eHDF: Business getting better at DR

Hall 6, CLD-19

EHOSTING DataFort (eHDF) has used GITEX TECHNOLOGY WEEK to reveal the results of the third Middle East Business Continuity Management (BCM) 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 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 organisations did not have a dedicated disaster recovery or BCM team.

This demonstrates an increased focus on BCM investments, according to eHDF. However, in terms of maturity of BCM and IT DR readiness, there is still a long way to go as

The eHDF stand has been busy in Hall 6 this week.

56% of respondents rated their organisation's DR readiness as average or below average and 64% of the respondents rated their BCM readiness as average or below average.

"The results are indicative of how the industry and business environment is evolving," says Yasser Zeineldin,

CEO of eHosting DataFort. "Everything is driven by technology and it is imperative that organisations 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 organisations, both large corporations and SMEs, investing in disaster recovery and making contingency plans by adopting business continuity management programs look encouraging."

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 have set aside BCM budgets of more than US $1 million.

Juniper partners with Akamai to smooth video delivery

Hall 6, CLD-5

JUNIPER Networks, exhibiting in the Cloud section of the show, has partnered with Akamai Technologies, to demonstrate an Elastic Content Delivery Network (CDN) system designed to address network scalability challenges driven by the rapid increase in video traffic. The proof-of-concept demonstration leverages Akamai's virtualised Aura Licensed CDN (LCDN) software and

Juniper Networks Contrail Controller for software-defined networking (SDN) and network function virtualisation (NFV).

Together, the components allow dynamic scaling up and down of network resources to support content spikes resulting from the broadcast of large events. "Content delivery networks are evolving to meet the needs of increasingly realtime, distributed applications and users," says Jennifer Lin, Senior

Director of Product Management, Juniper Networks. "Overlay networks have proven to simplify and automate the delivery of application and user-centric services without the administrative overhead of traditional infrastructure approaches. By combining Akamai's virtualised caching components with Contrail's scale-out network service automation, the companies have created a truly elastic CDN solution to meet the emerging needs of telco clouds."

Video consumption habits have shifted dramatically, leading to large traffic spikes during online live and on-demand events. This can cause significant network congestion that leads to a poor subscriber experience. To meet customer demand for multiscreen video services, operators are increasingly migrating their delivery architecture to CDN-assisted IP video looking at virtualisation of the CDN network function as a key component in scaling delivery.