StackGen

REMEDIATION TAXONOMY

SRE REMEDIATION TAXONOMY 47 REMEDIATION CODES • 8 CATEGORIES •
3 ACTION TYPES: REPAIR · RESTORE · PREVENT

Are you fixing incidents – or actually preventing them?

Classify every remediation action and find out how much of your reliability work is reactive versus structural.

DERIVED FROM THE STATE OF RELIABILITY 2026 ANALYSIS OF:

27K+	178K+	392	2018-26
classified incidents	status-page entries	companies	date range

A practical reference for SRE, platform and reliability teams.

Remediation Taxonomy

SSOR 2026 QUICK REFERENCE • TAXONOMY V0.5 • 47 ACTIVE RM CODES ACROSS 8 FAMILIES • RENAMED FROM FX CODES • ONLINE SERVICES

HOW TO USE

1. Identify the primary remediation
The action that stopped/reversed the failure.

2. Use Remediation_Code_Secondary
for the durable follow-up fix (e.g. RM-01 RM-12).

3. Lifecycle stage =
when in the incident timeline the action was applied (not the operator's intent)

4. Codes renamed FX → RM
(numeric values unchanged, e.g. FX-01 = RM-01)

KEY

RESTORE stop / reverse active failure · REPAIR fix underlying defect · PREVENT stop recurrence · DETECT improve detection · AUTOMATE reduce future manual effort · ● Stable · ● Provisional (≥1 PM hit) · ● Watchlist (unconfirmed)

Operational RESTORE — 11

RM-01	**Restart / Manual recovery**	RESTORE	●
RM-02	**Rollback**	RESTORE	●
RM-03	**Failover (AZ-scope)**	RESTORE	●
RM-04	DR / Region evacuation	RESTORE	○
RM-05	**Traffic shift / circuit breaker**	RESTORE	●
RM-06	Rate limit / throttle	RESTORE	○
RM-07	Feature flag / kill switch	RESTORE	○
RM-08	**Scale up / out**	RESTORE	●
RM-09	Drain / cordon / quarantine	RESTORE	○
RM-10	Queue drain / replay	RESTORE	○
RM-11	Cache invalidation / TTL flush	RESTORE	○

Code-Level REPAIR — 8

RM-12	**Bug fix**	REPAIR	●
RM-13	**Config correction**	REPAIR	●
RM-14	**Validation guard / input check**	REPAIR	●
RM-15	**Retry / timeout tuning**	REPAIR	●
RM-16	Roll forward / hotfix deploy	REPAIR	○
RM-17	Dep version pin / downgrade	REPAIR	○
RM-18	Resource / concurrency tuning	REPAIR	○
RM-19	DNS / network / ingress fix	REPAIR	○

Data Recovery REPAIR — 4

RM-20	Data state reset	REPAIR	○
RM-21	**Data reconciliation**	REPAIR	●
RM-22	Data backfill / index rebuild	REPAIR	○
RM-23	Data restore / PITR	REPAIR	○

Process / Governance PREVENT 6

RM-24	New runbook / playbook	PREVENT	●
RM-25	Change-management gate	PREVENT	●
RM-26	Monitoring / alerting improvement	DETECT	●
RM-27	Security credential / cert fix	PREVENT	○
RM-28	IaC / config-deploy validation	PREVENT	○
RM-47	Chaos Engineering	PREVENT	●

Architectural PREVENT 7

RM-29	Redundancy added	PREVENT	●
RM-30	Vendor diversification	PREVENT	●
RM-31	Decoupling / cell isolation	PREVENT	●
RM-32	Re-platforming	PREVENT	●
RM-33	Major refactor / rewrite	PREVENT	●
RM-34	Active-active / hot-swap	PREVENT	●
RM-35	Failure-recovery-chain hardening	PREVENT	○

Capacity / Hardware 3

RM-36	Hardware replacement / upgrade	REPAIR	●
RM-37	Quota / limit increase	RESTORE	●
RM-38	Storage reclamation	RESTORE	○

Dependency / Upstream 7

RM-39	Upstream vendor change (permanent)	PREVENT	●
RM-40	New caching / edge layer	PREVENT	●
RM-41	Dependency removal	PREVENT	●
RM-42	Wait for upstream fix	RESTORE	●
RM-43	Temporary cross-vendor failover	RESTORE	○
RM-44	Upstream contribution / patch	REPAIR	○
RM-46	Predictive degradation modelling	DETECT	○

Special 1

RM-45	No fix / acknowledged risk	PREVENT	●

RM-45 SUB-FLAGS:

Accepted-risk • Cannot-reproduce • User-error • Transient-self-healed • Won't-fix-cost

Turn remediation data into investment decisions

Tag every action taken after an incident

At post-incident review, assign an RM code to each action — including both the immediate fix and any follow-up commitments.

EXAMPLES:

- **RM-13 (Service rollback)** – immediate RESTORE action
- **RM-26 (Monitoring / alerting improvement)** – DETECT commitment
- **RM-31 (Decoupling / cell isolation)** – longer-term PREVENT investment

One incident often generates multiple RM codes. Tag all of them.

Track your REPAIR vs PREVENT ratio

The RM taxonomy splits every action into three types:

- **REPAIR** – you fixed the specific break
- **RESTORE** – you got the service back up without root-cause fix
- **PREVENT** – you changed something to stop it recurring

If your RM mix is more than 80% REPAIR and RESTORE, you're in permanent firefighting mode. A healthy reliability program has a growing share of PREVENT codes over time.

Watch RM-45

RM-45 (No fix / acknowledged risk) is the most honest code in the taxonomy.

Sub-flags include Accepted-risk, Cannot-reproduce, Transient-self-healed, and Won't-fix-cost.

Track how often RM-45 appears and which sub-flag dominates. A high Won't-fix-cost rate is a signal your team is under-resourced for reliability work.

PRACTICAL PROMPT

"Of your last 20 incidents, how many generated at least one PREVENT remediation? If fewer than 5, your team is absorbing risk without reducing it."

From the State of Reliability 2026

The Remediation Taxonomy is one part of a connected incident-learning framework developed through the analysis of public reliability data.

Failure Mode	What failed?
Root Cause	Why did it fail?
Remediation	What was done about it?
Context Atlas	What information was required to diagnose and act?

Use the framework to create a more consistent language for postmortems, incident trends, and reliability investment.

DOWNLOAD THE FULL FRAMEWORK

FM Cheat Sheet
Failure Mode Taxonomy

RC Cheat Sheet
Root Cause Taxonomy

Context Atlas
Diagnostic Context Reference

Download The State of Reliability 2026 full report.

Follow StackGen for the report release and additional reliability research.

stackgen.com/state-of-reliability-2026