

Azure goes AWOL?

The Azure and AWS outages, explained

On October 29th, many businesses and systems stuttered to a halt when a simple configuration change disrupted their host: Microsoft's cloud computing platform Azure.

The Azure outage affected multiple services across many different industries, including communications, shopping, and even gaming.

A recent statement from Microsoft blamed the outage on DNS disruptions and announced that mitigation efforts were ongoing.

The episode also spurred renewed complaints about Amazon's AWS cloud computing platform being down — one week after it previously crashed. At the time, the AWS outage disrupted large sections of the internet and vital services. That outage is also said to be caused by DNS errors.

On the 29th, amid the Azure outage, user reports also claimed that AWS was also failing again. Amazon issued a statement denying these reports.

Whatever the truth is, the month of Halloween has provided plenty of scares for users — reminding us all of how the internet can fail.

What was affected?

The AWS and Azure outages together affected virtually every sector of life.



Communications: T-Mobile and AT&T suffered outages



Shopping: Online consumer portals for Costco and Kroger failed



Recreation: Netflix and Minecraft had connection difficulties



Travel: Multiple airlines were unable to schedule flights



Home life: AWS-linked smart devices of all kinds, including smart beds, stopped working

Planning for failure

Two major outages back-to-back end October with an important lesson: relying on one key service means having one single point of failure. Cybersecurity experts encourage users to keep backups of sensitive data, and many organizations are making plans in case of further outages.

