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5 Steps to Get Started on a Disaster Recovery Plan

CHECKLIST

Getting started with a BCP or DRP definitely has a very daunting aspect to it. Don't get intimidated! If this is your first time considering writing one of these plans, consider the following key elements to factor into your starting documents. If you already have a plan, consider them quick checks to see if your bases are covered.

1. Define your tolerance for downtime and data loss

This is the absolute starting point of your planning. In addition to the obvious risks of data loss, time, and money that you face, there are additional risks such as productivity, reputation, and instability to consider. If you can't quantify the risk you are facing, then you will not be able to decide how much money to spend for mitigation of that risk.

2. Do a complete inventory

Your DRP should include a complete inventory of equipment, software, and applications, in priority order. Each element in your inventory should have the vendor technical support contract information and contact numbers. Identify and document the support agreements and SLAs pertinent to a disaster recovery scenario. You also need to have a secure inventory of personnel, key vendors, and partners, listing clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and have a succession plan in place with trained back-up employees.

3. Create a communication plan

Plan how to communicate with your employees or recovery team members in the case of a disaster. It is important to make sure they know how to access this emergency communication system.

4. Identify available tools

You probably already have in place some of the essential elements of a good DRP such as data center virtualization, network virtualization, cloud access and back-up software. There are other elements such as VDI, automation tools and container technologies that you may have in place—or could. So you may be more ready than you think. Make sure you identify these tools—as well as the preparation work needed before the disaster—in the plan.

5. Identify actual recovery process, step by step

This process is less daunting than you think. It just starts with assessing where you are and what you need, preferably under the guidance of an expert who is vendor-agnostic, such as GCSIT. And all that honestly starts with a simple phone call and goes from there.

There is no better time than now.

GCSIT has the years of experience, numerous certified engineers, trusted vendor partnerships, and a full breadth understanding of requirements to help you develop and realize the benefits of Agile Architecture, including an integrated DRP.

GCSIT will guide you through the unknown, help clear the path for you and can help you map out the territory ahead. We also help you maximize what you have now. Knowing what you have and what it can do for you is half the battle.

For more information on disaster recovery preparedness download our whitepaper. Or check out the brain food we've got on cloud solutions, automation, digital workspace, and more at www.gcsit.com.

Learn about how GCSIT can confidently guide you toward predictable, scalable, agile infrastructure.

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