Essential Eight

Implementation & Assessment Capabilities

Practical. Risk-Aligned. Audit-Ready.

Cybernion

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What is the Essential Eight?

The Essential Eight is a prioritised set of eight mitigation strategies published by the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) to protect organisations against the most common cyber threats. Implementation is measured across four maturity levels (Maturity Level Zero to Three) using the ASD Essential Eight Maturity Model.

PSPF & Regulatory Driver

Non-corporate Commonwealth entities must reach Maturity Level Two under the PSPF, and a growing number of state agencies and primes now require it of their suppliers.

Maturity should be reassessed at least annually, or after significant changes to systems or the threat environment.

1 **Maturity, Not Just Deployment**

Each strategy is scored against defined maturity levels. Partial or inconsistent implementation does not allow certification.

2 **All Eight Move Together**

Maturity is assessed as a whole. A single weak strategy limits the overall level achieved.

3 **A Baseline, Not the Ceiling**

The Essential Eight is a minimum baseline. Higher-risk systems need controls beyond it.

Why the Essential Eight?

Compliance & Risk

Mandated for Commonwealth entities and increasingly expected across regulated industry

Contract Eligibility

Required to meet procurement rules and win government and enterprise work

Threat Reduction

Targets the mitigation strategies that stop the most common intrusions

Cyber Insurance

Increasingly requested by insurers and boards as evidence of baseline hygiene

Credibility & Trust

Demonstrates disciplined, measurable control over cyber risk

Our Essential Eight Services

A holistic service across Advisory, Implementation, and Assessment with independence between implementation and assessment roles.

Essential Eight Advisory

- Maturity gap analysis
- Target maturity level selection
- Control design and guidance
- Roadmap and scope definition
- Tooling and vendor selection

Essential Eight Implementation

- Mitigation strategy rollout
- Evidence collection & management
- Documentation (policies, SOPs)
- Staff training and awareness
- Continuous maturity monitoring

Essential Eight Assessment

- Independent maturity assessment
- Technical testing & verification
- Maturity analysis across all eight
- Essential Eight Maturity Report
- Maturity Scorecard

Essential Eight Assessment Process

Four stages, reassessed at least annually or when significant changes occur.

1 Plan & Prepare

- Define scope, target level & timeline
- Identify key IT and security staff
- Establish communication process
- Review existing documentation

2 Scope Definition

- Map systems, endpoints & data flows
- Identify in-scope environments
- Agree assessment approach & sampling
- Define evidence requirements

3 Assess

- In-depth technical testing
- Verification against the ASD model
- Maturity analysis per strategy
- Configuration and sampling review

4 Report

- Essential Eight Maturity Report
- Maturity Scorecard
- Detailed findings & recommendations
- Roadmap to target maturity

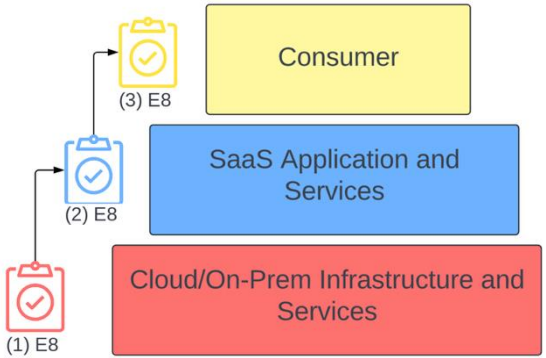
Case Study 1 - Essential Eight Assessment

A national logistics company preparing to bid for government contracts engaged us to assess its Essential Eight maturity across a hybrid environment spanning Microsoft 365, on-premise servers, and a fleet of field-based endpoints.

Requirements

- Assess the maturity of all eight mitigation strategies against the ASD Essential Eight Maturity Model across the hybrid environment
- Verify the effectiveness of application control, patching, and macro settings on field-based endpoints
- Provide recommendations to reach Maturity Level Two ahead of upcoming government tenders

Our Solution



By scoring each strategy against the maturity model and testing real configurations, we gave the logistics company an evidence-based view of its current maturity and a costed roadmap to reach the level required for government work.

Key Highlights

- **Plan and Prepare:** Define clear objectives, target maturity level, and comms process
- **Define the Scope:** Scope the assessment to cover Microsoft 365, on-premise servers, and field-based endpoints
- **Assess:** Conduct technical testing, configuration review, and maturity analysis for each strategy
- **Report:** A detailed maturity report and scorecard highlighting current levels, gaps, and a prioritised path to Maturity Level Two

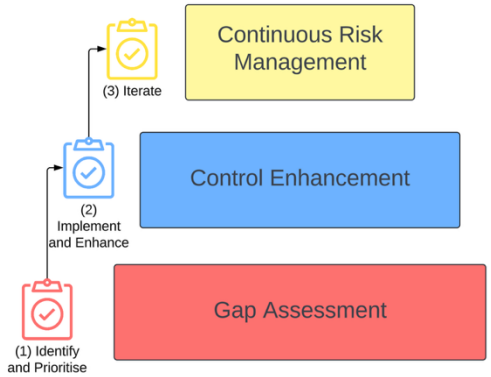
Case Study 1 - Essential Eight Implementation

A mid-sized financial services firm needed to lift its Essential Eight maturity from Level One to Level Two across its corporate and production environments to meet regulator expectations and its own board's risk appetite.

Requirements

- Lift maturity to Level Two across application control, patching, macro settings, and administrative privileges
- Ensure consistent implementation across corporate and production environments to reduce exposure
- Prepare for an independent maturity assessment by embedding repeatable controls and evidence
- Establish repeatable evidence collection and management to support ongoing reporting

Our Solution



A comprehensive gap analysis identified where controls fell short of Maturity Level Two, followed by targeted implementation and continuous monitoring so the firm could sustain its maturity and pass an independent assessment.

Key Highlights

- **Gap Analysis:** A comprehensive review to identify gaps between current controls and Maturity Level Two
- **Control Implementation:** Strengthen application control, patching, MFA, and privileged access across both environments
- **Continuous Monitoring:** Monitoring mechanisms to sustain maturity and readiness for assessment
- **Documentation and Training:** Detailed documentation and staff training to support new controls and maintain maturity

Important Essential Eight Artefacts

The documents your assessor will examine, and what you receive in return.

Input: What You Provide

ACP	Application Control Policy
PMP	Patch Management Plan
BRP	Backup & Recovery Plan
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
IRP	Incident Response Plan
MFA	Multi-Factor Authentication Policy
PAM	Privileged Access Management Policy
HDN	System Hardening Standards
ELP	Event Logging Plan
ASR	Asset & Software Register

+ Other policy and process documents as agreed during scoping.

Output: What You Receive

1 Essential Eight Maturity Report

A comprehensive evaluation of maturity across all eight mitigation strategies against the ASD Maturity Model, covering current levels, gaps, and their severity, with remediation guidance.

2 Maturity Scorecard

A structured scorecard showing the maturity level achieved for each strategy, enabling clear tracking of progress against the target level over time.

Thank You

Ready to lift your Essential Eight maturity? Let's talk.



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