by ADAM KORGA

F**KUP ALMANAC

Volume 1 - Foundations Of The Digital World

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Failures are not exceptions.
They are the system speaking honestly

BOOK PITCH

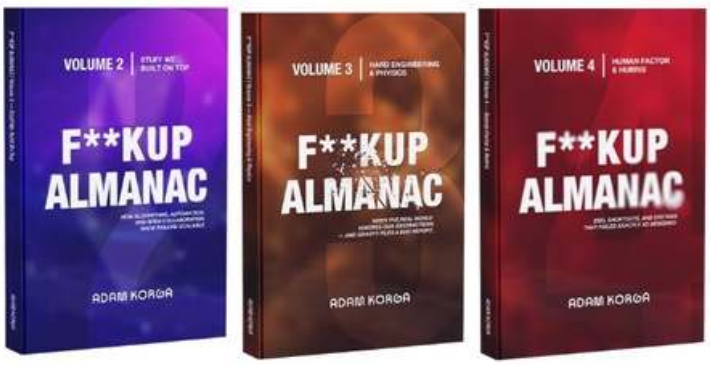
The Fuckup Almanac, Vol. 1 treats engineering failures and technological disasters as data — moments where systems expose their true structure and organizations reveal how decisions are really made.

The book introduces the foundations of modern IT in a conversational, beer-talk tone with academic-level fact-checking, *requiring no prior technical background* beyond curiosity about how systems work — and fail.

ADAM KORGA

Adam Korga is an engineer with 20 years of hands-on experience — and a writer by accident. He dissects how modern digital systems fail and what those failures reveal about technology, organizations, and human decisions, translating complex ideas into plain language without jargon or mythology.

OTHER BOOKS FROM THIS SERIES



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Fuckup Almanac, Volume 1 treats engineering failures not as scandals, anomalies, or embarrassing footnotes, but as the moments when complex systems stop pretending. When everything works, assumptions remain invisible. When things fail, the real structure shows up — along with the decisions everyone hoped would never be tested.

Using real-world IT disasters as raw material, the book explains the foundations of the digital world: compute, networking, storage, security, and resilience. Not through heroic success stories or glossy postmortems, but by examining how ordinary shortcuts, misplaced trust, and "reasonable" decisions quietly accumulate until the system runs out of luck.

This is not a how-to guide, a productivity manual, or a blueprint for building the next YouTube. Think of it as a friendly map to the territory — drawn by someone who has walked it, gotten lost, and watched the signposts lie. The focus is on mechanisms and ideas, not tools, frameworks, or fashionable abstractions.

Failures here are not collected for disaster porn or cheap schadenfreude, even if they can be enjoyed that way. They are used as data. No prior technical background is required — only curiosity, a tolerance for uncomfortable explanations, and a willingness to accept that most systems don't fail because of a single mistake, but because they worked exactly as designed.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **96 real-world engineering failures** across cloud, infrastructure, and software
- **28 explainers** breaking down complex concepts in layman's terms
- **500+ verified sources** in the bibliography
- **Zero prerequisities** – no technical background required
- **Strict fact-checking** paired with an accessible, narrative tone

HOW IT'S WRITTEN

- Explanation over instruction
- Ideas and mechanisms, not checklists
- Failures used as data
- Metaphors to ground abstractions
- Plain language, no jargon worship

A friendly map to the territory,
not a detailed topographic map.

WHAT THIS BOOK *IS*

- An explanation of how modern IT systems actually work — and fail
- Failure analysis used as a learning tool, not entertainment
- Systems thinking applied to real-world technology
- Accessible, rigorously fact-checked, and written without jargon worship

WHAT THIS BOOK *IS NOT*

- A how-to guide, tutorial, or certification prep
- A startup or "build the next unicorn" manual
- Vendor marketing, tech evangelism, or hype
- Disaster porn — even if the failures are occasionally entertaining

WHO THIS BOOK IS FOR

Students & Juniors

Mental models before manuals.
Understanding concepts before diving into textbooks and docs.

Curious minds

How modern IT really works — and fails.
Context beyond outage headlines and tech hype.

Seasoned Professionals

Failure patterns as warnings.
A checklist of what *not* to build, assume, or ignore.

WHY THIS BOOK EXISTS

Bookstores are full of success stories. This is *not* one of them.
Success is attractive, but it teaches surprisingly little — it depends on many variables aligning at the right time, with luck playing a much larger role than most narratives are willing to admit.

Failures are different. They are universal, repeatable, and largely indifferent to context. When systems break, assumptions are exposed and patterns emerge. This book exists as a counterweight to survivorship bias, built on the idea that learning from failure is more honest, more transferable, and ultimately more useful than memorizing stories about why things once worked.

CONTENTS

METHODOLOGY

- **Primary sources:** Based on postmortems, incident reports, and original documentation.
- **Cross-checking:** Vendor claims verified against independent sources.
- **Context first:** Failures explained within technical and organizational context.
- **Mechanisms over blame:** Focus on how systems failed, not who was blamed.
- **Clear separation:** Facts, assumptions, and interpretation kept distinct.
- **Pattern extraction:** Individual cases used to expose recurring behaviors.

TONE

- **Unexpected analogies:** Complex technology explained through familiar comparisons.
- **Earned cynicism:** A tone shaped by seeing the same failures repeat under different names.
- **Context first:** Each case explains not just what broke, but why it was almost inevitable.
- **Reporter mode:** The humor steps aside when failures have real-world consequences.
- **Lessons, not morals:** Every case ends with short takeaways, not sermons.

STRUCTURE

Each part is divided into chapters that gradually build a coherent understanding of the system as a whole.

Within each chapter, real-world failure stories illustrate a specific mechanism or problem area, preceded by short explainers that introduce the underlying concepts in clear, accessible terms.

EXPLAINERS

- BGP as a postal service
- Load balancers as a Monty Python supermarket
- Parachute principle – disaster recovery principles applied to skydiving

CASES

- How a missing dot wiped out Sweden from digital world
- How reused proven code led to $400 million loss
- Toy Story 2 - one `rm -rf`and the most expensive Volvo in history.
- How a single stolen laptop lead to leakage of thousands logins of customers of 450 companies
- The day a single scrap hunter cut off Internet for the entire nation.

MEDIA

INTERVIEW ANGLES

- Why failures explain systems better than success stories
- Do we really need jargon to explain complex systems?
- If you can't explain it simply, do you understand it?
- Why "virtual" failures now have real-world consequences
- What programmers can learn from civil and aerospace engineering
- Why complexity grows faster than our ability to control it
- Why adding tools often makes systems weaker

PRESS INFORMATION

- **Interviews & panels:** Available for interviews, podcasts, panels, and moderated discussions.
- **Press assets:** High-resolution images, covers, and media kit available online.
- **Excerpts & references:** Short excerpts and source references available on request.
- **Contact & links:** Contact details and official website provided for press use.

ENTIRE SERIES PLAN

A planned four-volume series exploring failures across digital, physical, and human systems.

March 2026
Volume 1: Foundations of The Digital World

Q2 2026
Volume 2: Stuff We Built On Top

Q3 2026
Volume 3: Hard Engineering & Physics

Q4 2026
Volume 4: Human Factor & Hubris

Note: Dates and subtitles may change as the series takes shape.