



## What happened to my data? A3 Communications explains the dangers of insufficient backup procedures.

**COLUMBIA, SC (July 25, 2013)** — Today's businesses are operating at a blistering pace and IT infrastructure has become the backbone of small to mid-sized businesses across the nation. The complexity and strain placed on networks has exposed SMBs to greater security threats than ever before. Natural disasters, power outages, employee errors and failed system upgrades all pose significant threats to the network and failing to address these risks can cause severe network damage and immobilize a company for hours, days or weeks. The best way to combat this dynamic is to understand the risks, address the problem, and make sure the proper precautions have been taken.

One of the risks most easily mitigated is when data simply has not been backed up. Often times, organizations fail to have a regular backup procedure in place, whether partially or completely, and having a data backup program can help get around this issue. According to Symantec's 2011 SMB Disaster Preparedness Survey, "only half [of SMBs] back up at least 60% of their data, meaning they would lose 40% of their data in the event of a disaster. In addition, organizations often fail to back up corporate PCs, or take an "all or nothing" approach if it can't be all-inclusive. For example, of those surveyed, 31% don't back up email, 21% don't back up application data and 17% don't back up customer data." The biggest benefit in having a process in place is that employees never have to redo work. If data is ever lost, it can be recovered rather quickly and with minimal effort.

Another risk to address is failing to protect branch offices or telecommuters. "Out of sight, out of mind," does not exactly fare too well in the corporate arena. When businesses are subject to compliance or regulatory standards, they must ensure that all company endpoints are protected in an appropriate fashion. When there is a centralized IT support staff, they can often overlook users that are not primarily in the office, as in the case of salespeople for example.

Failure to consistently backup company data is another common oversight. The benefit of having an automated or regularly

scheduled backup is paramount. According to Enterprise Security Group, even with all the advancements in storage technology, only about 20% of backup jobs are successful. This is exactly why consistency and frequency are such key metrics in evaluating any backup solution.

Utilizing outdated equipment such as tape or disk media poses a threat as well in that these solutions are hardware, meaning that they can be lost, stolen or improperly stored. Any of those situations usually results in irretrievable data, therefore rendering that equipment useless when a recovery is most needed.

Today's business continuity and disaster recovery solutions address these risks and provide a software-based solution that virtualizes all data to the cloud. This enhances overall performance by providing greater accuracy, efficiency, security and archiving functionality to a business's disaster recovery plan. Simply put, technology has come too far for SMBs to have to deal with the notion of losing important data and risking going out of business. With today's powerful solutions and the assistance of a trusted IT advisor, SMBs can protect themselves, their employees and their customers' data from these threats.

**About A3 Communications, Inc.** — With offices in Columbia, Charleston, Greenville and Atlanta, A3 Communications provides award-winning business information technology and communication services to over 2,500 commercial and public clients throughout the Southeast. Since 1990, A3 has been working to increase the productivity and probability of their clients by providing a broad range of technical capabilities and services, including: managed IT services; network infrastructures; telecommunications and hosted VoIP systems; video surveillance systems; cabling; audio/visual solutions and virtual desktops. Their highly certified and experienced technicians offer comprehensive support and maintenance available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information on A3 Communications, visit [www.a3communications.com](http://www.a3communications.com).

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

"So much is invested in what we save on our computers. It is imperative to take the necessary precautions to be able to retrieve lost data."

—Brian Thomas, President; A3 Communications

