

Yemen Mobile Fiber Optic Cable Outage



AI Overview

Multiple subsea fiber optic cables in the Red Sea near Yemen were severed, causing widespread internet disruptions across the Middle East, South Asia, and East Africa.

Overview of the OutageThe outage began on September 6, 2025, at 05:45 UTC, when several undersea fiber optic cables in the Red Sea were cut or damaged, including the SMW4 and IMEWE cable systems near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. These cables are critical for global internet traffic, linking Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, and carry a significant portion of intercontinental data, including cloud services, banking, and streaming traffic (Microsoft, NetBlocks, Independent).

Geographic and Service ImpactThe disruption affected multiple countries, including Yemen, India, Pakistan, the UAE, and other parts of the Middle East and South Asia. Users of services like Microsoft Azure experienced increased latency and intermittent access, while telecom operators had to reroute traffic over alternate paths, which slowed connectivity and caused congestion during peak hours (Microsoft, Converge Digest, Independent).

Possible CausesWhile the exact cause remains uncertain, reports suggest two main possibilities:

- Deliberate sabotage:** Yemen's Houthi rebels have been active in the Red Sea, attacking ships and potentially targeting subsea cables as part of regional geopolitical tensions. Some media outlets consider them a plausible suspect due to prior attacks and published maps of cable routes (Factually, Ynet News).
- Accidental damage:** Undersea cables are vulnerable to ship anchors, fishing gear, or maritime accidents. Historical incidents, such as a cargo ship dragging its anchor in March 2024, have caused similar cable damage, highlighting that accidents remain a credible explanation (Factually, Ynet News).

Repair and MitigationRepairing subsea cables is logistically challenging and can take weeks, especially in politically sensitive waters like the Red Sea. Operators are currently rerouting traffic, rebalancing network loads, and seeking alternate capacity through regional providers.

Article Content

Red Sea cable outage: Internet disruptions, slower

Red Sea cable outage: Internet disruptions, slower speeds in parts of Middle East, South Asia The cause of the outage at the vital nerve in global

Five Questions on Yemen's Internet Crisis

On January 21, 2022, Yemen was knocked offline after an airstrike struck a major part of the country's Internet infrastructure in the city of Hodeidah. We spoke with

Yemen in Focus: Cable damage wipes out internet

Damage to a submarine cable in the region plunged Yemen into internet outage for at least six days earlier this week. The Falcon cable, which

Crucial Red Sea data cables cut, telecoms firm says

African telecoms cable operator Seacom told the Associated Press that "initial testing indicates the affected segment lies within Yemeni maritime

Multiple subsea cables cut in the Red Sea, impacting

Back in 2024, Yemen's internationally recognized government in exile claimed that the Houthis were set to attack subsea cables, something the rebels

Responding to the Global Fallout After Undersea Intern...

Fixing submarine cables can take weeks to months because repair requires specialized cable ships, precise seabed work and often permission to operate in sovereign or contested

Red Sea cable cut: Who lays the internet beneath the

The outage comes amid rising Red Sea tensions, where Yemen's Houthi rebels have attacked over 100 ships since late 2023, sinking four and killing at least

In Yemen, the internet is a key front in the conflict

In early January, 80 percent of Yemen's internet capacity vanished when an undersea fiber-optic cable was cut near the Suez Canal. It would take

Telecommunications in Yemen

Yemen is a landing point for the international submarine cable Fiber-Optic Link Around the Globe (FLAG). In 2005 TeleYemen announced it would invest in the FALCON high-capacity loop cable

Cut Undersea Cable Plunges Yemen Into Days-Long Internet Outage

The Falcon cable has not yet been fixed, though, and countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, along with Yemen, are still dealing with lingering impacts of the cut. If providers don't have a backup means of

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 rebels in Yemen may have targeted the cables as part of their campaign related to the Israel-Hamas conflict,

Online outages: Q3 2025 Internet disruption summary

In Q3 2025, global Internet disruptions were caused by everything from government shutdowns to stray bullets and earthquakes. This report

Internet Outages in Yemen — Live ISP Status: PTC-YemenNet

Is the internet down in Yemen? Live status of leading providers (PTC-YemenNet - Public Telecommunication Corporation, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, Adennet - Aden net)

Undersea cables cut in the Red Sea, disrupting internet access in Asia ...

Undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea disrupted internet access in parts of Asia and the Middle East, experts said Sunday, though it wasn't immediately clear what caused the incident.

Red Sea cable cuts disrupt internet in Asia, Middle East

Undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea disrupted internet access in parts of Asia and the Middle East, experts said Sunday, though it wasn't immediately

Undersea Cables Cut in Red Sea, Disrupting Internet

Undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea disrupted internet access in parts of Asia and the Middle East, experts said Sunday, though it wasn't immediately clear what caused the incident.

Red Sea Internet Cables "Cut" — Here's What We Know

Topline At least four undersea fiber optic cables, which carry approximately 97% of all Internet traffic, were damaged last week in the Red

World Bank Document

In this context, it would be critical for the Yemeni authorities to drop their blocking of the use of Yemeni waters by international cable consortia, so that deployment and repair activities of submarines

Internet collapses in war-torn Yemen over "maintenance"

Internet access across the war-torn nation of Yemen collapsed Friday and stayed down for hours, with officials later blaming unannounced

Subsea Cable Damage Reported of Yemen Coast

Only a few weeks following an alert regarding the potential threat from Houthi rebels to underwater cables in the Red Sea, it has been reported that a fiber-optic cable off Yemen's coast has

Red Sea cables are cut, disrupting internet in Asia and

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea disrupted internet access in parts of Asia and the Middle East, experts said

Multiple subsea cables cut in the Red Sea, impacting Internet traffic ...

The severing of the SEA-ME-WE 4, IMEWE, and FALCON GCX subsea cables near Saudi Arabia has caused Internet issues in the Middle East and South Asia. The cause of the Red

Yemen Undersea Fiber-Optic Cable Cuts | Factually

A series of undersea fiber-optic cable cuts near Yemen have caused regional latency spikes and service outages, highlighting the fragility of global data arteries and the cascading

Red Sea cables are cut, disrupting internet in Asia and

There has been concern about the cables being targeted in a Red Sea campaign by Yemen's Houthi rebels, which the rebels describe as an effort

Contact Us

For more information, pricing, or custom solutions, please contact us:

Website: <https://www.sky-connect.co.za>

Email: info@sky-connect.co.za

Phone: +44 20 7946 0958

Address: 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3ND, United Kingdom

This document is for informational purposes only. Specifications subject to change without notice.

