

L73

Using VM for Linux Disaster Recovery Planning

Jim Vincent

IBM System z Expo

September 17-21, 2007
San Antonio, TX



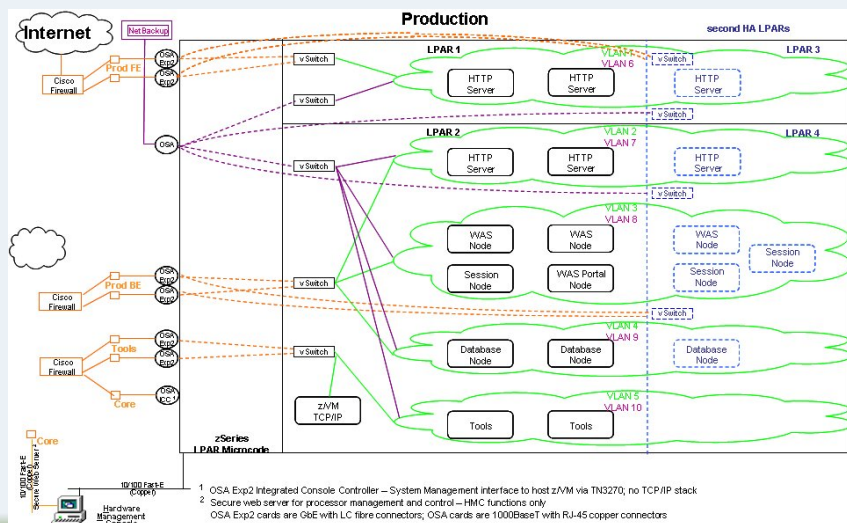
Agenda

- **Definitions**
- **Our Environment**
- **Business Recovery Philosophy at Nationwide**
- **Planning**
- **Execution**

Definitions

- **High Availability**
 - “With any IT system it is desirable that the system and its components (be they hardware or software) are up and running and fully functional for as long as possible, at their highest availability. The most desirable high availability rate is known as “five 9s”™, or 99.999% availability. A good deal of planning for high availability centers around backup and failover processing and data storage and access.”
 - Deal with significant outage within data center
 - LPAR failure
 - Operating System outage
 - Application ABEND

High Availability



Definitions

- **Disaster Recovery**
 - “Disaster recovery in information technology is the ability of an infrastructure to restart operations after a disaster. While many of today’s larger computer systems contain built-in programs for disaster recovery, standalone recovery programs often provide enhanced features. Disaster recovery is used both in the context of data loss prevention and data recovery.”
 - Deal with complete outage
 - Natural catastrophe
 - Data center
 - Machine

Our Environment

- **Two z9 installed in 4Q2006, each with:**
 - **Production box**
 - 12 IFLs
 - 160GB memory
 - 4 z/VM LPARs
 - Tier 4+ data center
 - *Fully redundant power, telecom, generators, etc*
 - **Development box**
 - 13 IFL engines on development box
 - 224GB memory
 - 5 z/VM LPARs (sandbox LPAR for system programmer test)

Planning

- **Design**
- **Priorities**
- **Setup**
- **Automation**
- **Documentation**
- **Teamwork**

Design

- **What**
 - Identify what needs to be recovered
- **When**
 - Need to know recovery objectives
- **Where**
 - Identify where recovery will occur
 - Second site
 - Vendor site
- **How**
 - Identify how to transfer programs and data
 - Identify how to perform recovery

Priorities

- **Prioritizing your application recovery must be done by the people in your organization that understand the business processes**
- **Business requirements that drive recovery time-frame**
 - regulated
 - financial / investments
 - responsive to customers

Setup

- **Asynch replication with SRDF between production and recovery sites**
- **Replicated volumes at recovery site**
 - z/VM different unit address between north and south
 - SAN same LUN id between production and recovery

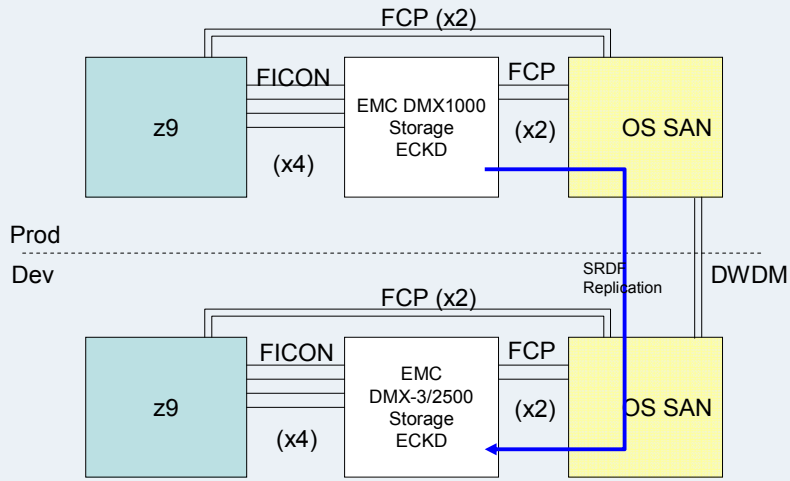
Setup

- **Manual processes**
 - Stop replication link
 - Vary VM volumes online
 - Start Linux servers
 - Update DNS entries
 - Middleware and application hard-coded parameters (e.g. IP addresses)

