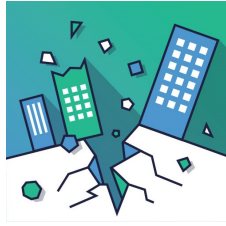


Data Security and Natural Disasters



Las Vegas business may not be concerned about threats of tsunamis, but every locality comes with a potential for a natural emergency. Hurricanes, tornados, floods, fires and earthquakes and maybe now, a grasshopper invasion. Each region has particular risks, be it hillside brushfires, mudslides and earthquakes, coastal storms and flooding, or southern plains twisters in tornado alley. What steps will you take to prepare for natural disasters in your business locations?

Natural Disaster Preparedness

Keeping data secure begins with knowing the natural risks to your business facility and if your company uses Internet-based storage, any threats to your data center. Your company's emergency plans should be conscious of these data center preparations so that you can stay operational, well-stocked and ready for prolonged disruption.

Having knowledge of the geographical location of your cloud storage and or data center is recommended. Your company can geographically be located in Las Vegas and your data storage can be in hurricane riddled Florida. If your data center gets hit with a natural disasters, you should be aware of their contingency plan for your data.

Hurricane Harvey, for instance, put Houston data centers to the test. Edward Henigin, CTO of Data Foundry Inc. in Austin, said their North Houston data center is a "purpose-built facility designed to withstand Category 5 hurricane wind speeds." Just before Hurricane Harvey last year, the company brought on additional staff to maintain the data center throughout the emergency and provided food, showers, cots, books and video games for employees who remained at work five straight days. The major data center providers in Houston reported that there was no interruption of service during the emergency. This is impressive, as Hurricane Harvey damaged 203,000 homes and cost at least \$125 billion in reparations.

For companies physically located along a fault line, architects and contractors build earthquakeprotection into the structures. Business locations in these areas, and especially those used as data centers, are ideally situated on a bedrock foundation with a seismic base isolation system, and with adequate wall structures. Data centers must have plenty of reserves of cooling water and fuel in case of major earthquakes. And while bedrock gives stability during a tremor, it is of little benefit in a fire or flood.

In the event that evacuation may be necessary, your dis-

aster plans should include the option of secure transportation of your data. This can't be merely emailing copies of your data to a hard drive. At minimum, there must be a way to transport essential data on a hard drive. It is also critical to decide in advance where your company's operations will relocate during and following a disaster.

Physical records, for instance in hospitals or schools, also need to be kept safe. Past disasters have shown that basements are unsuitable for record storage or emergency power equipment.

Your company must have steps to deal with power drops and blackouts. Power outages, a severe concern for data security and a threat to equipment, may be caused by storms, heat waves, rodents and various accidents. 3,526 blackouts in 2017, averaging 81 minutes each, affected more than 26 million people across all 50 states. Uninterruptible power systems (UPS), power regulating software and generators can help maintain continuous power supply. Review past power disruptions and coordinate with your power company to avoid or reduce future impacts.

Recovery and Cleanup

Your company's data can be at risk not only during a natural disaster but also in the cleanup afterward. Even if your office is in a safe location, thieves and looters can come through and steal crucial information. Keep human, not just natural, threats in mind as you develop your plan.

Be aware of online threats as well. Port of New Orleans CIO David Cordell pointed out another risk, "After a natural disaster, there seems to be a real trend toward cyberattacks because your attention is focused elsewhere. That's one of the concerns I have to be able to address in a timely manner."

The Department of Homeland Security warns on their US-CERT website of increased phishing and charity scams following major natural disasters. As always, avoid email links and attachments that are unsolicited or look suspicious. Cyber crooks capitalize on human interest and concern for disaster victims, and may even claim to represent charity organizations.

The right disaster planning will include secure data copies, evacuation plans, trained staff, power redundancy and the necessary stores of supplies for extended emergency conditions.

TECHNOLOGY TIMES

"Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier, And More Profitably"

**Harvard Club of Boston receives a Lesson in Cyber Security**

As a retired Airforce Pilot that still serves and protects businesses in Las Vegas, Sean Connery's security briefings are much different now. Connery is protecting small businesses from cyber breaches. Hackers, phising and ransomware are the enemies he has in his sights now. In June, Connery, accepted a personal invitation to speak at the Harvard Club of Boston. He spoke in front of a crowd of several hundred of the nations top experts and c-level executives in fields of medicine, law, marketing and finance, to name a few. Connery spoke about the importance of cyber security and gave the crowd three valuable words that he and his team live by; **Protection, Detection, Response.**

"My grandfather was a decorated WW2 pilot flying B17 Flying Fortress. That inspired me to join ROTC in College and came out as a F16 fighter pilot where I first began my adventures with flying extremely low over salt flats at 500mph, you want to talk about risk, you have to keep from plowing your jet into the ground at that speed. In 9 years, I successfully logged over 1000 missions."
"While in college I worked at Babbage's a computer store that let us check out software for a day. Word was \$495, Excel was \$495 each, a year later they were shocked that I had taken home and learned over 500 programs. Years later, I architected and constructed the entire IT

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of Sean Connery, President of Orbis Solutions (OSI).

