



# Disaster Recovery Assessment Guide



Do you have an effective disaster recovery plan in place, including budgets set aside to account for a potential failure of one of your IT systems? In order to prepare for a disaster, enterprises need to have well thought-out recovery policies and procedures in place.

## What is Disaster Recovery Assessment?

It's important to conduct a periodic review of your disaster plan to ensure as your enterprise evolves it is prepared to sustain potential disaster occurrences. Even companies with existing plans in place should perform due diligence by consistently evaluating and testing how effective their disaster recovery plans truly are. Disaster recovery assessments help to provide peace of mind to stakeholders, employees and customers.

Disaster Recovery Assessment typically involves taking inventory of a business's critical, secondary and peripheral systems which can all translate to substantial business losses should a disaster occur. It includes estimating resource needs and costs of protecting the enterprise's infrastructure, creating a plan to address both physical systems and networking challenges and considering how to adopt a solution architecture that meets a business's personalized disaster recovery needs at the allocated budget.

This guide will provide you with helpful tips to ensure you are taking a thorough approach in your disaster recovery assessment.

## Why is conducting Disaster Recovery Assessment important?

It's important to understand why an enterprise should undergo disaster recovery assessment, as well as look to engage a trusted partner in doing so. These reasons include the abilities to:

- Recover from a major adverse event within your IT infrastructure
- Pinpoint potential risks which are open to disaster exposure currently
- Uncover and fill gaps to meet regulators' compliance specifications
- Meet the expectations of stakeholders and customers to ensure business continuity
- Receive disaster recovery recommendations by learning from others' failures through research and/or working with a trusted partner

## What are the general steps to run Disaster Recovery Assessment on your own?

Each enterprise needs to consider its unique needs and infrastructure when considering disaster recovery plans. To conduct disaster recovery assessment, business leaders should follow the short checklist below:

1. Analyze your company's individual IT disaster recovery environment and any existing recovery plans and their details thoroughly
2. Adopt and employ Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRII) standards to review the current plan and its computing environment
3. Consider each technology initiative that your organization is investing in, to update any current or forward-thinking plans that can accommodate the future direction of technology as it pertains to your company
4. Consider Federal Financial Institution Examination Council regulations and conduct an analysis of existing gaps between the IT disaster recovery plan currently in place and these industry leading practices

5. Create an investment roadmap to fill any identified gaps that will allow your company to focus on its current continuity needs and plan for longer-term IT disaster recovery plan improvements

## How can you utilize Hystax Acura for these needs?

Hystax Acura can fully support enterprises with these assessments.

Here is a simple process for utilizing Hystax Acura's unique offerings and capabilities:

- Users should install Acura on a target site and deploy replication agents to the source site
- Agents will then check the source machines and if all is fine and the machines can be replicated, they will appear in Acura for customers to then manage their replication
- Customers should list all the operating systems on the source site and find the matching operating systems on a target site
- Customers should validate that all of these systems are supported by a target cloud
- The same process should then be conducted with network resources

- Customers can utilize Hystax Acura to replicate to the target site and run test migration, as well as failover to complete the assessment
- If the outcomes result in all positives, the workloads can be migrated and protected. If there are any negatives, these negatives need to be fixed first and then re-assessed before migrating

