

Next Steps Execution Roadmap — Governance, Resourcing, and Professional Maturity

This document supersedes prior execution roadmaps. It incorporates professional governance refinements identified through second-order review. The steps below define not only what must be stood up, but how governance quality, resilience, and defensibility are preserved over time.

Step 1 — Assign Executive Ownership and Succession

- Designate a single executive owner for Tier-1 governance execution.
- Formally assign deputies for Legal, IT Operations, Security Operations, and Enterprise Architecture.
- Define delegation and authority transfer rules for executive absence or incapacity.

Step 2 — Stand Up the Executive Decision Log and Quality Review

- Identify the system of record and assign an immutable log custodian.
- Train executives on strict decision entry requirements.
- Establish quarterly review of decision patterns (acceptance rate, renewals, time-to-decision).

Step 3 — Consolidate Assumptions, Calendaring, and Cognitive Load Controls

- Inventory and normalize all assumption registers.
- Generate a read-only assumption expiry calendar.
- Enforce decision batching limits and binary decision formats to prevent executive overload.

Step 4 — Build the Tier-1 Kill-Switch, Degradation, and Dependency Discovery Function

- Confirm Tier-1 system ownership and operational control paths.
- Assign technical leads for shutdown, isolation, and rate-limiting.
- Conduct dependency inversion exercises to surface undocumented vendor or operational dependencies.

Step 5 — Establish Evidence Readiness and Narrative Control

- Assign evidence owners for logs, alerts, forensic data, and communications.
- Confirm retention and legal hold triggers.
- Predefine external communication authority and evidence production sequencing.

Step 6 — Formalize External Dependency Accountability

- Inventory critical external vendors and platforms supporting Tier-1 systems.
- Issue an executive statement confirming retained accountability.
- Align procurement, vendor management, and risk functions to this position.

Step 7 — Execute Live Governance Exercises and Behavioral Validation

- Run combined exploitation, assumption expiry, and evidence preservation tabletop exercises.
- Require executive attendance and real-time decision capture.
- Use outcomes to validate decision behavior, not technical controls.

At this stage, governance completeness is achieved. Remaining risk is driven by human decision behavior, organizational discipline, and assumption management—not by absence of documentation. Failure to execute these steps represents a governance execution failure.