



## RE-ARCHITECTING DATA PROTECTION

With constant changes in IT Infrastructure, data protection is often an after-thought until there is an attack requiring a recovery or, worse, a data loss. IT groups need to be diligent in keeping the processes and procedures up to date, but with staffing and constant changes, this can be difficult.

Another issue facing IT is the cost of data protection, often seen as a secondary operation or insurance policy. The resulting practices are a patchwork of solutions with potential gaps.

Evaluator Group works with clients to identify the needs and gaps in current data protection strategies. We look at the infrastructure, evaluating the best route in balancing new and current technologies that can improve RTO / RPO while reducing costs. As IT experts, we evaluate capabilities across on-premises and public cloud and look at options for long-term retention that can meet business and compliance needs. We will examine what makes financial and procedural sense for both the team and the organization.

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### Case Study: Data loss that led to data protection strategy revamping

A top 50 manufacturing firm experienced a serious data loss that resulted in the shutdown of facilities for several days and impacts to other operations over the next month. The IT team felt they did not have a full understanding of the issues and needed to gain the trust of the executive staff. They were looking at numerous options to upgrade and improve data protection, including a review of data protection practices from primary storage to backup. Many vendors had presented their strategies and solutions, but there was trouble deciphering what was best, what needed to change and what was really required.

Evaluator Group was engaged to review the technology options and vendor proposals in order to provide recommendations they could trust. While we did provide a review of the offerings, the bigger picture looked at the current data protection policies and operational systems. Through this process we identified the “whys” for the process failures and were able to make critical recommendations for changes – not only for the systems and primary storage, but also for training and procedures. The full report was delivered at the C-level, gaining approval for the plan and implementation over the course of the next 6 months.

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### How Evaluator Group Offerings Can Help

For clients looking to improve their current data protection environment, whether it is addressing costs, better RTO / RPO, Evaluator Group can help in the following ways:

- Review current data protection policies, practices and operational systems
- Identify hot targets for improvement with current systems and identify new strategies to improve RPO and RTO that work within budget
- Develop a cost / benefit analysis or comparison with on- and off-premises solutions
- Build a comparison of offerings that meet client requirements and priorities
- Develop a comprehensive list of requirements for RFP development and post-RFP review