How Business Continuity is Saving Manufacturing

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INTRODUCTION
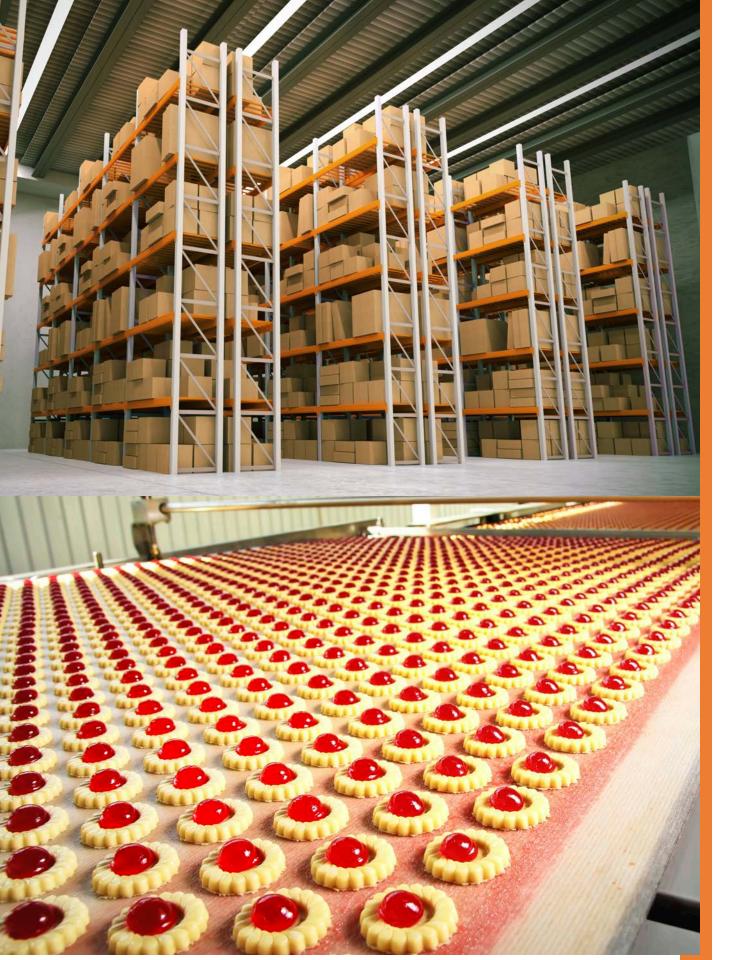
As a manufacturer, you're producing real, tangible products every day. Your company's ability to produce high volumes at low costs can determine where you fall among your competitors.

In the age of technology, your equipment relies heavily on the computers configuring their behavior. What would happen if those systems became compromised? How long could you afford to halt production?

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Like any other business, manufacturers are vulnerable to fire, flood, severe weather, power outages and any other calamity that could take systems offline and/or wipe out valuable data.

In the Manufacturing industry, downtime comes with costs from all directions. If production stops, you'll likely be paying a lot of employees who are standing around, waiting for a solution. The inability to fill quotas can have an impact on sales. This may also damage your reputation as customers are unable to place orders.

Not only do calamities cause down time, human error can also come into play when your own employees make mistakes or take malicious actions. For manufacturers specifically, the loss of intellectual property data can greatly hamper a business.

While you may be taking some precautions, such as securing and backing up your sensitive data, sometimes that's not enough. There is a common misconception that data is safe if backed up once a day, but this outdated practice is no longer sufficient for several reasons:

- If you forget to perform the backup or the backup process fails, you're not protected.

- If you only back up your files once a day, you're left vulnerable to the loss of an entire day's work.

- If you don't properly validate your backup files, you could be in for an unpleasant surprise when you actually try to use those files to restore your company's operations.

- If you only back up your files onsite, you could lose them too—leaving you with no way to restore production.

- If you only back up your raw data, rather than all your application and server configuration files, it could take several days to restore your files because you will also have to rebuild your servers, operating systems, applications, etc.

