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Technology Benchmark Report for StackUp Sample Assessment



Welcome to your StackUp Benchmark Report

StackUp is a cutting-edge platform designed to help tech leaders and C-level executives benchmark their entire technology function against industry best practices and peers.

By undertaking this health check, you gain valuable insights into your current technology landscape, identify areas for improvement, and align your technology strategy with organisational objectives.

This report provides a snapshot of your technology function, highlighting key strengths and potential weaknesses. Leveraging these insights, you can make informed decisions to optimise performance and stay ahead in a rapidly evolving industry. This report draws upon the information provided on Tuesday, 28 January 2025 21:21 (UTC) by:

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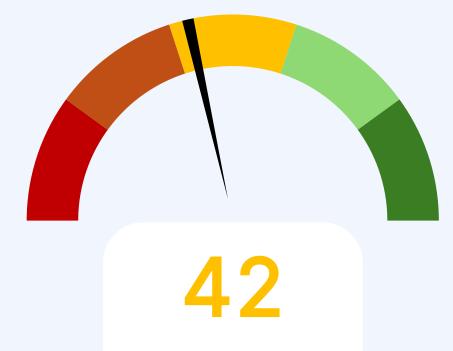
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Table of Contents

Your StackUp Score	3
Key Priorities Demanding Attention	4
Notable Top Performing Areas	5
How We Calculate Your Score	6
About Your Organisation	7
About Your Technology Function	8
Innovation and Strategy	9
Staff and Training	11
Cloud and Network	12
Data Security and Privacy	13
Policies and Procedures	15
Risk Management	17
Vendor Management	19
Technology Performance	20

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Your StackUp Score and Rating



Average

Your technology function is meeting basic operational requirements.

However, you may lack the depth or optimisation needed for peak performance.

There are several areas where improvements are necessary to strengthen your overall technology health.

Your technology is adequate for current operations but may struggle to support future growth or adapt to changing business needs.

Resubmit Anytime

To see how your improvements have boosted your score and levelled up your performance

Independent CIO/CTO Verification and Insights

Find out more - https://stackup.tech

Key Priorities Demanding Attention

Is there a documented strategy aligning technology with your organisations objectives?

Answer: No

This strategy document should articulate how you are aligning your technology objectives with broader organisational goals. Rather than being a detailed plan, it serves as a guiding framework that connects your technology initiatives to the key outcomes that drive the success of the organisation.

Are regular (at least monthly) status reports produced for ongoing technology projects?

Answer: No

Regular reporting is crucial for tracking performance and making informed decisions. This is even more critical for major initiatives, like digital transformation or AI implementation, to ensure they are effectively integrated and contribute to broader objectives.

How do you dispose of equipment that contains data?

Answer: No wipe/destruction or don't know

Proper disposal of equipment ensures that sensitive data is securely erased to prevent unauthorised access.

Do you allow users to have local administrator access on their devices?

Answer: Full access for all users or don't know

Allowing users local administrator access can provide flexibility but also increases security risks.

What are the three biggest challenges you currently face a leader?

Al and proliferation of shadow IT Adequate Talent Cost pressures



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Notable Top Performing Areas

Does your organisation maintain a risk register which is reviewed regularly and includes all elements pertaining to the technology framework – people, processes and systems?

Answer: Yes, fully implemented

Regularly reviewing the risk register helps manage and mitigate potential risks across your technology framework.

How often is your information security policy reviewed?

Answer: Quarterly

Regular reviews ensure the policy remains current and effective.

Does your organisation employ endpoint protection across your assets?

Answer: Yes, fully implemented

Endpoint protection safeguards devices like laptops, desktops, and mobiles from malware and security threats. It acts as a key defence by detecting and mitigating vulnerabilities before they compromise data or disrupt operations.

Do you utilise multi factor authentication for software used by your organisation (where available)?

Answer: Yes, fully implemented

Multi-factor authentication enhances security by requiring multiple verification steps.

