

Beginners Guide to DR Planning

A Proactive Approach to DR

A disaster recovery plan is needed to coordinate people and resources to mitigate downtime in the event of a disaster.

Reduce Risk to Your Business

Protect Your Critical IT Systems

Enhance Your Disaster Recovery Plan

Effective disaster recovery (DR) is all about planning, preparation and testing. Then testing again. Not testing a plan is about the same as not having one at all.

The first thing to do when it comes to DR planning is to have a game-plan, and it's much easier to tackle when you break the process down into actionable steps. A surprising number of businesses and organizations still have not started to identify the steps required.

In this checklist, we've identified these actionable steps to get you started on your DR plan. Make sure you are able to check off each appropriate step below while staying mindful of actions and incidents that may create delays in the execution of your plan.

When it comes to DR planning, these steps will get you started:

- Appoint a DR team and leader to develop, manage and update your DR plan.
- Map software and hardware applications back to the business processes they support.
- Determine how much data you have in order to price out DR components like back-up and recovery.
- Ensure you have medical, physical and financial support in place.
- Include "mobile" in your plan as the mobile workforce continues to grow.
- Develop a plan that includes how you will communicate with employees.
- Consider all the functions your business may need to perform in an emergency.
- Simulate real-life incidents and have independent reviews and observers.
- Synchronize changes in your production environment with the recovery systems and plans.

- Incorporate mobility into DR plans so that you'll be able to send out blast messages.
- Match the recovery time objectives and recovery point objectives (RTO/RPO) of applications and data.
- Have more than one way to recover your data after an event.
- Identify your contingency location to conduct business while your primary site is unavailable.

When it comes to DR planning, it is important to be mindful of these actions:

- What data replication service options does the provider offer?
- How does the provider handle [encryption](#)?
- Can the provider accommodate [hybrid cloud](#) strategies?
- Does the provider have additional services beyond DRaaS that may serve your business well in the future?

Whichever provider you choose, make sure you've asked the right questions. Look at its record of performance, the maturity of its service, and its ability to tailor the right solution specific to your needs, now and in the future.

Make sure you prepare for the unknown.

Call (866) 473-2510 to speak to a Peak 10 Solutions Engineer or go to www.peak10.com/knowledge-center/ to view other materials on disaster recovery.