

Microsoft search engine Bing suffers brief outage

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The websites of Bing, Microsoft and Yahoo are displayed on a computer monitor July 2009 in San Anselmo, California. US software giant Microsoft has blamed a problem during testing for a half-hour outage of its new Web search engine Bing.

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In a post on the Bing blog, Satya Nadella, senior vice president of Microsoft's online services division, said Bing.com was down from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm Pacific time on Thursday (0230 GMT to 0300 GMT on Friday).

"During this time, users were either unable to get to the site, or their queries were returning incomplete results pages," Nadella wrote.

"The cause of the outage was a configuration change during some internal testing that had unfortunate and unintended consequences," he said.

"As soon as the issue was detected, the change was rolled back, which caused the site to return to normal behavior," he said.

Nedella said [Microsoft](#) engineers were "running a post mortem to find out how our software and processes need to be improved to prevent anything like this from happening again."

Microsoft launched Bing in June in a bid to rival [Google](#) in the lucrative search and advertising market and the outage came a day after it released new features including a revamped version of Bing Maps with street views.

[Bing](#) had a nearly 10 percent share of the US Internet search market at the end of October, according to Web tracking firm comScore, trailing far behind Google, which dominates the market with a 65 percent share.

Yahoo!, Microsoft's search partner, saw its [market share](#) decline 0.8 percent in October to 18.0 percent.

Yahoo! and Microsoft unveiled a 10-year Web search and advertising partnership in July that set the stage for a joint offensive against Google.

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