

This is newsletter #41, 2018-W3 published on 20 January 2018.



# architectingIT



## Impacts of Spectre/Meltdown

The fallout from Spectre and Meltdown continues, as early release patches are [found to brick](#) some servers. VMware released patches which were [later withdrawn](#). The impact of the first patches released shows significant I/O degradation. An article from [Techspot](#) implies that NVMe devices will see more impact than traditional SSDs. This makes sense, because NVMe I/O paths are so much more efficient that any additional overhead will have a visible impact.

Public cloud vendors have already patched their systems, with demonstrable impact on virtual instance performance and load. Storage vendors have taken one of three stances. For "closed" appliances, most aren't patching. For appliances/arrays that are capable of running user code, patches will be applied. For SDS, patches will be applied.

## The Architect's View

Personally, rather than leap in, I'd be waiting to evaluate the impact of the patches that have been released so far. If your data centre is secure, with few customer-facing applications, then the risk of an exposure is likely lower than the damage from applying hastily applied patches. As ever, businesses with test labs will be able to quantify the impact of upgrades and patch releases. For the rest, there will be a dependency on good vendor testing, with a range of workloads.

I hope storage vendors step up and show the results of comprehensive testing. Unfortunately it's not like the industry has any independents that could do this any more.

Here's one final thought - what will the impact be on [SPEC](#) and other storage benchmark testing? Will we see the records standing as they are for some time? If existing record holders patch, should their products be retested as a matter of course?

What do you think?

Chris Evans

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## New Architecting IT Blog Posts...

- [Kaminario Goes Software-Defined](#) (19 January 2018)
- [Data Mobility - Caching Technologies](#) (17 January 2018)
- [Object Storage Critical Capabilities #3 - Searching, Indexing and Metadata](#) (15 January 2018)

## New Storage Unpacked Podcasts...

- [#34 - NAND Shortage? What NAND Shortage! with Jim Handy](#) (19 January 2018)
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