Microsoft outage: Click here for the latest as internet fails worldwide

A massive IT outage has knocked out Windows computers around the world, taking websites, airports and banks offline as engineers scramble to reboot their systems.

The problem began early on Friday morning (UK time) as workers found their PCs crashing, showing the so-called "blue screen of death" and entering recovery mode.

What has happened and why is Windows down?

Hundreds of thousands of computers around the world have suddenly shut down, impacting businesses, transport links and TV broadcasts globally.

A software problem with a piece of cyber security technology, called CrowdStrike, appears to be to blame. The specific piece of technology, CrowdStrike Falcon Sensor, is used to protect against hacking threats, but engineers were quick to blame a problem with the system for causing the massive outage.

The issue mostly seems to be impacting PCs running on Microsoft's Windows 10 software.

Who has been affected?

An awful lot of people. While we still do not know the full impact of the bug, so far this morning we have seen TV stations, transport links and banks complaining of problems.

Sky News was forced to pull its morning breakfast show and replace it with pre-recorded footage. Ryanair has warned on its website to expect major delays at airports around the world.

Is it a cyber attack?

So far, all indications point to a software problem with CrowdStrike, but we know little about its root cause.

The technology is designed to protect computers against cyber incidents. As of 8am, CrowdStrike had issued no public update on the origin of the problem.

However, on a Reddit forum used by CrowdStrike engineers and cyber experts, users pointed to an update to customers which said: "CrowdStrike is aware of reports of crashes on Windows hosts related to the Falcon Sensor. Symptoms include hosts experiencing a bugcheck\blue screen error related to the Falcon Sensor."