

The IT Audit Scoping Checklist

Twenty questions to work through before commissioning an IT audit. If you cannot answer one with confidence, that area belongs in the audit scope.

Cost and value

- ☐ **Do you know what your IT actually costs**, including licensing, hardware lifecycle and external providers, not just the line items you see each month?
- ☐ **Are software licences and hardware lifecycles actively managed**, or renewed by habit?
- ☐ **Do completed IT projects deliver the benefits that justified them**, and does anyone check?
- ☐ **Is there a clear view of technology and operational efficiency**, or does spend grow while service stays flat?

Risk and resilience

- ☐ **Could you state your organisation's cyber resilience position** to the board without qualification?
- ☐ **Do you know your single points of failure**, and what each would cost you in downtime?
- ☐ **Is your data recoverable, and has recovery actually been tested** rather than assumed?
- ☐ **Are infrastructure vulnerabilities and performance issues found proactively**, or when they become incidents?
- ☐ **Is operational risk owned and reviewed**, with maintenance done preventatively rather than reactively?

Alignment and strategy

- ☐ **Does the IT plan trace back to business goals**, or to whatever technology was already in place?
- ☐ **Can the business side explain what IT is working on and why?** Communication gaps are usually alignment gaps.
- ☐ **Is your architecture helping you move quickly**, or has it become the reason change is slow?
- ☐ **Is your data and digital readiness where your plans assume it is?**

People and process

- ☐ Are IT skills and resourcing levels right for what the organisation is asking of them?
- ☐ Are helpdesk service levels measured and acceptable to the people who depend on them?
- ☐ Is process maturity improving, and is there room for genuine technology innovation, or is everything keeping the lights on?
- ☐ Is documentation good enough that you are not dependent on any one person's memory?

Governance and oversight

- ☐ Is IT governance effective in practice, not just present on paper?
- ☐ Are policies complied with, and would you know if they were not?
- ☐ If an external provider runs your IT, who audits the provider? Their reporting is not independent assurance.

What to do with your answers

The questions you could not answer with confidence are your audit scope. Beyond Technology undertakes independent IT audits and reviews with **no products to sell and no vendor relationships**: the findings are the product. Call **1300 469 909** or visit **beyondtechnology.com.au** to talk it through with a consultant.