What to Do After Launch So Vendor Risk Does Not Slip Through the Cracks

The best TPRM programs are not reactive. They are maintained with the same focus as any other critical system. This checklist serves as your guide for keeping third-party risk management relevant, responsive, and scalable so you are not just collecting reports but building real resilience.

Ongoing Moves to Keep Your TPRM Program Sharp

Check in on these regularly. The payoff is fewer surprises and faster decisions.

- [ ] **Revisit your vendor list at least twice a year.**
  Vendors are added frequently through new tools, shadow IT, or department-level decisions. Keep your inventory updated so it reflects your current environment.

- [ ] **Refresh risk assessments on your most critical vendors.**
  Whether it's based on time, contract renewal, or performance, your top-tier vendors need more frequent scrutiny.

- [ ] **Track and close the loop on remediation requests.**
  If vendors are flagged for high risk, follow through. Are they fixing issues? Do you have it in writing?

- [ ] **Monitor your vendors for breach activity or intel mentions.**
  Don't wait for a press release. Use threat intelligence, dark web mentions, or even public filings to stay ahead.

- [ ] **Update internal owner assignments when teams shift.**
  If someone leaves or roles change, reassign vendor oversight. Ownership gaps are where risk gets missed.

- [ ] **Reconfirm what access your vendors have—and whether it's still needed.**
  Over time, access expands. Quarterly reviews can prevent silent privilege creep.

- [ ] **Document and archive past reports and risk events.**
  They're useful for audits, renewals, insurance claims, and trend tracking. Keep them organized and accessible.

- [ ] **Keep leadership in the loop with brief, periodic updates.**
  High-level summaries help execs see progress, spot patterns, and stay aligned without digging into details.

What This Means

Good TPRM is not one-time compliance; it is ongoing protection. The organizations that treat vendor risk as a living system are the ones that stay ahead. And if you do not have time to manage it all in house, that is what we are here for.

Stay ahead of third-party risk.

We'll handle the tracking, analysis, and follow-through.

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