Information Technology Continuity Uncensored
IIA Dallas Chapter October Monthly Meeting

Wendy Nelson, CBCP, PMP
IIS IT Service Continuity Manager
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Evolving IIS Preparedness
Session Sneak Peak

- IT Continuity Challenges
- IT BIA/TRA Responsibilities
- Things an Audit of IT Continuity Usually Miss
- Strategies for Audit of IT Continuity
- Discussion time
IT Continuity Challenges

- **Complacency**
  - It’s not a matter of “if”, it’s a matter of “when”
  - Can’t care more than “the business”

- **Increasing technology complexity**
  - Requires more SMEs to support and recover
  - System interdependencies
  - Enormous data

- **Budget constraints**
  - Resources – financial and people
  - Outsourcing of IT
  - Funded recovery solutions

- **Aging hardware and software**
  - Related to budget and complexity
  - Might not be able to replace
IT BIA/TRA Responsibilities

- Business Impact Analysis (BIA)
  - Not usually owned by IT; “the business” responsibility
  - Must balance business expectations for RT and RP (RTO & RPO)
  - Identify IT interdependencies

- Threat and Risk Assessment (TRA)
  - Understand threats to IT in order to determine the proper level of protection
  - Perform risk analysis on IT teams not just locations
  - Consider including ‘Human Error” as a threat

- Items owned by “the business” not IT
  - Manual interim business processes/plans
  - Funding of solutions

- Items owned by IT
  - Impact analysis of each functional IT area (server, apps, network, etc.)
  - Document IT interdependencies
  - Restoration of the IT “service”
  - Prioritize recovery based on business criticality
Things an Audit of IT Continuity Usually Miss

- **Backup Usability**
  - Timing issues, missing data, invalid backup, synchronization requirements
  - Solution: Have to perform actual restore or at least do a deep dive on backup restore environment

- **IT Recovery Issues**
  - Plan assumptions, software license keys, aging hardware and software
  - Solution: Audit these items carefully! Do a deep dive in IT Continuity plans for these items

- **Undocumented Business expectations**
  - Missing BIA/TRA and/or any kind of business analysis
  - Solution: Understand the gap between business objectives (RxO) to the IT recovery solution capabilities (RxC)
Strategies for Audit of IT Continuity

- We [IT] want you to ask the tough questions, however, we will only answer what you ask
- Listen for either “if” or “when” and take appropriate action
- Deep dives on process and jobs performing off site backup
- Configurations, configurations, configurations
- For IT, a conference room plan will not work
Your turn

Questions, Comments, Other Discussion Interests

Open Discussion

Evolving IIS Preparedness
Acronyms Used in Presentation

- **BIA** – Business Impact Analysis
- **CBCP** – Certified Business Continuity Professional
- **CIP** – Critical Infrastructure Protection
- **IIS** – Intelligence and Information Systems
- **IT** – Information Technology
- **PMP** - Project Management Professional
- **RA** – Risk Assessment
- **RPC** – Recovery Point Capability [IT’s proven recovery point in time]
- **RPO** – Recovery Point Objective [amount of data you can afford to lose]
- **RTC** – Recovery Time Capability [IT’s proven ability to deliver business recovery time objective]
- **RTO** – Recovery Time Objective [maximum tolerable amount of time without IT service]
- **T&V** – Threat and Vulnerability assessment
- **TRA** – Threat and Risk Assessment