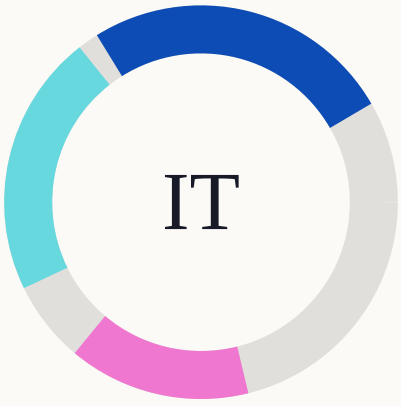
ATOMIC GUARDIAN

Small Business IT Compliance Readiness Guide

A practical management briefing



CONTROL PROOF

Assigned. Documented. Verified.

01 / THE MANAGEMENT ISSUE

IT activity is not the same as IT compliance.

Small businesses often have capable technology support and several security tools. The gap is usually the governance layer around them: what applies, who owns each control, how operation is verified, and what evidence management can produce.

Why the gap matters

- Client, insurer, privacy, and contractual expectations are often scattered across questionnaires, agreements, policies, and renewal conditions.
- Technical safeguards may be installed, but control ownership, exceptions, test results, and remediation decisions are not consistently recorded.
- When scrutiny arrives, the business must reconstruct its position from emails, tickets, consoles, and individual memory.
- A missing document is inconvenient. A control that nobody can prove is working is a business risk.

02 / THE SERVICE GAP

Most IT providers manage technology. Compliance requires governance.

Ordinary managed IT work is necessary, but it does not automatically create a defensible compliance position. Managed compliance adds ownership, standards, evidence, and a review cadence.

ORDINARY IT SUPPORT	MANAGED IT COMPLIANCE
• Install security products • Patch and monitor systems • Respond to tickets and alerts • Run backups • Provide technical recommendations	• Map obligations to practical controls • Assign management and technical owners • Define standards, procedures, and exceptions • Test controls and preserve evidence • Report gaps, decisions, and remediation
Useful technical activity - but not automatically accountability or proof.	A controlled environment that management can understand, defend, and improve.

THE PLAIN TRUTH

The goal is not more paperwork. It is to show that technology risk is being managed deliberately.

Five layers of managed IT compliance.

Compliance becomes manageable when it is treated as a repeatable operating discipline. Atomic Guardian organizes the work into five connected layers.

01	**Define**	Translate obligations into a practical control standard.
02	**Control**	Put identity, security, recovery, and people safeguards into operation.
03	**Document**	Record ownership, policies, procedures, exceptions, and evidence.
04	**Verify**	Review access, inspect controls, test recovery, and track failures.
05	**Improve**	Report gaps, make risk decisions, and mature the program.

The defining mechanism

Turn controls into evidence.

Ownership records, access reviews, configuration checks, restoration tests, exception decisions, and management reports turn “we think we are compliant” into a position the business can explain and support.

Seven questions every leadership team should answer.

Answer based on what can be demonstrated today - not what somebody believes should exist.

01	Is a member of management formally accountable for IT and cybersecurity risk?	YES / PARTLY / NO
02	Is there a written minimum IT control standard based on actual business obligations?	YES / PARTLY / NO
03	Can the business show that privileged, remote, and former-user access is reviewed?	YES / PARTLY / NO
04	Can current evidence show that security, patching, email, and backup controls operate?	YES / PARTLY / NO
05	Have incident response and business recovery procedures been exercised in the last year?	YES / PARTLY / NO
06	Are client, insurer, contractual, and privacy requirements mapped to IT controls?	YES / PARTLY / NO
07	Does management receive a regular report showing gaps, owners, deadlines, and accepted risks?	YES / PARTLY / NO

Interpretation: A “yes” should mean current evidence exists. “Partly” usually indicates that a useful control exists but ownership, documentation, review, or proof is incomplete.

05 / THE ASSESSMENT

What a Compliance Readiness Assessment examines.

The paid, fixed-scope engagement determines whether IT controls are defined, operating, and supported by management-ready evidence.

- Business, client, insurer, privacy, and contractual obligations
- Management ownership, policies, exceptions, and risk decisions
- Identity, administrative access, onboarding, and offboarding
- Endpoint, server, email, Microsoft 365, and cloud safeguards
- Vulnerability, patching, logging, and monitoring practices
- Backup coverage, isolation, restoration, and continuity evidence
- Incident response, vendor access, and third-party dependencies
- Current documentation, evidence quality, and reporting cadence

The assessment is not a legal opinion or a certification. It is a practical management review of the IT control environment and the evidence available to support it.

06 / THE OUTCOME

What management receives.

The deliverable is a prioritized decision package, not a catalogue of products.

01	**Executive rating and critical findings**	A plain-language view of current exposure and the issues demanding attention.
02	**Control map and evidence register**	Obligations, controls, owners, available proof, and missing evidence.
03	**Prioritized implementation plan**	A 30 / 60 / 90-day roadmap with policy priorities and a budgetary estimate.

07 / THE NEXT MOVE

Do not wait for scrutiny to discover that proof is missing.

A focused readiness conversation can determine whether the current environment is defensible and whether a formal assessment is the right next step.

The commercial path

BOOK A COMPLIANCE READINESS CONVERSATION

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Atomic Guardian

Secure, dependable IT for businesses that cannot afford disruption.

- Managed IT and cybersecurity
- IT governance and compliance readiness
- Backup, recovery, and business continuity
- Strategic technology leadership

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