Your North Star for Resilience

Take a Different Approach – Move From Reactive to Proactive

Fusion provides easy, visual, and interactive ways to analyse every aspect of your business so you can identify single points of failure, key risks, and the exact actions you need to take next to mitigate impact.

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“Our team is able to visualise complex relationships and dependencies between lines of business in our organisation. This alone is worth its weight in gold!”

– Fusion User in the Financial Services Industry
Certainty in business has always been scarce, and this has never been truer than it is today. Having endured the immense challenges brought about by the global pandemic, very few foresaw the recovery from the fiscal and societal shocks to be interrupted by the ongoing Russian attacks on Ukraine.

Against such a backdrop of shifting sands, which changes to the risk landscape have had the greatest impact over recent years on the importance and implementation of business continuity software? James Boddam-Whetham, chief executive officer of crisis management and business continuity software provider Noggin, says without hesitation that Covid-19 had the same impact on business continuity management software implementations as previous disruptions, such as the September 11 terrorist attacks and the global financial crisis, had on risk and crisis planning.

“Senior leaders have finally woken up to the importance of business continuity resources to protecting the bottom line against unplanned events,” he explains.

Paula Fontana, vice-president of product marketing at Fusion Risk Management, concurs, adding that disruption itself has become the norm.

“Real-world operations are everything but static, anything but linear, and continuously disrupted. More than ever before, the ability to deliver important services and products has become a sought-after differentiator for every industry,” she says, explaining the three core challenges businesses now face. Firstly, disruption has become ‘business as usual,’ with disruptive events happening with more frequency, severity, and over a longer period of time. There is also sprawling organisational complexity, including such factors as digital business, remote working, dependency on third parties, and new and fast-moving risks, such as cyber and climate, that are all impacting organisations in new ways.

And, crucially, there is the emergence of resilience as a competitive differentiator. “In a world where disruption is the norm, continuity of services and products has a significant impact on your ability to maintain customer trust,” Fontana adds.

The trend has been for organisations to shift their critical processes and applications to third parties, with software increasingly in the cloud and delivered as a service while other vendors are doing work that was formerly carried out in-house.

“Having an accurate ‘real time’ picture is worth a thousand words”

As Frank Shultz, CEO at Infinite Blue, puts it: “Where an organisation once could keep an eye on operations because they were internal – such as when a company’s datacentre was on its premises – now somebody else is doing that work. When those tasks are outsourced, companies need to make sure their vendor applies the same duty of care as the company did when the datacentre was down the hall and the person who ran it was right there.”

From his point of view, climate change is another significant factor. “The data shows that weather impacts are more frequent and far more expensive. In the US, large-scale weather impacts costing a billion dollars or more are increasing significantly. As a case in point, look at the recent floods in Kentucky. They’ve been called a thousand-year flood, but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has warned that Appalachia is going to see increasing amounts of rainfall. Planning solely based on past weather is no longer going to suffice.”

So what role is business continuity software playing in a dynamic...
important business services and learning and pre-emptive action-taking. or opportunity, driving continuous incidents, or, in some cases, efficiency indicative of increased risk, escalating external operating environment that are correlations in their internal and machine learning to sense change beginning to use artificial intelligence the fly using simple questions. “The most advanced teams are leveraging integration to triangulate enterprise data, situational awareness and operating context to inform connected and dynamic service and product chain maps, visual data navigators, and Google-like discovery tools that allow end users and executives to interrogate firm data on the fly using simple questions.”

The most advanced teams are beginning to use artificial intelligence and machine learning to sense change correlations in their internal and external operating environment that are indicative of increased risk, escalating incidents, or, in some cases, efficiency or opportunity, driving continuous learning and pre-emptive action-taking. Fontana says it is vital to prioritise important business services and products when determining where to focus resilience efforts.

“Risk and resilience teams have long been inward-looking by necessity. Understanding how their firm works, how their firm breaks down, and how to put things back together when things don’t go as expected has allowed these teams to mine and map important operating context. But in too many cases, this valuable insight about a firm’s value chain goes unknown and underleveraged. Risk and resilience teams have long been siloed from their ultimate stakeholder – the end customer.”

