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⚡️⚠️ **BREAKING-- AT&T EXPERIENCES MAJOR, NATIONWIDE OUTTAGE-- MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION** 🔍 SOLAR FLARES, CYBER-HACKING, AND SIM CARD REGISTRATION ISSUES EXPLORED AS POSSIBLE CAUSES

By Gordon Wayne Watts, Science Editor and Editor-in-Chief, THE REGISTER, Published: Thursday, 22 February 2024

As reported by CNN and many other major news outlets, AT&T went down nationwide early Thursday morning (22 February 2024), leaving many customers without phone, text, or Internet, and including temporary 911 outages in some parts of the southeastern United States.

"AT&T says massive outage is mostly resolved, as authorities probe what caused the system failure," by Catherine Thorbecke, Melissa Alonso, and Brian Fung, CNN, 8 minute read; Updated 3:08 PM (EST), Thursday, 22 February 2024, LINKS:

** <https://www.CNN.com/.../att-cell-service-outage/index.html>

** <https://Archive.vn/HvgHi>

** <https://Web.Archive.org/.../att-cell-service.../index.html>

** [[⚠️ Archives included in case grid goes down further, to hedge bets and give "backup pages" as a "spare," in case another "flat tire" occurs on the "Internet Highway."--SCIENCE EDITOR, GORDON WAYNE WATTS, THE REGISTER, & Natl Dir, CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: PART II®™]]

FOX also reported that the nationwide outage which hit AT&T customers nationwide also affected Verizon and T-Mobile users:

"Cellphone outage hits AT&T customers nationwide; Verizon and T-Mobile users also affected: AT&T service down in major cities across US," by Pilar Arias FOXBusiness, Published February 22, 2024 7:15am (EST) ; Updated February 22, 2024 1:03pm (EST), LINKS:

** <https://www.Google.com/.../cell-phone-outage-hits-att...>

** <https://www.FoxBusiness.com/.../cell-phone-outage-hits...>

** <https://Archive.vn/d7stA>

** <https://Web.Archive.org/.../cell-phone-outage-hits-att...>

SPACE.COM also reported that two very powerful, X-CLASS, solar flares (the most powerful type) erupted from the sun as the cellphone outage peaked, and reported that it remained unclear whether the solar flares were related to the outage.

"Powerful twin solar flares erupt from sun as cell phone outages spike across US: It remains unclear if there is a connection between the two events.," by Brett Tingley, SPACE.COM, Published Thursday, 22 February 2024, LINKS:

** <https://www.Space.com/sun-2-solar-flares-february-22-2024...>

** <https://Archive.vn/g5dYL>

** <https://Web.Archive.org/.../sun-2-solar-flares-february...>

Solar Flares are widely known, among the scientific community, as a source of interference and damage to radio, satellite, and electronic equipment, as the "Protect the Grid" research/ advocacy resource at this link details:

** <https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/#grid>





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A published scientific paper by REGISTER Science Editor, and Editor-in-Chief, Gordon Wayne Watts, explores the related phenomena in layman's terms, with scientific research to document the claims:

"Probability estimation of a catastrophic Carrington-like geomagnetic storm: Re-evaluated in new light of upcoming Maunder Minimum and recent decreases in geomagnetic field, after recent studies came to conflicting conclusions; Proposed solutions for citizens and lawmakers," by Gordon Wayne Watts, A.S. United Electronics Institute, Valedictorian; B.S. The Florida State University, Biological & Chemical Sciences, Double major with honours, ACADEMIA, Published 10-2-2019; Last updated 10-5-2019; LINKS:

** https://www.Academia.edu/40529432/WATTS_SolarFlarePAPER

PDF file format:

** <https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/SolarFlarePAPER.pdf>

** <https://web.archive.org/.../gordonwat.../SolarFlarePAPER.pdf>

Web-Page (*.html) format:

