

Essential Eight Readiness Checklist

Use this checklist to align Essential Eight planning with operational delivery before your next risk, audit, or board update.

1) Scope And Governance

- Is scope explicit for users, endpoints, identities, servers, and cloud workloads?
- Are control owners named for every mitigation area, not only project workstreams?
- Are accepted risks documented with owner, rationale, and review date?

2) Application Control And Hardening

- Is application allowlisting or equivalent control defined for critical systems?
- Are macro controls and user application settings enforced with exception governance?
- Are high-risk local admin pathways mapped and reduced with clear timelines?

3) Patch Discipline

- Are operating system and application patch cadences documented by criticality tier?
- Are emergency patch pathways tested and owned for severe vulnerabilities?
- Can teams show patch compliance evidence by asset group and business owner?

4) Identity And Privileged Access

- Is MFA enforced for privileged accounts and high-risk workflows?
- Are privileged access reviews run on a fixed cadence with dated outcomes?
- Is least-privilege posture measured and exceptions actively retired?

5) Email And User Attack Surface

- Are phishing, attachment, and link protections configured to risk appetite?
- Are user controls and policy updates tied to real incident learnings?
- Is mailbox and tenant recovery integrated with incident response plans?

6) Backups And Recovery Evidence

- Are immutable backups implemented for critical data and core systems?
- Are restore tests performed and recorded with pass or fail outcomes?
- Can teams recover identity, collaboration, and core business systems in sequence?

7) Operational Integration

- Do service desk, infrastructure, and security teams operate a shared control cadence?
- Are control changes tracked through normal change management processes?
- Are monthly or quarterly reports suitable for leadership and risk stakeholders?

8) Improvement Loop

- Is there a planned review rhythm to reassess maturity and drift?
- Are lessons from incidents, audits, and near misses converted into action items?
- Can leaders explain current posture, next priorities, and residual risk in plain language?

If you want Trucell to run this checklist against your environment, book an Essential Eight scoped planning call from the Essential Eight page.