

Executive Risk Playbook for Government & Critical Infrastructure IT Programs

Executive Overview

High-risk IT programs in government and critical infrastructure environments demand hybrid oversight: strategic governance discipline combined with hands-on implementation intervention.

This executive playbook provides a structured risk management lens for senior sponsors.

Phase 1: Pre-Procurement Risk Framing

Define risk tolerance, political exposure thresholds, and operational continuity boundaries before drafting procurement documentation.

Establish executive-level success metrics aligned with public accountability obligations.

Phase 2: Procurement Architecture & Contract Structuring

Structure evaluation frameworks around delivery capability, not solely compliance scoring.

Embed performance transparency clauses and escalation triggers directly within contractual frameworks.

Phase 3: Implementation Governance Control

Deploy board-level reporting dashboards aligned to schedule integrity, financial burn rate, vendor performance, and security posture.

Ensure internal change management leadership is resourced equivalently to technical delivery.

Phase 4: Stabilization & Executive Intervention Protocol

When risk indicators breach predefined thresholds, immediate senior-led intervention is required.

Re-baseline scope, reinforce vendor accountability, and re-align executive stakeholders.

Board & Executive Checklist

- Is governance proactive or reactive?
- Are performance metrics contractually enforceable?
- Is operational continuity protected at every milestone?
- Is accountability traceable to named executive sponsors?