



Utilizing the Cloud for Disaster Recovery Services

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Overview

A large hedge fund with more than \$5B under management was evaluating their current Disaster Recovery solution, with the intention of improving their solution to account for a variety of scenarios that may affect the on-going operations of their business. The effort was spearheaded by the fund's CTO who determined that their current solution was not adequate with respect to the expectations of their current investors, as well as by the various regulatory agencies, whose standards they would be subject to when they registered with the SEC in the coming quarter. Their current solution included an on-line back-up solution which replicated all of their files to an off-site provider. Further, they were utilizing a Disaster Recovery solution from an independent IT provider which replicated their entire functional environment to a data center outside of their geographical area. In the event there were a disaster, they could completely switch over their environment to this data center. In this scenario, all of their applications and data (including E-Mail, Files, Order Management System, and Accounting System) would be provided out of this remote data center.

The Process

The CTO looked at a number of different options to improve his Disaster Recovery Solution. First, he looked at continuing to utilize the Disaster Recovery services of his existing IT provider. Second, he looked at internalizing the Disaster Recovery solution by building and running the infrastructure out of one of the fund's office in a different location. Lastly, he looked at virtualizing and hosting his Disaster Recovery solution with Abacus, who would replicate and manage his environment in a Sungard data center in a different geographical region.

After researching each option, the CTO selected the Abacus Solution for the following reasons: Cost, Scalability, Speed of Deployment, and Modular Design. The following were take-aways through the process:

Cost - He determined that the fund could save money by leveraging the IT infrastructure and Data Center's provided Abacus. The cost to the fund of purchasing new equipment and deploying it in a data center where they would have to pay for space, connectivity, power/cooling, and on-going management of the environment were much greater than utilizing Abacus's services.

Scalability - The fund was planning on launching new strategies and adding assets, both of which would create an increasing demand on IT resources as they deployed new technologies. With the Abacus solution, the fund would be able to deploy additional resources in real-time as required. Further, in the event the fund reduced their operation, they would be able to scale down the amount of IT resources they were using.

Modular Design - The Abacus Disaster Recovery solution, offered the fund the ability to fail-over individual components of their infrastructure versus having to fail over the entire environment. Their existing solution required them to cut-over their entire environment (including all applications and services) if a Disaster was declared. They had been having problems when individual components of their infrastructure were failing; such as e-mail services and their Order Management System. With the Abacus Disaster Recovery solution, if any one of their applications or services was not working, they could cut-over to Disaster Recovery for this specific service, while leaving the remaining applications/services running in their office.

The Deployment

Abacus team members met with CTO to outline the project plan to create the fund's new Disaster Recovery environment, and migrate all applications, data and connectivity over a two week period. The plan was to migrate all of the funds files and data stores first which would take 1-2 days. Next was to migrate the Order Management System and Accounting System, including all pricing feeds and FIX connections. Abacus planned to do this on a Friday night, so as to not disrupt any processes which typically occur during the trading day. Once, these services were deployed, Abacus spent multiple days testing the replication and performance of their applications and data. The last step was to migrate their e-mail services, which took place on the following Friday night. The Abacus team spent the weekend finalizing the e-mail migration and replication of all services. The fund's new Disaster Recovery service was completely deployed that Monday, two weeks from initial project planning meeting.

The Benefit

Within a very short time period, the hedge fund was able to deploy a robust and modular Disaster Recovery solution at a reasonable cost. By utilizing Abacus's Disaster Recovery Services, the fund was able to leverage Abacus's enterprise infrastructure and Tier III Sungard Data Centers to accommodate the needs of their internal business, as well as meet their investors' requirements and regulatory expectations in the event there were to be a situation whereby their business was interrupted.