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### AWS Outage – Thoughts on Disaster Recovery Policies



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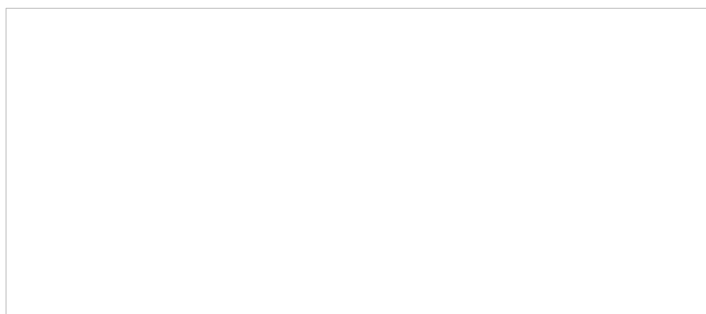
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A couple of days ago it happened again. On June 14 around 9 pm PDT [Amazon AWS hit a power outage](#) in its Northern Virginia data center, affecting EC2, RDS, Elastic Beanstalk and other services in the US-EAST region.



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The AWS status page reported:

*Some Cache Clusters in a single AZ in the US-EAST-1 region are currently unavailable. We are also experiencing increased error rates and latencies for the ElastiCache APIs in the US-EAST-1 Region. We are investigating the issue.*

This outage affected major sites such as Quora, Foursquare, Pinterest, Heroku and DropBox. I followed the outage reports, the tweets, the blog posts, and it all sounded all too familiar. A year ago AWS faced a [mega-outage](#) that lasted over 3 days, when another datacenter (in Virginia, no less!) went down, and took down with it major sites (Quora, Foursquare... ring a bell?).

Back during last year's outage I analyzed the reports of the sites that managed to survive the outage, and compiled a list of field-proven [guidelines and best practices](#) to apply in your architecture to make it resilient when deployed on AWS and other IaaS providers. I find these guidelines and best practices highly useful in my architectures. On this blog post I'd like to address one specific guideline in greater depth – architecting

for Disaster Recovery.

Disaster Recovery – Characteristics and Challenges

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Read the rest of this article on [CloudCow.com](https://www.cloudcow.com)

Published Tuesday, June 19, 2012 6:46 AM by David Marshall  
Filed under: Cloud, Business Continuity



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