

M3 Ch12 Beyond the Book - Business Continuation and Disaster Recovery

As our small candle-making company recovers following a minor fire incident, the conversation surrounding disaster recovery has gained newfound importance. With a team of five dedicated individuals, we would assess our readiness for potential disruptions. Drawing from our project management and IT background, we would offer the following insights to ensure our operations remain current in the face of this adversity.

In order to set up a company contingency plan, our team would follow these steps: 1) Perform a business impact analysis; 2) Identify preventative systems; 3) Develop a recovery plan; 4) Test the recovery plan; 5) Set up a maintenance and review schedule; and 6) Implement training of our staff.

Following the contingency plan steps above, we would also consider the spectrum of disaster recovery sites—cold, warm, and hot. A cold site requires us to bring our hardware, data, and personnel to restore functionality. A warm site, a step above, involves setting up hardware and restoring data. A hot site mirrors our production system entirely. Our choice hinges on recovery speed and budget constraints.

Addressing the recent e-commerce website downtime caused by a damaged network cable, we would recommend a proactive approach in the form of our contingency plan. Redundancy measures like a secondary ISP connection or cloud-based backups could mitigate future impacts. Scaling up these strategies is essential as we anticipate future growth. For a larger organization with 500 employees, implementing a hot site becomes more feasible, accompanied by automated replication systems for consistent data updates. With that said, it would be very costly to completely replicate our current site, if we had 500 employees. We would also need to make a consideration for training a larger group of employees.

In conclusion, the recent incident highlights the urgency of robust disaster recovery planning for our company. By projecting solutions and anticipating scalability, we can ensure continuous operations and uphold our commitment to quality, even in the face of unexpected challenges.