The Essential 2026 Cybersecurity Checklist

What every business should prioritise this year



Cyber Essentials

- Review readiness
- Assess gaps
- Plan certification pathway

Business Continuity

- Update or create a BCP
-Test backups
- Confirm roles and responsibilities

Passwords & Access

- Multi-factor authentication
- Use a password manager
- Remove unused accounts

Staff Awareness

- Phishing training
- Clear reporting process
- Regular refreshers

Cloud Security

- Review permissions
- Check backup coverage
- Protect admin accounts

Legacy Systems

- Replace unsupported devices
- Plan OS upgrades
- Review ageing industry software

AI Readiness

- Set safe-use guidelines
- Review data handling
- Explore automation opportunities

Secure and Manage Your Microsoft 365 Tenant

- Business Premium licensing as the minimum requirement
- Microsoft Baseline Security Mode configured and managed
- Conditional Access, DLP, and Intune device policies managed ongoing

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