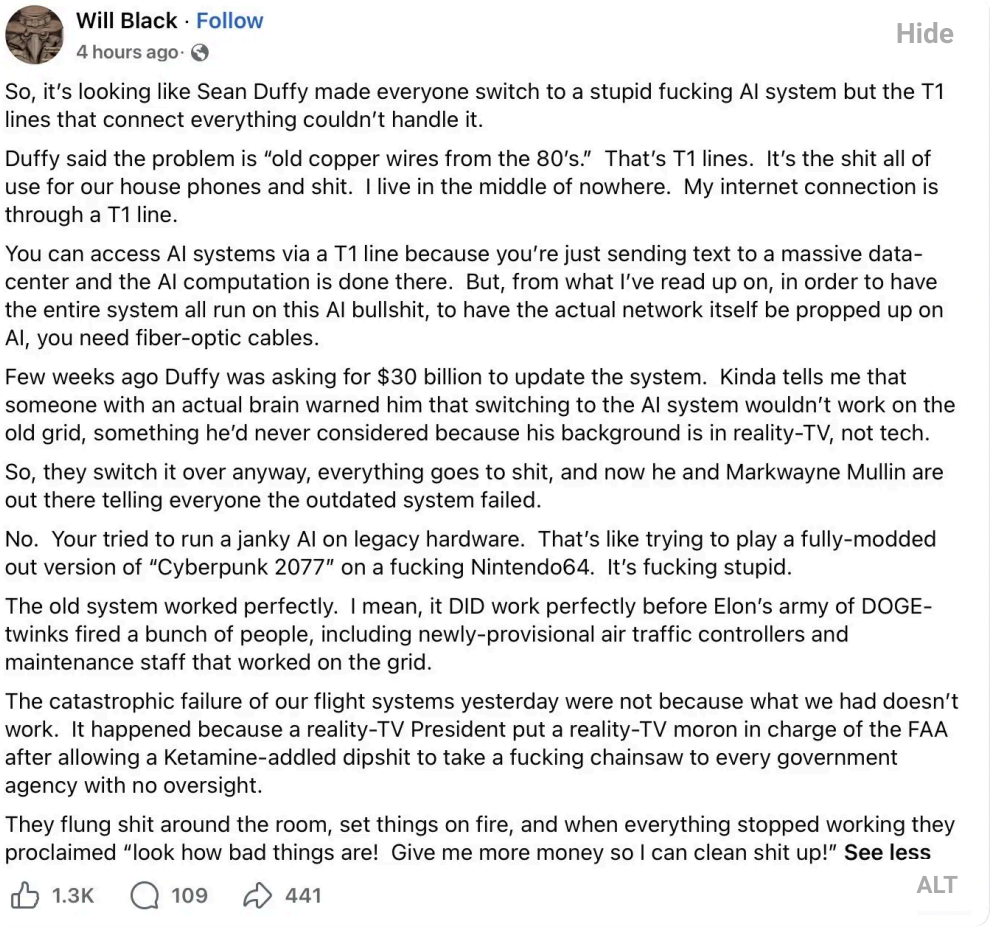


Michael Marek
@mimarek@universeodon.com

The explanation below is basically what I said yesterday.



Will Black · Follow
4 hours ago ·

Hide

So, it's looking like Sean Duffy made everyone switch to a stupid fucking AI system but the T1 lines that connect everything couldn't handle it.

Duffy said the problem is "old copper wires from the 80's." That's T1 lines. It's the shit all of use for our house phones and shit. I live in the middle of nowhere. My internet connection is through a T1 line.

You can access AI systems via a T1 line because you're just sending text to a massive data-center and the AI computation is done there. But, from what I've read up on, in order to have the entire system all run on this AI bullshit, to have the actual network itself be propped up on AI, you need fiber-optic cables.

Few weeks ago Duffy was asking for $30 billion to update the system. Kinda tells me that someone with an actual brain warned him that switching to the AI system wouldn't work on the old grid, something he'd never considered because his background is in reality-TV, not tech.

