COMMVAULT®

Will You Recover if Disaster Strikes?

5 PRINCIPLES OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE DISASTER RECOVERY

Most organizations have a secret they don't want to admit: they are not confident that their DR strategy will actually get them back up and running after a disaster hits. Historically, the traditional methods of conducting Disaster Recovery (DR) proved to be too cumbersome, not to mention simply too expensive. Few could afford to set up a secondary site that mirrored the primary site in every hardware and software detail. And even in the best case scenarios, DR fell short – restorations failed due to backup failures, system configuration errors or human error. Those who opted for lower-cost approaches were left to hope a disaster never happened. If it did, they were left to pick up the pieces. Unfortunately, many never recovered from a major outage event.

Using a next generation data protection solution that includes direct access to the cloud, every IT team can now have a viable, reliable DR strategy that will protect the business and in turn your job, when disaster strikes. Here are the five principles of highly effective DR:

ONE: AUTOMATE LABOR-INTENSIVE TASKS

Old school DR advertised automated backups as one of its features. It sounded good, but true automation was never achieved. In truth, there really is no such thing as pure set-and-forget DR because every environment has its own unique qualities. But next generation DR can enable automation for a great majority of tasks, including key features such as auto-discovery of new virtual machines or database instances. And because every IT shop is unique, a smart DR solution will let you create your own automated workflows to run processes that are specific to your operations.

TWO: USE SNAPSHOTS TO PROVIDE INSTANTANEOUS RECOVERY

Old school DR made use of inadequate snapshot tools inside storage arrays that lacked the required level of functionality and workload support making it a difficult and error-prone task to deliver on the promise of instant restore. Modern DR links application-aware and hypervisor-aware snapshot technology to backup processes in order to make data protection virtually instantaneous, while allowing you to move data off the primary array easily for longer term retention. It then allows you to either leverage the replication engine within the array to send data off-site, or to replicate copies of backup data.

THREE: EMBRACE AN ELASTIC APPROACH IN THE CLOUD

Due to its complexity and high cost, old school DR was typically adopted for only the most critical workloads. This meant that many application workloads throughout an organization were not adequately protected. In today's modern DR strategies, the cloud has become an increasingly important part of the infrastructure delivering DR elasticity and cost-effective scale so that organizations can protect more workloads with less cost. Next generation DR solutions are integrated across the organization's entire IT environment so that all workloads are recoverable, whether they are on-premises, or in a public or private cloud. Furthermore, a modern approach to DR will enable true data portability with the ability to move data between on-premises and cloud repositories and give IT organizations the freedom to change service providers as needed.

FOUR: VIEW ANALYTICS FOR INSIGHT IN REAL-TIME

Old school DR was from a simpler time – a few crude reports provided a bare minimum of insight into the environment, and a lot of time had to be spent looking through complex job logs. A modern approach to DR encompasses comprehensive reporting and analytics for insight into

Preserving Agility with Data Recovery in the Cloud[1]

Read about how to achieve an agile data management infrastructure and implement solutions to truly realize the economics of the cloud while getting smart about managing cloud resources.

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utilization, success rates and data profiles in real-time in order to plan better and achieve operational excellence.

FIVE: ADOPT A COMMON PLATFORM TO UNIFY, CENTRALIZE AND SIMPLIFY DR OPERATIONS

Old school DR relied on a collection of best-of-breed point tools that didn't integrate, and forced IT staff to spend long hours hopping between screens in their attempts to manage storage, protect data and troubleshoot issues. A modern approach to DR is housed upon a common platform to provide a holistic view to manage, protect and access data. Only with a common platform is it possible to unify, centralize and simplify DR operations – regardless of whether they are performed onsite, offsite or in the cloud.

The right place for deduplication in modern DR is at the source. Only in that way are duplicate files detected BEFORE they are sent across the network, eliminating as much as 90% of network traffic during backups.

COMMVAULT – A MODERN APPROACH TO DR

The criteria discussed above are essential for a modern and effective approach to DR. Commvault software fulfills these requirements. As the software is both cloud and hardware agnostic, it provides the data movement, orchestration and management capability to facilitate data protection and recovery both on-premise and in the cloud. By using Commvault in conjunction with the five principles of highly effective DR, you guarantee the future of your organization, a future free of catastrophic consequences in the event of grid failure, data loss or natural disaster.

RESOURCES

i http://commvau.lt/1QwMr3K

To learn more about protecting endpoint and mobile devices with Commvault® software, visit **commvault.com/solutions/by-topic/business-continuity**.

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