CYBER RECOVERY PLANS WEREN'T DESIGNED FOR THIS MOMENT

The world changed. Recovery plans haven't.

Global research from 3,200 IT and security decision-makers reveals what happens when plans built on long-standing assumptions collide with increasingly complex environments and the growing influence of AI.

WHERE RECOVERY PLANS FALL SHORT

Most recovery plans assume recovery will unfold in a predictable way. Organizations that experienced a material cyberattack in the past 12 months often found otherwise.



70% saw the scope of affected systems expand **beyond initial assessment**

61% on average, **identified moderate or significant gaps** in how plans accounted for dependencies

59% **experienced delays** because restored systems or data **weren't clean or safe** to use

84% said **differences between IT and security operations** teams can delay recovery decisions

88% agreed recovery plans are likely to **require workarounds or improvisation**

76% exceeded recovery time objectives with **recovery taking nearly 2x longer** than planned

WHAT MOST RECOVERY PLANS PRIORITIZE

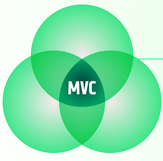
Organizations often make tradeoffs between recovery speed, system restoration, and business continuity.

72% **prioritize speed of recovery,** even over certainty that restored systems are clean and safe

78% **say their recovery plans focus more on restoring IT systems** than maintaining critical operations and serving customers

FEW DEFINE WHAT MATTERS MOST BEFORE AN ATTACK

A Minimum Viable Company (MVC) helps organizations prioritize and narrow the scope of recovery to minimize business disruption.

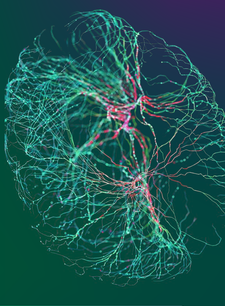


ONLY 22% have a formally documented and tested MVC

64% of those organizations say their MVC directly determined what was restored first during a material cyberattack

AI IS BECOMING OPERATIONAL BEFORE IT BECOMES RECOVERABLE

As AI adoption accelerates, recovery planning is struggling to keep pace.



99% **use AI systems,** applications, workflows, or machine learning models

39% say their recovery plans comprehensively **account for attacks targeting AI infrastructure**

58% **aren't very confident** in their ability to verify integrity of AI models and associated data post attack

56% **aren't well prepared** to detect, contain, and recover from unintended or incorrect actions taken by AI agents, copilots, or AI workflows

CURRENT PLANS AREN'T BUILT FOR WHAT'S COMING

Organizations expect frontier AI to place even greater pressure on today's recovery assumptions.

83% **83% believe their existing recovery plans would require moderate to significant changes** if frontier AI advances capabilities such as vulnerability discovery, exploit development, and multi-step intrusions

3% **Only 3% view their current recovery plans as equipped** for those conditions

Prepare for this moment. Plan for the next.

- Get more insights from the 2026 Cohesity Global Cyber Resilience Report
- Download the Cohesity 5 Steps of Cyber Resilience© eBook
- Explore Cohesity's cyber resilience solutions

METHODOLOGY

Cohesity commissioned Vanson Bourne to survey 3,200 IT and security decision-makers across 12 countries in July 2026. Respondents represented organizations with 1,000 or more employees. For the purposes of this research, a material cyberattack was defined as having a measurable financial, reputation, operational and/or customer churn impact on their organization.

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