

## Planning for the Worst - Data Disaster Recovery Planning

It is essential for your business to have a data disaster recovery plan in place for several reasons. Like an insurance policy it can protect your company from the risk of losing considerable business, or even losing your business. The cost of downtime in today's connected networks can be substantial. Many buyers are asking their suppliers to provide a disaster recovery plan to ensure that their supply chain will not be cut off due to unforeseen events. Industry specific directives like HIPPA obligate health care providers protect health information and data privacy.

The problem for many smaller companies is that they have become multi-location businesses with data spread out between several sites and even peoples homes. The cost of a data network that centralizes data backups at a specific location can be expensive and require technical staff, and it does not take into account the possibility of a natural disaster. Tapes and direct to disk systems still require that a copy of the data be taken off site one daily basis and raises the risk that a good backup will not be available when you need it.

Following *old-school backup routines* for data backup could put your business at risk. To avoid disaster, you need to think about what data you need to recover—and how quickly. When it comes down to the nitty-gritty details of backup, most small-business owners (along with most individual users) have a less-than-solid grasp on the reality of their backup needs.

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Fortunately, Internet technology has now allowed a vastly superior method of backing up: **online backup**. Online Backup (sometimes also referred to as remote backup) has considerable advantages over other computer data backup methods.

- **Online backup is automatic.**  
Once your online backup software is installed and your computer backup sets are set up, backups start automatically. Thereafter, you need do absolutely nothing. You never have to change disks, rotate tapes or label CDs. Studies show that the primary reason that people do not backup their data, is because of the hassle and the effort

involved. Simply put, online backup takes the inconvenience out of backing up your data.

- **Online backup is offsite.**  
Perhaps the most important aspect of backing up is that your data backup is offsite and stored in a different location from your immediate computer data. After all, if you experience a fire or other disaster, or a theft, your backups are probably as worthless as your computer if they had been stored on top of or next to your computer. With online backup, your data is always stored safely, in not one, but two offsite locations, located hundreds of miles apart from each other. You never have to take tapes or CDs offsite and put them in storage.
- **Online backup is scalable.**  
With online backup, you can never run out of storage space. As your data grows, your online storage account can grow with it automatically. There is no having to catalog endless CDs or changing tapes in the middle of a backup of data.
- **Online backup allows you to easily retrieve data.**  
How many days would you have to wait to get backup tapes back from storage in the event of a disaster? It could be days, even weeks before your data was recovered and your business was back in operation. Let's say you wanted to recover just one file. How many CDs would you have to search for to find the file that you are looking for? With eSureIT online backup, you have access to all of your files 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Retrieve the file you need in just seconds. Have your business completely up and running after a system failure in just hours.
- **Online backup saves you money.**  
Do you know the only proper way to back up using tapes? You must change them often because tapes wear out. And you must rotate them using multiple sets. Want to automate the process? Buy a high priced tape changing robot. Even constantly having to buy CDs and DVDs will add up. With online backup, you save money. There are absolutely no installation costs as the online backup software is simple to use and there is no equipment to buy. All you pay is one low monthly fee.

- **Online backup lets you sleep easier.**

Some studies show that more than half of backups, including some remote backup services, don't actually work. They appear to be backing up but don't actually transmit any data. Or the storage devices failed or deteriorated while in storage. How sure can you be that your backups are really working? With other methods its hard but with the eSureIT online backup, you can be sure. At any time, you can view all of the files that you have backed up and you can restore them. Online backup provides you with the confidence of knowing that your backups are really there for when you need them.

It is clear that disasters and accidents happen. Designing a plan now to have your data backed up off site in an automatic and systematic way will ensure that you will be able to recover your data with minimal impact and more importantly, sleep well at night.

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