the Availability Digest

@availabilitydig – Our December Twitter Feed of Outages
December 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. _____

Nasdaq to compensate firms on Dec. 31 for botched Facebook IPO

Nasdaq OMX Group Inc will compensate firms on Dec. 31 for qualifying claims related to Facebook Inc's botched May 2012 initial public offering.

http://t.co/hGqoZOzaSs

Deadly Downtime: The Worst Network Outages Of 2013

When the network is down, nobody is happy. Take a lesson from these major outages in 2013 so we won't see them repeated in the new year.

http://t.co/RKdAvG2Bzw

Darien's computer safeguard failed

The town of Darien, CT lost its entire communications infrastructure in September when both its servers, the primary and the backup, crashed due to water leaking from a ceiling-mounted air conditioner.

http://t.co/6dqGPClk6g

Internet blackout: could it happen?

Shutting down the UK's public internet wouldn't be easy: experts even say that such a scenario is so unlikely that considering it is no more than a "thought exercise" – but one well worth doing.

http://t.co/3sp0NJvOXK

Netflix Boosts Resiliency Against Outages with New Cloud Approach

The online streaming giant is maturing its infrastructure approach with the announcement that it has implemented traffic balancing across its Amazon Web Services cloud environment to add resiliency to its distribution architecture.

http://t.co/08gerPqj12

Microsoft Unveils Georedundant Storage Option for Windows Azure

Microsoft currently has three types of Windows Azure Storage: locally redundant storage (LRS), geographically redundant storage (GRS) and the new read access-geographically redundant storage (RA-GRS).

http://redmondmag.com/articles/2013/12/13/windows-azure-storage.aspx

Inside a Bitcoin Mine

By some calculations, all the machines dedicated to mining Bitcoin have a computing power about 4500 times the capacity of the US government's mightiest supercomputer.

http://t.co/LcfWgZPMNS

Top backup tips for SMEs

Power outages can pose serious problems, particularly in the Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) market, where the ability to recover quickly from data issues is critical to the sustainability of the business.

http://t.co/dWHsSJeEK7

FCC: Private sector failing to follow voluntary 9-1-1 best practices

Voluntary telecommunications company measures to ensure the reliability of the 9-1-1 system have failed to be effective, concludes the U.S. Federal Communications Commission,

http://t.co/apbLm1ISnd

The best of the EMEA data center industry

Awards winners, announced at a gala ceremony in London in mid-December, highlight the best of the industry in 2013.

http://t.co/INsSwg5DPT

Obamacare Tech Hurdle Looms Right Before Enrollment Deadline

The government agency in charge of running HealthCare.gov says it is "working to ensure a smooth transition" to Hewlett-Packard Co from Verizon Communication Inc's Terremark subsidiary.

http://t.co/SgGK0THFV9

Nasdaq critical trading systems running on Windows Server 2003

The critical data processing system responsible for a three-hour trading halt on the Nasdaq stock exchange was running on an outdated version of Windows operating system, it has been claimed.

http://t.co/T2BA4fahHz

A High Availability Cloud Platform Could Save Your Bacon

The job of cloud providers is to make sure that downtime is as rare as an asteroid hitting the data center. Frequent downtime or intermittent failures are not acceptable.

http://t.co/JZMSVNeci1

SFO reveals missteps after Asiana crash

An automated system designed to alert key managers at San Francisco International Airport to an emergency failed within minutes of the airport's biggest disaster ever.

http://t.co/0pzEl0NlgM

ISS Loop A Cooling System Glitch Under Investigation by NASA

The International Space Station (ISS) encountered a glitch in one of its cooling systems, culminating in its failure. ISS crew members and NASA officials worked to resolve the technical issues.

http://t.co/7zjC9rgaOe

Legacy Systems: Tried and True Systems Whose Time Has Come

In an era of technology turmoil, there are unexpected islands of calm populated by extremely stable legacy hardware systems. Ironically, some of these oldest citizens of the data center also happen to be the most stable and secure..

