Business check report

Acme Ltd (sample data)

6 computers checked: 4 laptops, 2 desktops

Computers	Checked	Report date
6	27 October 2026	14 November 2026

! The short version

All 6 computers need action.

There are 27 issues to work through, 15 of them needing action. Fixing everything should take about 34.5 hours of hands-on time (including the 3 network devices reviewed), and 6 of the issues can be fixed with Blackdown Digital's fix tool. Since earlier checks, 3 items have been fixed.



! Need action	6
? Worth checking	0
✓ Look good	0

Most widespread issues

Day-to-day account has admin rights — 5 of 6

User access control · Action needed

Mozilla Firefox is out of date — 5 of 6

Security updates · Action needed

7-Zip needs a security update — 4 of 6

Security updates · Action needed

Google Chrome is out of date — 4 of 6

Security updates · Action needed

Microsoft Edge is out of date — 4 of 6

Security updates · Action needed

Fix these first

1. **Day-to-day account has admin rights** on ACME-LT-02, ACME-LT-05, ACME-DT-02 and 2 more.
2. **Mozilla Firefox is out of date** on ACME-LT-02, ACME-LT-04, ACME-DT-02 and 2 more.
3. **7-Zip needs a security update** on ACME-LT-02, ACME-LT-04, ACME-DT-02 and 1 more.

12 more items to fix in the *Remediation plan*, later in this report.

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Every computer at a glance

Each row is one computer and each column one of the five Cyber Essentials controls. A computer is only as good as its weakest control, so the rows needing most attention are at the top.

Computer	Windows	Firewalls	Secure config	User access	Malware	Updates	To fix	To check
ACME-DT-01 Desktop · reception	Windows 10 Pro 22H2	!	!	!	!	!	14	12
ACME-DT-02 Desktop · MarkEllis	Windows 11 Pro 24H2	?	?	!	✓	!	7	12
ACME-LT-01 Laptop · TomBaker	Windows 11 Pro 25H2	?	✓	!	✓	!	2	5
ACME-LT-02 Laptop · PriyaShah	Windows 11 Pro 25H2	?	?	!	✓	!	5	9
ACME-LT-04 Laptop · SarahJones	Windows 11 Pro 24H2	!	?	?	✓	!	6	10
ACME-LT-05 Laptop · JoWright	Windows 11 Pro 25H2	?	✓	!	✓	?	1	4

! Action needed ? Worth checking ✓ Looks good – Not checked

When each computer was checked

Computer	Make and model	Checked	Report file
ACME-DT-01	Dell OptiPlex 7010	27 Oct 2026	Device check - Acme Ltd - ACME-DT-01 - 2026-10-27 0938.pdf
ACME-DT-02	Dell OptiPlex 7010	27 Oct 2026	Device check - Acme Ltd - ACME-DT-02 - 2026-10-27 0938.pdf
ACME-LT-01	Dell Latitude 5440	27 Oct 2026	Device check - Acme Ltd - ACME-LT-01 - 2026-10-27 0938.pdf
ACME-LT-02	Dell Latitude 5440	27 Oct 2026	Device check - Acme Ltd - ACME-LT-02 - 2026-10-27 0938.pdf
ACME-LT-04	Dell Latitude 5440	27 Oct 2026	Device check - Acme Ltd - ACME-LT-04 - 2026-10-27 0938.pdf
ACME-LT-05	Lenovo ThinkPad T14 Gen 4	27 Oct 2026	Device check - Acme Ltd - ACME-LT-05 - 2026-10-27 0938.pdf

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What to do across the business

Problems that appear on several computers are grouped together, so each can be fixed once, everywhere. Start with the items marked **Action needed**.

1 Day-to-day account has admin rights

! Action needed

User access control · affects 5 of 6 computers

Why it matters Cyber Essentials expects separate accounts for admin tasks (A7.6), so that everyday work such as email and web browsing is done without admin rights (A7.7). Malware that reaches an admin account can take over the whole computer.

What to do Give each person a standard account for everyday work, and a separate admin account used only when installing software or changing settings. (If this computer was checked while signed in to an admin account specially, check the day-to-day users instead.)

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-LT-02	The person signed in when this check ran (PriyaShah) was able to run this tool as Administrator without another account, so their account has administrator rights.
!	ACME-LT-05	The person signed in when this check ran (JoWright) was able to run this tool as Administrator without another account, so their account has administrator rights.
!	ACME-DT-02	The person signed in when this check ran (MarkEllis) was able to run this tool as Administrator without another account, so their account has administrator rights.
!	ACME-DT-01	The person signed in when this check ran (reception) was able to run this tool as Administrator without another account, so their account has administrator rights.
!	ACME-LT-01	The person signed in when this check ran (TomBaker) was able to run this tool as Administrator without another account, so their account has administrator rights.

2 Mozilla Firefox is out of date

! Action needed

Security updates · affects 5 of 6 computers

Why it matters Web browsers are the software attackers target most. Cyber Essentials requires critical updates within 14 days (A6.5).

What to do Open Mozilla Firefox, go to Settings, About, let it update, then restart it. If it will not update, reinstall it from the official website, or uninstall it if it is not used.

