

Data Protection and Disaster Recovery for the Paperless Transport Company

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Overview

Over the last decade, cloud backup, recovery, and restoration options have emerged as a secure, cost-effective, and reliable method of protecting the ever increasing amounts of data a company generates daily. However, switching to a cloud-based backup system is a serious proposition that requires a clear understanding of how such a solution will integrate into the company's existing infrastructure.

The Problem

Today, virtually every transportation company and 3PL provider relies on data for normal business operations. If a company wants to be competitive in the current business environment, it must demonstrate the ability to access and transfer data quickly and accurately.

Of critical importance is the need for transportation companies and 3PL providers to protect all data and have it readily available to maintain regulatory compliance among various state, federal, and local entities. These companies must also consider the possibility of losing data to natural disasters, disgruntled employees, competitors, and even terrorists. This data is not only important to your company, but also to your customers. A significant loss of data could trigger a cascade of events, possibly leading to the loss of clients which in turn could cause a company to go out of business.

If a regulatory body requests a piece of information that the now paperless company is not able to provide (due to data loss), that company could be treated as if it is intentionally withholding or destroying information and subject to fines, penalties, prosecution, etc. So it is not enough to keep digital images of your waybills, but you should also have those files backed up by a trusted cloud-based backup and recovery provider.

Proposed Solutions

Choices for organizations range from basic cloud backups using software, to a dedicated backup and recovery appliance. With an optimal recovery solution in place, you can have the speed and convenience of local backups along with a spare server waiting to run critical servers if the primary system fails. In addition to local recovery, you can also have your servers and data backed up to a recovery center to keep you covered in case your entire site is lost.

Look for providers who offer:

- **Data Corruption Protection**
- **Server Failure Protection**
- Key features such as **Automatic File & Image Protection**
- **Timely Notifications**
- **Support**—Knowledgeable, U.S. Based Support

Disaster Recovery Plan

If your company does not already have a formal disaster recovery plan or your policy manual needs an update, consider this quick tip:

Save the relevant email discussions (including header information) among owners, partners, shareholders and decision-makers to a folder intended for Policies, Procedures and Compliance. This file could be added as an addendum to an existing policy manual.

The Future

Due to the nature of the transportation and 3PL industries, data is continuously moving and this puts the information even more at risk than other commercial environments. How secure you can keep your company's data, combined with how often and how well you protect your data and systems against downtime, may determine your competitiveness and potential for growth. With an eye on the ever-changing regulatory landscape, companies who continue to utilize current technology will maintain an advantage over their competition.

Conclusion

Effective cloud backup, recovery and restoration solutions provide clients with cost effective, secure, and reliable methods of recovering and restoring data quickly. An optimal recovery solution restores data regardless of location thus allowing business operations to recover rapidly. Understanding the risks associated with your business, including regulatory compliance and technology, is key to preserving the integrity of critical data. Taking proactive steps with regards to your technology plan ultimately lowers the risk of costly downtime, serious interruption to your business operations, as well as risk to your company's reputation.

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