Disaster recovery is about preparing for and recovering from any event that has a negative impact on your IT systems. A typical approach involves duplicating infrastructure to ensure the availability of spare capacity in the event of a disaster.

Amazon Web Services allows you to scale up your infrastructure on an as-needed basis. For a disaster recovery solution, this results in significant cost savings. The following diagram shows an example of a disaster recovery setup for a local application.

1. A corporate data center hosts an application consisting of a database server and an application server with local storage for a content management system.
2. AWS Storage Gateway is a service connecting an on-premises software appliance with cloud-based storage. AWS Storage Gateway securely uploads data to the AWS cloud for cost-effective backup and rapid disaster recovery.
3. Database server backups, application server volume snapshots, and Amazon Machine Images (AMI) of the recovery servers are stored on Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3), a highly durable and cost-effective data store. AMIs are pre-configured operating system and application software that are used to create a virtual machine Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2). Oracle databases can directly back up to Amazon S3 using the Oracle Secure Backup (OSB) Cloud Module.
4. In case of disaster in the corporate data center, you can recreate the complete infrastructure from the backups on Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (Amazon VPC). Amazon VPC lets you provision a private, isolated section of the AWS cloud where you can recreate your application.
5. The application and database servers are recreated using Amazon EC2. To restore volume snapshots, you can use Amazon Elastic Block Store (EBS) volumes, which are then attached to the recovered application server.
6. To remotely access the recovered application, you use a VPN connection created by using the VPC Gateway.