SOC 2 Type II Compliance Checklist

Step 1: Determine audit scope
Determine your applicable Trust Services Criteria Define which systems, data, people, and software is in scope for your audit and selected TSC Select an audit window (3,6,9, or 12 months)
Step 2: Conduct a risk assessment and gap analysis
Identify information assets and potential risks to each one Determine the likelihood each risk could occur Evaluate the potential business impact of identified risks Rank risks based on the overall risk to your organization Create a treatment plan for each risk Identify gaps in your current security controls manually if not using an automated tool
Step 3: Create a remediation plan
Select, develop, or modify controls to address identified gaps
Identify owners for each risk/control and a timeline for remediation
Step 4: Implement SOC 2 controls and policies
Create or update policies and controls and share with employees for review
Complete security awareness training for employees
Educate employees on any disciplinary actions that may take place if they fall out of compliance with data security requirements
Step 5: Gather documentation and evidence

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Step 6: Complete a readiness assessment
 (Optional) Select a service auditor to perform the readiness assessment. Then review the service auditor's letter and implement any suggestions. Conduct an internal readiness assessment. Map existing controls to your chosen TSC, check for gaps, and develop a remediation plan.
Step 7: Undergo your SOC 2 audit
Select an accredited SOC 2 auditor to conduct your Type II audit
Obtain any feedback and implement any advice from the auditor
Step 8: Maintain compliance
Hold management reviews at least annually (recommended quarterly)
Perform annual risk assessments
Perform ongoing control effectiveness monitoring to ensure SOC 2 policies and controls remain appropriate and effective
Monitor any new or elevated risks and implement revised security controls
Document and track and nonconformities and corrective actions to closure
Schedule a SOC audit every 12 months