

# NAVISITE QUICK TIPS: Breaking Down the BCDR Silo

Using the cloud for business continuity and disaster recovery (BCDR) is more practical, effective and affordable than traditional recovery solutions. It also opens the door to other benefits that extend far beyond recovering from a disaster and can be key to making the most of a multi-cloud strategy. Take advantage of these quick tips to learn more. Then contact Navisite and let's discuss how BCDR fits into your overall cloud strategy.

## No more “noisy neighbors”

IT has always been about doing things faster and smarter. At its core, this boils down to a laser-like focus on positioning resources to achieve the best possible performance, (i.e., choosing the right processing platform or creating the most efficient storage solution for a specific IT workload).

But anxiety over anything that affects workload performance can just as easily (and understandably) become a set of blinders. For example, because of security worries or concerns about another application becoming a resource hog (a “noisy neighbor”), IT has generally sacrificed efficiency by keeping workloads in their own separate silos.

The rise of virtualization solutions loosened things up. Now the cloud is taking that much further. The willingness of today's IT departments to put aside their fears over security and noisy neighbors and migrate more workloads to public cloud services such as Azure and AWS is a measure of the radical changes underway in traditional IT practices.

But the siloed mindset dies hard. Ask most IT administrators how they view

the cloud, and they're likely to paint a picture remarkably similar to that of a traditional enterprise data center—a siloed entity broken up into specific services and workloads. After all, that's how IT has always done things.

But just as fears over security and noisy neighbors have fallen by the wayside, the siloed mindset is reaching the end of its days. The cloud simply doesn't operate that way. Instead of viewing a cloud service as a collection of siloes—the way a traditional enterprise data center has always been viewed—it's better to see it as one big multi-function, multipurpose resource.

BCDR is a great example of how this plays out in practice.

## GOING BEYOND BCDR

BCDR is a vital IT function. If your IT goes down, getting back on your feet will require an up-to-date copy of your production environment and a way to rapidly take it live. For years, that meant having recent backups and expensive SAN arrays at the ready, and often at least one completely redundant backup facility that could become your de facto production environment. The cloud has changed all of that.

Now, use the cloud for BCDR and you can eliminate (or at least reduce heavy reliance on) cumbersome tape backups, redundant facilities and expensive SAN arrays.

But here's the even bigger benefit: *The same tools and technologies used to activate a second, production-ready environment for BCDR can also*

*support a range of IT activities beyond just disaster recovery, including:*

- **Quality assurance and dev/test environments:** Use the cloud to build and maintain separate environments for production/deployment, staging, dev/test, quality assurance, etc., more easily than on-premises environments. For example, quickly build a quality assurance environment before a major upgrade, test it a few times and then take it down.
- **Migrations:** What's the difference between an application failover and an application migration? Not much, if anything. Using BCDR to fail over individual or groups of workloads is the same as using it to migrate different workloads that you're looking to relocate to the cloud on a permanent basis. In effect, a migration is really just a longer failover process. That's why you'll find Azure Site Recovery (Azure's native disaster-recovery-as-a-service tool) categorized not only under Management and Governance but also under Migration.
- **Workforce mobility:** While traditional BCDR approaches have typically focused on restoring servers, applications and networks, they often overlook what it takes to get people back to work. With cloud-hosted desktop-as-a-service solutions, employees can access their files and use their daily productivity and collaboration tools consistently and securely—anywhere, anytime.

- **Short and long-term data retention:** BCDR can help you develop a cohesive data retention strategy. You can address both short-term needs and longer-term concerns your organization might have, achieving the long sought-after goal of true IT resilience.



### WORKLOAD MOBILITY AND MULTI-CLOUD

Today, the vast majority of organizations are pursuing multi-cloud strategies. Instead of consolidating all their resources in one public cloud platform, they're signing up with different providers to match the right cloud service with the right workload. Making this work takes experience moving between different production environments.

Taking advantage of BCDR that works with today's leading platforms, such as VMware and Microsoft Hypervisor, can help deliver the experience that makes a multi-cloud strategy truly effective.

### RELY ON NAVISITE TO HELP EVOLVE YOUR BCDR

For most big companies, the cloud is one element of an increasingly integrated IT infrastructure, one in which borders dissolve between different IT resources and workloads flow in every direction.

BCDR is now part of that process. Instead of viewing it as only the solution to a specific need, look beyond to what else it can provide your organization. Better facilitate your cloud migration journey and short- and long-term data retention strategies. Drive toward optimal IT resilience.

### LET NAVISITE HELP SHOW YOU THE WAY

Navisite offers efficient cloud-based recovery solutions as well as a full set of services to evaluate your needs and chart the best path forward. We focus on helping organizations modernize their data center operations.

Rely on our experts to delve into your specific business requirements and understand your priorities for protecting or restoring services. They'll also help you exploit BCDR capabilities to support testing, application migration and workload mobility as part of a cohesive roadmap to cloud-migration success.

Disaster recovery has always been a reactive discipline. With cloud-based BCDR, you can make it proactive: Get out in front to prevent the most damaging aspects of any form of business interruption, but also use its tools and technologies to take your IT to the next level.

**To learn more about the services offered by Navisite, visit our [Disaster Recovery Services page](#), contact us, or call us at (888) 298-8222 in the US or 0800 6122933 in the UK for further information.**