

Business Continuity ▶▶ Overview

Overview:

Hardware failures, software failures, floods or power cuts can occur at any moment causing serious interruptions to key business services. Asparian's goal is to ensure that should an event occur, critical business functions continue with the least amount of disruption, maintaining the highest quality of service and availability possible.

Asparian leverages expertise and industry alliances to provide comprehensive Business Continuity Solutions. Our planning team prides itself with experienced staff in designing and implementing Business Continuity Solutions supporting companies in achieving the highest levels of availability given any form of interruption.

Asparian understands and focuses on Business Continuance Solutions, which meet our customers' objectives. Reducing risks such as loss of business revenue, market credibility, stock valuation and productivity are imperative to the success of every business. With Asparian as your Business Continuity Partner, we minimize these risks and provide pro-active service solutions customized to your needs.

Our Business Continuity Services entail design and planning, implementation, rehearsal and review, strategy consulting, recovery strategy definition, backup services and full technology infrastructure services empowering our customers to not only react to continuity disruptions, but also manage them quickly and efficiently.

Utilizing the Ten Disciplines for IT Business Continuity brought forth by Business Continuity Institute (BCI) and Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRII), Asparian's primary goal is to ensure all of our clients have continuous business and technical availability to meet business goals, regardless of physical or technical disruption at any given time.

Asparian has shown a history of solving complex Business Continuity problems from small to Fortune 500 companies. We have applied proven methodologies and best practices to develop an adaptive enterprise and we share this knowledge and experience as we execute Business Continuity solutions for our clients.

Business Continuity Key Features:

Design and Planning

Translates recovery needs into recovery strategies defined to meet Recovery Time Objectives.

Implementation

Contingency and recovery processes and procedures are defined to minimize interruption and financial loss.

Rehearse and Review

Rehearsing and reviewing continuity and recovery plans to ensure business needs are met.

Strategy Consulting

Identify and define recovery requirements to support critical business operations. Identify and safeguard against risks & exposures.

Recovery Strategy Definition

Experts translate continuity requirements into recovery strategies. Based upon the identified needs of the business and targeted recovery windows, our consultants will define alternative strategies to best meet these needs under varying scenarios. Our team guides clients through the evaluation of alternate strategies based on business requirements, costs, and most probable risks.

Backup Services

Services include assistance in defining backup/data replication strategies to meet both recovery and operational availability requirements including defining retention and data archiving strategies.

Technology Infrastructure Solutions

Continuity and recovery strategies are translated into the design phase of the infrastructure. As part of the IT Infrastructure Solutions, Asparian provides an architecture encompassing availability, security and scalability to ensure recovery requirements and business needs are met.

▶▶ Key Features:

- Design and Planning
- Implementation
- Rehearse and Review
- Strategy Consulting
- Recovery Strategy Definition
- Backup Services
- IT Infrastructure Solutions

▶▶ Key Benefits:

- Minimize Loss of Revenue
- Protect Credibility & Customer Loyalty
- Reinforce Competitive Edge
- Protect Valuable Information Assets
- Minimize Service Interruption
- Resume Critical Business Functions
- Stabilize Finances During a Disruption
- Ensure Presence During Catastrophe
- Reduce Corporate Insurance Rates
- Establish PR Response Strategies
- Protection from Long-Term Disruption
- Mitigate Risks

▶▶ Key Methodologies:

- Risk Assessment
- Business Impact Analysis
- Strategy
- Plan Development
- Testing and Rehearsal
- Maintenance

▶▶ Additional Services:

- High Availability
- Storage Services
- Disaster Recovery
- Compliance & Regulation
- Hardware & Software
- Technical Training
- Technology Staffing

▶▶ Questions about our services, please visit www.asparian.com or contact us at 1 (800) 880-6090

Business Continuity >> Definition & Methodology

Business Continuity Definition:

Business Continuity can be defined as the processes, procedures, decisions and activities to ensure an organization can continue to function through an operational interruption.

The purpose of a Business Continuity Plan is to achieve a cost-effective contingency solution balancing the value of potential losses to the business and its assets against the cost of guaranteeing continuity of critical business processes. Service levels may be reduced due to business interruption, but through good planning, a minimum level of service disruption can be provided with a perception of business as usual conveyed to the customer or client.

