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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW:
CYBER ESSENTIALS & CYBER ESSENTIALS PLUS

Cyber Essentials & Cyber Essentials Plus certification is critical to protecting your business and winning new customers.

What Is Cyber Essentials & Cyber Essentials Plus?

The Government-backed scheme, Cyber Essentials (launched in 2014) has quickly become a norm for most businesses. Threats are all around us and with remote working and off premise environments, cyber security is vital. Cyber Essentials is a certification that ensures you are taking the right steps to be protected from most threats. It also illustrates to your customers that you are secure. It can also help gain new business as regulatory bodies tend to require certifications from all their suppliers as standard practice.

Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus.

Cyber Essentials is a self-assessed certification, denoted by a permitted Certification Body, that ensures your business is protected against the most widespread cyber attacks.

Cyber Essentials Plus allows businesses to further demonstrate their cybersecurity credentials with an in-person valuation from a Certification Body on top of the self-assessment. To pass Cyber Essentials Plus, an external body (like Codestone) will visit your on-premise sites to examine your processes and initiatives. This is the gold standard, that most companies should be holding to ensure cyber security within their organisation is robust.

What Are The Benefits To Your Business

- Protects your business from cyber threats

- Shows your supply chain and stakeholders that you are taking security seriously

- Increases business opportunities, as you are a safe and compliant

- It complies with Regulatory Bodies and it is becoming an industry standard

- Allows you to claim free insurance, reduce cyber insurance premiums and more

- Shows you comply with GDPR and are committed to data protection

- Free exposure on the NCSC website

Regardless of which accreditation you pertain to, the controls tested as part of the assessment are identical. The only thing that changes is the in-house assessment.

There are five controls tested in total:

1. Firewalls

2. Secure configuration

3. User access control

4. Malware protection

5. Patch management

Who Needs Cyber Essentials?

In a nutshell, every business.

The core elements have always been essential, but with cyber crime on the rise, it is time to make sure they are applied and checked regularly in order to protect your business and the people who work with you. Secondly with the hybrid work model as the new standard, the chance of an attack has increased. Cyber Essentials helps organisation ensure they are taking the right and adequate steps to ensure a secure environment.

Whether you are small, medium, or a large company you should apply for the Cyber Essential certification. Some businesses see it as a cost effective way of not only attracting other businesses, but also having an assessment of your security posture undertaken with the added bonus of a certification at the end! As your business grows and your stakeholders become larger more established companies, you will also find the certification useful when tendering. That said it will soon become mandatory for stakeholders working with government like bodies. So why not get ahead, and ensure your business is robust now.

Do I Need An ISO 27001?

ISO 27001 is the principal world-wide norm on how to achieve and manage information security. Similar to the Cyber Essentials, it provides a framework to help businesses be cyber secure.

ISO is seen as the market leader for cyber security certifications, introducing the strict procedures, proving to stakeholders your business is serious about protection of their data. Cyber essential in comparison is an elementary level, stepping towards the Platinum standard ISO 27001.

QMS

ISO 27001
REGISTERED

Comparing Cyber Essentials and ISO

Cyber Essentials is a UK government assurance scheme that sets out five technical cyber security controls that all organisations can implement to achieve a baseline of cyber security. ISO/IEC 27001:2013 (ISO 27001) is the international guideline that provides the specification for an ISMS (information security management system) – a systematic methodology to managing information security risk. ISO 27001 goes considerably beyond than Cyber Essentials, providing 114 security controls that include people, processes and technology.

Although Cyber Essentials and ISO 27001 serve separate requirements, the two should be seen as complementary rather than conflicting.

Which Certification Is Right For Your Business?

This will vary based on your type of business, data assets, size of corporation and your stakeholders. Security operators will recommend every business at least has the Cyber Essentials certification as a standard for cyber defence.

Once you have the Cyber Essentials Plus certified, the next step would be planning for an ISO 27001 certification to further strengthen their procedures and companies' reputation. Data heavy companies such as professional services, financial services and online retail would undoubtably benefit from the added layer of protection that the ISO can offer.

