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Incident documentation/20150814-MediaWiki

[< Incident documentation](#)

Summary

On 23:40 a [change](#) was pushed out which removed and unloaded the FastStringSearch extension for HHVM. We had code in MediaWiki which checks for the presence of this extension and branches accordingly, using a fallback when the extension is not available. One of the callers of this code passes it a parameter of the wrong type, an error which the FastStringSearch extension had swallowed, but which caused a fatal error in the fallback branch (now filed as [bug T109160](#)). This bug was not caught on the beta cluster, because the code-path is exercised when converting text from one language variant to another, which does not happen frequently in that environment.

It does happen frequently in production, so the error-rate spiked. To revert, the configuration line `hhvm.dynamic_extensions[fss.so] = fss.so` needed to be restored to `/etc/hhvm/cgi.ini`, but it needed to happen sooner than the next Puppet run. An engineer ran a command across all application servers which was meant to append the line to end of the file but which truncated the file instead. This caused HHVM to restart with a skeleton configuration file, making a bad problem worse.

At 23:54 a good copy of the configuration file was provisioned across the cluster and HHVM was restarted, at which point the site recovered.

Timeline

- 23:40 bad change pushed
- 23:54 recovery starts

Actionables

- Status: ■ **Unresolved** ReplacementArray::replace() called with ResourceLoaderContext instead of string ([bug T109160](#))

Category: [Incident documentation](#)

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[Server admin log \(Prod\)](#)
[Server admin log \(RelEng\)](#)
[Deployments](#)
[SRE/Operations Help](#)
[Incident status](#)

[Cloud VPS & Toolforge](#)

[Cloud VPS documentation](#)

[Toolforge documentation](#)

[Request Cloud VPS project](#)

[Server admin log \(Cloud VPS\)](#)

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