Abnormal

2026 Email Security Checklist

8 Capabilities That Define the Email Security Baseline in 2026

New Year, New Inbox Problems

Email remains one of the attacker's preferred entry points as attacks shift toward AI-driven social engineering and identity abuse.

At the same time, organizations are raising expectations: demanding stronger detection, lower operational overhead, and tighter alignment with cloud environments.

As a result, capabilities that once differentiated cloud-native email security platforms are now baseline requirements.

The Checklist

The 8 Capabilities That Matter Now

1. AI-Native Behavioral Threat Detection

Detect attacks that exploit identity, relationships, language, and context—not just links, attachments, or known indicators.

2. Identity and Access Risk Modeling

Continuously monitor account behavior across email and connected SaaS applications to detect takeover, misuse, and lateral movement early.

3. Human Risk Intelligence and Adaptive Training

Measure real user risk and reinforce behavior with AI-driven simulations aligned to the threats users are most likely to face.

4. Vendor and Supply-Chain Security Monitoring

Identify anomalies in trusted vendor communications before compromised suppliers are used to deliver fraud or redirect payments.

5. Advanced Social Engineering and Impersonation Detection

Detect sophisticated impersonation—even when technical spoofing indicators are absent and messages appear legitimate on the surface.

6. Continuous Email Posture Management

Surface misconfigurations, risky permissions, and OAuth exposure that quietly expand the email attack surface.

7. Automated Abuse-Mailbox Triage

Turn user-reported emails into high-fidelity signal through automated classification, enrichment, and response.

8. Autonomous Response and Security Operations Integration

Remediate threats at machine speed and unify investigation, response, and remediation across security workflows.

The Baseline

Together, these eight capabilities define the baseline for resilient email security in an increasingly dynamic, AI-powered marketplace.

Ready to meet the 2026 email security baseline?

Explore how Abnormal AI helps organizations stay ahead of evolving inbox threats.

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