So, they switch it over anyway, everything goes to shit, and now he and Markwayne Mullin are out there telling everyone the outdated system failed.

No. Your tried to run a janky AI on legacy hardware. That's like trying to play a fully-modded out version of "Cyberpunk 2077" on a fucking Nintendo64. It's fucking stupid.

The old system worked perfectly. I mean, it DID work perfectly before Elon's army of DOGE-twinks fired a bunch of people, including newly-provisional air traffic controllers and maintenance staff that worked on the grid.

The catastrophic failure of our flight systems yesterday were not because what we had doesn't work. It happened because a reality-TV President put a reality-TV moron in charge of the FAA after allowing a Ketamine-addled dipshit to take a fucking chainsaw to every government agency with no oversight.

They flung shit around the room, set things on fire, and when everything stopped working they proclaimed "look how bad things are! Give me more money so I can clean shit up!" **See less**

1.3K 109 441

ALT

Nov 15, 2026, 03:45 PM ·

471 boosts · **15** quotes · **546** favorites



JJ (I voted!)
@JJ@beige.party

8h

@mimarek
I'm waiting for some "unnamed source" reporting before I'm convinced what happened but this seems reasonable. The AI "solution" is probably as inefficient in network usage as it is in memory and CPU usage. I miss the good old days of "it has to run in this much memory and execute in this much time".

0

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amateur height clearance sign verification engineer 8h
@kirakira@furry.engineer

@mimarek i saw a clip where he said something lik "the outdated copper wire system, they don't even make it anymore" and i was like, shiit they don't make copper wire anymore??

0



Miko Blissful [he/fae] 8h
@windbliss@bark.lgbt

@mimarek not to mention we all have tried to convince our telecoms to upgrade our old lines for efficiency's sake, but the telecoms were against it because it was proven their $$ went not towards providing service, but customer support for lines they won't touch.

This was a time-bomb in the making and AI asshats have set it off sooner rather than later

We were not built for this because we have two decades of shrugging it off. Even if we upgraded our pipes the architecture might as well still be sega saturns..

1



2xfo 7h
@RnDanger@infosec.exchange

@windbliss
This has big echoes of "they installed AC for the new robot - not the 15 workers who pass out with heat exhaustion every year"
@mimarek

1



Miko Blissful [he/fae] 2h
@windbliss@bark.lgbt

@RnDanger @mimarek Sad but true.

0



Frank Watson 8h
@hyaswawa@socialbc.ca

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@mimarek Your point hits on a major critique of IT culture: the pursuit of scale and centralization at the expense of robustness. They tried to slap centralized AI on an aging decentralized infrastructure without understanding the physical limits. Building smaller communicative localized systems (like mesh networks or localized edge-AI) would require more physical hardware spread out across the country, but it would be much harder to take down with a bad software update or a pair of bolt cutters

2



derptron
@crazyeddie@mastodon.social
8h

@hyaswawa @mimarek Well ... we can't let that happen. What will MAGA terrorists do then??? Have to come up with a multi-pronged attack that requires coordinated logistics? Don't you think that's a little unfair to them?

0



ginoputrino
@ginoputrino@mastodon.social
1h

@hyaswawa @mimarek I've worked on a number of remotely deployed critical systems ranging from traffic lights to autonomous trains. You ALWAYS make sure that these sorts of systems have local failover in the event of a network outage. Even if it's degrade/reduced functionality of some sort.

The fact that the new AI system for the FAA can't do anything if connectivity is lost is an absolute failure of design.

Apparently anyone accidentally digging in the wrong place can now shit down airports.

0



Jeremy
@jeremydebose@mstdn.social
8h

@mimarek SI system * 😂🤦‍♂️

0



derptron
@crazyeddie@mastodon.social
8h

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@mimarek Me too: noah-roberts.dev/blog/hardware...

