

Major Microsoft Cloud Outage Blamed on DNS Failure



Yesterday's latest Windows Azure cloud crash, caused by a DNS failure, overshadowed an upgrade to the service and briefly interrupted Microsoft's much-anticipated Xbox One launch last night.

The malfunction apparently brought down portions of the Xbox Live service on the eve of its midnight consumer unveiling. Microsoft is touting the Xbox One release as its most significant gaming launch to date. Fortunately for Microsoft, the outage's impact in Xbox Live didn't lead to major headlines that could have outshined last night's midnight launch.

As **speculated**, a DNS failure on the management servers outside of Windows Azure indeed was the cause yesterday's failure, Microsoft corporate VP Scott Guthrie confirmed in a tweet last night. "No -- Azure is not having issues (customer apps continue to run fine). The problem is a DNS name server issue outside of azure [sic]," the tweet read.



Scott Guthrie ✓
@scottgu



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@snayagar No - Azure is not having issues (customer apps continue to run fine). The problem is a DNS name server issue outside of azure

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In addition to Xbox Live inconveniently going down on the eve of the launch of Microsoft's first new upgrade of its Xbox console, Office 365, Outlook.com and SkyDrive also experienced failures.

Yesterday's failures also overshadowed several key upgrades to Windows Azure that Guthrie **announced yesterday on his blog** including:

- *BizTalk Services: General Availability Release*
- *Traffic Manager: General Availability Release*
- *Active Directory: General Availability Release of Application Access Support*
- *Mobile Services: Active Directory Support, Xamarin support for iOS and Android with C#, Optimistic concurrency*
- *Notification Hubs: Price Reduction + Debug Send Support*
- *Web Sites: Diagnostics Support for Automatic Logging to Blob Storage*
- *Storage: Support for alerting based on storage metrics*
- *Monitoring: Preview release of Windows Azure Monitoring Service Library*

Microsoft and its key rivals are all in an aggressive race to gain ground in cloud computing on Amazon Web Services. Of course Amazon has had its own share of embarrassing outages.

Presuming yesterday's outages are remediated, as the Windows Azure Service Dashboard indicated this morning, yesterday's failure will be added to the growing annals of disruptions. But it also adds fuel to the fire for opponents of using Windows Azure or any cloud service.

Posted by Jeffrey Schwartz on 11/22/2013 at 10:58 AM



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Microsoft Highlights Security and Compliance Milestones for OneDrive and SharePoint

Microsoft outlined some recent security and compliance enhancements that are either already available or will be coming to Microsoft 365 tenancies using OneDrive and SharePoint by year's end.



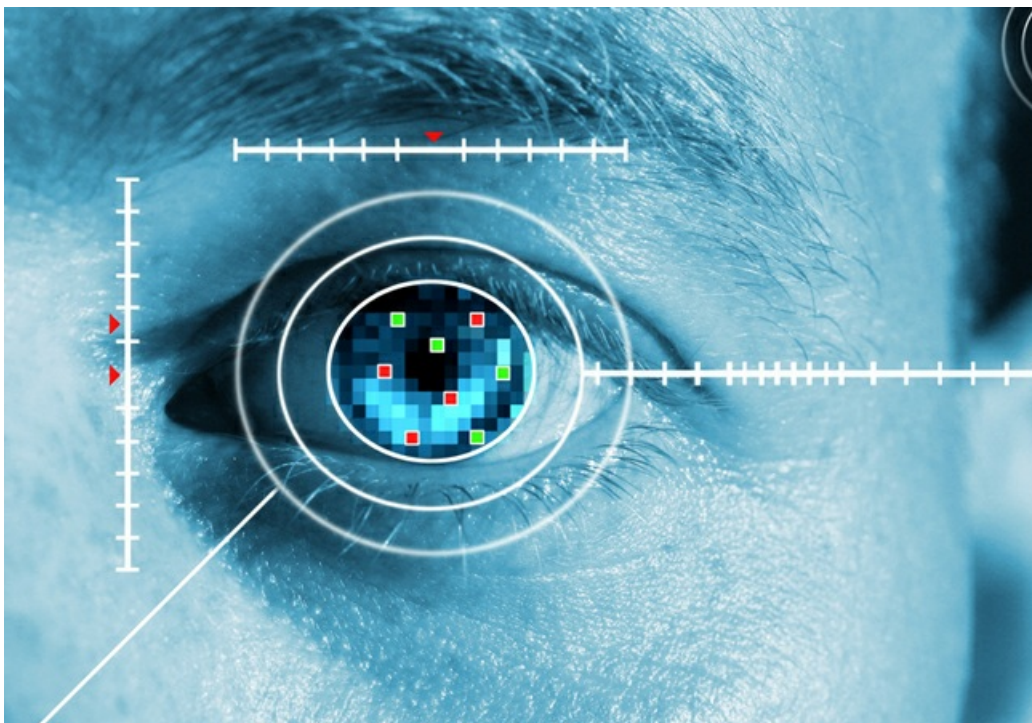
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Microsoft recently described new Teams features to come, with many of them aiming to make the remote videoconferencing experience feel more like an actual physical meeting.



What Money in Excel Means for the Future of Microsoft 365 Apps

Microsoft's new personal finance tool hints at what's in store for next-generation Office applications, from more third-party integrations to subscription requirements.



Microsoft Buys Orions Systems To Enhance Vision AI Capabilities in Dynamics 365

Microsoft announced on Tuesday that it has acquired Orions Systems with the aim of enhancing Dynamics 365 capabilities, as well as the Microsoft Power Platform.

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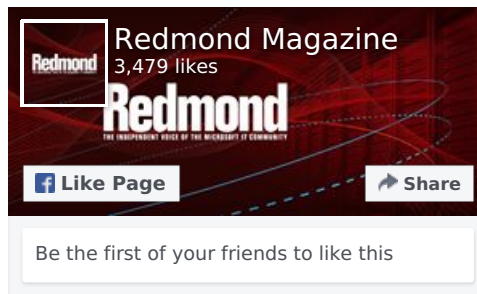
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