

CASE STUDY SPECIAL ISSUE

Our Case Study issue marks the debut of a series of semi-annual Special Issues. Our editorial theme centers on "Lessons Learned" — valuable knowledge gained and transferred to our readers on preparing for and responding to a variety of terrorist and natural incidents.

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Fall 2007, Government Technology Reader Survey

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The Escape Plan
 Jacksonville Beach, Fla., implements cutting-edge server evacuation solution.

Blade Collection
 Moving to blade servers will further enable the city to rapidly procure equipment when necessary. City IT staff recently condensed the city's 30 servers down to three blade centers — 48-foot chassis that hold as many as 16 blade servers. Storing servers on the blade center will enable the IT team to rapidly enclose the city's processing capabilities into a low rugged rack and transport operators to a safe location. The city's old servers would have bogged IT workers down with individually disassembling the equipment and transporting it to a truck, the official said.
 "Rather than pulling a 200- to 300-pound server out of a rack, we're trying to wheel a rack out of the server room onto the back of a truck," he said.
 The blade centers consume a small amount of space compared with the old server farms without sacrificing processing power. Jacksonville Beach will maintain three blade centers at the Police Department, the Fire Department and City Hall.
 In the future, he said, a forthcoming server virtualization project will condense the infrastructure even further, allowing him to put the functionality of 30 physical servers onto two blades.
 At the end of the project, the city will only keep dedicated servers for mission-critical functions.
 "We'll keep a couple of those just for safety's sake," he said. "Most of the other servers, basically the networking portion — the domain controllers and things like that — will all be virtualized. Basically we'll have our network packaged into a nice little box."
 Some local governments hit by hurricanes wait two years before seeing their IT infrastructures fully restored. The city can take comfort in knowing that the time period has been reduced significantly if and when a disaster strikes.

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* Content to be supplied by the advertiser. Limit of 500 words, logo and one image with captions for layout and design by Emergency Management.

Case Study Copy Due:
 October 3

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Materials Due:
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