

Central Asia Networks Cuts Fiber Optic Cable



AI Overview

Recent undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea have disrupted internet connectivity across parts of Asia, including India and Pakistan, affecting major systems like SMW4 and IMEWE. Incident Overview On September 6, 2025, multiple undersea fiber-optic cables were severed near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, causing widespread internet slowdowns across Asia and the Middle East, including the UAE, India, Pakistan, and Gulf countries (NetBlocks, Microsoft). The affected infrastructure includes the Southeast Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 4 (SMW4) and India-Middle East-Western Europe (IMEWE) cable systems, which are critical for intercontinental data traffic. These cables carry a significant portion of internet traffic between Asia and Europe, with around 70% of such traffic passing through the Red Sea. Impact on Connectivity The cable cuts led to sluggish internet speeds, increased latency, and service disruptions for users in the affected regions. Microsoft Azure reported that traffic routed through the Middle East experienced higher latency, though services remained operational by rerouting traffic through alternative paths. Telecom providers in the UAE, including Du and Etisalat, acknowledged service slowdowns and assured customers that technical teams were working to resolve the issue. Connections not passing through the Middle East were largely unaffected. Potential Causes While the exact cause of the cable cuts remains unclear, speculation has focused on Yemen's Houthi rebels, who have previously threatened Red Sea infrastructure amid regional conflicts, including the Israel-Hamas war. The Houthis' media outlet confirmed the cable cuts but did not claim responsibility. Historically, undersea cables are vulnerable to both accidental damage and deliberate attacks, making the Red Sea a strategic and sensitive area for global internet infrastructure....

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What we know about the Red Sea cable cuts disrupting internet

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

Cut submarine cables cause web outages across Africa; 6 countries

Thirteen countries across Africa experienced Internet outages on Thursday due to damage to submarine fiber optic cables. Some countries, including Ghana and Nigeria, are still

Reinventing Fiber Rollout Economics in Central Asia

Central Asia's fiber rollout economics, particularly via the Trans-Caspian Fiber-Optic Cable, significantly reduces reliance on northern routes while linking Central Asia and Europe as part

International Cable Breaks in Red Sea Cause Latency Surge Across Asia ...

A series of undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea have caused widespread internet slowdowns across Asia and the Middle East, with significant impacts reported in the UAE, India,

Multiple Subsea Fiber Cuts in Red Sea Impact Traffic

Multiple subsea fiber optic cables in the Red Sea suffered simultaneous cuts on September 6, 2025, disrupting global internet and communications traffic. The incident began at

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.

Chinese Vessel Cuts Taiwan Internet Cable in Apparent Sabotage

TAIPEI—A Chinese-owned vessel cut an undersea fiber-optic cable near Taiwan, according to Taiwanese authorities, causing only minimal disruption of service but sending a

U.S. and China wage war beneath the waves

The two superpowers are vying to control subsea cables, a hidden network that speeds internet data around the globe. This tech war is fueled by worries that spies are listening.

Red Sea cable cuts disrupt internet across Asia and the Middle East

Internet connectivity in multiple countries including India and Pakistan has been affected due to subsea cable outages in the Red Sea, internet monitoring group Netblocks said.

Central Asian Nations Seek Digital Independence from Russia

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are building a fiber-optic cable under the Caspian Sea to reduce digital reliance on Russia and connect with Azerbaijan, enhancing economic ties and regional...

Iran War Threatens Red Sea Undersea Cables: How a Cut Could

Could Red Sea Undersea Cable Cuts Trigger Another Global Internet Disruption? The last time the world saw a cut in the Red Sea cables was in September 2025, which was allegedly caused

Taliban enforces internet blackout, cuts fibre-optic cables

An internet blackout hit Afghanistan on Monday, with local media reporting a potential nationwide cut of fiber-optic services as part of a Taliban

Undersea Cables Disruption: Undersea cables cut in Red Sea:

Internet services across parts of Asia and the Middle East faced disruptions after undersea cables in the Red Sea were cut, according to experts' statement on Sunday.

Insights from the Taiwan cable cut

Last month, a Chinese-owned vessel was accused of cutting an undersea fiber-optic cable near Keelung Harbor, highlighting the vulnerability of critical communications infrastructure.

APAC fiber deployment expands with national policies, telco strategies

Government-led broadband projects across markets in the Asia-Pacific region have reaped the fruits of success in recent years as optical fiber networks reach most households.

Central Asia's Optical Fiber Cables Market Report 2026

The Central Asian optical fiber cables market is characterized by distinct national consumption patterns and active intra-regional trade. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Mongolia are the

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War in the Gulf Severs the World's Digital Arteries: How

The fiber-optic infrastructure in Russia is already well-developed, with existing rights-of-way, operational terrestrial networks, and established

Explore Pacific Forum's Insightful Indo-Pacific Analysis

The region contains a dense network of undersea fiber-optic cables that channel Asia-Pacific internet traffic. China's gray zone tactics have increasingly targeted these cables.

Afghanistan Has Nationwide Internet Blackout, Monitors Say

Proton VPN also confirmed the shutdown. Afghanistan's internet runs primarily on a national fiber-optic infrastructure owned and operated by a public company, Afghan Telecom.

Splitting the Flow: How Central Asia Can Bypass Russia in Internet ...

Yet, the architecture of internet connectivity in Central Asia has been shaped not only by global technological progress but also by the geopolitical upheavals of the early 2020s, a decade

Trans-Caspian Fiber-Optic Cable Project in Spotlight After President ...

The Trans-Caspian fiber-optic cable project has once again come into the spotlight after President Ilham Aliyev reaffirmed Azerbaijan's plans to build the digital corridor linking Europe with

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 Sea, telecommunications providers are reporting,

China's Undersea Cable Sabotage and Taiwan's Digital Vulnerabilities

The Achilles' heel of the digital age lies beneath our oceans: fragile undersea cables that, when severed, can plunge entire regions into digital darkness. Undersea cables are the lifelines of

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