Building Your Plan

There are many technologies offering different approaches to data protection, application availability, high availability, and disaster recovery. When it comes to protecting your operations, it is imperative that your selection of tools is a business decision based on the level of risk and disruption that can be tolerated by the different parts of the organization.

Email is ubiquitous and preserving access to email through any type of disruption should be a priority for most organizations, with 100% uptime the goal. Database applications like sales order processing or online collaboration and content management may also require 100% uptime as the impact of downtime will be too much of a risk to the business. Other applications, such as purchase order processing, may demand no data loss, but a recovery time in the region of one hour may be acceptable.

There may also be applications that are non-critical, where data can be recreated from original sources, or that are low risk and downtime measured in hours or even days is acceptable.

Assessing business need requires taking into account multiple factors. Data protection with extended recovery times may be acceptable for some functions, immediate data access for others. Protection through planned maintenance may be vital in some instances, 100% availability through disasters for others.

There is unlikely to be a "one size fits all" solution for all applications used within any organization. Just as it's unwise to spend too little on DR and business continuity plans and infrastructure, it's not necessary to spend too much safeguarding less critical systems. The cost of risk associated with losing any particular business function must be the primary factor behind your decisions.

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Build Your DR Checklist

Each organization has its own unique set of requirements, and each should develop its own checklist based on those needs. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- List all databases, file systems, and applications required to keep your operation running.

- Divide them into four categories:
  - Can never be down
  - Can be down for a few hours
  - Can be down for a day or two
  - Can be down for several days or more.

- Work with a competent service provider to implement systems that support recovery of the systems within their respective time frames.

- Work out a communications plan for all relevant personnel that utilizes at least two separate channels of communication.

- Carefully examine all single points of failure and devise appropriate levels of backups.

- Develop a method for testing access to data sources and applications from remote locations.

- Develop and implement a schedule for testing all affected systems in simulated emergency situations. The frequency of such tests depends on the nature of your business, but a good rule of thumb is to test at least quarterly.

- Document everything and maintain that documentation in at least three locations that all relevant personnel can access.

How Neverfail Can Help

We work with our partners to develop and implement cost-effective, bulletproof DR strategies.

Neverfail's mission is simple; to build and protect the most resilient cloud solutions in the world.

We offer a wide range of private cloud offerings utilizing highly secure, geographically dispersed data centers. We can protect access to your data and applications regardless of where your business is located.

With a commitment to providing continuous uptime to mission critical applications, we offer uninterrupted business operations to enterprises, government organizations, and small businesses that cannot fail.

Resiliency is in our DNA.

Geographically dispersed secure data centers in the US and Europe

Meets All Major Security & Compliance Standards (ISO, HITRUST, HIPAA, SOC)

100% Uptime Guarantee for Continuous Business Operations

Tier-IV Gold Certification in the World's Most Secure Data Centers

SLA-Based continuity for every application tier in your business, so you never overpay or under protect again.

About Neverfail

Neverfail delivers continuously available clouds through a single pane-of-glass SaaS platform. This platform is the industry's first secure, comprehensive, multi-tenant, multi-cloud management solution for BC/DR solutions, solution catalogs, cloud service billing, service orchestration, monitoring, cloud workspaces and unified communications.

Neverfail serves a global partnership of managed service providers, systems integrators, telecommunication providers, data center operators, independent software vendors, governments, healthcare institutions and enterprises exclusively through the channel.

The company provides solutions across the globe and operates data centers in the United States and Europe.

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