Government Digital & Data

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What is Secure by Design?

An approach to **incorporate cyber security practices into digital delivery from the start and consistently** throughout the service lifecycle.

A way to increase cyber resilience and data sharing across government organisations by building **risk-driven cyber security** into digital services.

An approach that highlights cyber security risks as delivery and business risks, **making risk management everyone's responsibility** within the delivery team.

A policy that applies to projects which are required to pass through the Cabinet Office **digital and technology spend controls approval process**.

Secure by Design is

- ✓ mandatory for central government departments and arm's length bodies (and optional for other public sector organisations)
- ✓ an approach with mandatory principles and best practice activities with supporting tools
- ✓ monitored through existing assurance processes, including the digital and technology spend controls approval process
- ✓ designed to drive effective collaboration between delivery teams, security experts and colleagues in other roles

Secure by Design is not

- ✗ a tick box exercise - it requires a significant culture change where security is considered throughout digital delivery
- ✗ an assurance process - it contributes towards achieving the government Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) profiles as part of GovAssure
- ✗ something purely for security professionals - it impacts teams across digital delivery including project management and procurement

Visit security.gov.uk/policy-and-guidance/secure-by-design/ to see:

- the Secure by Design policy and the scope of which projects it covers
- the Secure by Design principles, reflecting typical security challenges in digital delivery faced by government organisations
- best practice activities and resources that can be tailored by delivery teams to help them meet the principles during the digital delivery lifecycle
- templates and tools to help organisations assign security responsibilities, identify appropriate security controls and track progress towards meeting policy requirements

Contact the Secure by Design team

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