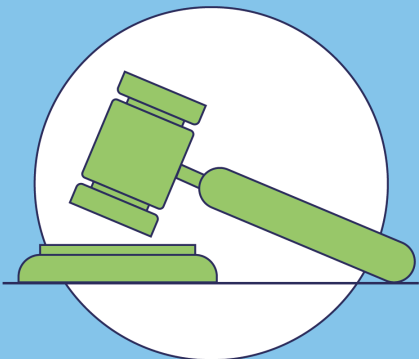




Cyber Attacks in the legal sector

Facts and guidance



Why is the legal sector an attractive target for a cyber attack?




Law firms:

- > Hold sensitive client data
- > Handle significant funds
- > Enable commercial transactions





"We found that firms with Cyber Essentials Plus were more likely to have good policies and procedures in place and have taken effective steps to protect themselves from future cyber security incidents."

SRA 'Cyber Security - A thematic review'

Cyber attacks can have a devastating impact on legal practices leading to:

-  A significant number of billable hours and resources being lost while recovering from a cyber attack.
-  Harm to client relationships and significant reputational damage to the firm.
-  Loss of client money, reimbursed by both the firm involved and their insurance, impacting future premiums.

What are the main threats to the legal sector?*

-  **Ransomware** - Ransomware is designed to cause widespread business disruption. Whilst a law firm may not be the intended target of a ransomware attack, they may well suffer collateral damage.
-  **Data breaches** - Law firms need to guard against both external and internal threats, including accidental breaches.
-  **Phishing** - Phishing can target both law firms and their clients, with cyber actors spoofing a firm's email address to make messages to clients more convincing.
-  **Supply chain compromise** - A law firm's supply chain can be compromised in various ways and as such, firms should ensure suppliers have cyber security controls in place.

*National Cyber Security Centre 'The Cyber Threat to UK Legal Sector 2018 report'

How could Cyber Essentials certification help your practice protect itself against cyber attacks?



Cyber Essentials is a simple but effective, government-backed scheme that will help you to protect your practice, whatever its size, against a whole range of the most common cyber attacks. It also demonstrates your commitment to cyber security.

What else can you do to secure your practice against cyber attacks?

-  Visit the NCSC website for advice on how UK law firms can protect themselves from cyber threats.
nsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/all
-  Use the Cyber Essentials Readiness Tool to get a free action plan for your firm.
getreadyforcyberessentials.iasme.co.uk
-  Have a look at the free guidance for working with an external IT company on the IASME website.
iasme.co.uk/cyber-essentials/external-it-guide
-  Get Cyber Essentials certification for your practice with the potential for free cyber liability insurance.*
iasme.co.uk/cyber-essentials

*Cyber Essentials certification includes automatic cyber liability insurance for any UK organisation who certifies their whole organisation and have less than £20m annual turnover.