



data continuity assessment services



Right-size your organization's data protection strategy.

Until recently, disaster recovery (DR) plans have typically focused on restoring data centers. However, plans that are built around infrastructure alone often fall short, as they do not consider an organization's applications and key business functions. With one-dimensional DR plans, organizations tend to treat all data equally, and thus provide too much protection for some data and no protection for other data. Datalink's data continuity assessment services can help you create a data protection strategy that focuses on processes, applications, and infrastructure, so your strategy provides the right level of protection for all assets..

We help align your key business functions with information systems and assist you in prioritizing your IT investments, ensuring your company is resilient to incidents and disasters.



EXPERTISE AND SERVICE FOR ALL PHASES OF THE DATA CENTER LIFECYCLE

Focused exclusively on data center services and solutions for more than 20 years, we help you align business and information systems to ensure continuous access to data. Our multi-phased services practice can be customized based on your needs. A team of seasoned experts utilizing industry best practices gleaned from the field and the lab execute each phase.

Analysis – Gap analysis-driven application and environment blueprint

Consulting – Advice and recommendations to align business and IT

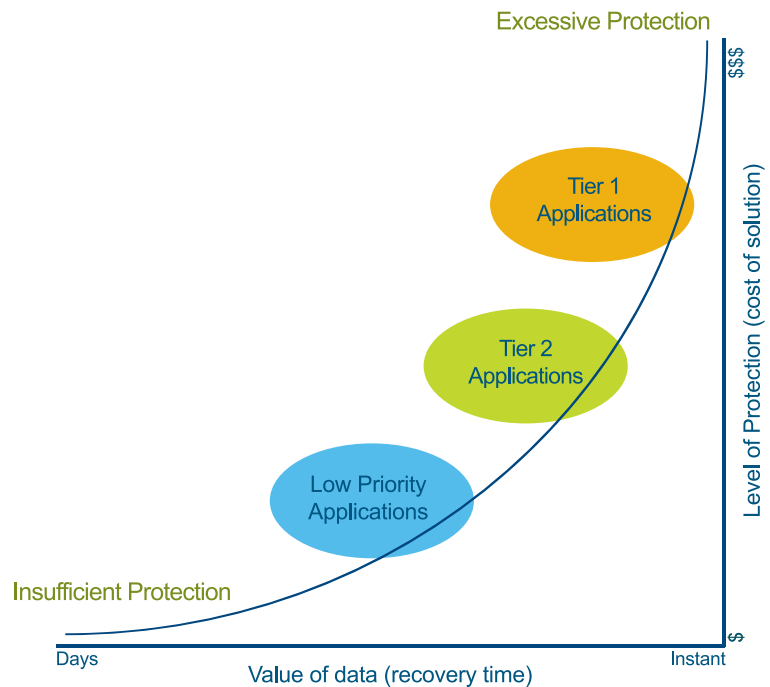
Design – Optimized architectural design based on gap analysis

Implementation – Specialized deployment services

Management – Continuous management services for backup and recovery

Support – Informed, reliable, and engineering-led 24x7 technical assistance

DATALINK'S DATA CONTINUITY ASSESSMENT SERVICES HELP YOU ALIGN KEY BUSINESS FUNCTIONS WITH INFORMATION SYSTEMS, SO YOU ARE ABLE TO ASSIGN THE PROPER AMOUNT OF PROTECTION TO ALL DATA. USING BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS, WE DEFINE AND IDENTIFY LINKAGES AND DEPENDENCIES AMONG PROCESSES, APPLICATIONS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE. THIS APPROACH IS FOUNDATIONAL TO ENSURING CONTINUOUS OPERATIONS, COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE, AND RISK MITIGATION.



THE FOUNDATION FOR PRIORITIZING IT INVESTMENTS

With company vitality at stake, today's data continuity plans must expand the focus to three critical elements and bridge the gap among those elements.

Processes – What are the key business processes?

Applications – Which applications support these processes?

Infrastructure – What infrastructure is needed to ensure continuity?

Our data continuity assessment services help you provide the right amount of protection to various classes of data. We help align your key business functions with information systems and assist you in prioritizing your IT investments, ensuring your company is resilient to incidents and disasters.

THE THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO OUR DATA CONTINUITY ASSESSMENT

A thorough tools-assisted analysis and understanding of business processes as they relate to applications is the critical first step to assessing the effectiveness of your data continuity strategy. Our proven data continuity services are conducted over three phases to ensure your strategy provides optimum availability for critical business processes. We can also customize our services to meet your organization's unique needs.

Quantitative audit

We leverage a non-intrusive appliance that gathers information from the core TCP / IP network switching environment and analyzes it to map the source, destination, type of service, and amount of data being transmitted from one application to another. This map determines application dependency and helps ensure your organization has relevant and accurate data on which to base IT investments.

Qualitative business process mapping

We work closely with you, interviewing key staff members, to identify and map your business processes, process functions, associated applications, application dependencies, associated systems and storage, and supporting infrastructure. This process of getting to know your organization enables us to determine the most important systems to protect in the event of a DR scenario.

Design services

The fulfillment of assessment services will help determine architecture optimizations specific to your requirements. Our design includes an analysis of the various options available and recommendations for best-available solutions and best practices that will fit your environment. Our recommendations are based on in-depth testing in our lab environments, as well as real-world experience with more than 2,000 data center deployments for numerous Fortune 500 companies.

IMPROVE BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY CAPABILITIES

The process

Our assessment services entail a thorough process, providing you with several pre-defined deliverables and the ability to improve your business continuity and disaster recovery capabilities and performance.

The process includes:

- Situation analysis and requirements definition
- Statement of work (outline of the project, expectations, roles and responsibilities, and deliverables)
- Qualitative and quantitative information gathering (processes, applications, infrastructure, and resources)
- Data review and analysis
- Development of findings, recommendations, and deliverables
- IT-focused data continuity briefing with business and IT stakeholders

Deliverables

With tangible results in hand, your organization will have the information necessary to make sound IT investments. Deliverables include:

- Customized, interactive application dependency map
- Network utilization statistics, categorized by application
- Comprehensive business process map linking business applications to underlying host, database, storage, network, and storage facility systems
- Generalized recovery sequencing plan for critical applications
- Customized design recommended by Datalink

Benefits

Our data continuity assessment services give you a clear understanding of application dependencies, application prioritization, and impact analysis. This insight helps provide:

- Risk mitigation at multiple levels (business, individual, and staff) by ensuring continual data access for priority business functions (production, processing, etc.)
- Minimized downtime and losses
- Minimized costs following an incident
- Better regulatory compliance
- A foundation for IT-related decision-making and investments

Making IT happen

A complete data center solutions and services provider, Datalink helps Fortune 500 and mid-tier enterprises get the most from every IT investment – with storage, server, and network expertise across the infrastructure. We deliver greater business results throughout, designing what we sell, deploying what we design, and supporting what we deliver.

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