



Cyber compliance, regulations, and standards fact sheet

A quick guide to the key frameworks that UK organisations should be aware of

Stay secure and compliant with future-proof strategies

If your organisation is struggling to keep up with ever-changing cyber security measures, you're not alone. A recent BT survey found 61% of respondents were facing similar challenges. The good news is, we can help.

Compliance frameworks and why they matter

Compliance frameworks are most businesses' best friend. Offering sets of guidelines and best practices, they're developed in conjunction with hundreds of organisations with input from thousands of subject matter experts, to help you understand what 'good' looks like and where to focus your efforts.

Increasing your organisation's resilience should be more than simply a box-ticking exercise. Compliance helps you meet regulatory requirements, protects your finances, improves processes, and strengthens your security. It also builds industry and customer confidence.

You should see compliance as an opportunity to develop a future-proof strategy – highlighting weaknesses and prioritising resources. It's important to remember that achieving compliance within a regulatory framework is an ongoing process, as your organisation's needs are always changing and evolving.

We've pulled together some of the key frameworks for UK organisations, to help you find the ones most relevant to you.

What frameworks are relevant to your organisation?

The size of your organisation, the sector you work in and the geographical locations in which you operate, can all influence the frameworks relevant to your business.

The good news

You don't have to go it alone. Our Security Advisory Services can help. Book a security health check tailored to your organisation's industry of specialism. The advisory reports will identify priorities and where to head next.

Find out more about our Security Advisory Services here: bt.com/business/securityadvisoryservices



59%

of medium sized businesses have recalled cyber breaches or attacks in the last year ¹

2.39 million

instances of cyber crime across all UK businesses in the past 12 months ¹

72%

of organisations struggle to source cyber security talent for their business (Cyber Security in Focus Survey 2020, Stott and May) ²

Source 1: Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2023

Source 2: Cyber Security in Focus Survey 2020, Stott and May

Compliance frameworks: a brief guide

Best practices for optimising workflows, reducing risk and strengthening cyber security

Compliance framework	What it is	Who it's for	Find out more	Good to know
<p>NIS</p> <p>Also known as the Network & Information Systems Regulations or 'NIS1'.</p>	<p>NIS, the first EU cyber security law, came into force in May 2018 in the UK. The regulations were aimed at raising levels of cyber security and resilience of key systems across the EU.</p>	<p>Operators of Essential Services (OES) and Competent Authorities (CAs).</p>	<p>NIS: An introduction</p> <p>NIS: Full document</p>	<p>Do the regulations apply to your organisation? The NIS Regulations website explains how to identify OES and CAs in the UK.</p>
<p>NIS2</p> <p>The revised and updated version of the Network and Information Security legislation detailed above.</p>	<p>NIS2 is an EU directive designed to build upon NIS1. This set of legal measures addresses NIS1's areas of weakness, to widen its remit and have a greater impact overall.</p> <p>NIS2 applies to a larger group of medium and large size organisations, with the aim of strengthening cyber resilience in the EU.</p>	<p>Operators of Essential Services (OES) and Competent Authorities (CAs) deemed 'Essential' or 'Important', as outlined below.</p> <p>Essential: Energy, Transport, Banking, Financial markets, Health, Drinking Water, Waste Water, Digital Infrastructure, ICT Service Management, Public Administration, Space</p> <p>Important: Postal and Courier Services, Waste Management, Chemicals, Food, Manufacturing, Digital Providers, Research Organisations.</p>	<p>NIS2 Directive: Full document</p>	<p>NIS2 is not yet mandatory in the UK. However, UK businesses should prepare for the implementation of NIS2 as a requirement or a UK-modified version.</p>
<p>CAF</p> <p>The Cyber Assessment Framework</p>	<p>The Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) is part of a new programme aimed at improving government cyber security.</p> <p>CAF is a tool for assessing a company's cyber resilience. Formed of 14 principles, CAF provides guidance and objectives for organisations to work through.</p>	<p>CAF applies to organisations within the UK Critical National Infrastructure (CNI), such as Energy Supply, Water Supply, Transportation, Health, Telecommunications and any business managing cyber-related risks to public safety.</p> <p>CAF also applies to organisations subject to NIS Regulations. This includes Operators of Essential Services and Competent Authorities classed as 'Essential' or 'Important', as outlined in the column above.</p>	<p>CAF guidance: Full document</p>	-
<p>Cyber Essentials</p>	<p>Cyber Essentials is an effective government-backed scheme to help protect your organisation, whatever its size, against a selection of the most common cyber attacks.</p>	<p>All organisations of all sizes and across all sectors, particularly suppliers bidding for government contracts.</p>	<p>Cyber Essentials: An overview</p> <p>Cyber Essentials: Resources</p>	<p>An up-to-date Cyber Essentials certificate is mandatory for central government suppliers handling sensitive or personal information or providing ICT products and services.</p>
<p>Cyber Essentials Plus</p>	<p>Cyber Essentials Plus is the next stage of certification in the government-backed scheme detailed above.</p> <p>A hands-on technical verification is carried out to achieve Cyber Essentials Plus.</p>	<p>All organisations of all sizes and across all sectors, particularly suppliers bidding for government contracts.</p>	<p>Cyber Essentials: FAQs</p>	<p>The online Cyber Essentials assessment can be completed as part of the Cyber Essentials Plus certification.</p> <p>For those with a recent Cyber Essentials certification, you have 3 months to complete the Cyber Essentials Plus assessment.</p>
<p>GDPR</p> <p>The General Data Protection Regulation is known as the Data Protection Act 2018 in the UK.</p>	<p>GDPR is the strongest privacy and security law in the world.</p> <p>The Data Protection Act 2018 is the UK's implementation of GDPR.</p> <p>GDPR controls how personal information is used by organisations, businesses or the government.</p>	<p>Everyone responsible for using personal data must follow a set of strict rules.</p>	<p>The Data Protection Act: An overview</p>	<p>Penalties for infringement of the UK GDPR and DPA 2018 are serious. Fines can be up to £17.5 million or 4% of annual global turnover, whichever is greater.</p> <p>The EU GDPR sets a maximum fine of €20 million, or 4% of annual global turnover (whichever is greater) for infringements.</p>
<p>CIS 18</p> <p>Also known as 'CIS Controls' or CIS Critical Security Controls</p> <p>CIS stands for Center for Internet Security. The 18 relates to the number of Critical Security Controls – a series of best practices – for organisations to follow.</p>	<p>The Center for Internet Security (CIS) is a community driven non-profit organisation.</p> <p>Its CIS Controls (also known as 'CIS 18') and CIS Benchmarks are globally recognised best practices for securing data and IT systems.</p>	<p>Small, medium and large organisations in the public and private sector.</p>	<p>CIS: An overview</p>	-

Find out more about how BT can help you with navigating compliance, regulations and frameworks by visiting: bt.com/business/securityadvisoryservices



Offices Worldwide

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