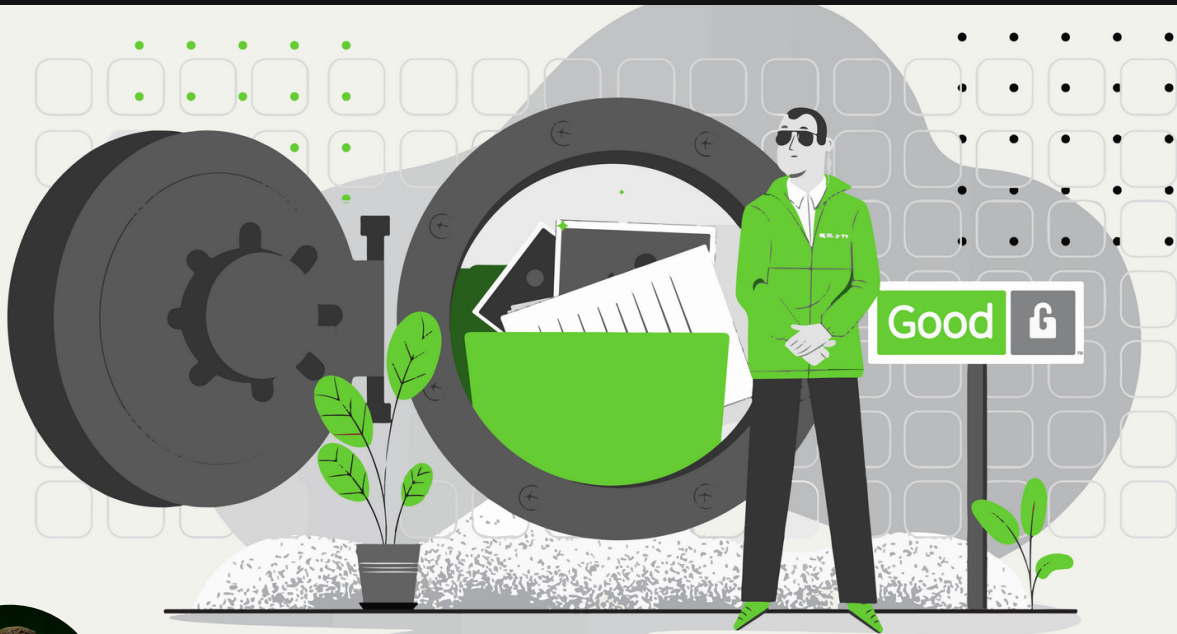


inside zhero

Let's take a look at what is happening at Zhero



MESSAGE FROM IZAK

Tim Cook, Apple's CEO hit the nail on the head when he said: *"If you put a key under the mat for the cops, a burglar can find it, too. Criminals are using every technology tool at their disposal to hack into people's accounts. If they know there's a key hidden somewhere, they won't stop until they find it."*

Like all criminals, hackers are relentless and will do anything to get into your network, steal your data or hold it ransom. Practising good cyber hygiene is one thing you can do to stop this from happening.

October celebrates Cybersecurity Awareness Month. To bring home the importance of good cyber hygiene, this issue of Inside Zhero focuses on the government-backed scheme, Cyber Essentials, designed to help SMEs with all things cybersecurity. I'm sure you'll find this issue both informative and practical.

Happy reading!

Izak Oosthuizen
Bestselling Author and
Founder and MD of Zhero

COLLABORATION WITH CYBECS, ISRAEL

Exciting news! Zhero has recently partnered with an Israel-based cybersecurity and risk management specialist, Cybecs Limited. Founded in Tel Aviv by cybersecurity and privacy experts, Nitzan Levi and Asaf Levy, Cybecs is committed to securing SME information resources and providing safe and resilient computing environments. Nitzan and Asaf also have an enthusiastic interest in software development.

Both Zhero and Cybecs are advocates of robust cybersecurity and cyber hygiene for SMEs. As such, this partnership will pave the way for the development of next-generation online security and privacy assessment software. As part of our long-term strategy to make a mark in software, the synergy between Zhero's IT support experience with that of Cybecs' development expertise, plus the invaluable research input from Prof Raj, our Head of R&D and Director of Cybersecurity at [City, University of London](#), will surely yield a collaboration that embodies success and innovation.

zhero
delivering better IT faster



THE ESSENTIAL SECURITY SOLUTION

THE STATE OF PLAY

Cybersecurity Ventures, the world's leading researcher on the global cyber economy, estimates that cybercrime will cost \$10.5 trillion by 2025. Wow! Not only does that vast sum represent the greatest transfer of economic wealth in human history, it also means that damage caused by cybercrime will have an impact greater than the GDP of all but two countries – the United States and China. In 2020, malware increased by 358% and the average ransomware payment rocketed to about £500,000. With humans, the cause of 95% of cybersecurity breaches, phishing attacks cost us £15,000 every minute. That equates to over £20 million a day. It's no wonder that governments and businesses across the planet are taking bad actors and cyberattacks very seriously. Or are they?

