

Executive Governance Readiness Checklist

12 Questions to Test Whether Your Digital Systems
Are Governance-Legible

A structured leadership self-review for surfacing questions
around accountability, evidence, ownership, and visibility.

Executive Governance Readiness Checklist

12 Questions to Test Whether Your Digital Systems Are Governance-Legible

Governance exposure in digital systems tends to accumulate quietly, long before it becomes visible in a report, an incident, or a regulatory inquiry. This checklist is a short, structured self-review — twelve questions designed to help executive leadership identify where accountability, evidence, ownership, or visibility may be unclear inside their own digital environment. It does not score, diagnose, or certify. It is intended to surface questions worth asking internally, not answers to be graded.

How to Use This

Use this checklist individually or as a structured leadership discussion. There is no scoring system, percentage, or maturity grade. A pattern of “Partly,” “No,” or “Unknown” answers can help identify areas where leadership may want a deeper internal discussion or independent perspective.

The Twelve Questions

1. ACCOUNTABILITY OWNERSHIP

When an important digital signal, decision, or outcome is later questioned, can the organisation identify who currently owns governance responsibility for it — not who owns the underlying system, but who owns the governance result?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

2. CROSS-SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITY

As data or signals move across internal systems, platforms, and third parties, does governance responsibility travel with them, or does it become unclear at each handoff?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

3. IDENTITY CONTINUITY

Can the organisation confirm that the identity associated with a signal, action, or decision remained consistent and traceable across every system it passed through?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

4. CONSENT-STATE VISIBILITY

If asked today, could the organisation reconstruct what consent state applied at the moment a specific piece of data was used or relied upon?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

5. SIGNAL / EVIDENCE TRACEABILITY

Can the organisation distinguish between a signal that was never generated, one that was generated and then lost, and one that still exists but cannot currently be located?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

6. THIRD-PARTY DEPENDENCIES

Where third parties or subprocessors are involved, is it clear which governance responsibilities are assigned to them, which remain internal, and whether that boundary can be evidenced?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

7. SIGNAL MEANING CONSISTENCY

Is there confidence that a given data field or signal means the same thing to every system and team that consumes it, or has definitional drift gone unexamined?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

8. DECISION TRACEABILITY

If a significant decision were challenged months later, could the organisation reconstruct the evidence, system state, and reasoning that supported it at the time?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

9. GOVERNANCE VISIBILITY

Does leadership have ongoing visibility into governance conditions across digital systems, or does that visibility only appear after an incident forces a review?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

10. REVIEWABILITY

Could an independent party review the governance basis for a past decision without extensive internal reconstruction or reliance on individual memory?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

11. EXECUTIVE CONFIDENCE

If asked directly by a board member or regulator, could leadership describe — with confidence — how governance accountability is currently structured across the organisation's digital environment?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

12. RECONSTRUCTING PAST CONDITIONS

If a dispute arose about a decision made months ago, could the organisation reliably reconstruct the identity state, consent state, and system context that applied at that time?

☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No ☐ Unknown

Closing Interpretation

These questions do not diagnose or grade an organisation's governance posture. They are designed to help leadership identify, in their own words, where governance responsibility, evidence, or visibility may currently be assumed rather than confirmed. If several of these questions do not have confident answers, that observation — not a score — is the useful outcome of this exercise.

Boundary & Disclaimer

This resource is intended for general governance discussion and does not constitute legal advice, compliance certification, audit assurance, or a formal Michvi assessment.

If these questions map to a live governance condition in your environment, initiate a confidential governance dialogue.