

# How to recover quickly from an IT disaster

Most IT organizations know a thing or two about incident management. It's a regular part of the day-to-day to keep your business humming. Tracking and resolving tickets could be as harmless as resetting an employee's computer. But specific incidents go beyond the usual scope.

Any slowdown, interruption or complete failure of a critical system or network could result in an IT disaster for your organization. These can be triggered internally by employee calamities, cyber attacks and data breaches, and natural disasters like earthquakes or tornados that can cause equipment failure and power outages.

Your organization's ability to bounce back will rely on a well thought out disaster recovery plan. Disaster recovery plans allow your business to respond quickly and take immediate action to minimize interruption and reduce potential long-term damage.

## Three keys for an effective disaster recovery plan

- 1) Write down your procedures- This way, employees know exactly what to do in case of an emergency
- 2) Assemble the troops- Put together a group of specialists who can be responsible for implementing and managing the recovery plan and executing the procedures
- 3) Get your tools in order- Figure out which tools and technologies will perform recovery duties in various scenarios. It's also a good idea to document which assets, systems, applications and data are business critical to keep your organization running, even at a lower capacity.

While knowing how to lead your organization through a disaster is essential, it's even more crucial to minimize the chances of an emergency again. Or, at the least, reduce the impact. That's why it's best to be proactive in your protection strategies instead of reactive.

Properly training and preparing your employees and systems for disaster lowers stress levels across the organization and gives your team a clear plan of attack.

## How to get proactive in your approach

Never let a crisis put your organization at risk. Instead, plan ahead to recover quickly and get your business back on track. Here are a few things your organization can do to start being more proactive:

- Know which systems, applications and data are most critical to keeping your organization productive. This exercise helps set priorities if a disaster were to hit.
- Perform regular backups and set recovery time benchmarks to your maximum levels of downtime after a disaster.
- Keep testing your strategies to address threats that continue to change. Preparedness will allow your company to navigate effectively through worst-case scenarios.
- Continuously train and communicate your emergency readiness plans with your staff.
- Look at how to physically limit damages, e.g. if located in a hurricane-prone area, move sensitive equipment off the floor and into windowless rooms.

Evaluating your preparedness for IT disasters can be a complicated process. You will want to test and revise your recovery plans and communicate any necessary changes to those strategies across your organization.

Managed IT service providers can offer a seamless approach to employee training and performing security audits of your existing networks. Allow the professionals at Quercus IT to guide you through disaster recovery and build your defences to become a more proactive organization. Learn more about our services [here](#).