

the Availability Digest

www.availabilitydigest.com
[@availabilitydig](https://twitter.com/availabilitydig)

@availabilitydig – Our August Twitter Feed of Outages

August 2014

A challenge every issue for the Availability Digest is to determine which of the many availability topics out there win coveted status as Digest articles. We always regret not focusing our attention on the topics we bypass. With our new Twitter presence, we don't have to feel guilty. This article highlights some of the @availabilitydig tweets that made headlines in recent days.



Availability Digest Oldie But Goodie: "Evesdropping on the Internet."

At the 2008 DEFCON hackers' conference, security researchers demonstrated a fairly simple technique to divert Internet traffic to an eavesdropping site on its way to the intended recipient. Though this vulnerability had been earlier predicted, no one had ever been able to demonstrate it. The problem is in a vulnerability of BGP, the Border Gateway Protocol. BGP is the routing protocol used to distribute global routing information throughout the Internet. It is used by all major ISPs as well as by many smaller providers and other organizations.

<http://t.co/UvQF3MPLnU>

Here's why your Internet might have been slow on Tuesday

Some users were frustrated to find some of their favorite Web sites were unresponsive or otherwise inaccessible Tuesday. But it wasn't a data center outage or a squirrel chewing through a cable line causing the disruption. Instead, structural problems with one of the core technologies that keeps the Internet working were to blame, researchers say.

<http://t.co/qhc9319PKl>

The day the Internet broke

On August 12th, Verizon, a major US Internet service provider (ISP), did something relatively mundane and technical: it took some big groups of IP addresses, which we can think of as the phone numbers of the Internet, one of which is designated to every desktop computer, tablet or smartphone – and divided them up into smaller blocks to free up some unused addresses. In doing so, through no fault of its own, Verizon broke the Internet (a bit).

<http://t.co/aXvB438kU6>

Azure cloud services have a rough week.

In early August, Microsoft's Azure cloud computing platform suffered a series of outages and service disruptions that affected several products and impacted customers in various parts of the world.

<http://t.co/qFi9Nzkjmd>

Valley data center is among most secure in the world

It takes a lot to ward off the mechanical and human errors that routinely threaten servers' operations, but the Switch SuperNAP 8 system is among the most elaborate and secure in the world. Last week, the Las Vegas-based facility earned Tier IV Gold certification for Operational Sustainability, the top certification level available in the data storage industry.

<http://t.co/sKWbX4Aze8>

Dropbox bug deletes 8,000 photos belonging to one user

An apparent glitch in Dropbox's Selective Sync feature reportedly resulted in one user losing thousands of files.

<http://t.co/XccVXYDlkQ>

From the Availability Digest: "eBay's Slow Response to Data Hack."

It is bad enough to lose the information of 145 million users. It is a far greater disaster not to inform users immediately so that they can take protective action. eBay took two weeks to notify users about its discovery in May of a months-old breach.

<http://t.co/L26eu9gogP>

Connect's OpenVMS Boot Camp. Sep 29-Oct 1. Bedford MA USA

The Connect OpenVMS Boot Camp will be the 2014 event for OpenVMS practitioners to gather for four days of technical content and peer-to-peer networking.

<http://t.co/dQEftWzYDK>

Texting 911: The Tech Is There but Cities Aren't Ready

With more than 80 percent of Americans using their cellphones to send and receive text messages, it only makes sense we should be able to text 911 in an emergency. But that ability is only now just coming online. Only 100 call centers out of more than 6,000 in the U.S. are capable of receiving and responding to text messages.

<http://t.co/wKB8UCd1lm>

Computer Glitch Sends Draft Notices To 14,215 Dead Men In Pennsylvania

We've heard of plenty of bad consumers who have failed to hold up their end of the law, but can you really be a draft dodger if you're dead? Not really, which is why the U.S. Selective Service is saying that the family members of about 14,215 long-deceased men in Pennsylvania should just ignore that notice they may have received.

<http://bit.ly/1lcAeWY>

'The deal is in jeopardy!' U.S. visa glitch strands businesspeople.

A technical glitch has hampered the U.S.'s ability to issue visas around the globe, stranding thousands of foreign businesspeople, high-tech workers, performers and athletes trying to travel into the country.

<http://t.co/pY3DgtsUQQ>

Call off the firing squad: HP grants stay of execution to OpenVMS

In a surprise move, HP has granted OpenVMS a new lease on life, effectively reversing last year's decision to mothball the venerable server OS. HP hasn't changed its mind about its latest OpenVMS [roadmap](#), which has it ending standard support for some versions of the OS next year and pulling the plug completely by 2020. Rather, it has granted an exclusive license to another company, VMS Software Inc. (VSI), to take over after its own support ends.

<http://t.co/3Pod2umgJG>

Android ID flaw exposes smartphones

An Android flaw has been uncovered. It allows malware to insert malicious code into other apps, gain access to the user's credit card data, and take control of the device's settings.

<http://t.co/2nT09OXVrp>

Enabling high-speed recovery, data loss avoidance

The Arabian Geophysical and Surveying Company (Argas) has reduced its storage budget by up to 50 percent with space savings and an operational cost decrease after the company implemented a system from Veeam Software, an innovative provider of solutions that deliver Availability for the Modern Data Center.

<http://t.co/t6YT06E8yl>

Making Clusters Easy to Use and Easy to Own

Companies have more choices than ever to save money and improve efficiency in their IT environment. However, protecting business critical applications from downtime and disasters in these environments poses a variety of challenges to traditional SAN-based cluster environments. Companies should rethink their approach to high availability (HA) and disaster recovery (DR) and consider alternatives that do not require the use of shared storage.

<http://t.co/W533jiTcBW>

Pennsylvania working to correct upgrade to welfare benefit applications

Pennsylvania is one of nearly a dozen states working to correct problems stemming from a federally mandated computer upgrade that now allows online applications for welfare benefits.

<http://t.co/DaNQ1KCD7i>

New Underground Data Center Trend Takes Hold

Recently, data center operators have been considering new ways to establish computing facilities. Whereas some companies are looking to purchase existing structures and turn them into [data centers](#), other groups are looking below the Earth's surface.

<http://t.co/z3rnNyAe0V>

Cloud takes backup role as cities remake data centers -- GCN

With pressure on government to streamline IT operations to control costs and spur performance, a growing number of city IT managers are pursuing the latest hardware architectures and tools to renovate their legacy data centers.

<http://t.co/bMP9zPymUz>