UNITRENDS

# 3 MIN INTRO TO IT RESILIENCE

## WHAT IT RESILIENCE MEANS TO BACKUP USERS

The science of backup and recovery continues to evolve. Twenty years ago tape systems were the primary backup technology; it was good enough to just preserve your data. Today backup has evolved to include the rapid recovery of not just the data but the applications used to conduct business operations. Backup and continuity solutions have evolved to include virtualization, cloud, deduplication, orchestration tools, and many different types of storage. And the evolution is continuing with IT Resilience.

### First there was just data backup

Data backup is among the oldest, most performed tasks for IT professionals. Backup and Recovery is a broad process that includes manual and automated tools and techniques to create secondary copies of the data center's data, servers, and applications. However innovation has greatly expanded the definition of protection. With new technology has come higher expectations for how completely and quickly data can be recovered – reduced from days to seconds. No longer is it good enough to have just the data backed up, you also need the applications and the infrastructure to run them able to quickly recover performance. Today, full business continuity is a core part of backup and recovery, which includes making data, applications, and business services available at all times – and from multiple data center and cloud locations. Hence the need for a new focus – DRaaS.

## Next came Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS)

It is no longer good enough to just make copies of data. The focus is now on Business Continuity. For DRaaS, the emphasis is on speedy recovery of business functionality. Disaster recovery as a service is the replication and hosting of physical or virtual servers by a third party to provide failover in the event of a man-made or natural catastrophe. The challenge to leading in this market segment is the vendors' ability to provide a single recovery solution for a hybrid combination of virtual and physical systems. However, having all this technology dependent on humans to recognize an issue, diagnose an effective solution, take timely action, and ensure recovery success puts the entire DRaaS process at risk. What is needed are solutions that can, in real time, handle the challenges themselves according to pre-orchestrated run books – hence the need for ITR.

## Now comes IT Resilience (ITR)

IT Resilience is the ability to protect data and apps from just about any type of issue.  It is built through the adoption of a set of tools and applications that will automatically take action to protect data and apps from just about any type of issue.  Take for example how ITR handles ransomware. ITR-capable vendors provide software that can continuously inspects for malware infections on all backups, as well as easily restores of production data to their state prior to the attack. ITR-enabled software products have evolved to support application resilience and work load shifting between production data centers and public clouds.

## Why you should care

While the ITR market is currently small, it is gaining greatly in size and importance. We are just at the beginning of this new technology. The early stages of ITR present a challenge for customers.  Users are seemingly forced to integrate multiple vendors and solutions to achieve IT Resilience. But why?  Backup, DRaaS, and ITR are natural extensions of each other.

You can already protect on-premises and cloud applications and physical and virtual environments with dedicated backup appliances.  You can also ensure uptime with DRaaS services that utilize those same backup appliances.  If vendors can do all that, why can't they automate the entire process (failover, testing, compliance reporting, etc.) to automatically respond when there is a threat?

There are vendors that can do it all. One indication that the vendor does it all is that they are willing to provide a DRaaS SLA. They are so sure that their recovery process will perform as required they are willing to financially back the results. ITR can provide measurable, trustworthy and repeatable RPO and RTO metrics since the technology is automated to work everytime.

Unitrends is literally the only product line in the market with the technology, expertise, support, and agility to be able to offer Backup, DRaaS, and IT Resilience Orchestration. This shows that you can trust Unitrends to build out your continuity from basic backup, to second sites, or to the cloud, and add new IT Resilience resources when you are ready. This is becoming a critical process to increase enterprise uptime and confidence in a world in which IT pros must do more with less.

Can your data backup and business continuity vendor do that? If not, maybe you need to look at a new provider that can better protect your company and you.



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