Averting Software Disaster

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As governments, businesses and other organizations become more reliant on technology, the consequences of software failures are rarely trivial. A software disaster could cost you your business, so what questions should you ask yourself as a business owner when it comes to evaluating your availability solutions?

1. “What level of data availability does my company have?”
2. “If I have to access my critical data any point in time, would I be able to do so quickly and easily?”
3. “If a natural or man-made disaster should occur, how quickly could we recover our business-critical data?”

If your answers are low levels of application, you may need some extra tools to help with production needs.

Software as a service (SaaS), infrastructure as a service and platform as a service provide compelling technology as part of business continuity planning, while trusted cloud-based services can support businesses by ensuring that current data is stored confidentially and is readily available in the event of a disaster.

Every business, no matter what the size or industry, needs to have a continuity (disaster) plan in place to survive a crisis. The first step of this is identifying the risks that have the potential to turn themselves in to a crisis.

All SaaS providers are essentially offering applications, in many cases, infrastructure, storage and more in the cloud, hence the term “cloud computing” or “cloud software.” However, the benefits of cloud software to businesses are growing daily. Access to cloud-computing options, such as online storage, present a real opportunity for businesses to seamlessly and securely connect on-premise applications to value-added applications quickly and with simple savings in terms of information technology (IT) spend.

The growth in technology and increase in broadband availability has meant that businesses can distribute their staff intake across numerous locations. A particular advantage of having a distributed workforce and cloud-based solutions is the ability to allow employees to work from home, while being able to access systems that are running in the cloud.

Those who have increased regulation are making business continuity and disaster recovery a priority, which is seen as the main priority for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The main department to be affected by such occurrences is the human resources (HR) department, as this is the first port of call during a disaster. Even when the nature of the disaster only affects part of the business, HR still needs to be on hand to deal with alterations of key documents and schedules, ensuring payroll is running smoothly and to attend to vacancies left unattended due to the situation. Those using cloud-based software can rest assured that they are better prepared for disaster recovery, and can focus their attention on employee satisfaction and business strategies.

Manufacturers in the UK face unique challenges and constant pressure to produce top-quality, innovative products -- on time, every time. In a global market driven by exports, you need the tools to work effectively with your customers and suppliers throughout the European Union and further afield in emerging markets. Manufacturing software, or manufacturing resource planning (MRP) software, must meet these needs and have the ability to anticipate the future needs of today’s agile manufacturing environments.

Embracing the latest in technology, Epicor Manufacturing software provides a real-time, accurate view of your manufacturing process so you can proactively manage your operations with confidence. Embedded business process management provides the flexibility you need to do business the way you want to do it.

If disaster struck in the manufacturing industry, then all production lines would be forced to stop. To ensure the process is quickly rectified, a sufficient amount of manpower would be needed. With cloud-based software systems, manufacturers can be assured that processes and production lines would be up and running as soon as it is possible by accessing documents from various locations to monitor deadlines, materials and timescales.

When it comes to cloud-computing services, it's important to use a company with expertise in the field in order to maximize data availability. Businesses should look

for a company that is experienced with cloud-based services for the best results.

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