

Access problems continue for Facebook after extended outage

Problems at Facebook and its products resumed on Monday, just an hour after the company sounded the all clear on one of the longest outages in its recent history, according to Downtdetector, which tracks such disruptions.

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Downtdetector said that users of WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook and Facebook Messenger began reporting issues again at 4.48pm Pacific Time. Earlier, at 3.30pm, it had said that the outage appeared to be over and that reports of access problems had declined.

The original outage, which saw more than 10.6m reports of service disruptions to Facebook products, was already one of the longest and most widespread in the company's history.

"To the huge community of people and businesses around the world who depend on us: we're sorry," Facebook said in a statement shortly after the initial outage was reported to have been fixed. "We've been working hard to restore access to our apps and services and are happy to report they are coming back online now."

Users of Facebook and its products Messenger, WhatsApp and Instagram all reported problems with the services from Monday evening in the US, cutting access around the world.

It was unclear what had caused the outages or whether the company had been the target of a deliberate attack, though security experts said one potential cause would be a technical error in how the services had been configured. Mike Schroepfer, Facebook's chief technology officer, wrote on Twitter that the company was "experiencing networking issues".

The problems came the day before Frances Haugen, a whistleblower who left the company earlier this year, was due to testify at a Senate hearing.