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-LT-02	Mozilla Firefox version 115.0.2 is installed. Around version 159 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 44 versions behind and missing security fixes.
!	ACME-LT-04	Mozilla Firefox version 115.0.2 is installed. Around version 159 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 44 versions behind and missing security fixes.
!	ACME-DT-02	Mozilla Firefox version 115.0.2 is installed. Around version 159 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 44 versions behind and missing security fixes.
!	ACME-DT-01	Mozilla Firefox version 115.0.2 is installed. Around version 159 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 44 versions behind and missing security fixes.
!	ACME-LT-01	Mozilla Firefox version 115.0.2 is installed. Around version 159 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 44 versions behind and missing security fixes.

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3 7-Zip needs a security update

! Action needed

Security updates · affects 4 of 6 computers

Why it matters This vulnerability is on the US government's list of flaws being actively used by attackers. Cyber Essentials requires critical fixes to be installed within 14 days (A6.5).

What to do Install the latest 7-Zip from 7-zip.org (or uninstall it: Windows can open zip files on its own).

	Computer	What we found
!	**ACME-LT-02**	7-Zip 23.01 is installed. It has a vulnerability that attackers are known to be exploiting (CVE-2025-0411), fixed in version 24.09. Version 25.00 also fixes further high-severity vulnerabilities (CVE-2025-11001 and CVE-2025-11002).
!	**ACME-LT-04**	7-Zip 23.01 is installed. It has a vulnerability that attackers are known to be exploiting (CVE-2025-0411), fixed in version 24.09. Version 25.00 also fixes further high-severity vulnerabilities (CVE-2025-11001 and CVE-2025-11002).
!	**ACME-DT-02**	7-Zip 23.01 is installed. It has a vulnerability that attackers are known to be exploiting (CVE-2025-0411), fixed in version 24.09. Version 25.00 also fixes further high-severity vulnerabilities (CVE-2025-11001 and CVE-2025-11002).
!	**ACME-DT-01**	7-Zip 23.01 is installed. It has a vulnerability that attackers are known to be exploiting (CVE-2025-0411), fixed in version 24.09. Version 25.00 also fixes further high-severity vulnerabilities (CVE-2025-11001 and CVE-2025-11002).

4 Google Chrome is out of date

! Action needed

Security updates · affects 4 of 6 computers

Why it matters Web browsers are the software attackers target most. Cyber Essentials requires critical updates within 14 days (A6.5).

What to do Open Google Chrome, go to Settings, About, let it update, then restart it. If it will not update, reinstall it from the official website, or uninstall it if it is not used.

	Computer	What we found
!	**ACME-LT-02**	Google Chrome version 153.0.7900.10 is installed. Around version 156 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 3 versions behind and missing security fixes.
!	**ACME-LT-04**	Google Chrome version 129.0.6668.90 is installed. Around version 156 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 27 versions behind and missing security fixes.
!	**ACME-DT-02**	Google Chrome version 129.0.6668.90 is installed. Around version 156 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 27 versions behind and missing security fixes.
!	**ACME-DT-01**	Google Chrome version 129.0.6668.90 is installed. Around version 156 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 27 versions behind and missing security fixes.

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5 Microsoft Edge is out of date

! Action needed

Security updates · affects 4 of 6 computers

Why it matters Web browsers are the software attackers target most. Cyber Essentials requires critical updates within 14 days (A6.5).

What to do Open Microsoft Edge, go to Settings, About, let it update, then restart it. If it will not update, reinstall it from the official website, or uninstall it if it is not used.

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-LT-02	Microsoft Edge version 130.0.2849.56 is installed. Around version 155 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 25 versions behind and missing security fixes.
!	ACME-LT-04	Microsoft Edge version 130.0.2849.56 is installed. Around version 155 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 25 versions behind and missing security fixes.
!	ACME-DT-02	Microsoft Edge version 130.0.2849.56 is installed. Around version 155 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 25 versions behind and missing security fixes.
!	ACME-DT-01	Microsoft Edge version 130.0.2849.56 is installed. Around version 155 was current when this computer was checked, so it is about 25 versions behind and missing security fixes.

6 This version of Windows is no longer supported

! Action needed

Security updates · affects 3 of 6 computers

Why it matters Cyber Essentials requires the operating system to be supported and receiving security updates. Each version of Windows 11 is only supported for a set time.

What to do **ACME-DT-02, ACME-LT-04:** Install the latest version of Windows 11 from Settings, Windows Update. It is free and usually takes about an hour.

ACME-DT-01: Upgrade to Windows 11 if the hardware allows (the TPM and Secure Boot details are under Details of this computer), replace the computer, or confirm it is enrolled in Extended Security Updates and check with your certification body.

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-LT-04	Windows 11 version 24H2 stopped receiving security updates on 13 October 2026.
!	ACME-DT-02	Windows 11 version 24H2 stopped receiving security updates on 13 October 2026.
!	ACME-DT-01	This computer runs Windows 10, which reached the end of standard support on 14 October 2025.

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7 .NET runtimes are no longer supported

! Action needed

Security updates · affects 2 of 6 computers

Why it matters

.NET is used by other programs to run. Cyber Essentials requires all software to be supported by its maker and receiving security fixes, and unsupported software to be removed (A6.2, A6.6).

What to do

Uninstall .NET versions that no program needs (Settings, Apps). Each entry listed is a separate item in the Installed apps list, so remove each one (search the list for ".NET", "Desktop Runtime" and "ASP.NET Core"). If a program still needs one, update that program or ask its supplier. Use .NET 10 where a newer version is needed.

