

# The 111+ Cyber Companies of Greater Manchester

UK's <u>Greater Manchester</u> (GM) region is home to a thriving cyber ecosystem: from start-ups to multinationals, it offers opportunities to contribute to the burgeoning cybersecurity industry. So, what's on offer for someone looking to work, collaborate, and exchange ideas about cybersecurity in the region?

## 5,001+ Companies

There are at least 20 companies with offices in the Greater Manchester region with the global headcount of over 5,000 employees. Most are located in the Manchester city centre, though there is some geographic spread.



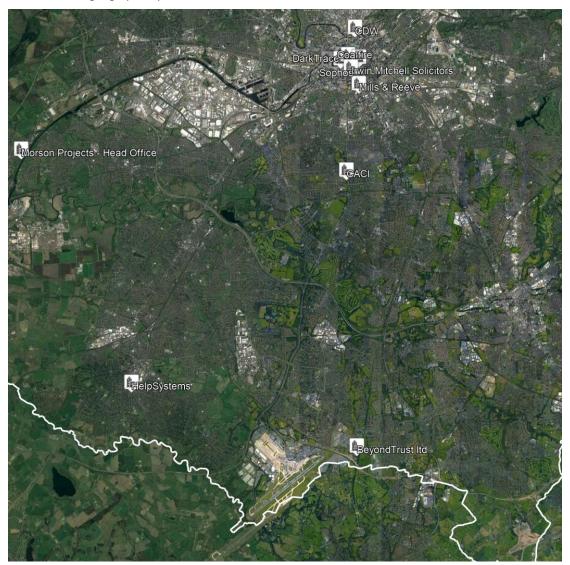
Most of these companies are in the <u>top-1,000</u> worldwide by market value (<u>Amazon</u>, <u>Google</u>, and <u>Microsoft</u> being in the top-10), together with all of the Big Four accounting firms (<u>Deloitte</u>, <u>EY</u>, <u>KPMG</u>,

<u>PwC</u>) present, mostly in the Manchester city centre. GM is also home to <u>HP</u>, <u>Cisco</u> and <u>Oracle</u> offices, together with the largest IT services company in the world by market capitalisation - <u>Tata Consultancy</u> Services.

A number of British technology companies are represented as well, including <u>Computacenter</u> (FTSE250), and <u>Arm</u>. If cyber threat and military intelligence is your thing, <u>Northrop Grumman</u>, and <u>Raytheon Technologies</u> also have offices in GM, though they are more secretive about their exact locations.

### **501-5,000** Companies

Another 15 companies represent the 501-5,000 range, with most offices located in Manchester itself, but with some geographic spread.



Half the showcased companies in this range are British (e.g., <u>BAE Systems</u>, <u>DarkTrace</u>, <u>Sophos</u>, <u>Exponential-e</u>), including two with headquarters in Manchester (<u>NCC Group</u>, <u>Morson Projects</u>). You can expect these companies' offers to be primarily in cybersecurity (unlike the 5,001+ companies, where cyber is just one part of a larger selection of offerings), though some offer engineering, manufacturing, and/or business intelligence services alongside cybersecurity. Another notable group here is legal businesses, with three representatives (<u>DWF</u>, <u>Irwin Mitchell</u>, <u>Mills & Reeve</u>) all offering cyber-related services like legal support for data protection and cyber breaches, defence against allegations of computer and internet crime, and compliance with applicable laws.

### 51-500 Companies

Going smaller still, this group is represented by 19 companies, being more geographically diverse than the previous groups.



Just under half the companies in this range provide 'digital transformation consultancy' services, with cybersecurity being part of that. Many have their main offices within the Greater Manchester region too (e.g., ANS, BCN, M247, SQA Consulting, SolutionsPT). There are several other distinct subgroups in this category, including cyber insurance (NMU, Reich), supply chain security (NQC), eDiscovery (CYFOR), penetration testing (Secarma, Novacoast), and more.

## The 11-50 Companies

Some 33 companies represent this group, with offices spread around the Greater Manchester region.



Just under half of these companies provide forms of managed IT solutions, some being more specialised, while others offering more diverse packages, from physical connectivity to cybersecurity consulting and digital transformation. A few companies (e.g., <u>Distology</u>, <u>Fact3</u>, <u>IN4 Group</u>) provide broader services still, offering training, business operations support, sales, marketing, and finance, alongside IT and cybersecurity. On the other hand, some more specialised companies offer data security and cloud security as their main services (e.g., <u>Integres</u>, <u>Secure IT Consult</u>, <u>Macrium Software</u>), while <u>MCM insurance</u> covers cyber insurance as part of their services. Three companies offer human-factor approach to cybersecurity (<u>CultureAl</u>, <u>usecure</u>, <u>The Defence Works</u>), one specialises in secure financial transactions (<u>VST Enterprises</u>), and one in certifying services that perform age and identity verification (<u>Age Check Certification Scheme</u>).

