

## Compliance and InfoSecurity – Applying the Right Resources

Cloud-based solutions can help banks in many ways with their security and compliance concerns, particularly when it comes to maintaining secure and reliable connections to critical third parties. In the past, frame relays or standard VPNs were utilized to maintain individual connections between banks and their critical third party vendors. However, as financial institutions make the shift toward the cloud, connecting to these vendors can become more challenging. When selecting cloud or hosted application vendors, it is important to evaluate their existing relationships and pre-established connections to ensure that they can support your bank's unique needs long-term.

Banks' business continuity & disaster recovery needs are increasingly being met by new cloud solutions. Out of sight often means out of mind, but it is important to remember that even outsourced applications need to be included in your overall business continuity plan. Asking for detailed information regarding the business continuity plans the provider has in place is critical during the evaluation stage, but must also be verified periodically and even tested, if possible. That said, much of the burden for the necessary redundancy and data replication should now fall to the cloud solutions provider, lowering bank costs and enhancing up-time, reliability and the overall security posture of the bank.

Of course we firmly believe that the bank IT department of the future will remain a vital part of the organization, but some of the key skills required will likely change. Instead of being able to maintain physical infrastructure, IT teams will be charged with managing vendor relationships and identifying the best technical solutions to meet business challenges. The mission of all banks is to serve their customers - the IT department of the future will be able to focus more of their time and resources on new initiatives to do just that - all while keeping the bank secure and compliant.

Ongoing Operations is an organization that is dedicated to helping banks with their business continuity, disaster recovery, compliance and security concerns and has been offering Hosted Exchange, Virtual Desktops and Hosted Applications since 2010. We recently acquired Cloudworks, a cloud services provider with a history of successful implementations and a proven, scalable, secure cloud architecture. This acquisition makes Ongoing Operations the go-to provider of cloud services for community banks and will allow it to expand its services significantly. The combined staff has an unusual depth of technical knowledge and capabilities and we operate three strategically located data centers throughout the United States. Ongoing Operations' Cloudworks solutions were created for banks unique needs and provide the "built-in" disaster recovery features that the industry demands.



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**Robbie Wright** is a Project Manager with Ongoing Operations. Prior to joining Ongoing Operations, Robbie served as Vice President at Nexcentri and held the position of General Manager at fi-linx. He also held the position of Sales & Service Manager at MaPS Credit Union.

### About Ongoing Operations

Ongoing Operations helps financial institutions nationwide plan, prepare and protect with complete business continuity solutions. They also offer advanced technical expertise and guidance to help increase IT efficiency.



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