

Denial-of-Service

Module 09

Unmask the Invisible Hacker.











Module Objectives



- Overview of Denial-of-Service (DoS) and Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) Attacks
- Understanding Different DoS/DDoS Attack Techniques
- Understanding the Botnet Network

- Understanding Various DoS and DDoS Attack Tools
- Understanding Different Techniques to Detect DoS and DDoS Attacks
- DoS/DDoS Countermeasures
- Overview of DoS Attack Penetration
 Testing







Module Flow



DoS/DDoS Concepts

DoS/DDoS Attack Techniques

Botnets

DDoS Case Study

DoS/DDoS Attack Tools

Countermeasures

DoS/DDoS Protection Tools

DoS/DDoS Penetration Testing

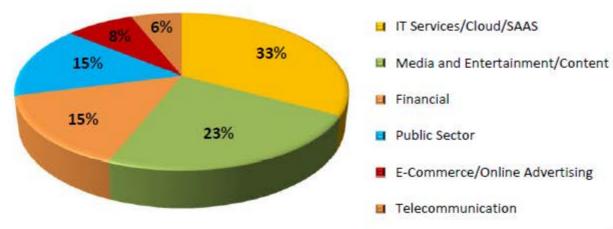
DDoS Attack Trends



According to Verisign DDoS Trends Report - Q4 2014

Average attack size increased to **7.39** gigabits per second (Gbps), rising **14%** higher than in Q3 2014 and **245%** higher than Q4 2013

Mitigations By Industry Vertical - Q4 2014



https://www.verisigninc.com

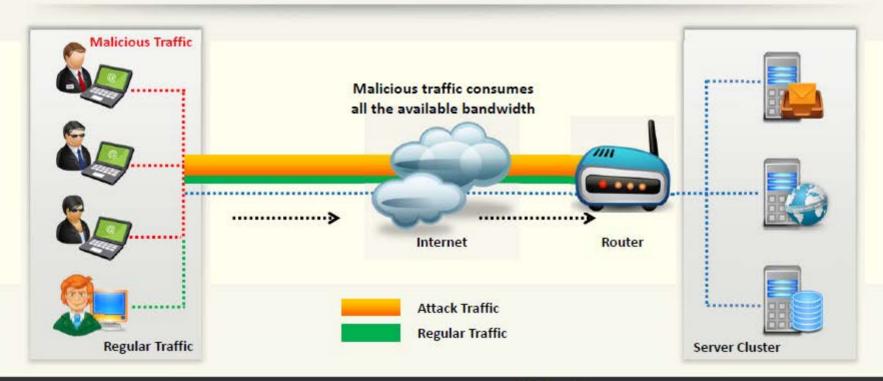
What is a Denial-of-Service Attack?



- Denial of Service (DoS) is an attack on a computer or network that reduces, restricts or prevents accessibility of system resources to its legitimate users
- In a DoS attack, attackers flood a victim system with non-legitimate service requests or traffic to overload its resources



DoS attack leads to unavailability of a particular website and slow network performance



What are Distributed Denial of Service Attacks?



A distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack involves a multitude of compromised systems attacking a single target, thereby causing denial of service for users of the targeted system

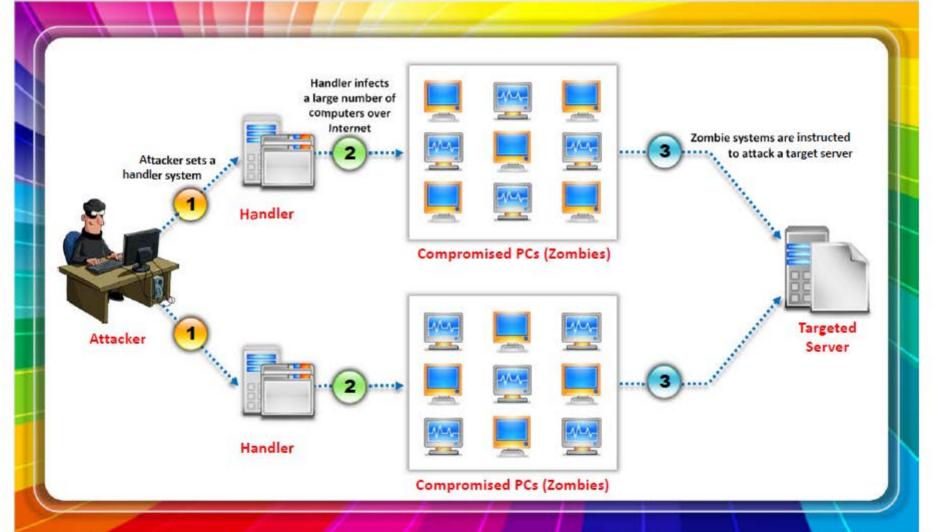


To launch a DDoS attack, an attacker uses botnets and attacks a single system



How Distributed Denial of Service Attacks Work





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Basic Categories of DoS/DDoS Attack Vectors



