us signal

Comparison Guide



Azure Site Recovery vs Zerto vs ReliaCloud vs Xi Leap

Choosing the Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS) Solution for Your Organization

Introduction

Disasters come in many forms, from natural catastrophes like floods and fires to cyberattacks and even human error. While we can't predict the exact nature of every threat, we can be prepared for their impact.

A comprehensive disaster recovery (DR) plan is your organization's first line of defense, ensuring critical functions can be restored quickly and efficiently so you can minimize downtime and financial losses. It's your insurance policy against the unexpected, safeguarding your data, systems and business continuity.

Just 54% of companies with at least 500 employees have a documented, company-side disaster recovery plan.

However, a survey conducted among 150 technical and business decision-makers from organizations with at least 500 employees found that just 54% have a documented, company-wide disaster recovery plan.[1] Even more concerning, 73% of companies have experienced failure at some point.[2] These statistics indicate disaster is likely to occur, and nearly half of companies could struggle to get back on their feet after it strikes.

The need for robust disaster recovery (DR) is undeniable, yet many companies struggle to implement effective solutions. Traditional DR options often require significant upfront investment, ongoing maintenance, and specialized IT skills, creating a barrier for many organizations. Additionally, they may not scale well with the increasing complexity and size of modern IT environments.

This is where Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS) comes in. DRaaS offers a cloud-based alternative to traditional DR, which eliminates the need for a secondary data center and associated costs. It provides a readily available infrastructure for disaster recovery, managed by a service provider, that can be easily activated in the event of a disruption.

In this guide, we detail what Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS) is and why it could be the solution you need to effectively and comprehensively put your DR plan into action. We'll compare four leading DRaaS solutions, including Azure Site Recovery, Zerto, ReliaCloud and Xi Leap so you can weigh the options and decide which path forward makes the most sense for your organization.

Disaster Recovery as a Service: What It Is and Why You Should Care

DRaaS is a cloud-based solution that allows you to securely store copies of your data and applications in a remote data center. In the event your worst fears are realized, you can quickly and efficiently switch over to your DRaaS environment, minimizing downtime and ensuring your business stays up and running.

Beyond Backups: The Advantages of DRaaS

DRaaS goes beyond simply backing up your data. It's a comprehensive disaster recovery strategy characterized by the following:

- Faster Recovery: DRaaS solutions are designed for rapid failover, allowing you to resume operations with minimal disruption. This is key in a business environment where even a few minutes of downtime can add up to material financial losses.
- Reduced Costs: Building and maintaining your own disaster recovery infrastructure can be expensive. DRaaS eliminates the need for upfront capital investment and ongoing maintenance, making it a cost-effective solution for businesses of all sizes.
- Scalability: DRaaS solutions can easily scale up or down to meet your changing needs. This flexibility ensures you're always paying for just the right amount of protection.

[1] Security Magazine
[2] Ibid

- Expertise on Demand: DRaaS providers offer expert guidance and support throughout the entire disaster recovery process. This can be a lifesaver for companies that lack the in-house IT expertise to manage their own disaster recovery plan.

Why Businesses Are Embracing DRaaS

Here's why companies are increasingly turning to DRaaS:

- Ensures Business Continuity: DRaaS provides a reliable safety net, so critical business functions can continue even during a disaster.
- Cost-Effectiveness: DRaaS eliminates the high costs associated with traditional disaster recovery solutions like secondary data centers and dedicated hardware, making it a more affordable and accessible option.
- Talent Shortage: DRaaS liberates businesses from the burden of finding and retaining qualified IT professionals by providing access to expert support and guidance.
- Focus on Core Business: DRaaS frees up internal IT resources to focus on core business initiatives rather than managing complex disaster recovery infrastructure.

DRaaS eliminates the need for upfront capital investment in secondary data centers and dedicated hardware.

What You Might Not Know About DRaaS

There are a lot of misconceptions about DRaaS that you should be aware of—primarily:

Misconception 1: Disaster recovery is too expensive and time-consuming.
DRaaS commonly offers a subscription-based model so it’s affordable for businesses of all sizes. Additionally, DRaaS providers handle the infrastructure and maintenance, which can free up your IT team's time.

Misconception 2: Recovery Point Objective (RPO) is just a number.
RPO defines the acceptable amount of data loss between backups in the event of an incident. Companies often pick an RPO arbitrarily without considering how a lower RPO means more frequent backups, which can increase storage costs. When you discuss your RPO with your DRaaS provider, they can tailor the solution to your specific RPO business requirements so you don’t pay for more frequent backups than necessary.

Misconception 3: We already know how much an outage will cost us.
Many companies can estimate the cost of an outage, but understanding the true financial impact of downtime requires a Business Impact Analysis (BIA). A BIA helps you understand the criticality of your systems and data so you can determine acceptable RPOs and Recovery Time Objectives (RTOs) – the time it takes to resume operations after a disaster.