Independent CIO/CTO Verification and Insights - Find out more at https://stackup.tech

What are the three biggest successes you have achieved in the past 12 months

Developing a Cloud COE driving business outcomes rather than a cost centre Achieving 99.95% availability for core services across the business resulting in increased CX and revenue Data governance and strategy to build datalake and models to explore upsell across the group

How We Calculate Your Score

StackUp's scoring mechanism is founded on the extensive expertise of co-founder Andy Graham, who brings 25 years of experience in due diligence, M&A activity, and senior technology leadership across a diverse range of businesses.

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This background, combined with his deep understanding of technology, drives our benchmarking process, which evaluates an organisation's technology maturity against industry best practices.

Our scoring, out of 100, integrates a risk profile and considers the presence of key initiatives such as digital transformation. This approach provides technology leaders and executives with a clear, actionable roadmap for continuous improvement and optimising technology performance.

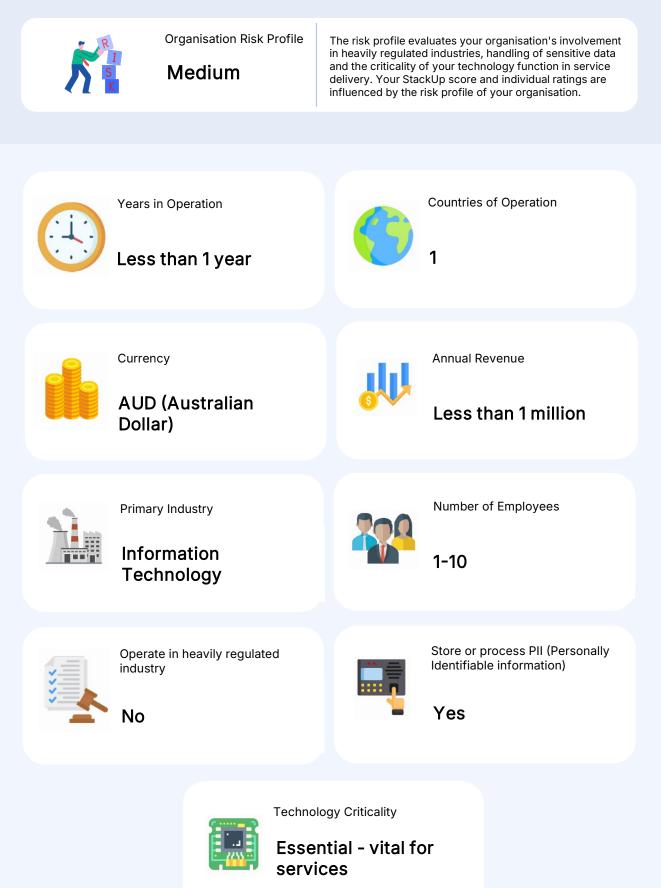


The StackUp Rating Scale

_	At Risk	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
					StackUp Certified
Excellent (StackUp Certified)	e. ro te si	xceptional level. Yo obust but also aligne echnology function i uccess. Your techno	ur systems, process ed with industry bes is well-optimised, hi	es, and securit t practices. This ghly secure, an abler of innovat	y function is operating at an y measures are not only s rating signifies that your d a key driver of business ion and growth, and you are
Good	pl ov ef	ace and effectively verall technology he	managed. While the	ere are some are chnology supp	systems and processes in eas for improvement, your orts your business needs nd enhance your
Average	m ar he	ay lack the depth of eas where improve ealth. Your technolo	r optimisation neede ments are necessar	ed for peak perf y to strengthen surrent operatio	equirements. However, you ormance. There are several your overall technology ns but may struggle to eds.
Poor	pr ar re	rocesses, or securit nd inefficiencies, aff	y. These deficiencie	s could expose ess performanc	significant gaps in systems, your organisation to risks ce. Immediate attention is tential risks to your
At Risk	st se te ris	ate. There are majo atup poses a serious chnology function is	r issues across mult s threat to the stabil	iple areas, and ty and success forming, putting	function is in a vulnerable your current technology of your organisation. Your y your business at significant y strategy and



