

WHITE PAPER >
DISASTER RECOVERY MANAGER

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Disaster Recovery Manager (DRM) is a component of the STORServer Backup Appliance that offers various options to configure, control and automatically generate a Disaster Recovery plan file containing the information, scripts, and procedures needed to automate restoration and help ensure quick recovery of data after a disaster. It also manages and tracks the media on which the data is stored, whether on-site, in-transit, or in a vault, so that required data can be easily located if disaster strikes. The scripts can help document the basic data recovery strategy, the steps to rebuild core systems, as well as the critical machines that must be recovered.

STORServer and Disaster Recovery

One of the key features of the STORServer Backup Appliance and the Disaster Recovery Manager is the ability to track media in all states that it could possibly be, such as on-site, in transit or in a vault. Because of the criticality of data in the production environment, controls are needed to make sure that all previously backed up data can be found and restored in a reasonable timeframe.

Disaster Recovery Manager functions help maintain business continuity by:

- Establishing and helping to automate a thorough server disaster recovery plan - clients can then subsequently restore their data from the server if required.

During a real disaster, errors commonly encountered include:

- The DR plan was not tested
- A skilled technical team performed the testing, who 'filled-in' missing steps
- The recovery plan is out of date
- Disk volume definitions for the recovery site are not known
- Location of recovery tapes is not known
- It is not known which tapes are to be applied first.

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DRM will help answer questions like:

- Where is the current server configuration information located?
- What are the current server database volumes?
- Ensuring that customer-provided information is available in the same plan.
- Automating vital recovery steps to bring the backup environment back to normal operation.
- Managing and indentifying off-site media needed for recovery.
- Tracking and reporting systems destroyed in the event of a disaster.
- Storing client configuration information and assigning client recovery priorities.

With DRM you can recover at an alternate site, on replacement computer hardware, recover using different hardware configuration at the recovery site, and with people who are not familiar with the applications. You can also use the DR plan for audits to certify the recoverability of the server. The DR plan can be easily recreated daily so that it is up to date.

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DRM will help answer questions like:

- Where is the current server configuration information located?
- What are the current server database volumes?
- What is my recovery sequence?
- Is my recovery plan current, is this guaranteed?
- What was the client and server machine configuration?
- Who should be contacted in a disaster?
- Where is the recovery media located?
- Can I restore my environment to any point in time?

During recovery from a disaster, DRM automates the following procedures to restore the STORServer Backup Appliance(s):

- Restores STORServer's key option files.
- Copies files from alternate locations to production locations.
- Initializes TSM database and log volumes.
- Matches sizes and locations of TSM database and log volumes.
- Launches current DB restore automatically.
- Tracks media needed and availability.
- Registers STORServer features installed.
- Returns server state to a valid license configuration.
- Updates TSM volume catalog information.
- Marks volume information for recovery, that it is destroyed or not?
- Rebuilds TSM hierarchical storage configuration.
- Re-creates customer backup environment.

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DRM uses the PREPARE command to generate a plan file that will contain critical information needed for recovery. Information in the plan is arranged in stanzas which can be considered to be somewhat like headers.

Example - DMR Plan File Example Stanza

```
-----  
begin PLANFILE.DESCRPTION Recovery Plan for Server RADON_SERVER1 Created  
by DRM PREPARE on 07/26/2002 18:30:58 DRM PLANPREFIX C:\DRM\PLAN\RADON  
Storage Management Server for Windows - Version 5, Release 1, Level 1.0 end PLANFILE.  
DESCRIPTION  
-----
```

A detailed description, recovery scenario, and recovery plan built with DRM is given in a sample DRM document, available on request.

In summary, DRM will systematically re-build the storage management server environment and ensure current application data for the entire enterprise is available for recovery. This is all possible from a single scripted command - automatically.

ABOUT STORSERVER

STORServer is a leading provider of data protection solutions and offers the only enterprise data backup appliance that is built to order. Each backup appliance solution is tailored to the customer's unique environment to simplify management of complex backup, archive and disaster recovery needs. STORServer's appliances feature enterprise class data backup, archive and disaster recovery software, hardware, services and U.S.-based customer support. Companies of all sizes trust in STORServer's proven appliances to solve their most complex data protection problems. For more information on STORServer, please visit storserver.com.

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