

# Caught in the pouring rain



Colin Walker, 2008-02-09

I'm pretty sure everyone's heard the old adage, "When it rains, it pours". It's the same pretty much everywhere, it seems. Whether it's your personal life or in the business world, there isn't much of a difference as far as I can tell. This is likely because most things are somehow coupled together to form a chain of events that, given proper analysis from an informed yet detached point of view, would become clear. I.E. The DB's index got corrupted because the third spindle has acted up because the AC is on the fritz and overheating things and even though you've been trying to get that addressed it's not done yet because the maintenance guy's truck overheated on the way to the appointment yesterday thanks to the same heat-wave that's causing your problems...etc.

That doesn't mean it's any easier to deal with any one of these events, let alone the whole lot at once. At the time it seems like there are gremlins everywhere, plotting your slow and torturous demise, or maybe a broken mirror somewhere that you didn't realize you were responsible for. I've had some experience with this many times over, I'm sorry to say. These things all seem to be happening at once and it can get pretty overwhelming. The thing to do, as far as I can tell, is to take things one at a time and prioritize them the best you can. It's important to keep in mind that the universe is not conspiring against you and there is no evil death ray pointed at you from a far off space vessel, bent on the slow yet inevitable destruction of your frail human consciousness by way of aggravation overload. That's just silly...I hope.



Another way to help, as with all things, is to be prepared. This could easily translate to backup hard disks or maybe even entire servers, depending on your scale. This could also equate to putting mechanisms in place that allow you to more easily deal with such situations. I'm not sure I can draw any great examples in a personal setting, but things like a high-availability infrastructure, easily configurable application switching, global disaster recovery strategies, etc. could definitely help prevent some of the stress headaches in the IT world.

Now, if someone would just show me how to implement these same ideals in my personal life, I'd be much appreciative. What, no ADC for the home? But my deck is failing and I want to fail over to the backup! I want to run the laundry machines in active-active so things will stop piling up and I can make some headway, then go back to active-standby with no extra cost. I want to have an ever updating security model that is aware of the attacks going on elsewhere in my area and protects me against them before they can get to me. I want to write some custom code that changes the way my house interfaces with the world so that I don't have to mow the lawn or clean the windows anymore. No? Well, nice to dream, anyway.

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