# Why Essential 8 (VS other e.g. NIST)

**In Cybersecurity risk mitigation there is no “silver bullet” that addresses all elements required to protect an organization. To guide organizations on how to protect their data, systems and IT environment, there were several frameworks and standards developed by government organizations, standards institutes, certification bodies and international cybersecurity committees. These frameworks and standards include ISO27001, ISM, Essential 8, SOC2, NIST and SACSF.**

**NIST Cyber Security Framework, for example, was developed by the U.S.A. National Institute of Standards and Technology and many is followed and applied typically in the United States. The framework provides guidance toward identity, protect, detect, respond and recover. The main focus and benefit is the provision of an elaborate set of framework documents that provide a broad range of guidance for cybersecurity improvement. As some frameworks have it however NIST is less prescriptive than standards such as Essential 8.**

**Essential 8 Maturity Model on the other hand is a prescriptive set of standards developed by Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC). These 8 areas of focus provide accurate guidance on what organizations need to do to improve their maturity and posture in cybersecurity. These mitigation strategies help organizations protect themselves against various cyber threats.**

**At Fortify we selected Essential 8 as our core platform to assess organizations’ needs to uplift their cybersecurity posture. The reason for selecting Essential 8 versus another framework or set of standards is:**

* **ACSC developed the model based on their experience in producing cyber threat intelligence, responding to cyber security incidents, and conducting penetration testing.**
* **They are based on Australian governance compliance and requirements**
* **They cover better than 85% of cybersecurity risk mitigation**
* **ES8 provides a set of measurements, procedures, rules and guidelines to measure progress**
* **Essential 8 provides the basis for Fortify to build a questionnaire and ask organizations consistent questions toward assessing their cybersecurity requirements**
* **Essential 8 provides the basis for Fortify to build a list of skill requirements and associated selection criteria for our volunteers**

**Diagram

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