



Sindria Nexus

NEXUS LEARNING ACADEMY · ENTRY LEVEL

MEMO Nº EL2

Audit Your Own Venture

Pick something you run — a resale venture, a gaming clan, a club fundraiser — and audit it like a professional. Five controls, one partner, zero experience needed. By the last page you will have done what companies pay experts to do.

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EL2

5 CONTROLS · 1 VENTURE · 0 EXPERIENCE NEEDED

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Here is a sentence that will sound wrong until it doesn't: **you are already running something worth auditing.** If you resell sneakers, run a gaming clan with entry fees, handle your club's fundraiser money, or take brand deals on a content page — money or trust moves through your hands, and that makes it real. Real enough to protect. Real enough to audit.

Auditing sounds like something done by serious people in suits, and it is. But strip away the suits and an audit is a simple question asked five ways: **can you prove this is under control?** That question is not corporate. It is the question you ask when your friend holds the group's cash and nobody wrote anything down. You already know how to ask it. This memo teaches you to ask it like a professional — on your own venture, with a partner, as a game.

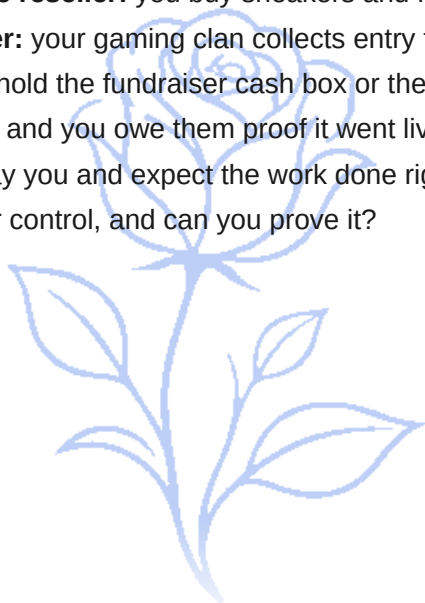
One rule before we start, and it matters: pick something **real**. Not a made-up company, not a hypothetical. Your actual resale page, your actual club treasury, your actual clan. Real ventures have real messes, and the messes are where the learning lives. A pretend venture gives you pretend lessons. Yours will give you the kind you remember.

Try this: Real venture, real messes, real lessons. No hypotheticals.

01 PICK YOUR VENTURE

A venture, for this memo, is anything you run where **money or trust moves through your hands**. That is the whole definition. It does not need a name, a logo, or permission from anyone. If people trust you with something valuable — cash, accounts, passwords, their personal information — you have a venture.

Examples, to get you thinking. **The reseller:** you buy sneakers and flip them through DMs and payment apps. **The clan treasurer:** your gaming clan collects entry fees for tournaments and pays out prizes. **The club officer:** you hold the fundraiser cash box or the club's payment account. **The creator:** brands pay you for posts and you owe them proof it went live. **The service kid:** lawn care, tutoring, car detailing — clients pay you and expect the work done right. Different worlds, same question underneath: is this under control, and can you prove it?



Write yours down now — one sentence: “I run ____, and ____ moves through my hands.” That sentence is your audit scope. Professionals use a fancier word, “scope,” for exactly this: the boundary of what you are examining. Everything in this memo happens inside your scope. Nothing outside it is your problem today.

Try this: One sentence of scope beats ten pages of vibes.

A quick honesty check, because it determines everything after. How much of your venture currently lives in your head? The prices you remember, the deals you never wrote down, the password only you know, the cash nobody counted. Whatever that percentage is, that is your **uncontrolled zone** — the part no one, including you, could reconstruct if they had to. The five controls are five ways to shrink it.

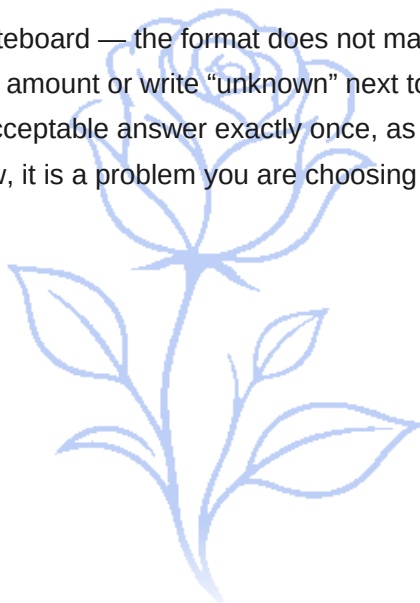
C1 FOLLOW THE MONEY

Every audit in the world starts here, and so do you. **Draw every dollar that moves through your venture.** Money in on the left, money out on the right, and every stop in between. Buying inventory, entry fees collected, prizes paid, shipping costs, the cut you keep. One page, arrows, amounts. This is called a **flow map**, and professionals draw them before they trust anything.

