PART OF THE CLARANET PORTFOLIO OPERATOR PROGRAMME

Hold-Period Cyber Baseline

A fixed-fee diagnostic that establishes a portfolio company's cyber posture against a consistent standard and sets out a prioritised plan to close the gaps.

When it matters

Cyber has stopped being an IT problem and become a deal problem, and the numbers are blunt. 80% of PE firms suffered cyber disruption during the hold period in the last 12 months, the average hit to a disrupted deal was $2.1m, and one firm in eight lost more than $5m. More than a quarter saw a cyber incident cut a portfolio company's valuation or exit price directly.

The averages flatter the risk: when Marks & Spencer was hit, it lost months of operations and most of a year's profit; Jaguar Land Rover took a five-week production halt and £1.9bn in costs. A single incident at the wrong asset, at the wrong point in the hold, does not dent a dashboard. It moves the exit. Mid-market funds carry this risk least protected. Only 12% set a formal cyber baseline across their portfolio companies, yet when an incident hits, 44% see valuation or exit price cut, and the exposure resurfaces at exit.

$2.1m

the average hit to a PE deal disrupted by a cyber attack, with one in eight exceeding $5m.

You are carrying portfolio-wide cyber risk with the least visibility of where it sits. The question is usually forced by an event: an incident or near-miss, an insurance renewal, or a regulatory deadline. The Hold-Period Cyber Baseline gives a clear, comparable read on posture, asset by asset, before the event finds you.

What it is

A fixed-fee cyber posture baseline across a portfolio company's estate. Claranet takes a full-organisation view – people and process as well as technology – assesses the company's key assets, its exposure, its existing defences and the gaps between them, measured against a consistent standard and aligned to recognised frameworks such as ISO 27005 and NIST. The depth flexes to the asset: a focused baseline for a smaller bolt-on, a deeper review for a complex or higher-risk platform, always against the same standard so the portfolio view stays comparable. It is a single offer, run during ownership as a hold-period baseline, not pre-deal diligence. The output is a posture the board can act on, with a prioritised plan to close the gaps.

What you get

A full organisation view

- Controls, processes and people
- Key assets and exposure
- Against a consistent standard

Assessment and risk rating

- Measure posture, asset by asset
- Rank exposures by business impact
- Compare like-for-like across assets

A board-ready baseline

- Risk-rated posture and heat map
- Priority exposures by business impact
- A prioritised remediation plan

How it works

Duration

Short and time-boxed, typically two to four weeks from kick-off to board-ready findings.

Fixed fee

A single fee up front, no open-ended scope.

Light footprint

A short kick-off, read access to the relevant security configuration and tooling, and a small number of focused sessions with the company's team.

Run by a senior operator

Led by Claranet cyber practitioners working from a 24/7 Security Operations Centre, not a checklist run by a junior assessor.

Why Claranet

- Claranet runs a 24/7 Security Operations Centre and is an NCSC-backed Cyber Essentials Certification Body. This is operational cyber, run every day, not advice on a slide.
- The difference is what sits beneath the baseline. Most firms assess you and leave. Claranet runs managed detection and response across the hold, which is what keeps the posture standing once the report is closed.
- Thirty years operating mid-market technology.

What comes next

A baseline is a point in time. Threats keep evolving, the estate keeps changing, and every bolt-on resets the picture, so a posture assessed once degrades without anyone watching it. Where it makes sense, the remediation plan is carried into Claranet's managed detection and response, which holds the posture and watches the estate across the hold. The baseline stands on its own. The managed service is how the protection, and the exit value it defends, is made durable.

The operator that closes the gap between the value creation plan and run-rate.
Claranet, the Portfolio Operator.

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