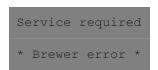
Service required * Brewer error *



May 14, 2007



Last year, one of the fancy-dancy <u>iCup devices</u> (yes that's its name, I kid you not) in the kitchen of my building went on the fritz. Things break, that's to be expected. The screen which normally guides you through the selection process instead displayed an error message.



The problem was not that it was out of coffee; when that happens, a much more specific error is displayed. Something like, um, "<u>Out of coffee</u>". No, this time, there was some sort of weird internal error that prevented the machine from working. Fortunately, this was only one machine in a two-machine cluster, so the second machine could assume the extra load without interrupting service. This didn't stop people from making jokes about it, though. Attached to the machine was a note that read

g<u>le</u>=109 ERROR_BROKEN_PIPE

Another joker wrote

Java runtime failure

Computer programmers think they're so clever.

(Meanwhile, <u>Matt Sampson is not convinced that everything that comes out of the coffee</u> machine is actually coffee.)

Raymond Chen

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