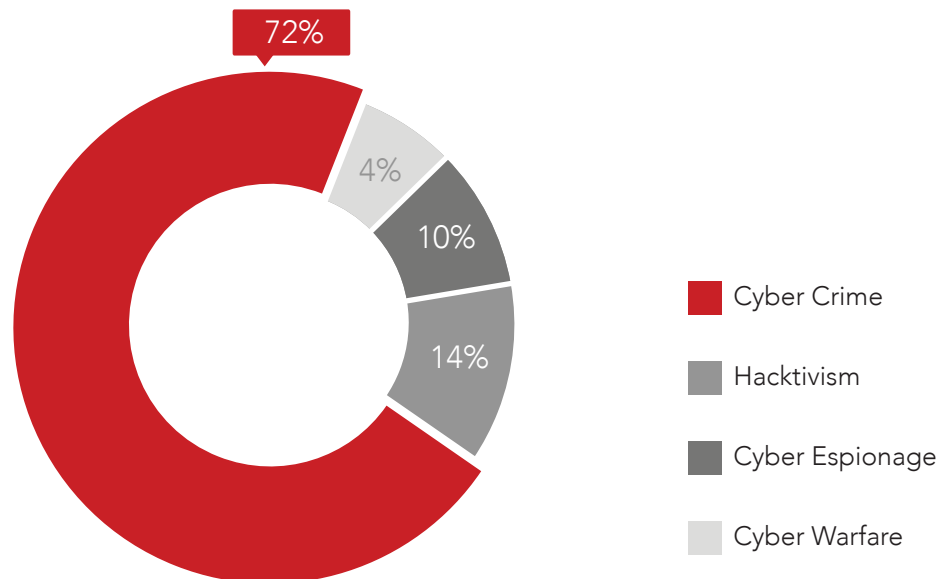# How to Prepare for Business Continuity After a Disaster

# How to Prepare for Business Continuity After a Disaster

While advancements in technology have given us the gift of electronic filing – and thereby less need for paper storage – if a business' electrical system is disrupted or damaged, there can be major consequences. Especially if it involves an organization's data storage.

Disasters come in many forms, each with the ability to cause data to be lost: fire, flood, tornado, earthquake, hurricane, and winter storm account only for the potential natural disasters which could steal data from your business.

However, data can also be permanently appropriated by man-made situations as well, such as theft, arson, or cyber attack. In fact, according to hackmageddon.com, cybercrime accounts for more than 72% of ALL cyber attacks – meaning, by far, the primary motivation to hack is to profit from the losses of businesses.

**72%**

**4%**

**10%**

**14%**

- ■ Cyber Crime
- ■ Hacktivism
- ■ Cyber Espionage
- ■ Cyber Warfare

Regardless of how it may be lost – the question is: can you get it back?

If you have a strong business continuity plan in place – a plan to resume normal business operations, even in the face of a disaster – the chances are greatly in your favor. Here is a quick guide to begin your business continuity plan, which should be completed sooner than later.

# #1 Research to Learn How to Quickly Replace Equipment and Workstations

Let's assume for a moment your office has been lost. Whether it be the building is temporarily unavailable for a week or two – or if the entire building has been destroyed, your office is not accessible. What will you do? What will your employees do?
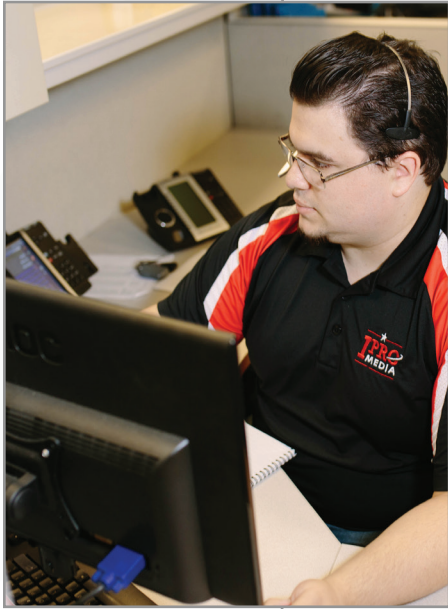
Statistically, 60 - 80% of businesses who cannot immediately resume work after a data loss or disaster close their doors forever. This is why you must act NOW, before it's too late. Once it does happen, where do you begin?

Of course, you'll need to immediately file an insurance claim for your lost equipment, if applicable. But what do you do in the meantime? One idea is to research nearby technology rentals or finding Hardware as a Service (HaaS), or even annex work locations, complete with workstations, you can rent. For all of these expenses, your insurance company might reimburse your cost – but even if they don't, you're working again. You have a place to direct your people and your data, and your business continues, even in the face of a disaster.

**"**

**Statistically, 60 - 80% of businesses who cannot immediately resume work after a data loss or disaster close their doors forever. "**

# #2 Establish A Protocol of Contingencies for Each Disaster Situation

Once you have your equipment and annex work location in place, your team needs to know what to do in the event of any type of data loss. This is the very definition of a Business Continuity Plan. Consider as many contingencies as you can, such as:

- Simple data loss; no physical damage

- Data loss with repairable damage

- Data loss with partial irreparable damage

- Data loss with total irreparable damage

- No damage; inaccessible building

- Inaccessible building with data loss due to damage

- Inaccessible building; data loss with annex facility available

- Inaccessible building; data loss with no annex facility available

- Inaccessible building; employees can work from home

- Inaccessible building; employees cannot work from home

As you can see, there are a multitude of scenarios to consider when data is lost. Simply being able to retrieve data does little good if your team cannot cohesively access it. Once you have considered all the possible situations for your specific organization, it's time to make sure your data is always safe, and consult with the experts.

# #3 Arrange for Failsafe and Frequent Data Backups with IPro

Once you have your disaster backup plan in place, it's extremely important to find data backup experts who can assure your data is always available through continual systems testings and redundancies. IPro will not only secure your reliable data backups, we will also review your business continuity plan with you to look for any areas of improvement or, if you don't currently have a plan, we'll work with you to help you create one customized to your business and circumstances.

Don't let a simple lack of planning be the ultimate downfall of your business. IPro is your source for business continuity, as well as VoIP systems, network security, and managed services. Let's talk to get your data secured today.

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