http://t.co/T9FlhOLDl0

SunGardASVoice: Don't Screw Up These Five Things When Relocating Your Data Center

A data center relocation is one area fraught with the potential to cause system downtime. There's a plethora of moving parts, and a lot can go wrong. Here are five areas that you absolutely, positively can't screw up when making this critical technology move:

http://t.co/J90T9EbRQI

The Year in Downtime: The Top 10 Outages of 2013 | Data Center Knowledge

The year's major outages covered the spectrum, affecting clouds, companies, payment networks and governments at the federal, state and local level.

http://t.co/qSVK8fOXrW

Marissa Mayer personally apologizes for Yahoo Mail outage

Yahoo CEO says the days-long outage affected 1 percent of users -- or roughly 1 million people.

wapo.st/IPzHbI

Secure64's DNS Authority: DNS name server designed to be self-protecting to prevent attacked websites from crashing.

Secure64's DNS Authority is a dedicated, authoritative DNS name server that is designed to be self-protecting. It identifies and blocks attack traffic while continuing to respond to DNS queries from legitimate sources.

bit.ly/1bUu9aB

CryptoLocker is destructive ransomeware that encrypts the files of infected computers and holds them for ransome.

CryptoLocker is a dangerous variant of ransomware. It does not simply freeze a computer. It encrypts all of the computer's files. CryptoLocker will only release the files if a ransom of several hundred dollars (U.S.) is paid within a specified time period.

bit.ly/1c7CIR0

Royal Bank of Scotland admits decades of IT neglect after systems crash

Royal Bank of Scotland has neglected its technology for decades, the state-backed bank's boss admitted recently.

http://t.co/8VMd86IbtQ

Power outage crashes BSNL mobile network

BSNL's mobile phone network in Kerala and Lakshadweep crashed on Tuesday afternoon, affecting millions of customers. A power outage at BSNL's Home Location Registery (HLR) crashed, and the backup system also failed.

http://toi.in/gPNsDa via @timesofindia

Sacbee - Feds to scrutinize big eastern Idaho power outage

Federal regulators are investigating a power outage in eastern Idaho that left 70,000 people without electricity for up to 10 hours amid a subzero cold snap. It came after Rocky Mountain Power made circuit-breaker repairs to a substation.

sacb.ee/1cqHJCz

Systems glitch brings UK airspace to a standstill

A technical glitch shut down the skies virtually over the whole of the UK, with hundreds of flights delayed or cancelled as technicians worked to rectify the problem at central air traffic control.

http://t.co/k3i15wMSbO

BBC News - Huge power cut blacks out much of Venezuela

A massive power cut plunged the Venezuelan capital, Caracas, and other cities into darkness.

bbc.in/1eJxDfE

A Ray of Hope for HP NonStop Users – HP Announces x86 NonStop Plans | Forrester Blogs

On November 4th, HP announced that it was undertaking to migrate NonStop to an x86 system platform.

http://t.co/N9R2sde7XL

Stratus asks if continuous availability possible in the cloud?

Stratus' Dave Le Clair talks about the planning that is needed to take cloud computing all the way up to continuous availability.

http://t.co/mIsr89iTJX

Google and Amazon reveal their secrets of scalability - CIO UK

As large IT systems scale to unforeseen levels of complexity, new laws of effective management come into play.

http://shar.es/DlGFb via @ciouk

Data centers play fast and loose with reliability credentials

The Uptime Institute says some data centers are playing fast and loose with its "tiering" system for rating data center reliability.

http://bit.ly/1jdbFVP

One Year Later: How an IT-Based Disaster Recovery Plan Helped Cancer Patients Following Hurricane Sandy

It was just over one year ago when patient care organizations were searching for ways to quickly get back up and running after Hurricane Sandy ripped its way through most of the East Coast.

http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/article/one-year-later-how-it-based-disaster-recovery-plan-helped-cancer-patients-following-hurrican#.UpyImfmYNXw.twitter …

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