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smashing hardware Four back-to-back weekends of work – and disastrously bad documentation –

Frustrated consultant 'went full Hulk' and started

will do that do a techie Simon Sharwood Mon 27 Oct 2025 // 07:30 UTC

the job.

ON-PREM

WHO, ME? Welcome to Monday morning and another installment of Who, Me? For the uninitiated, it's The Register's weekly reader-contributed column that tells tales of your greatest misses, and how you rebuilt a career afterward.

Ted later discovered that the company hired him because the previous tech team had all just resigned. "As I went through the interview process, I learned they were essentially locked out of their servers

This week, meet a reader we'll Regomize as "Ted" who joined a nonprofit company that ran a small

consultancy team providing its clients with tech services.

into the servers, I said yes, and they handed me a huge pile of old notes."

because the previous team did not leave admin passwords behind," Ted wrote. "They asked if I could get

With that "documentation" to hand, Ted managed to wrest control of the servers, a feat that earned him

One of the services the nonprofit provided was a certification lab, and Ted's bosses told him to take over its backup systems. To do so, he logged into the organization's server virtualization platform, saw a list of

"Little did I know that was just the beginning of my woes," he told Who, Me?

VMs not mentioned in the pile of notes, and deleted them.

migration project, he essentially told us not to touch anything."

"Months later, I learned that I essentially destroyed the certification lab," Ted confessed to Who, Me?

managed services for all client sites, reporting to the nonprofit's IT manager. "My entire life became non-stop visits to client sites," he wrote. His employer recognized that Ted was

After somehow surviving that incident, Ted found himself the sole remaining consultant delivering

carrying an enormous workload and coaxed one member of the previous team back to help.

"He was one of those types that knows things and understands them, but cannot explain to other people," Ted lamented. "After spending a couple of hours trying to explain what was going on with a failed server

after weekend after weekend. **MORE CONTEXT**

Company that made power systems for servers didn't know why its own machines ran out of juice

Techies tossed appliance that had no power cord, but turned out to power their company

Techie found an error message so rude the CEO of IBM apologized for it

Intern had no idea what not to do, so nearly mangled a mainframe

"I started losing it to the point at which I snapped," he admitted.

Ted ended up spending a weekend figuring out and fixing the mess, and the hits kept coming weekend

and insisted that Ted must visit on Saturday to fix it.

The incident that broke him started on a Friday, when the IT manager reported a client's Wi-Fi was down

Ted was already on site at another client, and the prospect of spending another Saturday working was too much.

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Ted's contract expired not long after.

"The client asked if I was alright and as soon as I explained I was being asked to work for the fourth weekend in a row I went full Hulk. I started smashing my stuff (I broke my laptop), stormed out of the building smashing walls, and pretty much ripped most of my clothes off." Ted called his boss, and "exploded with language I never knew you could say in a professional

"The IT manager begged me to stay and I really appreciated him, we had some good times together all

"They fired me and brought in a new team," he told Who, Me?

"Those were some of the darkest days of my career but as I look back, I am not too sad about them as they helped me get to where I am now and I did survive," he added. "And I am still amazed that I wasn't

The client with broken Wi-Fi later dumped the nonprofit company and found another service provider.

things considered, and he told me not to work the weekend and that he would hire more people."

fired earlier, and maybe some might be able to relate to the extreme stresses of IT work."

Have you exploded in a fit of rage due to the frustrations of work? If so, make a cathartic click here to

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