Some manufacturers are turning to business interruption insurance to cover the costs to rebuild, restore, or regain lost income. However, while an insurance provider may write you a check for the cost of a server that gets damaged because of a broken pipe, it won't shield you from damaged or lost client relationships. Ultimately, your reputation isn't something for which you can easily be compensated.

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HOW VULNERABLE ARE YOU?

If your company identifies as a business that doesn't have the IT resources to effectively recover from a major outage, make sure you're weighing all the factors around the costs of downtime. Here are the facts:

- US businesses lose $12 billion annually due to data loss.[1]

- 93% of companies that lose their data center for 10+ days file for bankruptcy within one year.[2]

In a survey by Kaspersky Lab, manufacturers reported "Internal Operational Information" and "Intellectual Property" as data they would most fear losing.[3] Among the causes of recent data loss, malware was the most common.
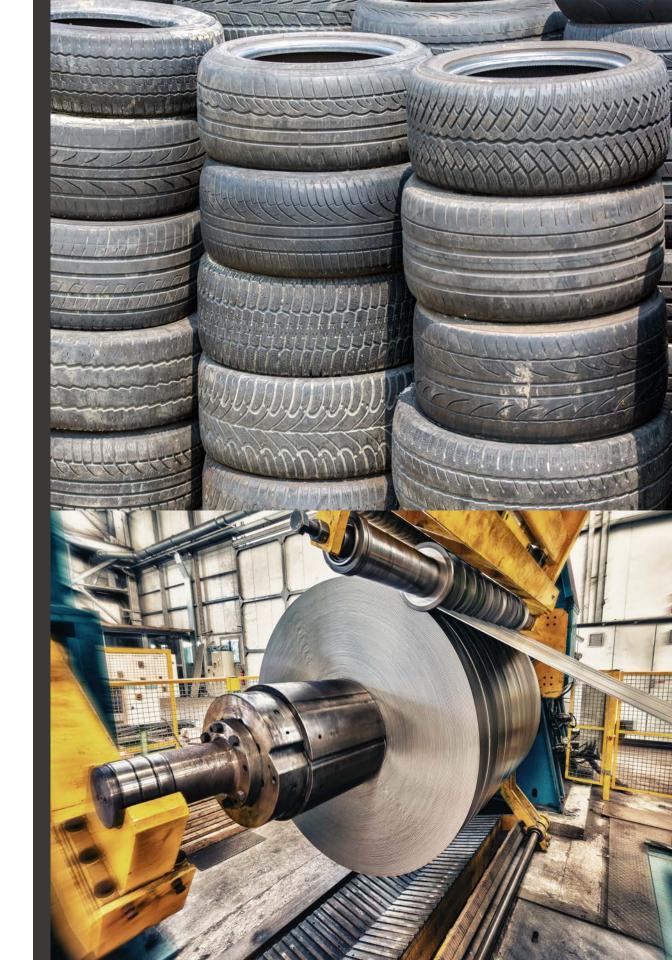
In addition to malware, software vulnerabilities, network intrusion, and targeted attacks were all mentioned. Here are some tips to help your business avoid costly downtime:

- Outsource your company's IT needs to an expert who has experience in the manufacturing industry. They'll understand the importance of maintaining production schedules.

- Don't sacrifice quality to save money when buying hardware. It will benefit you (and your bottom line) to have strong technology in the long run.

- Perform timely hardware and software updates, maintenance and backups.

- Establish, review and maintain system security.

Any company that has not recently reassessed its backup and disaster recovery procedures should therefore do so to conform to these industry-standard best practices.

Business continuity describes a complete solution for backup and disaster recovery. A true business continuity solution will protect data on-premises and in the cloud. Whether data is on servers or in SaaS applications, it needs to be backed up. Business continuity goes a step further and offers you the ability to restore your data, which we call disaster recovery.

