



# SAFE

## Cyber resilience assessment and improvement framework

ITHQ's structured cyber resilience framework, for organisations needing more than a technical review or compliance checklist.



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# SAFE, explained

## A clear process that continually assesses and improves resilience

SAFE helps organisations **measure cyber maturity, identify business-critical gaps, and build a practical security roadmap.**

SAFE is ITHQ's cyber resilience framework for assessing your organisation's security posture, understanding where the real risk sits, and deciding what should happen next. It is designed for organisations that need more than a one-off technical review. SAFE creates an evidence-based view of resilience that supports better decisions, stronger governance, and more effective security investment.

### TL;DR

SAFE gives senior leaders a clear, business-focused view of security risk, maturity, and priorities. Rather than a one-off technical exercise, it creates an ongoing cycle of assessment, prioritisation, and improvement that helps organisations strengthen resilience over time.

### SAFE delivers:

- Clear view of current cyber resilience and security posture
- Prioritised roadmap based on business risk and impact
- Regular reassessment to track progress and adapt to change
- Stronger board reporting, governance, and investment planning
- Ongoing partnership with ITHQ to improve resilience over time



**Book a SAFE discussion**

# Why SAFE matters

Cyber resilience is now a leadership issue

**Cyber security is no longer just a technical concern.**

It affects operational continuity, leadership confidence, regulatory readiness, insurer scrutiny, supplier trust, and the organisation's ability to grow safely.

Many organisations have controls in place, but fewer have a clear, evidence-based view of how resilient they really are. SAFE helps leaders move from fragmented security activity and unclear priorities to a more structured, measurable, and defensible cyber resilience strategy.

**Leaders use SAFE because they need:**

- Stronger resilience planning
- Clearer board-level oversight
- Better prioritisation of security investment
- Improved confidence in budgeting decisions
- More credible insurer and audit conversations
- Clearer evidence of progress over time



# Why business leaders invest in SAFE

SAFE helps senior leaders answer the questions that matter before risk tips into disruption, unplanned spend, or loss of confidence.

It underpins cyber investment with considered, defensible business decisions.

- **How do I know where resilience is weakest?**  
See where the business is exposed and which gaps matter most
- **How do I prioritise investment with more confidence?**  
Focus spend on the areas most likely to reduce risk and strengthen resilience.
- **How do I strengthen board and insurer conversations?**  
Use evidence, scoring and measured progress to counter scrutiny, support planning and drive assurance.
- **How do I reduce reactive decision-making?**  
Replace fragmented security activity with a clearer roadmap and better sequencing..
- **How do I show improvement over time?**  
Track maturity over time and demonstrate that resilience is genuinely improving.



# SAFE: more than a health check

**A one-off assessment can highlight issues.**

**It cannot, on its own, create resilience in our fast-moving world.**

Cyber threats never stay still. Attack surfaces expand. Business priorities shift. Technology estates evolve. Without regular reassessment, yesterday's confidence can quickly become today's blind spot.

SAFE is designed as an ongoing cycle that helps organisations stay agile, adaptive, and aligned to changing risk. It is:

- Not a one-time report
- Not a box-ticking exercise
- Not just compliance support
- A repeatable resilience framework
- A structured basis for continuous improvement

**SAFE helps turn cyber security from a reactive concern into an ongoing, improving, resilience capability.**



# The SAFE cycle

SAFE follows a simple, practical cycle that makes cyber resilience easier to understand, communicate, and improve.

## 1. Assess

Build a clear, evidence-based view of your cyber resilience, security posture, and maturity across 19 key domains.

## 2. Prioritise

Turn findings into visual data that determine clear priorities, so leadership attention, budget, and action are focused where they matter most.

## 3. Improve

Create a practical roadmap for resilience improvement, then reassess regularly as threats evolve and the attack surface changes.



# What you get from each SAFE stage



## 1. Assess

### You get:

- Baseline of current cyber maturity
- Strengths, weaknesses, and blind spots
- Understanding of where risk is highest



## 2. Prioritise

### You get:

- Scored findings and visual summaries
- Clarity of what matters most and why
- Basis for investment & board discussion



## 3. Improve

### You get:

- Prioritised roadmap to reduce risk
- Practical next steps and sequencing
- Basis for ongoing review and measurable progress

What you receive from a SAFE assessment

# Visual data

SAFE is designed to produce practical outputs that support leadership, planning, and action.

## You receive:

- Evidence-based cyber resilience assessment
- A clear view of current security posture
- Maturity scoring across 19 key domains
- Visual summaries for leadership discussion
- Prioritised and practical security roadmap
- Stronger input into budgeting and sequencing
- Baseline for future reassessment and benchmarking

The value lies not just in the thorough reports. It is the clarity and direction they create.