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-DT-01	Out-of-support or soon-to-end versions installed: .NET 6 (support ended 12 November 2024): Microsoft Windows Desktop Runtime - 6.0.36 (x64).
?	ACME-DT-02	Out-of-support or soon-to-end versions installed: .NET 8 (support ends 10 November 2026): Microsoft .NET Runtime - 8.0.11 (x64).

8 An account has no password

! Action needed

User access control · affects 2 of 6 computers

Why it matters

Every account must be protected by a password, PIN or other sign-in method, or anyone could sign in as that user.

What to do

ACME-DT-01: Set a strong password on each of these accounts, or disable the accounts if they are not used. If a password is already set, the account was probably set to change it at next sign-in: check, then sign in once to set it.

ACME-LT-04: Run in an administrator Command Prompt: net user "<account name>" /passwordreq:yes (or use the Blackdown Digital fix tool). The current password is not changed.

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-DT-01	Windows does not require a password for this account and has no record of one being set: reception.
?	ACME-LT-04	A password is set, but the account is marked "password not required", so Windows would accept a blank one: reception.

9 Firewall is switched off

! Action needed

Firewalls · affects 2 of 6 computers

Why it matters

A firewall stops other devices and the internet connecting to this computer without permission. Cyber Essentials requires one on every device.

What to do

Open Windows Security, choose Firewall and network protection, and turn the firewall on for each network type.

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-LT-04	Windows Firewall is turned off for: Public networks, and no other firewall product was found.
!	ACME-DT-01	Windows Firewall is turned off for: Public networks, and no other firewall product was found.

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10 Microsoft Office is no longer supported

Action needed

Security updates · affects 1 of 6 computers

Why it matters Cyber Essentials requires all software to be supported by its maker and receiving security fixes, and unsupported software to be removed (A6.2, A6.6). One-off purchase versions of Office stop receiving updates on a fixed date.

What to do Move to Microsoft 365 Apps (included in most Microsoft 365 business plans) or Office 2024, then uninstall the old version.

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-DT-01	Installed: Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016 (support ended 14 October 2025).

11 Retired software is installed

Action needed

Security updates · affects 1 of 6 computers

Why it matters These programs no longer get any security fixes from their makers. Cyber Essentials requires all software to be supported by its maker and receiving security fixes, and unsupported software to be removed (A6.2, A6.6).

What to do Uninstall them (Settings, Apps, Installed apps). If something still depends on one, ask its supplier for a supported alternative.

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-DT-01	Installed: Adobe Flash Player (retired December 2020).

12 Office macros are not controlled

Action needed

Secure configuration · affects 1 of 6 computers

Why it matters Macros in documents are one of the most common ways malware gets onto a computer. Cyber Essentials requires files not to run automatically without the user agreeing (A5.8).

What to do In each program, go to File, Options, Trust Center, Trust Center Settings, Macro Settings, and choose "Disable VBA macros with notification".

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-DT-01	Microsoft Office is set to run all macros without asking in: Excel.

13 Old file-sharing protocol (SMBv1) is on

Action needed

Secure configuration · affects 1 of 6 computers

Why it matters SMBv1 is obsolete and was used by the WannaCry ransomware. It should not be used on any modern network.

What to do Turn it off: in "Turn Windows features on or off", untick "SMB 1.0/CIFS File Sharing Support", then restart.

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-DT-01	The old SMBv1 file-sharing protocol is switched on.

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14 Python is no longer supported

! Action needed

Security updates · affects 1 of 6 computers

Why it matters Cyber Essentials requires all software to be supported by its maker and receiving security fixes, and unsupported software to be removed (A6.2, A6.6).

What to do Uninstall old Python versions that are not needed, or upgrade to a supported version (python.org).

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-DT-02	Installed: Python 3.9 (support ended 31 October 2025).

15 Virus definitions are out of date

! Action needed

Malware protection · affects 1 of 6 computers

Why it matters New threats appear every day. Cyber Essentials expects antivirus definitions to update automatically, in line with the vendor's advice (daily for Defender).

What to do Open Windows Security, Virus and threat protection, Protection updates, and choose Check for updates. If it keeps falling behind, check Windows Update is working.

	Computer	What we found
!	ACME-DT-01	Virus definitions are 15 days old (last updated 12 October 2026).

16 Local password length needs checking

? Worth checking

User access control · affects 6 of 6 computers

Why it matters Where multi-factor authentication is not used, Cyber Essentials expects passwords of at least 12 characters (or at least 8 with a block on common passwords). This does not apply if people sign in with Microsoft 365 / Entra ID accounts protected by multi-factor authentication.

What to do If people sign in with local accounts, set the minimum password length to 12 (Local Security Policy, Account Policies, Password Policy).

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-LT-02	The minimum length for local account passwords on this computer is 0 characters.
?	ACME-LT-04	The minimum length for local account passwords on this computer is 0 characters.
?	ACME-LT-05	The minimum length for local account passwords on this computer is 0 characters.
?	ACME-DT-02	The minimum length for local account passwords on this computer is 0 characters.
?	ACME-DT-01	The minimum length for local account passwords on this computer is 0 characters.
?	ACME-LT-01	The minimum length for local account passwords on this computer is 0 characters.

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17 Firewall openings need checking

? Worth checking

Firewalls · affects 6 of 6 computers

Why it matters Programs often add these rules when installed. Each opening should have a business reason, and anything no longer needed should be removed.

What to do Look through the rules in Appendix A and remove any for software that is no longer used.

