

Are you ready for Storm Season?



Here we go again!

We're all tired of hearing it but severe weather season is upon us. It is time to review your data loss prevention strategy and disaster recovery plan. Disaster can strike at any time. Severe weather threats include cyclones but also everyday thunderstorms that produce lightning and flood waters. Then, there are plenty of other, non-weather related disasters that threaten your business such as fire and theft.

If you can prepare against a total loss of your computer equipment, you will be much better prepared for any impending disasters and you will be in much better position to get back to business in the event of an actual catastrophe.

95% of businesses that lose their vital media records are out of business within one year!

Now is the time to prepare your computer systems for severe weather including thunderstorms, lightning and cyclones. Prevention can avoid untold hours of frustration replacing destroyed systems, drying out soaked equipment, attempting to replace missing software or reconstructing lost data files.

It is our pleasure to provide you with the following tips to protect your technology systems and data from severe weather (lightning, thunder storms and floods) as well as fire or theft.



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Data Backup

The most important thing you can do to protect your business is to have a copy of your critical business data stored off-site. Computers, equipment and office furniture can all be replaced but the costs of recreating data are staggering without a reliable backup to restore your data from.

For a business, ideally you have a file server that provides a central location for you to store all of your data files. This is not only best practice, but also makes it easier to back up these files. Tape backup is fast, reliable and stores vast amounts of data. It is also removable so tapes can be taken and stored off site. A backup will not do you any good if it is sitting in the same location that was burned to the ground or flooded in a storm.

Store your backup media off-site! The survival of your business could be as simple as having a copy of your data stored off-site away from a local disaster including non-weather related events such as fire or theft. Store your backups off-site in a secure location or call JCR IT and we can pick up your media and store it in our secure facility for you over the Christmas break.

Call JCR IT ASAP on 07 5572 3213 to review your backup systems and verify your data backup tapes and media – before they become your last hope!

Power Protection

Here in Queensland, lightning and power problems cause significant computer damage and downtime. The most common power problems are brownouts (low-voltage) and spikes due to lightning. Every summer we see dozens of cases where expensive equipment and costly data is lost simply due to a lack of proper power protection.

Be sure that all of your electronic network equipment, including your PC's, servers, printers and network switches, is protected against power surges, spikes and low-voltage situations. There are many different types of protection available on the market.

An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) or "battery backup" protects against all of the major power problems including surges (high-voltage), spikes (most commonly caused by lightning), brownouts (low voltage) and black-outs. In a black-out, a UPS provides battery power so you can avoid losing your work by closing your open files and shutting down your PC in an orderly fashion. UPS software is available that will close your open files and shut down your PC or network file server even if you are not in the office at the time!

Surge protector devices are designed to "fail" and prevent high-voltage from passing through to your equipment but they will not keep you from losing work when the power goes out.

Don't confuse a power strip from a surge protector! Power strips are no more than glorified extension cords and offer no power protection.

Call JCR IT on 07 5572 3213 for the appropriate recommendations to protect your network.