

Health care website stumbles on last day

March 31 2014, by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

The Obama administration's health care website is stumbling on deadline day for sign-ups.

Visitors to HealthCare.gov on Monday morning saw messages that the site was down for maintenance. At times the [visitors](#) were also directed to a virtual waiting room—a feature designed to ease the strain on the site during periods of heavy use.

Administration spokesman Aaron Albright says the website undergoes "regular nightly maintenance" during off-peak hours and that period was extended because of a "technical problem." He didn't say what the problem was, but a statement from the Health and Human Services Department called it "a [software bug](#)" unrelated to application volume.

Albright said consumers seeking to sign up will be able to leave their email and "will be invited back when the system is available."

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