

Next-Generation Data Resiliency and Recovery Technologies for IBM System i

New and existing technologies helping IT managers affordably move their companies toward a higher level of business continuity.

A White Paper

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Cold Sites/Hot Sites

Many companies subscribe to a service that entitles them to quickly access a similarly configured system at a protected site in the event of a site loss or catastrophic system failure. This improves the recovery time significantly over waiting to have the system (and even perhaps a building) replaced. These subscription plans typically consist of two choices: cold site and hot site.

A cold site is generally a facility where a customer has a basic computer room and telecommunication facilities. The customer will arrange to have a replacement machine delivered and will restore backup tapes and application code on this generic machine.

A hot site takes this a step further by having a pre-selected system that is pre-configured and ready to go when a disaster is “declared.” Depending on the plan, the target system will be delivered to the site of the customer’s choosing, or the customer will bring backup tapes to a designated site where the tapes will be restored and where the customer will attempt to resume business.

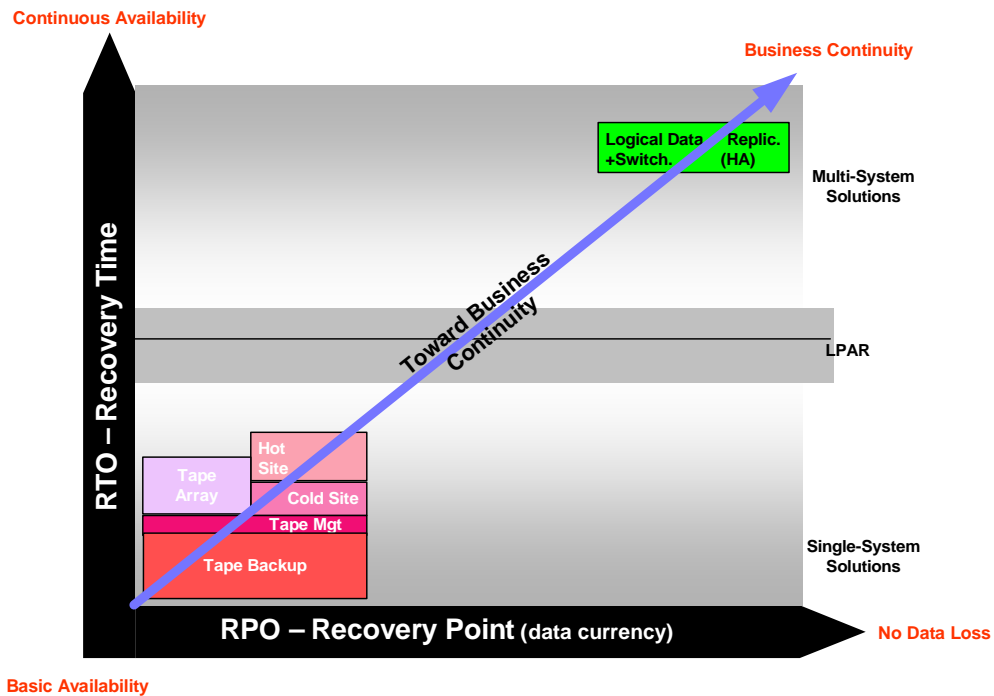


Figure 2 –Most strategies that augment tape saves will typically increase RTO but may not improve the RPO.

Tape Backups Plus Journaling

By using OS/400 journaling along with tape saves, you can improve the odds of recovering the transactions that occurred up to the point of failure.

The journaling process essentially takes very compact “snapshots” of data changes, called journal entries, and rapidly writes these to objects called journal receivers. In the event of a system failure, the journal entries that were accumulated since the last tape save can then be "re-applied" to objects that were previously restored from tape. This brings the restored data very close to the state it was in when the system failed. Another benefit of journaling is that if a tape fails during the restoration process, it is possible to restore an earlier tape set and apply journal entries from that point forward to recover the data—again, nearly to the point of failure.