About Your Organisation



Private & Confidential



About Your Technology Function

Question	Answer	Rating	Explanation
How many people, including employees and contractors, are dedicated to technology roles within your organisation?	Less than 5	Not Rated	Please count full-time and part-time employees, and contractors who work a significant portion of their time in the organisation. For example, two part-time employees working half-time each equa one FTE.
			i For benchmarking
			Please include all operating and capital expenses related to hardware, software, communications, IT services, and any technology-related support or maintenance.
What is your approximate annual spend on technology?	Less than 100,000	Not Rated	Consider only the external costs incurred during the last financial year, including payments to contractors, and exclude employee salaries and other internal costs. If you do not know the exact amount, please provide an estimate.
			For benchmarkin
Do you have direct involvement in preparing the technology budget?		Excellent	Clear alignment between budgeting and strategy is key for effective resource management and long-term success.
			Why it matters
What percentage of your technology budget is allocated to innovation versus business as usual?	Mostly innovation (more than 75%)	Not Rated	Understanding this allocation helps us assess your organisation's focus on growth and improvement versus maintaining existing systems.
			i For benchmarkin



Innovation and Strategy

High performing organisations have clear alignment of technology with organisational objectives via a documented strategy, detailed roadmaps, and frequent status reporting to track progress. They leverage advanced tools, and have robust processes to manage scope, budget and timelines enabling them to adapt as they create a competitive advantage and achieve their long term growth goals.

Answer	Rating	Explanation
Yes	Not Rated	This question assesses whether your organisation is currently engaged in major digital transformation initiatives to strategically enhance operations, improve efficiencies, or drive innovation.
Yes	Not Rated	This question evaluates whether your organisation is strategically integrating AI technologies at scale to enhance operations or drive product innovation Understanding this enables us to offer insights on effectively leveraging AI.
Automating routine tasks and processes Enhancing data analytics and decision-making Improving customer service through chatbots or virtual assistants	Not Rated	This question seeks details on the specific ways A is being utilised within your organisation. Multiple options can help identify areas of AI application and its impact on your operations.
		i For benchmarkin
No	At Risk	This strategy document should articulate how you are aligning your technology objectives with broader organisational goals. Rather than being a detailed plan, it serves as a guiding framework that connects your technology initiatives to the key outcomes that drive the success of the organisation. Why it matters
Yes	Not Rated	This question determines if your technology strategy accounts for the adoption and integratior of emerging technologies, such as blockchain and quantum computing.
	Yes Yes Yes Automating routine tasks and processes Enhancing data analytics and decision-making Improving customer service through chatbots or virtual assistants	YesNot RatedYesNot RatedYesNot RatedAutomating routine tasks and processes Enhancing data analytics and decision-making Improving customer service through chatbots or virtual assistantsNoAt Risk

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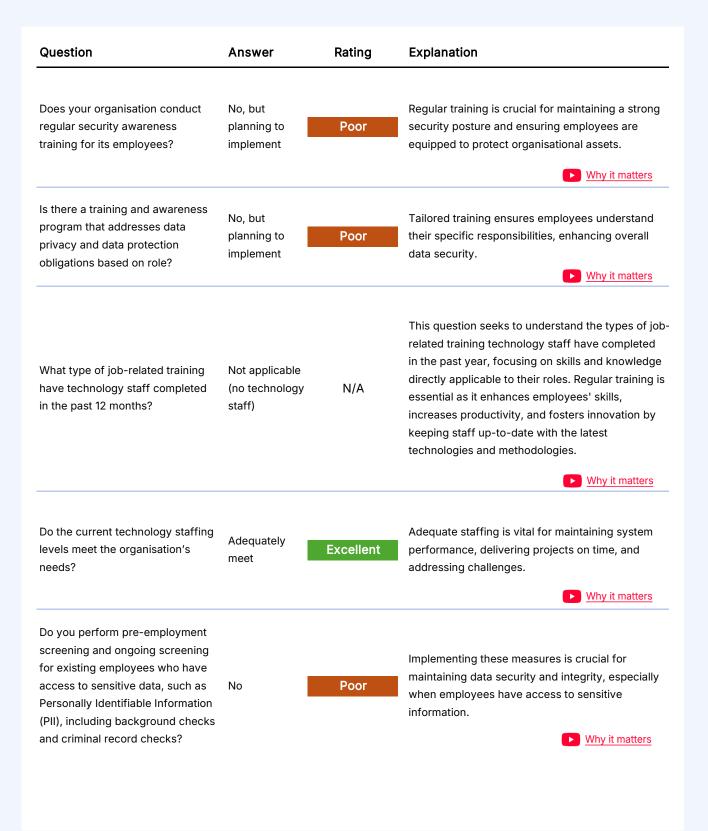
Innovation and Strategy

