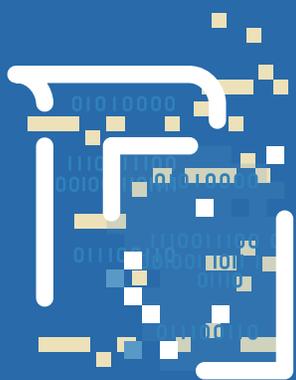**Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery: Strategies for Maintaining Operations in Times of Crisis**

❙ **Did You Know?**

❙ **The Different Types of USB Cables**

❙ **LeadingIT News**

Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery:

Strategies for Maintaining Operations in Times of Crisis

Managing challenges within our communities today is no easy task. The myriad of threats, both physical and digital, make it almost impossible to dodge every disaster. After all, it can be challenging to avoid system irregularities when mother nature calls or when a cybercriminal tricks one of your employees into exploiting information.

What is BCDR?

Business Continuity (BC) and Disaster Recovery (DR) are two separate practices that go hand in hand.

Business continuity is all about establishing plans and procedures to ensure an organization is prepared in case an adverse event happens. Said plans will minimize the impact of a natural disaster or cyber attack and help an organization remain functional with little disruption to its workflow.

With disaster recovery comes the specific steps to execute business continuity plans following an incident. DR is geared toward managing technological infrastructure during a crisis while BC is all about surviving long-term impacts and navigating success post-disaster.

The Importance of BCDR

Having an effective BCDR plan can be the difference between surviving an adverse event or having to stop workflows completely, whether it be on a temporary or permanent basis. As previously mentioned, the goal of BCDR is to minimize the impact of a disaster including those related to:

- Lost data
- Reputational harm
- Monetary loss
- Emergencies

Elements of an Effective Disaster Recovery Plan

1. Disaster recovery team

Your disaster recovery team should be composed of specialists who are prepared to develop, document, and execute the disaster recovery plan. This should include executive management personnel, a crisis management coordinator, a business continuity expert, and technology expert(s), which can be found internally or hired through an external IT support service.

2. Risk assessment

This involves identifying any current or potential risks present within the organization. It's a good idea to map out different scenarios and come up with steps to address each one.

3. Define RTO and RPO

These are recovery objectives, which map out how long your assets can be inactive prior to recovery and how
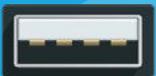
Nathan, Todd & Kyle

2 Things Every Business Can Do to Reduce Cyber Risk:

Cyber Risk Assessment

Incident Response Plan

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF USB CABLES

A universal serial bus or as most know it "USB", is a plug-and-play connection cable for electronic devices. Since its invention in 1996, the USB has come a long way. Once used primarily for computers, it has now become an essential method for connecting numerous devices like printers, keyboards, flash drives, televisions, digital cameras, gamepads, the list goes on and on.

While you've probably heard of (or even used) this handy little cable at some point, you might not realize that there are actually various types of USB connectors in existence.

You will notice that each description uses the terms "plug" and "receptacle." These terms are interchangeable with the male connector (plug) and the female connector (receptacle).

USB Type A:

Also known as the USB Standard-A, this is the original type of USB and the most used cable today. It features rectangular plugs and receptacles. If you look at a USB cable plugged into your computer, television, or phone charger, you will likely see USB type A.

USB Type B:

Also known as USB Standard-B, this cable has square-shaped plugs and receptacles featuring an extra notch on top. It is the least popular of the three connectors because it is a specialized technology that is more commonly used for printers and scanners.

USB Type C:

Commonly referred to as the USB-C, this type of USB features plugs and receptacles that are rectangular with four rounded corners. This is the latest USB version and solves the common problem of "which side goes up" when inserting the plug into a system. The USB type C allows for connection no matter which way you plug it in. Moreover, this version transfers data at much faster rates, charges devices more quickly, and provides varying modes of compatibility.

◼ *Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery* continued...

much data you're comfortable losing. Of course, you always want to minimize any data loss.

4. Select a recovery setup

At this point, you should have enough understanding to build a disaster recovery setup, such as a DR site. If you choose to have a DR site, you'll want to define where the site will be located, if it will be cloud-based, self-hosted, who will maintain it, etc.

5. Budgeting

Consider your resources and how much upper management will want to spend on a DR plan. Even if funds are tight, some sort of response plan is better than nothing.

On the technological front, your IT support service or expert(s) should be able to help you establish, manage, and minimize costs.

6. Test and review

The final step is to make sure your plan is ready to go. Make sure each person on your recovery team understands their roles and responsibilities and that all of your employees know who to reach out to if disaster strikes.

It's always a good idea to review your plan every 6 months to 1 year to ensure relevancy with any new threats. Don't wait for a disaster to strike before thinking about business continuity and disaster recovery.

LeadingIT News

LeadingIT is honored to partner with the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts. LeadingIT serves more than 18 fire protection districts across Illinois.

Dale at the 2023 Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts Annual Conference.

WE ARE CELEBRATING

Birthdays

Anthony Gallardo - March 4th
Michelle Gustafson - March 29th
Matthew Perry - March 12th
Todd Creek- March 12th
Judy Rivera- March 1st

Anniversaries

Jason Frederick Jimenez - 3/4/2013
Anthony Gallardo - 3/1/2021
Mark Seplowin - 3/1/2021
Dale Schwer - 3/1/2021
Jose Ledesma - 3/1/2021
Michael Seplowin - 3/1/2021

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