5 Reasons CIOs Are Rethinking IT Disaster Recovery

Rethink Disaster Recovery

Service uptime and availability are IT's most strategic priorities in today's connected and technology-dependent world. Disaster Recovery-as-a-Service (DRaaS) is poised to very quickly take over the way businesses recover and protect their applications due to its ability to more quickly and seamlessly enable availability.

Why are so many businesses choosing to rethink Disaster Recovery (DR) today, when traditionally, DR was the last priority on their list to receive attention?

Bluelock has seen the following five drivers consistently cause CIOs to rethink IT disaster recovery:

5 REASONS YOU NEED TO RETHINK DR TODAY

IT standards are increasing

Traditional disaster recovery doesn't work

Software defined infrastructure and cloud are changing the game

IT has more to do than ever before

As-as-Service is the new normal

#1 IT standards are increasing

In today's always-on world, businesses are being held to a higher standard of availability and service continuity. Netflix and YouTube are always on, so your leadership and customers also expect your business to be on and available at all times.

In addition, due to recent high-profile data breaches and natural disasters, cyber threats and business continuity have been a topic of discussion. If a disaster were to strike, many businesses who are operating legacy disaster recovery (DR) solutions would not be able to get back up and running until days, if not weeks, after the event, crippling the business's ability to perform. As the standard of IT increases, the capability of the DR solution needs to rise to the occasion to support this new, always-on mentality.

A recent IDG survey[1] showed that two groups, executives and IT practitioners, are influenced by different challenges as they formulate disaster recovery strategies. 71% of top executives responding to the survey ranked prevention of data loss or theft as a critical or high priority, but only 50% are worried about their organization's ability to deliver continuous, uninterrupted access to data, regardless of where it resides. 86% of IT directors and managers share executive's concerns about data loss and theft while 89% cite continuous, uninterrupted data access as a higher priority.

#2 Traditional DR doesn't work

Statistics from the Disaster Recovery Preparedness Council show that only 40% of companies today have a full DR plan. Worse still, 40% of those full DR plans did not work when activated. Traditional DR programs were based on a "check the box" approach that said as long as the pieces were all in the same place, they could eventually be assembled when needed.

Disaster Recovery-as-a-Service (DRaaS) disrupts that model by protecting entire applications in a high availability environment, available within a short period of time (minutes or hours) when needed. These DRaaS solutions are easily tested, easily recovered and provide greater assurance it will work when needed.

The IDG survey mentioned earlier showed that 64% of top executives say they are extremely or very confident in their firm's ability to leverage DR practices to prevent service disruption and 54% to leverage DR to prevent data loss and theft. Half believe that their existing DR practices don't present a burden to their IT

staffers when it comes to the day-to-day work of testing, monitoring and managing DR plans. On the other hand, only 39% of IT implementers feel confident in their ability to ward off service disruptions and about 36% are not convinced they are adequately prepared for data loss and theft. *This represents a major disconnect between executives and IT practitioners regarding the true capabilities of their existing DR plans.*

DRaaS Addresses The Most Pressing Concerns and Challenges of IT DR:

Offloading time-consuming activities:

- Implementation/deployment
- Testing and documentation
- Monitoring and management tasks

Faster and Simpler Failover and Failback Capabilities

Providing constant visibility into metrics such as:

- Cost objectives
- RPO (Recovery Point Objective)
- RTO (Recovery Time Objective)

#3 Software defined infrastructure and cloud are changing the game

The way DR software tools like Zerto, Veeam and Double Take have been combined with different cloud architectures to provide recovery, is disrupting every element of how traditional DR was done. Clunky tapes are no longer in the same class as continuous data replication technologies which offer recovery point objectives (RPOs) of seconds rather than days.

These technologies can allow customers to tailor their preferred replication technology with their preferred cloud, increasing the options available for consideration. CIOs who are most successful with DRaaS take a tailored, custom approach to leverage the right technology for various application tiers, typically through a single provider.

When trusting a company for business continuity and IT systems availability, you need a expert perspective, a flexible approach and a proactive attitude. Don't spend money purchasing new hardware or adding headcount. Propel your business forward by partnering with a DRaaS provider and leverage their hardware and staff for a fraction of the cost.

#4 IT has more to do than ever before

As non-IT business units become more reliant on technology, IT's job gets more complicated. Many CIOs have success by identifying the least strategic projects and finding a trusted partner to whom they can offload those projects. IT DR is one of the best places to start for many companies because it's a time and resource-consuming project that is typically under-funded and under-resourced.

