Dependency challenge

From the session
What Your Dependency Map Isn't Showing You
DRI Canada Fall Symposium, November 12, 2026

1 Pick one critical business service.

Service _____ RTO in your BIA _____

2 Write down three things it depends on.

Technology it can't run without _____

A person or team you'd need in an outage _____

A tool you'd need to recover it during an outage _____

3 Ask the question that goes with each one.

"I don't know" is a good result. Write down what you'd need to check.

Your list	The question	What you found, or what to check
Technology	What other service relies on that same technology?	
Person or team	If that person or team is unavailable, who can step in?	
Recovery tool	What has to be working for you to use that recovery tool during the outage?	

4 Break one component on paper.

Do this with the architect who knows how the service runs and the ops person who gets paged when it breaks.

Component we broke _____

- What fails first? What fails because *that* failed? Follow the chain until it stops. Sketch it on the back.
- Mark each piece in one of three states. Most surprises hide in degraded, so ask how long you can run that way.

  WORKING **DEGRADED** **FAILED**
- Can the backup fail for the same reason as the primary? Can it carry a full load on your busiest day?
- What do you need to recover it, and is any of that down too? Think identity, VPN, the runbook's location.

5 Compare what you found with your BIA.

Estimated recovery time _____ RTO in the BIA _____ Match? _____

If they match, you have a walkthrough on record that supports the number, and a reason to test it for real. If they don't, you have a finding, and you found it on a quiet afternoon instead of at 2 a.m.

- For each link you relied on: how do you know it? Observed in config, confirmed by its owner, or copied from an old diagram? When was it last checked?

Keep it current. Add one question to your change tickets and post-incident reviews: **"Did this add, remove, or change what this service depends on?"** Two minutes, asked of the person making the change.

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