



Business Contingency
Readiness Services
SUMMARY

Summary

Overview

Disaster preparedness is more often than not, a priority until after the threat is at our doorsteps. Throughout our technology-centered business infrastructures, a failure of mission-critical systems is inevitable, and external factors that may introduce instabilities, ranging from weather to war, may be foreseen but still unpreventable. While there is no means of predicting the outcome from a disaster or catastrophic event, how an organization approaches business continuity and disaster recovery (BCDR) as a proactive initiative vs. a reactive response, may determine the successful outcome of a recovery and restoration effort.

The Drew Blandford-Williams Business Continuity / Disaster Readiness Services (BusCon) places key emphasis on the Planning phases of an emergency preparedness campaign, while also considering the recovery efforts of critical business functions as key to supporting the business recovery efforts in the event of a disruption to the regular operations within an organization.

Drew Blandford-Williams BusCon Services include short-term as well as long-term contingencies, which are aligned toward specific categories of disruptions, such as fires, floods, earthquakes, explosions, terrorism, tornadoes, extended power interruptions, hazardous chemical spills, and other natural and man-made disasters.

Value Proposition

Establishing a preemptive posture toward emergency situations provides the best possible outcome when attempting to limit the exposure to compromise from a disaster or potentially catastrophic event. Looking at *Disaster Recovery* beyond simple back-ups of critical assets and controls, the Drew Blandford-Williams BusCon Services methodology blends an approach that addresses common critical vulnerabilities in traditional BCDR programs, including risk assessment and asset inventory, Disaster Awareness Training, and real-time testing to help ensure that recovery objectives are attainable in the aftermath of a disaster.

The key differentiator for Drew Blandford-Williams is in how we coordinate with our clients to preemptively identify and weigh event types and likelihood of impact, thereby helping organizations target their resources (and financial commitment), to areas with the highest risk and with the most likely anticipated exposure.

Competitive Advantage

While BCDR has traditionally been evaluated as an Information Technology effort, with minimal consideration of the business drivers and department stakeholders, Drew's *BusCon* methodology for addressing BCDR combines time-sensitive recovery models that address multi-phased approaches to critical information system recovery while also providing contingency planning for mission-critical systems following a modular, iterative process on which any size organization can build an adaptable BCDR strategy.

Time-to-Recover is a crucial aspect of any BCDR plan, and for Drew's *BusCon* model, is pre-determined by scale of potential impact and threat assessment, which—when combined with tactical contingencies—provide a reasonable level of reliability ahead of a potential disaster.

When preparing documentation and GRC policies to help defend the confidentiality, integrity and availability of assets and network security operations for any organization, we as cybersecurity professionals must immerse ourselves in the continuous process of learning, information security risk assessment and balancing network security data against business priorities, all while trying to create something that makes sense and can be adopted by anyone.

Drew's job isn't to be front and center, or to keep our bylines out in front of the public. As a cybersecurity advisor, Drew identifies what risks and compromises are going to impact your operations, help you resolve your cybersecurity gaps, and then slips quietly back into the shadows

Scope of Work

Since recovery preparation can vary in complexity—depending on the level of event and magnitude of impact to the infrastructure—Drew Blandford-Williams *BusCon* Readiness Services are designed to be an iterative component of the client's normal operational activities, while focusing on four key objectives:

- Analyze existing threats, risks and vulnerabilities;
- Implement pre-event disaster circumvention procedures;
- Develop a comprehensive plan to respond in a timely manner to an event
- Recover critical operations.

Process

Drew provides *BusCon* Readiness Services following a nine-phased modular approach:

- Phase 1 – Program Launch & Scope
- Phase 2 – Express Baseline Vulnerability Analysis (*EVAS*)
- Phase 3 – Business Impact Analysis (*BIA*)
- Phase 4 – Business Recovery Provisions
- Phase 5 – Technology Recovery Provisions
- Phase 6 – Table-top Exercises
- Phase 7 – Roll-out & Testing
- Phase 8 – Pre/Post Event Management Review
- Phase 9 – Shareholder & Executive Huddle

Procedures

Phase 1 Program Launch & Scope

Phase 1 establishes an understanding of the existing and projected computing environment of the organization.

