CYBER ESSENTIALS & CYBER ESSENTIALS PLUS FOR CHARITIES

More and more charities are finding that Cyber Essentials (CE) or Cyber Essentials Plus is a mandatory requirement for new contracts and service delivery. But many charities do not have inhouse IT departments or security teams responsible for cyber security, and rely on outsourced service providers for IT support and expertise. Often there is also limited or no in-house information security knowledge either, so it can be difficult to know where to start when applying for CE or CE Plus and completing the necessary technical and information security information required.

We can offer you support throughout the CE process before it moves to the certification body. We have been driving certification for information security with charities over many years through ISO27001, as well as CE and CE Plus, so we know the process and how to gather the information you need to get through first time.

WHAT IS THE CYBER ESSENTIALS SCHEME?

CE is a certification designed to help UK organisations display their secure approach to information and cyber security.

Level 1 (CE) comprises of five basic controls:

- Secure configuration
- Boundary firewalls and internet gateways
- User access and administration management
- Malware protection
- Patch management.

This is self-certified through a questionnaire with an external verification by an accredited certification body.

Level 2 (CE Plus) is a more rigorous assessment that requires an internal and external vulnerability assessment to be conducted by the certification body, in addition to your completion of the self-assessment.

WHY SHOULD THIS MATTER TO MY ORGANISATION?

Good cyber security is a business enabler and being able to demonstrate that you have good information governance at the heart of your organisation can help in many areas:

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- Protection from the reputational damage a breach can cause
- Protection from job loss due to breach-enabled business damage
- Reduced Business Interruption or Cyber Security Insurance premiums
- Provide assurance for customers and other key stakeholders
- Open up potential new revenue streams with clients who stipulate CE or CE Plus as a mandatory requirement for potential suppliers.

YOU HAVE OPTIONS FOR HOW YOU CHOOSE TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS:

- Self-complete the paperwork and submit it yourself. However, if you are unfamiliar with the technical requirements you may experience difficulty in completing/interpreting the questionnaire successfully
- Get some expert support in implementing the controls and completing the assessment. This can take the form of one to one interview(s) to collect the required information or one of our consultants assisting you complete the questionnaire live.

The correct and accurate completion of the self-assessment, as well as understanding all of the requirements is vital to success. Incorrect submissions may require re-application and additional cost.

WHAT TO DO NEXT?

Talk to us.

It doesn't matter if you have already started the process and it has stalled or if you are not sure where to start, we can help you. Our unique mentoring style means you will be well placed to maintain the certification yourselves when it is due for renewal. If that doesn't suit your needs then we can manage the whole process for you.

Our support is flexible and scalable so you will not need to worry about a 'one-size fits all' approach. You can be assured that the wealth of expert experience at your disposal will place you in the strongest position possible for a successful certification to CE.