Are Your Vendors Quietly Becoming Your Biggest Cyber Risk?

You can outsource operations, but not accountability. Most security programs stop at the firewall, overlooking the many vendors, platforms, and providers connected to their systems. This checklist helps you understand how exposed you might be through your third-party relationships and what you may be missing if vendor risk is not actively managed.

Would You Know If a Vendor Breach Affected You?

Check all that apply. The more you leave blank, the more likely risk is hiding outside your walls.

- ☐ **You maintain an active list of your third-party vendors.**
  It does not have to be perfect, but if you do not know who is connected, you certainly do not know what they can access.

- ☐ **You assess the security posture of vendors before working with them.**
  Do they meet your standards, or only claim they do?

- ☐ **You monitor vendors after onboarding, not just during procurement.**
  Risk does not end once the contract is signed. Visibility should continue throughout the entire relationship.

- ☐ **You're aware of any recent breaches or incidents involving your vendors.**
  Not hearing anything ≠ no news. Vendors don't always disclose, and most incidents happen off your radar.

- ☐ **You've mapped what data or access each vendor has.**
  If you don't know what they can touch, you can't measure the blast radius if something goes wrong.

- ☐ **You include third-party exposure in your threat modeling.**
  Your attack surface extends to your partners, whether or not they appear in your network diagram.

- ☐ **You've had to respond to a vendor-related incident before.**
  If it's already happened, you know how messy it gets. If it hasn't, you might just be lucky.

- ☐ **Your execs or board understand supply chain risk.**
  If leadership assumes vendors are "their problem," you've got a visibility gap at the top.

What This Means

If you left several of these unchecked, your organization's true risk surface may be much larger than it appears. Third-party risk is quiet, persistent, and increasingly the way breaches begin. Third-party risk management is not about panic; it is about visibility, accountability, and staying ahead of potential damage.

Third-party risk is complex.

We'll help you see it clearly—and manage it without the overwhelm.

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