

News

Over 50% Indian firms have no disaster recovery plan: Survey

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NEARLY 50 per cent businesses in India do not have a disaster recovery (DR) plan in place for their IT infrastructure and over 60 per cent have no business continuity for their workplace requirements, says a global survey conducted by Regus. Though Indian companies are aware of the disadvantages, they hesitate to invest in DR because of the prohibitive costs.

Emergencies in IT infrastructure including data loss/theft, security breaches, natural disasters and manual errors are getting too costly for companies to

manage. As more and more services are going online, the ready availability and proper functioning of IT infrastructure becomes all the more critical. Over 94 per cent of errors that bring down data centres are manual errors, security threats and upgrade errors. Only six per cent are caused by natural disasters.

The survey that was conducted across 12,000 business people in 85 countries has found that a significant proportion of firms are taking a huge risk with their shareholders' assets and failing to take proper precautions. In India nearly 400 companies participated in the survey and a majority



AT RISK: Though Indian companies are aware of the risks, they hesitate to invest in DR because of prohibitive costs

do not have a DR plan.

Avinash Pitale, joint managing director of DR solutions provider Omnitech InfoSolutions says: "Indian entrepreneurs today recognise the importance of disaster recovery but are bound by financial constraints. Emerging enterprises in India, on an average, spend nearly Rs 35 lakh as an upfront technology investment for a basic captive traditional disaster recovery plan. This includes recurring annual expenses including electricity, infrastructure, maintenance and salaries paid to IT staff."

Apart from having a plan in place, companies should

also do regular drills to check how prepared IT systems are to confront disasters. However, even today, three in one DR drills fail. Without automated systems, DR sites won't be of any use when in need as

time taken to activate them is as long as four hours to one day when done manually, says Chandra Sekhar Pulamarasetti (sic), founder and chief executive officer of Sanovi Technologies.

"Typically, large banks spend about Rs 10 crore to Rs 20 crore on data centre (per application), related equipment and software. Automated DRM (disaster recovery management) is close to 8 per cent to 10 per

cent of the investment," says Chandra Sekhar Pulamarasetti, founder and CEO of Sanovi Technologies. The company specialises in DRM software.

Almost all large banks, financial institutions, manufacturing, utility and oil companies (with centralised application software such as ERP and CRM), typically over 1,000 employees, have well-planned DRM strategies. However, small and medium organisations have only now woken up to disaster recovery due to regulatory pressure and competition, he adds.

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