

# Plan B Disaster Recovery

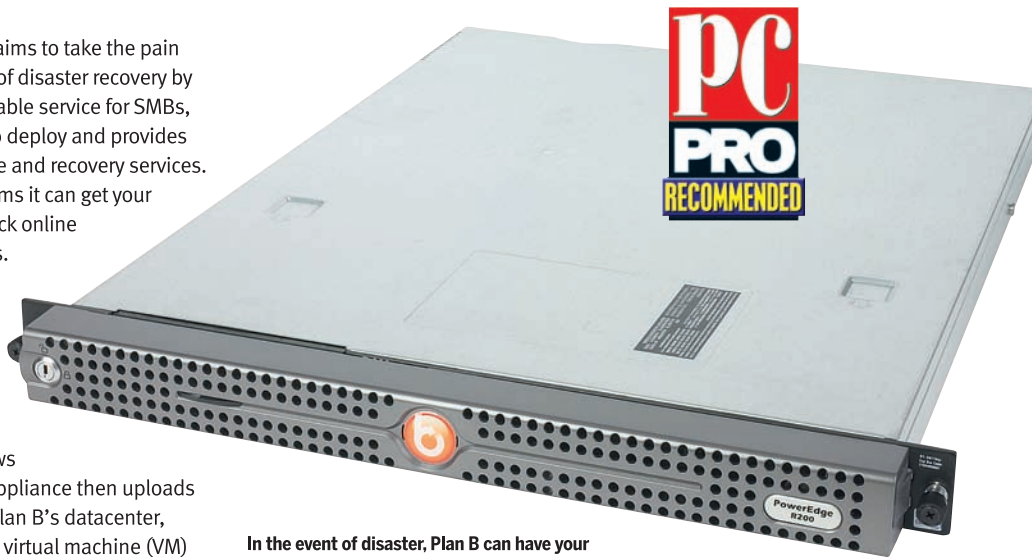
Plan B can ensure your business will be a success and not another sorry statistic in the event of a disaster

UK-based Plan B aims to take the pain and expense out of disaster recovery by offering an affordable service for SMBs, which is simple to deploy and provides full off-site storage and recovery services. The company claims it can get your critical servers back online inside 30 minutes.

Plan B deploys an on-site appliance and uses agents to snapshot each protected Windows server to it. The appliance then uploads the snapshot to Plan B's datacenter, where it creates a virtual machine (VM) from it.

Invoking disaster recovery for the SBS server example costs £400 and Plan B will fire up the remote VM, weave some DNS magic, and put all your services back online. Plan B can do this so quickly because it tests the VM at the earliest opportunity to make sure it will work when needed. The one-off charge includes full migration of the VM back to your server.

For testing, we used a Dell PowerEdge R200 running SBS 2003 and the GoToMyPC corporate remote control client (web ID: 41428). On delivery, we connected the appliance to the network and used its web console to install an agent directly on the server. The agent is declared to the appliance, whereupon it takes a snapshot of the server. You have no control over what's copied, since this is all handled remotely.



In the event of disaster, Plan B can have your servers back up and running inside 30 minutes.

The completed snapshot is encrypted and uploaded to the remote VM. Once the appliance has completed the first snapshot, the agent regularly updates it with deltas that are then passed up the line. Our only complaint was a lack of agent-logging information. During the initial snapshot and upload phases, we had no real idea of what it was up to.

The 80GB of data on our test server took a few days to upload and we wished we'd taken up Plan B's offer of a USB drive for locally backing up the data first. This is included in the price. On delivery, you attach it to the appliance and Plan B initiates the snapshot copy to it. The drive is then sent to the remote site and its contents are encrypted.

To simulate a disaster we forcibly

powered down our SBS server and phoned Plan B with cries of help. Less than 30 minutes later, the company called us back with the address details of the remote VM. We tested remote access using OWA and had no problems accessing multiple Exchange mailboxes where all mail was present and correct.

GoToMyPC was unaware that the entry in our portal for the SBS server was now a VM and we were able to gain full remote access to the server. We concluded that most users would be hard-pressed to spot that their services were running from a remote system.

Plan B is an elegant solution for disaster recovery that will appeal hugely to SMBs. It's affordable, easy to deploy and, above all else, delivers when it really counts. **DAVE MITCHELL**

## DISASTER RECOVERY

### PRICE

Appliance for SBS server/80GB, £1,315; then £202 per month (all exc VAT)

### SUPPLIER

Plan B Disaster Recovery  
01189 026966

### INTERNET

[www.planb.co.uk](http://www.planb.co.uk)

### WARRANTY

Included in contract

### SPECIFICATIONS

Dell PowerEdge R200 rack appliance • 1.8GHz Celeron 430 • 512MB 800MHz DDR2 • 750GB Seagate Barracuda ES.2 SATA hard disk • 2 x Gigabit • 4 x USB • web browser management

### PERFORMANCE



### FEATURES & DESIGN



### VALUE FOR MONEY



### OVERALL

