



Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus Service Definition

Classification: Public

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Overview

Cyber Essentials, a Government-backed, industry supported scheme was set up to help organisations protect themselves against common cyber-attacks. The scheme has five security controls:

1. Secure Configuration
2. Boundary Firewalls and Internet Gateways
3. Access Control and Privilege Management
4. Patch Management
5. Malware Protection

We've been delivering the very best cyber security services and solutions for three decades. Our expertise covers all aspects of cyber security: people, policies and technical controls. We are qualified to assess and certify you against both the Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus schemes.

Our experienced consultants have a wealth of knowledge and are best placed to review and prepare your business for security audits, as well as offering practical and pragmatic advice and guidance to steer your cybersecurity planning along the right path.

Sapphire is a Certification body for Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus against the IASME scheme.

Service features:

- External and Internal Vulnerability Technical Audit
- Check patching by internal authenticated vulnerability scan of devices.
- Identify missing patches and security updates of end user devices.
- Test devices are protected against malware delivered via email attachments.
- Test devices have protection from malware delivered through a website.
- Check devices have a basic level of malware protection.
- Test cloud services have MFA for standard users and administrators.
- Test user account separation and don't have administrator privileges assigned.

Service benefits:

- Reassure customers that you take cyber security seriously.
- Listed on IASME directory of organisations awarded Cyber Essentials.
- Attract new business due to cyber security measures in place.
- External and internal vulnerability audit to provide evidence of compliance.

Functional and Non-Functional Detail

Cyber Essentials Basic

Cyber Essentials can help your organisation in many ways:

- Reassure customers that you take cyber security seriously.
- Be listed on the IASME Directory of organisations awarded Cyber Essentials.
- Attract new business with the assurance that you have cyber security measures in place.
- Obtain Cyber Insurance as part of your certification.
- You are 92% less likely to make a claim on your cyber insurance.¹

Cyber Essentials basic is a self-assessment that is completed online via the IASME portal. Sapphire can provide you a spreadsheet of the questions or a PDF questions booklet can also be found here:

[Free Download of Self-Assessment Questions - Cyber Essentials](#)

Once the spreadsheet is complete, you can apply and submit at <https://iasme.co.uk/cyber-essentials/>. You will need to copy out the answers out of the spreadsheet or booklet and add into the online portal. Cost of CE basic is based on the size of your organisation.

The CE basic is a self-assessment, and your organisation will assess themselves against five basic security controls (listed below) and an IASME qualified assessor verifies the information you have provided. Sapphire will then review your answers as part of a remote session(s) and guide you on any recommendations or changes to answers.

Sapphire will also assess your full submission, and we will take you through the CE process from start to finish. Sapphire will create an account for your organisation, and you can then log in to complete the self-assessment questionnaire. Once submitted we will review as an assessor. Sapphire will then pay the CE basic fee to IASME as your preferred partner, rather than you paying it direct.

¹ [What are the benefits of Cyber Essentials?](#)

Cyber Essentials Plus

The Cyber Essentials Plus assessment is a more comprehensive detailed security audit which can result in a PASS or FAIL. Anything that is not internet facing can be excluded from scope. Think vulnerability assessment meets audit without a formal penetration test.

The 5 areas we cover as part of a Cyber Essentials Plus:

1. Boundary firewalls and Internet Services
2. Secure Configuration
3. User Access Control
4. Malware Protection
5. Patch Management

The following test cases will be carried out as part of the CE+ assessment:

Test case 1: Remote vulnerability assessment

To test whether an Internet-based opportunist attacker can hack into the Applicant's system with typical low-skill methods.

Test case 2: Check patching, by authenticated vulnerability scan of devices

To identify missing vulnerability fixes within the defined CE+ test scope that could be exploited within the bounds of the CE threat model. Vulnerability fixes include patches, updates, registry fixes, configuration changes, scripts or any other mechanism prescribed by the vendor to fix a known vulnerability. This test is on sampled EUD, servers and IaaS instances.

Test case 3: Check malware protection

To check that all the devices in scope benefit from at least a basic level of malware protection.

- Sub-test 3.1 For devices that use anti-malware software
- Sub-test 3.1.1 Check effectiveness of defences against malware delivered by email
- Sub-test 3.1.2 Check effectiveness of defences against malware delivered by browser
- Sub-test 3.1.3 Manual Checks for devices that use anti-malware software
- Sub-test 3.2 for devices that use certificate-based application allow listing

Test case 4: Check multi-factor authentication configuration

To test cloud services declared in scope have been configured for multi-factor authentication (MFA).

Test case 5: Check account separation

To test user accounts don't have administrator privileges assigned.

Sapphire's Certifications and Associations



Penetration
Testing



Security
Operations Centre