“The companies that are most successful at being resilient treat the process more like a gauge, recognising that they’re somewhere between 0 and 100, and continuing to figure ways to come closer to being 100% resilient.”

She advises that by starting with a deep understanding of the customer and the role that goods and services have on a thriving customer and marketplace, firms will be in a stronger position to defend and advance their core strategies as an institution. As escalating risk and disruption newly threaten both strategy and operations, the front- and back-office functions of the organisation at large need to work together to overcome a continuous series of extreme, complex and layered events.

Resilience in focus

In order for organisations to achieve the best possible results, Schultz believes an important distinction has to be made around resilience and compliance, and that the former should be the key goal. “What I have seen is that more and more companies invest in resilience. More organisations have people with ‘resilience’ in their title. Those companies have a greater holistic focus on keeping the business running. They’re making sure their products and services are where they need to be. They’re making sure their customers are happy,” he adds. “And to be resilient like that, those companies are always running simulations and testing solutions. They’re asking whether they’re doing everything they need to do. They are not treating it as a binary thing, like flipping a light switch. “The companies that are most successful at being resilient treat the process more like a gauge, recognising that they’re somewhere between 0 and 100, and continuing to figure ways to come closer to being 100% resilient. That’s the best practice to follow.”

Noggin’s Boddam-Whetham hopes that business continuity management will evolve as resilience becomes the watch-word for organisations striving to stay ahead of surprises and remain prepared. “The market is likely to continue to shift towards innovators that offer customers a full suite of continuity tools to maximise preparedness and resilience – from continuity planning to impact assessment, to exercises and crisis management. The market, we believe, will continue to absorb innovations such as user-friendly interfaces and no-code customisation, which help customers easily customise their solutions to fit requirements and deploy quickly.

“Organisations will be rewarded for using business continuity management solutions that scale up to address major events but also scale down for business as usual. It’s only solutions that have daily application that will be fit for purpose when major disruptions come around, as their users will have learned to use them intuitively.”
It seems that, with each passing week, a new crisis is dominating the news cycle. Since the start of the global pandemic, we’ve seen global political instability, war, an increase in cyber and ransomware attacks, supply chain disruptions – including shortages of critical commodities like food and baby formula, increasingly frequent and severe climate incidents, inflation, recession… the list goes on. We barely have time to respond to the crisis in our proverbial frying pan before we are running straight into the fire to deal with the next.

This theme was echoed in a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum’s recent Davos Summit. As IMF managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, put it: “The overlaying of crisis upon crisis has taught us one thing: think of the unthinkable”.

That unthinkable (at least in our current paradigm) is how resilience professionals can leverage their own ‘North Star’ to anticipate, prevent, plan, respond and learn about the impact of compound crises on their business operations.

**Compound crises and resilience**

A compound crisis describes a situation where a second or even third crisis occurs – either simultaneously with a first crisis, or before the impact of the first crisis has been completely resolved.

This describes what has happened in the world over the past few years. We’ve not had time to catch our breath before we’ve had to respond to the next big thing – and it’s a core driver leading most organisations down the path of building resilience programmes.

When the global pandemic struck, it forced many businesses out of their comfort zone. Suddenly, employers that valued face-to-face interactions were forced to allow their personnel to work from home to keep their businesses running. And while the new working model was bedding in, the number and severity of cyber and ransomware attacks spiked.

According to SonicWall’s 2022 Cyber Threat Report, the total number of ransomware attack attempts in June 2021 (78.4 million) was higher than three out of four quarters in the prior year. Information technology security professionals and risk departments had to contend with the security risks that this new remote working model held… and risk professionals had to adjust how they managed internal risk and control frameworks.

The pandemic triggered stay-at-home orders that caused changes in sourcing of many of the raw materials that are part of the goods that many of us use daily without realising it. There have been many issues related to transport – from borders being closed to staffing shortages to ships like the Evergreen running aground, prompting supply shortages… and risk professionals had to adjust how they managed their supply chain models.

Just when the pandemic seemed to be slowing, global geopolitical tensions escalated. Russia invaded Ukraine and world leaders responded with unprecedented sanctions to cripple the war machine. Many of us also had to make tough decisions on whether to continue business operations within the impacted region. For companies
professionals had to adjust their business operations... and risk professionals had to adjust their thinking around crisis being a singular event.

