Service Description

CIS and Cyber Essentials Plus certification

Microsoft Solutions Partner

Why do you need this?

If your organisation needs to be able to prove it follows good IT Security practices, and wants to provide services to the UK Public Sector you need to prove your organisations' security capability meets Cyber Essentials PLUS.

As part of this we also recommend aligning your security practices with CIS Controls to ensure effective security. By following our advice and defined process, and implementing the necessary tools and capabilities we will guarantee Cyber Essentials PLUS certification.

Contents

02 What are Cyber Essentials?

Cyber Essentials is a UK government endorsed initiative operated by the NCSC National Cyber Security Centre. It describes 5 key technical controls that organisations should put in place to help prevent cybercrime and is designed to be simple and easy to operate for businesses.

- Boundary firewalls & Internet gateways
- Secure configuration
- Access control
- Malware protection
- Patch management

The base certification is self-reported against a standard questionnaire. Cyber Essentials PLUS certification requires passing an external audit and testing by an independent NCSC certified assessor, in most cases Government bodies and other public sector organisations require PLUS certification as a condition of contract.

Where organisations follow Fordway's CIS and Cyber Essentials Plus certification process we will recommend the necessary tools and controls are implemented, where this is done we will to work with your organisation to guarantee it passes Cyber Essentials PLUS.

03 What are CIS Controls?

The Centre for Internet Security (CIS) Critical Security Controls are a set of 20 recommended actions that provide specific and actionable ways to stop many of today's most pervasive and dangerous cyber-attacks.

The principal benefit of these controls is that they focus on and prioritise a small number of actions that provide the highest payoffs for security.

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These controls are based around 5 groups that describe their function rather than their technology:

- Identify – the assets which need protection
- Protect – the identified assets
- Detect – threats in real time
- Respond – stopping breaches & limit damage
- Recover – repairing damage & bring business back online

Penetration Testing – Fordway provides vulnerability scanning as part of the service. Optional independent Penetration testing can be organised by Fordway quarterly, bi-annually, or annually as part of the engagement, this undertaken by NCSC certified external specialists.

05   Service Consumption

There are three stages in the lifecycle of a security program, this service covers the first stage, which is understanding and testing the current environment and undertaking a risk analysis to identify what improvements are needed and where to meet the Cyber Essentials PLUS standard. This stage is undertaken by Fordway's Security Consultants and Analysts, the output is a report on your organisations' current security position and how it aligns against the assessment.

The second stage is the remediation of any identified vulnerabilities and implementation of required capabilities, processes and security tools to ensure compliance with the CIS controls and ensuring your organisation is prepared for, and capable of passing the Cyber Essentials PLUS audit. This stage can either be undertaken in house or assisted by the Fordway team. We can also book the Cyber Essentials PLUS audit for you as part of the service from our panel of auditors we work with.

The third stage is 24 x 7 monitoring, reporting and analysis to identify ongoing security issues with continual improvement of your security posture and processes. This can either be run in house or by Fordway's 24 x 7 Security Monitoring and Operations service, which provides a manned 24 x 7 Security Operations Centre for clients who do not have the capacity, skills or resources to run this capability in house.

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Phase 1: Cloud Security Baseline – please see separate Service Description for greater detail

- Discovery & Inventory of hardware & software assets
- Business Environment Assessment
- Security & Risk Governance Assessment
- Overall Risk Assessment
- Risk Assessment Report
- Security scan and optional 3rd party penetration test

Phase 2: Cloud Security Improvement to meet Cyber Essentials

- Phase 1 Cloud Security Baseline is a prerequisite of Phase 2
- Fordway will design, implement and configure the tools, processes and reports needed to implement CIS CSS controls appropriate to your organisation and to ensure you meet all the requirements of Cyber Essentials and are ready to undertake the external Cyber Essentials PLUS audit
- Where absent Fordway will help implement continuous monitoring and improvement of your security posture through real-time event analysis and security incident reporting via Azure Log Analytics data collection and Azure Sentinel analysis and dashboard for historical events & real time updates

06 Key Benefits

- **Achieve Cyber Essentials PLUS certification**
- **End to end organisation security** – Use the Fordway expertise and knowledge of providing comprehensive, tailored security solutions, to enhance security and protection and manage cyber risk
- **Proactive Implementation –** Fordway's knowledge can turn reactive, knee jerk reactions to security breaches, into a proactive, automated, policy and risk-based response that ensures all threats are dealt with in a professional manner
- **Independent –** Fordway will provide independent feedback on the benefits and limitations of security platforms and align with other products if necessary.
- **Comprehensive Security Assessment –** Fordway will perform a detailed analysis against the existing security measures and portfolio and where real benefits can be gained

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- **Collaboration –** Fordway's team will work alongside your IT staff and any third parties collaboratively to implement the optimal solution for your organisation

- **Detailed Knowledge of Security Management Tools –** Fordway have extensive knowledge of the Defender and Sentinel tools, and how to integrate them with other complimentary Microsoft products, including Azure Lighthouse, Monitor and Arc. These will be configured to deliver the necessary statistics and dashboard for each organisation.

- **Understand Legacy –** Fordway know companies have legacy systems with potential integrations that cannot just be ignored, and have defined methods and templates for integrating them into your organisations' monitored security environment.

- **Clear Recommendations –** Fordway will produce a set of costed recommendations on how to get the best security solution out of the licences your organisation already owns, and how to migrate any systems over.

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About Fordway

Fordway offers over 30 years' experience advising and delivering strategic IT infrastructure and IT service delivery change to complex enterprises.

Fordway's consultancy helps inform your strategy and review the options relevant for your organisation. Our advice will be aligned to your business requirements. We can then assist with the ongoing migrations, operational management and optimisation of the resulting cloud service, based on best practice defined by the ITIL service management framework.

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Ordering

Fordway's services can be ordered by contacting your Fordway account manager or other members of our team on 01483 528200, emailing sales@ fordway.com or using the contact form on www.fordway.com

Public Sector customers can order Fordway Cloud services through the G-Cloud Framework, please go to www.digitalmarketplace.service.gov.uk, search on Fordway and browse the catalogue.

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Our Accreditations

ISO 9001
ISO 14001
ISO 27017
ISO 27018
ISO 20000
ISO 27001

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