

Ensuring Inventory Controls for ISO 27001 Compliance



Maintain accurate inventory controls for hardware, software and cloud assets to comply with ISO 27001

For IT organizations striving to achieve and maintain ISO 27001 compliance, a robust approach to inventory controls is indispensable. A widely recognized international standard for information security management systems (ISMS), ISO 27001 necessitates a systematic and well-organized method of managing technology assets.

Inventory controls within the context of ISO 27001 involve maintaining a detailed and up-to-date record of all IT assets - including hardware, software, data repositories and cloud services. This inventory forms the basis for risk assessments, enabling organizations to identify, evaluate, and mitigate risks pertaining to these assets.

The specific requirement for inventory controls is encapsulated in **Annex A 8 - Technological Controls**.

Organizations must maintain an inventory of assets associated with information and information processing facilities.

This inventory is integral to the ISMS as it allows an organization to understand the scope of its information security needs and facilitates the implementation of appropriate security controls.

By establishing and maintaining a comprehensive inventory of technology assets, you not only pave the way for ISO 27001 compliance, but also strengthen your overall security posture. This proactive approach ensures that all assets are accounted for, risks are managed effectively, and the integrity and confidentiality of information is preserved, safeguarding your data and reputation in an increasingly digital world.

Failure to maintain proper inventory controls can lead to severe consequences, including certification denial or revocation, security exposures, legal and financial ramifications, and reputational damage. Unfortunately, modern enterprise environments, characterized by hybrid and remote work, cloud services, and mobile technologies, have added layers of complexity to maintaining accurate inventory controls and good technology data hygiene.

Traditional IT Asset Management (ITAM) and CMDB-based solutions usually fall short in addressing this evolving technology landscape. Often, IT teams resort to manually pulling information from multiple sources, aggregating it painstakingly via spreadsheets, and contacting users to reconcile duplicate entries or populate gaps.

Challenges

- Keeping up with the fast pace of adoption of diverse user and field devices, SaaS apps and cloud services
- Tracking and managing assets across remote workforce and growing number of locations
- Resource and cost overruns in obtaining and compiling technology inventory data
- Friction between IT and GRC teams due to poor inventory management and inaccurate compliance reporting

Benefits

- Single system for tracking all technology assets across hardware, software and cloud services
- Confidence in inventory controls and compliance with ISO 27001 requirements
- Better audit accuracy, efficiency and timeliness with automated workflows to streamline audit preparation tasks
- Cost savings by reducing manual effort, human error and the need for resource intensive IT projects
- Reduced risk of certification denial or revocation
- Improved alignment and collaboration between IT and GRC teams

Ensure ISO 27001 compliance through rigorous inventory controls

To enhance the accuracy, efficiency and timeliness of compliance with ISO 27001 inventory controls you need to embrace improvements in tools, processes and automation.

Enterprise Technology Management (ETM) solutions provide an integrated platform to manage and monitor your complete technology landscape. This proactive approach ensures compliance with ISO 27001 inventory controls as well as other industry standards/frameworks, while also improving your overall security posture.

ETM solutions address the needs of today's dynamic technology environments, overcoming the limitations of traditional ITAM and CMDB solutions by providing:

- Centralized inventory of all technology assets by leveraging existing tools and installed agents for comprehensive coverage, ensuring no asset goes untracked.
- Low-code/no-code workflows and pre-packaged workflow applications that are easily configured for your needs, to assess compliance, remediate issues and automate audit preparation tasks.
- Connector integrations with 160+ IT, security and business systems to discover, aggregate, normalize and enrich technology data for single-source audit data.
- Powerful business intelligence, notifications and reporting to keep stakeholders informed and provide evidence for auditors to demonstrate compliance.



“Using Oomnitza, we’re able to provide real-time updates on assets and what we have installed, which is a core part of our compliance and certification efforts, including HIPAA and ISO 27001.”

Nemi George
VP, Information Security
Officer & IT Operations
Pacific Dental Services