Meanwhile, climate-related incidents continue to rise. In the US, in 2021, there were 20 separate billion-dollar climate-related disasters. They were diverse, and it seemed no state in the country was spared. This is also consistent with the climate emergency that we are experiencing globally... and risk professionals have had to adjust their impact on our scarcest resource: the planet.

Finally, regulatory scrutiny around business resilience is emerging in an increasing number of sectors, further driving the resilience message.

Operational resilience is not new, but too often, the team’s views on the investments, policies and programmes that are needed to keep businesses operating in the face of disruption are not heard until after an incident.

Resilience professionals are now adjusting their plans to account for compound crises and are working to understand how their existing continuity plans face up to multiple crises, and approach that may no longer be fit for purpose.

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**Leverage your North Star to anticipate, prevent, plan and respond to compound crises**

**Assess your risk** – Undertake an initial evaluation of your organisation’s potential exposure to the multiple crises that we are experiencing today. Each organisation is different, so it’s important to work closely with your risk management lead and your leadership team to understand the frequency and severity of potential disruptions from external factors that may be beyond your control.

**Identify potential disasters and activate contingency plans sooner** – While there is no such thing as a crystal ball, better technology and data have enabled us to predict foreseeable events like hurricanes. For non-foreseeable events, have a plan in place to be as prepared as possible ahead of time.

**Establish a business continuity plan to help you prepare for the disruption of essential services** – Anticipate and prepare for extended downtimes and longer waits for the restoration of services with multiple crises in the background. Re-evaluate your existing sites and vendors to decide if they have the right contingencies in place to meet your standards of recovery as well.

**Horizon scanning** – Register for notifications from reliable sources and consider investing in technology that can help you check events on the horizon and automate notifications. While this can’t help you predict when something happens, it will enable you to activate your plans as soon as an issue arises.

**Consider supply chain disruptions** – Supply chains and transportation options have already been disrupted because of the global pandemic and war in Ukraine. An additional natural or geopolitical disaster will add another dimension that requires reassessment of essential processes, functions and materials. Use your original disaster plans and business continuity plans as a springboard to find potential solutions to the new challenges.

**Map your dependencies** – As your business continues to grow, so do the complexities of the business relationships that you need to manage. It’s important to have a grasp on each of your critical products/services and what is required to make them run, but more importantly understand what happens if one of those requirements becomes unavailable.

**Exercise your plans** – Exercising your plans is an integral part of any resiliency programme. You have the plans in place, but do all impacted teams know how to use them should the time come? From a basic plan walkthrough to tabletop exercises and even full simulations, testing your plans ensures you have the right process, procedures and controls in place to continue through any disruption. Take it to the next level by simulating the impact of a disruption on your business by scenario testing.

**Continue to evolve your programme** – Recognise that as the world around you changes, your programme will continue to change with it. Establish best practises and timings to conduct an annual review of your risk assessment. Embed lesson learned sessions into your incident response plans. Always keep a pulse on evolving regulatory expectations and the needs of your customers.
The Fusion Framework System, this provider’s flagship platform, is a management software that focuses on operational resilience – encompassing business continuity, incident management, risk management and third-party risk management.

The structure of this tool eliminates the need for separate modules across continuity and risk management, allowing users to operate integrated programmes based on common foundations so that organisations can continue to deliver on their promises through any disruption.

The Fusion Framework System’s integrated capabilities paired with intuitive functionality helps users build and execute risk and impact assessments, conduct exercises to evaluate organisational preparedness and response, set and maintain impact tolerances, visualise upstream and downstream dependencies and understand how to deliver products and services more efficiently.

A governance and management component offers configurable reference data taxonomies, libraries and scoring methodologies; customisable workflows, approvals and notifications to automate administrative tasks. A predictive risk analytics component features tolerance-based metrics and configurable thresholds that drive automated notifications, alerts, reports and feed into dashboards. Complex data interrogation is available with the capability to organise and analyse large data sets and to generate holistic aggregated results and risk profiles.

