A No-Nonsense Checklist for Knowing When to Book a Pen Test

Your systems may feel secure, and that is the problem. Most organizations do not see the gaps until someone else does. This checklist is not for compliance; it is for clarity. Use it to identify the signs that your infrastructure is not as secure as it appears and to understand what real attackers would notice long before you do.

Attack Surface Reality Check

Check every box you can. Then check your confidence level.

☐ **You have not had a penetration test in more than a year.**
Vulnerabilities change constantly. If it has been over 12 months, your risk profile has shifted, and your previous report is no longer current.

☐ **You've added cloud services, remote access, or SaaS tools recently.**
Expanding functionality always expands risk. New tools mean new attack vectors, and many go untested.

☐ **You don't know what Black Box vs. White Box testing is.**
That's okay. But if no one's explained the difference to you, your current security provider might not be doing either.

☐ **You've never simulated a real-world attack on your environment.**
Compliance scans ≠ real threats. Pen testing simulates what actual bad actors would do—not what a checklist requires.

☐ **Your last scan was automated, and you didn't get manual validation.**
If nobody followed up with custom exploit attempts, you're relying on software that attackers have already outsmarted.

☐ **You have onboarded new vendors or partners without testing their access pathways.**
Third-party risk is real, and it is often the weakest link.

☐ **Your staff has never been through an actual security incident response.**
One phishing link. One missed alert. If your team hasn't experienced a test breach, they won't be ready for the real one.

☐ **You assume IT is handling it.**
Most teams think someone else has it covered. Until the breach report says otherwise.

What This Means

If more than three of these sound familiar, you are not alone, but you are at risk. ATS VAPT services simulate attacks before they happen so you can close the gaps before they become headlines.

Want to find out what a real attacker would see?

We'll show you.

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