Plan carefully for disasters

The most appropriate disaster recovery and business continuity plan depends on the business's cost-versus-benefit strategy, according to Yasser Zeineldin, CEO eHosting DataFort.

"Hot sites are more expensive than cold sites, since much of the equipment the company needs has already been purchased and thus the operational costs are higher. However, if the same organisation loses a substantial amount of revenue for each day they are inactive, then it might be worth the cost," he said.

A hot site is a duplicate of the original site of the organisation, with full computer systems as well as near-complete backups of user data.

↑ Yasser Zeineldin from e-Hosting DataFort says that hot sites can be used for operations prior to a disaster.

"Another advantage of a hot site is that it can be used for operations prior to a disaster happening. Perceptions of the acceptability of disruption might be modified by the cost of establishing and maintaining appropriate business or technical recovery solutions," said Zeineldin.

There is a consensus across the industry that the best solution is one which avoids the 'single point of failure element', identified by Hussein Moghnieh, channel manager at IT management software specialist CA Technologies MENA, as a key consideration.

"The main aspect to take into consideration when looking for a DR/BC plan is to understand the needs and objectives that have to be met by it, and putting it down with clear bullet points and flowcharts before looking for a solution to meet those objectives," he said.

A day in the life of...

Thierry Chamayou
Business Development director, IT BU Schneider Electric MEA

MORNING

7.00AM
Wake up and start the day with some light warm-up exercise and a swim at home.

8.30AM
I hit the office and go into a catch up meeting with the regional team. I look through my mails to follow up on the initial scan on my handheld during breakfast.

10.00AM
Followed another catch up session with my regional team to review updates and progress on issues. Spend rest of morning preparing for afternoon meetings.

AFTERNOON

1.00PM
The two hour French lunch break is a myth for me! However, I ensure my lunch break lasts for 30 - 45 minutes. Despite my best efforts to steer clear of business, we end up talking about how we can do more.

2.00PM
We had a regional call during which each country presented business highlights, potential opportunities and growth avenues.

3.00PM
We conducted business review calls with African country units.

EVENING

6.00PM
Wrapping up my work at the office, I head straight to an awards ceremony in the evening where we were nominated for our seventh win for this year!

10.00PM
The banquet over, I left the venue to pick up a bouquet of fresh flowers for my lovely wife who is an integral part of my career and success. The flowers were to make up for staying away from home in the evening. My wife is a true 'Cordon Bleu', I would never miss dinner with her.

SCHNEIDER LAUNCHES APCNETSHELTER SV

Schneider Electric has introduced APC NetShelter SV, designed to be an affordable rack solution offered in multiple heights, widths and depths to meet the challenges businesses face in IT environments. The NetShelter SV is optimised for basic enclosure applications such as small and medium business IT needs and for co-location cage environments.