

The Keys to Disaster Recovery Planning

EVault's EVault Disaster Recovery Solutions help protect you from losing valuable data due to a complete site outage.

Whether you need to recover a single lost file, or implement a comprehensive system restore or a complete site recovery, EVault® Disaster Recovery Solutions provide fast, secure and reliable recovery in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

Disaster—What does that mean to your company?

Disasters happen in many ways and can disrupt or even completely destroy your business. Depending upon where you are located, disasters may be natural occurrences such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, snow storms or tornados. But, disasters may also result from random events including fires, power outages or surges, hardware failures and software/firmware errors, as well as human-caused events such as disgruntled employees or people with malicious intent looking to put your data at risk.

The key to Disaster Recovery data protection planning is understanding:

- What data you need to protect
- How current the files must be
- How quickly you need to recover lost or damaged files
- What level of risk you are willing to take

How is your company addressing these issues today? What happens if and when disaster strikes? Do you have duplicate copies of your mission critical data stored offsite? How fast and reliable will your recovery of information be? Will your company survive?

Have a disaster recovery plan in place to protect your data.

Planning for the worst when things are going the best makes the most sense. How long could your company survive if you lost all of your data today? Would your company come to a standstill if you didn't have access to your inventory, financial information, payrolls, customer lists, email and electronic transaction data?

Things to take into consideration when developing a disaster preparedness and recovery plan include your data recovery time and recovery point objectives and the need for remote access to your data, as well as knowledge of your system inventory, emergency contact information, evacuation plans, etc.

In terms of planning for the security and availability of your data, key considerations are Recovery Point and Recovery Time Objectives. The first step is to determine what data you need to protect and what access you need to that data in the event of a disaster. While all of your business data has some value, some data may be more valuable or critical than others. For example, your mail or e-commerce server may be mission critical and, if lost for more than a few minutes, hours or days, could cause a huge or potentially fatal interruption. On the other hand, data on a person's laptop may be less critical and your business could run with comparatively little interruption if that data was unavailable for a matter of days or weeks.

A comprehensive review of which systems are mission critical and which are less critical is a valuable starting point before proceeding. It should be noted that, because not all systems and data are equally important, it is possible to craft a multi-tiered recovery plan. The advantage of this is that it can help to optimize disaster recovery costs which can vary by the recovery plan you choose. In essence, your willingness and ability to mitigate risk are directly proportional to the type of disaster recovery plan you choose. At this point, you can begin to determine your recovery point and recovery time objectives.

Recovery Point Objectives (RPO)

RPO is the point in time that a data restore will reflect. For example, if you back up your system once daily at midnight, your RPO is 24 hours. In the event of a data failure, any data changed or input between midnight and 11:59PM will be lost so your data exposure is 23 hours and 59 minutes. And while this may be acceptable for data kept on a home computer, most businesses require smaller backup windows, perhaps down to five minutes. A tiered architecture provides this level of flexibility and reduces costs while mitigating risk as required.

Recovery Time Objectives (RTO)

The Recovery Time Objective (RTO) describes the amount of time or how rapidly a system can be recovered from backup. The key factor at work here is the speed at which data on backup media can be restored onto a system. So, for example, if a file is lost how quickly do you need to be able to restore it? Five minutes? One hour? One day? It may depend on the type of data but it is best to plan for this in advance. A transaction-based file relating to customer orders may have a very short RTO. Word documents or PowerPoint files, for example, may not be as critical and may have a longer RTO as they don't necessarily impact the operation of the business. The most important thing you can do today is to identify your requirements and put a plan in place to protect your data and your company.

How long will it take and what steps are needed to recover your data, and systems?

Once your disaster recovery plan is in place it is important to know how long it will take your company to retrieve and recover your data and systems. EVault offers disaster recovery solutions, planning and testing, as well as services to ensure business continuity. We help businesses develop a systematic approach to disaster recovery testing to facilitate your return to normal business operations following a disaster or data loss.

White Paper

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EVault Disaster Recovery Solutions

EVault Disaster Recovery Solutions are available as Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), software and managed service solutions. Whether you backup your data online, use our software onsite or let us manage it for you, EVault data protection solutions automatically protect desktops, laptops and servers according to your retention schedule. Your data is deduplicated, compressed, encrypted and then transmitted to one of our top-tier data centers. Your data is safely stored offsite for assured disaster recovery and easy regulatory compliance. You monitor and manage everything via a web browser—when you need to restore data, just point and click.

EVault Express Recovery Appliance delivers the best of both worlds with both local and offsite backups and restores. The Express Recovery Appliance is a pre-configured storage appliance that you install as a local vault in your offices. An add-on option to EVault SaaS, it automatically replicates your local backups to your EVault data center. This option gives you faster backups and restores plus offsite disaster recovery—without the need to manage hardware or upgrade bandwidth. You can purchase multiple EVault Express Recovery Appliances to protect multiple remote/branch offices (ROBOs) and consolidate all their backups to a centralized data center.

EVault System Restore, a bare metal recovery (BMR) solution, is available in the event of a complete system failure. EVault System Restore enables you to quickly and completely restore complete Windows systems – including the operating system and patch/system update files as well as application files – in minutes, even to dissimilar hardware or virtual environments.

EVault Remote Disaster Recovery Service ensures your company has access to a virtual network of your key servers within 24 to 48 hours following a regional or site-wide disaster. EVault Remote Disaster Recovery Service is a hosted service that helps you quickly recover your critical data after a disaster, and remotely access it in a secure virtual environment. You get state-of-the-art technology and a team of experts that walks you through the entire recovery process. We maintain your virtual servers in the same top-tier facilities that protect your data. In addition, we provide a documented Data Recovery Plan and Data Recovery Testing to ensure things go smoothly before a disaster declaration. An extension to our standard backup and recovery offerings, the service creates an integrated solution for data protection and fast disaster recovery.

Learn More

At EVault we offer proven data protection solutions. To receive case studies and customer success stories or to begin the process of protecting your data please contact us directly.

Take the Next Step

To learn more about EVault storage solutions, call us at 1.877.901.DATA (3282), email us at conciierge@evault.com, or visit us at www.evault.com.



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