Net3 Technology
Data Backup

Recovering from Backups: A Checklist

There can be quite a few challenges when it comes to backing up data. Here is a comprehensive checklist to make sure all bases are covered for a successful recovery.

STEPS TO TAKE WHEN DEFINING A BACKUP/DR PLAN

1. DISCOVERY: In order to put together a comprehensive DR plan, you have to understand the environment completely. Some questions you need to answer are:

- ☐ What applications are being used? (ERP, Accounting, CRM, Ops, etc.)
- ☐ Is there an inventory of servers/endpoints/network devices?
- ☐ What technologies are present in the environment? (virtualization, clustering, log shipping, etc.)
- ☐ What does the network look like currently? (Network diagrams, maps, lists of subnets)
- ☐ Are there redundancies or highly available applications in place?
- ☐ Where is the data located? (NAS, Endpoints, Cloud, SaaS, etc.)
- ☐ How much data is being generated daily?
- ☐ How much data is historical archive?
- ☐ What are the security mechanisms in place?
- ☐ What are the biggest risks to the data?
- ☐ Who is responsible for each application?

2. DEFINITION: Once the discovery of the environment is complete, you can work to define the applications and data that need to be addressed in the DR plan:

- ☐ What applications are customer facing? (Most Impactful)
- ☐ What applications are internal facing? (Impactful)
- ☐ What applications are in management/ops roles? (Least Impactful)
- ☐ How long does the data need to be kept? (Retention)
- ☐ How much data loss can be tolerated? (RPO)
- ☐ How fast do workloads need to be available? (RTO)
- ☐ What are the policy requirements? (HIPPA, PCI, CJIS, CMMC, etc.)
- ☐ What are the audit requirements? (Testing Schedules, Documentation, Etc.)
- ☐ Is there any stakeholder input? (How often should the data be protected from an end user POV? How critical is the data the end user is putting into the system?)

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3. SCOPING: Once you have defined each application and the requirements around protection, you can then scope each application to a product.

- ☐ Faster RPO's, quick RTO's a Replication
- ☐ Longer Retentions a Backup
- ☐ All of the Above a Hybrid

4. IMPLEMENTATION: Implementation can be a busy time. It might help to have a guided implementation so that there are product experts on hand. Make sure to cover the following:

- ☐ Ensure products are deployed according to best practices.
- ☐ Test the product to make sure it provides the protection needed for that application.
- ☐ Thorough testing of all scenarios for DR communication.
- ☐ Documentation of all product configurations and infrastructure.

5. AUDITING AND TESTING: Once the implementation phase is over, a good audit and testing plan should be put in place.

- ☐ Failure notifications for backup jobs and failover mechanisms should be instantaneous.
- ☐ Backup job and failover reviews should be done at least 1x per week.
- ☐ Test failovers and recoveries on a regular basis. At least 2x per year.
- ☐ Comprehensive auditing of backups and failover mechanisms should be performed at least 1x a year by someone not involved in the DR process.

If you have any questions about your particular backup schedule, please contact us at sales@n3t.com or Request More Info to speak with a Net3 Engineer.

Net3 Technology is a cloud services provider offering nationwide backup and disaster recovery solutions tailored to fit company requirements with flexible pricing options.

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