**Term Paper: Managing an IT Infrastructure Audit**

**Section 4: Disaster Recovery Plan**

CIS 558

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Disaster recovery refers to the mitigation process done in an organization after an unfortunate event to protect an organization from occurrences that may affect it negatively. It is normally aimed at salvages the business from the effect of the disaster and putting it above the challenges experienced. Business continuity on the other hand is when a business is able torecover from a disaster and move on with its activities as usual, overcoming the negative effects. There are various ways in which a business can experience difficult situations. This may occur in form situations such as fire outbreak, earthquake, hacking of its systems, terrorism event, and unhealthy competition among others.

**Responding to a disaster**

Responding to a disaster means taking the right measures to deal with the calamity that is being faced by an organization. Disasters are unwanted occurrences in a firm that hinder its day to day activities and a firm must have objectives of recovering the disaster like preventing future occurrences, which may affect the firm with a big impact because it had happened before. Preventing big losses is another objective where by the firm will be preventing losses from occurring andthat may make the firm bankrupt because it will need capital to replace and repair what was damaged. The firm will respond to the disaster to protect its confidential information from being leaked to the public and which may be a threat. The firm will also be aiming at continuity after the calamity hence aiming at overcoming the difficult situation it is experiencing. Reducing disasters that may come in the near future that may be caused by destructions, errors from the employees, the machines may also fail or even from the building.by having such objectives, the firm will have rare possibilities of disasters and in case of occurrence, it will not have a big impact.

**Understanding the spec of the disaster**

This is researching on the disaster to understand how it happened, what caused the disaster and the impact that it caused to the firm.in understanding the disaster, research is done on the ways that the disaster happened. It could be via fire where by the firm’s property is burned down to ashes, hacking of the systems whereby the confidential information maybe leaked to the public or the competing firms which may affect the firm with the loss greatly. The disaster may also happen through natural calamities whereby earthquakes, hurricanes or typhoons may occur and destroy the building holds the firm. There may be break in where by the firm’s costly property may be stolen by thieves causing a great impact because it calls for lots or resources, time and manpower to replace the stolen ones. It is at this stage that the taskforce mandate with the recovery process will evaluate those factors so as to be able to advise the management appropriately.

**Assessment of the damage**

This is estimating damage that has occurred due to the calamity, losses that the firm has incurred and how much is going to be spend in order to recover from the damage. The firm will estimate the amount of finance to reconstruct all that was damaged by the disaster.it calls for large amount of money to construct buildings in case of earthquakes and new systems in case of theft or hacking which cannot be recovered back. A good assessment will report on the level of damage, as well as give specific details of the financial and cost implications of the damage and this is what will be done at this stage. The firm will send the qualified members of the staff who can make a good assessment and return a good and clear report that can be used in implementation and preparation of the disaster. This report will be the root of the preparing the recovery strategy and implementing the plan. (Horney, Nguyen, Salvesen, Tomasco&Berke, 2016). It will be a guide to what should be done throughout the process until the organization is back to its feet.

**Preparing the recovery strategy**

This is taking of the right measures to recover the damage done during then disaster. The firm gives different roles to different members of the staff so as to distribute the operation going to be undertaken. This helps in utilizing little time possible to continue with the normal operations of the firm. Budgeting should also be part of the preparation so as to be aware of the total amount of the finance needed to replace all that was damaged. This will ensure that the recovery strategy is successful and that it offers required solutions to the operations of the company. Some staff training will be conducted in order to have easy time while implementing the strategy. Seminars will be conducted and also in house training accompanied by programs to educate the staff on what to do for the staff. Qualified trainers will be hired to train the staff to be aware of what is expected during implementation of the plan. Aid equipment will be issued to cater for any accident that will occur during the implementation. Items like first aid kit, heavy gloves, ladders, and radios (Wallace & Webber, 2017). Among others will be available for anyone taking part in the implementation. A plan of the building will be provided to ensure that the dangerous items in the building are well marked. This will reduce the risks of accidents during the implementation. Dangerous items like switches which can cause shock will be marked. Slippery floors will also be avoided to reduce chances of accidents.

**Implementing the strategy**

This is when the firm takes action on the goals that it has set aside with an aim of saving the firm from the disaster. The firm will be aware of who are going to take part in the implementation, the venue the implementation will take place and the method that will be used in the implementation. Everyone involved in the implementing should take part so as to take the little time possible. This involves the executive and the managers of the firm. The firm will make sure that it has all the support that it needs for the implementation.it should ensure that only the right and skilled people are involved.The needed resources should be ready for the implementation. The funds will be adequate to ensure that the process runs smoothly. In implementation, the firm also makes sure that its mission connects with the employees in the firm. There will be enough people during the implementation so as to take the shortest time possible to bring everything to its feet. The people undertaking the implementation will be motivated in order to have the motive of doing the work. Refreshments will be provided during the process to have everyone comfortable. The firm will have enough resources and finances to ensure that the activity is carried out as expected. Time will be adequate to perform all the activities involved in the implementation so that everything is done as perfectly as expected.

**Preventing future disaster**

This is taking the right measures to avoid calamities or even ways of recovering them in case they occur.in the case of theft, the firm will install sensors which can rise alarm when someone intrudes into the firm in the hours that one is not supposed to be around. The firm will insure itself so that it can have enough finance to recover from disasters like as well as loss of property both intellectual and physical. This way, the firm will get back to its feet fast. The organization will also back up its vital information in the cloud computing (Chang, 2015)so as to retrieve it back when it’s lost or when the systems are hacked.

**Conclusion**

Disasters are difficult situations that affect organizations and cannot be predicted. Due to this, the organization should be well equipped with the strategies it can use in responding to the disaster, understand how it happened and how much it’s going to cost them. It should also be in a position to assess the damage and implement all what they have decided to do as a mitigation strategy so as to continue with their business using the little time possible. In this case, the process will follow steps given in the discussion to ensure that results are quickly realized. This disaster recovery and business continuity plan will be the last resolve which offers a lasting solution to the organization currently and in future.

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