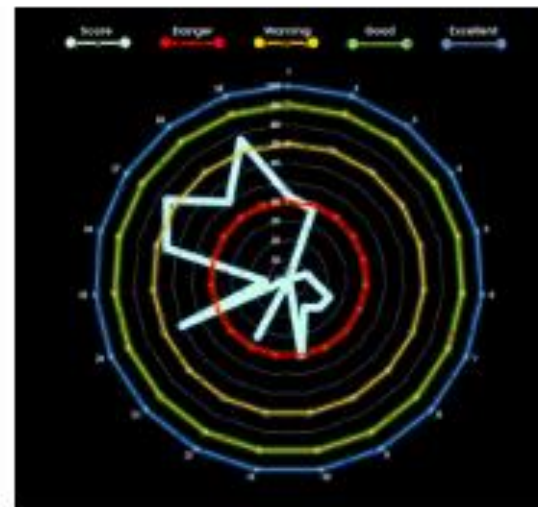


Sub-Area	Performed - 30%	Managed - 25%	Documented - 20%	Reviewed - 15%	Optimised - 10%
Formal review at executive level (10)	10				
Formal discussions at executive level (10)	10				
Executive oversight and ownership (10)	10				
Measured according to industry standards (25)		25			
Agree and formalise the standards of measure (10)			10		
Agree on and document the process (5)			5		
Document program ownership & responsibilities (5)			5		
Clear review process defined (5)				5	
Review process performed consistently (5)				5	
Review carried out at least once per year (5)				5	
Optimisations captured from review process (5)					0
Optimisations applied in line with process (5)					0
	30	25	20	15	0