** <https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/SolarFlarePAPER.html>

** <https://Archive.vn/VnTI5>

** <https://Web.Archive.org/.../gordonwa.../SolarFlarePAPER.html>

Further investigation by THE REGISTER seems to cast doubt on the "solar flare" theory regarding this particular AT&T outage:

First, as FOX previously reported, Verizon claimed that their network was operating normally and only had issues when their customers were calling or texting with customers served by another carrier, implying the problem was specific to AT&T's network. FOX BUSINESS' claims are supported by CNN, which, as referenced above, reported that "Although Verizon and T-Mobile customers reported some network outages, too, they appeared far less widespread. T-Mobile and Verizon said their networks were unaffected by AT&T's service outage and customers reporting outages may have been unable to reach customers who use AT&T."

Secondly, as WMAR reports, the solar flare affected the sunlit portion of the earth, not the night region, which was around 1:30am when the solar flare hit, and right before the appropriately 4am reports of outages beginning--also in the night region at 4am.

WMAR further reports that "cell phones run on a different signal than what the radiation was effecting," which implies that the effects, if any, would be small.

"Last night's solar flare did not cause the cell phone outage: The outage and solar flare coincidentally happened around the same time....," by: Cesar Cornejo, WMAR--ABC (BALTIMORE), Posted at 11:06 AM, Feb 22, 2024 ; Last updated 12:04 PM, Feb 22, 2024, LINKS:

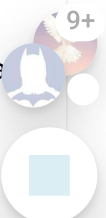
** <https://www.wmar2news.com/.../last-nights-solar-flare-did...>

** <https://Archive.vn/l8mWX>

** <https://Web.Archive.org/.../last-nights-solar-flare-did...>

Nonetheless, solar flares have previously been the cause of AT&T outages, as recent as 1972, a FOX 5 DC reports: "According to our sister-station in Orlando, the important distinction here is that AT&T was made up of landlines. The solar flare back in the 70s created a voltage on the physical lines."

The current network used by AT&T relies much less on landlines to transmit data, thus less





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FOX 5 DC goes on to report that FOX 35 Meteorologist, Brooks Garner, believes the outage in question seemed to stem from a SIM card database registry issue, apparently unique to AT&T. Quoting this article, they go on to report: ""Now, it is possible the X_class flare had impacts to the voltage on some electronics, but since this is so specific to AT&T and not other carriers, it's likely not space weather related," said Brooks," a reasonable assessment according to our science researchers at THE REGISTER.

"AT&T outage? Here's what we know and when service could be back up," by FOX 5 DC Digital Team, Published Thursday, 22 February 2024, LINKS:

** <https://www.Fox5DC.com/.../att-national-outage-heres-what...>

** <https://Archive.vn/goOYC>

** <https://Web.Archive.org/.../att-national-outage-heres...>

As previously reported by CNN, the FBI and Department of Homeland Security are investigating this matter, and it is a developing story.

THE REGISTER recommends readers avail themselves of the scientific research linked above, both in order to know how to guide/direct state and federal lawmakers (to harden, protect, and secure our fragile power and telecommunications grid), as well as tips for "ordinary citizens" to survive/ thrive in a "grid down" scenario-- when lawmakers inevitably fail to protect the grid and fail us-- with tips for readers, including (but not limited to) use of Faraday Cages and Surge Protectors to protect vulnerable electronic equipment, archival data backup systems, food/water storage, and related guidelines, such as unplugging unused equipment as when lightning is a threat-- as well as forecasting solar events and creating guidelines and emergency plans for "black start" and "grid hardening" measures that will improve resiliency and recovery, and research, preparation, & review of emergency plans for EMP & solar geomagnetic event scenarios (like is done with hurricanes and earthquakes).

Links of interest:

** <https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/#grid>

** <https://Archive.vn/laznT#grid>

** <https://Web.Archive.org/...//contractwithamerica2.com/...>

Reviewed and approved by REG Science Editor, Gordon Wayne Watts, at 4:45 P.M. (EST), Thursday, 22 February 2024

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