



Recovery Checklist

This checklist shows how SMEs can respond systematically in the event of data loss
- from immediate action through to full recovery.

1 - Immediate Actions - Stay Calm

<input type="checkbox"/>	Inform the IT responsible person
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disconnect affected devices from the network
<input type="checkbox"/>	Document affected systems and data
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not attempt self-recovery or restoration without IT responsibility

2 - Analysis - Understand the Incident

<input type="checkbox"/>	Review affected data (backups, local data, cloud services)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify the cause (hardware failure, ransomware, human error)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Record timelines and symptoms to assess the scope of the incident
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine which systems are critical to business operations

3 - Recovery - Use Backups

<input type="checkbox"/>	Restore data from the last known good backup
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verify that the backup is complete and intact
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prioritize the restoration of critical systems
<input type="checkbox"/>	Test data and systems after recovery before releasing them for production

4 - Communication - Internal and External

<input type="checkbox"/>	Clearly inform employees about the incident and next steps
<input type="checkbox"/>	If customers are affected: communicate factually and avoid causing panic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep management continuously informed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use prepared text templates (e.g., MOUNT10 AI Prompt) to ensure consistent communication





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5 - Security Measures - Minimize Future Risks

- ☐ Review how the data loss occurred (security vulnerability, lack of isolation, etc.)
- ☐ Optimize the backup strategy (regular backups, immutable backups, separated systems)
- ☐ Provide regular data security training for employees
- ☐ Conduct regular recovery tests

6 - Post-Incident Review - Lessons Learned

- ☐ Document the incident (cause, duration, affected data, actions taken)
- ☐ Adjust internal processes and emergency plans
- ☐ Conduct an internal review to improve responsibilities and response times
- ☐ Update backup and IT emergency checklists

In Case of Data Theft

In the event of suspected or confirmed **data theft**, the relevant **authorities or the police** must be informed.

In Switzerland, reporting obligations apply under data protection law (e.g., notification to the FDPIC/EDÖB in the event of a data breach).

Involvement of External Specialists

For complex security incidents, engaging an **external incident response and digital forensics company** may be advisable. External specialists support with: Root cause analysis and evidence preservation, damage assessment, legally compliant handling of the incident, system recovery and security hardening.