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-LT-02	2 custom rules let any device connect to this computer on a specific port, for example: TeamViewer Remote Control Service; Sage 50 Data Service.
?	ACME-LT-04	2 custom rules let any device connect to this computer on a specific port, for example: TeamViewer Remote Control Service; Sage 50 Data Service.
?	ACME-LT-05	2 custom rules let any device connect to this computer on a specific port, for example: TeamViewer Remote Control Service; Sage 50 Data Service.
?	ACME-DT-02	2 custom rules let any device connect to this computer on a specific port, for example: TeamViewer Remote Control Service; Sage 50 Data Service.
?	ACME-DT-01	2 custom rules let any device connect to this computer on a specific port, for example: TeamViewer Remote Control Service; Sage 50 Data Service.
?	ACME-LT-01	2 custom rules let any device connect to this computer on a specific port, for example: TeamViewer Remote Control Service; Sage 50 Data Service.

18 Updates are not installing regularly

? Worth checking

Security updates · affects 6 of 6 computers

Why it matters Microsoft releases security updates every month, so a gap of more than a month usually means updates are not installing.

What to do Open Settings, Windows Update, choose Check for updates, and fix any errors shown.

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-LT-02	The last Windows update (not counting antivirus definitions) was installed 40 days ago, on 16 September 2026.
?	ACME-LT-04	The last Windows update (not counting antivirus definitions) was installed 40 days ago, on 16 September 2026.
?	ACME-LT-05	The last Windows update (not counting antivirus definitions) was installed 40 days ago, on 16 September 2026.
?	ACME-DT-02	The last Windows update (not counting antivirus definitions) was installed 40 days ago, on 16 September 2026.
?	ACME-DT-01	The last Windows update (not counting antivirus definitions) was installed 40 days ago, on 16 September 2026.
?	ACME-LT-01	The last Windows update (not counting antivirus definitions) was installed 40 days ago, on 16 September 2026.

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19 Admin rights need checking

? Worth checking

User access control · affects 5 of 6 computers

Why it matters Cyber Essentials expects admin rights to be given only to people who need them, and used only for admin tasks, not for everyday work such as email and web browsing.

What to do Confirm each one is needed. People who use this computer day to day should sign in with a standard account and use a separate admin account only when needed.

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-LT-02	3 accounts or groups have administrator rights on this computer: Administrator, acmeadmin, sarah@acme.co.uk.
?	ACME-LT-05	3 accounts or groups have administrator rights on this computer: Administrator, acmeadmin, sarah@acme.co.uk.
?	ACME-DT-02	3 accounts or groups have administrator rights on this computer: Administrator, acmeadmin, sarah@acme.co.uk.
?	ACME-DT-01	3 accounts or groups have administrator rights on this computer: Administrator, acmeadmin, sarah@acme.co.uk.
?	ACME-LT-01	3 accounts or groups have administrator rights on this computer: Administrator, acmeadmin, sarah@acme.co.uk.

20 Remote access software is installed

? Worth checking

Security updates · affects 5 of 6 computers

Why it matters Remote access tools are a favourite way in for attackers, and are often left installed after a one-off support session. Cyber Essentials expects software that is not needed to be removed (A5.1), and accounts that can reach the computer from the internet to be well protected.

What to do Uninstall any that are not needed. For those that are, keep them updated, protect the account with multi-factor authentication, and turn off unattended access if it is not used.

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-LT-02	Remote access software is installed: TeamViewer 15.40.8.
?	ACME-LT-04	Remote access software is installed: TeamViewer 15.40.8.
?	ACME-DT-02	Remote access software is installed: TeamViewer 15.40.8.
?	ACME-DT-01	Remote access software is installed: TeamViewer 15.40.8.
?	ACME-LT-01	Remote access software is installed: TeamViewer 15.40.8.

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21 Adobe Acrobat may be out of date

? Worth checking

Security updates · affects 4 of 6 computers

Why it matters PDF readers are a common target for attackers, and Adobe releases security fixes most months.

What to do Open it, choose Help, Check for updates, and install any updates.

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-LT-02	Adobe Acrobat Reader version 24.002.20759 is installed, which appears to be more than a year out of date.
?	ACME-LT-04	Adobe Acrobat Reader version 24.002.20759 is installed, which appears to be more than a year out of date.
?	ACME-DT-02	Adobe Acrobat Reader version 24.002.20759 is installed, which appears to be more than a year out of date.
?	ACME-DT-01	Adobe Acrobat Reader version 24.002.20759 is installed, which appears to be more than a year out of date.

22 Drive encryption needs checking

? Worth checking

Secure configuration · affects 4 of 6 computers

Why it matters Not required for Cyber Essentials, but strongly recommended, especially for laptops. It stops data being read if the device is lost or stolen.

What to do Turn on BitLocker (or Device encryption on Windows Home) and keep a copy of the recovery key somewhere safe.

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-LT-02	BitLocker is not protecting the main drive (C:).
?	ACME-LT-04	BitLocker is not protecting the main drive (C:).
?	ACME-DT-02	BitLocker is not protecting the main drive (C:).
?	ACME-DT-01	BitLocker is not protecting the main drive (C:).

23 Not restarted recently

? Worth checking

Security updates · affects 4 of 6 computers

Why it matters Many updates only take effect after a restart, so a computer that is never restarted can stay unprotected.

What to do Restart the computer, ideally at least once a week.

