

BEFORE 2027

The end-of-year security checklist

10 checks to complete before next year's budget is set.

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|-----------|---|------------|--------------------------|
| 01 | Close every MFA gap
Remove "temporary" exclusions that became permanent | IDENTITY | ☐ |
| 02 | Review admin rights and leavers
Nobody who left this year should still have access | IDENTITY | ☐ |
| 03 | Run phishing awareness training
Include the board, as NIS2 expects | PEOPLE | ☐ |
| 04 | Scan your public IPs and URLs
See what an attacker sees from the internet | EXPOSURE | ☐ |
| 05 | Patch or retire unsupported systems
Fix what the scan finds, starting with the oldest systems | EXPOSURE | ☐ |
| 06 | Monitor your security logs 24×7
Know who sees the 3am alert, and acts on it | DETECTION | ☐ |
| 07 | Test a full restore from backup
Keep a copy off your main network | RECOVERY | ☐ |
| 08 | Rehearse your incident response plan
Walk through it with the people named in it | RESPONSE | ☐ |
| 09 | Get control of AI use
List every AI tool and agent, and limit the data they can reach | AI | ☐ |
| 10 | Book your annual penetration test
NIS2, DORA and ISO 27001 expect proof of testing | GOVERNANCE | ☐ |