

More Problems for Amazon EC2 Cloud

It was a stormy week in the cloud, as an outage at Amazon Web Services affected some customers and sparked discussion about resiliency strategies. (Photo by BCP via Flickr.

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Rich Miller | Jun 29, 2012



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The problems began at about 10:45 a.m. Eastern time, and were confirmed by Amazon a short time later. "We can confirm network connectivity issues for some EC2 instances in a single Availability Zone in the US-EAST-1 region," Amazon reported in its **Service Health Dashboard**. "Customers may be experiencing impaired read/write access to their EBS (Elastic Block Storage) volumes. New instance launches are also delayed. We are applying mitigations to address the connectivity issues ... and connectivity is beginning to recover." dotCloud also reported **downtime** due to the AWS problems.

UPDATE: As of 12:30 p.m. Eastern, Amazon reports progress. "Connectivity has been restored to the affected subset of EC2 instances and EBS volumes in the single Availability Zone in the US-EAST-1 region. New instance launches are completing normally. Some of the affected EBS volumes are still re-mirroring causing increased IO latency for those volumes."

Amazon experienced an **outage** June 15 in its US-East-1 availability zone that was triggered by a **series of failures** in the power infrastructure in a northern Virginia data center, including the failure of a generator cooling fan while the facility was on emergency power. The downtime affected AWS customers including **Heroku, Pinterest, Quora** and **HootSuite**, along with a host of smaller sites.

Today's problems seem to have affected fewer customers than the June 15 incident. One service reporting availability problems was the AppFog platform. "More AWS outages this morning (EC2, RDS, EBS), attempting to work around as best as we can," the company reported on its **Twitter feed**. "Sorry for any inconvenience this has caused."

It's not clear whether the smaller number of visible customer problems were due to the issue being more limited, or whether companies impacted by the incident two weeks ago have since opted to extend their infrastructure across additional EC2 availability zones, as recommended by Amazon.

Today's incident was the fourth in the last 14 months for the US-East-1 availability zone, which is Amazon's oldest availability zone and resides in a data center in Ashburn, Virginia. The US-East-1 zone also had downtime in **April 2011** and another less serious **incident in March**.

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