Misconception 4: DRaaS offers complete, down-to-the-file recovery.
While DRaaS provides robust data backup and recovery, it's important to understand the granularity of the solution. DRaaS backups typically occur in larger chunks, rather than individual files. This ensures faster recovery for critical systems, but may not be suitable for immediate restoration of specific files.

Comparison Guide: Azure, Zerto, ReliaCloud or Xi Leap?

Azure Site Recovery, Zerto, ReliaCloud and Xi Leap are four leading DRaaS solutions that offer unique features and benefits tailored to different business needs and environments. But which is right for your organization?

This comparison guide breaks down the details of each to help you identify which best meets your disaster recovery requirements.

Microsoft's Azure Site Recovery is a top-rated DRaaS solution that enables businesses to replicate, failover and recover workloads running on physical and virtual machines.[3] It's designed to provide business continuity by keeping applications and data available during planned and unplanned outages.

Pricing Model: Azure Site Recovery uses a pay-as-you-go pricing model. Each protected instance is free for the first 31 days, after which a monthly fee is charged per instance. Additional costs may include Azure storage, storage transactions and data transfer fees.[4]

Major Differentiator

Azure Site Recovery's major differentiator lies in its seamless integration with the Microsoft ecosystem. If your business already uses Microsoft products, then Azure Site Recovery makes the disaster recovery process simple. The solution also provides robust automation and orchestration capabilities, so it's easier to manage complex disaster recovery scenarios.

Benefits

Integration with the Microsoft Ecosystem: Azure Site Recovery works seamlessly with other Microsoft services, such as Azure Backup, Active Directory and SQL Server. This integration provides a unified solution for disaster recovery and data protection.

Automation and Orchestration: Azure Site Recovery includes built-in automation for replication, failover and failback processes. This enables a smooth and efficient recovery process with minimal manual intervention.

Compliance and Security: Azure complies with numerous industry standards and regulations, offering robust security features to protect data during replication and recovery. This makes it suitable for businesses with stringent compliance requirements.

Scalability: As a cloud-based solution, Azure Site Recovery can easily scale to meet your business's changing needs. Whether you need to protect a few servers or an entire data center, Azure can accommodate your requirements.

Considerations

Limited Visibility: In Azure, data is stored in a way that is not accessible over the internet or network connections, adding an extra layer of security. This limitation, however, can also mean less visibility and control for the users over their stored data.

Cost Considerations: Although the solution can be cost-effective in the long run, you should be aware of the potential for escalating costs, particularly with extensive use of storage and data transfer.

Vendor Lock-In: Azure Site Recovery is deeply integrated with the Microsoft ecosystem, which can lead to vendor lock-in. You may find it challenging to migrate to other solutions in the future if your needs change.

Zerto

Zerto is a leader in IT resilience, providing a robust DRaaS solution that combines disaster recovery, backup and

[3] PCMag
[4] Microsoft

workload mobility. Renowned for its ease of use, Zerto is a popular solution for businesses seeking a reliable way to minimize data loss and ensure seamless disaster recovery across different environments, including on-premises, public and hybrid clouds.

Pricing Model: Zerto follows a subscription-based pricing model. It is typically licensed per virtual machine (VM) or per physical server. Pricing can vary based on the number of VMs and the specific features required, such as Continuous Data Protection (CDP) and multi-cloud support.[5]

Major Differentiator

Zerto's major differentiator is its Continuous Data Protection technology. Unlike traditional backup solutions that operate on scheduled intervals, Zerto's CDP continuously replicates data in near real-time. This ensures your business experiences minimal data loss and can recover to the most recent state before a disruption.

Benefits

Continuous Data Protection: Zerto provides near-synchronous replication for minimal data loss (measured in seconds) in case of a disaster.

Automated Orchestration: Zerto streamlines the disaster recovery process with automated failover and failback, reducing the need for manual intervention and making recovery faster and more efficient.

Simplified Management: Zerto’s simple interface allows for easy management and monitoring of disaster recovery processes across multiple environments.

Multi-Cloud Support: Zerto supports a wide range of cloud platforms, providing flexibility and adaptability for various IT environments.

Considerations

Resource Intensive: The continuous replication and real-time data protection offered by Zerto can be resource-intensive. You’ll need adequate infrastructure and resources to support the platform's operations.

Complex Environments: Although Zerto is easy to use, the initial setup can be difficult and may require deep IT expertise, particularly in complex environments.

Cost: Zerto’s advanced features come with a higher price tag compared to some other DRaaS solutions.

ReliaCloud

ReliaCloud by US Signal IT Solutions combines infrastructure as a service (IaaS) with disaster recovery to provide a

[5] PCMag

highly customizable DRaaS solution. The platform leverages Nutanix's hyper-converged infrastructure for enhanced performance and resilience. As a user, you can choose to manage ReliaCloud on your own or contract US Signal's managed services for a white-glove experience.

