CYBERWISE SOLUTIONS

FOUNDATIONS ASSESSMENT
READINESS BRIEF

A concise guide to help you determine whether now is the right moment for your organization to begin the
Cyberwise Foundations Assessment

CYBERWISE
SOLUTIONS

WHY THIS BRIEF EXISTS

Every mission-driven organization depends on trust. Staff, volunteers, donors, board members, and the communities you serve all rely on a baseline of confidence that your digital operations are steady, safe, and well-managed. Yet the digital landscape has shifted – quietly at first, then all at once.

CLARITY MATTERS MORE NOW THAN IT EVER HAS BEFORE.

Modern tools make it easier for bad actors to automate targeted attacks. Messages that look legitimate now require only a few clicks to generate. Smaller organizations, once overlooked, increasingly find themselves on the receiving end of surprisingly convincing attempts to exploit that trust.

None of this is your fault. And none of it requires panic.

It simply means clarity matters more now than it ever has before.

The Cyberwise Solutions Foundations Assessment is designed to give mission-driven organizations a clear, non-technical picture of their current digital health—without judgment, without jargon, and without the pressure to "get everything right."

This brief exists to help you answer one essential question:

Is now the right moment for your organization to begin the Foundations Assessment?

CYBERWISE SOLUTIONS

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATIONS ASSESSMENT

The Foundations Assessment is a guided discovery process that evaluates your organization's digital environment across fifteen core domains—from people and devices to data, vendors, and everyday workflows.

You do not need cybersecurity expertise. You do not need perfect documentation. You do not need to have everything "figured out."

IT IS INTENTIONALLY DESIGNED FOR NON-TECHNICAL LEADERS.

The assessment gives you:

- A clear snapshot of your current digital foundations

- A prioritized view of strengths, gaps, and emerging risks

- A practical action plan sized for small teams

- A shared language for conversations with staff, leadership, and board members

And equally important, here's what the assessment is **not**:

- It is **not** a compliance audit

- It is **not** a pass/fail score

- It is **not** an assessment of staff performance

- It is **not** a measure of how "behind" you are

It is a reality-mapping tool. A clear, calm picture of where you stand today – so you can make thoughtful decisions about tomorrow.

CYBERWISE
SOLUTIONS

READINESS LENS #1:
OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

The Foundations Assessment typically takes 60–90 minutes and can be completed by one or two staff members who understand how daily operations work. You do not need technical expertise – just a working understanding of how your organization uses email, files, donations, equipment, and communications tools.

You may be ready if:

- You have at least one person who can set aside dedicated time to complete the assessment

- You can gather basic information about how your systems and processes work

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IS NOT REQUIRED.

- You are willing to answer honestly, even if some answers are "Not sure"

The Assessment works best when the person completing it has a broad view of operations rather than deep technical knowledge. Executive directors, operations managers, and office administrators often make excellent respondents.

READINESS LENS #2: CULTURAL APPETITE

The Assessment provides clarity – and clarity is most powerful when leadership teams are open to seeing the full picture.

You may be ready if:

- ❖ Leadership wants a shared understanding of risk and responsibility

- ❖ There is curiosity about strengthening digital practices

- ❖ Your team is willing to learn, even if some findings feel new or unexpected

The best results happen when organizations approach the Assessment with a posture of learning, not defensiveness.

> **CLARITY THRIVES IN A LEARNING CULTURE.**

READINESS LENS #3:
EMOTIONAL BANDWIDTH

Every Foundations report contains a mix of "you're doing this well" and "here's where improvement would help." This is normal, expected, and universal across mission-driven organizations.

You may be ready if:

- ⬧ Your team has space to receive clear information without feeling overwhelmed

- ⬧ You can view recommendations as guidance – not criticism

- ⬧ You want confidence, not perfection

> **THE QUESTION ISN'T "WILL WE HAVE GAPS?" BUT "ARE WE READY TO SEE THEM CLEARLY?"**

The question isn't "Will we have security gaps?" It's "Do we have the capacity to hear about them and take steady, manageable steps forward?"

If that answer is yes – even a small yes – you're on the right path.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE WHEN YOU'RE READY

Once the Assessment is completed, you will receive:

THE FOUNDATIONS REPORT

A visually clear, narrative-style summary of your digital environment across all fifteen domains. Designed for leaders, board members, and non-technical staff.

THE ACTION PLAN

A prioritized list of practical next steps – organized into immediate, short-term, and long-term recommendations. Sized to fit the realities of small teams and mission-driven work.

A REVIEW CONVERSATION

A guided conversation to walk through your results, answer questions, and clarify next steps. You will never be left staring at a document without guidance.

A PATH FORWARD

If you want help implementing your action plan, we'll discuss options for structured support. If you prefer to move independently, your plan will give you everything you need to start. No pressure. Just partnership.

CYBERWISE
SOLUTIONS

Protecting the trust you've earned
cyberwisesolutions.org

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

If this brief resonates with you – if you see the value but also recognize the importance of timing – here's the simple next step:

Reach out to start the conversation, ask questions, or begin your organization's Foundations Assessment.

- ✖ web: cyberwisesolutions.org

- ✖ email: info@cyberwisesolutions.org

- ✖ phone: 626.427.2725

The process is steady, respectful, and built to strengthen your mission – not distract from it.

As digital tools continue to evolve, clarity is one of the most powerful forms of stewardship available to mission-driven organizations. Whether you begin today or in a few months, this work will meet you where you are – and help you move forward with confidence.

Cyberwise Solutions | Protecting the trust you've earned

PARTNERSHIP WITHOUT PRESSURE.
CLARITY WITHOUT JUDGMENT.