

Do You Have a Disaster Recovery Plan?

Disaster Prevention

A solid disaster recovery plan should always start with prevention. An extremely large number of "disasters" come from mismanagement, a lack of pro-active maintenance, and of course, human error.

Low-Lying Fruit

The best way to start planning how to protect your company's valuable data, or to enhance your existing disaster recovery plan, is to start simple and take care of the "low-lying fruit." Meaning, make sure that your drives are protected in a RAID array (see [corresponding white-paper](#)), enable email notifications for backups, perform test restores on a quarterly basis, and train employees to save often. When was the last time you checked those backup tapes? Do you know if there is anything on them? Knowing the answers to questions like these is critical to making sure you can perform a successful recovery.

Also, be sure to get that media off-site in the event that there is a fire, flood, or some other type of event that could destroy your data.

Looking Beyond

Once you have the basics under control, it's time to start looking beyond to the next phase. It's always a great idea to have redundancies, just in case your primary backup system fails. There are numerous local disk backup systems

that can offer you extremely fast recovery time in the event that a file needs to be recovered. In addition, there are a multitude of terrific online backup systems that are encrypted for your security and offer you another level of off-site protection. These are great supplements to your existing backup strategy.

On an even higher level, there are solutions that can be designed specifically for your company to provide you with live images of your servers that can be recovered to identical hardware, non-identical hardware, or even to a virtual machine. These options put you in the driver's seat and can give you an extremely high level of protection against hardware failures or other disasters that you may face.

Get Answers Now

Anyone in the IT field will tell you that it's not a matter of "if," it's a matter of "when" you suffer from some kind of data loss. If you have any lingering questions about your disaster recovery plan, now is the time to get them answered, before it's too late!

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