Cloud-powered Virtual Disaster Recovery (VDR)

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Agenda

- Traditional Backup Environment
- Backup vs. Recovery
- What is VDR?
- Disaster Recovery (DR) Strategy & Plan
- How much does VDR cost?
- VDR Data Access, Checklist, and Cost
- Availability
- Questions
Traditional Backup software uses a Client Server Backup
- Requires a client software (Agent) on each server resulting in agent proliferation
- Mgmt overhead is high with agent based solutions
  - Agent upgrades are manpower intensive and app. disruptive
- The agent proliferation problem gets exacerbated in virtual environments
  - Agents running on each VM
  - Replication on each VM
Avoid islands of Backup solutions

- Disparate Backup solutions for virtual and physical environments
  - One backup solution for the physical and another for your virtual machines
  - Different methodologies, management, GUIs, and databases

It’s like going to one dentist for your upper teeth and another for your lower teeth

Insist on any-to-any backup and recovery: Physical-to-Physical (P2P), Physical-to-Virtual (P2V), Virtual-to-physical (V2P) and Virtual-to-Virtual (V2V)
What is your DP Strategy?

- Review your data protection strategy often
  - Is it long term and sustainable?
  - Is it future proof?
    - Does it protect the end point they have today as well as future end points
  - Can it scale with their future growth?
  - Does that protect them against data loss due to:
    - Hardware failure (hard drive, server, system, RAID set, etc.)
    - Human error
    - Malware
    - Natural disasters

How often do you update / refresh your DP Strategy?
What is your DR Plan?

- Not having a DR plan is like dying without a will
- Backup is the means to an end but not the end
- The worst time to find out that you cannot recover your data is when you need to recover it
- The odds of successful data recovery increases by an order of magnitude with having a DR plan

How often do you test your DR plan?
What are the Goals and Priorities of your DR Plan?

- RPOs – which apps do you want to bring up sooner than others
- RTOs – how fast do you want to bring up your apps.
- Access method to your apps.

Without specific goals your DR plan is not tangible.
What Steps do you Execute to Follow your DR Plan?

- Are those steps scripted?
- Do you conduct DR drills?
- What is your Process for Testing your DR Plan?
How Often do you Review or Change your DR Plan?

- Every three months you DR plan WILL change
- The following will change in your datacenter every 3 months:
  - Applications
  - Databases
  - Devices

The only constant is change itself?
Make your SP your Partner

- Sit down with your Service Provider (SP) to review your:
  - DP Strategy
  - DR plan – what it is? And what it needs to be?
  - RPO & RTO objectives
  - SLAs – for normal recoveries and for disasters

- Review with your service provider which of your apps are mission critical to you and the associated RPOs/RTOs for DR & BC
  - Trust your SP – most people trust their doctor

Do you want to be on your own in case of a disaster?
VDR – What are we Talking About?

- **Virtual Disaster Recovery** = Utilizing Virtualization to minimize infrastructure requirements for Recovery = Application Recovery
- **Virtual Data Recovery** = In case of a data loss, spin up another VM and recover your data to it

VDR is Internal and External Cloud Capable.
What is Virtual Disaster Recovery?

- Hot site vs. VDR
- It’s not about “backup”, it’s not about “disasters”, it’s about RECOVERY of your data, it’s about RESTORE to bring you back from a data loss DISASTER

VDR is about INSURANCE and ASSURANCE.
How is VDR enabled?

- If your data was backed up as VMs …
- Your SP has VM image of your data w/ your apps
- It is as simple as spinning up a VM with your data
VDR Data Access

- Access to your data is via any secure external network
  - RDP
  - VPN
  - Opening up ports in a firewall
- You can access your VDR data from anywhere you have internet access
  - Home office
  - Internet Cafe / Starbucks
  - Library
  - ...

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VDR Checklist

- Some software is not well suited for VMware environments
- Your data is encrypted in the multi-tenant environment – requires encryption key(s), temp. Key(s) or key(s) escrow management
- If your data was backed up as physical rather than virtual, VDR is a bit more tricky
How much does it cost?

- Typically stipulated in the agreement between end users and the SP
- VDR is activated w/ the declaration of a Disaster by the end customer
  - Since you use the SPs equipment and facilities in a VDR – in reality it is cheaper than doing it in-house
    - Analogous to a flat tire on the highway

VDR is Health Insurance not Life Insurance.
When is this Available?

Available now

- Since VMware and BMR were released
- SPs have been offering VDR since ’03-’04
Summary

- Build a data recovery strategy and plan
- Review, test, and update it often
- Partner with your Service Provider
- Ensure adequate data access points for your employees
Thank You