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-LT-02	Windows is waiting for a restart to finish installing updates.
?	ACME-LT-04	Windows is waiting for a restart to finish installing updates.
?	ACME-DT-02	Windows is waiting for a restart to finish installing updates.
?	ACME-DT-01	Windows is waiting for a restart to finish installing updates.

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24 Security updates may be overdue

? Worth checking

Security updates · affects 4 of 6 computers

Why it matters These are not overdue yet, but need installing within 14 days of release to meet Cyber Essentials.

What to do Open Settings, Windows Update, install the updates and restart the computer.

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-LT-02	2 updates are waiting to be installed, all released within the last 14 days or not marked critical.
?	ACME-LT-04	2 updates are waiting to be installed, all released within the last 14 days or not marked critical.
?	ACME-DT-02	2 updates are waiting to be installed, all released within the last 14 days or not marked critical.
?	ACME-DT-01	2 updates are waiting to be installed, all released within the last 14 days or not marked critical.

25 Remote Desktop is switched on

? Worth checking

Secure configuration · affects 3 of 6 computers

Why it matters Remote Desktop is a common target for attackers, so it should only be on if it is needed, and never reachable directly from the internet.

What to do Turn it off if nobody uses it. If it is needed, confirm the office router does not forward port 3389 to this computer.

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-LT-04	Remote Desktop is turned on (with Network Level Authentication).
?	ACME-DT-02	Remote Desktop is turned on (with Network Level Authentication).
?	ACME-DT-01	Remote Desktop is turned on (with Network Level Authentication).

26 Screen lock takes too long

? Worth checking

Secure configuration · affects 2 of 6 computers

Why it matters A shorter delay reduces the chance of someone using a computer that has been left unlocked.

What to do Set the computer to lock after 10 to 15 minutes: Settings, System, Power, "Screen and sleep" (turn off the screen and sleep after 10 to 15 minutes), and Settings, Accounts, Sign-in options, "If you have been away, when should Windows require you to sign in again?" set to "When PC wakes up from sleep".

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-DT-02	The computer only goes to sleep (and locks) after 30 minutes without use.
?	ACME-DT-01	No automatic lock was found: there is no screen-lock policy or secure screen saver, and Windows does not ask for a sign-in when it wakes from sleep (the screen turns off after 10 minutes, but that alone does not lock it).

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27 Oracle Java may need a paid licence

? Worth checking

Security updates · affects 1 of 6 computers

Why it matters Most Oracle Java versions released since 2019 need a paid licence for business use (it depends on the version and how it is used), and Cyber Essentials requires software to be licensed and supported (A6.3). Old copies are also a common security risk.

What to do Uninstall it if nothing needs it. If a program needs Java, check you have an Oracle licence, or switch to a free build such as Eclipse Temurin or Microsoft Build of OpenJDK, and keep it updated.

	Computer	What we found
?	ACME-DT-01	Oracle Java is installed: Java 8 Update 401 (64-bit).

Beyond these computers. Cyber Essentials also covers software other than Windows (web browsers, Microsoft Office, PDF readers and similar), which must be supported, with high-risk and critical updates installed within 14 days. Appendix A lists the software found on each computer. Mobile phones and tablets, your router or firewall, and your cloud services such as Microsoft 365 are assessed separately.

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Progress since earlier checks

1 computer has been checked before. Across it, **3** items have been fixed since the earlier check, 14 still need attention and 2 are new.

3
fixed

14
still to do

2
new since then

Computer	Earlier check	Fixed	To do	New	Details
ACME-LT-04	3 Aug 2026	3	14	2	Fixed: Guest account is disabled; Old file-sharing protocol (SMBv1) is off; Virus definitions are up to date New: Firewall is switched off; Updates are not installing regularly

"Fixed" includes items that no longer apply, for example where out-of-date software has been uninstalled. Computers checked only once are not shown.

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Remediation plan

The work across the business should take **about 34.5 hours** of hands-on time, of which about 1.5 hours covers items the Blackdown Digital fix tool can do in a few minutes per computer.

#	Item	Computers	Each	Total	Fix tool
1	! **Day-to-day account has admin rights** User access control	5	30 min	2.5 h	No
2	! **Mozilla Firefox is out of date** Security updates	5	5 min	25 min	No
3	! **7-Zip needs a security update** Security updates	4	5 min	20 min	No
4	! **Google Chrome is out of date** Security updates	4	5 min	20 min	No
5	! **Microsoft Edge is out of date** Security updates	4	5 min	20 min	No
6	! **This version of Windows is no longer supported** Security updates	3	1.5 h	4.5 h	No
7	! **.NET runtimes are no longer supported** Security updates	2	10 min	20 min	No
8	! **An account has no password** User access control	2	10 min	20 min	Yes
9	! **Firewall is switched off** Firewalls	2	5 min	10 min	Yes
10	! **Microsoft Office is no longer supported** Security updates	1	1 h	1 h	No
11	! **Retired software is installed** Security updates	1	10 min	10 min	No
12	! **Office macros are not controlled** Secure configuration	1	10 min	10 min	No
13	! **Old file-sharing protocol (SMBv1) is on** Secure configuration	1	10 min	10 min	Yes
14	! **Python is no longer supported** Security updates	1	10 min	10 min	No
15	! **Virus definitions are out of date** Malware protection	1	5 min	5 min	Yes
16	? **Local password length needs checking** User access control	6	5 min	30 min	Yes
17	? **Firewall openings need checking** Firewalls	6	15 min	1.5 h	No
18	? **Updates are not installing regularly** Security updates	6	30 min	3 h	No

