



StoragePartners

Business Backup, Recovery & Storage Consultants

Managing Risk

We all take risks on a daily basis. Is that drink hot? Is the ground uneven? These regular, known risks do not normally bother us.

The irregular, un-quantified ones worry us, since we have little or no day-to-day experience of them.

“Even a correct decision is wrong when it was taken too late. “

Lee Iacocca

So how can we get comfortable with risk?

The only way is to understand it, just as we do with our normal daily risks.

The two foundations for understanding and dealing with risk effectively are planning and preparation.

Recently the UK has suffered from unseasonable floods. You might argue what is the point of planning for such an unlikely event. If you had planning in place for the loss of your main business location, then events such as flooding , fire, loss of electricity, etc, would have less impact, because you were better prepared.

If we plan for it, then we are more prepared. A writing revision note, rather than just rereading your textbook, is a more effective way to pass an exam.

Having a written plan of action is a necessity. It needs to be regularly tested and reviewed and updated following a test and when circumstances change.

If you never test your plan, then it is far, far worse than not having one. Its existence will lead you to have a false sense of security, which will cause both the plan and you to fail.

The second part is preparation. If you have prepared for the risk, then its effects will be minimised or removed altogether.

For instance, protecting the information on your disk drives with RAID greatly reduces or removes the effects of losing a production disk drive.

Planning and preparation can also provide other benefits. In the disk drive example above:

- Applications with high disk activity benefit from performance gains with RAID 1 or 1/0 protection.
- Choosing disk systems with RAID protection often leads to usage and management efficiencies, since the space on the disk system can be shared amongst many server systems.

To summarise – planning and preparing reduces the time, costs and impacts of business risk, taking the sting out of them. It gives you the time to run the business proactively rather than reactively.