Question	Answer	Rating	Explanation
Does your technology function have a documented project roadmap?	Yes	Excellent	Project roadmaps ensure efforts are well- organised and aligned with key objectives, which is vital when managing complex initiatives such as digital transformation or Al implementation. Strategic direction is key to successful integration and achieving broader goals. Why it matters
Are regular (at least monthly) status reports produced for ongoing technology projects?	No	At Risk	Regular reporting is crucial for tracking performance and making informed decisions. This is even more critical for major initiatives, like digital transformation or Al implementation, to ensure they are effectively integrated and contribute to broader objectives. Why it matters
What role does the technology function play in driving your organisations innovation?	Limited involvement	Average	Understanding this helps evaluate the strategic role of technology in driving innovation and ensuring it supports your organisation's growth and competitive advantage.
Do you currently face challenges with projects going off track in terms of budget, scope, or timing?	No, rarely	Not Rated	Understanding these challenges allows us to benchmark your organisation's project management practices against industry standards.
Which programming languages are predominantly used in your technology function? (Select all that apply)	Python JavaScript/Typ eScript PHP	Not Rated	This question allows us to benchmark the primary programming languages used by your technology team, providing insights into your development environment and overall capabilities.
			U
What collaboration tools are used by your organisation?	Microsoft 365	Not Rated	Understanding your collaboration tools helps us provide accurate benchmarking against industry standards and best practices.



Staff and Training

High performing organisations have a team at the right size, and with the right knowledge and skills to succeed. They have preemployment and ongoing screening for team members handling sensitive data. Regular security awareness and role-specific data privacy training, and ongoing professional development supports a skilled, motivated workforce, and a resilient, high performance organisation.





Cloud and Network

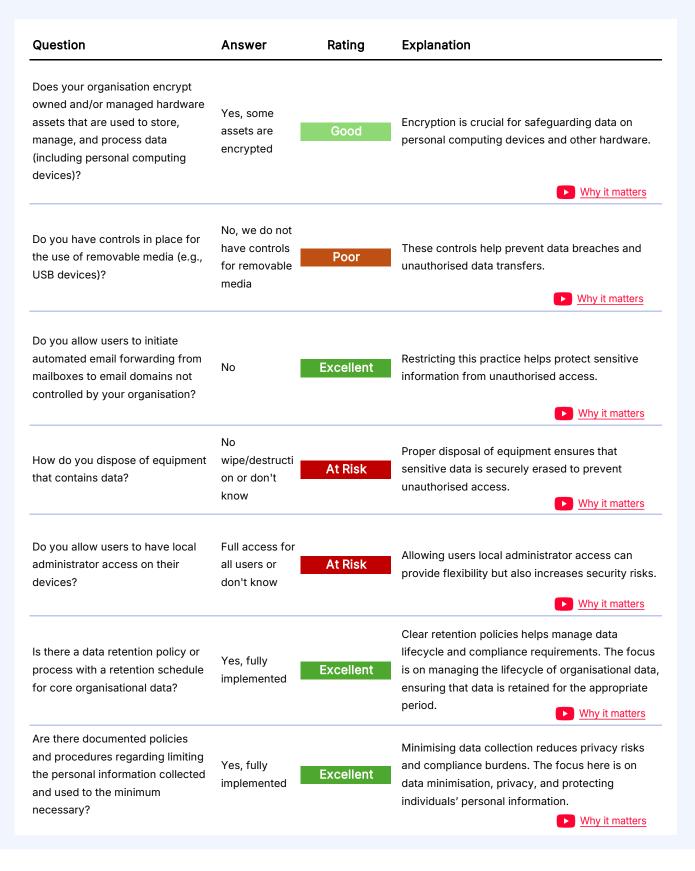
High performing organisations ensure continuous network availability and effectively balance the use of public, private, and onpremise infrastructure. They manage risks and dependencies, and have a clear inventory of SaaS solutions to optimize costs and security. They have robust perimeter security to defend against external threats and anticipate and address outages or security breaches to achieve reliable, secure, and cost-effective operations.

