



State of Louisiana

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY

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Subject: Enterprise Disaster Recovery Strategy

Pursuant to LAC 4:XV.101, et seq., the Office of Information Technology (OIT) is providing an Enterprise Disaster Recovery Strategy.

Enterprise Disaster Recovery Strategy

The main determinant of disaster recovery/business continuity strategy is “time to data.” This can be defined, in disaster recovery terms, by the maximum amount of outage time a business function can handle without access to data before business failure. Accessibility to data includes restoration in a form that can be processed. Since most critical business functions depend on IT resources, shortening “time to data” is the primary mission of disaster recovery planning in the wake of unavoidable worst case disaster.

Since there can be no recovery without data and data storage infrastructure is already the focal point of IT systems design, data protection and accessibility is the main concern of disaster recovery planning. There are several strategies to insure that data copies are not consumed in the same disaster that affects the production environment, but maintaining off-site data copies does not assure recovery or data security. Disaster recovery “best practices” requires that at least the critical functions of an organization be backed up and accessible within the functions’ maximum outage time frame.

The State of Louisiana has identified its critical business functions, supporting IT systems, and the supporting systems infrastructure vulnerabilities. Critical systems as defined by State of Louisiana have a maximum outage time of 0 – 5 days. To minimize “time to data” and to address the regional vulnerabilities of its existing data centers the State of Louisiana has requested an additional data center be built on a North Louisiana site. The projected completion of the new data center is projected at 3 – 5 years from now. With regards to immediate needs for data recovery the State of Louisiana has proposed some long term and intermediate strategies for disaster recovery.

Long Term Strategies with the completion of the North Louisiana data center:

- Provide “hot site” for critical business functions as defined by business function that have maximum outage times of 0 – 5 days.
- Provide “warm site/cold site” for critical business function backup that may be run from another point of presence.
- Remote disk mirroring.
- E-vault, virtual tape backup, or disk-to-disk backup.

Intermediate Strategies pending the completion of the North Louisiana data center:

- Use of Agency regional facility to create a redundant “hot site,” “warm/cold site” for critical business functions.
- Master/multiple state disaster recovery contracts that could include hot/warm site services, e-vaulting and mobile recovery solutions. This provides an opportunity for OIT to pool agency DR-related funding requests and leverage the DR contractors.
- Louisiana Tech data replication facility utilizing deduplication equipment for critical business functions. This location could also provide space for mobile recovery equipment.

FY08-09 Disaster Recovery Requests

OIT is in the process of establishing a cohesive statewide Disaster Recovery approach. Supported Disaster Recovery related IT Requests may be conditionally approved subject to changes required by the statewide approach and approved funding.

All entities under the authority of OIT as defined by R.S. 39:15.1, et seq, are expected to comply with these guidelines. Exceptions to these guidelines must be justified to OIT.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Gusky at 225-219-9470.