the *Availability Digest*

@availabilitydig - The Twitter Feed of Outages

November 2013

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.

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eBay's Utah data center offers a glimpse into the future

eBay's newest data center does not rely on the electrical grid for power or mechanical chillers for cooling. It is powered by electricity generated on-site, and the grid is the backup plan.

https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/focus/archive/2013/11/ebays-utah-data-center-offers-glimpse-future#.UpZdJA6gSo4.twitter …

Barclays says soz for titsup website, bank app

Barclays UK spent the morning of November 19th on Twitter apologizing to customers frustrated by a crashed banking app and online outage that occurred over the previous two days.

http://reg.cx/28MC via @theregister

Attack Ravages Power Grid. (Just a Test.)

An unprecedented continental-scale war game was intended to determine how prepared the nation is for a cyberattack against electric systems.

http://nyti.ms/1dvaSLJ

Thanks to all who attended the Digest's "DDoS Attacks: The Latest Threat to Availability" at the recent NonStop Technical Boot Camp.

Our Digest presentation was developed from one of our seminars on events impacting the abilities of companies to offer high/continuous availability services. Check out all of our seminar offerings, which can be custom-designed for your company's needs.

http://www.availabilitydigest.com/seminars.htm

Microsoft Pins Azure Slowdown On Cloud Software Fault

Microsoft's Windows Azure cloud froze up momentarily for a significant fraction of customers over October 29 and October 30 due to a glitch in its API for staging systems.

http://www.informationweek.com/document.asp?doc_id=899792 … via @InformationWeek

The TRUTH behind Microsoft Azure's global cloud mega-cock-up

Windows Azure suffered a global meltdown at the end of October when a sub-component of the system failed worldwide.

http://reg.cx/28Dk via @theregister

Singapore telcos may need to ensure backup mobile network

Singapore is considering requiring its telcos to have geo-redundant mobile networks, to reduce the impact and possibility of future outages.

http://t.co/ldPJh4fSUF

After 2,500 miles on the Atlantic, Scout the ocean drone is missing at sea

Scout, a 13-foot long solar-powered autonomous water bot, was launched this fall from Rhode Island and headed across the Atlantic toward Spain. But 34 days after launch, Scout's main transmission fell silent. Forty days later, the backup system also failed.

http://nbcnews.to/1bLCFGK

How Amazon is building substations, laying fiber and generally doing everything to keep cloud costs down

Amazon Web Services explained during a session at the AWS re:Invent conference how the cloud provider keeps costs as low as possible and innovation as high as possible.

gigaom.com/2013/11/15/how-amazon-is-building-substations-laying-fiber-and-generally-doing-everything-to-keep-cloud-costs-down/ … via @gigaom

OTC markets stalled as Twitter soared

A lack of backup network connections and the frenzy around Twitter Inc's market debut contributed to a day-long trading halt in 10,000 over-the-counter equities.

http://reut.rs/1fnp4I7 via @reuters

Microsoft sees huge potential in fuel cells

Microsoft is investigating the use of fuel cells to power data centers, arguing in a paper just released that its studies find it a technology with much potential.

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9243992/Microsoft_sees_huge_potential_in_fuel_cells … via @computerworld

Stock exchanges agree on outage prevention measures

US stock and option exchanges reached a general agreement on how to strengthen securities markets after federal regulators ordered them to come up with new rules in the wake of Nasdaq's three-hour trading halt in August.

http://www.itnews.com.au/News/364008,stock-exchanges-agree-on-outage-prevention-measures.aspx … via @itnews_au

'Software logic' led to mass power outage

Hundreds of thousands of Transpower customers lost power when backup measures failed to kick in while the company simulated a "catastrophic power failure" on its inter-island link in New Zealand.

http://bit.ly/HSOJMG

Availability Digest asks, "Can you replace your tractor with 10,000 chickens?"

