

Survey of top social networks reveals vast differences in site availability

A detailed report about site availability reveals the outages, trends and overall amount of downtime in 2008 for 15 of the world's largest social networks. The report includes popular sites such as Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Twitter, LiveJournal and more.

The largest social networks count their users in the millions, and the massive amounts of traffic and data they have to handle pose unique challenges when it comes to keeping the website up and running smoothly. The uptime monitoring service Pingdom has released a new report that reveals how well the world's largest and most established social networks ran their websites in 2008, with a focus on site availability.

Included in the report are: Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Twitter, Friendster, LiveJournal, Orkut, Bebo, Hi5, Windows Live Spaces, Last.fm, Classmates.com, Reunion.com, Xanga and Imeem.

Among other things, the survey shows that site availability (i.e. that the website is available and responds on the Internet) varies greatly between the different social networks. One third had more than a day and a half of downtime in 2008, while one third had less than 8 hours of downtime.

The survey also reveals several interesting trends. For example, a full 84 percent of Twitter's downtime came during the first half of 2008, when the service was still struggling with stability issues. July and onward has seen a significant improvement for the service. LinkedIn, on the other hand, is having the opposite problem. Each quarter showed a larger amount of downtime for LinkedIn than the previous one.

The full report answers questions such as:

- How much downtime did each social network have in 2008?
- Which was the most massive social network downtime incident in 2008?
- Which was the longest continuous outage for each social network in 2008?
- How much downtime did each social network have each month?
- The downtime trend for each social network. Is stability getting better or worse?
- Why is high availability so important to social networks?

The report, including graphs, key findings and additional analysis is available here (as a PDF file):

http://www.pingdom.com/_img/press/pingdom_20090217_social_network_downtime_2008.pdf



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Press contact:

Peter Alguacil, +46-21-480 09 21, peter@pingdom.com

About Pingdom:

Pingdom is a global uptime monitoring service, monitoring websites and servers from multiple locations across the world to ensure the best reliability and accuracy possible. The company is growing fast and has customers in 131 countries, ranging from small one-man businesses to large, international corporations. Find out more at www.pingdom.com.