

Thrive, Not Just Survive Engineering Resilience in Content Provider Networks

Ramesh Govindan December 20, 2023

The Internet Today



Hyperscalers





Hyperscalers





Survivability: The Availability Perspective

Survivability

• Focus on resilience to network failures

Availability

• Quantifiable outcome of resilience efforts

Availability is Quantifiable

Downtime per month

Three-nines	25 mins
Four-nines	4 mins
Five-nines	25 seconds





Rapid traffic growth





Services drive this growth









Need high feature velocity to meet growth

Impediments to High Network Availability



Analysis of large network failures

- Failure taxonomy
- Principles for high availability

R. Govindan et al., "Evolve or Die: High-Availability Design Principles Drawn from Google's Network Infrastructure," in Proceedings of the ACM Conference of the Special Interest Group on Data Communication (SIGCOMM '16), Florianópolis, Brazil, Aug. 2016



Background: Google's Network





Background: Network Decomposition

Management Plane Manages network evolution

Control Plane

Determines traffic flow

Data Plane

Forwards traffic





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What are the root causes?





Other Findings

Lessons

- 70% of failures during management operations
- most due to concurrent failures
- large, cascading failures frequent

No silver bullet

• Defense in depth



Design

Performance evaluation Code reviews Regression testing



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Deployment

Property checking Testing, canarying Progressive rollout



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Fast recovery Fallbacks Graceful degradation

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Operation

Incremental updates Programmed management Postmortems



Towards a Brave New World



Cruise told KTVU in a statement a "large event" caused "wireless connectivity issues causing delayed connectivity to our vehicles."

Connected autonomous vehicles

- a significantly harder problem
- humans in the control loop
- stakeholders with competing incentives

