

Data Protection Audit Checklist

A comprehensive quarterly review framework for small to medium businesses and nonprofit organizations to maintain robust data security practices and ensure compliance.

QUARTERLY REVIEW

AUDIT-READY



Data Inventory & Classification Audit

1

Catalog All Data Assets

- Document all databases, file systems, and cloud storage locations
- Identify data owners and custodians for each asset
- Record data retention periods and legal requirements

2

Classify Information Sensitivity

- Label data as Public, Internal, Confidential, or Restricted
- Review personally identifiable information (PII) holdings
- Assess financial and protected health information (PHI)

3

Verify Access Controls

- Audit user permissions and role-based access
- Remove access for departed employees
- Confirm principle of least privilege implementation

4

Document Compliance Status

- Review relevant regulations (GDPR, HIPAA, CCPA)
- Update data processing agreements
- Maintain audit trail documentation



Encryption & Storage Security Audit

Encryption Standards Review

- **Data at Rest**

Verify full-disk encryption on all devices, database encryption, and encrypted file systems using AES-256 or equivalent standards.

- **Data in Transit**

Confirm TLS 1.2+ for all communications, secure email protocols, and VPN usage for remote access.

- **Key Management**

Audit encryption key rotation schedules, secure key storage solutions, and access logs for cryptographic materials.

Storage Infrastructure Audit

- **Physical Security**

Review server room access controls, environmental monitoring systems, and hardware disposal procedures.

- **Cloud Storage**

Verify vendor security certifications, review data residency settings, and audit shared responsibility models.

- **Endpoint Protection**

Confirm mobile device encryption, remote wipe capabilities, and secure configuration baselines.

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