

# 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.

# The No-Nonsense Guide to Business IT Before 2026



**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?**



## 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.

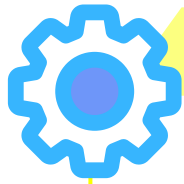


## IT Strategy & Planning

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.

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- Strategic planning to keep you ahead.

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