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#	Item	Computers	Each	Total	Fix tool
19	? **Admin rights need checking** User access control	5	15 min	1.25 h	No
20	? **Remote access software is installed** Security updates	5	15 min	1.25 h	No
21	? **Adobe Acrobat may be out of date** Security updates	4	10 min	40 min	No
22	? **Drive encryption needs checking** Secure configuration	4	30 min	2 h	No
23	? **Not restarted recently** Security updates	4	5 min	20 min	No
24	? **Security updates may be overdue** Security updates	4	30 min	2 h	No
25	? **Remote Desktop is switched on** Secure configuration	3	10 min	30 min	No
26	? **Screen lock takes too long** Secure configuration	2	5 min	10 min	Yes
27	? **Oracle Java may need a paid licence** Security updates	1	20 min	20 min	No
28	! **Fix the router ACME-RTR01** Firewall and router review: 9 to fix, 7 to check	1	3.75 h	3.75 h	No
29	! **Fix the firewall ACME-FGT** Firewall and router review: 6 to fix, 5 to check	1	4.5 h	4.5 h	No
30	! **Fix the switch ACME-CORE** Firewall and router review: 4 to fix, 2 to check	1	1.25 h	1.25 h	No
	Total			**34.25 h**	

Times are typical hands-on times per computer for someone familiar with Windows. They do not include waiting for downloads or restarts, travel, buying replacement hardware or licences, or work on devices and services this tool does not check (phones, Microsoft 365).

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Firewalls, routers and switches

From the configuration reviews of 3 network devices. Each has its own detailed report.

Device	Firmware	To fix	To check	Open to internet	Most important	Reviewed
ACME-RTR01 Cisco router	15.4	9	7	3	The admin login can be reached from the internet; Telnet is switched on; Nothing stops password guessing on the internet-facing login	6 Nov 2026
ACME-FGT Fortinet FGT60F firewall	FortiOS 7.2.5 build 1517	6	5	2	The admin login can be reached from the internet; An account has no password; Remote Desktop (RDP) (3389) is open to the internet	6 Nov 2026
ACME-CORE HPE Aruba J9775A switch	WC.16.10.0012	4	2	n/a	Telnet is switched on; A password is too short; Passwords are stored in a readable form	6 Nov 2026

Openings to the internet are port forwards and inbound rules; each needs a documented business reason. The full list for each device is in its own report.

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Draft questionnaire answers

Suggested answers to the technical questions in the Cyber Essentials self-assessment (Danzell question set), based on the evidence collected. The questions are paraphrased and grouped; use the official wording in your assessment portal.

Please review every answer. The person who signs the declaration is confirming the answers are true for the whole organisation. These drafts only cover the computers checked, and items marked **Your input** need information this tool cannot collect.

Evidence ready: 7 | Check first: 4 | Fix first: 13 | Your input: 4

Ref	Question (paraphrased)	Status	Draft answer and evidence
A2	Which devices are in scope (computers with their make, operating system and version; network devices with make and model)?	Evidence ready	Use the "Device list for your questionnaire" page, then add phones, tablets, servers and network devices. 6 computers checked by this tool.
A4.1.1	Are software firewalls switched on for all computers, laptops and servers?	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items in this report first, then answer Yes. 4 of 6 have the firewall on and blocking; action needed on ACME-LT-04, ACME-DT-01.
A4.2 to A4.11	Router or boundary firewall: default password changed, password strength, rules reviewed and justified, no unauthenticated inbound access, admin interface not open to the internet.	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items marked Action needed in the firewall review of ACME-RTR01, ACME-FGT first. Reviewed: ACME-RTR01 (Cisco, 9 to fix); ACME-FGT (Fortinet, 6 to fix). See each device's Firewall and router review for draft answers to each question.
A5.1	Have you removed or disabled software and services that are not needed?	Fix first	Not yet. Remove the retired software listed in this report first. Software lists collected from 6 computers. action needed on ACME-DT-01; worth checking on ACME-LT-02, ACME-LT-04, ACME-LT-05, ACME-DT-02, ACME-LT-01.
A5.2	Do devices (and cloud services) have only the user accounts that are needed and used?	Check first	Check first: the Guest and built-in Administrator accounts are disabled, but confirm every other enabled account listed in the device reports is still needed (look at the last sign-in dates), and do the same for cloud services such as Microsoft 365. 6 of 6 have Guest and built-in Administrator disabled.
A5.3	Have default and blank passwords been changed on all accounts?	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items in this report first, then answer Yes. 4 of 6 have no accounts without a password; action needed on ACME-DT-01; worth checking on ACME-LT-04.
A7.10 (and A5.10)	Where multi-factor authentication is not used, how are password-guessing (brute-force) attacks prevented?	Evidence ready	Accounts are locked after 10 or fewer wrong password attempts (Windows account lockout policy). For Microsoft 365, describe its smart lockout and multi-factor authentication. 6 of 6 lock after 10 or fewer attempts.
A5.8	Is automatic running of files (auto-run, AutoPlay, macros) disabled unless the user agrees?	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items in this report first, then answer Yes. 5 of 6 ask before running anything from USB drives, with macros controlled; action needed on ACME-DT-01.
A5.9	Do devices have a locking mechanism, so a password, PIN or biometric is needed to get in?	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items in this report first, then answer Yes. 4 of 6 need a password to sign in; action needed on ACME-DT-01; worth checking on ACME-LT-04.