When looking into DR, consider how the solution will impact your IT staff. IT managers are known to grapple with the pain points of disaster recovery implementation, while top executives worry about additional house-keeping tasks that distract from value-creating activities for the business. A recent IDG survey showed that 85% of top executives say their DR decisions are guided by concerns about putting more manual work on their IT team's plate and DRaaS can alleviate this concern.

In the same survey, 70% of IT managers said that DR is time consuming to test, monitor and manage, 64% said DR is complex and difficult to deploy and 69% believe their practices are not proactive enough. Because IT has more to do than ever before - offload these tasks to a DRaaS provider offering continual access to your critical data. Relieve major burdens on your IT team so they can focus their attention on more rewarding objectives and pressing business initiatives. Maximize system uptime, performance and ensure employee productivity with DRaaS.
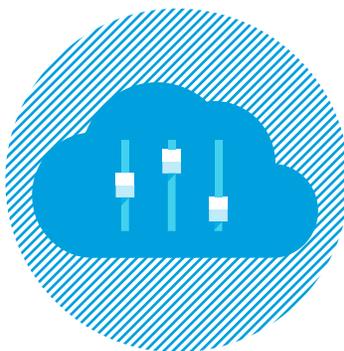
#5 As-a-Serice is the new normal

Whether it is Salesforce.com, Office365, Workday or ServiceNow, "as-a-Service" products have been adopted by almost every organization to some degree. Disaster Recovery-as-a-Service may not seem like it fits with SaaS, but what IT leaders are experiencing is that DRaaS is a logical next step on this "aaS" adoption curve.

Disaster Recovery-as-a-Service is often the first time IT is the primary buyer of "as-a-Service", and CIOs tell us this is the perfect way to dip into the cloud model because it encourages ample testing so your team can get comfortable and learn in a safe setting.

What's really interesting is that CIOs tell us that it's about more than rethinking DR. Because the tools that improve DR today are "as-a-Service" and cloud-based, they find themselves traveling along the "as-a-Service" adoption curve and DR is just a tiny part of that journey. Because they've rethought DR, they also tell us they sleep better at night because they have confidence it will work 100% of the time, compared to 40% of the time with traditional disaster recovery solutions.

One CIO of a regional chain of retail stores and manufacturing plants shared that when his IT team was able to free up time from managing the day-to-day operations of DR synchronization and infrastructure operations, they were suddenly able to be in more meetings with other departments. In those meetings they heard about problems the business was having in other areas like store operations, which weren't considered technology problems at all. But, because IT was able to be in the room for the conversation - they were able to apply technology to solve the problem in a faster, better way than would have ever been possible before.

That's the value CIOs tell us that comes from spending the time today to rethink DR - it's a catalyst to bigger and better IT and business transformation. CIOs who have transformed their DR, and eventually their production hosting, tell us they have more time for innovation, more time for process automation and that their IT staff is more engaged, more excited and are retained longer. They spend their time driving software and automation into long-standing business problems and leveraging big data analysis to attack business needs.

CONCLUSION

The pressure on IT to deliver service uptime and availability is being met with major advancements in DR capabilities. Now is the time to rethink IT disaster recovery. **Confidence in continuity begins with a plan that works.**

Take the next step on your DR journey by considering your organization's technology dependencies and defining what aspects of your existing DR plan are holding you back. Use this information to determine your criteria for choosing the right partner for your DRaaS journey. Need assistance? Reach out to Bluelock today.

WHY DRaaS FROM BLUELOCK?

- ☐ **Support for various recovery tiers and time objectives**
- ☐ **Partial and full failover support and expert help with failback**
- ☐ **Physical and virtual machine support for hybrid environments**
- ☐ **Secure environments and solutions to support compliance standards**
- ☐ **Only provider with Recovery Assurance: proven process for onboarding, training, testing and DR Playbook**
- ☐ **Easy-to-use management portal with high-level and drill-down visibility into your recovery solutions**
- ☐ **Comprehensive testing and validation of DR Playbook twice a year, plus unlimited basic testing**
- ☐ **24/7/365 proactive support team**
- ☐ **World-class datacenters in varied regional locations**

For more information on Bluelock DRaaS, or to speak with an expert, visit www.bluelock.com or call 888.402.2583.