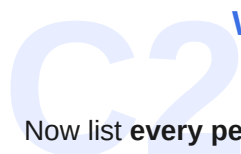
You will discover two things while drawing. First, the parts you cannot draw — the deal you forgot, the fee you never tracked, the cash that went straight into your pocket. Each blank spot is a finding: money moving with no record. Second, the parts that surprise you — most people learn their actual profit for the first time while drawing this map. Both discoveries are the control working. The map does not fix anything. It shows you what needs fixing, which is the entire job of Control 1.

Try this: If you cannot draw it, you do not control it.

Do it ugly. Napkin, notes app, whiteboard — the format does not matter and pretty is the enemy of honest. Label every arrow with an amount or write “unknown” next to it. Professionals have a rule worth stealing: “unknown” is an acceptable answer exactly once, as a placeholder. The second time you write it next to the same arrow, it is a problem you are choosing to keep.



When the map is done, circle the three arrows that move the most money. Those are your **crown jewels** — the flows that matter most and get audited hardest. Everything from here on spends extra attention on the circled arrows. This is how professionals think too: not every dollar gets equal scrutiny. The big, fast, frequent flows get the spotlight.



WHO HOLDS THE KEYS

Now list **every person who can touch the money, the accounts, or the passwords** — including you. The Cash App login, the clan bank, the Instagram account brands pay through, the cash box key. Next to each name, write what they can do: view, spend, withdraw, post, change the password. This list is called an **access review**, and it is the control companies fail most often, because lists like this go stale the moment nobody looks at them.

Then ask the uncomfortable question about each name: **should they still have this access?** The graduated senior who still has the club account. The ex-mod who can still ban people in the clan Discord. Your cousin who knows the payment password “just in case.” Every name that survives this question needs a reason written next to it. Every name that doesn’t — remove them this week. Access should expire like milk, not like twinkies.

Try this: List everyone with access. Then interrogate the list.

Count the people who can move money **alone**, with no second person involved. If that number is one and the one is you, congratulations and condolences: you are efficient and you are a single point of failure. Professionals call the fix **separation of duties** — splitting risky actions so no one person can complete them solo. Your version: the person who collects the fundraiser cash is not the person who counts it. The person who approves a payout is not the person who sends it. Two sets of eyes on the crown-jewel arrows.



One more, because it gets everyone eventually: **shared passwords are not access control; they are the absence of it.** If four people know the password, you do not have four authorized users — you have zero accountability, because nothing that happens can be traced to anyone. Give people their own logins, or accept that you will never know who did what. Those are the only two options, and now you know which one the professionals pick.



SHOW THE RECEIPTS

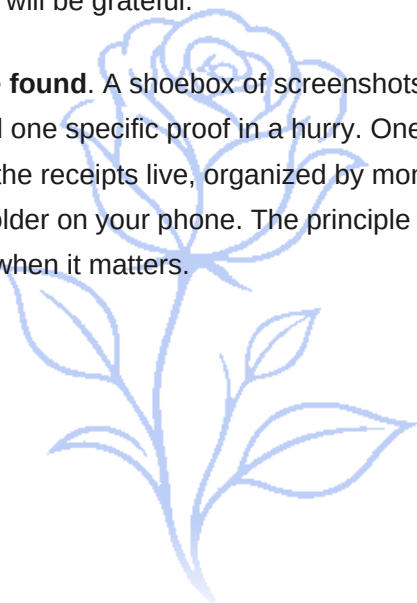
For every arrow on your money map, answer one question: **what proof exists that this happened?** A payment confirmation, a screenshot, a written note with a date, a tracking number. Proof is called **evidence**, and evidence is the entire currency of auditing: a claim without evidence is just a story someone told you.

Grade each arrow honestly: **solid** (a third party made the record — the payment app's history, the shipping carrier's tracking), **okay** (you made the record yourself, same day — a dated note, a photo of the cash), or **missing** (nothing; it lives in your memory). Notice the ranking: someone else's record beats your record, and your record beats no record. That ranking is not opinion. It is how every auditor on earth weighs evidence, and now it is yours too.

Try this: Their record beats your record beats no record.

The “missing” pile is your fix list for this control, and the fix is almost embarrassingly simple: **write it down the same day.** Amount, who, what for, date — four fields, thirty seconds, in a notes app or a notebook that lives with the venture. Same-day records are dramatically more trustworthy than reconstructed ones, because memory edits itself and ink doesn't. Future you, trying to prove a deal happened three months from now, will be grateful.

