

Weedfree Case Study



Service:
Cyber Essentials Plus

How Weedfree was able to provide client assurance with a Cyber Essentials Plus certification

The Requirement

Weedfree has been a market leader for railway, industrial and amenity weed control for over 50 years, providing weed control and vegetation clearance services to the rail industry, local authorities, industry, utilities and power generators.

In recent years its portfolio has grown to include a wide range of specialist services for the UK rail industry. This has brought about the Weedfree Support Service offering, providing trained PTS operators to maintain the UK's rail maintenance plant and machinery.

Weedfree's vision is to grow and develop as a business and enhance its brand to be recognised across the UK as a symbol of a higher level of service and quality.

In line with this, and an increase in customer expectations when it comes to data policies, handling and security, Weedfree identified that a Cyber Essentials certification would provide clients with the assurance that their data is protected and reinforce the company's vision.

The Solution

Weedfree's IT support company recommended DigitalXRAID to support its Cyber Essentials certification, as a registered IASME certification body for Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus.

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As part of the Pass First Time package, DigitalXRAID consultants guided Weedfree through the Cyber Essentials self-assessment questionnaire, advising where more information was needed and what should be included, in order to guarantee passing the first phase of the certification.

Once the first phase of the Cyber Essentials certification was completed, DigitalXRAID worked with Weedfree to explain the requirements for the next phase of the certification, to be awarded Cyber Essentials Plus.

DigitalXRAID tested Weedfree's assets, including workstations and mobile assets, against the five key security controls mandated by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) under the Cyber Essentials Plus certification scheme:

- Boundary Firewall and Internet Gateway
- Access Control
- Malware Protection
- Patch Management
- Secure Configuration

At the completion of the vulnerability scan, DigitalXRAID provided a clear report that detailed any vulnerabilities that required improvement in order to meet the certification benchmarks, plus guidance on how to mitigate any issues that had been identified.

Once the updates required to meet the benchmarks had been actioned, DigitalXRAID performed a re-test to ensure that the vulnerability scan element of the Cyber Essentials Plus certification had been successfully completed.

Following an official audit, Weedfree was awarded Cyber Essentials Plus certification.

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The Results

By achieving Cyber Essentials Plus certification, Weedfree has formalised security measures and protected the organisation against 80% of online threats, providing protection against phishing, ransomware, malware and network attacks.

Weedfree's clients now have the assurance that their data is safe and secure, with government-backed certification and a listing on the NCSC website. With increased client confidence, Weedfree can retain and attract new business relationships.

Following the Cyber Essentials Plus certification, Weedfree will be looking to further develop a cybersecurity roadmap in order to continually improve its security posture.

"It was invaluable to have DigitalXRAID's guidance through the entire certification process to ensure that we provided the information needed to pass at each phase.

We now have a clear understanding of the vulnerabilities that could pose a risk to the business and where the highest impact would be. We've been able to go through a mitigation exercise to ensure that our infrastructure and data assets are protected and have taken a positive step to protect data for our business and our clients."

Matthew Woodcock, Computer Systems Manager, Weedfree Limited

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DigitalXRAID are an award-winning managed security services provider dedicated to providing our clients with state-of-the-art cyber security solutions. We specialise in Vulnerability Management, Threat Intelligence, Information Security, PCI-DSS, Penetration Testing, Managed Security Services, Security Consultancy, and offer a fully managed Security Operations Centre (SOC) for your complete cyber security protection.

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