

The 7-Point Cybersecurity Risk Checklist

EVERY ORGANISATION SHOULD RUN IN 30 MINUTES

Introduction

Is your organisation cyber-secure? Run this 7-point risk check before a breach does it for you. This checklist is designed to provide a rapid assessment of your organisation's cybersecurity posture.

How to Use This Checklist

- **Designed for:** Business owners, directors, board members, operations managers, and IT/admin staff.
- **Time Required:** 30 minutes.
- **Instructions:** Be honest with your answers. If unsure, treat the item as a risk. Complete each section and note the number of raised concerns to derive a final risk summary.

1. Email & Phishing Risk

Email is the number one entry point for cyber attacks.

Check all that apply:

- Staff use strong, unique passwords for email accounts
- Two-factor authentication (2FA) is enabled on email
- Staff are trained to recognise phishing and suspicious links
- No shared email passwords across staff
- Suspicious emails are reported, not ignored

Risk Indicator: If 2 or more boxes are unchecked → **High Risk**

2. Data Storage & Access Control

Sensitive data is valuable—to you and attackers.

- Sensitive data (client, staff, financial) is clearly identified
- Access to sensitive data is limited to authorised staff only
- Former employees no longer have system access

- Data is not stored on personal devices without approval
- Cloud storage access is properly controlled

Risk Indicator: Uncontrolled access = **Immediate Risk**

3. Website & Online Systems Security

Your website is a public-facing attack surface.

- Website uses HTTPS (secure lock icon)
- Software, plugins, and CMS are up to date
- Website admin access is restricted
- Backups are taken regularly
- Hosting provider offers security monitoring

Risk Indicator: Outdated systems = **High Breach Probability**

4. Device & Network Security

Every laptop, phone, and router matters.

- Work devices require passwords or biometric locks
- Antivirus or endpoint protection is installed
- Devices are updated regularly
- Public Wi-Fi usage is restricted or secured
- Lost or stolen devices can be remotely locked or wiped

Risk Indicator: Unprotected devices = **Silent Exposure**

5. Backup & Incident Preparedness

Security is not just prevention—it's recovery.

- Critical data is backed up regularly
- Backups are stored securely and separately
- Someone knows what to do during a cyber incident
- Incident response contacts are defined
- Downtime risks are understood

Risk Indicator: No backup plan = **Business disruption risk**

6. Staff Awareness & Human Risk

People are your strongest—and weakest—link.

- Staff have received basic cybersecurity awareness training
- Password sharing is discouraged
- Clear IT and security policies exist
- Staff understand data protection responsibilities
- Cybersecurity is discussed beyond IT teams

Risk Indicator: Untrained staff = **High likelihood of breach**

7. Governance, Compliance & Oversight

Cybersecurity is a management responsibility, not just IT.

- Leadership understands cybersecurity risks
- Policies exist and are enforced
- Regulatory requirements are known
- Third-party risks are considered
- Cybersecurity is reviewed periodically

Risk Indicator: No oversight = **Strategic exposure**

Risk Summary

Count how many sections raised concern:

- **0–1 risks:** Low risk (maintain controls)
- **2–3 risks:** Medium risk (action required)
- **4+ risks:** High risk (professional assessment recommended)

This summary provides a high-level indication of your organisation's cybersecurity risk level.

What This Checklist Does—and Doesn't—Do

- ✓ Helps you **identify risk areas quickly**
- ✓ Creates awareness and clarity
- ✓ Supports informed decision-making

- ✗ Does not replace a professional cybersecurity assessment
- ✗ Does not fix vulnerabilities automatically

Next Steps

If your results show **medium to high risk**, the next step is **professional review and remediation**.

A structured cybersecurity assessment will:

- Identify hidden vulnerabilities
- Prioritise risks
- Provide clear, actionable recommendations

About Retis Systems

Retis Systems provides **cybersecurity consulting, risk assessments, vulnerability testing, secure software development, and capacity building** for organisations that value security, compliance, and resilience.

Want a Professional Review?

If you'd like a cybersecurity expert to review your checklist results and advise on next steps, you can book a short consultation.

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