THE IBM SPECTRUM PROTECT CHECKLIST

SPECTRUM PROTECT HEALTH CHECK SERVICE

Just minutes of downtime can significantly impact your business. Having a reliable backup and recovery strategy is essential to keeping your business up and running.

An outage can deliver a damaging blow to your company's finances and reputation and the risks of this are increasing when you consider the high likelihood of downtime caused by ransomware attacks.

As an IBM Spectrum Protect user, you know that you have one of the best solutions on the market for enterprise data protection but you also know that you need to keep everything running efficiently if you are to meet your RTO and RPO targets.

But, with such a complex solution, how can you assess whether you're doing everything you can to ensure success?

That's where this checklist comes in. It covers 10 of the key areas we examine when our experts run a Spectrum Protect (TSM) health check for our clients.

It highlights the main criteria businesses should use to evaluate whether they are getting everything they should from IBM Spectrum Protect - and whether their solution is adequately protecting their data.

While the checklist offers a good place to start in assessing the health of your IBM Spectrum Protect solution, there's a lot more CSI can help you with.

Why not consider our comprehensive health check service? It will ensure your data is protected and that your business is ready to face the future.

Every healthcheck is carried out by our team of dedicated IBM Spectrum Protect (TSM) experts and will deliver concrete, actionable recommendations within just 7 days.

Get in touch to find out more.

Platinum
Business
Partner

IBM

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Are you backing up everything you should?

While this sounds basic, a surprising number of companies are regularly missing key data in their backups. Others assume that everything is being backed up successfully only to find out that key data is failing on a regular basis. So yes, it's basic but it's also the first thing to check, from the physical host, virtual machine right down to individual drive paths and mount points.

2. Are you able to restore data successfully and fast enough?

Backing up data is little use if you cannot restore it when you need to. Again, it's important to not simply assume that this will happen effectively. For real peace of mind, you should regularly run tests to restore at least a random portion of your data and that Recovery Time Objectives can be met.

3. Are your back ups running efficiently?

Every business must be able to back up its data on time. And with the exponential growth in data volumes, these back-up windows are becoming ever tighter. So, you need to ensure your housekeeping is as efficient as possible to be confident of meeting your Backup Time Objectives.

4. Is all data being copied offsite?

Even perfectly backed up data will fail to protect your business if it remains in the same location as your primary data. This is true even if it is placed in a protected environment such as a fireproof safe. What if, for example, you cannot access your building due to a disaster scenario (either within your building itself or in the local area)?

5. Do you have room to grow?

It is extremely unlikely that you are dealing with less data than you did 10 years, 5 years or even a few months ago. In fact, you are almost certainly seeing the direct opposite. So, before you run afoul of capacity issues, you should be checking that you can deal both with expected long-term data growth and with sudden spikes in volume.

6. Are you clear on what to retain and for how long?

Not all data needs to be retained forever. However, to meet ever more stringent compliance requirements, you need to know exactly what data you're keeping and how long you need to keep it. Clearly documenting these requirements will help ensure you a) retain the right data and b) are able to delete redundant data to free up time and space.

7. Is your software compatible and firmware up to date?

To protect your business, Spectrum Protect needs to be able to interoperate with everything that must be backed up. So, make sure you check just how compatible your Spectrum Protect version is with the other software your business now relies upon. Furthermore, vendors regularly update hardware firmware and drivers. This may be to deliver simple bug fixes or to support different operating systems or, most importantly, to address potential security vulnerabilities. So, it pays to ensure that your hardware is also fully up to date.

8. Are you making the most of latest technology and utilising the cloud?

The Software-Defined Storage nature of Spectrum Protect allows IBM to dynamically introduce new features into the suite. The last decade has seen a widespread adoption of disk for backup data, using deduplication and compression to optimise physical capacity and network utilisation, with encryption to assure security. We will also identify areas where cloud addresses requirements for long term retention, offsite disaster recovery, making use of native functionality within Spectrum Protect. Increasing requirements to protect modern workloads such as Office365 and VMs in the public cloud also bring the new Spectrum Protect Plus software into the discussion.

9. How are you protected from cyber attacks?

The design of your Spectrum Protect deployment can influence how effective your response to a ransomware attack could be. We will review opportunities to "harden" the backup environment and ensure that your last line of defence is itself protected, and ready to recover any data which may be corrupted in a cyber-attack. Recommendations will consider software and hardware deployment strategies, and also identify features within Spectrum Protect which can identify a threat before it spreads.

10. Are you licensing Spectrum Protect efficiently?

Speak to many IT professionals about licensing and they will sigh and roll their eyes. However, with Spectrum Protect, there are a variety of ways you can license the solution based on your current environment and the tasks you are carrying out. Reassessing your licensing and getting it right can save you a significant amount of money.

ACCELERATE ENTERPRISE PERFORMANCE

Working with some of the world's most dynamic businesses, CSI delivers enterprise Cloud, Data and Cyber Security solutions and services.

We manage complex workloads, draw value from data, and we are the first and last line of defence against digital threats.

By taking a technology-neutral, outcomes-biased approach, we help organisations to grow, save, innovate and protect, fearlessly.

Our goal is to liberate talent and unlock capital, enabling our clients to gain a competitive edge, not just for today or tomorrow, but forever.

GROW

SAVE

INNOVATE

PROTECT

CSI UK Head Office
CSI House
2940 Trident Court
Birmingham Business Park
Solihull Parkway
Birmingham B37 7YN

CSI North America
379 West Broadway
New York
NY 10012

T +44 (0)800 1088 301
E INFO@YOURPERPETUALEDGE.COM
W YOURPERPETUALEDGE.COM