

Are You Prepared?

Last month, Florida had a little bit of a scare with hurricane-turned-tropical-depression Erika. Thankfully, the southeast was spared. Unfortunately, many in the Caribbean islands did not fare as well. Homes and businesses were destroyed.

As we approach the height of the hurricane season, with September being historically the most active month in the Northern Atlantic, many are asking the question, "Are we prepared?"

Weather patterns throughout the United States continue to be unpredictable and there is no telling where or when the next disaster will strike.

Does your current Disaster Recovery Plan need revisiting? Are there new changes that need to be implemented? Here are some eye-opening stats about disaster recovery:

- **A 2013 Harris Interactive poll found that 30% of computer users had NEVER backed up their data**
- **93% of businesses that lost their datacenter for ten days went bankrupt within one year**
- **FEMA and SBA studies show that 25% to 45% of businesses don't reopen after a disaster**

Organizations need to be extremely serious about preparation. That means making

sure you have a plan for backing up and restoring your systems in the event of a disaster.

AaSys continues to be a leader in helping our clients develop and improve disaster recovery plans. We provide testing of backups, as well as documentation of the testing process and results. Backup testing can be scheduled quarterly, semi-yearly and yearly.



AaSys has engineered a DR solution (Business As Usual) that centers on the deployment of critical servers at a collocation facility. This solution provides for nightly backups of data. Mission critical applications are installed on DR servers (either virtual servers or physical servers) that are housed at

the collocation facility. Finally, a connection to the client's core vendor is engineered. In the event of a crisis that impacts the servers or main office, this solution allows the client to quickly recover and return to functionality.

Overall, it is always best to operate with a disaster recovery mentality. AaSys can help ensure your disaster recovery plan will not only help provide safety for you, your employees and customers, but also will hopefully reduce the impact of interruption to your normal business activities.



Are there subjects that you would like to have covered in future newsletters? We are always looking for topics of interest and we welcome all suggestions! To submit a topic, subscribe, or unsubscribe to our distribution list, please send an email to newsletter@aaSysgroup.com

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AaSys will be closed on Monday, October 12, 2015 for Columbus Day.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| Are You Prepared? | 1 |
| The Importance of a Lifecycle Assessment | 2 |
| Come Join Us at Our Next ISO Peer Group Meeting! | 3 |

The Importance of a Lifecycle Assessment

Anyone who's ever owned or managed a business knows that cost and budgeting plays a huge role in the operations and survivability of that business. Controllers and finance departments are tasked with balancing budgets for future investments and making sure a company stays viable and profitable. A large amount of that budget goes into IT departments, and rightfully so, as information technology is the mechanical brains behind any business. It's an integral component that helps the people within an organization fulfill their job responsibilities more efficiently and effectively.

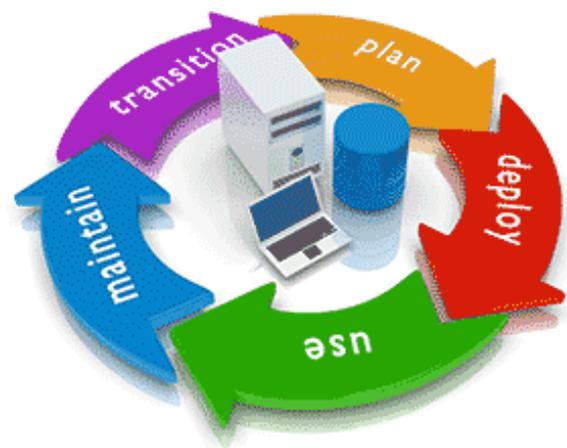
Having a Life Cycle Assessment plan is vital for all organizations. A Life Cycle Assessment is a great way to take stock of current inventory and see what works, what doesn't, what needs a little TLC, what still has life in it, and what's about to kick the bucket. Unlike other products, software and hardware have a shorter life cycle. And that's not always a bad thing. Hardware and software manufacturers are constantly improving speed, security, and other capabilities to make using their products as easy and beneficial as possible.

Another value of the Life Cycle Assessment is that a company can better plan and manage expenditures. For instance, your organization replaced all desktops at the same time, another huge financial expense may come due five years down the road. Organizations may choose, instead, to replace just power user's PCs earlier in order to spread out the financial burden. The Life Cycle Assessment, taken in conjunction with other budgetary reviews, helps better manage finances and plan for years where additional capital will be needed.

Additionally, when a PC or server fails, this can cause a massive disruption in your employee's productivity as work comes to a screeching halt until a replacement computer is deployed. It's better to recognize that all equipment eventually will fail and have a replacement schedule to address older equipment. If you feel there is still life left in an older computer, then it can be moved to a backup role and replace a device that expectantly develops problems.

This brings attention to another key responsibility of IT: to help businesses know when it's time to say goodbye to hardware, like that faithful color printer that's been there since the doors first opened or that telephone system that still has a rotary dialer. This is another area where a Life Cycle Assessment comes into play. But a Life Cycle Assessment is not a one-size-fits-all tool. Many factors need to be evaluated. Each year, businesses should take a "cradle to the grave analysis" of their network. This approach lets management foresee the usability of a product, the impact a product might have on their bottom line and its overall productivity. It also allows organizations to take an in-depth look at potential security and data issues.

AaSys understands the importance of keeping your organization's network running like a well-oiled machine, especially with the high demands for regulatory compliance. Our goal is to help you foresee the impact of any product on your business operations and your customers. We help you review the value of your current hardware as it approaches end-of-life, review current warranty provisions and review your user needs. In essence, our approach is to address the problem, before it actually becomes a "problem." By taking advantage of this insight beforehand, we help you to plan ahead and make educated decisions on your current hardware and software. A Life Cycle Assessment can make all the difference in your organization's preparedness for the future.



Come Join Us at Our Next ISO Peer Group Meeting!

AaSys Group is once again holding another Information Security Officer Peer Group Meeting. For those responsible for the ever-increasing demands of Information Security, the Peer Group provides a great resource to share issues, concerns & compare best-practices to improve the overall security structure of their financial institution. We look forward to seeing you there!



Magee, MS

Topic: Cybersecurity Framework

Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Time: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm, lunch included

Location: PriorityOne Bank Operations Center

213 Main Avenue North

Magee, MS 39111

