# Cyber security advice for small to medium sized organisations

Expert advice from the NCSC to help protect UK businesses, charities, clubs, and schools with up to 250 employees from cyber threats online.

Where to start?

Protect your business from cyber criminals for free by using our cyber security toolkit.

The Cyber Action Toolkit is designed to help sole traders and small businesses take their first steps in cyber security. It provides bite-sized actions to help protect their money and reputation from cyber criminals.

Foundation Layer

25% complete
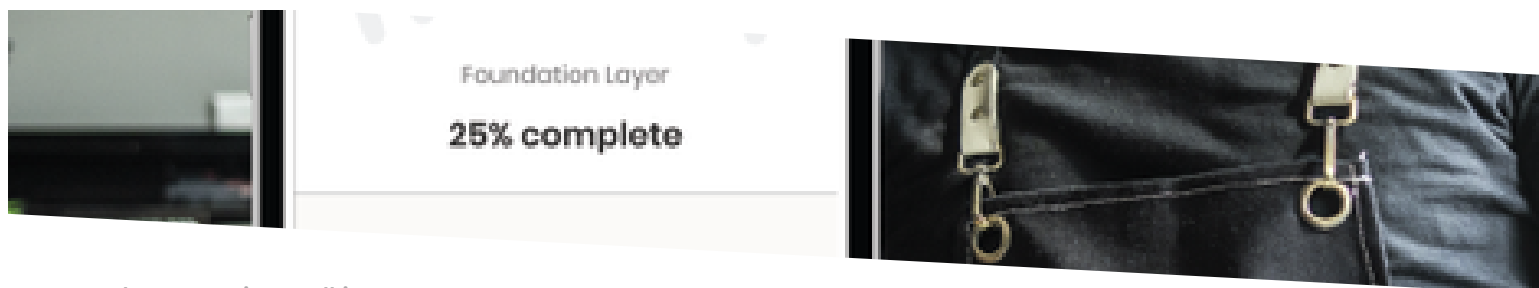
Free cyber security toolkit

Our free Cyber Action Toolkit helps sole traders and small businesses take simple steps to protect against cyber criminals.

Try the toolkit now

Guidance to help protect your business

Small Business Guide: Cyber Security
How to improve your cyber security; affordable, practical advice for businesses.

Social media: protecting what you publish
How to reduce the likelihood of unauthorised content appearing within your organisation's social media channels.

Securing your devices

How to ensure your devices are as secure as possible.

Phishing: Spot and report scam emails, texts, websites and calls

How to recognise and report emails, texts, websites, adverts or phone calls that you think are trying to scam you.

Mitigating malware and ransomware attacks

How to defend organisations against malware or ransomware attacks.

Using online services safely

How small organisations can reduce the likelihood of cyber attacks when using online 'cloud' services.

Is your organisation protected online?

Use our online tool to check if cyber criminals could target you.

Visit the Check Your Cyber Security tool

Support for sectors

The NCSC has worked with industry partners to create guidance for specific sectors. Cyber security is important for all organisations.

Sector advice and guidance

[Cyber security in schools](#)

[Security advice for the Research and Innovation sector](#)

[Supply chain security guidance](#)

Small organisations newsletter

Sign up to receive our monthly small organisations newsletter, where each month we will cover different topics and offer advice.

Sign up to the small organisations newsletter

Hybrid working: advice and support

The NCSC has produced guidance which will help small businesses meet the challenges of distributed working.

Useful advice and support

Moving your business from the physical to the digital

Home working: preparing your organisation and staff

Video conferencing services: security guidance for organisations

Think you're not a target?

1 in 2 businesses reported a cyber attack in the last 12 months*

*Cyber security breaches survey 2025

Planning for a cyber incident

Cyber attacks can significantly impact a business, whatever the size or sector. Organisations should plan for cyber incidents as part of general risk planning. Putting in place a cyber incident response plan gives you a better change of mitigating the impact, helping to restore systems quickly and minimise business downtime.

Planning for an incident doesn't have to be daunting. These resources will help your organisation understand the risk and build an effective response plan.

Useful guidance

Small Business Guide: Response & Recovery
Guidance that helps small to medium sized organisations prepare their response to and plan their recovery from a cyber incident.

Exercise in a Box

Dealing with common cyber problems

Advice for these common issues:

+ Show all

I have been hacked. How do I recover my account?

Show

Should I pay a ransom to unlock my computer?

Show

My username and password have been stolen

Show

I might have malware on my device   Show

I've received a suspicious email or text

Show

I am worried that my banking details have been stolen

Hide

- Contact your bank or building society and speak to their fraud department.

- Your bank will **not** ask you to reply to an e-mail with personal information, or details about your account. If you contact them, use a phone number/email address you have found yourself, rather than one sent to you in the email – it may be false.

- You can check your credit reference file online. You should follow up on any unexpected or suspicious results.

For more guidance on protecting yourself from cyber-enabled fraud, please visit [Take Five](#).

Report a cyber incident

Find out where to report a cyber incident in the UK, Isle of Man or Channel Islands.

Find out where to report your cyber incident

Training for small charities, businesses and organisations looking to support their staff

Top tips for staff

This is your chance to get confident with what cyber security means for you and learn some actionable steps you can take to stay safe online. This training will cover four key topics of cyber security. You'll explore each of these topics by helping someone to navigate a tricky situation.

[Start Top tips for staff training now](#)

Get your business Cyber Essentials certified

Cyber Essentials is a simple but effective, government backed scheme that will help you to protect your organisation, whatever its size, against a whole range of common cyber attacks.

Learn more about Cyber Essentials

Active Cyber Defence (ACD)

The NCSC provides a range of free cyber security tools and services to eligible organisations as part of the Active Cyber Defence (ACD) programme.

Services

Exercise in a Box

A free resource to help organisations rehearse their response to cyber attacks.

Mail Check

Mail Check, part of the Active Cyber Defence programme, assists with email security configuration and reporting.

Web Check

Web Check helps you identify and fix common security issues in your websites.

Check your cyber security

A free, easy-to-use online tool to help UK organisations identify and fix common cyber vulnerabilities—no technical expertise required.