4 Ways the Cloud Can Reduce Your Disaster Recovery Costs

Citizens expect government agencies to continue to operate - even when disaster strikes. And that is why governments are looking to the cloud as a cost-effective way to support their disaster recovery solutions.

Learn how the cloud can reduce your disaster recovery costs versus an on-premises disaster recovery strategy.

1. Hardware Costs

On-premises disaster recovery solutions depend on the purchase of duplicate servers on site or at a secondary location to be used in the event of an outage. These servers incur both CapEx and ongoing IT OpEx, such as power and cooling, and typically require a hardware refresh every three to five years.

On the other hand, when using the cloud as your disaster recovery infrastructure, no hardware is needed and you pay for your fully-provisioned cloud disaster recovery site only when required, such as during a disaster or drill. This means no significant CapEx investment or unnecessary duplicate provisioning of resources.

2. Disaster Recovery Infrastructure & Services

Any IT resilience solution must be able to restore entire systems to their pre-disaster state. On-premises disaster recovery solutions require the purchase of data protection software and, in certain cases, replication appliances. If an organization needs enterprise-grade Recovery Point Objective (RPOs) and Recovery Time Objectives (RTOs), they have to pay for duplicate compute and storage infrastructure at their disaster recovery site.

Conversely, a cloud-based disaster recovery solution allows you to replicate your applications using low-cost cloud resources. This means you do not need to pay for expensive compute during regular disaster recovery operations. During a disaster or drill, you can launch your fully provisioned disaster recovery site, and only then do you need to pay for more comprehensive resources. With the cloud, you get the resilience of a highly available system with minimal RPOs and RTOs at the cost of a cold standby solution.

3. Software Licenses

On-premises disaster recovery solutions commonly require maintaining duplicate third-party software licenses and, in some cases, application- or disaster recovery-specific replication software in order to launch recovery servers when source servers fail. This can lead to high expenditures, especially for enterprises that use costly applications.

When using the cloud for disaster recovery and an appropriate replication tool, you can eliminate the need for duplicate software licenses for your disaster recovery site since there are no duplicate standby systems or standby licenses. The disaster recovery solution keeps servers continuously in sync in the cloud without running operating systems or application licenses. In the event of a disaster or a disaster recovery drill, you can launch your servers within minutes, and only then will you need these third-party licenses.

4. Management & Monitoring

IT staff resources are necessary to continually manage and monitor on-premises disaster recovery hardware, software and infrastructure. There can be a lot of heavy lifting involved in this, such as converting servers from one infrastructure to another. And, in the event of a disaster, manual network configurations will be needed - another time-consuming process.

Cloud-based disaster recovery solutions provide better automation than traditional solutions, which means fewer IT resources are required to launch or maintain the service. Automated server conversion minimizes the manual processes typically involved in converting servers from one infrastructure to another, which simplifies and speeds up recovery. As a result, servers can boot natively in the cloud, even if they originated from a dissimilar infrastructure. Moreover, a disaster recovery solution that offers automated orchestration of the application stacks (which can be performed in advance during the implementation stage) can eliminate the need for time-consuming, manual network configurations.

Your Cloud Migration & Disaster Recovery Team

We have helped public sector agencies migrate to the cloud and ensure they are prepared for a disaster.

Contact us today to learn how we can help your organization!