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**10 QUESTIONS**

Each "No" is a direct cost recovery opportunity.

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**SCORE BELOW 6?**

An independent audit is worth the conversation.

**Q 01-06** **STACK EFFICIENCY**

*Six categories of waste — most mid-market organisations carry at least three.*

- Q1. No Duplicate Capability**  
 You can list every active security tool and confirm no two perform the same primary function. **Overlap is the most common — and easiest — waste to eliminate.**

**Q2. All Tools Fully Deployed**  
 Every licensed tool is fully deployed — none are partially implemented or still awaiting rollout. **Partial deployments cost the same as complete ones.**

**Q3. No Zombie Subscriptions**  
 You have cross-referenced your IT General Ledger against active log sources in the last 90 days to identify billing for inactive tools. **Ask your team — they'll name two immediately.**

**Q4. Licensing Reflects Reality**  
 Licensed seat counts and enterprise agreements reflect current active users and hybrid-workforce realities, not peak historical headcount. **Overprovisioning typically runs 20-30% above actuals.**

**Q5. Mapped to Specific Controls**  
 Every active tool is explicitly mapped to a specific, required security control or threat scenario. **Nothing exists merely "just in case" or because it is a current buzzword.**

**Q6. No Premium Feature Bloat**  
 You aren't paying for premium licensing tiers (e.g., Microsoft E5) for capabilities that remain unconfigured. **Downgrading tiers saves instantly.**

**Q 07-08** **GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY**

*Tools with no named owner cost the same as tools that are actively managed.*

- Q7. Every Tool Has a Named Owner**  
 Each tool has a named individual accountable for maintenance, patching, and reviewing its outputs. **No owner means no one noticing the cost.**

**Q8. Alerts Are Acted On**  
 Every tool generating alerts has someone actively reviewing and acting on that output. **DLP and SIEM consoles with unread alerts are the most expensive shelfware.**

**Q 09-10** **ADVISOR INDEPENDENCE**

*The advisor managing your stack has a financial interest in its size. Does yours?*

- Q9. Your Advisor Earns No Vendor Margin**  
 Your MSP or IT advisor doesn't earn margin, referral fees, or vendor incentives on the tools they manage. **If they do, their recommendation and your cost optimisation conflict.**

**Q10. Your Stack Has Had an Independent Review**  
**The most telling question.** Reviewed by an advisor with no financial relationship with any current vendor — whose only interest is your cost efficiency.

**TYPICAL FINDINGS** **WHAT AN AUDIT UNCOVERS**

*Three patterns appear in almost every mid-market stack review.*

- THE PHANTOM TOOL**

A DLP, SIEM, or email platform generating alerts for months with no recipient acting on the output. The licence renews. **You are paying for the appearance of protection.**

**THE MSP OVERLAP**

Two endpoint protection platforms running simultaneously — one from the previous IT team, one added by the incoming MSP. **Combined waste: \$20K-\$40K per annum.**

**THE FROZEN CONTRACT**

An enterprise-tier contract signed three years ago for a headcount that no longer exists. Auto-renewal processed without review. **The vendor was not going to raise it.**

**HOW DID YOU SCORE?**

- 10/10 Exceptionally well-managed. Your stack is optimised.
- 6-9/10 Identifiable gaps. An audit will quantify the recoverable cost.
- <6/10 **Active cost exposure. An audit will pay for itself.**

**THE SECURITY STACK COST AUDIT**

Structured, independent review of your entire security stack. Kill list & vendor negotiation brief delivered. **Fixed fee — \$12,500.**

**THE GUARANTEE:** We identify at least \$20,000 in annual savings, or this assessment is free.

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