The Practical Cyber Security Roadmap for SMEs (12-Month Plan)

A Realistic, Achievable Plan for SMEs Without Internal Security Teams

Executive Summary

This roadmap gives SMEs a clear, achievable 12-month plan to strengthen their cyber security posture without overwhelm.

Quarter 1 — Foundations

- Asset inventory
- MFA everywhere
- Patch management
- Basic monitoring
- Staff awareness

Quarter 2 — Strengthening

- Backup strategy
- Access control
- Vendor review
- Policy creation

Quarter 3 — Maturity

- Incident response plan
- Supply chain review
- Compliance alignment
- Penetration testing

Quarter 4 — Optimisation

- Cost review
- Vendor performance review

- Roadmap refresh
- Board reporting

Outcome

A practical, step-by-step plan SMEs can follow without needing a dedicated security team.