

Recovery Planning Worksheet

A working reference derived from “The Company Didn’t Run Out Of Data. It Ran Out Of Time.” — not a framework, not a maturity model. A one-page tool for mapping the clock most recovery plans never measure.

HOW TO USE THIS

01 Pick one critical operation.

Not the whole business — one operation whose interruption you actually need to plan for.

02 Fill the RTO row from your existing DR plan.

This is the number your recovery program already targets.

03 Fill the survival-window row from the business side, not IT.

Ask finance, sales, and operations — not the recovery team — how long this operation can be down before the damage stops being recoverable.

04 Compare the two.

The gap between them — not either number alone — is what this worksheet exists to surface.

BUSINESS SURVIVAL WINDOW — RECOVERY PLANNING WORKSHEET

Critical operation: _____

Critical operation	<i>What must continue functioning — narrow to one operation, not the whole business.</i> -----
Maximum tolerable disruption	<i>How long this specific operation can be impaired before the damage compounds.</i> -----
RTO (target)	<i>The technical restoration time your current recovery plan is designed to hit.</i> -----
Dependency chain	<i>What has to recover first before this operation can actually resume — in order.</i> -----
External constraint	<i>Customers, suppliers, payroll, contracts, lenders — whichever clock is running independent of recovery.</i> -----
Survival window	<i>The point at which continued disruption stops being recoverable, regardless of technical progress.</i> -----
Recovery gap	<i>RTO minus survival window. Positive means recovery is racing a clock it isn't currently measured against.</i> -----
Architectural action	<i>What changes in the recovery plan, the org chart, or the contract terms as a result of this gap.</i> -----