

The Psychology of Chaos Engineering

Matty Stratton, PagerDuty

**Chaos Engineering is the discipline of experimenting on a system
in order to build confidence in the system's capability
to withstand turbulent conditions in production.**

<https://principlesofchaos.org/>

What chaos engineering is NOT



It's not about breaking things



Silvia Botros
@dbsmasher



Replying to [@mattstratton](#)

It's not about breaking things



Back off, man... I'm a scientist.

Experimenting in production is
preferred

You can't do this without good
measurement

Minimize your blast radius

Some helpful tools

- Netflix Simian Army - <https://principlesofchaos.org/>
- Gremlin - <https://www.gremlin.com/>
- ChaosToolkit - <https://chaostoolkit.org/>

But what about the people?

How does it make you feel to know
Netflix practices chaos engineering?

What about your bank?



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If you discover a service you consume
uses chaos engineering in production,
you feel:

Reassured

91%

Uneasy

9%

Management can get...

...nervous

Consider your words

It's about the philosophy



Cody ☕️ 🦀 🏔️
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(not fully using chaos engineering, but
had some recent interesting failures from
interns)

In all honesty I generally feel excitement
when confronted with a new error that
hasn't occurred before. Finding out the
root of the error (logic, oversight, etc.) is fun
and challenging

Safety first

- Know your conditions - when will you shut down the experiment?
- This isn't about causing stress on your people - be transparent
- There are humans at the other end of those numbers

Further Reading

- Chaos Engineering Traps - Nora Jones bit.ly/2Pr53ZH
- ChaosCat: Automating Failure Injection at PagerDuty bit.ly/2UCbdXN
- ChaoSlingr: Introducing Security into Chaos Testing bit.ly/2GDZN1V