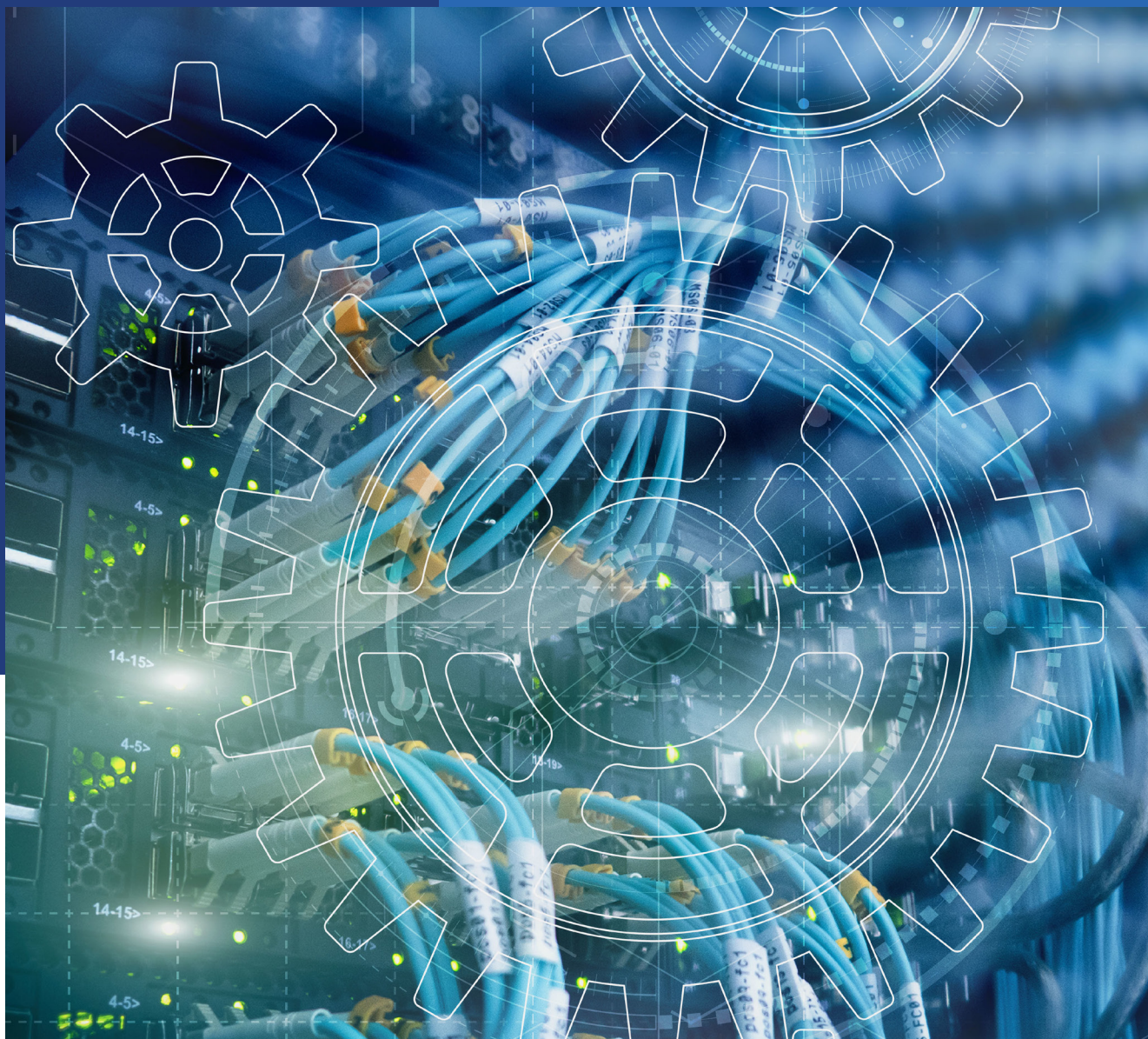*A quick guide to*
BACKUP AND RECOVERY

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What to Consider

BDR stands for Backup and Disaster Recovery. As the name implies, it's a plan crafted by businesses to recover their operations in the event of a catastrophic disaster.

Not all disasters are created equal. However, threats from both natural and man-made disasters require Backup and Disaster Recovery planning. The majority of people equate disasters with tidal waves, hurricanes, fires and earthquakes, but businesses must also guard against today's lurking cyber threats with a strong BDR plan.

Ransomware
Viruses and malware (specifically ransomware) have proven time and time again to be extremely dangerous. **The ransomware attack rate among small- and medium-sized businesses (SMBs 50-1000 seats) is 47% globally**. Further, **attacks of this nature caused 22% of infected SMBs to cease business operations** immediately.

Once ransomware takes hold of your files and folders, it will systematically lock and encrypt each individual piece of data.

There are only two ways to recover your information. You can pay the data ransom, possibly costing thousands of dollars and offering no guarantee of data retrieval. Or, you can recover most if not all of your files quickly from a data backup.

Human Error
People make mistakes all the time. Sometimes, these mistakes are as simple as deleting a single file. Other times, people may delete entire back-end databases, causing hosted applications and services to crash indiscriminately.

Sometimes, the damage isn't accidental at all. Privileged users, such as **managers with access to sensitive information, pose the biggest insider threat to organizations (60%). This is followed closely by regular employees (51%)**.

To mitigate both accidental and purposeful damage done to systems, many companies turn to data backups. As long as these backups are secure, organizations can restore lost data without a hitch and continue operations as normal.

Outdated Hardware
It's hardly a disaster in the traditional sense, but having old hardware fail in the midst of daily operations can be devastating. If an old server decides suddenly to breathe its last digital breath during the workday, you'll be stricken with downtime.

It's not always the entire machine that fails. In the USA, **nearly 150,000 hard drives fail every week**. These hard drives often contain business-critical files that throw a wrench into business operations.

Having consistently backed up data gives companies a restore option once they replace the failed hardware.

How BDR Plans Fit In

Each example listed is a very real concern for businesses today. However, the answer to most of these situations is clear – backup your data to save the day.

That's the "B" in BDR.

The "DR" part comes between the initial downtime and the full recovery. Without a disaster recovery plan in place, organizations have a very difficult time coordinating recovery efforts and defeating downtime.

In fact, an ITIC survey found that 98% of organizations say a single hour of downtime costs more than $100,000. In the end, the entire effort behind disaster recovery is to avoid downtime.

Disaster Recovery Planning

Disaster recovery plans cover several key points:

- Who should be in charge during recovery, and what their roles consist of
- Contact information for all mission-critical employees, including phone numbers and email addresses
- Prioritization of the most business-critical systems for recovery organization
- Clear definitions of when and where to rendezvous at an alternative worksite

While somewhat general, this list of priorities gives a good overview of the necessary components of a disaster recovery plan. The most important aspect of all is to constantly test the plan and the backups to ensure full functionality.

Where Do You Begin?

The BDR plan is the lifeline of your business. When you have a BDR plan ready to go, you can survive disastrous situations with minimal consequence and little, if any, downtime… and even dodge the financial, reputational, and operational damages that can occur.

Don't leave your data protection up to chance. Ensure that your data will be safe, sound, and disaster-free.

At Visual Edge IT™, we have a team of skilled experts who can help you put your BDR in place. We'll work with you to ensure successful business critical and data backups, and help you create a plan that works for your business. Schedule a no obligation review today.

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