
CHAPTER 13

Frequently asked questions on CrashAid

Must there be a disaster to use CrashAid?

NO. While the main thrust of CrashAid is to rebuild an ASP or your entire system after a disk failure, CrashAid can be used to rebuild any library(s) desired, at any time.

How do I rebuild only selected libraries?

CrashAid provides the ability to assign priorities to libraries. Enter a unique priority number next to the libraries which you want to rebuild. Enter the starting and ending priorities of the libraries you want to select on the RCVSYSTEM command. CrashAid will only select those libraries during the rebuilding process.

Is there a method of testing CrashAid?

Yes. CrashAid comes with a Simulation Mode. Simulation provides the ability to emulate a disaster recovery without having the disaster. PAE recommends that all personnel that would be involved in the rebuilding process practice the Simulation Mode on a regular basis. Why do schools and companies have FIRE DRILLS? To get children and people accustomed to the procedures needed during a fire. PAE believes that the MIS department personnel should be accustomed to the procedures needed during a disaster recovery. Almost 75% of companies are not familiar with procedures needed after a disaster. Are you?

Why is CrashAid so important?

Most companies review the IBM Backup and Recovery Guide after a disaster. This is the wrong time! People do not tend to comprehend all the ramifications on what has to be done. Most of the time restore procedures are not followed because there is not a step-by-step set of instructions. CrashAid, however, provides a step-by-step set of instructions every time a critical save is executed. CrashAid takes the guess work out of rebuilding.

Do I need to keep CrashAid reports?

We recommend shipping the report(s) off-site with the media. If a real disaster occurs, both the media and report(s) are safe.

Which is better CrashAid or an off-site test?

Most off-site tests are not as valuable as people believe! Why? Most companies save their system then go off-site and rebuild the system. How many disk failures occur 5 minutes after a save of the entire system? The chances of that happening are 1,000,000 to 1. If you really want to test an off-site recovery, have a make believe disaster occur unannounced. An unannounced test is the only true off-site test. CrashAid will provide the ability to restore your system regardless if the test is an-

nounced or not. CrashAid only complements an off-site recovery and provides a TRUE test. Only one person should know in advance of a disaster test.

What is the restore threshold?

CrashAid can rebuild up to the last SAV* which was designated as a critical SAV*.

Will CrashAid help with authorities?

CrashAid will rebuild all authorities since the last time SAVSYS or SAVSECDTA was performed. Also if ASP01 is rebuilt, the ownership of objects in a user ASP will be updated if Librarian is purchased. Ownership change is NOT available to CrashAid only clients. IBM currently does NOT have this ability only CrashAid does. Under the IBM method, it is the users responsibility to correct the ownership of objects in a user ASP. Not with CrashAid. We do it for you.

How can Critical Data be controlled?

Controlling saving of critical data can be done using the CHGJOBDFDFT command. The Save Recovery data keyword can be used to control when critical data is saved or not. It is recommended that critical data be saved every time you execute a SAV* which is to be part of your save strategy. If you have a CLP which executes multiple saves, CHGJOBDFDFT should be used. See illustration below.



```
PGM
CHGJOBDFDFT DISASTER(*LOG) PRINT(*NO) /* this will not print restore in-
structions or save critical data to tape, but it will update the files */
```

```
SAVSYS DEV(TAP01)
```

```
SAVLIB LIB(*NONSYS) DEV(TAP01)
```



```
CHGJOBDFDFT DISASTER(*YES) PRINT(*YES) /* this will print restore instruc-
tions and save critical data to tape, and it will update the files */
```

```
SAVDLO DOC(*ALL) FOLDER(*ANY)
```

```
ENDPGM
```

A typical system save CLP program is shown above. The first CHGJOBDFDFT turns everything off. Notice that before the last SAV*, CHGJOBDFDFT is executed a second time, changing the defaults to *YES.

How do I reduce the amount of time CrashAid uses?

The amount of time CrashAid uses is in direct proportion to the number of times critical data is saved. See the previous question for the answer. CHGJOBDFDFT can save you many minutes on each SAV*. CrashAid need only be saved as the last SAV* of the backup cycle for that day.

How do I control printing of disaster reports?

The best method in controlling printing of restore instructions is with the use of the CHGJOBDFE command. See the illustration above. CHGJOBDFE can turn printing On or Off. Another method is using Option 5 on the recovery menu and then printing the report when at the end of the evening.

Controlling Printing/FTP Restore Instructions

Printing is control either with option 5 on Recovery menu or the CHGJOBDFE command. FTPing of the restore instructions is controlled by option 24 and option 25 on the Recovery menu.

Can I restore using CrashAid out of restricted state?

Yes, there is a new parameter for restricted state. Either *yes or *no can be used. This parameter should be used if you want to do a partial restore while users are on the system. Refer to chapter 6 for more information.

DAILY MONITORING WITH CrashAid™

Restore instructions

- **The report should be verified on a weekly basis to ensure that all volumes are correct.**
- **Verify that the volumes contain the libraries indicated on the report.**
- **A dry run (test) should be made every week to ensure that the volumes indicated on the restore instructions have the files/libraries physically on them. Use the command TSTRESTORE.**
- **It is ultimately the AS/400 managements responsibility to ensure that the volumes are available.**
- **Careful attention should be paid to labeled 'MISSING SAVES''**
- **SAVSYS, SAVDLO, SAVSECDTA, libraries/journal/journal receivers that are not known to CrashAid™ will be listed.**
- **Has RCVSAVBK been executed at least once a day if not more?**
- **Check the messages on the restore report to verify that all is well.**

Library priorities

- **Restore priorities should be checked on a weekly basis in case new libraries are added or a libraries priority should change.**

- **Are libraries in the proper priority for a particular day of the week?**
- **Libraries are listed in alphabetical order within priorities.**
- **Are the libraries in the sequence you wish them to be in for restoring?**

Library Exposure

Assign exposure days and review library exposure report every day.

DISASTER HAPPENS, NOW WHAT?

What value is the Disaster Recovery Report?

PAE has provided you with a disaster scrip for use in case of a disaster recovery. This script will show you:

- **The media needed for the recovery**
- **The sequence in which the system has to be restored**

Where is the Disaster Recovery Report?

The disaster recovery report is in one of 3 places or a combination of them depending if a report was generated after the last saved:

- **A physical report should of printed after the last save, if printing was turned ON in option 5 on the Recovery menu.**
- **A report should of been placed on a server/IFS if option 24 was turned ON. If the report was placed on the IFS of you reporting system, the report is lost because of the disaster.**

FTP to a SERVER and NOT to the IFS

If you FTP the disaster report to the IFS on your system, the report will NOT be available . Therefore, placing the restore instructions on the IFS is of NO value. The restore instructions should be placed on a server. What kind of server is immaterial. The server could be a PC with Win95 or it could be another AS/400. The report is a text file and can be printed even on a PC printer on the Win95 PC.

- **Of course, if the report is NOT printed, the report is of NO value**
- **Of course, if the report is NOT FTPd to a server, the report is of NO**

HOW DO I CHANGE OUTQ FOR RESTORE REPORT?

PAE# PRTF is the printer file used for the CrashAid restore instructions. This file can be changed to place output in a different outq. Outq does NOT have to be attached to a printer.