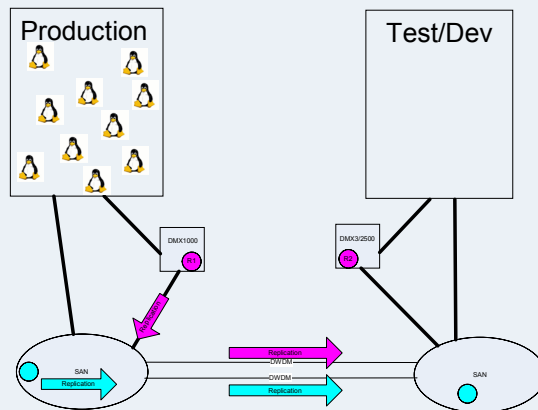
Setup

- **The DR process would be the same for the following failures**
 - System z failure
 - DASD frame failure
 - SAN storage frame failure
- **DWDM failure**
 - No DR required, (two DWDM links in design)

Setup

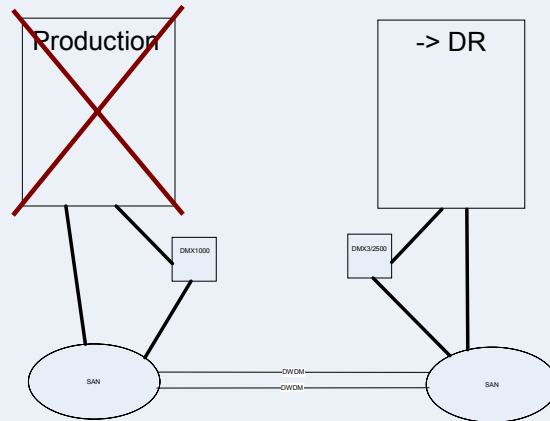


Setup - Normal



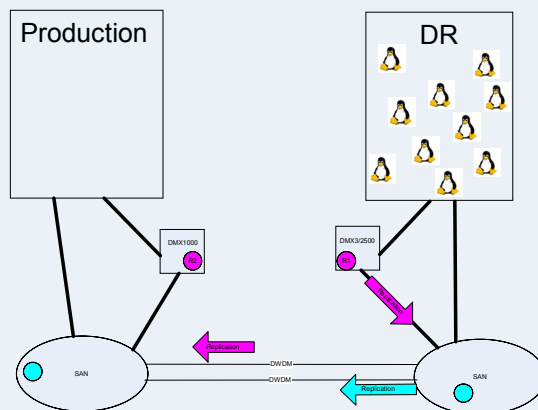
Setup - Failure Happens

If failure occurs:
manually stop
replication. Bring
volumes on-line at
DR site, start Linux
servers



Setup – Recovery Begins

Servers identify
DR configuration,
change IP
address, register
new IP with
DNS, start
replication south
to north.



Automation

- **Avoid manual processes**
 - Dependence on key individuals
 - Prone to mistakes
 - Slow
- **Automated processes**
 - Requires only basic knowledge of environment and technologies in use
 - Accuracy
 - Repeatable
 - Faster
 - Does not mean build it once then ignore; Requires regular review and updates

Automation

- **Automation begins at provisioning**
 - DR configuration stored with production configuration
 - CMS NAMES file
 - Contains all information about provisioned server
 - Copy stored on DR disk also
 - Also used to generate report of server definitions for easy lookup
 - Linux PARM file stored on CMS disk
 - Stored on disk accessible at boot time
 - Copy stored on DR disk also
 - Define everything needed to provision server and at boot time

Automation

- **Extract from LINUX NAMES file for one guest**

```
:nick.WS001
:userid.PZVWS001
:node.VN2
:desc.Prod web server 1
:env.PROD
:hostname.PZVMWS001
:load.LINUXWS
:ip.10.1.1.1
:vswitch.PRODVSW1
:vlan.2102
:ip_nb.10.2.1.1
:vsw_nb.NETBKUP1
:vlan_nb.3940
```

```
:ip_dr.10.221.1.1
:vsw_dr.PRODVSW1
:vlan_dr.2102
:ip_drbu.10.222.1.1
:vsw_drbu.NETBKUP1
:vlan_drbu.3940
:oth_ip.10.1.1.5 10.1.1.15
:dr_oth_ip.10.221.1.5 10.221.1.15
:status.2005-09-08
:gold.V1.2
:memory.256M
:cpus.1
:share.200,LS-200
:comments.
:storage.2.3G
:storage_os.7.1G
:bootdev.251
```

Automation

- **PARM file**

```
HOST=pzvmws001
ADMIN=10.1.1.1
BCKUP=10.2.1.1
DRADMIN=10.221.1.1
DRBCKUP=10.222.1.1
ENV=PROD
DRVIP=10.1.1.5,10.1.1.15
BOOTDEV=251
VIP=10.221.1.5,10.221.1.15
```

