

Disaster Recovery: Is Moving to the Cloud Your Best Move?

It's just happened: a forklift has just accidentally broken into a circuit breaker box, causing significant damage. What do you do? Your system is down and you don't know how long it will be until everything is back up and running.

And this isn't the only instance where disasters test the mettle of IT departments. All you have to do is look at natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy, the Fukushima earthquake, or Hurricane Katrina to see that business continuity is critical. Between natural and human-related disasters, businesses of all sizes worry about how to securely protect their data. As a result, many of them are looking to moving their disaster recovery efforts to the cloud.

Disaster recovery as a service (DRaaS) shows that these cloud services have changed considerably over the traditional solutions. The past problems with the traditional disaster recovery solutions have included:

- They can be difficult to budget for.
- They often require significant upfront capital for your software, hardware, and networking infrastructure, all of which is duplicated across multiple sites.
- They are expensive to scale.
- The multiple infrastructures need maintenance and management, adding to the overhead costs.

From a business' operational viewpoint, the total yearly cost of traditional IT infrastructure, business continuity, and disaster recovery top the list of the drivers to cloud computing. Due to these costs and issues, an [Aberdeen Group study](#) reported that 81 percent of respondents have a cloud computing plan in place. In addition to that, another six percent were planning implementations.

When the majority of businesses believe that the data loss is the greatest company disaster, the question becomes: are you prepared for a disaster? While you can predict a hurricane and some other weather-related events and have back-up strategies for those, even more data losses come from human error. For example, a breaker was tripped on the floor of your data center or a backhoe caused damage to a fiber feed. Human error can also take the form of someone accidentally corrupting your data and having a failed recovery.

The benefits of moving to the cloud

Today's cloud-based disaster recovery comes with a range of benefits that help you address the issues of human-based and natural disasters. They're easy to use and manage especially because your chosen provider hosts and manages everything you've contracted them to do.

They're also operate in virtualized environments, so you can scale them as required. The scalability gives you more disaster recovery option like VMware. There is also greater deployment flexibility as well as future-proofing in the event you experience unexpected growth.

You'll be able to move all of your critical operations to the cloud so that your business remains up and running during and after a disasters. Having your disaster recovery on the cloud has a number of advantages surrounding your budget. Among them are:

- It's budget-friendly
- It's a service that is a flexible, pay-as-you-go expense.
- You're eliminating large upfront costs on hardware.
- You only pay for the amount you use, much like a utility.
- You can tweak how much you use or terminate the service any time.

Once you've decided on your disaster recovery service, test your solution(s) to be sure they work as expected.