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Ref	Question (paraphrased)	Status	Draft answer and evidence
A5.10	Which method is used to unlock devices?	Your input	Choose what you use: password, PIN or Windows Hello (fingerprint or face).
A6.1	Are all operating systems (and router or firewall firmware) still supported and receiving security updates?	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items in this report first, then answer Yes. 3 of 6 run a supported Windows version; action needed on ACME-LT-04, ACME-DT-02, ACME-DT-01.
A6.2	Is all software supported by its maker and receiving security fixes?	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items in this report first, then answer Yes. 4 of 6 have no known unsupported software; action needed on ACME-DT-02, ACME-DT-01.
A6.2.1	List the web browsers in use, with versions.	Evidence ready	Google Chrome 129.0.6668.90, 153.0.7900.10, 155.0.8059.79; Microsoft Edge 130.0.2849.56, 155.0.3400.66; Mozilla Firefox 115.0.2, 158.0.1 From the software lists of the computers checked. Add browsers on phones and tablets.
A6.2.2	List the malware protection software in use, with versions.	Evidence ready	Microsoft Defender Antivirus 4.18.24090.11 From the antivirus status of the computers checked.
A6.2.3	List the email applications in use, with versions.	Check first	Microsoft 365 Apps for business 16.0.18025.20140; Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016 16.0.4266.1001. Add webmail (for example Outlook on the web) and the new Outlook app if used. From the software lists of the computers checked.
A6.2.4	List the office applications used to create organisational data, with versions.	Evidence ready	Microsoft 365 Apps for business 16.0.18025.20140; Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016 16.0.4266.1001 From the software lists of the computers checked.
A6.3 / A6.3.1	Is any software or cloud service in scope unlicensed or unsupported? If so, list it.	Fix first	Yes at the moment. Remove or upgrade it before submitting: ACME-LT-04: Windows 11 version 24H2 stopped receiving security updates on 13 October 2026. | ACME-DT-02: Windows 11 version 24H2 stopped receiving security updates on 13 October 2026. | ACME-DT-02: Installed: Python 3.9 (support ended 31 October 2025). | ACME-DT-01: This computer runs Windows 10, which reached the end of standard support on 14 October 2025. | ACME-DT-01: Installed: Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016 (support ended 14 October 2025). | ACME-DT-01: Out-of-support or soon-to-end versions installed: .NET 6 (support ended 12 November 2024): Microsoft Windows Desktop Runtime - 6.0.36 (x64). | ACME-DT-01: Installed: Adobe Flash Player (retired December 2020). 3 of 6 have no known unsupported software; action needed on ACME-LT-04, ACME-DT-02, ACME-DT-01.
A6.4	Are high-risk and critical operating system updates installed within 14 days of release?	Check first	Probably yes, once the items marked "Worth checking" are confirmed. worth checking on ACME-LT-02, ACME-LT-04, ACME-LT-05, ACME-DT-02, ACME-DT-01, ACME-LT-01.
A6.4.1	Are automatic updates switched on for operating systems where possible?	Evidence ready	Yes. Windows automatic updates are on, and not delayed or paused, on every computer checked. 6 of 6 have automatic updates on.
A6.5 / A6.5.1	Are high-risk and critical application updates installed within 14 days, with automatic updates on where possible?	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items in this report first, then answer Yes. 1 of 6 have up-to-date applications; action needed on ACME-LT-02, ACME-LT-04, ACME-DT-02, ACME-DT-01, ACME-LT-01.

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Ref	Question (paraphrased)	Status	Draft answer and evidence
A6.6 / A6.7	Has unsupported software been removed (or isolated where it is essential)?	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items in this report first, then answer Yes. 3 of 6 have no known unsupported software; action needed on ACME-LT-04, ACME-DT-02, ACME-DT-01.
A7.6 / A7.7	Are separate accounts used for admin tasks, so everyday work such as email and browsing is not done with admin rights?	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items in this report first, then answer Yes. 1 of 6 use a standard day-to-day account; action needed on ACME-LT-02, ACME-LT-05, ACME-DT-02, ACME-DT-01, ACME-LT-01.
A7.4, A7.5, A7.8, A7.9	Is admin access approved, tracked and reviewed, with only the access people need?	Your input	Describe your process: who approves admin access, where admin users are recorded, and how often it is reviewed. The device reports list who has admin rights on each computer, which is a good starting record. Admin accounts listed for 6 computers.
A7.11	Which technical controls manage password quality?	Check first	Probably yes, once the items marked "Worth checking" are confirmed. This only covers local Windows accounts. worth checking on ACME-LT-02, ACME-LT-04, ACME-LT-05, ACME-DT-02, ACME-DT-01, ACME-LT-01.
A7.14 to A7.17	Is multi-factor authentication switched on for all cloud services that offer it, for both users and administrators?	Your input	Not checked by this tool. Check Microsoft 365 (and every other cloud service you use); Blackdown Digital's Microsoft 365 review covers this.
A8.1	How are devices protected from malware (anti-malware software and/or application allow-listing)?	Evidence ready	Anti-malware software on all computers: Microsoft Defender Antivirus 4.18.24090.11. 6 of 6 have antivirus running.
A8.2	Is the anti-malware software kept up to date in line with the vendor's guidance, and set to block malware?	Fix first	Not yet. Fix the items in this report first, then answer Yes. 5 of 6 are up to date with protection on; action needed on ACME-DT-01.
A8.3	Does the anti-malware software scan web pages and warn about malicious websites?	Your input	Usually yes: Microsoft Defender SmartScreen does this in Microsoft Edge and Windows by default. Confirm it has not been switched off, and check other browsers in use.