Automation

- **Alternate Start-up Scripts**
 - Identify production or DR mode
 - HCP – interact with CP
 - CMSFS – read CMS files
 - Set parameters for environment
 - Hostname to /etc/HOSTNAME
 - IP addresses to /etc/sysconfig/network/ifcfg-qeth-bus-ccw-0.0.xxxx
 - Color prompt by environment
 - *Prod = Red*
 - *DR = Yellow*
 - *Tools = Green*

Automation

- **Extract from boot.config**

```
# Setup variables
echo "1" > /sys/bus/ccw/devices/0.0.0191/online
sleep 5
# modprobe required just in case
modprobe cpint
PARMDEV=`grep 191 /proc/dasd/devices|awk '{print $7}'` NZVWS001 AT VN1
QUSERID=`hcp query userid`
GUEST=`echo $QUSERID|cut -d" " -f 1`
LOCO=`echo $QUSERID|cut -c14`
LPAR=`echo $QUSERID|cut -c13-15`
BOX=`echo $QUSERID|cut -c1`
cmsfscat -d /dev/$PARMDEV -a ${GUEST}.PARMFILE > /tmp/sourceinfo
. /tmp/sourceinfo

echo "0" > /sys/bus/ccw/devices/0.0.0191/online
```

Automation

- Result of cmsfscat

```
cat /tmp/sourceinfo

HOST=pzvmws001
ADMIN=10.1.1.1
BCKUP=10.2.1.1
DRADMIN=10.221.1.1
DRBCKUP=10.222.1.1
ENV=PROD
DRVIP=10.1.1.5,10.1.1.15
BOOTDEV=251
VIP=10.221.1.5,10.221.1.15
```

Automation

- More extract from boot.config

```
case "$ENV" in
  PROD)
    if [ "$LOCO" == "$BOX" ]
    then
      CLR="41"; #Red
    else
      CLR="43"; #Yellow/Gold
      ENV="DR";
    fi
    ;;
  DEV | JT | TOOLS | TOOL)
    CLR="42"; #Green
    ;;
  ST)
    CLR="44"; #Blue
    ;;
  PT)
    CLR="45"; #Purple
    ;;
  UAT | IT)
    CLR="46"; #Turq
    ;;
  *)
    CLR="42"; #Green
    ENV="UNK";
    ;;
esac
```

Examples:

```
barlowr@szvmjt002:JT:barlowr>
barlowr@zvmws001:PROD:barlowr>
```

Documentation

- **Document everything**
 - Declaration criteria
 - Contact information
 - Operating System
 - Middleware
 - Application
 - Network
 - Security
 - Lists of servers
 - Recovery process
 - Verification process
 - Fail-back process

Documentation

- **DR Procedure:**
 - Confirm DISASTER declaration
 - Begin shutdown all test/development guests to insure sufficient capacity.
 - Bring up production DR guests identified by business units for each application environment.
 - Make appropriate emergency DNS changes to point users to DR environment per definitions for each application environment.

Documentation

- **Return Procedure:**
 - Confirm **DISASTER OVER** declaration
 - Reverse disk replication; confirm synchronization
 - Follow instructions for confirmation of original production environment for each application.
 - Bring down DR guests identified by LDRPS for each application environment.
 - Make appropriate DNS changes to point users to non-DR environment per definitions for each application environment.
 - Resume normal disk replication.

Teamwork

- **Recovery coordinator**
- **z/VM System Programmers**
- **Linux System Administrators**
- **Middleware**
 - WAS, DB, MQ Administrators
- **Application Teams**
 - Testing methodology
 - Expected results

Avoid processes that are dependent on subject matter experts (SME) when a disaster happens

Execution

- **Test**
- **Document results**
- **Compare to plan**
- **Repeat**

Execution

- **Where...**
 - ... to recover the systems
 - **Your own second site**
 - **A recovery vendor**
 - ... do the people go
 - **Identify what personnel need to travel to recovery site**
 - *Document travel procedures*
 - **Identify alternate (local) office space**
 - *Some office locations may be able to access recovery site if connectivity is available*

Execution

- **Testing**
 - **Test as often as feasible**
 - **Frequency may depend on having your own site or contracting with a vendor**
 - **Tests should be as close as possible to real recovery conditions**
 - **Operating systems are easy**
 - **Some subsystems are not so easy (e.g. large database)**
 - **Multi-platform applications can be more complex**
 - **Automate as much as possible to avoid manual effort**

Document Results - Compare to Plan

- **Detailed plans for all test scenarios**
- **Carefully track tests**
- **Document action items and follow up for improvements**
- **Build on successes**

Repeat

- Do it again
- Do it regularly
- Corporate emphasis may be required to *encourage* all applications to test

Contact Information

"And I thought we were busy *before* Linux showed up!"
Rick Barlow



Jim Vincent
Senior z/VM Systems Programmer

Phone: (614) 249-5547

Internet: James.Vincent@nationwide.com