

Your

2026

IT Readiness Checklist



Security & Compliance

- ✓ **Update & Verify Protections**
 - Ensure security tools are current, configured correctly, and enforcing policies.
- ✓ **Review Patching Results**
 - Confirm all systems are fully patched and investigate devices that repeatedly fail.
- ✓ **Clear Outstanding Alerts**
 - Resolve open warnings and adjust alert thresholds so critical issues stand out.
- ✓ **Confirm Compliance Alignment**
 - Make sure documentation, policies, and controls match current regulatory needs.



Identity & Access Management

- ✓ **Remove Inactive Accounts**
 - Eliminate stale accounts that could expose systems to unnecessary risk.
- ✓ **Validate Permissions & Roles**
 - Ensure each user's access reflects their current responsibilities.
- ✓ **Check Password Policy Health**
 - Verify password rules promote strong security without creating friction.
- ✓ **Review Privileged Accounts**
 - Limit admin-level access and verify clear approval steps for elevated permissions.



Infrastructure Health

- ✓ **Check Firmware Versions**
 - Make sure firewalls, switches, and servers are running updated, stable firmware.
- ✓ **Review Patching Results**
 - Validate storage, processing power, and network throughput meet workload demands.
- ✓ **Inspect End-of-Life Hardware**
 - Identify aging systems that frequently fail and plan replacements proactively.
- ✓ **Assess Network Performance**
 - Look for repeated slowdowns or errors in logs and analytics.



Backups & Business Continuity

- ✓ **Validate Backup Success**
 - Confirm backups run on schedule and there are no missing data sets.
- ✓ **Test Restore Procedures**
 - Perform trial recoveries to ensure fast, accurate restoration.
- ✓ **Confirm Offsite Copies**
 - Verify backups exist safely offsite or in redundant cloud environments.
- ✓ **Update Continuity Plans**
 - Align your continuity and response plans with current business operations.





Endpoint Hygiene

- ✓ **Check Patching & Protections**
 - Make sure all endpoints show healthy patch and antivirus status.
- ✓ **Identify Non-Standard Devices**
 - Remove outdated or unsupported machines that increase instability.
- ✓ **Validate Build Standards**
 - Ensure standardized imaging or build processes are consistently used.
- ✓ **Remove Unauthorized Software**
 - Identify and eliminate unapproved tools that create security gaps.



Vendor & Licensing Oversight

- ✓ **Review Active Licenses**
 - Confirm each active license matches actual usage to avoid waste.
- ✓ **Audit Unused Tools**
 - Remove redundant or unused software to cut cost and complexity.
- ✓ **Check Renewal Dates**
 - Prevent lapses by reviewing upcoming renewals early.
- ✓ **Identify Overlapping Tools**
 - Look for duplicate services and consolidate where possible.



Monitoring & Automation

- ✓ **Tune Alert Thresholds**
 - Adjust alerts so only high-value, actionable events get attention.
- ✓ **Improve Alert Quality**
 - Remove irrelevant or duplicate alerts that contribute to fatigue.
- ✓ **Validate Automated Tasks**
 - Ensure patching, backup, and maintenance automations run without errors.
- ✓ **Expand Automation Opportunities**
 - Identify repetitive tasks that could be automated to free up time.



Documentation & Support Processes

- ✓ **Update Technical Documentation**
 - Refresh diagrams, asset lists, and technical notes to reflect actual systems.
- ✓ **Review Onboarding Guides**
 - Ensure new users can get started quickly with accurate, updated steps.
- ✓ **Audit Support Playbooks**
 - Remove outdated procedures and align playbooks with current tools.
- ✓ **Ensure Ease of Access**
 - Store documentation in a clear, organized location the whole team can use.

A steady new year begins with strong systems. If you need support reviewing any of these areas, connect with CorSystems. Our team can help you make 2026 predictable and secure.



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