

Emergency Preparedness

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"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

Application and Data Preparations

With the economies we are finding in purchasing computer hardware components in today's market, I subscribe to the belief that the purchase cost of a new machine to be used as a standby system is so inconsequentially low that it should be added to all business environments. The cost of the hardware when compared to the cost of non-recoverable and in most cases, priceless data, is insignificant. With these facts in mind, it is my firm belief that companies' should act to protect their programs and data with multiple physical (or virtual) standby systems of their business critical application software and the associated data files.

Of the myriad of solutions available to us today, backing up to cloud-managed solutions often is seen as the most time-efficient and reliable option, however, since there is an implicit monthly subscription fee payable, it might not be the most economical solution for small to mid-sized companies. If economies are important during the budgeting process and if the costs of re-constructing lost data are of concern to you, then consider keeping your application and the associated data up to date on at least one separate physical machine on your network.

With the release of BBJ revision 11, BASIS INTERNATIONAL has provided the technology to create a live standby system. They have introduced the "Replication Wizard" which you will find in the BBJ Enterprise Manager thus making it an easy task to create a standby system ready to take over processing the moment the primary machine fails. By setting up replication in your production environment, all changes done to data on your live system will be replicated on the standby system in real-time.

What is needed for data replication:

- a) A BASIS Enterprise or Combination license at revision 11.x or higher
- b) An active SAM subscription
- c) At least one available enterprise edition user
- d) All data access must flow through BBJServices (natively done in BBJ or configured via the BBJ PRO/5 Data Server for legacy PRO/5 environments)
- e) An adequate path for data to travel from target machine to replicated machine(s)

The benefit of having a real-time live backup far outweighs the cost of a secondary (backup) server.

More information on replication:

http://documentation.basis.com/BASISHelp/WebHelp/dbms/replication_intro.htm

BASIS Java Break on replication:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S13mkSTyP5I&feature=youtu.be>

Licensing Preparations

Having a standby server to run your business essential applications and associated current data should be a primary concern, however, having a standby license or at minimum, a plan to create a temporary license should also be part of your emergency preparations.

The best solution is to purchase a "BASIS Backup" license. This is a specially priced fully functional permanent license delivered under a specific contract with its own unique serial number that can be used when the primary system fails. This license type is running at all times and most importantly requires no manual intervention, no install, no start or no configuration when the primary server fails. The cost associated with this license type is equivalent to half of the cost of the primary license. By BASIS definition, the backup license is configured with the same user count, must be at the same release level of the BBx/BBj environment and run in concert with the same qualified release level of the operating system as is running on the primary machine.

If budgeting gets in the way and you would rather choose an option without an associated fee, also providing that a moderate down-time is acceptable to permit the required human intervention, then a 7-day emergency license could be selected. To prepare for this situation, install the BASIS License Manager (BLM) on the standby machine and run the "hostid" O/S script from the BLM directory to generate that machine's unique Host ID. Store this Host ID information (including COMPOSITE=) along with the primary server's serial and authorization numbers somewhere safely and in a place where they are easily accessible. The license authorization number can be found on the license registration form, or can be obtained via the Descore Customer Portal (www.descore.com/CustomerPortal.php). It is important to note, that if a component of your standby machine changes, a new hard drive, a processor or memory chip for instance, you will need to re-run the "hostid" O/S script to get your current information.

When the primary machine fails and you need an emergency license, go to the BASIS License Registration page at:

<http://www.basis.com/registration>

Enter the information you previously stored (Host ID, serial number, authorization number) and register your license. After registering your license, you will be given instructions on how to install it. This emergency license will be good for seven days, during which time you can contact us at Descore during regular business hours and we can help you to move forward through the reset process and on to a permanent license.

Summary

BASIS INTERNATIONAL's most current technology has allowed all consumers a chance at a good night's sleep knowing that their business critical applications and associated data are fully backed up and ready to go at a moment's notice in the event of a hardware failure on the primary server.

Setting up data replication on a standby server now only requires some know-how and a little bit of effort. Installing the BASIS License Manager and having all the essential credentials readily available to generate a temporary license is also a trivial task.

If you have any questions or comments about this guide, please contact me at:

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Thanks,

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