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You Deserve Both

Why you still need Disaster Recovery when you already have High Availability

The latest trends being Hypervisors, Clouds and As-A-Service providers, you may be thinking that High Availability (HA) is all that you need to ensure business continuity. We would suggest you consider that HA and Disaster Recovery (DR) strategies as separate solutions that are equally important in keeping your business operational. Some vendors suggest that HA clustering is all that is needed for adequate protection. They make this claim based on the fact that 95% of interruptions are not catastrophic facility failures or geographic disasters, so HA is good enough. This claim sounds believable, and is backed by some truths, however as you dig more into HA you can begin to see a solution that is not 100% bulletproof. You need to consider both HA and DR as critical to your business success. Before making a final decsion let us outline some important considerations.

An HA solution is different from a true backup in that it was not intended for long term archival of data. The primary purpose is to ensure Site-A can pick up the workload if Site-B is detected as "Down". What if you need to restore some information from 3 months ago that was deleted? What if a system is infected with malware and now your mirrored data is useless at both sites? These are real problems that could easily be avoided with a "true" Backup and Disaster Recovery solution. Let us talk first about the mirroring function at the heart of HA. Mirroring is synchronizing data in real-time or near-real-time between storage systems; many vendors have this capability, there are often some restrictions as to what

hardware kits can mirror between each other and what resources are available to each system. The synchronization of sites is the biggest benefit for these solutions, but also its biggest flaw. Whatever happens on Site-A is synced with Site-B almost instantanously, which means new files can be created, modified, deleted or infected with no discrimination between good or bad.

	High Availability	Disaster Recovery
Real-Time Data Protection	✓	
Requires Continuous Mirroring	✓	
Long Term Archival		✓
Ability to Restore Object Level		✓
Automated Failover	✓	✓
Protection Against Deletion/Malware		✓
Ability to Restore Full Systems & Data		✓

A successful HA solution requires a reliable heartbeat between sites and having this heartbeat detect when to automatically trigger failover. If this heartbeat is not reliable or somewhat intermittent, you will failover when you do not intend to. This leads to frustrations, delays and worst case, manual intervention in order to bring the systems back into harmony. As with any enterprise class solution, careful planning and reducing single points of failure are key to making the solution perform as well as it was designed. Failure to configure the solution in the most redundant fashion can lead to sheer disappointment when it matters most.

We delight in hearing that our customers have all the protection they need and deserve. We wanted to help differentiate between HA and DR. For details on how Dynamic Solutions International can help you with your DR strategy please reach out.

**Visit us at DynamicSolutions.com or call +1 303.754.2000
to speak directly with a storage systems specialist.**

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