



## Stay Ahead of the Next Disaster Before It Hits

TruBridge Will Keep Your Organization Protected

*In an age where losing data can be a critical setback, businesses are devoting more of their budget to disaster recovery planning. However, healthcare organizations—and rural hospitals in particular—are still a few steps behind their counterparts in other industries. This current state of affairs is significant given the critical need for healthcare to protect privileged patient information.*

## The Importance of Safeguarding Patient Data

The loss of patient data can affect the quality of patient care, compromise patient privacy and security, exacerbate management challenges, and create significant legal ramifications for healthcare providers. In accordance, several laws—most notably HIPPA—have been passed to govern the confidentiality and availability of patient data. Under this mandate, hospitals and healthcare facilities are required to establish data backup plans for electronically protected health information, as well as disaster recovery plans to restore lost data.

Despite the very real need for dependable backup and disaster recovery, there are legitimate hurdles for hospitals and healthcare organizations to overcome. Some of the prime issues that the rural hospital community faces are limited budgets and understaffed IT departments. In both areas, there has been some progress to add new resources, but not nearly enough.

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## Disasters Are Standing in the Way

To compound matters, preventing loss of patient data is a bigger struggle for rural hospitals given how often disasters, whether natural or manmade, occur. Even with prior notice that these events are on the way, organizations which are ill-equipped or lack alternative facilities are not always ready to withstand a disaster's full force.

Moreover, when it comes to businesses and healthcare organizations experiencing interruptions and other outages, these events tend to be unforeseen and sporadic. Fires, power outages, and server failures usually cannot be accounted for ahead of time, making disaster preparedness even more crucial.

Manmade threats in the way of cyber-attacks, Trojans, worms, malware, and viruses can also be devastating. The scary aspect of these threats is that they are constantly evolving and becoming more difficult to predict and control.

The harsh truth is that these events are going to occur more often than not. Despite the very real need for dependable backup and disaster recovery, there are legitimate hurdles for organizations to overcome. One of the most common challenges is being able to document a comprehensive disaster recovery plan, and execute a coordinated plan while being understaffed and lacking IT budget flexibility.

How can they satisfy all of those needs without the necessary resources and technology in place?

## A Step by Step Approach for Simplifying Disaster Recovery

*There are five essential steps that a business should consider before developing and executing a disaster recovery strategy.*

### Enlist the aid of a third party specialist

Getting started can often prove to be the most difficult step. But there is no need to be on an island. Contracting the disaster recovery planning, deployment, and testing phases to an outside provider can bring incredible value to your business. You'll be able to collaborate with disaster recovery specialists to create a detailed plan while freeing your staff to concentrate on other aspects of the business. The upfront costs you incur from paying for these services will end up saving your business in the long run.

### Identify disaster potential that is unique to your business

This process simply requires better all-around collaboration and planning within your workforce. Some areas of your business may be using more energy than others—thus outages could be more commonplace. As a whole, your business could be vulnerable to certain natural disasters based on geography—for example, you could be in hurricane or wild fire prone areas, or be in certain regions where blackouts are more frequent.

### Put your team together and start planning... but prioritize first.

Once you have your disaster recovery team in place—and that team should be comprised of personnel from all of your departments—the planning stage should also be an analysis of your current systems. Your team should be able to determine which IT applications are accessed most often and are more critical for operations. Prioritization is important when it comes to sustaining productivity following downtime.

### Test adequately

Now that you have the plan in place, you need to make sure you have confidence it will work during an emergency by thorough and ongoing testing.

### Make sure your disaster recovery and business continuity plan is up-to-date

Your first plan isn't going to be your last. You need to revisit your plan regularly (potentially on a quarterly basis), and place triggers at key spots where updates may be needed based on personnel, evolving business agendas, and other constantly changing business areas.

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## Breaking Down Technology Barriers in the Cloud

At TruBridge, we have the answer for finding a technology fix without squeezing your resources dry. Backed by leading-edge IBM hardware and our unique cloud-based services, businesses can lean on us for all of their disaster recovery support needs. By backing up, hosting and provisioning IT systems in our cloud, we are able to provide immediate availability and access to the systems once they are restored.

Our cloud backup and disaster recovery solution—built on the backbone of IBM servers and storage—can:

- **Reduce** your downtime from days or hours to minutes
- **Deliver** full HIS disaster recovery that is ready for activation on demand
- **Provide** a complete, redundant environment for production, legacy and test systems, housed in enterprise class SOC 1 Type II data centers
- **Regularly** synchronize your data throughout the day
- **Run** daily system backups with off-site storage for archived data
- **Simplify** regulatory compliance by providing secure, HIPPA-compliant repositories for sensitive files
- **Conduct** an annual, complete disaster recovery test simulation

TruBridge can be all that you need in the wake of a disaster. We eliminate the need for additional IT costs while freeing your staff to concentrate on other critical tasks.

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**Are you ready to solve your disaster recovery and backup needs?**

**Contact TruBridge to learn more about our proven services.**

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3725 Airport Blvd., Suite #208A  
Mobile, AL 36608  
T 877-543-3635 F 251-639-8214  
[trubridge.net](http://trubridge.net)

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