OSI, a virtual IT Department, focusing on solutions to promote companies Productivity, Profitability & Security. OSI provides all the support & services that you would expect from a large full-service IT department.



infostructure for the very first casino in Nevada, Railroad Pass, The Golden Nugget, the largest casino downtown. And Steve Wynn’s crown Jewel, Wynn Resort and Casino.”

After a brief introduction, Connery went on to explain the importance of the right data protection for companies.

“A non-technical way to discuss protecting your IT environment is using the analogy of a house, something we can all get our heads wrapped around. We all feel safe in our homes and that’s because of: **Protection, Detection, and Response** those are the 3 key words that I want you to take from this. **Protection:** I have walls, doors, locks, fencing. **Detection** I have an alarm system, motion sensors, cameras, and **Response** there is our neighborhood security, police and as last resort insurance. “

“I am here to tell you that detection is the most important. Here’s why: ...an FBI study on cybercrime revealed threats were in a victims’ network for over 200 days. Most security companies only focus on protection like anti-virus, firewall that threats are getting past, only through early detection

“An FBI study on cybercrime revealed threats were in a victims’ network for over 200 days.”

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can you discover and detour these threats before they happen. “

“It’s alarming to me that most think protecting their data is not important or that no one wants it. When I get that urgent call from a company that has been crippled by ransomware or data loss due to a hardware failure, they realize **JUST HOW IMPORTANT** their data really is. I will never forget the time I resurrected a company’s data. The business owner admitted to me that he had been throwing up in the shower earlier that morning over their data loss. I cannot stress enough how extremely valuable resource data is to a company, and even to you as an individual. Through rescuing companies like that gentleman’s, I began to realize that a lot of security companies are looking in the wrong places for these threats.” Says Connery.

Connery’s words were impactful and educational. A few of the attendees took the time to share their experience.

“*Sean’s presentation was empowering, exciting...with his strong military background, you know he’s going to take care of you.*” Dr. Sean McCaffrey, Springfield, IL

“*What he does is unique*” Dr. Mejia, Tampa FL.

“*Inspired me to protect my data.*” Michael Chastaine, ESQ, Los Angeles, CA.

Connery’s vision to bring the IT Security tools used by large corporations and scale them for small to medium size business to better protect their data; took a year of research, acquiring information and developing his tool set, before he would pursue their first client. Staying true to his vision is of the utmost importance. Connery is a professional with 30 years of experience: he was CIO of a national retail organization, vice president and director of IT for large hotel casinos, and certified in CISSP, MCSE 4, 2000, 2003:S+M, ITIL, VMware CVP, CNE 3, 5, G, Symantec Systems Engineer, IBM, HP, Dell, and much more.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



Drone X Pro

People are constantly looking for creative ways to express themselves, document their daily lives, share their adventures with their loved ones, and immortalize the most precious memories... Nowadays, it’s not so easy to stand out from the crowd, but there’s finally one assured way to do it – and we call it DroneX Pro!

DroneX Pro was created with simplicity in mind so that everyone could use it. There’s no need for heavy, bulky devices anymore – DroneX Pro’s well-thought-out and ultra-compact design allows you to carry it wherever you go since it can easily fit in your pocket! Despite its size and portability, DroneX Pro provides you with the most valuable features of high-quality drones and turns the process of taking pictures into an incredibly fun experience!



invest in yourself

A wise man was once asked what the best possible investment someone could make. His answer was short, sweet and simple: “Invest In Yourself.”

The man’s name is Warren Buffett. He is known as the world’s greatest investor. According to Forbes, he has a net worth of \$53.5 Billion.

Hiring a personal coach, getting a membership at a gym, buying healthy foods, books and education are not expenses. They are investments: **investments in yourself.**

Some things you can do today to invest in yourself are:

Go to the gym and train. Physical training releases endorphins and makes you feel great. It increases productivity and energy levels. By investing time in the gym, you’ll be better able to handle daily tasks and what life throws at you. Forty-five to fifty minutes is all you need, it’s actually the best time to shoot for in a workout.

Eat good food. When you go to the grocery store after work, ask yourself: “What foods will nourish my mind and body to feel and perform better?” You are setting yourself up for greatness and consciously making yourself aware of what foods will empower you, therefore make better decisions.

- **Start reading books.** Everyone buys books, but very few actually reads them cover to cover.
- **Stop reading books and start studying them.** Few read the books they buy, but even fewer remembers what they read. Stop reading books and start studying books.
- **Study at least one hour a day.** “One hour per day of study will put you at the top of your field within three years. Within five years you’ll be a national authority. In seven years, you can be one of the best people in the world at what you do.” – Brian Tracy
- **Take notes.** Never leave home without a pen and a piece of paper. The best ideas often comes in the least appropriate times, write them down. Don’t trust your mind to remember them—it won’t. Writing it down right away will also allow your mind to store and come up with more ideas. Nowadays, you can use plenty of notes-taking apps like Evernote.
- **Learn a new skill.** Learn something new every day, a new skill or a new word. One new skill every day equals 365 new skills a year. Now imagine where you could be a year from now if you start doing it today?

Do something for yourself. Yes, hard work is a major factor for succeeding, but at least once per month do something fun, something outrageous and spontaneous that makes you feel alive. Have fun and enjoy yourself.

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