

Re: Backing up SBS 2003 for Disaster Recovery

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.general/2004-10/2483.html>

From: Tony Woodhouse (tonyw_at_brethertons.co.uk)

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Hi,

Starting point might be to talk to a DR consultant for advice, as it can be quite tricky to get these type of plans correct.

You will need a hardware maintenance contract in place with a company that can guarantee to replace or fix your equipment within a certain time frame. They will keep necessary spares in place, so that when your HD fails, it only takes one phone call and an engineer will pop out and fix it within 4 hours etc.

You will also need a backup with some disaster recover plan on how to use it. Modern backup software gives you specific DR capabilities. My favourite is Veritas Backup Exec. Note that their Intelligent Disaster Recovery module is an add-on that you pay extra for though! The software instructions explain exactly what to do, but basically it will set up a backup job that backs up the whole server, and then it will provide a CD image that you burn onto a self booting CDROM. In the event of a disaster, you fix the server, pop in the CD and your last backup and it will boot up and start restoring the system to its previous state.

Finally, you should test your plan. This is trickier than it sounds, you can't risk trashing your production server to test your DR plan, because if it doesn't work, you've got a real disaster on your hands. Cheapest way might be to obtain an identical spare hard-disk, and swap out the real server hard-disk for the spare, before testing the backup. If it all goes wrong, you can swap the original hard-disk back in with minimal risk.

If you're unsure about any of the process, you should get professional advice. Bad testing can cause a disaster, and a faulty DR plan, that hasn't been tested, will let you down when you most need it (ie when you have a disaster).

Of course it goes without saying to keep the tapes a long way from the server room, in case a fire destroys your server and your tapes at the same time!

Hope the above is helpful,
Tony Woodhouse
Rugby – England

"Jeremiah Traxler" <JeremiahTraxler@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in
message news:097D8A26-D1E3-4807-874E-8C134549C3ED@microsoft.com...

> *Can someone point me into the direction of a list of things that need to
be*

> *done in order to recover a SBS 2003 Server from a melted hard drive(or
other*

> *hardware). I would like to be prepared to order a new server with the
same*

> *hardware and restore Exchange/Users/Logins/Active Directory/etc. so that I
> don't have to rebuild all the settings.*

>

> *Is this even possible to be this prepared?*