Question	Answer	Rating	Explanation
Does your technology function utilise public or private cloud services, and if so, to what extent are these services used compared to on-premises solutions?	Extensive use of cloud services (more than 75% of overall infrastructure)	Not Rated	Understanding the extent to which your technology function utilises public or private cloud services compared to on-premises solutions is crucial, as it directly impacts the need for robust network infrastructure.
If you manage a private network, do you have redundant lines/capability in place to handle an outage with the primary provider?	Not applicable (no private network)	N/A	Redundant lines are crucial for maintaining network reliability and business continuity, particularly when your organisation relies heavily on cloud services. They ensure uninterrupted connectivity, preventing downtime and financial loss by allowing seamless failover during outages. Why it matters
Does your organisation maintain a central catalogue or repository listing all SaaS (Software as a Service) solutions currently in use?	Yes	Excellent	Knowing this is vital for managing subscriptions, ensuring security and resilience, optimising costs and efficiency.
Does your organisation detect and prevent intrusions on the perimeter?	Not applicable (no network in place)	N/A	Strong perimeter security is essential for protecting technology infrastructure from external threats.
How is your technology budget allocated between cloud and on- premise solutions?	Mostly cloud	Not Rated	Understanding this helps evaluate strategic investments and resource management in support of organisational goals. () For benchmarking



Data Security and Privacy

High performing organisations implement comprehensive data security and privacy measures to protect sensitive information. They establish clear policies, employ advanced encryption technologies, and regularly audit their systems to ensure compliance with regulations. These organisations proactively address potential vulnerabilities and are equipped to respond swiftly to any breaches, ensuring the integrity and confidentiality of their data.





