BCP Strategies in a Cloud Environment

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Session Abstract

When a disaster hits, whether that's a major earthquake or a key hard drive melting down, is your organization prepared to continue operations? Disaster Recovery Planning (DRP) and Business Continuity Planning (BCP) are the answer, and they are often confused with each other. While there is a good degree of overlap, DRPs focus on recovering systems in the shortest timeframe economically feasible and BCPs focus on continuing critical business functions in the absence of critical resources (such as IT systems). With many organizations moving critical systems into 'the Cloud,' the importance of this need is elevated. What if your provider's systems are down? Even if *their* systems are up, what if the *network* is down? If your organization's business is conducted exclusively through a website, how do you keep revenue coming in while you respond to the disaster?

This session will talk about different types of disasters, elaborate on the differences between DRPs and BCPs, address key elements of successful DRPs/BCPs, identify key pitfalls in the DRP/BCP planning process, discuss different options for testing DRPs/BCPs that minimize the impact of normal operations, and identify key resources to help in those efforts. Throughout all those topics, we will incorporate strategies and leading practices when outsourcing to the cloud.

If you attended the April 2013 SF ISACA Luncheon, this session will cover similar material. **However, it will focus significantly more time on DRP/BCP in outsourced environments**, including: elements of DRP / BCP in the cloud that will affect your strategy, describe the different strategies, and address the steps for each strategy to include in your DRP / BCP planning efforts.

Target Audience

Professionals responsible for creating, managing, or evaluating Disaster Recovery Plans and/or Business Continuity Plans (DRPs / BCPs), especially when outsourcing to cloud providers (third-party-hosted systems).

COBIT Objectives or Processes

PO9 Assess and Manage IT Risks
PO10 Manage Projects
AI1 Identify Automated Solutions
AI2 Acquire and Maintain Application Software
AI3 Acquire and Maintain Technology Infrastructure

AI4 Enable Operations and Use
AI5 Procure IT Resources
DS1 Define & Manage Service Levels
DS2 Manage Third-Party Services
DS4 Ensure Continuous Service
DS6 Identify & Allocate Costs
DS7 Educate And Train Users
DS10 Manage Problems
ME3 Ensure Regulatory Compliance
ME4 Provide IT Governance

Speaker Bio

Steve is an IT Senior Manager with the Governance, Risk, & Compliance Team at Armanino LLP, based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has over 16 years of experience performing various types of IT governance, risk, and compliance audits: financial statement audits, SSAE-16 / SOC attestations (formerly SAS-70s), disaster recovery and business continuity planning, risk assessments, SOX compliance audits, security controls testing, and others. Prior to joining Armanino, Steve began his career with PricewaterhouseCoopers, then spending most of the next decade with Ernst & Young. After leaving the Big 4, he spent several years in the Internal Audit and Compliance departments for large corporations, ran his own consulting practice, and then returned to public accounting. During that span, he has performed the roles of external auditor, internal auditor, SSAE-16 / SOC / SAS-70 service auditor, compliance program manager; and consultant across many industries, including high-technology, hardware, software, internet (.coms), financial services, healthcare, biotech, manufacturing / distribution, retail, and others. With that experience, he brings a well-rounded view to all aspects of IT governance, risk, compliance, and operations.

Steve has spoken at numerous events, including the RSA Conference, national and local ISACA events, and international webcasts.

He currently serves as the 2nd Vice President for the San Francisco ISACA Chapter Board of Directors. He is also the Co-Chair of the SF ISACA Fall Conference Planning Committee and Co-Chair of the Education Team, coordinating all the Chapters' educational events.

In addition to his client service, Steve spent a rotation in Ernst & Young's National Office contributing to their Global Audit Methodologies, and was the Education Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest IT Audit practice.

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