

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE: Santa Defined Networking ? Turn on those images, we aim for amusing.



PACKETPUSHERS

Human Infrastructure Magazine

A Newsletter About a Life in Networking

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The "End of Year Shutdown" issue.

Thought For The Week:

"Why is Santa and Satan almost the same word ? Thats seem weird"



1. On Failure

by Ethan Banks

Here's a new year's resolution I can get behind.

Failure.

That's right. I have big plans to fail in 2018. Not completely. Not exclusively. But I definitely plan to do some failing.

Why am I planning to fail? Because when I fail, it means I tried to do something that I couldn't do, and it didn't work out. I didn't get it right. I didn't complete the task. I failed. When learning something new, failure is part of the process. In fact, it's through my failures that I have learned the most.

There are those of you who get this completely. There are others of you who consider failure to be a huge no-no. Culturally, you've been taught that failure is unacceptable. Failure is a sign of poor planning or incompetence. And yes, those are correct conclusions in certain contexts.

Therefore, let's establish the context in which failure is both necessary and acceptable. **Failure should be a part of your technology learning process.**

Now, if your idea of learning is, "Hey, I just read one of Banks' blogs. Hold my beer. I'm gonna try this," and then you log into a production switch, you're doing it wrong. The organization you support should be a beneficiary of your experience--not a victim of your learning process. Practice safe learning.

When I take on a new product or concept, I take the following steps.

1. **I create an environment where I can't harm anything that matters.** I keep lab gear isolated from the production environment in a common sense way.
2. **I read. A lot.** I try to figure out what the tech is and what it's good for. I try to read from multiple perspectives and sources to gain a varied view. I maintain a healthy skepticism of both cheerleader-ish and overly negative articles, seeking the balance.
3. **I create a personally interesting use case.** I come up with a scenario that interests me so that I can put the technology to the test. For example, if I wanted to try out the data center BGP routing design laid out in [RFC 7938](#), I'd set up a 4-leaf and 2-spine virtual lab. If I was working through "Kubernetes Up & Running" (which I am, slowly), I would set up an elastic DNS service. Why? Because I used to be a hostmaster at an ISP, and DNS interests me.

4. **I fail.** In other words, I try things and break stuff. Part of that is just how my brain works. I can't help thinking, "But what if I tweaked it this other way?" Then, I see what happens. When I was a kid, I took everything apart. I couldn't always put it back together, but seeing what was inside whatever it was fascinated me. I still do this with technology.

Breaking something is failure, but in the understanding of that failure comes knowledge. In that knowledge comes the deep understanding required to successfully deploy technology in production.

So in 2018, do some failing. I know I will.

Packet Pushers Virtual Design Clinic

Coming March 2018!

The Packet Pushers will host a Virtual Design Clinic on Tuesday, March 20, 2018. This live, online event will offer engineering deep dives on network challenges and solutions.

It will feature presentations from the Packet Pushers, independent speakers, and sponsors. After the event, we'll make the presentations available free for [Packet Pushers members](#).

Stay tuned for more details on speakers and how to register.



PACKET PUSHERS
Virtual Design Clinic

A Packet Pushers' Virtual Conference

Skip the planes, focus on engineering content, and bring a lot of intelligent people (and a few chaos monkeys) together to make IT a more tolerable professional.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 11:30 - 2:30 pm est
more details coming soon

2. What A Year

by Greg Ferro

So much has happened in Enterprise IT in the last 12 months and yet

What really changed ? While public cloud and containers gets miles of attention most people still have 1G Ethernet in their data centres. The debate over the death of OpenStack and rise Kubernetes has reached fever pitch, and yet few people actually use it.

We started the year talking about SD-WAN and we are still talking about it. There are people who have deployed but there are plenty of people who have never even heard of it. Certification courses still teach technologies from the 1990's like STP, OSPF and BGP.

If wishes were fishes we would all swim the sea.

We could wish that our technology was better. I wish I could predict that my network was reliable and promise that when I make this change, it would work the way it's supposed to. I wish that my vendor would test their products thoroughly before shipping them to me. I wish that the CLI was actually consistent across devices from a single vendor.