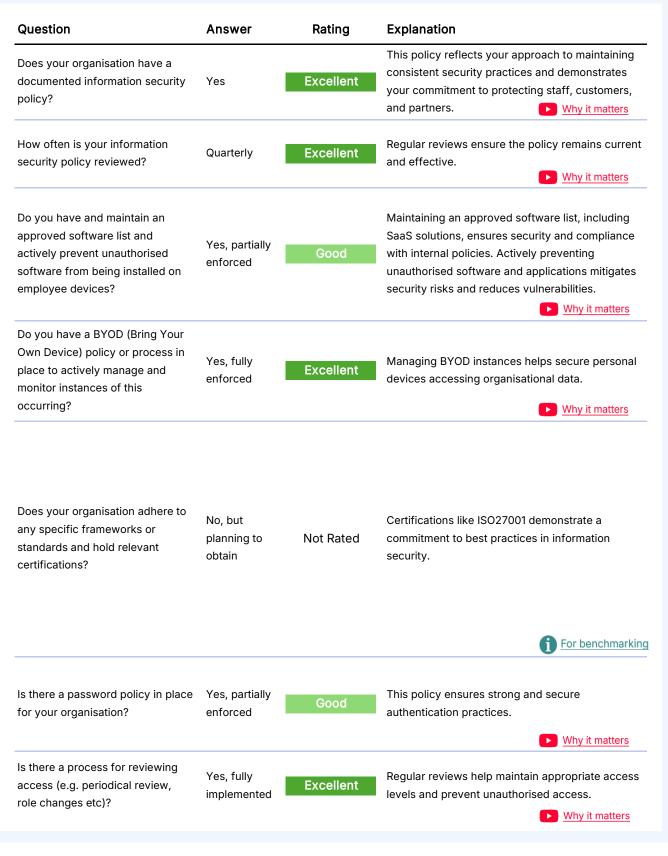
Data Security and Privacy

Question	Answer	Rating	Explanation
Does your organisation have a data classification policy?	No, but planning to implement	Poor	This policy helps to ensure appropriate handling and protection of different data types.
Do you utilise multi factor authentication for software used by your organisation (where available)?	Yes, fully implemented	Excellent	Multi-factor authentication enhances security by requiring multiple verification steps.
Does your organisation employ endpoint protection across your assets?	Yes, fully implemented	Excellent	Endpoint protection safeguards devices like laptops, desktops, and mobiles from malware and security threats. It acts as a key defence by detecting and mitigating vulnerabilities before they compromise data or disrupt operations.
Does your endpoint protection continuously monitor your organisations assets, have automated updates, and detection tools reporting to one central management console?	No, but planning to implement	Poor	This centralised approach enhances visibility and response efficiency, reducing the risk of security breaches and ensuring consistent protection.
Is data in the development and/or test environment masked/anonymised or pseudonymised?	N/A (no software development or no production data in test/dev)	N/A	Masking data protects it from unauthorised access during testing.
Is core data backed up and stored in a different location to production data?	Yes, fully implemented	Excellent	Offsite backups ensure data recovery in case of primary data loss.



Policies and Procedures

High performing organisations have well-documented and consistently updated policies and procedures that align with their strategic goals. These guide operational processes and ensure compliance with industry standards and regulations. By regularly reviewing and refining these policies, they maintain operational efficiency and uphold the organisation's integrity.



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Policies and Procedures

Question	Answer	Rating	Explanation
Are development, test, and staging environment separate from the production environment?	Not applicable	N/A	Segregating environments prevents development issues from impacting live systems.
Is there a policy or process for the backup of production data?	Yes, fully implemented	Excellent	This policy ensures data can be recovered in case of loss or corruption.
Do you operate a Security Operations Centre (SOC) (either internally or using a third party)?	Not applicable (no environment to monitor)	N/A	Security Operations Centres (SOCs) monitor and respond to security incidents, strengthening your overall security posture.
Is there a documented change management policy?	Yes, fully implemented	Excellent	This policy ensures that changes are systematically planned, reviewed, and implemented, minimising risks and maintaining the stability of systems and processes. <u>Why it matters</u>
Do you have a segregation of duties policy in place for making changes to production systems?	Not applicable	N/A	Segregating duties reduces the risk of errors and fraudulent activities.
Are all systems and applications patched regularly?	Yes, partially implemented	Good	Regular patching mitigates vulnerabilities and enhances security.
Do you have a documented onboarding and offboarding process for new and existing employees/contractors?	Yes, partially implemented	Good	Proper processes ensure smooth transitions and secure access management.
How does your organisation ensure secure software development (even if outsourced)?	Not applicable (no software development)	N/A	Ensuring secure development practices reduces the risk of vulnerabilities in your software. <u>Why it matters</u>



Risk Management

High performing organisations actively identify, assess, and mitigate risks through a structured risk management framework. They have clear contingency plans and regularly monitor for emerging risks. This proactive approach helps them minimise disruptions and maintain stability while pursuing their strategic objectives.

Question	Answer	Rating	Explanation
Does your organisation have a Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) in place?	Yes	Excellent	This plan ensures that your IT systems and data can be restored swiftly and effectively. Why it matters
Does your organisation test aspects of its Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) regularly?	Yes, but not regularly	Good	Regular testing ensures the plan's effectiveness in a real-world scenario.
Does your organisation have a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) in place?	Yes	Excellent	The Business Continuity Plan (BCP) outlines strategies and procedures to ensure that essential functions can continue during and after a significant disruption. Unlike a Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP), a BCP addresses the broader scope of operations.
Has your Business Continuity Plan (BCP) been tested or enacted in the last six months?	No testing undertaken	At Risk	Regular testing ensures the plan's effectiveness in a real-world scenario.
Does your technology function undergo independent external audits?	Quarterly	Excellent	Independent audits help validate the effectiveness of your processes and controls.
Does your organisation have cyber insurance?	No, but planning to obtain	Poor	Cyber insurance provides financial protection in the event of a cyber incident.
Does your organisation maintain a risk register which is reviewed regularly and includes all elements pertaining to the technology framework – people, processes and systems?	Yes, fully implemented	Excellent	Regularly reviewing the risk register helps manage and mitigate potential risks across your technology framework.
Is there a person or team managing third-party risk issues like information security and privacy?	Yes	Excellent	 Why it matters Effective third-party risk management ensures that external partners comply with your security and privacy standards. Why it matters



