

Cyber Assessment Framework: Core Profile

The CAF Core Profile defines a consistent baseline of cyber resilience for organisations facing **moderately sophisticated cyber adversaries**. Built on the NCSC's Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) v4.0, it brings together lessons from years of sector-specific profile development and reflects the common cyber threats that organisations increasingly face, including ransomware, supply chain compromise, exploitation of legacy technology, and attacks enabled by emerging technologies. The profile describes the minimum level of cyber security and resilience required of organisations that provide essential services, support critical national infrastructure, or are critical to the UK's security and prosperity.

The CAF Core Profile has been developed through analysis of real world attack scenarios and is designed to provide a threat-informed benchmark for cyber resilience across sectors, improving consistency while still allowing regulators and organisations to set higher expectations where circumstances require. It supports a more coherent approach to cyber resilience, helping organisations focus on the outcomes that matter most for withstanding and recovering from moderately sophisticated cyber attacks.

The profile will also play an important role in supporting the implementation of the [Cyber Security and Resilience Bill \(CSRB\)](#) by providing a shared reference point for cyber resilience expectations across the UK's essential services and nationally significant organisations.

An X indicates the expected achievement level for each contributing outcome:

- **Partially achieved** – met through implementation of the Indicators of Good Practice expected at the Partially Achieved level.
- **Achieved** – met through implementation of the Indicators of Good Practice expected at the Achieved level.

[See Using IGPs for more information](#)

Table 1: Cyber Assessment Framework: Core Profile

Objective	Principle	Contributing outcome	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Achieved
A. Managing security risk	A1. Governance	A1.a Board Direction			X
		A1.b Roles & Responsibilities			X
		A1.c Decision-making			X
	A2. Risk Management	A2.a Risk Management Process			X
		A2.b Understanding Threat			X
		A2.c Assurance			X
	A3. Asset Management	A3.a Asset Management			X
	A4. Supply Chain	A4.a Supply Chain		X	
		A4.b Secure Software Development and Support		X	
B. Protecting against cyber attack	B1. Service Protection Policies, Processes and Procedures	B1.a Policy & Process Development			X
		B1.b Policy & Process Implementation			X
	B2. Identity & Access Control (IDAC)	B2.a Identity Verification, Authentication and Authorisation			X
		B2.b Device Management			X
		B2.c Privileged User Management			X
		B2.d Identity and Access Management (IDAM)			X
	B3. Data Security	B3.a Understanding Data		X	
		B3.b Data in Transit		X	
		B3.c Stored Data		X	
		B3.d Mobile Data		X	
		B3.e Media/Equipment Sanitisation		X	
	B4. System Security	B4.a Secure By Design			X
		B4.b Secure Configuration			X
		B4.c Secure Management			X
		B4.d Vulnerability Management			X

Objective	Principle	Contributing outcome	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Achieved
	B5. Resilient Networks & Systems	B5.a Resilience Preparation			X
		B5.b Design for Resilience		X	
		B5.c Backups			X
	B6. Staff Awareness & Training	B6.a Cyber Security Culture		X	
		B6.b Cyber Security Training			X
C. Detecting Cyber Security Events	C1. Security Monitoring	C1.a Sources and Tools for Logging and Monitoring			X
		C1.b Security Logs			X
		C1.c Generating Alerts			X
		C1.d Triage of Security Alerts		X	
		C1.e Personnel Skills for Monitoring and Detection			X
		C1.f Understanding User's and System's Behaviour, and Threat Intelligence (within Security Monitoring)			X
	C2. Threat Hunting	C2.a Threat Hunting		X	
D. Minimising the Impact of Cyber Security Incidents	D1. Response & Recovery Planning	D1a. Response Plan			X
		D1.b Response & Recovery Capability			X
		D1.c Testing & Exercising			X
	D2. Lessons Learned	D2.a Post Incident Analysis			X
		D2.b Using Incidents to Drive Improvements			X