I have a question though. What does propping a network up on AI even mean? I don't understand that. Implement TCP/IP on top of agent to agent chatter or something?

Yes, I imagine that takes fiber :p Lot's of it. Maybe it's time to purchase some stock in MetaMucil.

noah-roberts.dev

Hardware Problems

1



mathew
@mathew
1h

@crazyeddie @mimarek A possible interpretation of the comments is that they're doing software-defined networking (SDN) and having an AI make the network topology decisions, to "optimize" the network.

0



Jace 🔥❤️‍🔥💖❤️
@JHein@mastodon.social
8h

@mimarek

If they listened to a real engineer the 1st thing they would have heard would have been "Test it in a lab setup mimicking the actual network first."

But apparently the bros don't have time for that.

0



36 Pickled Eggs
@36pickledeggs@famichiki.jp
7h

@mimarek
Yes! I totally agree with this and was yelling at my yt player watching the press conferences. Uhg!
However, the description of a T1 as being, "It's the shit all of [us] use for our house phones and shit", was like nails on a chalk board

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for me. But, it can totally be forgiven, since even though it is really roughly 24 times the bandwidth of what you would get through a single POTS line, it is still data dust compared to fiber.

0



Marc Scheffel
@mscheffel@techhub.social

7h

@mimarek It was literally what every experienced (see: old) IT person was yelling at the screen 20 minutes in.

They even did it on the equivalent of “one week until the Annual Report” where you freeze infrastructure and software updates.

0



Jeroen Wiert Pluimers
@wiert@mastodon.social

7h

@mimarek source is another post from Will Black that disappeared from Facebook. This post is still there:
facebook.com/willvblack/posts/...

Facebook

0



ohir
@ohir@vivaldi.net

7h

@mimarek
> below is basically what I said yesterday.

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You, me, him, her, them – anyone with real-world experience. And it is precisely this experience that has made us, over the last two years, too dangerous for companies to want to keep us on.

0



xs4me2
@xs4me2@mastodon.social
7h

@mimarek

Unbelievable but true…

0



It's Pronounced DEETS
@PaulDitz@todon.eu
6h

@mimarek If these "very smart people" would stop trying to fix shit that isn't broken by adding all this AI bullshit into systems that don't need them, things would stop breaking.

I think the reason they think AI is so "smart" is because they are so fucking stupid.

1



isotope239 🥸💻🇺🇦😣
@isotope239@mastodon.online
6h

@PaulDitz @mimarek Don't forget greedy. Stupid and greedy. 😑

0



G 🇮🇹
@ranx@mastodon.social
6h

@mimarek well... Mr. Black there forgot to mention that Mr. Trump blamed Mr. Biden for what happened (of course)

0



Kay Ohtie
@KayOhtie@blimps.xyz
6h

@mimarek I'm not sure I buy a single word that comes out of Duffy's mouth and I'm not sure why everyone else takes it and runs with it.

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It sounds like more likely they might have been doing a poorly timed fiber upgrade, if they were in fact doing a fiber upgrade: passnational.org/news/pass-on-...

That is the union that represents aviation safety specialists. Their explanation sounds a lot more boring (but believable) than "the T1 lines were overloaded by AI".

It could be both! But I'm gunning for what the union says over the asshole who hates them.

> passnational · 23h
>
> **PASS On the Nationwide Ground ...**
>
> Yesterday, the U.S. air traffic control system experienced only the second nationwide ground stop since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. PASS is

4



Patrick Morris Miller 6h
@kentenmakto@mastodon.ie

@KayOhtie @mimarek And I may be stupid for saying this, but if I was ever put in charge of a copper to fiber migration [1], my first rule would be LEAVE THE COPPER THERE UNTIL THE FIBER FUCKING WORKS.

[1] Migration, because if the copper can do the job *it's not an upgrade*.