Whether a business is faced with a natural or man-made disaster, a strong solution will have you up and running in minutes. Solutions that leverage the hybrid cloud can guarantee a quicker restore time as well. Why? Local backups are great to keep data stored on local devices, but if something happens to that device, then what? A hybrid cloud backup solution takes an initial backup on a local device, and then replicates the backup to a cloud server.

A Better Way With Revolution Group

Revolution Group offers a superior solution for safeguarding the day-to-day wellness of your business.; automatically backing up both your data and your server/application configuration files continuously throughout the day and storing them on both a device at your location and in the cloud.
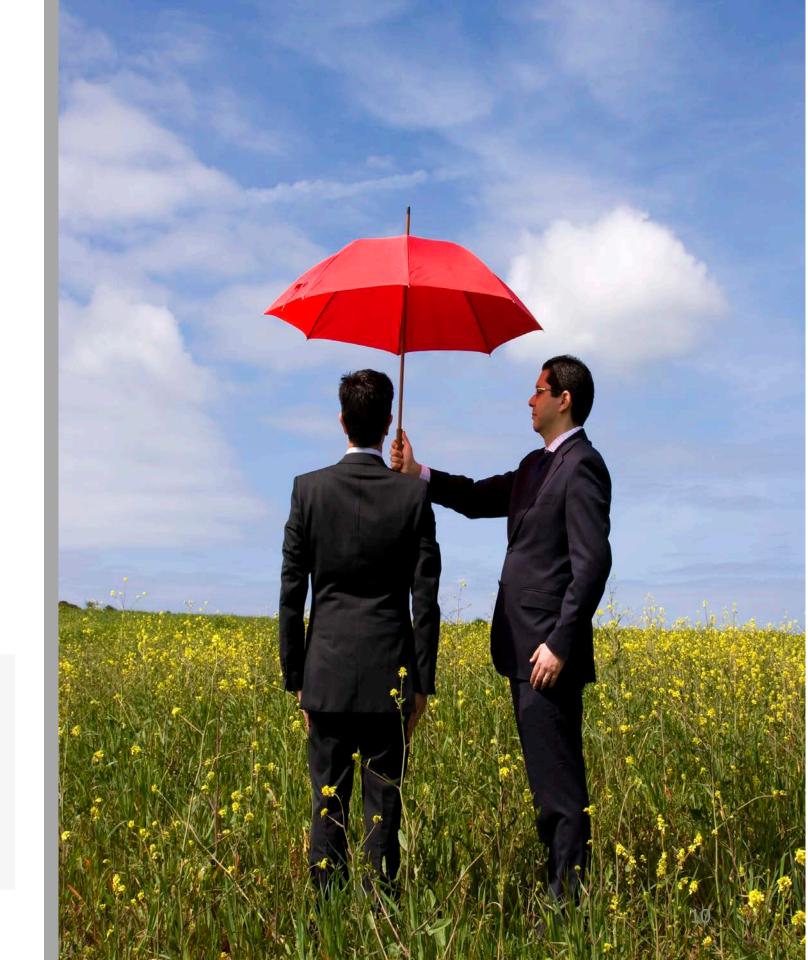
Revolution Group also continuously validates the integrity of your data and configuration files to ensure your backups are functional and have not been corrupted by a virus or other malware.

In the event that your office experiences a hardware failure, extreme weather event, or any other calamity, the solutions deployed by Revolution Group help by enabling you to keep running your plant from either your local backup device or your cloud files.

"A true business continuity solution will protect data on-premises and in the cloud."

Advantages of Revolution Group support include:

- All backups are performed automatically and reliably for you.

- You can have full confidence in your ability to recover from any sort disaster.

- You can restore your operations quickly with a single phone call to Revolution Group.

Have confidence that you are protected against any outage resulting from a disaster. You won't have to worry about the potential financial consequences of such a disaster—and neither will your clients.

It's time to safeguard your manufacturing plant the same way you safeguard your clients.

Call Revolution Group today at 614-212-1111.

Sources
1.   Beyond Technology
2.   National Archives & Records Administration
3.   Kaspersky Lab