



**AdEPT**  
part of the **Wavenet Group**



**Microsoft**  
Solutions partner

# Security in a changing world

Secured Microsoft 365  
Managed Solution

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The way we work</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Cyber attacks</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The AdEPT secured IT proposition</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>AdEPT security services</b>	<b>7</b>
Cyber security assessment	7
Remote pre-assessment	8
Detailed assessment discovery and design	8
Cyber Essentials certification	9
Secured Microsoft 365 Solution	10
<b>Why buy from us</b>	<b>11</b>

# Introduction

**The world is ever-changing – so too is the cybersecurity landscape and compliance requirements of IT in business.**

**Cyber threats and cyber security are continually evolving in nature, the volume and variety of potential threats is continuing to rise, with a 76% increase in 2022 alone. This means it is imperative now more than ever for a business to be Cyber Secure.**

**Increasingly persistent and sophisticated malware and ransomware attacks are dominating the cybersecurity landscape but social engineering, malicious insider activity and old-fashioned user or systems errors still make a significant contribution.**

**SMEs (small to medium sized enterprises) are particularly vulnerable – according to a 2022 World Economic Forum Cybersecurity Report, 88% of respondents were concerned about the cyber resilience of smaller organisations, with insurer Hiscox estimating 65,000 hacking attempts on SMEs occur every day in the UK.**

# The way **we** work

The way businesses operate, and the way people work has changed. Organisations previously hosted applications on their own sites with employees travelling into offices to get access. The security perimeter was typically Internet access into the organisation with security controls consisting of firewalls, anti-virus software, email and web filtering.

Hybrid and wider remote working, borderless networks and the migration to cloud-based systems like Microsoft 365 has resulted in increased information sharing, which in turn means an increased number of ways in which security can be compromised.

Company boundaries have opened up to the use of employee-owned devices. Often a business doesn't know that, despite their published security policies, employees are using their own uncontrolled, insecure devices. This introduces serious risk of deliberate or accidental security breaches.

*With company data being held in multiple systems in the cloud, **without further controls in place**, anyone with access to a username and password **can attain this data from any location**, with any device.*





# Cyber Attacks

According to the 2022 Cyber Security Breaches survey, 39% of UK businesses identified a cyber security breach or attack with the average cost of a data breach being between £4,200 - £19,400.

## Compliance Needs

With this increased risk of cyber threat, it is becoming a requirement to ensure all devices and applications used by a business meet a minimum-security standard. The Data Protection Act mandates that technical controls are implemented to protect personal data appropriate to the level of risk, availability of technology, and cost.

The direct cost, recovery cost and long-term cost of security breaches are growing year on year with Business Cyber Security Insurance requiring a certain level of compliance before agreeing to insure an organisation, especially one within the public sector.

Not only will having the appropriate cyber security measures in place help reassure existing customers that an organisation's IT is secure, but new business is also more likely to be attracted by the promise of high-quality cyber security. If an organisation plans to bid for central government contracts involving the handling of information or the provision of certain technical products and services, they will require a Cyber Essentials Certification.



# The AdEPT secured IT proposition

AdEPT has a great track record in delivering IT managed services to clients for decades, providing solutions that scale and work with your business, managing those solutions and ensuring that your business' IT runs efficiently.

Our Secured IT Managed solution continues the same level of service you have come to expect. We can partner with you every step of the way in your journey to achieving 1st class cyber security for your business, from advisory services and implementation through to ongoing management and optimization.

We can review your current cyber security position and provide clear recommendations on what is needed to protect your business against the most common internet threats. By moving to our Secured Managed solution, we will put in place the technical and process controls that are needed to gain Cyber Essentials compliance.

## Our Process



### Assess

We will initially review the organisation's current environment against the Cyber Essentials Standard using a GAP analysis. We will then report on our findings as well as any actions we recommend need to be taken to meet the new standard.

### Remedy

We will implement any technical controls and processes where needed as per our previous findings and recommendations. This will help a business gain and maintain Cyber Essentials compliance.

### Manage

Finally, we will provide continued Cyber Security Support through our Secured Microsoft 365 Managed Service to ensure continued compliance in an ever-changing landscape.

# AdEPT security services

AdEPT offer customers a suite of security services:

## Cyber security assessment

Cyber Essentials is a government backed scheme that defines a set of controls to address the most common cyber-attacks. The standard is continually being revised to reflect the combined changes in the threat landscape and the way businesses operate.





## Remote **pre-assessment**

This is a one-day service where an AdEPT consultant will take a business through an initial scoping questionnaire, to explore their existing security environment and the security requirements based on Cyber Essentials. This will result in a GAP analysis that highlights areas that need to be addressed.

## Detailed assessment **discovery and design**

AdEPT offer a further, more detailed discovery and design phase that will consist of identifying and agreeing to the specific controls that will be implemented - the high-level impact on users and any considerations for IT processes and policies. Starting with AdEPT's recommendations, the organisation can proceed in a number of ways.

- Deploy only a subset of the recommended security controls to 'harden' a specific element.
- Deploy all the recommended security controls to their Microsoft 365 environment.
- Use additional AdEPT services to achieve security compliance in the wider LAN (local area network) and WAN (wide area network) environment.

*On completion of the assessment, the organisation will have the information they need to prepare for **Cyber Essentials** and, following the recommendations, create and follow an action plan before submitting their organisation for certification.*





## Cyber Essentials certification

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) promotes a minimum level of security known as Cyber Essentials, which protects an organisation against the most common Internet threats. Cyber Essentials, which is a UK government backed assessment, was revised in January 2022 to reflect modern threats which includes bringing employee-owned devices and cloud applications into the mandatory scope. This has raised the bar and created challenges to businesses who are contractually obliged to meet this standard and the requirements of Cyber Insurance.

This revised standard has greatly enhanced security and the credibility of carrying the Cyber Essentials certification. Achieving this new minimum standard can look daunting but there are tools provided in the Microsoft 365 Business Premium package that can help, alongside standalone add-ons to other licenses.

AdEPT is a licensed certification body for Cyber Essentials.



## Secured Microsoft 365 Solution

Microsoft 365 is one of the most popular all-in-one office platforms for SMEs in the UK, providing access to cloud-based information, storage, email, and wider Microsoft Office applications. The appropriate use of security tools within Microsoft is a key step to gaining and maintaining a cyber secure business environment.

AdEPT's Secured Microsoft 365 Solution integrates a set of preventative technical controls by using features within Microsoft 365 Business Premium to add further security to your business' information systems. Using Microsoft Defender for Business and Microsoft Defender for Endpoint, businesses can secure their data, devices and applications. Microsoft 365 Business Premium also enables conditional access that ensures only authorised devices, meeting a minimum-security standard, can access your systems.

These security controls are aligned to the requirements of Cyber Essentials, helping keep your business cyber secure and maintaining that secure environment.

The extent to which these settings will be applied will be agreed on during the initial assessment where we audit the business' current IT environment to highlight areas that need to be addressed for Cyber Essentials.

The world will continue to change and so too will the cybersecurity landscape and compliance requirements of IT in business. The Secured Microsoft 365 Service will ensure your organisation stays Cyber compliant in an ever-changing environment.



**Call AdEPT today**  
to see how we can  
liberate your business.

## **AdEPT**

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