evolution SYSTEMS

Recoverability Readiness Checklist

Can You Recover When It Matters Most?

Most organisations can point to successful backups. Far fewer can confidently prove they can recover critical systems within required timeframes - under real conditions. This checklist is designed to help you assess exactly that. Use it to identify gaps, validate assumptions, and **move from backup confidence → recovery certainty.**

#1 RECOVERY CAPABILITY

- ☐ We can recover Tier 1 systems within defined RTOs
- ☐ Recovery processes are documented, standardised, and understood
- ☐ Dependencies between systems are clearly mapped
- ☐ Recovery can be executed without key-person dependency
- ☐ We can restore both data and application functionality

If you hesitate on any of these, your recovery capability may not be reliable under pressure

#2 RTO & RPO ALIGNMENT

- ☐ RTOs are defined based on business impact - not technical limits
- ☐ RPOs reflect actual tolerance for data loss across critical systems
- ☐ Recovery performance consistently meets RTO/RPO targets
- ☐ There is executive alignment on acceptable downtime and data loss

Reality check: If RTOs and RPOs haven't been validated recently, they are assumptions - not guarantees

#3 TESTING & VALIDATION

- ☐ Recovery is tested regularly (not just annually)
- ☐ Testing reflects real-world failure scenarios (e.g. ransomware, full outage)
- ☐ Results are documented and reviewed
- ☐ Failed recovery tests lead to immediate remediation
- ☐ Recovery success rates are tracked over time

Mature organisations don't just test recovery - they prove it continuously

#4 AUDITABILITY & REPORTING

- ☐ We can produce evidence of successful recovery tests
- ☐ Recovery performance is measurable and reportable
- ☐ Audit trails exist for recovery activities
- ☐ Reporting translates recovery metrics into business risk

If you can't prove recoverability, you can't confidently claim resilience

#5 TECHNOLOGY & COMPLEXITY

- ☐ Backup and recovery processes are unified (not fragmented across tools)
- ☐ We minimise reliance on multiple recovery platforms
- ☐ Recovery workflows are automated where possible
- ☐ There is clear visibility across all protected environments

Complexity is the enemy of recovery speed. Simplicity drives reliability

SCORING: How many boxes did you confidently tick?

☑ 19+	☑ 18–14	☑ < 13
Strong recoverability posture	Gaps exist, moderate recovery risk	High risk: recovery capability unproven

RECOVERABILITY ISN'T THEORETICAL. IT'S OPERATIONAL - AND NEEDS TO BE PROVEN

If this checklist raised questions, it's time to validate your recovery capability with a structured, real-world assessment.

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