Essential Systems - Where is IT?

Technology is intertwined into just about every aspect of our daily lives, including the services we provide. Part of COOP planning is knowing what technology we use to deliver services to the public and understanding what the impact would be of not having that technology available for us to use. This is especially important to understand for our Mission Essential Functions (MEFs).

How would you answer these questions:
- If your business unit had to relocate to an alternate facility, would you know what you would need technology wise to be able to do your job?
- How would you operate when one or more technologies or applications are not available? Do you have manual or alternate processes that you could utilize until the technology has been restored?
- How quickly do you need the technology made available again in order to resume normal operations.
- If an event (like a virus) causes a loss of data, how much data (documents, client data, etc.) can you afford to lose due to this event?

These are questions that IT uses to understand business needs to build resilient systems and applications, protect data and develop recovery plans for events that impact the delivery of technology and information to the business.

This is where COOP planning can utilize IT's Disaster Preparedness Services. IT will work with your business leaders and COOP Planners to identify what technology you need when an event happens in order to create plans and implement solutions that ensure that you are able to have access to that technology across different types of disruptive events.

In today's world, we all expect technology to be available, like how we expect electrical power available when we turn on lights or water to pour from our faucets when we want a drink. There is a lot of work behind the scenes to keep the "lights on" and technology flowing when you want it. IT looks at different scenarios that may disrupt technology such as a server outage, or cyber attacks, all the way to what if our data center caught fire. We review business applications, their systems and data to understand interdependencies and risk to each component to implement solutions that allow us to backup and recover data if lost or corrupted as well as restore the affected systems so your applications are back online for you to access.

By understanding your Mission Essential Functions and your needs around technology, you can provide IT Disaster Preparedness Services the information it needs to:

> Protect the organization by implementing strategies to reduce threats and vulnerabilities.
> Prevent the occurrence of a crisis by implementing risk mitigations, resiliency solutions and service management to avoid or reduce outages.
> Prepare for when a crisis does occur, it can be managed and the continuity of the organization maintained while successfully recovering from a disaster.

If you would like to know more about Disaster Preparedness Services and how IT can support your COOP Planning, please contact Brad Rummel who coordinates Disaster Preparedness planning for IT.