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[Disaster Planning section](#) from the November 2006 issue.]

Just as professional tax and accounting firms have increased their investments toward protecting their vital client data and preparing their practices for disasters, so too have the software companies and other vendors who serve the accounting and tax professions. As an example, [Drake Software](#), which produces the Drake Tax Software line, has recently created a new data center to strengthen the company's IT capabilities. Here is a rundown of what Drake has done:

- The company monitors 161 devices in the Network Control Center (NCC)
- Maintains more than 100 Dell PowerEdge servers with:
 - dual CPUs
 - dual power supplies (each power supply is attached to a different 120 volt circuit)
 - the operating systems are on mirrored hard drives and data is stored on multiple hard drives configured in a RAID 5 setup
- Drake has 24 other systems providing specialized services and Electronic Filing applications
- Many of these systems are either load balanced or running 2003 Cluster Server for redundancy and immediate fail over
- Hard drives of every critical server are imaged each night for quick recovery from hardware or Operating System failure.
- They mirror the EF servers to a remote facility
- They are in the process of bringing up a new DATA Center with 30 new systems for EF control. This will be a Hot Site for EF.

For Backup and file storage, Drake has:

- 3 Dell Power Vaults with 2 Terabytes of storage each

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(65KVA) with automated backup Generator Power for always on power.

- All Drake-owned facilities are networked together with fiber optic cables.
- Connectivity to the internet is a T3 line, with a bandwidth of 45mb a second.
- They also have an additional T3 line (shadow circuit) with an immediate failover if primary circuit is cut or fails.

(Info provided by Bob Hubbs, Drake's VP of Information Systems)

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