





**hot potato**

**WOSSAT.nz**

# James Forman

I work at Catalyst as a:

- Linux Sysadmin
- Network Engineer
- People Manager

I'm 1 of 3 maintainers of NZ's FSMG

I have strong opinions on everything on-call and monitoring systems



# **What is Hot Potato?**

**Not a monitoring system**

# It's a message broker



# A web app with an API

built with Python and Flask

# **With a funky database and some queuing**

CockroachDB and RabbitMQ



**It tells you things**

**Why does it exist?**



**This was fine**



**Spark  
New Zealand**

**Media Release  
31 July 2015**

**Paging network to be shut down in New Zealand**

<https://www.spark.co.nz/content/dam/kb/public/docs/media-release-paging-network-closure.pdf>



boop-beep-boop  
screeeeech-kthtttptt-  
krchchttttthhrpf!

**NO CARRIER**

**Pager no worky worky :(**

“1st cab off the rank was those pager numbers that had not signed up to the new pager network were disconnected. We have then worked with the customers who have migrated across to replace their old access points (ways they send a pager message) to either Email or an API option. This is because the old access points are being turned off.”



**2017-08-03**

The day Hot Potato was born

**What are the goals?**

# High Availability

only go down if the country falls into the sea

# Foster alert reduction

let them sleep

# Support any system

Nagios3, Icinga 1.x, Icinga2

# Support any method

Pushover, SMS and Paging

**Don't get in the way**

make it easy to be on-call

**Why not use \$thing?**



# SLAs

None of the options could meet our requirements

# Open Source

We don't want to be bound by others requirements

# Privacy

We don't want all your server details out there

**How does it look?**



## Notifications

**John Billings**  
holds the tater



Take Tater



Filter...



21/03/2019 ✕

22/03/2019 ✕

Any



Apply

Export ▾

Thursday, 21 Mar 2019



**Disk:/var/opt/gitlab/backups on cat-prod-gitlab.servers — NOTC**

2019-03-21 02:12 PM CRITICAL — DISK CRITICAL - free space: /var/opt/gitlab/backups 0 MB (0% inode=99%);

Sent



**Disk:/var/opt/gitlab/backups on cat-prod-gitlab.servers — NOTC**

2019-03-21 01:57 PM CRITICAL — DISK CRITICAL - free space: /var/opt/gitlab/backups 0 MB (0% inode=99%);

Sent



**Disks: on cat-rocketchat-prod-app2.servers.catalyst.net.nz — GEN004**

2019-03-21 01:51 PM CRITICAL — DISK CRITICAL - free space: / 16413 MB (83% inode=91%); /var/lib/mongodb 4327 MB (22% inode=99%); /var/backups 524 MB (5% inode=87%);

Sent



**Disks: on cat-rocketchat-prod-app2.servers.catalyst.net.nz — GEN004**

2019-03-21 01:51 PM CRITICAL — DISK CRITICAL - free space: / 16413 MB (83% inode=91%); /var/lib/mongodb 4327 MB (22% inode=99%); /var/backups 524 MB (5% inode=87%);

Sent



# 1:15

Tuesday, 22 January



PUSHOVER

now

## Hot Potato Alert

hp-demo-icinga2: NOTC hp-demo-hotpotato4 state is DOWN (Zone 'hp-demo-hotpotato4' is not connected. Log lag: less than 1 millisecond) 2019-01-22 13:15:47



 Back

## Hot Potato LCA Demo



### Hot Potato Alert

Emergency Priority

From Hot Potato LCA Demo on 22/01/19 at 1:10 PM

hp-demo-icinga2: NOTC hp-demo-hotpotato5 state is DOWN (Zone 'hp-demo-hotpotato5' is not connected. Log lag: less than 1 millisecond)  
2019-01-22 13:10:36

[Link to notification](#)

[Acknowledge Notification](#)



# Contributors

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<https://hotpotato.nz>

**Questions?**