Business Continuity is established as a project, to develop the Business Continuity Plan and upon completion an operational process requiring ongoing management is required. The Business Continuity process may seem daunting, but the reality is Business Continuity is not a complex procedure. Business Continuity adheres to a recognized logical six-step methodology, which leads and assists the Project Manager in leveraging the following steps:

Business Continuity Methodology:

Risk Assessment

The first step is to make a realistic appraisal of potential risks. A risk is the possibility a certain event will take place and can potentially impact a company in some manner. There are many possible risks, some will be obvious, others require investigation and a degree of lateral thinking to discover.

Business Impact Analysis

Once the risks are identified, the next step is to determine the impact scale and individual risks would have, should they occur. This is where the Business Impact Analysis (BIA) comes in. The process involves determining the likelihood or probability of a risk event happening and the size of impact it would have upon the business. This enables the Project Manager to rank risks in terms of importance, allowing decisions to be made about risks in which the company needs to protect (termed 'critical' risks).

Strategy

The Business Continuity planner takes the critical risks identified in the Business Impact Analysis and decides the best method of 'mitigating' these risks, i.e. reducing the likelihood a risk will happen and establishing protective measures to ensure if the risk does occur, the business can deal with the crisis and can quickly return to business as usual.

Plan Development

Document the strategies that have been decided upon and to record the information and processes necessary to ensure successful implementation of those strategies. This is what is referred to as the Business Continuity Plan and can be either a software or paper-based document. The Business Continuity plan will form the basis of any subsequent crisis or disaster response.

Testing and Rehearsal

Once the plan has been produced it must be tested. Two main types of test are normally used - the 'table-top' test and a real-life exercise. A table-top test consists of a simulated scenario that does not actually involve 'invoking' (activating) the Business Continuity Plan. A real-life exercise is where the plan is invoked and staff and systems are tested as if the real event was happening. Lessons learned from testing and rehearsals are incorporated back into the plan.

Maintenance

The Business Continuity plan is a living document. As a client's business grows and changes, continuity plans must grow and change as well. Regular updates need to be conducted, starting the process over again: assessing for new risks, determining their potential impact, developing mitigation strategies, writing these into the Business Continuity Plan then testing and rehearsing. The process must be continuous if the business is to remain protected and its future survival is to be assured.

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Business Continuity >> Ten Key Disciplines

The Business Continuity Institute (BCI) and the Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRII) have developed the Ten Key Disciplines of Business Continuity as standards of professional practice for Business Continuity Professionals.

Ten Key Disciplines of Business Continuity

1. Project Initiations and Management

Obtain management support for a Business Continuity plan by demonstrating the need for a correctly developed and managed Business Continuity Plan (BCP). Organize project team and manage the project to a successful conclusion.

2. Risk Evaluations and Control

Conduct a comprehensive environmental risk analysis process. Establish the controls needed to mitigate or prevent any potential loss.

3. Business Impact Analysis

Conduct an analysis to identify the effects of disruptions and disaster scenarios on the organization. Identify the key functions and their inter-dependencies with other operations to prioritize the recovery process.

4. Developing Business Continuity Strategies

Determine the choice of business recovery strategy by ensuring critical functions can be recovered within the predefined thresholds while maintaining the organization's best operating performance.

5. Emergency Response and Operations

Develop and implement procedures for response and stabilizing situations following an incident or event, including establishing and managing an emergency operations center to be used as a command center during the emergency.

6. Developing and Implementing Business Continuity Plans

Design, develop and implement the Business Continuity Plan to provide recovery within Recovery Time Objectives (RTO).

7. Awareness and Training Plans

Prepare a program to create corporate awareness and enhance skills required to develop, implement, maintain and execute designed Business Continuity Plan.

8. Maintaining and Exercising Business Continuity Plans

Pre-plan and coordinate plan exercises, evaluate and document plan exercise results. Develop processes to maintain the currency of continuity capabilities and the plan document in accordance with the organization's strategic direction. Verify plan will prove effective by comparison with a suitable standards and report results in a clear and concise manner.

9. Public Relations and Crisis Coordination

Develop, coordinate, evaluate and exercise plans to handle media during crisis situations. Develop, coordinate, evaluate, and exercise plans to communicate with and provide appropriate trauma counseling for employees and their families, key customers, critical suppliers, owners/stockholders and corporate management during crisis. Ensure all stakeholders are kept informed on an as-needed basis.

10. Coordination with Public Authorities

Establish applicable procedures and policies for coordinating response, continuity and restoration activities with local authorities while ensuring compliance with applicable statutes or regulations.

About Us: Asparian, LLC is a technology focused, business driven consulting and technology services firm. While encompassing multi-industry expertise and best practice business process knowledge, Asparian provides trusted insight into existing and emerging technologies while identifying new business and technology trends supporting organizations to sustain long-term success.

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