

Whitepaper

BUSINESS CONTINUITY

with the WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM





Business Continuity with WEYTEC Solutions

Disaster Recovery planning ensures Business Continuity for companies and organisations following the short to medium term loss of critical resources. Each company must identify its own critical resources and then design, implement, test and maintain solutions to carry on business operations without them. Loss of critical resources can be due to any kind of “disaster”.

Common categories of resources that can be lost due to disaster are:

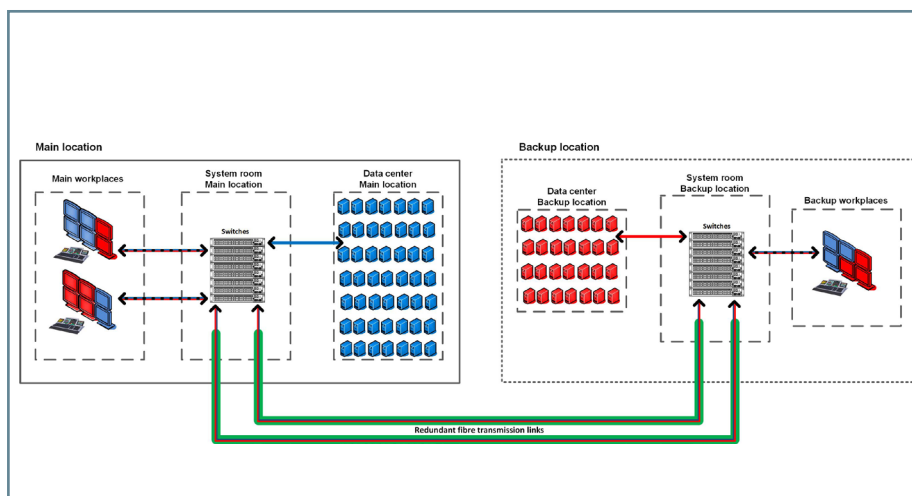
- Premises or buildings (fire, flood, bomb threat, contamination, unauthorised occupation, earthquakes...)
- Staff (disease, pandemic, weather, traffic, government shutdown, coup, security threat, war...)
- IT Services (power, fire, flood, virus, cyberattack, failure of mission critical systems...)
- Suppliers (utilities, raw materials, finished goods...)

Loss of Premises

Backup Trading Floor or Control Room

WEYTEC builds primary and backup trading floors and control centers for customers at second (third, fourth or fifth) locations. Desks and sources (PCs, workstations, servers, platforms, systems, etc.) that are located in data centers at the main and backup facilities are connected via a distributed WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM (WDP) over redundant transmission infrastructure. The WDP is a switching platform that connects virtually any system or source to a virtually unlimited number of workplaces over LAN or WAN. Distance is not a critical factor. Both the main location and the backup site are integrated into normal operations. Business Continuity is an integral element of the day-to-day, business-as-usual design.

In the event of a disaster at the main trading floor or control center, designated traders or operators from the “lost” building simply move to the backup location and immediately resume business using all unaffected resources. The WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM’s “free seating” policy ensures that traders and operators can sit at any desk at any location and have access to all their systems and sources, which have been deployed across multiple system rooms. In this scenario, staff work from the backup site until the primary location becomes available again.



Redundant operational sites



Loss of Staff

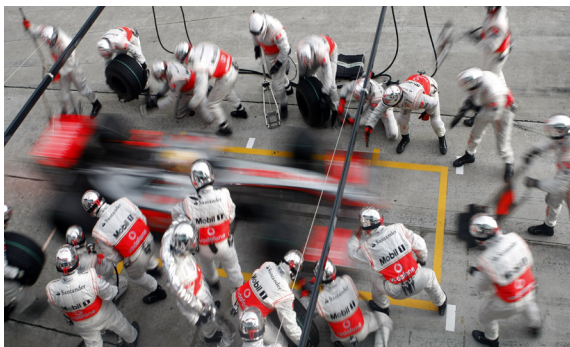
Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Locations

With a distributed WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM people located in a second or third operational location (in another building, city, country, time zone) can cover for missing staff. On a day-to-day basis, this is relevant in locations which are either understaffed, not staffed 24/7, or unmanned (such as remote sites which are used only rarely or during emergencies.) In a disaster situation, this is relevant when staff at one location suddenly and unpredictably become unavailable.

For example, smaller control rooms, which are only manned during the day, can be taken over by a larger site operated 24 hours a day during the night. Conversely, employees in the smaller control room can also fill in for missing colleagues at the larger site.

All key sources (i.e. computers, cameras, control systems) in the smaller sites are fully accessible from the main location, and vice versa. All alarms at any location can be viewed, analyzed and reset by control room operators and managers in any other location. For example, when an emergency alarm goes off at night at a temporarily unstaffed location, it is easily dealt with by a remote expert. This is also very useful when experts are available exclusively in another location. Video walls are also easily replicated so that any and all screens from a video wall in one city can be projected onto a video wall in another city.

The WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM also provides protection on the level of the individual trader or control room operator. Intelligent pooling (or sharing systems) means that supervisors and/or colleagues can take over for a staff member who suddenly falls ill, for example. Not only does this meet safety and compliance regulations for supervision and monitoring, but it also helps to protect organizations against temporary loss of key personnel.



No down times



High performance solutions



Loss of IT Services

Multiple Networked System Rooms

WEYTEC solutions utilize transmitters and receivers to remotely house sources in centralized system rooms or data centers, away from the desk, workplace and office. (This alone protects IT resources from theft, damage and dirt, and extends their life cycles.) A full WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM ensures that all these remoted sources remain accessible in real-time from any desk in the network.

Business Continuity strategies often call for multiple data centers so that sources and systems can be split among them with 1/3 of the data sources housed in each of three data centres, for example. In this simple case, if one data center is subject to disaster and the IT sources located there are lost for any reason, only 1/3 of the total sources are sacrificed. The WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM connects the users to the remaining sources and Business Continuity is assured with 2/3 of the systems. Once again, WEYTEC solutions integrate Business Continuity into the operative design.

The final disaster recovery example examines fall back scenarios when a WDP element is lost. At the network level, redundant switches take over automatically. And on the WDP control level, a faulty master control element is automatically bypassed and the hot standby slave takes over. This is true both in single and multiple location environments, effectively protecting clients from a complete loss of their WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM.

WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM is the Answer

WEYTEC solutions can be designed to simultaneously protect clients against service interruptions due to Loss of Premises, Loss of Staff and Loss of IT Services. The deployment of a WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM helps organizations avoid the disruption of services while lost resources are being restored. Key elements of a fail proof concept include

- Backup workplaces (operative, cold or hot standby) at more than one location
- Duplicated sources deployed in multiple system rooms
- Interconnected via redundant transmission lines and
- All controlled by a distributed WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM

Effective disaster planning not only assures organizations of Business Continuity, but also safeguards their professional reputations.

Of course, Business Continuity planning also requires developing a host of procedures such as setting up roles and responsibilities, governance, process assessment, a crises management framework and much more. But at the IT infrastructure level, the WEYTEC distributionPLATFORM can substantially reduce the risk of a complete loss of critical resources to almost zero. You are never out of the race with WEYTEC Business Continuity solutions.