

the Availability Digest

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@availabilitydig – Our November Twitter Feed of Outages

November 2014 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.



US Veterans Bureau, Computing Division (1924)



Check out [@ComputerHistory](https://twitter.com/ComputerHistory) for more pictures and videos. The Computer History Museum is the world's leading institution exploring the history of computing and its ongoing impact on society. Visit the museum in Mountain View, California USA 94043.

Salvation Army Finds Refuge, Recovery In The Cloud

In the heart of the Midwest U.S., the Salvation Army is learning how a cloud service can cost-effectively provide disaster recovery, a function that may have previously been considered too expensive for the nonprofit agency.

<http://t.co/OUhktkXrkM>

Managing availability in an app-centric environment

Today's 'always on' attitude or the clichéd 'anytime anywhere' work environment is continuing to blur the lines between work and play across businesses in EMEA. Companies are increasingly reliant on the support of applications to function; and if a service such as email, VPN or Microsoft Office goes down, huge amounts of revenue can be lost.

<http://t.co/m3yLDNPjKW>

Availability of a different type: "How the Sahara Could Power Two Million Homes"

Deep in the Tunisian Sahara, TuNur is a solar-powered renewable energy initiative with a big ambition...produce twice as much energy as any nuclear power plant in the world and crank out enough juice by 2018 to power two million European homes.

<http://t.co/lZSHjpyFO>

Facebook gives its server racks a Tesla touch

Facebook is using lithium-ion batteries, like those in electric cars, to replace lead-acid batteries for backup power.

<http://t.co/Rt7vjsW0kJ>

Amid G20, US State Department shuts down email due to hackers

The US State Department has shut down its unclassified email system to remediate possible damage caused by hackers. Alongside cyber attacks on several US agencies that were reported in October, the US State Department — which is responsible for America's diplomatic relations — was also hacked, prompting security improvements it made over the weekend that caused email outages.

<http://t.co/fjbyvwvQGQJ>

DoubleClick Outage Shows How the Internet Depends on Google

If you noticed that your favorite websites were oddly ad-free on a recent Wednesday morning, you can thank Google for that rare sight. The company's DoubleClick ad server went down, leaving sites either empty of advertising or unable to load as pages waited for ads to show up.

<http://t.co/LrVf1uzCXC>

Thx to NuWave Tech's Gabrielle Guerrera for her Digest Mg Ed Bill Highleyman interview.

NuWave Technologies' Marketing Director Gabrielle Guerrera chats with Bill Highleyman about "How Does Failover Affect Your SLA," Bill's presentation at the NonStop Boot Camp.

<http://t.co/jLCjnHUIGL>

What is the Difference between Disaster Recovery and Disaster Tolerance?

Active/Standby systems provide disaster recovery. Active/Active systems provide disaster tolerance.

<http://t.co/UU3j1wvZfj>

IT stress testing can fix banks' legacy problems, say experts

Finance sector regulator the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is expected to fine the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) tens of millions of pounds following a major IT problem that locked customers out of their accounts for days. But is a fine the best way to persuade banks to upgrade the outdated technology at the root of the problem?

<http://t.co/7YIkRviLK8>

Lightning sparks \$1m Singapore Exchange outage

Trading at the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX) closed for three hours recently after its systems failed to cope with a voltage fluctuation caused by a lightning strike.

<http://t.co/Q56jzPIGtD>

AP IMPACT: US agencies struggle vs. cyberattacks

Federal employees and contractors scattered across more than a dozen agencies, from the Defense and Education departments to the National Weather Service, are responsible for at least half of federal cyber incidents each year since 2010, according to an Associated Press analysis of records.

<http://t.co/RI6S5yJt3N>

U.S. Postal Service says data breach hits employees, call center

The U.S. Postal Service was the victim of a cyber attack that may have compromised the personal information of more than 800,000 employees as well as data on customers who contacted its call center during the first eight months of this year.

<http://t.co/h5TTaVPIvv>

Visa defends security of contactless cards

Visa claims it is not possible to breach the security of its contactless card payments system to empty people's accounts after researchers found contactless payment limits could be sidestepped.

<http://t.co/FxbmvUQBDK>

The Impact of BYOD on Business Continuity

Disasters happen, and there's no way to prevent them completely. With this in mind, business continuity has become a valuable and essential aspect of any company's strategy.

<http://t.co/j5vskhD4q2>

SGX probing power failure

Singapore Exchange Ltd. is still investigating the cause of a power failure that resulted in the simultaneous interruption of both its securities and derivatives markets for more than two hours.

<http://t.co/zxNbJ6u8WN>

Nasdaq OMX Group wins contract to operate securities information processor

As part of a winning bid to operate a key piece of infrastructure for the stock market, Nasdaq OMX Group Inc. has vowed to increase the system's speed and resiliency.

<http://t.co/D4ikyFUbYA>

Check out "After second crash, ITS faces questions"

Yale University started the November with another server crash that took down Yale technology platforms for 6 hours. A similar incident in October took down Yale websites and applications for over 24 hours. Yale's CIO said that the outages were unrelated and occurred at two different data centers. "They were both caused due to unexpected issues with mechanical [and] electrical infrastructure."