The Fusion Framework System’s latest capabilities include the Dynamic Response Console and the Intelligent Incident Manager. The Dynamic Response Console builds on existing capabilities to drive data-driven response that can be tailored to any business issue. The new functionality leverages dynamic response strategies instead of static plans to quickly react in line with a situation when a disruption occurs.

Fusion’s Intelligent Incident Manager leverages insights from scenarios and live response outcomes to inform greater agility in times of crisis. This functionality provides one central location to resolve critical incidents faster. With friction-free activation, organisations can focus on the precision of response; forecast incident resolution time; and provide real-time updates to customers, partners and internal teams.

Especially considering the disruptive events of the past 2.5 years, those who utilise the Fusion Framework System have implemented a mindset of anticipation and preparation over just reaction. Users can run through thousands of simulations and potential events to uncover potential weak spots and vulnerabilities instead of creating static plans. Essentially, they can address any problems before they even occur. This is one of the many reasons that Fusion’s customers were able to more easily address and navigate the challenges that were presented by the pandemic. The system helps companies better anticipate, prevent, prepare, simulate, respond and learn with the risks and events that continue to threaten disruption of important services and products.

This product also includes pre-built integrations that allow for bi-directional integration of modules and data sources for emergency notification systems, situational intelligence, configuration management databases and more. Within the past year, Fusion has joined the MuleSoft Technology Partner Program. This integration allows users to quickly connect with the systems and applications risk and resilience teams use every day.

The way that Fusion works with organisations is simple: the Fusion Framework System helps organisations navigate fast-moving change by mapping how companies deliver important services and products to customers, forecasting how those value chains are at risk of breaking and helping companies manage the risks and events that cause disruption. The company and its platform have been helping organisations on their resilience journey for more than 15 years and will continue to pave the way to a more resilient world.

Get started on your resilience journey today with Fusion. Visit fusionrm.com
**ALIVE-IT CONTROLLIT AG**

Alive-IT helps users automate the business continuity management and ITSCM lifecycle. Controll-IT's software supports the business continuity manager in their work from the analysis to the creation of business continuity plans.

Alive-IT was designed and developed internally, and has been successfully used in many industries since 2000.

Since then, Alive-IT has been continuously developed. This vendor works closely with its customers, to provide users with a modern tool.

[controll-it.de](http://controll-it.de)

**AGILITY PLANNER AGILITY RECOVERY**

Agility Planner helps users develop, execute and share business continuity plans from one central location.

With this tool, an embedded consultant guides users through the business continuity plan creation process with templates for risk assessments and business impact analyses.

Agility Planner is designed to allow users to reference plans easily, access historical data and centralise document storage to maintain incident records and manage business continuity documents any time, anywhere.

This provider promises easy to create business continuity plans that are pre-populated with necessary data and processes from a tech with over 30 years of business continuity expertise.

With this tool, users can monitor and measure performance and metrics in real time and easily create an executive summary of the process to share with company stakeholders.

Agility Recovery naturally promises seamless integration of this tool with its own Agility Alerts and Incident Manager tools.

[agilityrecovery.com](http://agilityrecovery.com)

**INONI ESSENTIALS INONI**

Inoni Essentials is a business continuity and resilience management solution for small to mid-size organisations that require a best practice and standards-aligned management system.

The service provides a simple to implement and maintain programme, minimising the need for in-house administration, expertise and resources.

Essentials is a cloud-hosted software service that includes full consulting implementation, getting users to a best practice position quickly, and with minimum disruption. It aims to deliver practical, standards-aligned business continuity plans, addressing all business continuity-threatening scenarios for all in-scope departments and sites.

Inoni’s standard delivery model provides easily accessible documents that download to PDF and Word or can be viewed from a user’s mobile phone; as well as dependency mapping functionality, user-configurable dashboards and a card system providing focused scenario and role responses.

Inoni’s consultants will support users with the implementation through software set-up, discovery workshops, production and delivery of standards-aligned documents, system walkthrough and business continuity manager support. An advanced delivery model extends Essentials’ mapping and reporting functions to provide operational resilience and supply chain continuity capability.

