



# 15 Core Cyber Defense Controls for MSMEs

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) serve as the foundation of India's economic landscape, contributing significantly to innovation, employment generation, and national growth. Recognizing the growing cyber risks, the **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** has issued **15 elemental cyber defense controls**, specifically tailored to strengthen the cybersecurity posture of MSMEs.

# Key Areas Covered:

**1**



Asset Management

**2**



Network & Email Security

**3**



Endpoint & Mobile security

**4**



Secure Configurations

**5**



Patch Management

**6**



Incident Management

**7**



Logging & Monitoring

**8**



Awareness & Training

**9**



Third-Party Risk Management

**10**



Data Protection & Backup

**11**



Governance & Compliance

**12**



Robust Password Policies

**13**



Access Control & Identity Management

**14**



Physical Security

**15**



Vulnerability Audits & Assessments



## Why this is Crucial??

Implementing these controls minimizes financial risks, strengthens business continuity, ensures regulatory compliance, and fosters trust with customers and partners.

### Relevant to both MSMEs and auditors :

MSMEs can evaluate and integrate these measures into their security policies, whereas CERT-In empaneled auditors can utilize them as reference standards during cybersecurity audits.



**Our role as cybersecurity professionals is to guide businesses in not just meeting, but exceeding these essential controls—building resilience against current and future threats.**

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