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Device list for your questionnaire

The Cyber Essentials questionnaire asks you to list the devices in scope: computers with their make, operating system and version (the model is no longer needed for computers), and firewalls and routers with their make and model. These are the computers this tool checked, grouped the way the questionnaire expects.

Qty	Type	Make and model	Operating system	Supported	Computers
1	Desktop	Dell OptiPlex 7010	Windows 11 Pro 24H2	Ended 13 Oct 2026	ACME-DT-02
1	Desktop	Dell OptiPlex 7010	Windows 10 Pro 22H2	Ended 14 Oct 2025	ACME-DT-01
2	Laptop	Dell Latitude 5440	Windows 11 Pro 25H2	Until 12 Oct 2027	ACME-LT-01, ACME-LT-02
1	Laptop	Lenovo ThinkPad T14 Gen 4	Windows 11 Pro 25H2	Until 12 Oct 2027	ACME-LT-05
1	Laptop	Dell Latitude 5440	Windows 11 Pro 24H2	Ended 13 Oct 2026	ACME-LT-04

Ready to copy into the questionnaire

1 x Dell desktop running Windows 11 Pro 24H2
1 x Dell desktop running Windows 10 Pro 22H2
2 x Dell laptops running Windows 11 Pro 25H2
1 x Lenovo laptop running Windows 11 Pro 25H2
1 x Dell laptop running Windows 11 Pro 24H2
1 x Cisco router running 15.4
1 x Fortinet FGT60F firewall running FortiOS 7.2.5 build 1517

1 switch is left out of the list above: the questionnaire does not ask for switches or Wi-Fi access points unless they have a firewall.

Unsupported Windows. ACME-DT-01, ACME-DT-02, ACME-LT-04 run versions of Windows that no longer receive security updates. Cyber Essentials needs every device that can reach the internet to be supported. Before you submit, upgrade or replace them, enrol Windows 10 in Extended Security Updates, or move them to a separate network segment with no internet access (question A6.7). A device used for the business that can reach the internet cannot simply be left out of scope.

Also include in your questionnaire

This tool only checks Windows computers. Before you submit, make sure the questionnaire also covers:

- **Any computers not checked yet.** Compare this list with your own record of every computer used for work, including home workers' computers.
- **Mobile phones and tablets** used to access work email or data, including personal devices.
- **Macs, Linux computers and servers**, if you have any.
- **Any other routers or firewalls** not reviewed yet (the ones reviewed are in the list above). Switches and Wi-Fi access points only need listing if they have a firewall.
- **Cloud services** such as Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, accounting software and online file storage.

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Appendix A: Software across the business

21 programs were found across 6 computers. Remove anything that is no longer needed, and check the rest is still supported and kept up to date. 4 programs are installed in different versions on different computers, which usually means some copies are not being updated.

Program	Publisher	Computers	Versions found
Adobe Acrobat Reader	Adobe	6 of 6	24.002.20759, 26.001.20200 ? 2 versions
Dell SupportAssist	Dell Inc.	6 of 6	4.0.3.4
Google Chrome	Google LLC	6 of 6	129.0.6668.90, 153.0.7900.10, 155.0.8059.79 ? 3 versions
Microsoft 365 Apps for business - en-gb	Microsoft Corporation	6 of 6	16.0.18025.20140
Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation	6 of 6	130.0.2849.56, 155.0.3400.66 ? 2 versions
Microsoft OneDrive	Microsoft Corporation	6 of 6	24.201.1006.0005
Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Corporation	6 of 6	24243.1309.3132.617
Microsoft Visual C++ 2015-2022 Redistributable (x64)	Microsoft Corporation	6 of 6	14.40.33810.0
Mozilla Firefox (x64 en-GB)	Mozilla	6 of 6	115.0.2, 158.0.1 ? 2 versions
Sage 50 Accounts	Sage (UK) Ltd	6 of 6	30.1.105.0
VLC media player	VideoLAN	6 of 6	3.0.18
Zoom Workplace	Zoom Video Communications, Inc.	6 of 6	6.2.5
TeamViewer	TeamViewer	5 of 6	15.40.8
7-Zip 23.01 (x64)	Igor Pavlov	4 of 6	23.01
7-Zip 25.01 (x64)	Igor Pavlov	2 of 6	25.01
Adobe Flash Player 32 NPAPI	Adobe	1 of 6	32.0.0.465
Java 8 Update 401 (64-bit)	Oracle Corporation	1 of 6	8.0.4010.10
Microsoft .NET Runtime - 8.0.11 (x64)	Microsoft Corporation	1 of 6	8.0.11.34221
Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016	Microsoft Corporation	1 of 6	16.0.4266.1001
Microsoft Windows Desktop Runtime - 6.0.36 (x64)	Microsoft Corporation	1 of 6	6.0.36.34217
Python 3.9.13 (64-bit)	Python Software Foundation	1 of 6	3.9.13150.0

About this report

Produced by the Blackdown Digital Cyber Essentials business report, version 1.10.0.0, from 6 device checks made with the Blackdown Digital device check. Each result reflects that computer at the time it was checked. This report lists computer and account names, so please treat it as confidential. It is a readiness check, not a Cyber Essentials certificate or pass mark: Blackdown Digital provides readiness support and does not issue certificates.

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