RISK MANAGEMENT

Is your risk register a filing cabinet?

Full of risks. Empty of action.

5 warning signs, and how to fix them.



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Swipe →

Warning sign 1 of 5

Risks are really issues

Problems that have already happened are logged as risks.

> PROJECT LEAD, ASK:
>
> **“Which of these has already happened?”**



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Warning sign 2 of 5

Every risk is “medium”

Scores cluster in the middle, so nothing stands out.

PROJECT LEAD, ASK:

“Which three risks would we act on this week?”



Warning sign 3 of 5

Teams own risks, not people

When “IT” or “Procurement” owns a risk, nobody does.

> PROJECT LEAD, ASK:
>
> **“Who, by name, owns this risk?”**



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Warning sign 4 of 5

No actions, no dates

Risks are described in detail, but no response has a date.

> PROJECT LEAD, ASK:
>
> **“What are we doing about it, and by when?”**



Warning sign 5 of 5

It only wakes up for audits

The register comes alive before reviews, then goes quiet.

PROJECT LEAD, ASK:

“What changed in the register since our last meeting?”



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The fix

Make every risk actionable

Cause
Because of...

Risk
there is a risk that...

Effect
which would lead to...

- **Write each risk as cause, risk and effect** using the pattern above.
- **Give every risk one named owner** and a response with a date.
- **Review the top risks at every project meeting.**
- **Close it or escalate it.** Don’t let risks sit.

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YOUR TURN

How often is your risk register really reviewed?

Weekly, monthly, or only before audits? Tell us in the comments.

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