

Conducted an Internal Security Audit with the help of controls and compliance checklist

Introduction

This audit was conducted for a sample small organization as part of a cybersecurity training module. The purpose was to evaluate the effectiveness of security controls using a structured compliance checklist.

Controls assessment checklist

Yes	No	Control
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Least Privilege
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disaster recovery plans
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Password policies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Separation of duties
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Firewall
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intrusion detection system (IDS)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Backups
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Antivirus software
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manual monitoring, maintenance, and intervention for legacy systems
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Encryption
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Password management

system

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Locks (offices, storefront, warehouse) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fire detection/prevention (fire alarm, sprinkler system, etc.) |

Compliance checklist

Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS)

Yes	No	Best practice
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Only authorized users have access to customers' credit card information.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Credit card information is accepted, processed, transmitted, and stored internally, in a secure environment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implement data encryption procedures to better secure credit card transaction touchpoints and data.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adopt secure password management policies.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Yes	No	Best practice
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E.U. customers' data is kept private/secured.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a plan in place to notify E.U. customers within 72 hours if their data is compromised/there is a breach.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure data is properly classified and inventoried.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enforce privacy policies, procedures, and processes to properly document and maintain data.

System and Organizations Controls (SOC type 1, SOC type 2)

Yes	No	Best practice
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User access policies are established.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sensitive data (PII/SPII) is confidential/private.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data integrity ensures the data is consistent, complete, accurate, and has been validated.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data is available to individuals authorized to access it.

Recommendations:

Multiple controls need to be implemented to improve Botium Toys' security posture and better ensure the confidentiality of sensitive information, including: Least Privilege, disaster recovery plans, password policies, separation of duties, an IDS, ongoing legacy system management, encryption, and a password management system.

Reflection:

Conducting the security audit using the Controls and Compliance Checklist was a deeply valuable learning experience. It allowed me to bridge the gap between theory and practice by applying course concepts to a realistic scenario.

Through this process, I gained a stronger understanding of how security risks are identified, assessed, and addressed in an organizational context. It also emphasized the critical role of compliance in maintaining a secure digital environment.

This audit not only sharpened my analytical skills but also strengthened my confidence to take on real-world cybersecurity challenges. It reaffirmed my passion for the field and my commitment to continuous growth and learning.