
Recovery Bus Factor Assessment

15 Questions To Test Whether Recovery Depends On Individuals

Identify where recovery capability is concentrated before an incident exposes the dependency.

HOW TO USE THIS ASSESSMENT

Work through all four sections with your recovery team. A “no” or “unsure” answer on any question marks a point where recovery capability is concentrated in specific individuals rather than the architecture itself.

- Recovery Ownership — 4 questions
- Execution Knowledge — 4 questions
- Dependency Awareness — 4 questions
- Validation — 3 questions

SECTION 1 – RECOVERY OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Who executed the last production recovery?
 - ☐ How many people can independently perform it?
 - ☐ Has recovery ownership rotated in the last 12 months?
 - ☐ Would recovery proceed if the primary recovery lead were unavailable?
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SECTION 2 – EXECUTION KNOWLEDGE

- ☐ Are restore sequences documented?
- ☐ Are exceptions documented?
- ☐ Are recovery decision points documented?
- ☐ Has someone other than the author validated the procedures?

SECTION 3 — DEPENDENCY AWARENESS

- ☐ Are hidden dependencies mapped?
 - ☐ Are legacy recovery paths understood?
 - ☐ Can another team execute the process?
 - ☐ Are vendor escalation paths documented and tested?
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SECTION 4 — VALIDATION

- ☐ Has someone outside the core team completed a recovery exercise?
 - ☐ Are tests validating execution, not just completion?
 - ☐ Has a recovery been performed successfully without the primary experts involved?
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Full analysis: rack2cloud.com/recovery-bus-factor/