What Are The Next Steps?
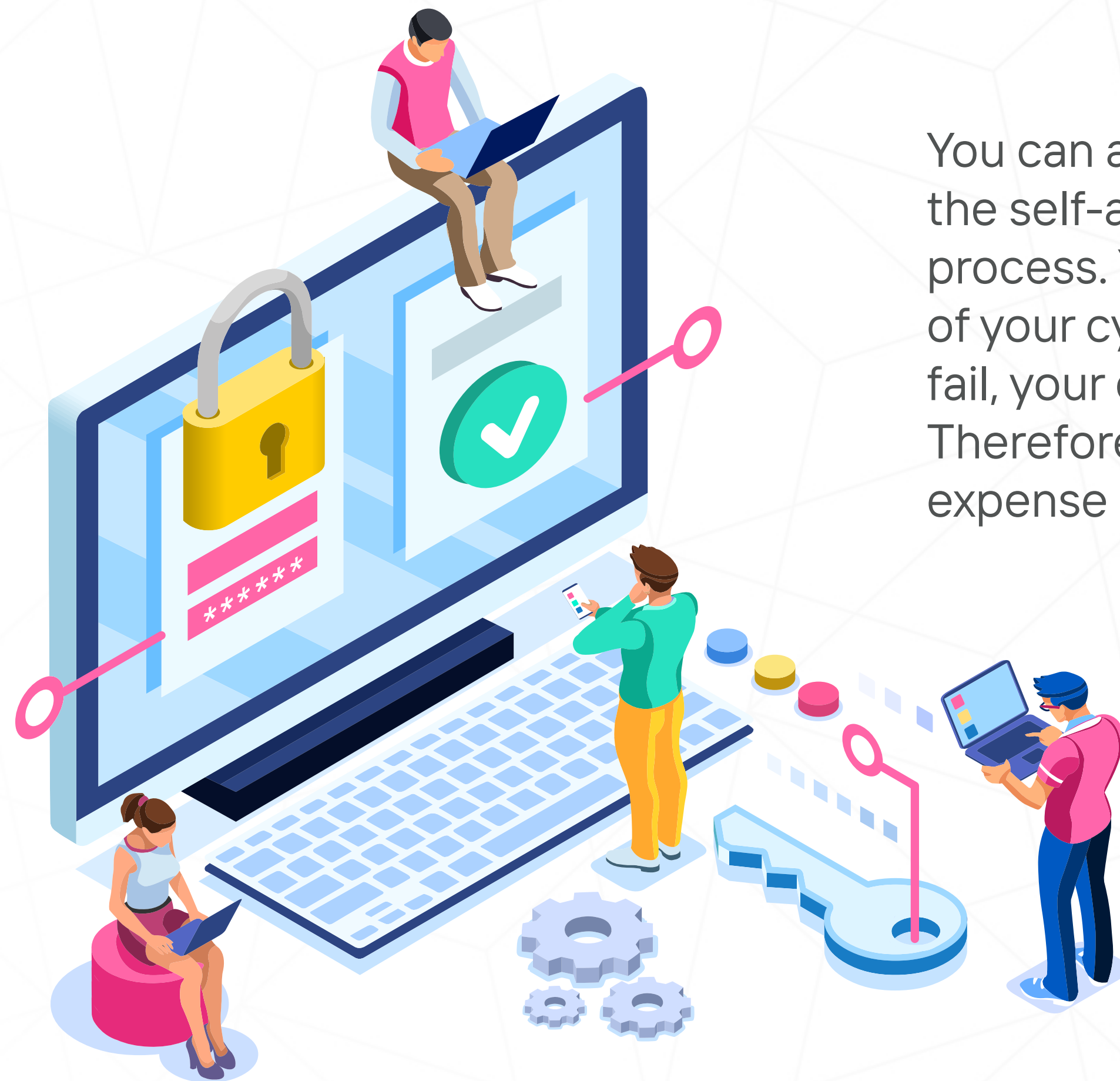
You can apply for the Cyber Essentials certification and complete the self-assessment form yourself, however it can be a lengthy process. Your staff will need to have an in-extensive knowledge of your cybersecurity practices to fill out the assessment. If you fail, your evaluator will not outline what is wrong or how to fix it. Therefore, you would have to resubmit the assessments, at the expense of your own time and make an additional payment.

Go It Alone or Work With a Certification Body?

To become an approved Certification Body, IT suppliers must pass a set of strict criteria outlined by IASME. Less than 200 companies are approved to certify Cyber Essentials Plus. Codestone work with a security partner who is vetted and who are one of the chosen partners.

With a task this complex, the benefits of experience will help ensure a smooth streamlined process, costing your business less time and money. We can also advise you on how to improve the application to ensure you pass or simply complete it on your behalf.

If you do wish to pursue the Cyber Essentials Plus this will need to be carried out by an independent certified body.

Get in touch today and learn about the support that Codestone can offer your company whilst gaining additional security with the Cyber Essentials & Cyber Essentials Plus Certification.

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