CYBERSECURITY COMPLIANCE

There's a lot of money at stake and the risk of not securing data is greater than ever before. So, how seriously are businesses taking cybersecurity regarding regulatory compliance? Here are some interesting facts:

- 66% of businesses say compliance regulations drive their IT spending.
- 78% of businesses expect the annual cost of regulatory compliance to significantly increase year-on-year.
- Gartner says security services account for 50% of cybersecurity budgets.
- Approximately 60% of businesses have more than 500 email accounts with non-expiring passwords. That's a scary statistic for companies that do not have MFA.
- GDPR fines totalled \$1.2 billion last year with Google being fined \$57 million by CNIL, the French data protection watchdog.

ON HOME SOIL

How is the UK faring by way of cyberattacks and good cybersecurity practices? Here are some eye-opening stats from 2021:

- The NFIB Fraud and Cyber Crime Dashboard confirms that fraud and cybercrime cost the country £3.1 billion from April 2021 to April 2022 based on 427,00 reported incidents.
- 21% of businesses reported having experienced a cybersecurity breach once in the 12-month period.
- 73% of UK organisations were victims of ransomware attacks.
- The average cost of each attack was approximately £1 million, a decrease of the £1.8 million reported by Sophos in 2020.
- 11.3% of UK IT budgets are spent on security.

UK SMEs in particular, have been warned to get their cyber hygiene in shape. Jason Stirland, CTO at DeltaNet International, said:

"Having a robust cybersecurity strategy in place is critical for organisations of any size, but SMEs are particularly vulnerable as they don't have access to the same skills and financial resources a large enterprise has."

THE IMPACT ON BUSINESS

The impact of ransomware and data breaches is devastating. From a global perspective, 90% of companies have said that a ransomware attack severely affected their operational ability. 86% reported a loss of revenue and customers as a result of an attack.

ONLY TALK THE TALK

We all know the expression 'talks the talk but doesn't walk the walk'. Some say that it applies to how SMEs approach their cybersecurity. Of SMEs surveyed for The State of UK SME Cybersecurity Report:

- 32% of respondents said that they didn't have a security programme
- 24% had never conducted a security audit
- 25% spend less than £1,000 a year on cybersecurity
- 51% have stated that their investors would prefer them to take risks and focus on growth but not invest in cybersecurity

A survey by Global Data published in June revealed that only 21% of UK micro-businesses had cyber insurance, compared to 40.1% of small businesses and 54.3% of medium businesses.

WALK THE WALK

You can walk the walk, starting with baby steps. The UK National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has published, and regularly updates, a Small Business Guide: Cyber Security [available here](#). SMEs are advised on backing up data, protection from malware and ransomware, keeping smartphones safe, password management, and how to avoid phishing attacks.

The NCSC also offers a personalised Cyber Action Plan for sole traders and micro businesses [available here](#). And when you are ready for your next steps, there are Cyber Essentials.

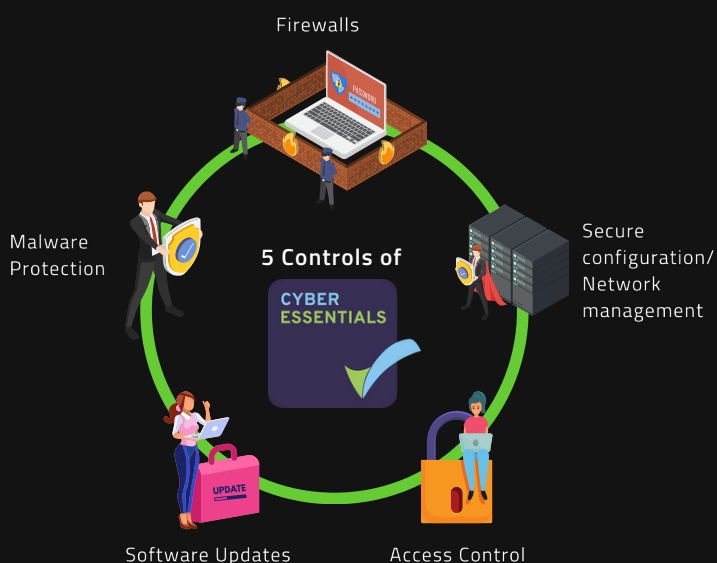
THE CYBER ESSENTIALS SOLUTION

One of your best defences against cybercrime is to deploy the NCSC Cyber Essentials Scheme. The game plan has two offerings:

- **Cyber Essentials** – a self-assessment option that will protect you against a wide variety of the most common cyberattacks.
- **Cyber Essentials Plus** – the same as the basic offering but also includes a hands-on technical verification.

