

Your business,  
safe in our hands

Computer Systems  
Communications  
Networks  
Business Solutions  
Technology Management



# Disaster Recovery

## Five Effective Steps

### Focus on Your Business - Not Your Technology

#### Current Disaster Recovery Landscape

Real world disasters in the recent past such as extensive flooding, cyclones and earthquakes have highlighted the importance of Disaster Recovery (DR) and Business Continuity (BC).

However many business don't have a tested and/or updated plan to cover such situations. Without testing a plan doesn't necessarily mean that your business could recover effectively from a major disruption, much less continue operations through the disaster. The simplest way to measure your current disaster preparedness is based on the answer to the following question;

**“Do you have complete confidence in your businesses ability to recover from disaster?”**

If your business is like so many others than the answer is “no”. So why the uncertainty? Maybe business has been buoyant so why spoil a good thing by thinking of something bad? Unfortunately disasters don't care about the economy.

There are 5 keys to an effective DR strategy;

- Redundant Equipment
- Appropriate DR site (s)
- Connectivity
- Speed of Recovery
- Ease and Accuracy of Testing

However these 5 steps are often seen as sky high cost obstacles for the smaller business.

#### Redundant Equipment

It's obvious to state that in a disaster redundant equipment will be required. However in traditional DR plans this often requires considerable capital investment or the acceptance of a protracted recovery window whilst equipment is shipped into your location.

With a solution from Not-a-Geek, this risk is mitigated as you can easily leverage on our infrastructure capacity. This solution allows a smaller business to reduce risk of downtime without the burden of exorbitant upfront costs.

#### Appropriate DR Site

The specification for an alternate DR site vary widely based upon your business model. Some can get by ensuring their systems are online, whilst others would require retail space to continue trading. The key is to ensure you have the necessary facilities to continue servicing your customers after a disaster strikes.

#### Connectivity

Communications play a pivotal role in today's business. If connectivity in various disaster scenarios is not given serious attention, it may completely halt a business continuity plan. Your geographic location can raise some complex challenges and seriously limit what alternate options may be available.



## Speed of Recovery

Many disaster recovery plans are not aligned with a business impact analysis (BIA), resulting in wide gaps between acceptable downtime and a realistic recovery time objective (RTO). If your business's acceptable downtime is 1 day, then you need to recover all of the systems required for business to full operation within 24 hours—this time includes getting all the resources to the alternate site (people, equipment, data), restoring to a replacement infrastructure and testing, before being ready to commence business.



If you can't recover your systems in time to meet the acceptable downtime identified in your BIA, you must find better solutions to redress the deficiencies. Only real testing, under pressure, will be able to validate your recovery time objective.

## Ease and Accuracy of Testing

Many of the forward thinking businesses

struggle with DR testing. This is because a true disaster scenario is hard to replicate. Most testing must be done after hours in order to take production systems down or reroute communications over to alternate sites. Furthermore, in order to truly test a DR plan, some systems may require changes to be made that could affect that could affect the production environment. For these reasons it is important that your DR or BC strategy allows for simple testing that can be efficiently performed to minimise impact to the production environment.

## Solutions from Not-a-Geek

We are available to assist you every step of the way. We can assist with a Business Impact Analysis or Risk Assessment,. We can prepare a solution that can have your technology up and running again in hours rather than days. Our tailored solutions can cost effectively reduce the risk of a disaster within your business.

Call us today, we can help.

---

## Managed Services

---

Many people will be aware of the quote;

“Prevention is better than a cure”

An equally good quote, also by Erasmus, would be;

“ Man's mind is so formed that it is far more susceptible to falsehood than to truth.”

Many owners believe in the falsehood that their business is safe because they have a data backup.

Unfortunately this is definitely not a DR or BC strategy that is at all comforting.

- When was the last time the backup was tested?
- Do you read the backup logs to determine how successful it was?
- When was the health of your system last verified?

We have seen too many business have to spend large amounts of money because they followed this false path based on the assumption that if the system was “on” in the morning then everything was “fine”.

With managed services from Not-a-Geek, we actively monitor your system, looking for the problems that often go hidden for months. A single problem may not be an issue, but if left unresolved could soon snowball into a major problem.

Think of this managed service like the service you may perform on your car.

You wouldn't run a car until the engine seizes all for the sake of not checking the oil every week?

Our managed services are a cost effective way to greatly reduce the risk of a problem occurring in the first place.



Suite 5, 75B Forrest Street  
Geraldton, 6530

T: 08 9964 9648  
F: 08 9932 6153  
E: mailbox@not-a-geek.com.au

"We'll either find a way, or  
make one" - General Hannibal