

Allied Building Products Corp. experiences the value of a disaster recovery plan



When previous storms impacted the data center of [Allied Building Products Corp.](#), the company made it through each crisis intact. But when Superstorm Sandy slammed the Northeast in the fall of 2012, Allied's data center was put to the test.

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“A data disaster will never happen to me,” thought Scott Fischer, Director of IT Operations at Allied Building Products Corp. “At least that’s what I thought. And then it did.”

With 30-plus years of managing recovery, Sungard AS employs a proven approach to anticipating and solving a wide range of availability challenges for clients such as Allied Building Products Corp.

As Hurricane Sandy rolled ashore, Fischer watched on video surveillance monitors from his offsite location in North Dakota, helpless as the water level grew up to five feet outside Allied's data center in New Jersey.

As far back as 1999 when Allied was preparing for the Y2K turnover, the company installed a new system to integrate and manage information across its organization. After surviving the turn of the century, Allied decided it needed a robust disaster recovery (DR) plan and went searching for the right partner: Sungard AS, the pioneer and leader in IT availability and data recovery. The partnership continues to grow today.

“By midnight, after the power went out, we realized our data center was lost,” he recalls. “I immediately got on the phone with [Sungard Availability Services](#). They were kind, caring and compassionate as they led me through the process of declaring and dealing with this kind of a disaster.”

SCOTT FISCHER
Director of IT Operations,
Allied Building Products Corp.

About Allied Building Products Corp.

- Primarily focused on residential and commercial building material distribution for the exterior and interior construction sectors
- Founded in 1950
- CEO: Bob Feury, Jr.
- Headquarters: in East Rutherford, NJ
- Annual revenue of \$1.8 billion
- 200 distribution outlets in the U.S.
- Uses Sungard AS Disaster Recovery Solutions



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SERVICES™**

CUSTOMER SUCCESS

The aftermath of a disaster

When Sandy made landfall, Fischer made arrangements for his teams to meet in Philadelphia the next day. Working hand-in-hand with their Sungard AS representative, the Allied team arrived at 2p.m. Tuesday, just 16 hours after their facility was impacted.

Because Allied Building Products Corp. deals with a high volume of customer orders on a daily basis, it was critical to have a fully operational computing environment. Without systems and a network, Fischer explains, employees didn't know what orders were left unfulfilled and what supplies they had on hand across their 200 distribution locations.

In Philadelphia, Sungard AS provided Allied with a rotating team always available to Fischer and his colleagues as they rebuilt their computer center. Sungard AS knows every organization has differing needs, so it has fine-tuned its recovery services approach to provide ultimate flexibility to meet any client's business requirements.

The Allied team faced several ensuing challenges, but none that Sungard AS couldn't solve. At one point, when Fischer and several colleagues couldn't get a particular server to restart, a Sungard AS representative recommended using a different version of the operating system. This immediately resolved the issue.

Results

With Sungard AS disaster recovery plans in place, Allied Building Products Corp. successfully recovered 100 percent of its business applications. In Hurricane Sandy's aftermath, Allied wasted no time moving its computing environment into a professional data center – high above ground level.

Sungard AS currently provides cabinet space in Carlstadt, NJ where Allied keeps warm or ready-to-go equipment. At the time of a disaster, Allied can connect to the Hotsite equipment listed on the recovery contract and continue with their restoration services.

“These are very talented people who do this every day,” says Fischer. “It's reassuring any time they stop in to check on us because we know they are here to support what we do, no matter what.”

“Everyone from Sungard AS was fantastic during such a stressful time. They are extremely tenacious at getting to the root cause of a problem and solving it.”

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Director of IT Operations,
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Scott Fischer's advice for other companies is to run, not walk toward a disaster recovery plan. More important, have it fully documented and signed off by people at all levels – and then test it frequently.

About Sungard Availability Services

Sungard Availability Services provides disaster recovery services, managed IT services, information availability consulting services and business continuity management software.

To learn more, visit www.sungardas.com
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