DATA PROTECTION CHECKLIST

It takes both backups and disaster recovery to keep your virtual environments fully resilient and protected. Use this checklist as a reference to make sure you're following industry best practices for data protection.

Backup

The best practice when it comes to IT resilience and data protection is to follow the 3-2-1 rule. This means having 3 copies of your data, across 2 different types of media and 1 of them is off-site.

- ☐ We have at least 3 copies of our data.
- ☐ We are using at least 2 different types of media to avoid any single point of failure.
- ☐ We are keeping 1 of these copies off-site.

How often you backup will depend on your environment and protection goals. However, mission-critical applications and virtual machines (VMs) should be backed up at least once a day.

- ☐ We back up our business-critical VMs every day.
- ☐ We back up all of our VMs in some fashion.

A solid backup strategy is only part of the solution. The ability to recover the data when you need it relies on vigilant testing.

- ☐ We test our backups with restores at least quarterly.
- ☐ We are confident in our ability to recover lost data from backups.

Disaster Recovery

In today's data center, having a disaster recovery (DR) plan goes far beyond backup. The ability to quickly continue business somewhere else in the event of an outage is vital for the "always on" IT.

- ☐ We have a DR plan in place that is beyond backups.
- ☐ We have a DR plan that can bring full systems online to continue running business if the primary data center experiences an outage.

Having a DR plan and having confidence in it are two separate challenges. Your DR plan must be tested and scrutinized frequently to make sure that it will work and deliver your services as quickly as possible during an outage.

- ☐ We test our DR plan at least quarterly.
- ☐ We are confident in our ability to quickly recover to our DR site for the least impact to business.

This checklist is just a starting point. To learn more, or to confirm that you're keeping your virtual environments fully resilient and protected, contact us for a free assessment at iland.com/contact.