

Your Guide to Creating a  
Disaster Recovery Plan  
in 2023



# Disaster Recovery Planning for Security Architects

A comprehensive guide for security architects to develop and maintain an effective disaster recovery plan for their organization's IT infrastructure.

# Information Gathering



## Asset Inventory

Conduct a thorough inventory of all critical infrastructure components, including servers, storage systems, network devices, applications, and cloud services.



## Data Classification

Classify data based on sensitivity and importance to determine recovery priorities and align with the business impact analysis (BIA).



## Risk Assessment

Perform a comprehensive risk assessment to identify vulnerabilities, potential attack vectors, and system dependencies, including cybersecurity threats, insider risks, and compliance requirements.



## Security Control Evaluation

Evaluate the effectiveness of existing security controls, encryption mechanisms, and backup policies to determine their adequacy in a disaster scenario.

The information gathering phase sets the foundation for developing a tailored disaster recovery plan by identifying critical assets, data priorities, and potential risks, enabling security architects to design a robust and effective recovery strategy.

# Plan Development and Testing

## Define Recovery Objectives

Determine the recovery time objective (RTO) and recovery point objective (RPO) for each critical system to ensure the recovery strategy meets operational needs. Align these objectives with the business impact analysis (BIA) to prioritize high-impact systems.

## Implement Disaster Recovery Solutions

Develop a tailored disaster recovery plan that leverages various solutions, such as on-premises failover clusters, cloud-based replication, and hybrid backup architectures. Ensure the plan includes detailed instructions for restoring encrypted data, reconfiguring network security settings, and verifying system integrity.

## Conduct Regular Testing and Exercises

Establish a testing program that includes tabletop exercises, live failover tests, and penetration testing to simulate real-world attack scenarios. Involve key stakeholders, including IT personnel, security teams, and executive leadership, to validate the effectiveness of the disaster recovery plan and identify areas for improvement.

# Ongoing Maintenance



Review and Update Plan  
Frequency

Employee Disaster Recovery Training Participation

External Vendor Coordination Effectiveness

Monitoring and Alerting System Reliability