

Computer glitch in France delays hundreds of flights beyond

September 1 2019, by Angela Charlton

A computer breakdown briefly disrupted all air traffic in France and caused a cascade of delayed flights in multiple countries Sunday, the last day of European summer holidays.

Hundreds of flights were delayed at airports from Britain to Morocco and beyond. Hours after the problem with a French automatic flight plan system was fixed, schedules still lagged elsewhere.

A spokesman for French civil aviation authority DGAC said the cause of the morning [breakdown](#) was being investigated.

The problem had "no impact on flight security" and was fixed before midday, allowing [traffic](#) to resume, the spokesman said. He wasn't authorized to be publicly named under the authority's rules..

But DGAC temporarily halted all [air traffic](#) under French control, which included planes flying over France. The directive covered planes going in and out of Paris from Charles de Gaulle, one of Europe's busiest airports.

Passengers traveling from neighboring countries such as Britain were particularly hard-hit as air traffic authorities struggled to re-direct flights through Europe's crowded air space.

British Airways said in a statement: "We do expect disruption to some of our flights to France and Spain, as well as services flying over those

countries." It offered free ticket exchanges to anyone traveling to France, Spain, Italy or Portugal.

As he waited to take off for Paris from the Moroccan city of Casablanca, a Royal Air Maroc pilot described the breakdown as "exceptional." After a confusing delay, his [flight](#) was then rerouted to Milan.

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