The London Stock Exchange, like some other global companies, decided to replace its fault-tolerant systems (NonStop servers in the stock exchange's case) with PC networks.

http://bit.ly/18609r1

A Year 2010 Oldie but Goodie: **Real Estate Servers' Crash in New Orleans Continues Causing Havoc 6 Weeks Later**

In 2010, both of the Parish of Orleans Civil District Court's computer servers that held years of conveyance and mortgage records simultaneously crashed. It was assumed that the database records resident on the servers were properly backed up off-site, but that wasn't the case.

http://bit.ly/icNTRm

SunGardASVoice: Three Reasons Data Backup Is Different From Disaster Recovery

Data backup and disaster recovery are most definitely not the same. Don't make the mistake of believing you have a disaster recovery plan if you have only backed up your data.

http://t.co/CMDK5O2BYm

Apocalypse: Threat of massive grid shutdown increasing in face of terrorism, natural disasters

The U.S.'s aging, vulnerable power grid and the threat of natural disasters and terrorist activity make a long-term collapse leaving millions of Americans in the dark a growing likelihood.

http://bit.ly/1dbfV3S

Damaged Cables Cause Internet and Phone Outage in Guyana and Suriname

Guyana and Suriname suffered major international telephone and Internet outages for hours last Wednesday due to damage to the offshore Suriname-Guyana Submarine Cable System (SGSCS).

nearshoreamericas.com/damaged-cables-internet-telephone-outage-guyana-suriname/ …

Avoiding IT Outages During the Holiday Season

What can online retailers do to avoid outages? An estimated one-in-five retailers suffered outages last year. 45% estimated they could lose $500,000 to $5 million in one day due to a website crash.

http://bit.ly/1gDEzP2

Latest Availability Digest: "Protect your mission-critical applications with HP Serviceguard Solutions for Linux."

HP Serviceguard Solutions for Linux is a suite of complementary software solutions that protects against faults within a data center and enables downtime-free maintenance and upgrades.

http://bit.ly/15RJE0m

How to Evaluate High Availability Options for Virtualized IT Environments

One upside to virtualization is that it puts more applications on fewer servers. One downside is that the availability of those servers become of greater importance.

via @CIOonline http://ow.ly/pWVHv

Data Center Outages Haunt IT Pros, Study Shows.

Data center professionals are overwhelmed by unplanned power outages, have waning confidence in electrical utility providers, and feel ill-equipped to minimize the impact of outages.

http://twb.io/181eLTL via @NetworkComputin

October Digest: "Busiest U.S. rail line shuts down when primary power cable failed while backup was being upgraded"

Metro-North is the busiest rail line in the U.S. On September 25th, during rush hour, the primary power cable failed. There was a backup cable, but it was out of service for an upgrade.

http://bit.ly/178nXvY

Gravic Shadowbase presenting "Recent Advances, High & Continuous Availability Architectures for HP NonStop Systems"

This Gravic presentation will take place at the Connect NonStop Advanced Technical Boot Camp, November 3rd through 5th, San Jose, California, USA.

http://bit.ly/17trq4O

In the October Availability Digest: "agileTel Runs Active/Active with Linux and MySQL"

Here is a successful example of an active/active system using Linux servers and a MySQL database. It is a virtual PBX marketed by agileTel.

http://bit.ly/H9XC42

October Availability Digest: Microsoft retires Windows XP next April. No more security patches. Hackers can't wait!

Windows XP currently is used on over a third of all PCs worldwide. When Microsoft retires its venerable OS next April and discontinues security patches, will XP users be vulnerable?

http://bit.ly/15RG71T

Battery Failure, Human Error Still Cause Most Data Center Outages

Data center outages remain common; and three major factors — uninterruptable power supply (UPS) battery failure, human error and exceeding UPS capacity — are the root causes.

http://t.co/pTwGHjbU97

Electrical Grid Is Called Vulnerable to Power Shutdown

The communications protocol used at many electric and water utilities may have flaws that some worry are not being fixed.

http://t.co/deDfFn4sml

Greening the Data Center: Flywheels and True IT Efficiency

Balancing high-nines reliability while reducing energy consumption is an ongoing IT goal, and flywheels are one green solution that makes environmental and financial sense.

bit.ly/1fLMh9y