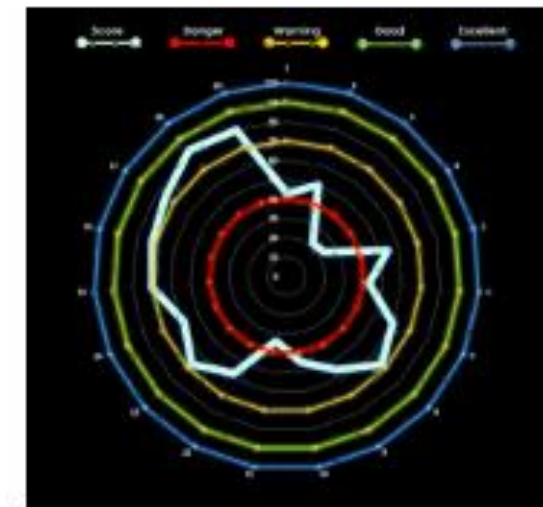
Baseline SAFE Score



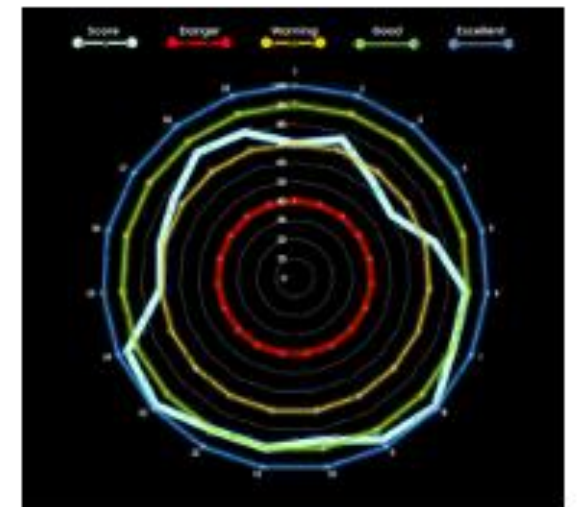
Day Zero



6-month retest



12-month retest



# The value of ongoing SAFE cycles

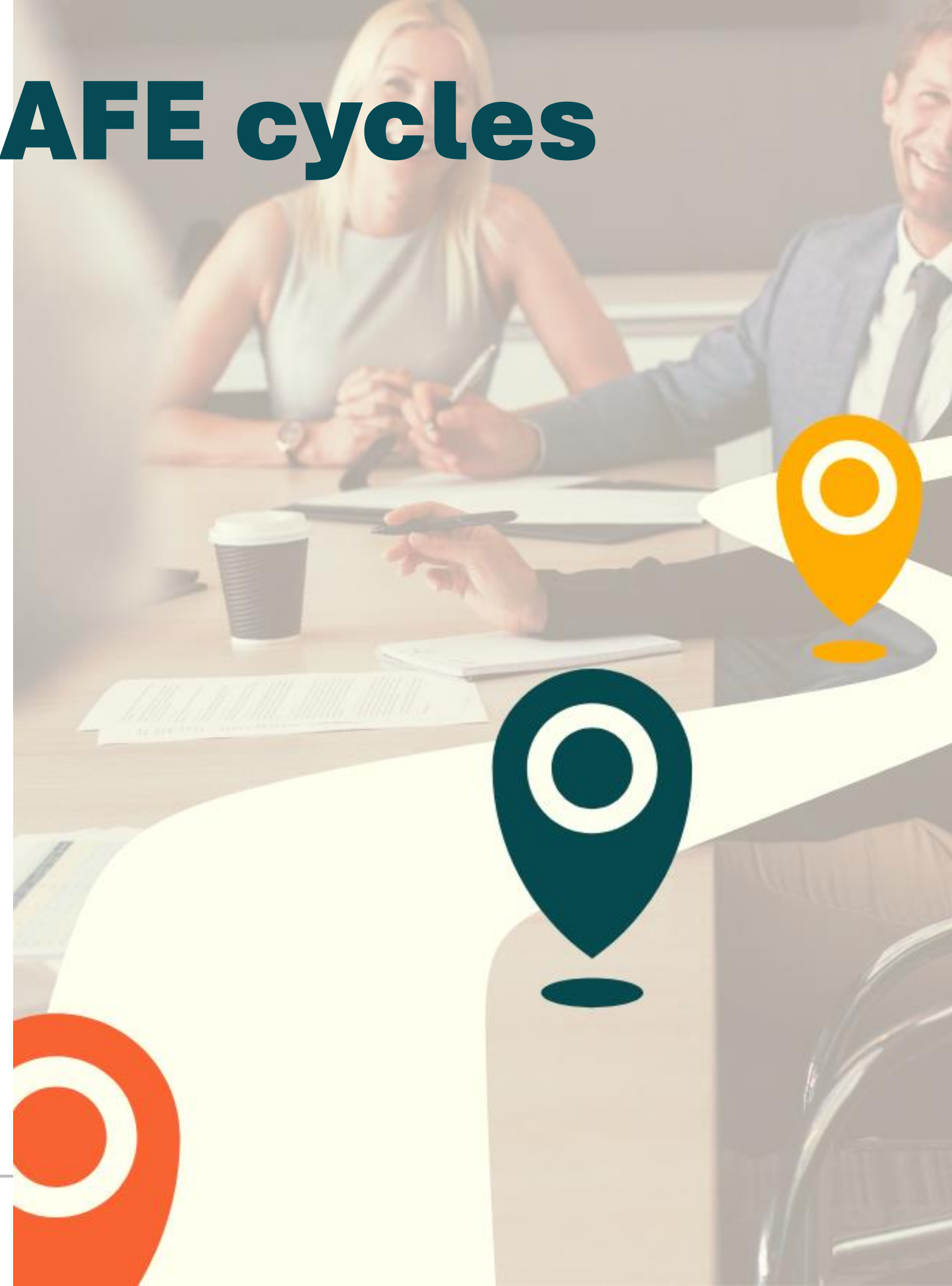
**The real value of SAFE comes from using it as an ongoing strategic framework, not a one-time exercise.**

By partnering with ITHQ on a regular SAFE cycle, organisations review progress, refine priorities, respond to emerging threats, and keep resilience aligned with business change.

Progress is easy to see. Using scored domains, visual summaries, and repeat assessments, leadership teams gain a clearer way to track resilience maturity, justify investment, and demonstrate improvement over time.

- Cyber maturity builds, keeping you resilient as threats evolve
- Clear evidence drives informed decisions and supports GRC
- Cyber resilience strategy and business priorities remain aligned
- Investment planning is more disciplined
- Emerging exposures are identified fast
- Leadership and board work harmoniously to clear targets, with agreed ROI

**Regular SAFE assessments help organisations stay resilient as threats evolve and the attack surface expands, with clear evidence of ROI at every step.**



# What clients value about SAFE

“SAFE from ITHQ is not an audit, it's an evidence-based discussion with proportional outcomes aligned to business needs. When management sees the old reports compared with the new ones, they can see exactly where [my budget's] gone, where the time and effort's gone ... We can basically prove: 'Look at the difference we've made.' The SAFE reports provide an independent view of our systems like Pen Tests and are 32 pages long: very useful in many regulation-centric scenarios.

Mark Petar, Head of Systems, Montanaro

We couldn't do it without ITHQ

Philip Mitchell, IT Director, The Hippodrome Casino

**SAFE gives leadership teams a clearer, more credible way to show resilience progress over time.**



# ITHQ | SAFE

## Build a clear cyber resilience strategy

Regular SAFE cycles help turn cyber security into clear, measurable, adaptable, business-aligned resilience.

## Talk to us

[transform@ithq.pro](mailto:transform@ithq.pro)

020 3997 7979



**Book a SAFE discussion**