[inoni.co.uk](http://inoni.co.uk)

**NOGGIN FOR BUSINESS CONTINUITY NOGGIN**

Noggin Continuity has been designed to help users digitise and streamline their business continuity processes, making it easier for stakeholders across an entire organisation to engage and contribute.

Based on ISO 22301, Noggin Continuity offers a full suite of tools to maximise preparedness and resilience – from continuity planning to impact assessment, exercises and crisis management, critical dependencies, supply chain risks and critical infrastructure. BIAs and risk assessments can also be conducted with this tool.

With simple, visual dashboards, users can conduct assessment, planning and business recovery processes.

Monitoring dashboards display key information where and when needed using customisable analytics and reporting.

Business continuity processes can be streamlined using a workflow engine that allows users to automate task allocation, notifications, business rules...
and approvals. The Noggin Library provides pre-configured templates, forms, dashboards, checklists and reports, which users can tailor according to usage context.

The provider’s no-code platform allows users to make the system their own, with the ability to create custom workflows, notifications, dashboards, forms and assets according to their unique business needs.

Noggin Continuity also offers various integrations, making it easy to connect and synchronise data between other systems.

Import, export and API capabilities enable users to access to data where they need it; and can also plug in their own systems, such as single-sign on, messaging and mapping.

noggin.io

PARASOLUTION  
PREMIER CONTINUUM

Premier Continuum’s ParaSolution has been automating business continuity management for two decades, helping firms organise information efficiently, manage and update plans; and communicate in a crisis.

The web-based business continuity software addresses the entire business continuity management lifecycle, offering intuitive pathways for users, and promoting all contributors’ engagement in the business continuity management process.

Modules include business continuity, IT disaster recovery, risk management, vendor risk management, emergency plan management and standards conformity (ISO 22301 and 27001) and governance. It also includes BIA, risk assessment, plan development and activation, exercises, as well as crisis and incident management.

Bidirectional data connectivity connects the tool to multiple data sources throughout the client’s organisation and makes ParaSolution-processed data available in that organisation’s data analytics and reporting tools.

Easy to capture forms, roll ups and dashboards provide current state of readiness and requirements; while contact information and gap reports support informed decision-making.

A notification component allows users to reach internal and external stakeholders via voice, SMS and email.

ParaSolution is in use in large and small organisations across financial services, energy, healthcare, manufacturing, technology and the public sector – globally.

This software provider gives users the assurance that this tool will keep them fully up to speed with the latest in best practice.

Built by business continuity and resilience professionals that have managed numerous programmes, the software is developed continuously by an in-house team and is used by consultants and trainers globally.

Premier Continuum’s tool is available online and through a mobile app.

premiercontinuum.com

PDRWEB  
SERVICES CONSEILS RDI

PDRWEB can be tailored to suit a range of users, from SMEs to large multinational organisations. It features a dashboard showing the status of different plans, BIA progress, plan maintenance and status, message centre, logged in users and completed activities.

This tool has a web-based customised survey form, which, once completed,
will automatically establish recovery time objectives using customised weight factors and activity dependencies. Reports are then generated by site departments.

Upon review and acceptance of all reports, PDRWEB automatically creates different business continuity and disaster recovery plans.

During the creation of plans, the product links the different activities using prerequisites and a decision tree.

The software also links the required resources to activities. It can also link multiple plans and produce dependency mapping.

Users can also opt to receive automated alerts that notify them of their respective activities, providing all the information required for the execution of the task, including resources, contact information and diagrams.

PDRWEB uses advanced AI-generated encryption methodology. Services Conseils also offers an integrated notification module.

rdiinc.ca

RECOVERYPLANNER
AGILITY RECOVERY

RecoveryPlanner’s fully integrated cloud-based software offers flexible functionality to support a comprehensive business continuity management programme.

Used by organisations in all industries and sizes, this tool has a broad, customisable functionality for experienced and novice practitioners alike.

Within RecoveryPlanner, users can deploy the customisable BIA tool to make data collection easier, guide stakeholders through the process, prioritise business processes, understand interdependencies and establish recovery strategies and controls.

Users can also produce, track and report on risk assessments for availability, IT and third parties.

Users can deploy the plan templates provided, or create custom templates and develop and maintain any type and number of plans with schedules, reminders, alerts and to-do automation.

