

the **Availability Digest**

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

@availabilitydig – Our December Twitter Feed of Outages

December 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.



North Korea Experiencing Severe Internet Outages

North Korea experienced sweeping Internet outages for hours before coming back online late Monday, 22 December. One computer expert said the country's online access was "totally down."

<http://t.co/iZcjbTyBy>

REVEALED: Titsup flight plan mainframe borks UK air traffic control

London's airspace was effectively shut down on a Friday in December after a flight data server "fell over," the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) has confirmed. Hundreds of flights were cancelled or diverted after NATS was forced to restrict the airspace over the capital for less than an hour.

<http://t.co/MLizB71mAX>

An Availability Digest Oldie but Goodie: "Tackling Switchover Times"

The biggest advantage of an active/active system is that failover is almost instantaneous – at least from the perspective of the user. However, the move to active/active can be a daunting task. Thus, many companies are first trying to improve their switchover times from hours to minutes and perhaps even seconds. This gives them time to make the active/active move in the future. Two large enterprises that undertook this task are Sabre Holdings and Mayo Clinic.

<http://t.co/My4FaQnMNO>

It needed a truck to deliver a computer in 1957 and a forklift to pick up a 5MB hard drive



This is a picture of Norwich City Council receiving its first computer in 1957. It was an Elliot 405 and was the first municipal computer in Britain.

<http://t.co/Mk9pfVicyl>

Why HP won't play the public IaaS cloud game

HP has dismissed public commodity cloud as a "race to the bottom" as it commits its future to a hybrid cloud strategy.

<http://t.co/eH1RqyRnCc>

Phoenix Utility to Pilot Data Center Without Generator

There are only so many ways to build a data center without a generator or some other kind of backup power source and still have the reliability required by companies with 24/7 application demands. One way is to feed the data center power directly from more reliable parts of the grid. BaseLayer has partnered with Phoenix-area public utility Salt River Project to attempt just that.

<http://t.co/ZHtZWdPIV8>

Amazon Plays Santa after IT Glitch, Singapore Airlines' Plays Scrooge

The December 8th edition of IT Hiccups focused on two different customer service reactions to IT errors, a nice one by Amazon UK and a not so nice one on the part of Singapore Airlines.

<http://t.co/FMjtAxmoHY>

How to crash the data center with one word

A single word on a simple button did not mean what a systems administrator thought it meant during what should have been a routine weekend job.

<http://t.co/qcuUjZwMAF>

OmniPayments' Yash Kapadia guest authors "The Smarts Behind EMV Smart Cards: Part 1 - Online Transaction Processing" in the November Availability Digest

A smart card, also called a chip card or an integrated-circuit card (ICC), includes an embedded computer chip that employs cryptographic and risk-management features. In conjunction with a smart-card POS or ATM terminal, these features are designed to thwart skimming, card-cloning, card counterfeiting, and other fraudulent attacks.

<http://t.co/bhwFOolvOz>

UK flights chaos: Air traffic control computers using software from the 1960s

One of the main computer programs used by air traffic control centre NATS was written in the 1960s and has been phased out by every other country.

<http://t.co/gLhuYXmBfZ>

Availability Digest Retweeted "Updated HP OpenVMS Roadmap available"

Thanks to [@ianopenvmsorg](#). This document contains forward looking statements regarding future operations, product development, product capabilities and availability dates.

<http://t.co/VGguNQQLvu>

UK flights hit by computer failure

Passengers faced widespread flight disruption after a computer failure at the UK's air traffic control centre. National Air Traffic Services (NATS) said a technical fault in the flight data system at its Swanwick centre had caused the problem.

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

Availability Digest's "Build to Fail" shows how Netflix remained continuously available during the recent AWS reboot

What do "build to fail" and "chaos monkey" have to do with continuous availability? Plenty, as Netflix has shown. Netflix survived a massive Amazon Web Services reboot of many of its virtual machines with hardly a hiccup. It attributed this success to its policy of building applications to run continuously on systems that can fail (build to fail) and to test these applications periodically with random system failures (chaos monkey).

<http://t.co/4ZrL1Krijz>

HP slips, IBM stumbles, white boxes rise in server market

HP still commands the server market, but IBM is dropping fast, and ODMs (original design manufacturer) may soon rule the roost.

<http://t.co/p1Nscxlmhx>

Trading system fails require greater scrutiny, say experts

Electronic trading means technical glitches. So what is the industry expected to do about it?

<http://t.co/U3nykdLRtQ>

Latest Singapore outage adds pressure on exchange

Singapore's stock exchange experienced its third trading outage this year, a blow to confidence in a bourse that is already suffering falling trading volumes and attracting criticism from authorities.

<http://t.co/MtjrDaYJcN>

\$65bn bill for data loss, downtime: survey

Data loss and downtime have cost Australian organisations a whopping \$US55 billion (\$65.5bn) over the past 12 months as they grapple with the ability to recover after an outage.

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

Globe-spanning SEA-ME-WE 3 sea cable feared cut, broken or ..

SEA-ME-WE 3 is a 39,000km submarine cable that connects 31 nations, has 39 landing stations and stretches from Germany to Japan. Its two fibre pairs each carry 480 Gbits/s, a decent slice of the world's data traffic. But right now, the cable's not at its best because the spur between Jakarta and Singapore looks to have been cut or have experienced some other fault.

<http://t.co/yD5Jr9Lbnp>

Microsoft Says Config. Change Caused Azure Outage

A configuration change meant to make Blob storage (Azure's cloud storage service for unstructured data) perform better unexpectedly sent Blob front ends "into an infinite loop." The front ends could not take on more traffic and caused problems for other services that used Blob.

<http://t.co/un7U3nZBd>

New computer spyware discovered

A leading computer security company says it has discovered one of the most sophisticated pieces of malicious software ever seen. Symantec says the bug, named Regin, was probably created by a government and has been used for six years against a range of targets around the world.

<http://t.co/LBsyUnRgcv>

Yahoo Mail outage enters fourth day after underwater cable is severed

Yahoo Mail bounced back to life after a whopping 11 days of downtime. The firm first confirmed the problem on 20 November. "The issues were a result of an underwater fibre cable cut, caused by a third party while fixing a separate cable."

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

Microsoft Azure Outage: Questions Remain - InformationWeek

On November 18th, Microsoft rolled out an update to its Azure storage service. The update contained an unintended infinite loop for a certain operation buried in the code. The triggering of that infinite loop in normal operations caused the service to basically freeze.

<http://t.co/0DISSV1FR4>

Lights Out in 2014! 10 Cloud Outages You Need to Know About

Cloud outage victims included Dropbox, Gmail, Adobe, Joyent, Microsoft...and the list goes on.

<http://bit.ly/1zmq2C5>

Squirrel causes Silicon Valley blackout

A power outage that left part of Silicon Valley in the dark was caused by a squirrel. Nearly 2,000 customers in Cupertino, California USA were without power for about two hours. A squirrel-caused power outage shut down the Nasdaq Stock Market in 1987 and 1994.

<http://bit.ly/1v6ZjAY>