

# Disaster recovery in the region

**Yasser Zeineldin, CEO, eHosting DataFort, says the company is offering regional enterprises the opportunity to develop DR sites**

**W**e offer clients both in UAE and the Middle East region the ability to have a hot disaster recovery site where data is replicated between their production system and the disaster recovery system that is hosted with us. This means that in real time if there is a failure in the primary system they can switch over to the secondary system.

One of our clients happens to be the Dubai World Trade Centre for their financial and registration systems. When you have big events like GITEX, if something goes wrong you will need to have a proper disaster recovery set-up. Similarly, Atlantis on The Palm have a disaster recovery site with us, they are quite wary of the fact that they are surrounded by water and it is a good idea to have a disaster recovery site in case there are some big waves. A number of banks including Societe Generale also have systems with us.

The good thing about the disaster recovery solution we offer is that it is affordable. In the past CIOs had the mindset that a setting up a DR site means doubling the IT budget because everything they have they have to replicate. A lot of CIOs shied away from implementing DR solutions because of the perception of the cost. However as the industry matured and with proper business continuity planning, businesses can zero in on the most mission critical systems that need to be up and running in no time, then the cost of having a DR set up, whether it is a cloud set up or a full server set up, is actually a fraction of

Yasser Zeineldin, CEO, eHosting DataFort, says setting up a disaster recovery site is much cheaper than companies think.



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**YASSER ZEINELDIN, CEO, EHOSTING DATAFORT**

what they think it might be. With the software used to do this replication, especially with the availability of high bandwidth networks, DR can be delivered as a cloud solution at a fraction of the cost of what a DR solution used to cost 10-15 years ago. Before it used to be millions of dollars for a bank to have a disaster recovery site, now it could be tens of thousands of dollars.

We have a number of disaster recovery sites so we can architect and design the solution and can

offer primary services and DR services. For example the Dubai Multi-Commodities Centre opted for a solution that also has a DR component so we are running both production and the DR.

## **BENEFITS OF LOCAL PRESENCE**

The key thing for us really is the service level management, we take a lot of pride that we are probably the only company in the region that is certified in a number of standards related to service delivery. For example the

business continuity standard is a British one called BS 25999, we are certified in that, to ensure business continuity, and also in IT security management, IT service management and in ITIL.

When you have a local presence you have better latency then having to go through servers outside the country, so the round trip for communication is less. Our legacy is in security and the fact that we deploy sophisticated security technologies also gives customers peace of mind.