COVENCO
DATA MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE 365

GUIDE

The Covenco Guide to Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS)

Comparing traditional Disaster Recovery Services with Cloud-Based DRaaS.

With 76% of organisations suffering a ransomware attack within the past 12 months, it's more important than ever to have a reliable contingency plan in place.

A vast number of threats can cause a business to reach a standstill and impact the continuity of business operations. Recent years have seen an increase in the number of hazards that can devastate an IT system, including:

- Cyber attacks and Ransomware
- Extreme Weather Events
- Natural Disasters
- Human Error
- Hardware and systems failures

Any business can be affected by unexpected problems like those listed above, which can take down your systems, lose your data, disrupt business services, and ultimately cut profits.

The main goal of disaster recovery is to reduce the overall risk to a business. A well-constructed disaster recovery plan can help you:

- Minimise downtime
- Limit disruption and damage
- Prevent the severe loss of data
- Minimise the overall cost of a disaster
- Avoid brand and reputational damage

Additionally, a well-thought-out plan can help educate your staff on what to do in a disaster to provide a smooth path to restoration.

In this age of digital transformation, when consumers and businesses rely so heavily on IT, downtime can have a devastating effect on the future viability of a business. Therefore, it is no surprise that Disaster Recovery As-a-Service (DRaaS) is the fastest-growing aspect of the business continuity market.

This cloud-based recovery service promises multiple benefits over more traditional recovery methods. While it might not be a complete replacement, there are certainly times when DRaaS works better than conventional DR.

SURVEY DATA
76%
Number of organisations suffered at least one ransomware attack in the past 12 months[1]

SURVEY DATA
16%
of organisations test whether their backup and disaster recovery solutions can restore by actually restoring and verifying their data.[2]

SURVEY DATA
49%
File backup and recovery is the most critical technology for reducing the risk and damage of ransomware attacks.[3]

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1. Veeam Data Protection Trends Report 2023
2. Veeam 2022 Ransomware Trends Report
3. Mimecast State of Ransomware Readiness 2022

What are the challenges associated with traditional Disaster Recovery?

Recovery Costs

Traditional disaster recovery often involves having a second data centre or set of servers at another location (this might even be someone else's data centre). This co-location scenario requires the purchase of additional hardware that needs to be manned, maintained, tested, and protected, which all come at a high cost to the business.

As well as the fore mentioned costs, other aspects to consider are utilities, travel to and from the site, and renting/purchasing the additional space.

Time Consuming

Traditional disaster recovery solutions can typically take longer to activate than they would as a cloud service. It can take hours to restore your data rather than instantly being brought online within seconds or minutes. Like booting up a physical machine – traditional recovery takes significant time and human resources.

In essence, the processes involved in activating a conventional DR site are more likely to involve a delay, which will ultimately risk further data loss and business interruption.

Manual Operations

Disaster Recovery events can occur during data replication tasks or an actual disaster. In these instances, manual operations are needed to start the process at the DR site if the connection between the primary and DR sites fails or they are interrupted. This can result in a considerable loss of business continuity, not to mention the time and resources of the IT team.

Testing

Traditionally DR testing can often be time-consuming and complicated, leading some SMBs to cut corners. Organisations may lack confidence in their testing, and as a result, in the event of an absolute disaster, it could take a long time for an entirely successful recovery.

The DRaaS solution

Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS) is a cloud-based solution. It is designed to protect a business's critical data against significant disasters such as cyber-attack, natural disasters, or accidents. It should also minimise downtime, allowing any organisation to return quickly to operational status in case of a data breach or business interruption.

> " Like booting up a physical machine - traditional recovery takes significant time and human resources. "

Benefits of utilising Covenco's DRaaS

Regardless of the size of your organisation, without DRaaS in place, you could be putting your business at a high risk of data and financial loss. DRaaS provides a much faster, automated, and more dependable recovery service than traditional DR methods.

Covenco's DRaaS provides a reliable and robust solution to all disaster scenarios and has been created to meet the most stringent Recovery Time Objectives (RTO) and Recovery Point Objectives (RPO). DRaaS provides organisations with the secure knowledge that their DR plan is always actionable.

Covenco's DRaaS solutions mitigate downtime and remove the complexity of recovering critical applications. We are not just offering a simple backup to the cloud service, but a complete and comprehensive local backup, offsite replication, and full disaster recovery service, which your business can rely on should the unthinkable happen.

Covenco's DRaaS service delivers consistent and continuous recovery and replication of all business-critical workloads to ensure minimal downtime.

Other Benefits Include:

Lowered Costs

Maintenance and running of a physical second data centre can be costly. However, these associated costs are eliminated with DRaaS as the responsibility will fall to the DRaaS provider to ensure cloud service is running and that the pricing you pay covers all the necessary costs on their end.

Simplify DR Testing

Without DRaaS, DR testing is often complicated and time-consuming. With DRaaS, you can test whenever you need to without worrying about the expense or time it takes.

It can be as simple as signing on to a login screen and running a test.

Reduced RPO/RTO

Covenco's DRaaS caters to a wide range of Recovery Time and Point Objectives (RTPO). The service minimises RTPO due to the automated process within the cloud platform, in contrast to the physical process of traditional, onsite DR.

Efficient Data Management

Your DRaaS provider will take control and manage the complexity and continuous growth of business data to ensure efficient data management.

It's easy to scale up or down, depending on the circumstances, and with the lower, more predictable costs, businesses have more leeway to protect not just the most critical servers but, in some cases, all the data in their charge.

Why choose to work with Covenco for DRaaS?

A DRaaS provider should be an experienced and trusted partner involved at all project stages and able to assist in planning and executing the DR strategy. That's where Covenco comes in; we will not just leave you to recover your systems. Covenco will lead the recovery effort, and our team of specialists are skilled and experienced in getting systems working and applications available.

Our technicians will also help you design and create your plan. We will also be with you when testing or implementing your recovery objectives.

Operating out of two secure and resilient ISO 27001 accredited data centres in the UK, Covenco has been providing genuine disaster recovery services and

solutions for over 25 years, designed to meet customer requirements. It's this heritage and experience which sets us apart from our competitors.

In conclusion, the days of time-consuming, complex disaster recovery processes are long gone. Signing up for a DRaaS solution, such as those available from Covenco, means you will have 24/7 support and the peace of mind that in the event of a disaster, you can quickly recover any lost data to minimise downtime.

Contact Covenco today to learn more about our Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS) for your business.

About Covenco

Covenco connects data management services with IT hardware supply and support. With over 34 years of experience in the IT industry, our team offers a reliable source of expertise for data centre administrators.

Covenco supports businesses with world-class data protection, backup, and disaster recovery services. Our UK data centres have over two Petabytes of customer data under management at any time, and we are fully ISO27001 accredited for data security.

Covenco supplies new, unused, and refurbished computer hardware from leading vendors, including IBM, HP, Dell/EMC, Lenovo, and Cisco. With global same-day shipping available, we have everything you could require at a fraction of the retail cost.

Our lifecycle solutions include fully certified Asset Recovery and Disposition (ITAD) Services, and we regularly buy back hardware as a part of a data centre refresh.
For more information, visit covenco.com

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