



# Vulnerability Assessment

Northumbria Police have produced this crime prevention initiative of offering a free vulnerability assessment for selected companies in the North East. It is supported by North East Regional Special Operations Unit and IT consultants Waterstons.

# Why are police offering this service?

Cybercriminals are constantly scanning the internet looking for vulnerabilities, this is evidenced when examining cybercrimes reported to police by businesses; a large percentage of them occur when the attacker has found a common well known, easily exploitable vulnerability, such as an unpatched server.

These are all crimes which could have been avoided if the business had known about the vulnerability, and taken the appropriate action. We hope that by offering this service we can find these common vulnerabilities before the criminals do, potentially saving your business from financial loss, and a great deal of stress and anxiety. Simply put we want have fewer victims of crime.

## What is a vulnerability assessment?

A vulnerability assessment is the practice of testing a computer system, network or web application to find areas that an attacker could exploit. The assessments are often conducted by private cyber security providers and have a financial cost.

## What are the benefits?

It reveals your vulnerabilities – not all of them, but it's a good way of establishing if you have high risk, easy to exploit gaps, which attackers could use. It helps you understand where you need to start in order to improve your security, and an assessment can also help you comply with regulations and certifications such as Cyber Essentials, GDPR, ISO27001 and PCI compliance.

## Are there any restrictions?

This service is only available to North East Businesses

## How do I register my interest?

Please email [cybervolunteers@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cybervolunteers@northumbria.pnn.police.uk) and a member of the testing team will contact you to discuss the assessment in more detail.