

eSentio



Testing, the Forgotten Component of BC/DR Programs

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BC/DR Testing

- It is a very critical component of any BC/DR program
- It is not about pass/fail
- It is about exercising and rehearsing to reveal shortcomings and weaknesses

Why Test?

- Validate your ability to execute and recover
- Provides a mechanism to identify gaps
- You need to match your recovery capabilities with your environment since it is dynamic

Why Testing Is Not A Priority

- Perceived and realized expense
- Downtime
- Resource constraints
- Lack of depth in skill sets
- Fear of failure
- Complexity of the environment

Various Methods of Testing

- Checklist
- Walkthrough
- Tabletop
- Parallel
- Full and/or partial production
- Isolated
- Failover/Failback

Where Do You Start?

- Get an executive sponsor
- Create a team
- Assign a coordinator
- Assign team leads and their backups
- Set expectations

Test Preparation

- Determine your RTO and RPO
- Define objectives, requirements, conditions, tasks, standards, measurements, etc.
- Build scenarios with backup scenarios
- Scheduling
- Pre-test reviews
- Post mortem

Common Testing Issues!

- No documentation or outdated documentation
- Not following the test plan
- Failure to document test progression
- Insufficient pre-test planning
- Insufficient resources
- No follow-up to issues discovered during testing

Thank You!

Failing to test is planning to fail!

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