

Iran Global Energy Internet



AI Overview

Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz and its undersea internet cables gives it potential leverage over both regional energy flows and global digital traffic.

Domestic Internet SituationIran experienced a near-total internet blackout lasting 88 days, largely due to anti-government protests and the ongoing US-Israel conflict, severely affecting citizens' access to global networks and causing economic disruption . While the government has partially restored connectivity, heavy filtering and restrictions remain, particularly on messaging apps and app stores, forcing many Iranians to rely on VPNs, Starlink, or black-market configurations to access the global internet .

Strategic Importance of the Strait of HormuzThe Strait of Hormuz is a critical maritime corridor for both energy and digital infrastructure. It is a narrow passage connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, through which a significant portion of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas flows. Beyond energy, the strait hosts undersea fiber-optic cables that carry roughly 20% of global data traffic, linking Europe, Asia, and the Middle East . These cables support financial transactions, cloud computing, AI services, and military communications.

Iran's Digital LeverageIran has signaled plans to charge fees on foreign tech companies like Google, Meta, Microsoft, and Amazon for using the undersea cables passing through its territorial waters . The proposed measures include:

- Licensing and annual renewal fees for cable operators.
- Exclusive rights for Iranian companies to maintain and repair the cables.
- Requirement for foreign firms to comply with Iranian law.

While Iran has not officially threatened to cut the cables, analysts warn that any disruption could cause severe regional internet outages, particularly affecting Gulf states, India, and Southeast Asia, and could have knock-on effects on global financial systems [14]. However, global internet traffic is resilient, with alternative routes and terrestrial fiber paths mitigating total disruption.

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Iranian energy crisis

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2026 Internet blackout in Iran

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Iran's War With Israel and the United States | Global

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