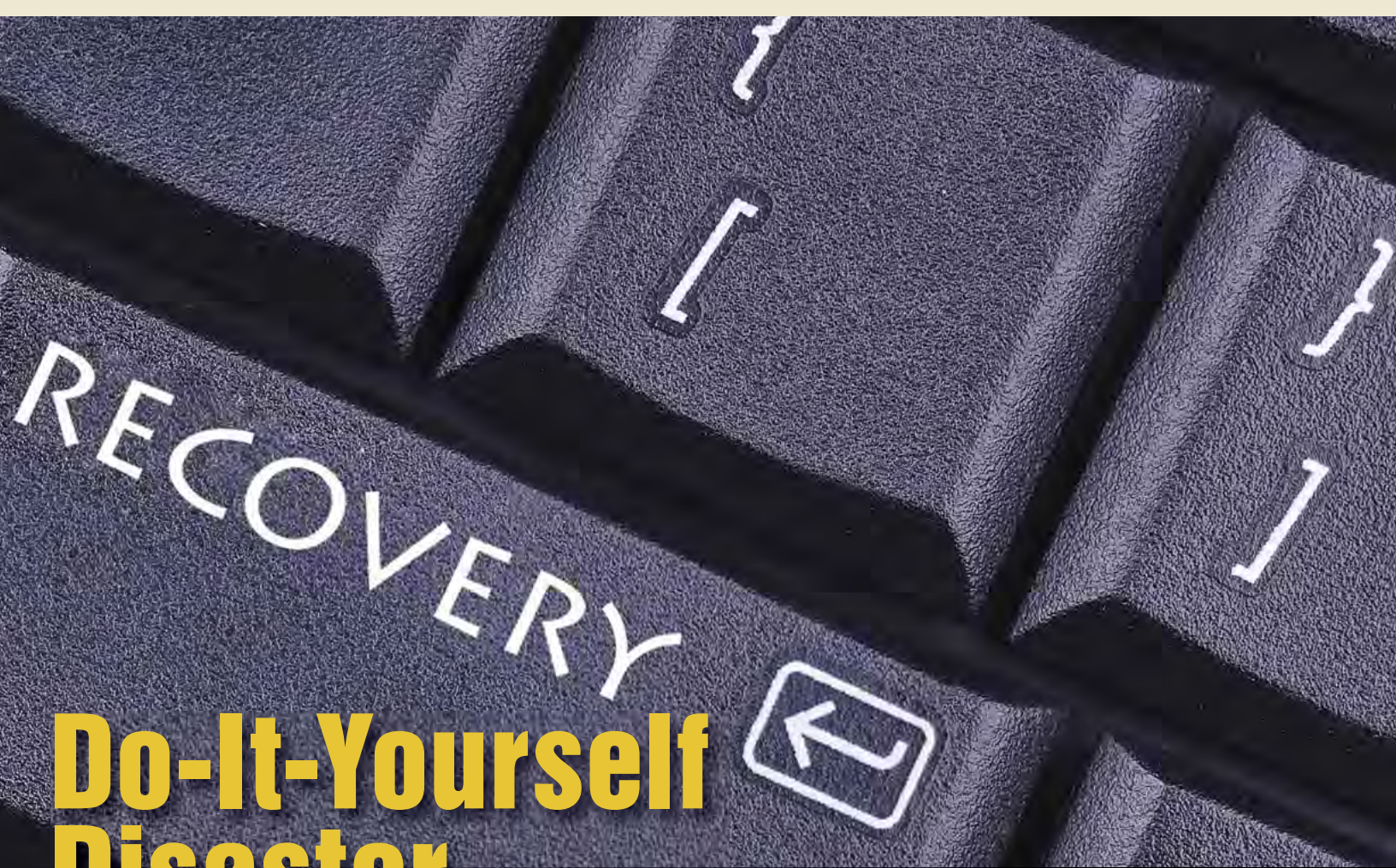


Nebraska **Banker**

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NBA Nebraska Bankers Association



RECOVERY

Do-It-Yourself Disaster Recovery

**The Perceived Advantages (and
Realities) of Taking Disaster Recovery
Into Your Own Hands**

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**Three Reasons Tape Backup
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Three Reasons Tape Backup Systems Are Dinosaurs

Leon Thomas, Jelecos



It's no secret that the world of technology changes at lightning speed. Just as you master one operating system, one form of media, or one backup and recovery technique, a new one comes along that claims to be better, faster, and cheaper.

NEW TECHNOLOGY MEANS NEW learning curves, new processes, and new challenges. For many businesses, tape backups have been a way of life. However, significant advancements in the world of data storage, backup, and recovery have placed tape backups on the endangered species list. Let's take a closer look to explain why tape backups are on the way out.

Speed

While many variables factor into the

speed of a backup and recovery operation, the most notorious are tape drives. While tape drives were once state-of-the-art technology and allowed for an incredible amount of data to be stored, those days are long gone. Although advancements have been and continue to be made, using a tape backup system is simply postponing the inevitable. Just as floppy disks are no longer used, tape drives should be considered the snails of the computer world. If you are attempting to back up your entire system everyday, you likely have a dedicated

backup window that is running much of the night. Thankfully, this is no longer necessary. With off-site backups that use secure Internet connections and block-level delta processing, you can condense backup windows significantly. When you switch from tape backups to an appropriate disk-based technology, you improve both backup and restore times, and thus gain hours in productivity.

Capacity

Data storage requirements are much more significant today than five years ago. Larger data storage requirements mean larger backup and recovery capacities. Once thought to be an incredibly accommodating form of backup, tapes simply don't cut it by today's advanced standards. Many businesses that rely on tape backups have offsite storage facilities—or they should. Mishandle one and your entire organization can come crashing down. By using a more advanced form of data backup and recovery, space simply becomes a planning exercise to ensure you have enough disk space. How many times in the last 10 years have you had to upgrade to a new tape format for capacity reasons? You either have to migrate the old data to the new tape format or continue to store the old drives. In addition, if you're using a best-practice-based tape rotation schedule, the cost of media just keeps adding up. Although some companies may have a difficult time transitioning from an older way of backing up data, an offsite backup system is a better long-term strategy.

Recovery

Isn't the entire purpose of data backup to ensure you are able to restore? Ninety-nine percent of all restores are non-disaster related, which means that something much more basic has happened—user error being the leading cause, hardware failure coming in a distant second. With most

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tape systems, you have to get your hands on the appropriate tape(s), drop them into the drives, and let the system read the index before you can begin the restore process. With new, more advanced remote backup solutions, this same process is kicked off with about three clicks of the mouse. Individual files, folders, and even complete systems can be restored in a fraction of the time. How long do your users currently have to wait for a single file restore if the tape is already offsite? If you add up the time they waste waiting, the time it takes your IT staff to deal with the restore request, and the time it takes to actually do the restore, it shouldn't be difficult to understand the productivity issues associated with tape recovery.

You owe it to yourself and your financial institution to provide the best data backup and restore capabilities possible. If you haven't considered an offsite backup solution, you're not delivering. ▶

For more information on how you can make the transition from tape, contact Lauri Vance at Jelecoc at (402) 955-0489 or lvance@jelecoc.com. Jelecoc is a consulting and services firm focused on helping businesses leverage and align technology to maximize business value. The company has been honored by Inc. magazine as one of the fastest-growing private companies in the United States and by the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce as a Top 25 Company in Business Excellence. Learn more at www.jelecoc.com.

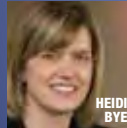
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