The Definitive Handbook of Business Continuity Management, 2nd Edition

Business continuity management is a continually evolving subject because of the rapid evolution of and critical dependence on IT, changes in business processes, emergence of new types of risks, and the continued and compelling need for enterprises to reduce the impact of disruptions and recover from interruptions. Business continuity management has progressed to becoming more holistic and focused on the business than on technology. The Definitive Handbook of Business Continuity Management, 2nd Edition, which features contributions from leading practitioners in the industry, is truly a handbook and is a valuable resource for anyone involved in, or looking to gain a detailed appreciation of, the rapidly emerging area of business continuity and disaster recovery within the corporate environment. The book is presented in an easy-to-follow format, explaining in detail the 10 core business continuity activities incorporated in the common body of knowledge agreed upon by the Disaster Recovery Institute International and the Business Continuity Institute. The contributors, who are from Asia, Australia, Europe, India, the Middle East and the US, provide a truly global perspective, bringing their own insights and approaches to the subject, sharing best practice from all corners of the world.

The book provides comprehensive information on business continuity practices and could be useful both as a how-to guide and as a reference book for the business library on the topic of business continuity management. The structured format, with many revealing case studies, examples and checklists, provides a clear road map, simplifying and demystifying business continuity processes for those new to its disciplines and providing a benchmark of current best practice for more experienced practitioners. These features make the book useful to business continuity managers, IT professionals, IT security and control professionals, and anyone interested in the field of business continuity management. This book makes a significant contribution to the knowledge base of business continuity and risk management.

The book has two main sections, 26 chapters and four appendices.

Section one of the book provides an executive overview of achieving and maintaining business continuity and has chapters on key concepts such as what is being planned, what a business continuity planning strategy is, a crisis management perspective of business continuity, multilateral continuity planning, marketing protection as a justification for funding of total asset protection programs, operational risk management, and business strategy and business continuity planning.

Section two of the book is a how-to guide on planning for business continuity.

The book has an inherent limitation in terms of lack of continuity resulting from contributions by different authors. An introductory chapter on business continuity management would have made the book useful to a novice reader. Sample templates are provided in some of the chapters, but the book could be even more useful if templates and practical examples had been provided for all the chapters, as relevant. Further, the chapter on business continuity audit could have been more comprehensive and focused.

EDITOR’S NOTE
The Definitive Handbook of Business Continuity Management, 2nd Edition, is available from the ISACA Bookstore. For information, see the ISACA Bookstore Supplement in this Journal, visit www.isaca.org/bookstore, e-mail bookstore@isaca.org or telephone +1.847.660.5650.