



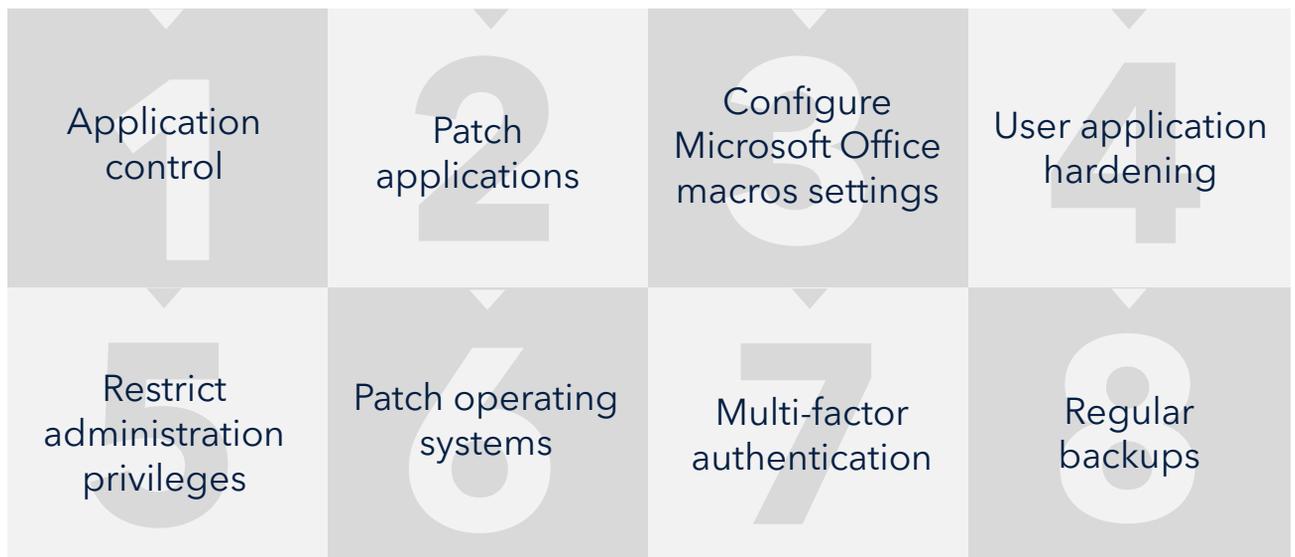
Essential Eight compliance made simple

Eight steps to better cyber security

Cyber threats are a constant reality. The Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) understands this and has taken action by arming us with the Essential Eight¹. The Essential Eight is a best-practice framework based on a set of key mitigation strategies that has been widely adopted by government and commercial organisations and is endorsed by the cyber security industry. In some industries and sectors it has been mandated by government policy, while in others, organisations can aim for their own maturity level based on their specific risk appetite.

The Essential Eight defines maturity levels against each strategy ranging from 0 (nothing) to 3 (ideal). Achieving level 3 maturity for each mitigation strategy, whilst ideal, might not always be achievable for some organisations, however, the accepted approach is to decide on an achievable target state and accept the risk that comes with lower maturity levels.

The strategies within the Essential Eight are...



¹ See <https://www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/view-all-content/publications/essential-eight-maturity-model>

How can Macrosine help?

Macrosine is the only offering that enables an organisation to **achieve Level 3 maturity for configuring Microsoft Office macros settings** within just a matter of days when coupled with the associated Windows policy settings.

Macrosine can be installed on a variety of supported platforms, including on-premises infrastructure or Microsoft Azure, allowing users to then upload their macro-enabled Microsoft Office files and PowerShell scripts so they can be security assessed in order to check that they're safe to use.

The assessment executes the files in a sandbox and Macrosine monitors the results. Based on the behaviour of the file in the sandbox a risk rating is applied and the user can then decide which action to take based on this rating - either to quarantine the file or to apply a digital signature aligned to the risk. You then configure all of your Windows devices to only allow the use of digitally signed macro-enabled Microsoft Office files and PowerShell scripts, and the job's done. You've now levelled up to Level 3.



Macrosine is licensed annually, on a 1-to-5-year subscription per environment, per company, per country.



The service is implemented, maintained, and supported by oobe, a Fujitsu company. Any major product updates are applied in co-ordination with the client.

Essential Eight and your industry

Implementing any of the mitigation strategies in the ACSC Essential Eight enhances your cyber security posture, regardless of your industry. Some industries and regulatory frameworks, such as AESCSF, ADHA, and the PSPF, actually *mandate* specific Microsoft Office Macro controls.

Australian Energy Sector Cyber Security Framework ([AESCSF](#))

The AESCSF was first developed in 2018 and has since been extended to cover Electricity, Gas and Liquid Fuels sectors, and Version 2 of the AESCSF is due in 2023. Control ACM-2C calls for the configuration of Office Macro settings to only allow vetted macros from trusted locations with limited write access or digitally signed with a trusted certificate.

Australian Digital Health Agency ([ADHA](#))

Security Requirements Conformance Profile 1.0, released for consultation in December 2022 and due to be effective from April 2023, requires all organisations that digitally connect to My Health Record systems to adopt new security practices. This profile specifically mandates Essential Eight Office Macro controls with the ideal aim to adopt Level 3, digitally signed Office Macros.

Australian Protective Security Policy Framework ([PSPF](#))

This is a mandatory policy framework applying to all Australian Government entities and non-corporate Commonwealth entities in Australia and overseas. It implements four core policies for Security Governance, Information Security, Personal Security and Physical Security. Information Security - Policy 10, Safeguarding data from cyber threats, explicitly calls out implementing Essential Eight and Microsoft Office Macro mitigation settings.

For more information, check out macrosine.com.au or contact hello@macrosine.com.au for a personalised client assessment.

