendations:** Balanced analysis highlighting both existing strengths to sustain and targeted areas for improvement.

| Service Benefits

- **Improved Executive Decision-Making** (Strategic): Enables senior leadership to rehearse high-impact decisions under pressure, clarifying risk ownership, escalation thresholds, and responsibilities for regulatory, legal, and public communications.
- **Clearer Governance and Accountability** (Strategic): Validates incident governance structures, ensuring the right people are involved at the right time and that decision-making authority is well understood across the organisation.
- **Stronger Cross-Team Coordination** (Tactical):
Tests how effectively departments work together during an incident, identifying gaps in communication, handovers, and escalation between management, technical teams, and business functions.
- **More Effective Incident Management Processes** (Tactical):
Helps middle management assess whether incident response plans, playbooks, and workflows are practical and achievable, highlighting areas that need refinement or simplification.
- **Operational Readiness and Confidence** (Operational): Allows technical and response teams to rehearse their roles, validate procedures, and identify gaps in tools or skills, improving speed and confidence during real incidents.
- **Reduced Impact of Real Incidents** (All Levels): By identifying weaknesses before an incident occurs, tabletop exercises help reduce response time, limit business disruption, protect reputation, and improve overall organisational resilience.