

# Business Continuity and General Data Protection Regulation

Preparing your Disaster Recovery solution



StorageCraft



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On May 25th, 2018, the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force. The GDPR introduces substantial changes to data protection law.

Any company (regardless of geographic location) who is holding data on EU citizens will need to comply with the regulation. The penalties for non-compliance can be upward of 4% of global turnover.

The section below puts an obligation on companies to have an effective Disaster Recovery solution in place, which is regularly tested.

## **Article 32(1) (a)-(d)**

Appropriate technical and organizational measures are described as including (Article 32(1) (a)-(d)):

- The ability to restore the availability and access to personal data in a timely manner in the event of a physical or technical incident
- A process for regularly testing, accessing and evaluating the effectiveness of technical and organizational measures for ensuring the security of the processing

## **So what does an effective Disaster Recovery solution look like?**

In this eBook, we share our experience on what a best in class Disaster Recovery (DR) solution looks like.



Before you start “shopping” for a DR solution, you need to do some homework. You need to be very clear as to what your business needs are.

## Step 1

Determine your **Recovery Time Objectives** (RTO)

RTO indicates how quickly you need to be back up and running following an outage.

You need to be very specific on this - it is not enough to say “ASAP” or “immediately!” Take the time, look at every computer/server, and ask “how critical is this?”, “how quickly do we need this back up and running?”. Give every server an RTO.

Remember - if it is not critical, do not spend time and resources (and money) getting it back online at speed.

## Step 2

Determine your **Recovery Point Objectives** (RPO)

A *Recovery Point Objective* is the maximum targeted period in which data might be lost from an IT service due to a major incident.

Simply put

- How much data can you afford to lose?
- What data would be very costly and difficult to recreate?

What it will tell you is how often you need to backup. Again, do not be tempted to say everything is vital and you need everything back. All data is not equal!

These 2 important metrics (RTO and RPO) will tell you what your Disaster Recovery solution needs to deliver.

When it comes to assessing the various DR solutions available, don't get too distracted by features. Keep asking yourself - will this deliver my RTO and RPO?

# Under the hood - What a high performance DR solution looks like

## 1 - Backup

Backup is the foundation of any DR solution. However, all backups are not the same.

### Here is what to look for in a backup:

- A. Image based snap shot technology which has proven to be best in class (old technology like tape can be hugely unreliable).
- B. Ability to back up as often as appropriate (every 15 minutes for critical data).
- C. Easy and fast verification that your backups work (can you easily spin these up?).
- D. A solution that can back up your whole environment / workforce, including your remote workers and any SaaS applications you are using (e.g. Office 365 / G Suite).
- E. Backups are not connected to the networks that they are backing up.
- F. The solution you chose can support all of your environments - Windows, Linux, Physical, Virtual.

## 2 - On / Off premise

Having taken your backups, you need to store these in a safe and accessible way. We recommend that as best practice, you firstly back up to a local Backup and Recovery Device (BDR) and then replicate these backups to an offsite location.

What this means for your business is that you can very quickly recover data from your onsite BDR box. However, in the event that you cannot access your site, having an offsite backup gives you a full business continuity solution.

When you are choosing your Disaster Recovery solution here are some things you need to look for:

1. Is my onsite Backup and Disaster Recovery scalable?
2. Can I be flexible in terms of how often I back up?
3. Can I replicate my data to a location of my choice (possibly a second site within the company; or a private/ public cloud) and replicate to a schedule that suits me?

The StorageCraft Disaster Recovery Solution gives you the versatility to build your own Backup and Disaster Recovery while using hardware of your choice. It will give you full flexibility in terms of setting your backup schedules.

In addition, for your offsite replication with StorageCraft, you can replicate to a destination of your choice and determine the schedule for this.



# 3 - Testing

You MUST be able to test your Disaster Recovery plan. Do not let a disaster be your first test!

A good Disaster Recovery plan will be easy to test. This is the only way that you can validate that your recovery time objectives can be met

The StorageCraft Disaster Recovery solution allows you to test and verify your recovery easily and often.



A close-up photograph of a hard drive's internal components, showing a circular platter with a central hub and several screws, and a metal actuator arm with a read/write head assembly. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic surfaces against a dark background.

# 4 - Recovery

It may seem obvious but sadly, this is where a lot of so called “Disaster Recovery solutions” fail. Your Disaster Recovery must be able to recover your data every time and on time.

When a disaster like Ransomware hits, you want to be 100% confident that you can recover your data and get on with the job!

Some questions you should ask when choosing a Disaster Recovery solution:

- Will this Solution deliver my RTO / RPO?
- Will this Solution work every time?
- If my physical server fails, can I recover this to a virtual environment? Or vice versa?
- Do I need to restore to the same hardware?

StorageCraft Recovery Solution offers speed reliability and flexibility for your recovery.

# Conclusion

The countdown to GDPR is on. Companies throughout Europe will need to make sure they are compliant by May 2018.

Implementing an effective Disaster Recovery solution is a critical first step toward compliance.

StorageCraft Technology is an award winning developer of Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery solutions. We work with a global partner network of managed service providers (MSPs) and value-added resellers (VARs) who deliver the StorageCraft Recovery Solution to end users around the world.

**Business Continuity Starts Here.**



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