smartContract

AN EBOOK FOR IT LEADERS

Why IT teams are still fighting contract problems in 2026

smartContract AI: contract management for modern IT teams

And how smartContract AI turns buried agreements into answers your team can act on.

01 THE CHALLENGE

A typical Monday morning

A vendor invoice lands in your inbox for work that was never approved. Procurement can't find the latest SOW. Legal is reviewing an amendment that was signed months ago. And a cloud contract is set to auto-renew next week — before anyone has reviewed usage.

For most IT leaders, none of this is unusual. It's the everyday cost of critical information sitting buried inside contracts, statements of work, and renewal documents — information your team needs, but can't reach fast enough.

The challenge is no longer simply managing vendors. It's finding the right information quickly enough to control spend, keep projects moving, and stay ahead of every renewal and obligation.

IN THIS EBOOK

- The contract challenges IT leaders face every week
- What happens when contracts aren't tracked
- How smartContract AI closes the gap
- What it costs to keep waiting

02 THE QUESTIONS

The questions IT leaders ask every week

Most contract issues start as a simple business question — and the answer almost always exists somewhere. The real problem is finding it fast enough to act. Here's what those questions sound like across the teams you support:

VENDOR MANAGEMENT

"Why are we paying for work that falls outside the agreed scope?"

CLOUD OPERATIONS

"Why did this contract renew before we reviewed usage?"

SERVICE DELIVERY

"Why is the vendor saying this falls outside the agreement?"

RISK & COMPLIANCE

"What service levels did we actually negotiate?"

PROCUREMENT & LEGAL

"Why does every security review take so long?"

> **Key takeaway:** The information usually exists. The challenge is reaching it quickly enough to make the decision.

03 THE HIDDEN COST

What untracked contracts cost IT

You rarely write these contracts — but you're the one who lives with them. When an agreement isn't tracked, it doesn't fail quietly in a legal folder. It lands on your desk as an unbudgeted renewal, a stalled launch, or a vendor insisting the work is out of scope. For IT leaders, the impact is immediate, and it's threefold:

FINANCIAL

Unexpected vendor charges, unplanned renewals that fire before you review usage, and software you're still paying for but no longer use.

OPERATIONAL

Delayed project delivery, slower vendor onboarding, and engineers pulled off the roadmap to resolve disputes.

STRATEGIC

Weaker negotiating leverage, limited visibility into what you've committed to, and lower confidence in your own planning.

Why does this keep happening? Not because of how many contracts you have, but how little you can see inside them — unclear statements of work that each team reads differently, critical terms like renewals and liability buried deep in the document, and multiple versions scattered across email, drives, and procurement systems with no clear source of truth.

> **Key takeaway:** Untracked contracts don't stay a legal problem. Poor visibility quickly becomes an IT cost, delay, and risk problem — on your budget and your roadmap.

04 THE SOLUTION

How smartContract AI changes the equation

For an IT leader, the point of AI isn't faster contract review in the abstract — it's getting the answer before the auto-renewal fires, before the invoice is paid, and before a vendor dispute escalates. **smartContract AI** surfaces them the moment the question comes up, built for how IT actually works.

ANSWERS AT THE MOMENTS THAT MATTER TO IT

Before a renewal — surfaces renewal dates, notice periods, and spending thresholds before the deadline arrives, not after the auto-renewal fires.

Before an invoice — compares the invoice against approved deliverables and commercial terms, so out-of-scope charges get caught before they're paid.

Before a dispute — locates the obligations, milestones, and service commitments that govern the relationship in seconds, not days.

BUILT FOR IT, NOT JUST LEGAL

Answers, not search — ask smartContract AI a plain-language question and get the answer with its source clause, instead of a list of documents to read.

Monitoring that runs on its own — commitments, deadlines, and thresholds are tracked automatically across the whole portfolio, so nothing lapses unnoticed.

Integrates with the systems IT runs — connects to your ERP and finance platforms (SAP, Oracle, NetSuite, Microsoft Dynamics), procurement, cloud, and ITSM tools — so a contract's terms sit next to the actual spend, usage, and tickets.

FROM SEARCHING TO ACTING

Instead of digging through documents, your team gets the answer the moment the question comes up — faster decisions, stronger governance, and less risk. In a 2026 in-house survey, 79% already report spending less time on routine review.

Key takeaway: smartContract AI turns contract search into contract action — so your team spends its time acting on contracts, not hunting through them.

05 THE COST OF WAITING

The cost of delaying

Doing nothing feels safe. It isn't. Every quarter spent on manual contract review, the cost compounds: auto-renewals fire before anyone reviews usage, unused licenses keep billing, and the backlog of obligations no one is actively monitoring keeps growing. Each missed renewal and unchallenged invoice is money that doesn't come back.

52% of in-house legal teams are already using or evaluating AI for contract review — with active use nearly quadrupling since 2024.

Gartner predicts that by 2029, around 50% of contract reviews will be handled by self-service systems. Teams that keep relying on manual review face a widening gap — not just in efficiency, but in risk exposure. As vendor portfolios grow and cloud commitments compound, the volume of obligations that need active monitoring quickly exceeds what any team can track by hand.

Key takeaway: Delay isn't neutral. The cost of poor contract visibility compounds with every renewal cycle — and the competitive gap widens while you wait.

06 GET STARTED

Gain greater control with smartContract CLM

The fastest way to understand what smartContract AI changes for your team is to point it at the contracts you already manage — and watch it track the renewals, obligations, and risks you'd otherwise spend hours chasing.

SEE IT WORK IN THREE STEPS

1

Point it at your contracts

Connect the SOWs, vendor agreements, cloud contracts, and SaaS renewals you already manage — with no lengthy setup.

2

Ask in plain language

Type a question like "Which contracts auto-renew in the next 90 days?" and get the answer with its source clause.

3

Act before the deadline

Catch out-of-scope invoices and review usage before the auto-renewal fires and locks in another year.

WHAT CHANGES FOR YOUR TEAM

Control your spend

Catch unplanned renewals and out-of-scope charges before they hit the budget.

Faster vendor decisions

Answer contract questions in seconds, without pulling engineers off the roadmap.

Less risk, more visibility

Track obligations, SLAs, and renewals automatically across the whole portfolio.

Take control of contract complexity.

Less manual effort — more time on the work that moves IT forward.

Turn to the last page to see the teams that trust smartContract — and book your demo →

KNOW MORE ABOUT SMARTCONTRACT

Trusted by IT and operations teams worldwide

From global enterprises to fast-scaling organisations, IT, procurement, finance, and operations teams rely on smartContract to bring visibility and control to the agreements that run their business.

51+	98%	4.8/5	88%
ORGANISATIONS SERVED	WOULD RECOMMEND	OVERALL RATING	FIVE-STAR REVIEWS

Schedule a demo today

www.smartcontractclm.com

Sources: 1. LegalOn, 2026 State of AI for In-House Legal (survey of 452 in-house professionals): 52% using or evaluating AI for contract review (active use ~4× since 2024); 79% report less time on routine work. 2. Gartner — by 2029, ~50% of contract reviews handled by self-service systems (Gartner General Counsel survey, October 2025). 3. Gartner Peer Insights — reviews are the subjective opinions of individual end users and do not represent the views of Gartner or its affiliates.