

Business Continuity

HOW TO SURVIVE THE COMPANIES ACT

The latest provisions in the Companies Act are seen as having a similar impact on companies' views on business continuity and IT over here as Sarbanes-Oxley has had in the US.

The Companies Act 2006, which will be fully ratified by 1st of October 2009, is a further example of legislation and regulations which have placed much more emphasis on the responsibilities of Directors to ensure that company systems and information are both protected and can be available in the event of a business interruption.

According to the Business Continuity institute 48% of businesses have had a significant IT failure in the past 2 years.

This fact is symptomatic of a growing body of evidence that supports two main principles. Firstly organisations face serious incidents much more frequently than you would expect, making it a case of "when" not "if". Secondly, when such an event occurs, the consequences are more likely to prove fatal to the business than not.

The principles behind an effective Business Continuity plan are:

1. Analyse your business and its core requirements.
2. Define what could be termed a disaster for your organisation; identifying owners and teams.
3. Identify dependencies; the resources that need to be secured.

4. Analyse the areas at risk; add a weighting and prioritise resources.
5. Develop your plan and rigorously test it, to ensure complete confidence in it and ensure that every team member knows their role and responsibilities.
6. Continuously review and re-test the plan.

It's important to state that Business Continuity planning isn't all about ICT; more of an amalgamation of procedures that fit the companies existing infrastructure. That said, the serious investment will be in achieving commitment from the Board to the project and dedicating the time required to develop and test the systems put in place.

Aside from the legislative requirements, it's our experience that when Company executives start to consider the financial, reputation and operational consequences of even a minor incident; and understand the daily risks faced by their organisation that continuity planning quickly moves up the business agenda.

Castle Computer Services has the relevant skills and expertise to work with you to create a comprehensive Business Continuity plan or to audit, review and test your existing plan. This is achieved through a number of workstreams, with quantifiable deliverables, covering each of the Continuity Management disciplines to create a bespoke plan to your specific requirements.

Analyse Your Business

Define a Disaster

Identify Dependancies

Analyse Areas at Risk

Develop Plan & Test It

Review & Re-test

Contact us

For more information please contact Castle Computer Services on 0845 230 1314, or email info@castle-cs.com