This tool also allows users to perform vendor contingency planning and management by conducting third party risk assessments and easily including them in BIAs and plans.

This vendor promises that activation, management and participation will be easier with its tool via the automatic creation of and easy access to actionable plans, analytics and audit trails.

Finally, users of this tool will be able to align processes with industry, regulatory and organisational standards using default or customisable reports, business continuity management metrics, analysis, dashboards and business continuity management compliance mapping.

agilityrecovery.com

RISKONNECT BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND RESILIENCE RISKONNECT

Riskonnect Business Continuity and Resilience (formerly the Castellan SaaS platform) uses SaaS-based automation and intelligence to solve operational resilience, business continuity, crisis management and emergency notification challenges in one central place.

Key features include a business model definition tool, through which users can create a consolidated data model, from supplier to customer, that enables preparedness and a timely response to disruptions; automation and integration; and secure access via a cloud-based architecture.

An operational resilience module helps users identify their most critical products/services and impact tolerance while linking to the end-to-end value chain. BIA and risk assessment tools help users establish business continuity requirements, document dependencies and highlight vulnerabilities.

Users can also establish strategies to achieve continuity and resilience and decrease disruptions; and document response and recovery plans to limit downtime.

This tool supports users in their exercise efforts, allowing them to improve response to disruption. Dashboards summarise key performance and risk indicators with meaningful scorecards.

Misalignments between business continuity requirements and capabilities, missing capabilities and corresponding impacts can be measured with a gap analysis tool.
In compliance, the tool helps users understand where capabilities and controls fall short of policies, SLAs, regulatory requirements and standards.

Users can collaborate and coordinate effective response to disruption with situation reporting, plan activation and visual representations of the response.

And for crisis management, users can quickly turn plans into actionable checklists, and mobilise response teams.

A mobile app connects users to their business continuity programme, critical plans and documents, even when off-network.

Finally, an emergency notification tool allows users to communicate with employees, contractors and partners in real-time via phone, email and SMS.

This tool is available in a wide range of languages and supported by customer service teams 24/7/365, globally.

**SENTINEL YUDU**

Sentinel software was designed to make it easy to share business continuity plans that are always up-to-date, accessible on any device and available offline.

Distribution groups and access controls help ensure the right people receive and access the right documents, while communications tools allow business continuity teams and key stakeholders to collaborate and keep operations running during critical events.

Key features include document distribution software, identity access controls, mass notification tools, secure live chat software, mobile app access and document push functionality. Sentinel is hosted on an independent cloud-based platform.

**SHADOW-PLANNER DAISY**

Deployed by SMEs and enterprise customers alike, Shadow Planner is a SaaS-delivered modular based business continuity and operational resilience management tool designed to make easy work of managing business continuity and operational resilience programmes of any size.

Its BIA module features a powerful dependency mapping tool giving real time gap analysis, whilst the business continuity planning module allows users to create step by step playbooks for any given scenario using a simple ‘when’, ‘what’, ‘who’ and ‘how’ approach.

The testing and exercising module make it easy to schedule and report on tests and track actions and issues, including from live incidents.

If an incident was to occur, then Shadow Planner’s own mass communication module allows business continuity and crisis managers to send out emergency communications via two-way email and SMS using either pre-defined messages or those created at the time of an incident. In addition, a mobile app puts critical information such as playbooks and contact information in the hands of those that need it.

Shadow Planner continues its redevelopment, with new modules and functionality in the pipeline.
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Plan navigator

Dependency mapping

Graphical call list

Location resource manager

Recovery site layout planning

Reports - preformatted

Reports - own build

Process modelling capabilities

Technology modelling

‘What if’ analysis

Data collector

Automatic analysis

Simulation capability

Dynamic updating from database

Education and training

Test and exercise

Test scripting

Dynamic incident management

Dynamic question setting/reviews

RTO/RPO desired/actual analysis

Standards compliance

Integrates with GIS mapping

Workflow management with email alerts and reporting

Multi-language capability - interface

Multi-language capability - user data

User roles and groups

Document update management

Comprehensive audit trails

Mobile device support

Templates available

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