

Quick self-check: are hidden costs hitting you?

Run through this. The more boxes you can't tick, the more money is probably walking out the door unnoticed.

01 Visibility & control

- ☐ You have a current inventory of every software and SaaS tool in use
- ☐ You know who's using what, and why
- ☐ You're tracking unused or redundant licenses

02 Downtime & performance

- ☐ Systems are monitored around the clock
- ☐ You know your typical downtime per month
- ☐ You have a disaster-recovery plan that is regularly tested

03 Security

- ☐ Devices and systems are patched on a schedule
- ☐ MFA and access controls are enforced on anything critical
- ☐ You have a way to see vulnerabilities before attackers do

04 Strategy

- ☐ Your IT approach is proactive, not reactive
- ☐ You get regular reporting on system health and risk
- ☐ IT spending is tied to business goals, not just kept alive

05 Team productivity

- ☐ Staff aren't routinely complaining about slow or flaky systems
- ☐ Helpdesk tickets are trending down, not up
- ☐ Small problems get solved in hours, not days

06 Reading your results

- ☐ Mostly ticked – you're in good shape, with room to optimize.
- ☐ Mixed – hidden costs are likely already affecting you.
- ☐ Mostly blank – you're almost certainly losing budget to things you can't currently see.

Hidden IT costs don't announce themselves. They arrive as a slightly-too-high invoice, a slow morning, a tool you forgot you were paying for. Individually they're easy to ignore. Together, over a year, they're **real money and real risk**.