



# Are You Getting the Most Value from Your BC Assessments?

Organizations must know where they are before they can get where they are going, and, as part of your business continuity program, BIA (Business Impact Analysis) assessments can help you achieve that. A well-conducted BIA can show you where your company's vulnerabilities are as they relate to operations as a whole, so use these four tips to get the most value from your BC program's BIA assessments:

## 1. MAKE SURE TO RE-EVALUATE CRITICALITY

How frequently is, or should, your company be completing assessments? If you do not know that answer, or if it is less than once a year, it may be time to rethink your BIA process. Running an impact analysis allows your business continuity team to be able to identify critical SPOF points in your enterprise and find fiscally vulnerable weak spots. A timely assessment will help the BCM team figure out what will be affected if a process or application is disrupted, and help determine the potential fallout downstream. Run your assessments annually, at least, or if your company experiences a significant organizational shift, such as a structural reorganization.

## 2. TRAINING

It is sometimes overlooked, but company-wide adoption of business continuity best practices is a must for accurate assessments. From there, the BCM program owner will use that complete information to help

management make a decision as to where to invest resources for mitigating risk. If the entire organization buys into this process during the planning and assessment phases, it will pay dividends financially when a business continuity plan needs to be initiated.

PDF's, Excel, Word and other static documents can cause a logistical mess for BC administrators. Cloud-based programs can let your BCM program owner send a link for a plan or assessment to specific team members. That person can then simply make updates and submit for approval. This will save time for your administrators, and give you the most up to date information you need to support the business.

## 3. PRIORITIZE GLOBALLY

If a company has multiple locations across the globe, or even across town, it can be difficult to run a proper assessment when solutions are not able to be centralized. Your BC system, and the BIA housed within, should be able to simultaneously collect BIA responses

and report on multiple critical areas and dependency gaps. Departments and facilities can become siloed, and that is the exact opposite of what is needed to discover where a company is operationally and/or financially vulnerable. One system of record can connect your previously siloed groups and enable your BC program to give you the clearest possible insight into your enterprise's vulnerabilities.

#### **4. IDENTIFYING CRITICAL PROCESSES WILL HELP MAKE DECISIONS EASIER**

A BIA helps you prioritize where the company needs to invest in order to prevent possible impacts. Identifying critical systems that can leave you fiscally vulnerable will tell you where to direct resources by highlighting what you can live without for some time vs. what needs to be recovered immediately. By aggregating data in one system, and determining the RTOs and criticalities of

business processes and systems, company leadership can make informed decisions about where to focus resources to keep the business resilient.

Your business continuity software must be robust enough to allow your BCM program owner to customize assessments to generate outcomes and objectives unique to your organization, while supporting the accessibility needed to engage your business process and IT owners. A cloud-based, agile BC solution like Assurance<sup>CM</sup> allows a BCM program owner help leadership decide where they need to spend, so as to minimize the impact of the loss of a process or application that will be detrimental to operations. Assurance<sup>CM</sup> cloud-based solution can be your system of record for managing business continuity program activities.

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**For more information on how Assessments integrate with  
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