



Real Estate Management (UK) Ltd Achieves Cyber Essentials Plus Certification with Wanstor



Wanstor's role in achieving Cyber Essentials Plus certification for REM extended beyond securing certification for the business to being an integral part of REM's IT lifecycle, acting as an extension of the IT department.

Background

Real Estate Management (UK) Limited (REM) provides end-to-end property development and asset management services to real estate investors. The company specialises in premium London assets, such as The Shard, as part of a portfolio comprising 1.9 million sq ft of premium mixed-use lettable space and a £320 million development pipeline.

REM provides services across the full life-cycle of real estate investments, from acquisition, development and construction to leasing, marketing, asset and property management. This integrated approach provides a seamless service that ensures maximum overall return.

The Challenge

In an increasingly digital world, the importance of robust cybersecurity measures cannot be overstated. Real Estate Management (UK) Limited recognised this as a priority and, backed by Wanstor's expertise, implemented a process to achieve the Cyber Essentials Plus certification, a significant step in reinforcing its cybersecurity effectiveness.

Cyber Essentials is a UK government-backed scheme designed to fortify organisations against a range of common cyber threats.

Certification requires an external, third-party audit of five basic technical controls, ranging from firewalls, secure configuration and user access control to malware protection and patch management.

Achieving this certification is a testament to an organisation's commitment to cybersecurity and the protection of client data.

The Solution

For REM, attaining Cyber Essentials Plus certification was more than a compliance measure; it was a strategic move to enhance their cybersecurity infrastructure.

This initiative was part of a broader strategy, moving towards more cloud-based services and business process automation to improve operational efficiency.

Wanstor's role extended beyond certification to being an integral part of REM's IT lifecycle, acting as an extension of their IT department.

The Cyber Essentials Plus certification process involved a thorough assessment of REM's existing cybersecurity measures and identifying areas for improvement.

The process involved:

- + An external network vulnerability scan
- + An internal network vulnerability scan (including checking for patches)
- + A review of malware protection across a sample of devices, such as laptops, workstations and mobile handsets, to check whether the antivirus solution is up to date, whether existing email filters block test malware and whether antivirus or other security solutions block the download of test malware

Wanstor's approach included both tactical upgrades and broader strategic changes in REM's ways of working.

The certification process was enhanced by the close collaboration between Wanstor and REM, including knowledge-sharing sessions and the integration of IT systems and communication channels, such as Microsoft Teams and SharePoint.

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Gordon McCarthy,
Head of IT

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The Result

Enhanced Cybersecurity: Achieving the Cyber Essentials Plus certification with Wanstor's guidance significantly bolstered REM's defence against common cyber threats, ensuring a higher level of security for their client data and internal systems.

Continuous Compliance and Support: Wanstor's Managed Cyber Essentials service provides ongoing management and remediation, ensuring REM's continuous alignment with cybersecurity best practices and aiding in hassle-free annual re-certification.

Collaborative Working Relationship: The partnership fostered a strong working relationship, with Wanstor effectively becoming an extension of REM's IT team. This close collaboration has led to a unified approach to IT challenges, fostering trust and streamlined communication.

Knowledge Sharing and Empowerment:

Regular knowledge exchange sessions, including 'lunch and learn' events, have empowered REM's staff with greater cybersecurity awareness, enhancing the overall security culture within the organisation.

Improved User Experience: The certification process led to quick wins and tactical improvements, resulting in a more user-friendly IT environment for REM's employees, with fewer disruptions and enhanced system performance.

"Achieving the Cyber Essentials Plus certification with Wanstor's assistance was a key moment for us.

"Their comprehensive approach not only improved our cybersecurity but also brought us closer in our working relationship.

"Wanstor has become an invaluable part of our team, sharing our commitment to excellence and security in every aspect of our operations.

"This certification is not just an indication of compliance – it represents our ongoing commitment to safeguarding our data and systems to the highest standards."

Gordon McCarthy, Head of IT, Real Estate Management (UK) Limited

Key Outcomes

- ✓ Achieving Cyber Essentials Plus certification thus ensuring a higher level of security for client data and internal systems
- ✓ Continuous compliance and support ensuring REM's continuous alignment with cybersecurity best practices and aiding in hassle-free annual re-certification
- ✓ Collaborative working relationship leading to a unified approach to IT challenges
- ✓ Knowledge sharing empowers REM's staff with greater cybersecurity awareness enhancing the overall security culture within the organisation
- ✓ Improved user experience resulting in a more user-friendly IT environment for REM's employees with fewer disruptions and enhanced system performance