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- Task 1 – Workplan Development**
 - Task 2 – Key Staff Interviewing**
 - Task 3 – Policy Definition**
 - Task 4 – Disaster Awareness ReadyRoom™**

Phase 2 EVAS

The Express Vulnerability Assessment (*eVAS*) help organizations quickly identify and prioritize their critical and sensitive information systems and networks that should be focus of their security initiatives and investments, without digging into a lengthy, comprehensive security assessment.

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- Task 1 – Framework Scope & Development**
 - Task 2 – Data Gathering**
 - Task 3 – Network Diagram/Topology Review**
 - Task 4 – Operating System Inventory**
 - Task 5 – IP Hot-set Identification**
 - Task 6 – Baseline Configuration Review & Advisory Plan**
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**Phase 3
Business
Impact
Analysis (BIA)**

Drew Blandford-Williams uses the ISO 22317 Business Impact Analysis Standard, which establishes the baseline from which our Risk Management Team outlines our client’s relevant components and departments and helps identify key areas of vulnerability.

- Task 1 – Definition / Goals & Scope**
 - Task 2 – Establishment / Appointment of “Flying Squad”**
 - Task 3 – Asset / Resource Survey**
 - Task 4 – Data Analysis & Prioritization**
 - Task 5 – BIA Report & Posting**
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**Phase 4
Business
Recovery
Provisions**

This phase is focused on recovery of relevant business assets, which may include key applications and infrastructure that serve as the foundation for the business to operate.

- Task 1 – Defining Recovery Time Objectives (RTO)**
 - Task 2 – Inventory & Classification of Key Business Assets**
 - Task 3 – Parent Process Contingencies**
 - Task 4- Identification / Routing of Secondary & Sub-processes**
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**Phase 5
Technology
Recovery
Provisions**

This phase of the *BusCon* Readiness Service focuses on the technology recovery strategies that should be developed for Information technology (IT) systems, applications, and data.

- Task 1 – Platform Contingencies & Provisions**
 - Task 2 – Data Recovery**
 - Task 3 – Hot-Swap / Standby Mode**
 - Task 4- Warm & Cold Standby Modes**
 - Task 5- System Redundancies (Replications, Copies, Back-ups & Snapshots)**
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**Phase 6
Table-top
Exercises**

Phase 6 of Drew’s *BusCon* assembles key stakeholders from within the organization to bridge the gaps between the information security team and those in compliance, legal, and privacy matters. Tabletop exercises evaluate our client’s ability to effectively execute their Incident Response procedures.

Task 1 – Scope & Parameters of Audience Participation
Task 2 – Scenario Definition
Task 3 – Exercise Scripting
Task 4 – Exercise Activity
Task 5 – Post-exercise Review & Reporting

Phase 7
Roll-out &
Testing

This phase sees the development and collation of tactics to deploy and validate effectiveness of the BCDR plan.

Task 1 – Post-event Test Analysis & Report (PTAR)
Task 2 – Soft-launch Deployment of BCDR Operational Procedures

Phase 8
Pre/Post Event
Management
Review

During this phase, Risk Managers gather and analyze data from all aspects of the BCDR models currently in effect, as well as those modified or introduced as part of the BusCon Readiness Services.

Task 1 – Data Compilation
Task 2 – Data Analysis

Phase 9
Shareholder &
Executive
Huddle

An Executive Huddle is conducted to explain current emergency preparedness and planning knowledge and business case studies to help the client's key leaders better understand the risks and emergency plans and contingencies that are in place or underway.

Task 1 – Appointment Scheduling & Dry-run
Task 2 – Live Presentation & Summary Review