### 1-10 Companies

These 29 companies are the smallest by headcount with the largest geographic diversity across the Greater Manchester region.



Most of the companies in this group broadly provide two kinds of services: managed IT solutions which include cybersecurity at least to some degree, and penetration testing + awareness training.

Managed IT solutions companies offer a variety of cybersecurity services, from IT support and connectivity with a bit of security on top (e.g., <a href="Utixo">Utixo</a>, <a href="edit Communications">edi Communications</a>), to digital transformation consultancy services which would walk you through security standards like ISO27001 and Cyber Essentials (e.g., <a href="Unleashed IT">Unleashed IT</a>, <a href="Lucid Networks">Lucid Networks</a>). Compliance with various laws and regulations is also a theme among the 1-10 companies, with a number of them specifically advertising consultancy on compliance as one of their core services (e.g., <a href="Hayes Associates">Hayes Associates</a>, <a href="Simon Hunt Consulting">Simon Hunt Consulting</a>).

Penetration testing companies provide comprehensive services including compliance attestation, social engineering awareness training, testing security at various strata (from devices and software, to networks and cloud), and simulating attacks (e.g., <u>RM Information Security</u>, <u>Predatech</u>). While most are for-profit companies, the Greater Manchester region is home to the <u>North West Cyber Resilience Centre</u> - a non-profit which provides penetration testing and training services.

### **Supporting Organisations**

In addition to companies offering cybersecurity services directly, there are a few others which either support them, or serve as entry points. Think office spaces, networks that cyber companies belong to, talent training and acquisition companies, and academic groups. Here are some highlights.

The two key technology office spaces in Greater Manchester are Bruntwood SciTech and MediaCityUK. Bruntwood has several office spaces, with <u>Manchester Technology Centre</u>, <u>Circle Square</u>, and <u>Manchester Science Park</u> all hosting cyber companies. The <u>ID Manchester</u> site, when completed, looks to be a promising location for cyber companies as well. <u>MediaCityUK</u> itself is home to a few cyber companies (notably, Tata Consultancy Services), while Salford's Home of Skills & Technology (<u>HOST</u>, located in MediaCityUK) houses numerous cyber companies under its wing, while also supporting cyber-related training courses for businesses (<u>Cyber Salford</u>), and numerous opportunities for technology start-ups.

Several academic communities within Greater Manchester offer cyber-related services, often free of charge. For example, the Centre for Digital Trust and Security (at the University of Manchester) offers several options, including the <u>Greater Manchester Cyber Foundry</u> (free workshops and online

modules to develop your cyber product or service idea), the Security, Privacy, Identity and Trust Engagement NetworkPlus (SPRITE+, a 'one stop shop' for engagement between academic and non-academic communities, including in cybersecurity), and the Digital Security Innovation Hub (DISH). Full disclosure: I worked for SPRITE+ for a couple of years, setting up their digital presence, and doing some intelligence work.

Cybersecurity networking is another well-represented strand within Greater Manchester. Several groups offer networking opportunities, including the <u>North West Cyber Security Cluster</u>, the <u>Greater Manchester Cyber Advisory Group</u>, and <u>Whitehall Media</u> to name a few.

Technology recruitment companies are also represented in the GM region by several companies, which specifically seek candidates with cybersecurity expertise. From large recruiters like <u>Harvey Nash</u> and <u>Morson Group</u>, to more specialised companies like <u>Secure Recruitment</u>, and <u>The Specialists Hub</u> all offer recruitment (and sometimes training) services specifically geared at cybersecurity-skilled talent.

Finally, <u>GCHQ</u> deserves a mention, as they have opened a Manchester office, and offer employment in both the National Cyber Security Centre (<u>NCSC</u>), and the National Cyber Force (<u>NCF</u>).

#### The Data

Interested in the complete list of companies mentioned in this article, or in their geographic data? You can download it for free here.

Feel like a cyber or supporting company needs to be added to the list? If it ticks all of the boxes below, leave the name and the company website link in the comments!

✓ Sells cyber or supports cyber.

 $\square$  Has a physical office within Greater Manchester, and displays its full address on the company's website.

☑ Has a claimed LinkedIn page.