Cyber Essentials key controls include access control, malware protection, secure configuration/network management, firewalls, updating software, and patching.

You can get certified through the **IASME consortium** and the NCSC also provides a Cyber Essentials readiness toolkit so you can create a personal action plan for your cybersecurity.



BECOME BULLETPROOF

The benefits of being Cyber Essentials compliant are many. Here is a handful:

- Attract new business and reassure your existing customers
- Good knowledge of your level of cyber hygiene
- A solid security baseline to fend off 80% of cyberattacks
- Reduced cyber insurance premiums
- GDPR compliance
- Eligible for government tenders
- Trust established with your supply chain


Also, once you are Cyber Essentials certified, you are listed on the IASME database of certified businesses. You can display the accreditation badge on your website, marketing materials, and tenders. It demonstrates your commitment to security and reinforces your reputation as a reliable and trustworthy business. Not only to your customers but to employees, stakeholders, and suppliers too. Cyber Essentials is something that can make your business bulletproof


WEBINAR

CYBER ESSENTIALS: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

The workplace, office and remote, has more data, more devices and more compliance regulations than ever before. This puts immense pressure on compliance and security professionals as they react to a rapidly evolving work environment.

In this webinar, Professor Raj, our super-knowledgeable Head of R&D and Director of Cybersecurity at City, University of London, hosts an informal Q&A on all things Cyber Essentials and why the scheme is essential for every UK business.

 Wednesday, 26 October

 10:00 BST

[Click here](#) to reserve your spot!





GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

On Saturday, 1 October our amazing team once again demonstrated that it knows how to get the work-play balance right. With teambuilding activities being a very popular pastime among our staff, we set off on an off-road Segway cruise through the vineyards, an adrenaline rush requiring expert balancing skills. We closed the day with a fun-filled round-table meal and some locally produced wines.



OUR AMAZING TEAM

IT'S BEEN 6-MONTHS ALREADY?

We are pleased to announce that two members, part of our Projects department, recently celebrated their 6-month workiversary (aka work anniversary) at Zhero!

Kian Botha

Kian is the youngest member of our team and forms part of our internship program. When he joined the program 6 months ago, he had very little IT knowledge but has demonstrated great determination and passion.

Over the months he has shown remarkable development and we are very excited to see what the future holds for him.

Tyrone Wingrove

Tyrone brings more than 6 years of knowledge and experience in Service Desk and Projects to the table. Tyrone is part of our Projects department with a solid focus on supporting newly acquired clients.

Our Projects team love having Tyrone around as he is an incredible pool of knowledge and always willing to assist.

Happy 6-months guys!

JOIN OUR AMAZING TEAM

THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

We are always on the lookout for top talent. If you have what it takes to help us shift the dial up a notch, stay in touch for exciting opportunities.

Cape Town, South Africa

Account Manager

If you enjoy working with clients and giving them the best customer experiences, we are looking for you!

[APPLY HERE](#)

Head of Projects

If you have a strong technical background and enjoy driving a team to excel, we are looking for you!

[APPLY HERE](#)

Service Desk Engineer

We are looking for someone with a strong technical background, who is passionate about working with people and is ready to take the next big step in their career.

[APPLY HERE](#)

London, United Kingdom

On-site Field Engineer

We are looking for someone with a strong technical background, who is passionate about working with people and is ready to take the next big step in their career.

[APPLY HERE](#)



MEET THE TEAM

Wesley Harris

DEVELOPER

1. What made you realise you want to go into the IT industry?

I have been interested in technology from a very young age. For me, choosing a career was a very easy decision, and I have not regretted for it one day.

2. What's your most-used productivity tool?

Both Outlook and Teams have a very big impact on my daily tasks. If I absolutely have to choose, I would say Teams as it makes collaboration between teams and colleagues much easier.

3. What do you enjoy the most about your job?

I really enjoy developing things and improving processes. Seeing how my work influences others is very fulfilling.

4. How would you describe yourself?

I would say I'm an introvert. I am quiet, reserved and very observant.

5. Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?

I'm good at tennis and table tennis. I also enjoy the outdoors and often go hiking.

6. Are you a sports fan?

No, not at all. I would rather play video games with friends.

7. What is your favorite series?

There are so many to choose from. If I had to choose it will be Better Call Saul, Stranger Things, Game of Thrones, and Breaking Bad.

SPEAK TO US

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