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Logicom...

Logicom's Director of Distribution, Michael Papaeracleous, said: "This agreement is solid evidence of our efforts for expanding Logicom's operations into verticals – a goal we have been passionately working towards for some time now. The Autodesk name requires no introduction and we are delighted to be associated with a software-industry leader of such impact in all the verticals it covers. Our intention is, clearly, to complement our existing offerings across our wide partner-network with great products and, in turn, add value to their business. Our collaboration with Autodesk is about just that."

DSG rolls out smart employee app to 40 govt entities



Dubai Smart Government Department (DSG) has implemented the second phase of the "smart employee" app on smart phones and tablets for Dubai government employees. This comes as part of implementing the initiative of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to shift to smart government and smart city.

The development of the 'smart employee' app continues to express DSG's vision of making Dubai the smartest city. It is also in implementation of its strategy to reduce cost and save time; as evidenced by the positive response from government employees who tested the app during Gitex 2014. With the testing phase over, the

smart employee app is now available for download to all Dubai government employees on the Android store with the Apple store to follow.

Commenting on the launch of the app, H.E. Ahmad Bin Humaidan, DSG Director General, said: "We are inspired by the vision of our prudent leadership led by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and the directives of HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, to be among the major smart governments in line with 'Dubai Government Towards 2021' initiative and the vision of our department of becoming among the finest smart governments in the world.

eHDF shares BCM survey results



eHosting DataFort (eHDF) has revealed the results of the third Middle East Business Continuity Management Survey across the Middle East.

Conducted in partnership with Continuity and Resilience (CORE), the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) and DNV GL Business Assurance, the survey will help raise the visibility of IT disaster recovery (IT DR) and business continuity management (BCM) preparedness among corporates

and organizations in the Middle East.

The 2014 survey reveals that 26% of the respondents do not have a dedicated BCM team as compared to 2012 where nearly 63% of the respondents confirmed their organizations did not have a dedicated IT Disaster Recovery or BCM team, and that Business Continuity Management was being driven by Information Security Unit, Quality Management, IT and Operational and Overall Risk teams.

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This demonstrates an increased focus on BCM investments. However, in terms of maturity of BCM and IT DR readiness, there is still a long way to go as 56% of respondents rated their organization's IT DR readiness as average or below average and 64% of the respondents rated their BCM readiness as average or below average.

There are other statistics indicating that a shift is already underway in the way corporations look at BCM. The survey reflects that 27% of the respondents invest anywhere between US\$100,000 to US\$250,000 to implement and sustain their BCM program, 22% invest between US\$250,000 to US\$1 million and large organizations in the banking, oil and gas, telecoms, government and e-commerce

sectors accounted for 11 per cent to have set aside BCM budgets of more than US\$1 million.

Lack of a robust business continuity plan can result in financial loss that may have a negative impact on bottom line profits of an organization. 30% of the respondents who have indicated the financial impact of disruptions as per their Business Impact Analysis (BIA) estimate that a two-day disruption could set the organization back by US\$3 million and more.

Yasser Zeineldin, CEO of eHosting DataFort, said, "The results are indicative of how the industry and business environment is evolving. Everything is driven by technology and it is imperative that organizations look closely at what is 'crucial data' and how it can be safeguarded in the instance of downtime caused

either by a natural disaster or simply because of an IT outage."

"eHDF has been at the forefront of stressing on the importance of Disaster Recovery and BCM, and this year's survey shows that our efforts have reaped dividends. The increase in the number of organizations, both large corporations and aSMEs, investing in disaster recovery and making contingency plans by adopting business continuity management programs look encouraging. We have seen a significant uptake for Disaster recovery services and have implemented high end DR projects for a number of organisations over the last year."

The results from the survey show that 47% of BCM budgets in the region are being spent on IT disaster recovery infrastructure, seats,

software and licensing. This can be further reduced by working with specialized service providers who can implement IT disaster recovery at a fraction of the cost of doing it in-house. In fact, 30% of the survey respondents have indicated that they plan to outsource the enhancement of IT DR plans to specialist external service providers.

"eHDF has been at the forefront of stressing on the importance of Disaster Recovery and BCM, and this year's survey shows that our efforts have reaped dividends!"

Yasser Zeineldin, CEO of eHosting DataFort

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