Keep the evidence where it can be **found**. A shoebox of screenshots in your camera roll is barely better than nothing when you need one specific proof in a hurry. One folder, one album, one notebook — a single place where the receipts live, organized by month. Professionals call this an **evidence room**. Yours can be a folder on your phone. The principle is identical: evidence you cannot find in five minutes does not exist when it matters.



C4 THE ROGUE TEST

This is the fun one. **Attack your own venture — on paper.** You are now the villain: the ex-partner with a grudge, the hacker who got your password, the “friend” who sees the cash box unattended. How do you steal from the venture you just mapped? Write down three attacks, as specifically as you can: what you take, how you take it, and why nothing stops you.

Read your attacks back and notice what they have in common. Almost every attack succeeds through a gap you already found: the shared password from Control 2, the missing receipt from Control 3, the uncounted cash from Control 1. That is not a coincidence. **Attacks don’t create weaknesses; they rent the ones you left open.** Professionals call this exercise a **risk assessment** — imagining what could go wrong before it does — and you just ran one on yourself.

Rank your three attacks by two questions: **how likely is this?** and **how bad would it be?** The attack that is both likely and bad goes to the top of your fix list — it gets handled this week, not someday. The unlikely-but-catastrophic one gets a plan, not panic: one preventive step now, reviewed monthly. This little two-question ranking is the entire machinery of risk management, and it fits on an index card.

*Try this:
Attacks rent
the
weaknesses
you left open.*

A note on mindset, because this control changes people. Finding holes in your own venture can feel like failing. It is the opposite. **The audit that finds nothing taught you nothing.** Every gap you discover on paper is a loss you don’t have to take for real. Professionals celebrate findings — the scary audit is the one that comes back clean, because clean usually means nobody looked hard enough. Look hard. That’s the job.



C5 THE FIX LIST

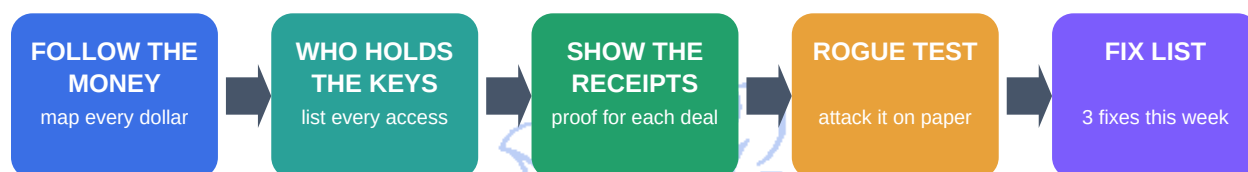
You now have three piles of findings: blank arrows from Control 1, stale access from Control 2, missing receipts from Control 3, and ranked attacks from Control 4. Control 5 turns findings into action: **write three fixes you will make this week**. Not ten. Three. Specific, dated, doable.

Write each fix as a sentence with a verb, an owner, and a deadline: “I will move the club cash to a separate payment account by Friday.” “I will remove graduated members from the clan bank by Wednesday.” “I will start the daily deal log tonight.” Vague fixes — “be more careful,” “try harder” — are not fixes; they are wishes. If a stranger couldn’t verify you did it, rewrite it.

Try this: Verb, owner, deadline. Wishes are not fixes.

Professionals call this **remediation**, and they track it with the seriousness it deserves: every finding gets a fix, every fix gets an owner and a date, and someone checks that it actually happened. Your version is the same discipline at pocket scale: the three sentences on your phone, reviewed next Sunday. The audit isn’t over when you find the problems. It’s over when the fixes are done and verified.

Then set the rhythm. Controls rot — access lists go stale, logs get skipped, cash goes uncounted — the moment nobody tends them. Pick a cadence and put it on a calendar: money map reviewed monthly, access list reviewed monthly, receipts filed daily. **A control you don’t revisit is a control you don’t have**. Fifteen minutes a month keeps the whole system honest. That is the cheapest insurance you will ever buy.



07 THE AUDIT GAME: NOW DO IT TO EACH OTHER

Here is where it gets good. Everything so far was a self-audit — useful, but limited, because you can't see your own blind spots. **Pair up. Audit each other's venture.** Swap money maps, swap key lists, swap receipt folders. Your partner's job is to find what you missed, and yours is to do the same to them.

Run it in three rounds, twenty minutes each. **Round 1 — the walkthrough:** the owner explains the venture while the auditor follows the money map, asking “prove it” at every arrow. **Round 2 — the rogue test:** the auditor gets ten minutes to steal from the venture on paper, then presents the attack. **Round 3 — findings:** the auditor delivers three findings and the owner writes three fixes, verb-owner-deadline style. Then switch roles.