The 'future' isn't evenly distributed

And sure, Software Defined Networking might not have reached your company yet. You are still there hand crafting artisanal spanning trees and allocating IP addresses from a spreadsheet. That doesn't mean that change hasn't happened and to ignore what's happening. Keep an open mind and be ready for then the change arrives at your door.

Change is Exhausting

Packet Pushers is an exhausting place to work. We learn new stuff constantly and our small team does sales and operations as well producing all of the content you have had through the year. I gotta admit, I am tired. I'm really looking forward to having downtime and to let my soul catch up with my head.

I'm sure that you are ready for a break too. I've found that taking time away makes me better. I'm sharper, quicker and more focussed when I take mental time away from the day to day.

Next Year

We have a bunch of plans for Packet Pushers to do new stuff. It involves spending large sums of money and allocating large amounts of time to execution. As always, it's about content. Writing, speaking, editing and publishing.

We will back on the 9th January. Are you ready to do it again ?



Sponsor: Cisco

FUTUREWAN'18: SD-WAN Virtual Summit, January 23-26

The must attend summit of the year is back!

Join the global community of leading industry analysts, technology professionals and service providers in a series of interactive webinars, roundtables and keynote sessions: all accessible online from anywhere in the world. There will be 20+

sessions across 4 tracks delivered in 4 days.
Register now!

FUTUREWAN'18
The **SD-WAN** Virtual Summit

Hosted by  **CISCO**

 **PACKET
PUSHERS**

Jan. 23 to 26

[View Now](#)

Thanks, Internet

All kinds of amusing things wash up in our social feeds.

Dear Satan





"He drank a gallon of gin and blood, sent a drunken WhatsApp to his ex, wept uncontrollably and finally passed out"



PACKET PUSHERS

Get Plugged into Membership...

Get Immediate access to FREE Member Benefits

Where Too Much Technology Would *NEVER* Be Enough

Join the Packet Pushers' new membership program and get benefits including our weekly Link Propagation newsletter and more. [Click here for details and to sign up.](#)

Internets Of Interest

A collection of pre-loved links that might interest you. "Pre-loved" because I liked them enough to put into this newsletter. It's not *true* love.

By Greg Ferro and Drew Conry-Murray

Space Enabled Optical Fibre

As space flight becomes a LOT cheaper (as SpaceX is doing), new products become possible:

"When produced in a strong gravitational environment, such as Earth, exotic optical fiber is subject to tiny flaws. These crystals appear in the fiber and significantly increase signal loss."

[LINK](#)

Farewell to Putty as Microsoft adds OpenSSH

I think this is a "finally"

"There is a new beta feature in Windows 10 that may just see the retirement of Putty from many users: an OpenSSH client and OpenSSH server application for Windows."

[LINK](#)

PF_RING and Network Namespaces

An emerging skill is knowing how packets move through the Linux kernel and OS stack. PF-Ring is the most common I think and the team from ntop

have a presentation on the latest advances they are using

"With the advent of Containers, processes isolation has become extremely easy and effective, to the point that ordinary Virtual Machines have been reconsidered. Many ntop users today are running traffic monitoring applications in Docker, thus it's important to understand how Containers work and how to make the best use of them"

[LINK](#)



Join the Datanauts on their mission to bust silos and explore the latest developments in cloud, convergence, data centers, and more. [Sign up free here.](#)

The Network Break



Network Break is a weekly podcast that delivers news & analysis on the networking industry in a fun, fast-paced style. [Subscribe here!](#)

Product News

Find out about interesting new products, or get essential information about things you might already be using.

Very quiet on the product front in the week before Christmas, as you might expect.

The State of Enterprise Software - Greylock Partners

Greylock Partners is major investor and Jerry Chen is talking about his view of the future of Enterprise IT. Something, obviously, that I care about.

"Essentially, we experienced a significant market correction where valuations and startup expectations have reached a "new normal." There may still be further corrections ahead (...or a "bubble pop" if that's what you want to call it.) We can't predict what future valuations will look like but we can say with confidence that we won't be returning to 2015 values for quite some time. What does this mean for enterprise startups? "

[LINK](#)

7 cocktails with champagne and gin to ring in the New Year

My wife and I have decided to drink cocktails made from Gin & Champagne for the holidays. These recipes grabbed my attention. Why ? Because Gin/Champers cocktails are really easy to make once you have the ingredients. I'm not using real champagne of course since French bubbly wine tastes awful but many other bubbly white wines such as Prosecco make better cocktails.

