# 5 TIPS TO PREPARE FOR A CYBERSECURITY AUDIT

Are you implementing *and enforcing* everything in your cybersecurity plan? To ensure your audit goes smoothly, here are the top 5 tips to help you prepare!

## KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S ON YOUR NETWORK

Most likely, your network has much more than just computers and printers on it. Personal cell phones, wireless cameras, Wi-Fi enabled thermostats - you name it, it's probably there. Keeping an up-to-date device inventory (preferably one that's automated and updates itself) is key to visibility into what's on your network.

## PATCH YOUR SOFTWARE

Knowing the devices on the network is half the battle -- making sure their software is patched is just as important. Unpatched applications can represent a point of entry for malicious activity on your network. Consider a Patch Management tool to make life easier.

## CONTROL ACCESS TO THE NETWORK

Securing your data starts with securing who has access to it. Implement policies of access based on a user's role within the organization, or go more granular with policies around time, location or device-based access.

## ENFORCE & COMPLY

Each industry is different in their regulatory compliance requirements, so make sure you know exactly which mandates apply to your organization, and how they impact your cybersecurity plan. Expect to show how you are enforcing the items that each mandate requires. Log, track, report and repeat!

## PLAN AND PLAN AGAIN

Most people know a cybersecurity breach mitigation plan is a no-brainer. But what about how you'll respond to an incident should one happen? Having a clearly defined set of response activities, including communications, analysis, system improvements and implementation of "lessons learned" will show you've thought of contingencies and planned accordingly. Need help creating one? The NIST Cybersecurity Framework is an excellent resource to help get you started.
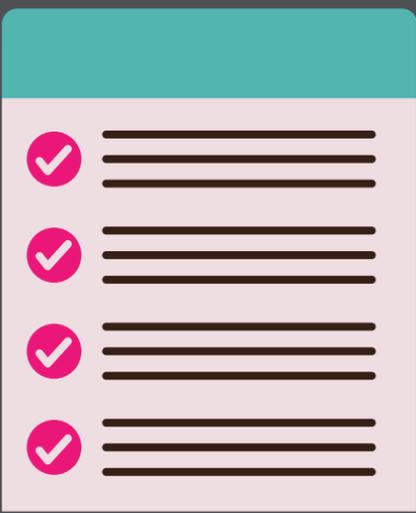
**Whether you're facing an audit for the first time or are a veteran of the process, taking the steps above (along with a deep breath or two) will show your organization, preparedness and a commitment to detail -- all key to passing with flying colors!**

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