the **Availability Digest**

@availabilitydig – Our January Twitter Feed of Outages
January 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.

Not quite an availability story, but we like it anyway: "HP bringing back Windows 7 PCs? Not so fast.."

Tech news headlines are breathlessly reporting that HP is bringing back Windows 7 "by popular demand." The facts say otherwise: HP never stopped selling Windows 7 PCs, and it's actually selling fewer Windows 7 models today than it did last summer.

http://t.co/J0GXvHdihh

Big banks' legacy IT systems could kill them

Large retail banks with outdated technology face extinction – unless they can replace IT legacies – as new players use the latest IT to disrupt the market.

http://t.co/VyhPk6q5AM

Dropbox tweaks processes in wake of outage

Infrastructure engineers at Dropbox have added a "layer" of additional checks to prevent outages like last Friday's and took measures to speed up recovery of the service if outages do occur in the future.

http://t.co/CDtjCtM5JI

Tenets of modern server uptime and data center availability

A working, always-available IT platform is a core requirement of any organization. However, IT's quest for "dial tone" availability over the years has never quite materialized.

http://t.co/Waqs5HV2k2

US park service data center outage causes hardware damage, file corruption

The US National Park Service data center, located in Denver, Colorado, went completely dark on 1 January as a result of a utility power outage, causing damage to hardware systems and data stored in the facility.

http://t.co/EZUTwkMG6u

Cyberattack Suspected for Major Internet Outage

Yesterday, all websites without a .cn top-level domain were temporarily inaccessible by web users in mainland China. Any attempts to access sites with common top-level domains directed users to the website for Dynamic Internet Technology, a technology firm with ties to the Falun Gong organization.

http://t.co/Qp6TdKLj1z

United Said to Struggle With Computer Switch

A United Airlines (UAL) computer system malfunction that stranded pilots and caused some flight cancellations shows the company is still struggling to integrate Continental Airlines more than three years after their merger.

http://t.co/VDnhQVjFBk

HealthCare.gov Still Operating Without a Back-up System

HealthCare.gov website lacks a back-up system most large corporations use to ensure their businesses remain operational in case the primary computer systems go down.

http://t.co/AXZj4Coowr

6 Cloud Upstarts To Watch

Watch out, Amazon Web Services. These younger cloud companies bring new architectures and provisioning methods to the game.

http://t.co/x9gD5tjTaa

"Verisign DDoS Mitigation Services"

Verisign provides two complimentary DDoS defensive services – DDoS Monitoring Service and DDoS Mitigation Service.

bit.ly/1ce7IOT

In Virtualized World, Storage Options Just Get Better and Better

Storage technology improvements -- both in hardware and software -- are making simple work of pooling and provisioning storage for use in the virtualized world.

http://t.co/Lp2M19BmC3

Does retail security take a backseat during the 'holiday IT lockdown'?

Experts claim that many retailers actually deemphasize -- or even ignore -- basic data security practices during the make-or-break holiday shopping season.

bit.ly/18JxDh6

95 percent of Data Centers Fail: Why Bother With Redundancy?

Outage cost may be one of the most important factors in data center and IT design, because it should define how much money we spend reducing the risk of an outage.

https://t.co/HRk7UwhQcf

Demand for extreme availability has led to deployment of active/active data centers.

The requirement for extreme availability has led to the deployment by many organizations of active/active data centers, in which no component failure or even the loss of an entire data center will affect the services that are being provided.

http://bit.ly/19t36iE

The Ripple Effects of SDN: How It Will Change Data Center IT

Ensuring that the software-defined data center (SDDC) is sustainable and secure requires a new approach to IT. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the software-defined network (SDN).

http://t.co/tgGPe11ijF

Fuel Cells and Utility Telecommunications: Focus on Reliability

To have a resilient network, the power-critical communications equipment must also provide reliability and resilience. One tool in the quest for ever-increasing power reliability is the fuel cell.

fw.to/YA0EGHf

Outage Restoration--Weathering the Storms

During an outage, customers expect their utilities to assess problems quickly, to communicate estimated restoration times, and to explain why the power went out.

fw.to/IcwRO3e

Talk about availability! "Animal Loses Head but Remembers Everything."

A planarian is an inch-long flatworm that glides along the bottoms of rivers and ponds throughout the world. It is nothing special to look at, but it has a hidden talent that has made it famous. Planarians can regrow their body parts better than almost any other animal on earth.

http://n.pr/KhrTR5