Two rules keep it productive. **Rule one: attack the venture, not the person.** “Your cash handling has a hole” is auditing; “you're careless” is just rude, and rude auditors get tuned out. **Rule two: the owner doesn't argue findings in the room.** Write them down, fix what's real, discard what isn't — later, calmly. Professionals follow both rules too. The best auditors are the ones people invite back.

*Try this:
Attack the
venture, never
the person.*

Finish with presentations: each pair presents their top finding to the group, in sixty seconds, like auditors reporting to a board. You will hear the same three gaps come up again and again — shared passwords, missing receipts, stale access — and that repetition is the deepest lesson in this memo: **the weaknesses are universal.** Different ventures, same holes. That is why controls are a profession, not a personality trait.



YOUR WORDS → THEIR WORDS

● Receipts	evidence: proof that a thing happened, kept where it can be found
● Keys	access control: exactly the right people can touch exactly the right things
● Rogue test	risk assessment: asking what could go wrong, before it does
● Fix list	remediation: the changes you make after the audit

08

WORKED EXAMPLE: MAYA'S SNEAKER VENTURE

Watch the whole audit run on one venture, start to finish. Maya is sixteen. She buys sneakers on release apps and flips them through Instagram DMs, paid over a payment app — about \$800 a month moving through her hands. (Maya is fictional. The mess is extremely typical.) Here are her five controls, exactly as she ran them.

Control 1 — follow the money. Maya draws the map: money in from buyers via the payment app, money out to the release apps for inventory, shipping costs, and her cut. Two blank arrows appear immediately: cash deals at school (“I’ll remember”) and the shipping she pays from her personal account and never separates. Her crown jewels: buyer payments and inventory buys — the two biggest arrows get circled.

Control 2 — who holds the keys. The list: Maya (everything), her older brother (knows the payment password “just in case”), and her best friend (can post to the resale Instagram). The interrogation is quick: the brother’s access has no reason — removed by Wednesday. The friend keeps posting access but loses nothing else. And Maya realizes she is the only person who can move money alone — fine at this size, but she writes down that payouts over \$200 need a text confirmation to her mom. Separation of duties, pocket scale.

Try this: The brother's password had to go. It always does.

Control 3 — show the receipts. Buyer payments: solid — the payment app keeps the history. Inventory buys: solid — order confirmations. Cash deals at school: missing — nothing but memory. Shipping: okay — receipts in her email, mixed with everything else. Fixes: a daily deal log (amount, who, what, date — thirty seconds per deal) and one phone folder called RECEIPTS, organized by month. The shoebox-camera-roll era ends tonight.

Control 4 — the rogue test. Maya attacks herself three ways. One: her brother, still knowing the password, “borrows” \$200 before she removes his access — likely, bad. Two: her phone is stolen at school with the payment app logged in — unlikely, catastrophic. Three: a buyer claims the shoes never arrived and she has no tracking number — likely, medium. Attack one dies with the password removal. Attack three dies with her new rule: tracking number saved before the shoes ship, no exceptions. Attack two gets a plan: payment app PIN + login alerts, reviewed monthly.

Notice what the rogue test proved: every successful attack rented a gap she had already found. The test didn’t invent weaknesses — it priced them. That pricing is what turns a vague worry (“I should be more careful”) into a fix with a deadline (“tracking numbers before shipping, starting today”).

Control 5 — the fix list. Maya writes three sentences. “I will remove my brother’s payment access by Wednesday.” “I will start the daily deal log tonight.” “I will save tracking numbers before shipping, starting with tomorrow’s drop.” Verb, owner, deadline — all three. And a monthly fifteen-minute review on her calendar: money map, key list, receipt folder. Total time invested: one evening. Her venture is now more controlled than most small businesses.

A deal with no receipt didn’t happen. A venture with no controls is a wish.



THE TAKEAWAY

You picked a real venture and ran five controls on it: you mapped the money, interrogated the access list, graded the receipts, attacked it on paper, and wrote three fixes with verbs, owners, and deadlines. Then you did it to someone else's venture, which is what auditors actually do. The professional vocabulary — evidence, access control, risk assessment, remediation, separation of duties — is now yours, and it arrived as a trophy, not homework. Keep the monthly fifteen minutes. The controls only work if you revisit them.

Control concepts mapped from the SOC 2 Trust Services Criteria (AICPA). The worked example is fictional; any resemblance to real ventures is coincidence.

What to learn next: S1 · SOC 2 in Plain English — now learn what the professionals call what you just did. You already speak the language; S1 teaches you the grammar.

