

The No-Nonsense Guide to Business IT Before 2026

Running a business is tough. Deadlines, teams, customers—you've got a lot on your plate.

But one IT issue can stop everything.

Unusual activity in a company email? Another update needed? Backups failed? Servers acting up? And now the Wi-Fi and printer are down—again?

If this sounds familiar, you're not alone.

Here's your **no-jargon guide to the IT essentials** you should review before 2026.

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Cybersecurity & Compliance



Cloud & Collaboration (M365 / Google Workspace)



Network & Infrastructure



Monitoring & Alerting



Backup & Disaster Recovery



IT Strategy & Planning



IT Projects & Migrations



Budget



Who You Gonna Call?



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Cybersecurity & Compliance

Phishing emails, ransomware, and “unusual sign-in” alerts don’t take holidays. Add HIPAA, SOC, and GDPR compliance, and IT becomes risk management.

Actions to take:

- Enable MFA everywhere.
- Set alerts for unusual sign-ins.
- Review compliance policies and document them.



Cloud & Collaboration (M365 / Google Workspace)

Email, files, chat, calendars—your team depends on them. Without governance, things get messy (and risky).

Actions to take:

- Audit sharing permissions.
- Enable DLP.
- Standardize Teams/Sites for projects.
- Document “how we work” for easy onboarding.



Network & Infrastructure

Wi-Fi drops. Old switches. Slow VPN. Your network is the backbone of your business—and jobsite connectivity.

Actions to take:

- Update firmware.
- Segment networks.
- Standardize SD-WAN/VPN.
- Secure Wi-Fi with guest isolation.
- Monitor uptime and bandwidth.



Monitoring & Alerting

If nobody's watching, problems pile up. Monitoring catches disk failures, expired certificates, and security anomalies before they become disasters.

Actions to take:

- Deploy RMM/NOC monitoring.
- Set actionable alerts (not just noise).
- Tie alerts to documented response playbooks.

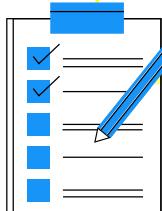


Backup & Disaster Recovery

Power outage. Accidental deletion. Ransomware. The only thing better than a backup... is a tested restore.

Actions to take:

- Adopt 3-2-1 backups (3 copies, 2 media types, 1 offsite).
- Protect SaaS data (M365/Google).
- Test restores quarterly.
- Measure RPO/RTO against business needs.

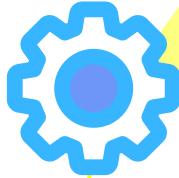


IT Strategy & Planning

Reactive IT costs more. Strategy brings calm: budgets, roadmaps, lifecycle plans, and “what happens if” scenarios.

Actions to take:

- Build a 12–24 month roadmap.
- Prioritize by risk and ROI.
- Replace legacy systems before they fail.



IT Projects & Migrations

From email migrations to phone systems, EDR rollouts to new offices—projects need clear scopes, owners, timelines, and handoffs. Half-done projects = recurring tickets.

Actions to take:

- Create project charters.
- Define success criteria.
- Schedule post-launch hypercare.
- Document everything.



Budget

IT isn't just a cost—it's an investment. But without planning, costs spike and projects stall.

Actions to take:

- Forecast hardware refreshes.
- Plan license renewals.
- Align IT spend with business goals and avoid surprise expenses.



Now That You Know... Who You Gonna Call?

These are the key IT areas to review before 2026.

Seems like a lot, right? But IT can be simple.

Experience IT Differently with Pacific IT Support

With 10+ years of experience, Pacific IT Support helps businesses keep technology working for them—not against them.

Whether you need full IT support or just extra help for your internal team, we've got you covered.

What we bring:

- Full IT Support or Co-managed support that feels like part of your team.
- Clear communication and predictable costs.
- Smooth project delivery and proactive monitoring.
- Security & compliance you can trust.
- Strategic planning to keep you ahead.

Let's make 2026 your best year!