<http://t.co/TvDq8GSr0y>

Malware could threaten millions of Apple devices

A new, ugly malware threat, dubbed WireLurker, could impact millions of Apple customers. It was discovered by Palo Alto Networks, which said the malware shows "characteristics unseen in any previously documented threats targeting Apple platforms." This is the first known malware family that can infect installed iOS applications similar to how a traditional virus would, and it's only the second-known malware family that can attack iOS devices through OS X.

<http://t.co/h6dxLnGa7V>

Anatomy of a DDoS Attack Part 2: Attack Strategies

Part 1 of Dr. Bill Highleyman's article discussed how botnets are used to launch massive amounts of malicious traffic against a victim website in order to put it out of service. In Part 2, Bill introduces some of the strategies that are employed in DDoS attacks. Also described are defenses that can be taken against such attacks.

<http://t.co/7iX9mIM4cA>

Anatomy of a DDoS Attack Part 1: Botnets

Digest Managing Editor Dr. Bill Highleyman discusses botnets and the DDoS attacks that they launch. DDoS attacks have been used for retaliation, for political statements, for competitive reasons, and even for ransom.

<http://t.co/ZUKLBWvZXf>

Drupal users: Assume your site was hacked if you didn't apply Oct. 15 patch immediately

Users of Drupal, one of the most popular content management systems, should consider their sites compromised if they didn't immediately apply a security patch released on Oct. 15. The unusually alarming statement was part of a "public service announcement" issued by the Drupal project's security team.

<http://t.co/02NDK06qnh>

Tens of millions left without power after nationwide blackout hits Bangladesh

A huge power cut in Bangladesh left tens of millions of people nationwide without electricity for hours on Saturday. The blackout hit the entire South Asian country after a failure on a line that imports power from neighboring India.

<http://t.co/eHC1POGnyT>

Yet another interesting but non-Availability related article: "Google Exec Sets Records With Leap From Near-Space"

Google executive Alan Eustace broke the sound barrier and set several skydiving records over the southern New Mexico desert after taking a big leap from 135,890 feet.

<http://yhoo.it/14GAqa4>

Stephane Chazelas: the man who found the web's 'most dangerous' internet security bug

It was a bug that lurked in software found on hundreds of millions of devices for 21 years, leaving them vulnerable to hackers, who may have known of its existence. Now Stephane Chazelas, an open source software developer living in Britain, is being hailed a hero by security experts and internet users for finding ShellShock and causing it to be fixed.

<http://t.co/ESbpggcIRe>

What history can teach us about the future of the cloud

It's the century-old law of economies of scale that will drive cloud computing deeper into our homes and offices.

<http://t.co/WpgS3Q0Rp9>

Stabilize Software Upgrades in Critical Systems

The most unstable time for a software-based system is during and immediately after a software upgrade.

<http://t.co/abgLV8lONm>

October Availability Digest - "Shellshock – The Bash Vulnerability"

A bug in the popular Bash shell used in Linux and Unix operating systems was discovered at the end of September, 2014. Dubbed 'Shellshock,' the flaw has led to a code-injection vulnerability for applications running under Linux and Unix that use Bash as the shell.

<http://t.co/22xtzEv9FD>

Understanding State's big database crash: Q&A with Greg Ambrose

On July 20, the system of 12 databases that processes U.S. visa and passport requests [experienced a major glitch](#), going offline and creating a backlog in visa processing that disrupted travel for thousands of people around the world. It took three days to get the system, known as the Consular Consolidated Database, back online, and about two weeks to clear the backlog in visas.

<http://t.co/4aadAwe5Gw>

National Weather Service Satellite Data Goes Dark, Forecasts May Suffer

The National Weather Service has stopped receiving a full complement of important weather data from the network of weather satellites orbiting the planet, which may make the agency's forecasts less accurate with time. This is the latest in a series of technology snafus that together point to an agency that needs some serious IT upgrades.

<http://t.co/Q8R53rhvfE>

Nothing to do with availability. Peter Jackson and Elijah Wood Star in Air New Zealand's 'Epic' Safety Video

Air New Zealand is proud to take its passengers to Middle-earth, where friendly elf flight attendants guide you on the finer points of seat-belt fastening and proper oxygen-mask placement.

<http://t.co/2VMcdpP4pZ>

Escape From the Data Center: The Promise of Peer-to-Peer Cloud Computing

Today, cloud computing takes place in giant server farms owned by the likes of Amazon, Google, or Microsoft—but it doesn't have to be that way.

<http://t.co/0Dk9wCXflr>

Oct. Availability Digest - "Repair Strategies." A factor in determining downtime is a company's repair capabilities

The repair strategy used by an enterprise can have a significant effect on application downtime. "Repair Strategies" discusses sequential repair if there is only one repair team and parallel repair if there are multiple repair teams. The cases of a production system with a single backup system, a multinode system with one spare, and a multinode system with multiple spares are analyzed.

<http://t.co/kiGWuCgnEk>

Heading to the NonStop Technical Boot Camp? Find sessions list here, including one by Digest Mg. Ed. Bill Highleyman

<http://t.co/4u81Cpu4CY>