

Dubai Fiber Optic Cable Chaos



Overview

Red Sea Cable Cuts Disrupt Internet Access Across Asia and Middle The cause of the cable cuts remains unclear. While there is concern that the Houthi rebel.

Key Takeaways

Multiple undersea fiber optic cables in the Red Sea were cut, causing widespread internet slowdowns across Dubai, the UAE, and neighboring regions.Cause of the Disruption

On September 6, 2025, several critical submarine fiber optic cables, including SEA-ME-WE-4, IMEWE, FALCON GCX, and Europe India Gateway, were severed near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, disrupting internet traffic between Asia, the Middle East, and Europe . Early analysis suggests the damage was likely caused by commercial shipping activity, such as a vessel dropping or dragging its anchor across the cables . While security concerns, such as potential attacks, were considered, accidental damage remains the most probable cause .

Impact on Users and Businesses

The cable cuts led to significant slowdowns for millions of internet users in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, and across the UAE, as well as in India and Pakistan . Customers of major telecom providers, Du and Etisalat (e&), reported slow browsing, buffering during streaming, difficulties with video calls, and delays in cloud-based services . Businesses relying on remote work, data centers, or cloud platforms like Microsoft Azure experienced operational disruptions, with increased latency and slower data transfers .

Technical Challenges and Repair Efforts

Repairing undersea cables is a complex, resource-intensive process. Technicians must first locate the damaged segment using specialized monitoring tools, then raise the cable from the seabed using cable-laying vessels such as the NKT Victoria, splice the damaged sections, test the repair, and carefully lower it back. The process can be delayed by rough seas, maritime regulations, equipment availability, and geopolitical sensitivities. Only a handful of global companies have the expertise and vessels to perform these repairs, making restoration a slow and costly operation.

Mitigation Measures

While repairs are underway, telecom providers and cloud services are rerouting traffic through alternative global networks to maintain connectivity. This rerouting reduces the risk of a total internet blackout but results in higher latency and slower speeds. Satellite-based alternatives, such as Starlink, can provide temporary backup in some areas. Users are advised to anticipate continued service interruptions until full repairs are completed, which could take days to several weeks.

Key Takeaways

- The Red Sea is a vulnerable digital corridor, with busy shipping lanes and geopolitical tensions increasing the risk of cable damage.
- Submarine cables carry over 95% of global internet traffic, making them critical infrastructure.
- Redundancy and rerouting help prevent total outages, but latency and speed issues remain until repairs are completed.
- Businesses and individuals should plan for potential disruptions and consider alternative connectivity solutions during this period. This incident highlights the fragility of global internet infrastructure and the importance of backup systems and careful maritime management to protect undersea cables.

Article Content

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The cause of the cable cuts remains unclear. While there is concern that the Houthi rebels in Yemen may have targeted

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The Red Sea undersea cable damage over the weekend of September 6, 2025, caused significant internet slowdowns

MAJOR INTERNET DISRUPTIONS HIT THE UAE DUE TO RED

Teams of engineers from local telecom companies and international cable operators are working to restore full functionality. The

UAE internet users report slowdowns after Red Sea cable cuts

While service had largely improved by Sunday, some users continued to report issues. The cause of the cable cuts

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