[LINK](#)

Briefings In Brief: A New Packet Pushers Podcast

Want more tech news? [Subscribe](#) to our newest podcast channel, [Briefings](#)

[In Brief](#). We take five minutes or less to summarize and analyze tech news, product announcements, or other interesting items that come across our desks.

[LINK](#)

Recent Podcasts

The last five podcasts published on Packet Pushers

PacketPushers.net - The Last Five

[Datanauts 115: Secure Printing With HP \(Sponsored\)](#)

[Network Break 166: Net Neutrality Neutralized; Arista Targets Routing](#)

[Show 370: Cisco & IPv6 Segment Routing \(Sponsored\)](#)

[Datanauts 114: Unikernels And IncludeOS](#)

[Network Break 165: Cisco's Latest Cloud Buy; Juniper Brings Bots](#)



Priority Queue

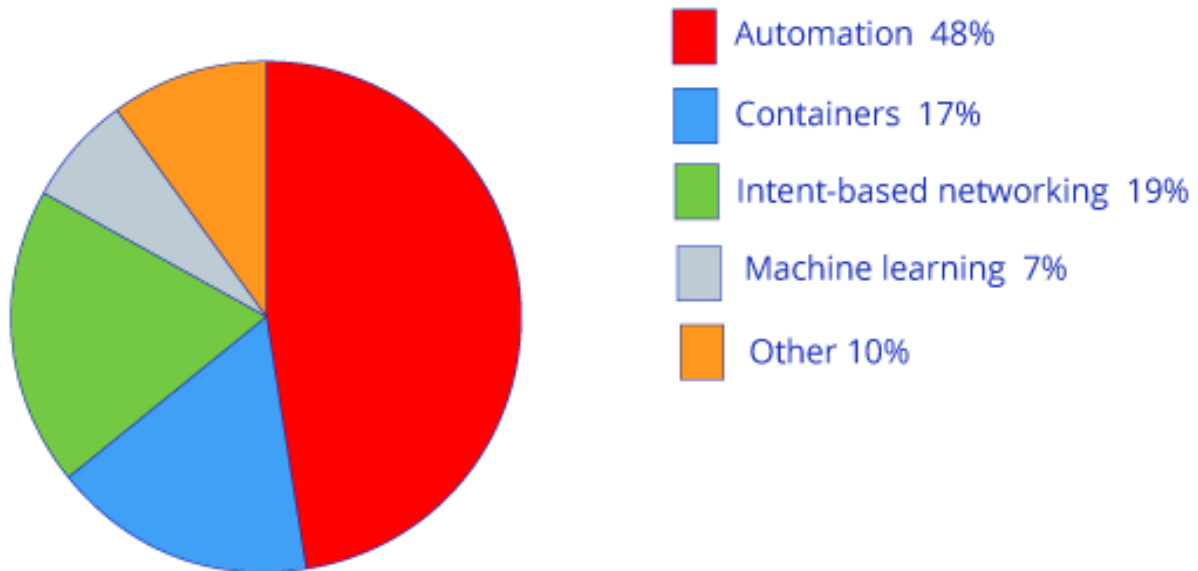
Where Too Much Networking
Would **NEVER** Be Enough

Full Stack Journey tells personal stories about the ongoing quest to become a full stack engineer. [Subscribe today!](#)

Priority Queue tackles niche and nerdy tech topics and cutting-edge research projects. [Subscribe here!](#)

Last Issue's Survey Results

What technology area are you most interested in learning about in 2018?



Source: Packet Pushers Human Infrastructure Survey December 7, 2017 - 42 respondents

Did We Miss Something?

Got an link or an article to share? Email it to humaninfrastructure@packetpushers.net

The End Bit

Sponsorship and Advertising - Send an email to humaninfrastructure@packetpushers.net for more information. You could reach 5,013 people.

Human Infrastructure is bi-weekly newsletter with view, perspectives, and opinions. It is edited and published by Greg Ferro and Drew Conry-Murray from PacketPushers.net. If you'd like to contribute, email Drew at drew.conrymurray@packetpushers.net.

We don't give away your email address or personal details because that would suck.

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