1



Kay Ohtie 6h
@KayOhtie@blimps.xyz

@kentenmakto @mimarek I largely suspect that's what PASS would've said too if they'd been brought in like they're supposed to be

0



Varx 5h
@varx@defcon.social

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@KayOhtie @mimarek "Historically contractors have followed a protocol where FAA employees conduct a risk assessment and coordinate the maintenance of the system or equipment. PASS-represented technicians were not involved in the upgrades that led to the ground stop yesterday."

Fucking THIS is what I pointed out. If you're upgrading something critical enough that it could bring down literally all domestic airspace, then you run some sort of risk analysis and have mitigations and backups in place during the upgrade. Because there's no way in hell that something DOESN'T go wrong. And even if they fail and you end up grinding everything to a halt then the PR gets to point out "despite our robust backup plans we ..." . to just go up there and say "we never considered it" is absolutely bonkers. If its really true that they had absolutely no backup plan, then they did not include anyone with any experience in safety critical systems (I'd say any kind of system? Like this is basic shit)

My theory is that they DID have those risk analysis done and it recommended additional mitigations/backups/coordination that would gave cost more time/money and Duffy (with all of his extensive expertise 🙄) chose to push it through anyway so now he's trying to roll his shit decision downhill.

0



Taran Rampersad, EIEIO 5h
@knowprose@mastodon.social

@KayOhtie @mimarek "PASS-represented technicians were not involved in the upgrades that led to the ground stop yesterday."

Yeah. There it is.

Quite the mess this administration has made.

0



Corb_The_Lesser 4h
@Corb_The_Lesser@mastodon.social

@KayOhtie @mimarek The PASS reference to a Friday update of 2 routers syncs, potentially, with reports that evening of problems at O'Hare and Midway.

0

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Wee bull
@weebull@mastodon.social
6h

@mimarek Is this person an authority? I'm trying to understand how much weight to give this explanation.

0

Bellegray Lane
@bellegraylane
5h

@mimarek thanks for the information. And the confirmation. I am no air traffic controller, but I also am not idiotic enough to believe these idiots are smart. The time of the announcements alone was damning evidence. I want the AI and morons out of critical infrastructure now please.

0

XCondE
@xconde@chinwag.org
4h

@mimarek so the old T1 lines saved us from having AI agents control air traffic?

0

EarthMomma
@LaNaehForaday
4h

@mimarek

In a nutshell -
The catastrophic failure of our flight systems yesterday were not because what we had doesn't work. It happened because a reality-TV President put a reality-TV moron in charge of the FAA after allowing a Ketamine-addled dipshit to take a fucking chainsaw to every government agency with no oversight. They flung shit around the room, set things on fire, and when everything stopped working they proclaimed "look how bad things are! Give me more money so I can clean shit up!"

0

Skjeggtroll
@skjeggtroll@mastodon.online
4h

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@mimarek

"We inherited a piece of swamp and tried to build a castle there. It sank. Clearly, this is the fault of the previous owner who failed to prepare the ground."

0

The Low Classics 4h
@TheLowClassics@mstdn.party

@mimarek sounds like they're just following their playbook : cia.gov/stories/story/the-art-...

0

Woozle Hypertwin 2h
@woozle@toot.cat

@mimarek "move fast, break things, then demand that the owners pay to fix them"

1

Indio Gringo ® 2h
@paninid@mastodon.world

@woozle @mimarek

“Nice #AdministrativeState ya got there, be a shame if something happened to it. Oops.”

0

Nazo 2h
@nazokiyoubinbou@mastodon.social

@mimarek I think what really blows my mind is the way they actually can try to blame Democrats for t his with a straight face. I know they've always done that kind of thing, but... it's a bit much to basically say "how dare the Biden administration not predict we were going to do this and change the systems ahead of time for our convenience."

0

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Death by Lambda
@xdydx@mastodon.social

2h

@mimarek

No one could have predicted that though..

archive.is/20250612115756/http...

0

spiegelmama
@spiegelmama@infosec.exchange

1h

@mimarek Same. Transparent incompetence and blame-shifting on top of breathtaking corruption. I hate this.

0

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