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Hey Look, It's The Twitter Fail Whale!

by **Robin Wauters** on Jan 20, 2010

Just yesterday I wrote about a new service called [API-Status.com](#) that monitors the [availability of 26 popular APIs](#), and today it's already proven useful for me. The [Twitter API is down](#), causing thousands of third-party apps and services to malfunction.

Of course, a simple visit to [Twitter.com](#) would also teach you that the service is broken, because as of approximately 6:40AM Eastern Time people are unable to access the site because of 'too many tweets'. In other words: welcome back, [fail whale](#).

Update (7:45 AM EST): it's back up for me.

For what it's worth, according to Pingdom Twitter was having a nice run this month, with a registered uptime of [99.89%](#) in January 2010 so far.

I'm thinking [Bill Gates](#) could have something to do with it.

At this moment, there isn't any mention of the service disruption on the [Twitter Status site](#) yet, so we're left wondering when the service is expected to come back up. In the meantime, go check out our [15 alternative things to do when Twitter is down](#) post.

Update: at 7:25AM EST, Twitter [updated](#) its status blog:

We are experiencing an outage due to an extremely high number of whales. Our on-call team is working on a fix.

(As commenters are pointing out, the news that a second earthquake just hit Haiti likely resulted in a flurry of tweets and retweets about the subject, and Twitter may not have been able to handle that sudden load.)

And don't forget to retweet this post. You know, later.

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