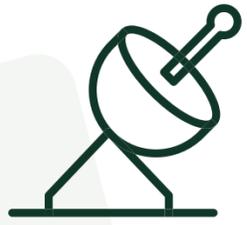


What is the Essential 8?

Cybersecurity strategies recommended by the Australian Government, published in 2017.

- > Prevent Cyberattacks
- > Limit the impact of cyberattacks
- > Retain Data Recovery options and System Availability



Application Control



Admin privileges



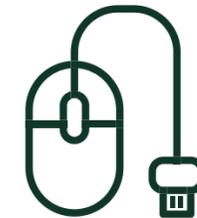
Patching Applications



Patching operating systems



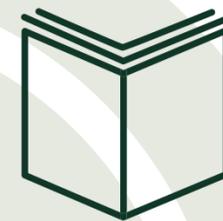
Configuring Microsoft Macro Settings



Multi-factor authentication



User application hardening



Regular backups

Why should you use the Essential 8

- > Easy to set up
- > Cost-efficient
- > Reduces risk of getting hacked

1) Application Control

WHAT: Preventing all non-approved applications from running on managed devices

WHY: Enabling Application Control prevents users or malicious actors from running potentially harmful or inappropriate applications on managed devices

HOW: Application Control is available via most anti-virus programs including Sophos Advanced Intercept X. Microsoft Intune also offers AC for customers with Business Premium or E5 licensing

2) Patching Applications

WHAT: Updating security vulnerabilities in applications within 2 weeks of a regular update or 48 hours if an exploit exists

WHY: Keeping your applications up to date prevents malicious actors from exploiting known weaknesses within your systems

HOW: Many applications such as Adobe products, web browsers and Microsoft Office have regular automated maintenance. Subscribing to update notification emails and rolling out manual updates (PaperCut, Avaya)



3) Configuring Microsoft Office Macro Settings

WHAT: Deploying Microsoft's recommended Office Macro settings

WHY: Disabling these settings prevents malicious users from running code through trusted Office programs

HOW: You can manually disable Office Macro settings from the Trust Centre settings inside ANY Office app



4) User Application Hardening

WHAT: Disabling Advertisements, Flash and Java from an Internet browser. Preventing Office from running un-required processes

WHY: Ads, Flash & Java are popular ways to deliver and execute malicious code on systems. Disabling them prevents these sources from being interacted with by users

HOW: You can manually disable Flash, Java & Office processes from the respective app's settings. Can be deployed via registry keys

5) Restrict Administrative Privileges

WHAT: Restricting Admin privileges to only required admin staff and services

WHY: Administrator accounts provide the 'Keys to the Kingdom.' Adversaries can use these accounts to gain full access to your data and/or systems

HOW: Setup 'User' accounts on Windows devices for non-admin staff, limit the number of staff with admin permissions in online environments and most importantly don't share passwords for admin accounts

6) Patching Operating Systems

WHAT: Keeping your devices operating systems up-to-date

WHY: Keeping your devices up to date prevents malicious actors from exploiting known weaknesses within your systems

HOW: Windows devices have monthly auto-deployed patches and weekly security updates. Prevent users from disabling windows updates and remind them to Restart their devices

7) Multi-Factor Authentication

WHAT: Adding an additional verification method to user accounts prevents them from being breached. This typically includes text confirmations and authenticator app codes

WHY: Adding additional verification requirements prevents malicious actors from accessing accounts as the actor requires access to the additional method of verification

HOW: System admin staff can enforce user accounts to enrol in MFA for systems such as Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace. Azure joining devices and activating Windows Hello for business

8) Daily Backups

WHAT: Backing up company and user data to a secure cloud-based location

WHY: Backing up data to the Cloud enables you to recover important data in the case of a geographic emergency a malicious actor deleting files or a member of staff accidentally deleting an entire SharePoint site

HOW: Acronis Cyber Cloud Backup provides a Cloud backup service that can be linked to your Microsoft 365 tenant (or Google Workspace)