

The 2026 Business IT Readiness Checklist



Is your business protected or exposed?

Most cyber incidents, downtime, and compliance failures happen because of missed basics.

Use this simple checklist to quickly assess whether your IT environment meets 2026 security and stability standards. If you can't confidently check a box, it may signal hidden risk.



Section 1: Must-Have IT Security Foundations

(Every business—no exception)

☐ **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Enabled**

Email, cloud apps, banking, and remote access are protected beyond passwords.

☐ **Reliable & Tested Backups (3-2-1 Rule)**

Your data is backed up securely, stored off-site, and recovery is regularly tested.

☐ **Automatic Security Updates & Patching**

Systems and applications are updated automatically to close known vulnerabilities.

☐ **Enterprise-Grade Endpoint Protection (EDR)**

All company devices are protected with advanced threat detection—not basic antivirus.

☐ **Employee Security Awareness Training**

Staff are trained to recognize phishing and cyber threats at least twice per year.

Section 2: Industry-Specific Risk Checks

(Where many businesses fail audits)

Manufacturing

☐ Production and office networks are separated

☐ A plan exists for internet or system outages

Healthcare

☐ Patient data is encrypted at rest and in transit

☐ A HIPAA Risk Assessment was completed in the last 12 months

Finance & Accounting

☐ Wire transfers require verbal verification

☐ Client files are shared via secure portals—not email

Insurance

☐ A documented Incident Response Plan exists

☐ Breach recovery and notification steps are defined

Your Results

✓ All boxes checked?

You're ahead of over 90% of small businesses.

⚠ Missed a few?

That's normal—and exactly where costly problems begin.

Next Step: Free IT Gap Analysis

Don't guess whether your business is secure or compliant.

MG Computer helps Chicago businesses uncover risks, close gaps, and stay protected—without unnecessary complexity.

Schedule your FREE IT Gap Analysis: 630-967-2009

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