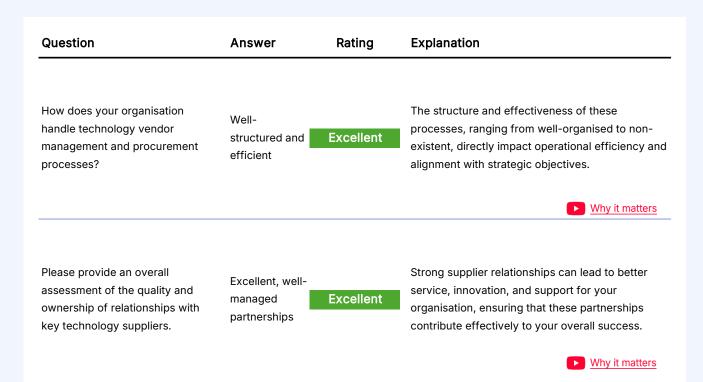
Risk Management

Question	Answer	Rating	Explanation
Is there a formal incident response plan that includes an escalation procedure?	Yes	Excellent	This plan ensures swift and effective responses to technology related incidents.
Does your organisation have processes and agreements with critical third-party providers for immediate notification of service disruptions?	Yes	Excellent	These agreements help ensure prompt action to mitigate the impact of service interruptions.
How does your technology function facilitate remote or hybrid work environments?	Minimal support, relying on basic tools	Average	Effective facilitation of these environments is crucial for maintaining productivity and security.
Has your organisation had an external penetration test in the last 12 months?	Not applicable (no applications to test)	N/A	Penetration testing identifies vulnerabilities and helps strengthen your security defences. <u>Why it matters</u>
Does your organisation continuously assess and identify vulnerabilities within your environment?	Not applicable (no environment to test)	N/A	Continuous assessment is essential for maintaining a secure environment and preventing breaches. Why it matters



Vendor Management

High performing organisations manage vendor relationships strategically, ensuring that vendors meet the organisation's performance and security standards. They regularly evaluate vendor performance, negotiate favourable terms, and maintain open communication channels to mitigate risks and optimise costs, thereby enhancing overall organisational performance.





Technology Performance

High performing organisations continuously monitor and evaluate their technology stack to ensure it meets performance benchmarks. They leverage advanced analytics to identify inefficiencies, optimise system performance, and ensure that technology investments deliver maximum value. This focus on performance drives innovation and supports the organisation's long-term goals.

Question	Answer	Rating	Explanation
How does your technology function measure and report on service delivery and performance metrics?	Extensively and regularly	Excellent	Effective measurement and reporting are crucial for tracking performance, ensuring accountability, and driving continuous improvement. These practices help align technology services with organisational goals and enhance overall service quality.
How often are users laptops/desktops replaced?	Not applicable (all BYOD)	Not Rated	Regular replacement cycles help maintain performance, security, and user satisfaction. i For benchmarking
What level of automation is integrated into technology operations?	High (extensive use of automation)	Excellent	Higher levels of automation can lead to increased efficiency, consistency, and reduced manual errors, enhancing overall operational effectiveness.
What mechanisms are in place to gather feedback from technology service users?	Not applicable (no internal technology service users)	N/A	Effective feedback mechanisms are essential for continuous improvement and user satisfaction, helping to refine and optimise technology services.

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End of Report

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