Winds in Congo blow fiber optic cables

AI Overview

High winds and environmental events can damage fiber optic infrastructure, contributing to internet outages in Congo.Recent Disruptions in CongoCongo has experienced repeated internet outages due to faults in the West Africa Cable System (WACS), a key undersea fiber optic cable connecting the country internationally . In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), similar disruptions have been linked to underwater landslides near the Congo River mouth, which damaged WACS and SAT-3 cables, affecting multiple West African countries . These incidents highlight the vulnerability of both terrestrial and submarine fiber networks to natural events.How Winds Affect Fiber Optic CablesFiber optic cables, while highly resilient and non-conductive, are not immune to weather-related damage . High winds can particularly impact aerial fiber lines, which are strung between poles or towers. The forces exerted by strong winds can:Physically stress or snap aerial cablesCause poles or supporting structures to fall, indirectly damaging the cablesLead to microbending or macrobending in the fiber, increasing signal loss Additionally, flying debris during storms can strike cables, and extreme weather can exacerbate existing weaknesses in infrastructure .Broader ImplicationsInternet outages in Congo affect millions of users, disrupting mobile data, broadband services, digital payments, and government services . The country relies heavily on a single undersea cable, making it particularly sensitive to both environmental and technical disruptions. Efforts are underway to connect Congo to additional undersea cables to improve resilience and reduce reliance on a single route .Mitigation StrategiesTo reduce the impact of winds and other weather events, network operators can:Bury fiber optic cables underground where feasibleUse reinforced aerial cabling and stronger support structuresImplement redundant network routes and emergency backup systemsConduct regular monitoring and maintenance to detect early signs of stress...

Article Content

Does Wind Affect Internet Connection or Not?

And it can affect both wired and wireless internet connections. Wired connections (using copper or fiber-optic cables) and wireless connections (using

Does Weather Affect Fiber Internet Speed? | Brightspeed

Fiber is widely recognized as the most reliable internet technology available, especially when it comes to holding up under severe weather. Because fiber-optic cables use light rather than electricity as a

How Bad Weather Impacts Different Types of Internet:

Unlike other types of internet, fiber transmits data using light pulses through glass-like strands, making it nearly immune to environmental disruptions.

Optical Fiber Backbones in DRC: A Strategic Project

Submarine cables, landing stations, and backbones, are essential infrastructure to develop connectivity and guarantee network quality, however, they are expensive. In the Democratic Republic of the

Kinshasa sets deadline for removal of fibre cables from storm drains

The decision comes amid repeated internet disruptions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In mid-January, the telecom regulator ARPTC said network problems were caused by a technical failure on

Does Wind Affect Internet Connection?

Wind does not directly affect a cable or fiber optic internet connection. However, high winds can indirectly disrupt internet service by damaging infrastructure like power lines and above

How Weather Affects Your Fiber Internet Connection

Fiber-optic internet is generally less affected by weather than traditional copper-based or satellite connections. While wireless systems might

Why Fiber Networks Are More Reliable During Storms

Fiber cables are not just more advanced—they''re built tougher. They are often housed in waterproof and weather-resistant sheathing, buried underground, or strung with protective insulation

Economic Impacts of Submarine Fiber Optic Cables and Broadband ...

This study explores the economic impact of the international data connectivity delivered by submarine fiber optic cables (“subsea cables”) on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

How Weather Can Affect Your Internet Connection

During high winds, a satellite dish can be pushed out of alignment, causing service disruptions. Rain alone won''t interrupt fiber internet, but strong winds may damage the glass fiber

En RDC, comment la rupture d''un câble sous-marin ralentit Internet

Un phénomène naturel sous-marin a engendré dimanche 06 août la rupture de deux câbles de fibre optique dans le canyon du fleuve Congo, une zone connue pour ce genre d''incident.

Weather-Related Fiber Internet Outages, Explained

Weather-Related Fiber Internet Outages: Preparing for the Inevitable As we''ve explored throughout our discussion, fiber internet is not immune to the whims of weather. Despite its myriad advantages over

Damage to undersea cables is disrupting internet access across Africa

Africa''s precious subsea cables are also unusually vulnerable. Many of the cables along the Atlantic coastline have to pass through the Congo canyon, one of the world''s largest submarine

Does Weather Affect Fiber Internet?

High Winds: While less directly impactful than lightning, high winds can cause significant damage to above-ground fiber optic infrastructure, particularly aerial cables strung between poles.

Economic impacts of submarine fiber optic cables and broadband ...

We studied the economic impact of subsea cables and broadband connectivity on the DRC. Landing in 2012, the DRC''s sole cable led to transformational effects, increasing productivity and efficiency,

La fibre optique sectionnée à l''embouchure du fleuve Congo ...

« Des ralentissements et des coupures d''internet qui affectent non seulement l''Afrique centrale mais aussi l''Afrique du Sud.

RDC : l''ARPTC explique les perturbations d''Internet par

Dans un communiqué officiel daté du 14 janvier 2026, l''ARPTC indique que ces désagréments sont consécutifs à une panne technique générale

How Bad Weather Impacts Different Types of Internet: Fiber, Cable,

Inclement weather can interfere with your plans and special occasions, causing delays or cancellations. Beyond mere inconvenience, bad weather can significantly hinder various forms of

Fibre optique : Solidarité historique entre opérateurs du Congo pour ...

Le câble a subi un incident international le 2 janvier 2025, occasionnant des perturbations en République du Congo et dans les pays voisins. Le câble sous-marin WACS est l''un des

Does Weather Affect Fiber Internet?

Fiber optic internet, celebrated for its high bandwidth and reliability, is often touted as less susceptible to weather-related disruptions compared to legacy copper-based infrastructure like DSL

OFC Application Note

ABSTRACT This application note discusses fiber optic cable installation by blowing technique, the factors effecting blowing performance and best practices.

Weather-Related Fiber Internet Outages, Explained

As previously mentioned, severe storms can inflict physical damage on fiber optic cables from falling branches, strong winds, or even lightning strikes. On top of causing damage, weather

DRC unveils AfDB-backed 600KM Fibre Optic Cable project

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has launched a €66.55 million fibre optic cable project, a significant leap towards enhancing its digital infrastructure.

Does Wind Affect Internet Connection?

Does Wind Affect Internet Connection? A Deep Dive Wind does not directly affect a cable or fiber optic internet connection. However, high winds can indirectly disrupt internet service by

Weather-Related Fiber Internet Outages, Explained

High winds and flying debris can break aerial fiber lines, while ice accumulation can weigh down and snap cables. Fallen trees and other storm debris are also a common culprit in disrupting fiber

Contact Us

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

Website: https://www.dknconsulting.co.za
Email: info@dknconsulting.co.za
Phone: +31 6 2948 7351
Address: Herengracht 123, 1015 BT Amsterdam, Netherlands

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