

The Payoffs Of Disaster Recovery As A Service

by Anthony Kessel

It would be hard to find a company today where the leadership would deny the importance of disaster recovery. Business interruptions – natural and manmade – are commonplace. Occasional unplanned downtime is expected, not an exception. Nevertheless, many leaders do not have full disaster recovery capabilities. And, what is more dangerous, they often think they do.

For example, a company may have software that acts as a repository for all their [disaster recovery](#) documentation, tools to communicate to workers, and “backups” of all critical data. But plans, backups, and communication do not equal recoverability. Recoverability involves servers, backups, testing, a failover location, and the arduous work of actually getting everything up and running again. You can have the best plans and the best people in the world, but if these are not tested and kept up to date, the business will still fail to deliver on its availability goals. Disaster Recovery as a Service, or DRaaS, is stepping into the gap, delivering significant payoffs for organizations around the globe.

Payoff #1:

Attaining True Resiliency

Many things can go wrong at time of disaster (ATOD) when companies try to handle disaster recovery on their own. Consider several common scenarios:

- You may have disaster recovery plans, but no one available to execute them.
- You may have a notification system, but no failover site where you can carry out the recovery.
- You may have a failover site, but no ability to get people there to perform recovery.

- You may have excellent data backup capabilities, but no way of getting your applications running again.
- You may be able to get your applications running, but you haven’t considered the interdependencies involved, so recovery doesn’t happen within acceptable time limits.

Disaster recovery has many “moving parts.” Are you prepared to handle the moving parts while there is an interruption going on?

With DRaaS, the many moving parts are the responsibility of the DRaaS provider, including, most importantly, the actual execution of the recovery procedures. The DRaaS provider ensures that you have:

- Disaster recovery plans that are complete and actionable.
- Appropriate backup technologies in place.
- A failover site established, with all the necessary infrastructure.
- Experts to perform the recovery procedures ATOD.

With everything set up, coordinated, and managed from one source – the DRaaS provider – the moving parts of disaster recovery work together in perfect harmony to deliver true business resiliency.

Payoff #2:

Reducing Spend

DRaaS reduces spend in many areas of business. For example:

- **Space and power.** Establishing a secondary failover site is expensive. If you lease or build a second data center, you have heavy initial and ongoing costs for a rarely-used site. DRaaS gives you a complete failover site with no capex costs: you pay only for what you need when you need it.
- **Testing.** Testing is critical for disaster recovery, but it carries a price tag of time, travel and money. With DRaaS, testing can be performed remotely and often – saving costs and increasing resiliency.

- **Compliance.** Creating a disaster recovery plan from scratch that meets federal and industry compliance standards (ISO 22301, ISO 27031, HIPAA, etc.) is resource-consuming and challenging. A DRaaS provider creates disaster recovery procedures aligned with regulations, relieving the threat of non-compliance and fines.
- **Staffing.** By shifting the burden of responsibility for disaster recovery from internal IT personnel to the DRaaS provider, companies 1) eliminate the need to hire additional personnel, and 2) free up their current staff to focus on strategic business initiatives.
- **Double Use of DRaaS Platform.** Companies frequently need a secondary environment for application development, patch testing, etc. Some DRaaS providers offer the opportunity to use the recovery environment – which is an exact duplicate of the production environment – for these additional purposes. This allows the DRaaS “dollars” to perform double duty, eliminating entirely the cost of purchasing space to create a secondary environment for developers to work in.

Payoff #3: Leveraging Hybrid Environments

DRaaS providers – as is true in any type of business – vary widely in their expertise and capabilities. Select DRaaS providers can offer a third payoff in the form of leveraging current hybrid or complex environments.

Even if your business is relatively young and was “born in the cloud,” you likely have a complex IT environment in place. Some DRaaS providers are not able to cope with this hybridity.

For example, they might be able to support VMware, but not iSeries, AIX, AS/400, Linux, mainframes, etc. This can create chaos at time of disaster, as your most critical processes might be housed in a non-virtual system. So your VMware might be back up and running, but without your iSeries available, your business cannot operate. This might make you believe that you have to rewrite all your systems to a virtual environment, or be unprotected.

The true option is to go with a DRaaS provider who can handle all platforms. Sungard Availability Services removes the necessity for such a migration, expense, and headache. Your current legacy infrastructures can be supported and incorporated as they currently exist in a DRaaS framework. As a business, you can continue to use the investments you made in your legacy infrastructures.

Payoff #4: Protecting the Revenue Stream

Over the past decade, recovery time objectives (RTOs) and recovery point objectives (RPOs) have contracted from 48-72 hours to the 0-4 hour time range. With the cost of downtime estimated at \$336,000 per hour, it’s understandable that businesses want to get up and running after an interruption as fast as possible.

DRaaS providers today take a holistic approach to your entire business operations. **Disaster recovery** can’t zero in on a few critical applications; instead, to truly protect a company’s revenue stream, DRaaS providers recognize that they need to deliver on a service level agreement (SLA) that will get the entire business functioning again faster than had ever been considered possible.

The Payoffs of DRaaS are Real

With DRaaS, businesses can attain true resiliency while reducing spend in key areas. They can leverage their current hybrid environments and protect their revenue stream. And all of this can be done with less responsibility weighing on the shoulders of the internal IT staff, and with greater disaster recovery expertise on call 24/7.

Business interruptions are a fact of life. DRaaS can prevent them from escalating into a potentially fatal disaster, and let you focus on the positive aspects of getting business done.

Additional information

To learn more visit our [website](#) or watch the following [video](#):



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Sungard Availability Services is a leading provider of critical production and recovery services to global enterprise companies. Sungard AS partners with customers across the globe to understand their business needs and provide production and recovery services tailored to help them achieve their desired business outcomes. To learn more, visit www.sungardas.com or call 1-888-270-3657.

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