



**FDI Business Continuance and Resumption Consulting**  
**White Paper**

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**CAN YOUR BUSINESS SURVIVE A CATROSPHIC EVENT?**

The significant majority of American businesses have enjoyed over four decades of prosperity with little concern of survival threats associated with terrorist attacks. With the advent of the computer, a data backup consciousness and an industry focused on fault-tolerance and high-availability are first introduced and have matured over time.

Yet, even with the majority of business dependent upon computer availability, few were willing to invest in system resumption contingency planning and implementation – until something happened and significant financial losses were incurred.

As it has been stated, “Hind sight is 20/20.” Business Continuance and Resumption typically take a back seat in corporate and small business investments except where contractually obligated or to meet legislative requirements.

All of this resolves to a single subject – **Security**. To most executives, security singularly resolves around guards at the door, locks and monitoring and surveillance systems. To them Business Continuance and Recovery is ensuring that data backups of their systems are performed on a timely basis and stored off-site for safe keeping. Now some are beginning to understand that the subject is far more reaching and involves every aspect of their business.

Every company’s requirements for business continuance planning vary as dynamically as their business model. It involves a variety of disciplines that span every element of their business.

Even today, posing the question “Do you have a Business Continuance Plan,” will receive a response of “No” by nine out of ten companies interviewed. Further research will reveal that an equal number of business executive management are hard press to thoroughly define what is involved in establishing and maintaining such a plan.

During a catastrophic event, involving a community, the local Emergency Medical System will be over-tasked and can not be relied on to support everyone. The first ten minutes, or less, is the most important period when it comes to saving or reviving the life of a victim during a crisis. Companies today are hard pressed to find anyone within their organization formally trained and current in Medic First Aid. Few have and maintain adequate First Aid Medical Kits capable of supporting victims suffering injuries more sever than a paper cut, heartburn or a headache.

The Business Continuance Plan itself is an implementable strategic plan, prepared and tested well in advance of a true emergency, that hopefully will never be realized. The plan must be professionally developed and requires a serious initial investment and on-going maintenance plan. Elements of the plan are established through a process referred to as Risk Management.



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The Business Continuity Plan covers a wide range of a complex mix of business security elements and may include:

- Executive Management Sponsorship
- Fiscal Security Commitment
- Intellectual Asset Security
- Physical Asset Security
- Information Systems Security
- Physical Building Security
- Personnel Security
- Disaster Recovery Plan
- Business Resumption Plan
- Crisis Management Plan
- Legal Protection
- Insurance Coverage Protection
- Established Alternate Vendor and Supplier Agreements
- Established Security Policies, Procedures, Standards and Practices
- Established On-going Training and Rehearsal Schedules
- Self-sufficient Medical First Aid Capabilities and Supplies.

Business Continuity and Resumption security plans take time to establish and fully integrate in to any business – anywhere from three to six months. The process of establishing a plan may typically take the following steps:

- Strategic Business Contingency Direction Plan
- Analysis of Existing Business Contingency and Resumption Structure
- Analysis of Existing Business Financial, Legal and Operations Position
- Analysis of Existing Facilities, Intellectual Assets and Physical Assets
- Analysis of Existing Information Systems, Personnel Security and Medical First Aid Policies
- Validate and Ratify Findings
- Generate and Present Findings and Recommendations Report
- Establish Requested Implementation Plan



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- Implement Business Continuity and Resumption Plan
- Train and Practice Established Plan
- On-going Training, Practice, Maintenance and Enhancement of Plan.

FDI has been assisting companies identify, design and implement Business Continuity and Continuity planning for the past 15 years. Initial inducement through the design and integration of fault-tolerant, self-healing Information Systems and Telecommunications technologies, FDI has expanded its expertise into facilities design, intellectual, physical and personnel security, fiscal business resumption planning, training and practice management.

FDI has established a 100-point security control review that is performed in a few days, generating a summary report identifying the current status of a companies Business Continuity and Resumption capabilities. From this report company management is better prepared to make relevant business decisions as to what strategic planning are required to secure a companies ability to survive an unexpected crisis.

Fourth Dimension Invention (FDI)  
7 Del Sol  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952-3437  
[j.scott.fabling@att.net](mailto:j.scott.fabling@att.net)  
[www.fdihome.com](http://www.fdihome.com)