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Trading Platforms Slow Down Amid Rally ..... 2

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## Technology Trading Platforms Slow Down Amid Rally

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Customers of popular online brokerages struggled to trade from their accounts Monday, sidelining many investors who hoped to capitalize on an exuberant market rally that sent stocks soaring.

Companies across the investment landscape, from titans such as Charles Schwab Corp. to newcomers like Webull Financial LLC, said they had technical glitches as morning trading kicked off. Several of the platforms attributed the problems to extreme trading volumes and activity as investors rushed to buy and sell shares.

Among the companies that received reports of log-in issues or slowness were Vanguard Group, Charles Schwab, TD Ameritrade Holding Corp., Fidelity Investments and Webull. Even Discord, the messaging platform that many individual investors use to swap trading ideas, experienced a "brief disruption in service," the company said.

The problems among platforms came as U.S. stocks zoomed higher, energized by news that a Covid-19 vaccine proved 90% effective in a study.

The stock-market jumps led to the highest level of volume during the first 30 minutes of trading since at least May 2019, the earliest data available, according to Dow Jones Market Data. During that period, more than 3.7 billion shares of New York Stock Exchange- and Nasdaq-listed stocks changed hands.

Charles Schwab said some applications experienced technical issues, preventing some clients from being able to log in. Vanguard said some clients "may have experienced difficulty accessing their accounts." TD Ameritrade said users were experiencing slowness and encountered trouble accessing its mobile app and platforms "due to heavy volumes of activity."

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