

How Iran's Government Shut Off the Internet | WIRED

By Lily Hay Newman

November 18, 2019

Amid widespread demonstrations over rising gasoline prices, Iranians began experiencing internet slowdowns over the last few days that became a near-total internet and mobile data blackout on Saturday. The government is apparently seeing to silence protestors and quell unrest. So how does a country like Iran [switch off internet](#) to a population of more than 80 million? It's not an easy thing to do.

Though some countries, [namely China](#), architected their internet infrastructure from the start with government control in mind, most don't have a central set of levers they can pull to influence country-wide access to content or connectivity. But regimes around the world, [including those in Russia](#) and Iran, have increasingly been retrofitting traditional private and decentralized networks with cooperation agreements, technical implants, or a combination to give officials more influence. In countries like Ethiopia, Venezuela, and Iraq, along with disputed regions like Kashmir, government-led social media blocking and more extensive outages have become the norm.

[...]

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