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The Evolution of Business Continuity

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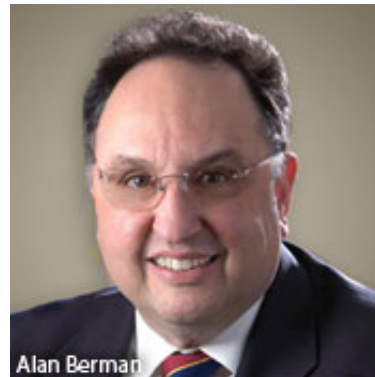
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For individuals looking to hone their skills in business continuity/disaster recovery, it's important to note: Organizations want specialists who can hit the ground running, says Alan Berman of DRI International.

"My advice is to get a good, strong education with some specialization in business continuity," Berman says in an **interview** with Information Security Media Group's Tom Field [transcript below].



Alan Berman

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Businesses are demanding more education, and there's higher demand for professionals to attend more seminars and readjust their focus to no longer being corporate-centric. Instead of just the organization, "does it work throughout the supply chain?" Berman asks.

According to Berman, **certifications** and credentialing are becoming the new degrees. DRI International has been spending time with organizations looking to understand what they need. "For those people starting out that want to get into this, my recommendation is not only do you get a degree from an institution of higher learning, but you get a credential that will be recognized in the field."

In an exclusive interview about business continuity and disaster recovery, Berman discusses:

- The state of BC/DR globally as we enter 2012;
- The weaknesses inherent in current BC/DR plans;
- How BC/DR pros must evolve to be more effective in the face of new disasters.

Berman is a CBCP, a NFPA committee member, a member of the ASIS BCP technical committee, a member of the Committee of Experts for ANSI-ANAB, a former member of the NY City Partnership for Security and Risk Management, Executive Director for Disaster Recovery Institute (DRI) and the co-chair for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation committee to create the new standard for the US Private Sector Preparedness Act (PS-Prep). Over a career that has spanned 25 years, he has served as a President and CIO for a major financial institution, National Practice Leader for Operational Resiliency for PricewaterhouseCoopers and Global Business Continuity practice leader for Marsh.

## **2011 Disasters: Lessons Learned**

**TOM FIELD:** The last time we spoke was after Japan suffered its natural disaster. Since then, we've seen east coast hurricanes, early snow storms, as well as a variety of data breaches. Given all of these disasters, what would you say we have learned from 2011's incidents?

**ALAN BERMAN:** I went to Japan about three months after March 11, 2011 and spent some time talking to the Japanese. What was seen around the world was this huge impact on our supply chain, the inability of companies to be able to deliver products because of things that happened around the world. Japan, Indonesia, Brazil - all of these have had dramatic effects on the ability to deliver product and services to customers, and considering the economic climate has had even more of an effect. The big challenge we're looking at, and what I hear from corporate customers around the world, is to try and shore up that supply chain.

## **State of Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery**

**FIELD:** Given that, what would you say is the state of business continuity and disaster recovery globally as we head into the New Year, given your concerns about supply chain?

**BERMAN:** It varies country to country, the U.S. being one of the more prepared countries, simply because of the over-abundance of regulations that almost govern every industry we're in. We see great preparedness not only on the disaster-recovery side but also on the business-continuity side, the ability of businesses to deliver product and services under duress. We're starting to see that in other parts of the world. I just took part in a regulatory-and-standards development for the United Arab Emirates who have come up with what's a very strong standard. We're starting to see the spread of governments creating standards and regulations that companies have to live up to. If that continues, we'll have the force of regulation to help build a more

prepared global economy.

**FIELD:** You mentioned supply chain. What do you see as the biggest areas in disaster recovery that really do need attention?

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