CLOUDSWITCHED

FREE RESOURCE — PENETRATION TESTING

Annual Security Testing Calendar

A 12-month planner that lays your annual penetration test, quarterly vulnerability scans, monthly patch reviews, Cyber Essentials Plus renewal and insurer evidence dates onto a single timeline — plus the events that should trigger a test outside the normal cycle.

12	4	6	Fillable
MONTHS PLANNED OUT	RECURRING TESTING ACTIVITIES TRACKED	CHANGE TRIGGERS FOR AN OUT-OF-CYCLE TEST	TICK & TYPE IN ANY VIEWER

PEN TEST · VULN SCANS · PATCH REVIEWS · CE+ RENEWAL

PREPARED FOR	PREPARED BY	VERSION	FORMAT
Cloudswitched Knowledge Library	Cloudswitched Ltd.	2026 Edition	Interactive PDF

01

12-month testing calendar

Fill in your actual dates once and this becomes the single reference the whole business works to — IT, finance (for budgeting), and whoever owns insurer and client evidence requests.

MONTH	ANNUAL PEN TEST	QUARTERLY VULN SCAN	MONTHLY PATCH REVIEW	OTHER (CE+ / INSURER)
January	_____	_____	_____	_____
February	_____	_____	_____	_____
March	_____	_____	_____	_____
April	_____	_____	_____	_____
May	_____	_____	_____	_____
June	_____	_____	_____	_____
July	_____	_____	_____	_____
August	_____	_____	_____	_____
September	_____	_____	_____	_____
October	_____	_____	_____	_____
November	_____	_____	_____	_____
December	_____	_____	_____	_____

RECOMMENDED BASELINE CADENCE

Annual penetration test: once a year, ideally 6–8 weeks before your Cyber Essentials Plus renewal or insurer deadline so findings can be remediated first. Vulnerability scans: quarterly at minimum, monthly if you hold a PCI-DSS or similar obligation. Patch review: monthly, tracked against a 14/30/90-day SLA by severity.

02

Out-of-cycle test triggers

The calendar above is the baseline — but certain business events should trigger a test outside the normal 12-month cycle, regardless of when the last one ran. Tick any that have happened, or are planned, since your last test.

- ☐ **New customer-facing application or major feature launch** — test before go-live, not after.
- ☐ **Cloud migration** (on-prem to Azure/AWS/GCP, or a re-platforming of core infrastructure).
- ☐ **Office move or new network build** that changes the perimeter, firewall estate or remote-access design.
- ☐ **Merger, acquisition or divestment** that merges networks, tenants or data with another organisation.
- ☐ **Significant security incident or near-miss** — verify the fix actually closed the gap, do not assume.
- ☐ **New client contract or tender** requiring evidence of a current test as a condition of the deal.

Budget & scheduling notes

BOOK 6–8 WEEKS AHEAD

Reputable testing providers, particularly CREST-accredited ones, are frequently booked 4–8 weeks out. If your Cyber Essentials Plus renewal or insurer deadline is fixed, work backwards from it — leave time for remediation and retest before the evidence is due, not just for the test itself.

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Ownership & review

Assign a named owner to keep this calendar current and to flag when an out-of-cycle trigger has fired. A calendar nobody owns drifts out of date within a quarter.

CALENDAR OWNER	ROLE / TITLE	NEXT REVIEW DATE

Approved by

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE

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info@cloudswitched.com

New London House, 6 London St
London EC3R 7LP · United Kingdom