Pricing Model: ReliaCloud offers a subscription-based model. This fixed, predictable model includes bundled services like infrastructure, software and operational support, making it easier for businesses to manage budgets without worrying about variable costs or hidden fees.

Major Differentiator

ReliaCloud's major differentiator is its high level of customization and control. Unlike many public cloud DRaaS solutions, ReliaCloud allows you to fine-tune your disaster recovery plans to meet specific requirements for greater visibility and management capabilities.

Benefits

Customization and Control: ReliaCloud provides extensive configurability, allowing you to design disaster recovery plans that precisely meet your needs. This level of control is ideal if your company has specific regulatory or performance requirements.

Exceptional Support: US Signal IT Solutions offers dedicated account managers and comprehensive support services so your business receives personalized assistance and rapid response times in the event of a disaster.

High Performance: By leveraging Nutanix's hyper-converged infrastructure, ReliaCloud delivers high performance and reliability. This means your applications and data are readily available and can be recovered quickly.

Cost Predictability: With a fixed, predictable cost model, ReliaCloud helps your business manage its budgets more effectively. This is particularly beneficial for companies looking to avoid the variable costs often associated with public cloud solutions.

Considerations

Specific Business Needs: Companies heavily reliant on specific non-Nutanix infrastructures might find better compatibility and integration with other DRaaS solutions tailored to their environments.

Geographical Limitations: Currently, ReliaCloud services are limited to the United States, which may be a drawback for international companies or those with operations in multiple regions.

Complexity for Small Businesses: While ReliaCloud offers extensive customization, this complexity might be overwhelming for smaller businesses without dedicated IT staff. They may require additional support to fully leverage the platform's capabilities.

Xi Leap

Xi Leap by Nutanix is a user-friendly DRaaS solution that seamlessly integrates with Nutanix environments. However, Xi Leap will be phased out and reach its end-of-life on April 16, 2025. Businesses currently using Xi Leap will need to migrate to another DRaaS solution. US Signal's ReliaCloud is an excellent choice, as it integrates with Nutanix's hyper-converged infrastructure so users experience a frictionless transition.

Pricing Model: ReliaCloud offers a subscription-based model. This fixed, predictable model includes bundled services like infrastructure, software and operational support, making it easier for businesses to manage budgets without worrying about variable costs or hidden fees.

Major Differentiator

Like ReliaCloud, Xi Leap has tight integration with Nutanix's hyper-converged infrastructure. This integration delivers a unified management experience and streamlined disaster recovery operations.

Benefits

Seamless Integration: Xi Leap integrates effortlessly with Nutanix environments, providing a cohesive and streamlined disaster recovery process.

Ease of Use: The platform offers a simplified management interface that allows users to easily configure and manage disaster recovery plans. This reduces the complexity often associated with similar solutions and makes it accessible to a broader range of users.

Automated Failover and Failback: Xi Leap provides automated failover and failback processes for minimal downtime and rapid recovery.

Cost Predictability: Subscription-based pricing ensures your business knows exactly what you'll be paying each month, making it easier to budget and manage finances.

Considerations

End-of-Life: Xi Leap will be phased out by 2025, meaning businesses currently using or considering Xi Leap will need to plan for a transition to another DRaaS solution like ReliaCloud in the near future.

Limited Future Support: With the end-of-life announcement, future updates and support for Xi Leap will be limited. Thus, you may face challenges in receiving timely support and updates.

[6] **Nutanix DraaS TCO Calculator**

	Azure Site Recovery	Zerto	ReliaCloud	Xi Leap
Major Differentiator	Integration with Microsoft ecosystem	Continuous Data Protection (CDP	High customization and control	Integration with Nutanix
Ease of Use	✔	✔	✔	✔
Automation	✔	✔	✔	✔
Scalability	✔	✔	✔	✔
Cost Efficiency		✔	✔	✔
Exceptional Support			✔	
Compliance	✔	✔	✔	✔
High Performance	✔	✔	✔	✔
Geographical Availability	wide	wide	US-only	US, UK, Germany
Pricing Model	Pay-as-you-go	Subscription	Subscription	Subscription

Get the Disaster Recovery Support You Need with US Signal

At US Signal, we understand that each organization is different, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to disaster recovery planning. That's why we help you design a disaster recovery plan and select a DRaaS solution tailored to your specific needs, empowering you to quickly recover and get back to business if the worst happens.

Our signature ReliaCloud offering delivers a highly customizable and reliable disaster recovery solution that integrates seamlessly with Nutanix's hyper-converged infrastructure. It's the ideal choice for businesses transitioning from Xi Leap as users can easily migrate over without having to think twice about disruptions.

We also offer managed services, which include expertise and operational support for ReliaCloud, Azure Site Recovery and Zerto. With US Signal managing your disaster recovery plan, you gain more than just data security—you gain peace of mind. Let us help you design a disaster recovery plan that will protect your business and give you confidence for the future.

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