Volumetric Attacks

Consumes the bandwidth of target network or service



Fragmentation Attacks

Overwhelms target's ability of re-assembling the fragmented packets



TCP State-Exhaustion Attacks

Consumes the connection state tables present in the network infrastructure components such as load-balancers, firewalls, and application servers

Application Layer Attacks

Consumes the application resources or service thereby making it unavailable to other legitimate users



Bandwidth Attacks



A single machine cannot make enough requests to overwhelm network equipment; hence DDoS attacks were created where an attacker uses several computers to flood a victim



When a DDoS attack is launched, flooding a network, it can cause network equipment such as switches and routers to be overwhelmed due to the significant statistical change in the network traffic



Attackers use botnets and carry out DDoS attacks by flooding the network with ICMP ECHO packets



Basically, all bandwidth is used and no bandwidth remains for legitimate use



Service Request Floods





An attacker or group of zombies attempts to exhaust server resources by setting up and tearing down TCP connections



Service request flood attacks flood servers with a high rate of connections from a valid source



It initiates a request on every connection

SYN Attack





The attacker sends a large number of SYN request to target server (victim) with fake source IP addresses





The target machine **sends back a SYN ACK** in response to the request and waits for the ACK to complete the session setup





The target machine does not get the response because the source address is fake

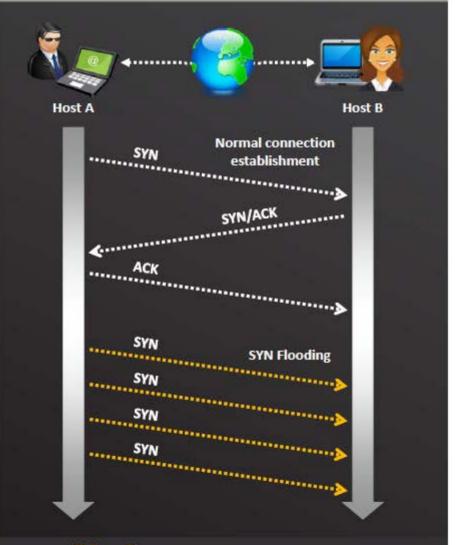


Note: This attack exploits the three-way handshake method

SYN Flooding



- SYN Flooding takes advantage of a flaw in how most hosts implement the TCP three-way handshake
- When Host B receives the SYN request from A, it must keep track of the partially-opened connection in a "listen queue" for at least 75 seconds
- A malicious host can exploit the small size of the listen queue by sending multiple SYN requests to a host, but never replying to the SYN/ACK
- The victim's listen queue is quickly filled up
- This ability of holding up each incomplete connection for 75 seconds can be cumulatively used as a Denial-of-Service attack

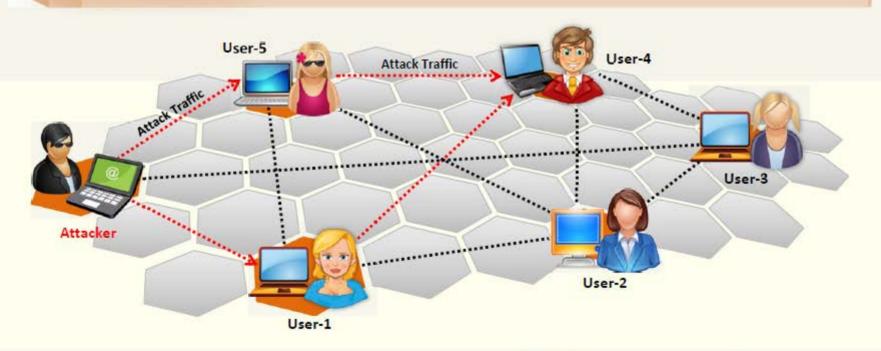


Peer-to-Peer Attacks





- Using peer-to-peer attacks, attackers instruct clients of peer-to-peer file sharing hubs to disconnect from their peer-to-peer network and to connect to the victim's fake website
- → Attackers exploit flaws found in the network using DC++ (Direct Connect) protocol, that is used for sharing all types of files between instant messaging clients
- Using this method, attackers launch massive denial-of-service attacks and compromise websites



Permanent Denial-of-Service **Attack**



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Phlashing

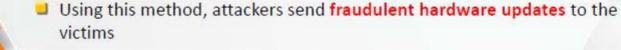
Permanent DoS, also known as phlashing, refers to attacks that cause irreversible damage to system hardware

Sabotage

Unlike other DoS attacks, it sabotages the system hardware, requiring the victim to replace or reinstall the hardware



This attack is carried out using a method known as "bricking a system"



Bricking a system

> Sends email, IRC chats, tweets, post videos with fraudulent content for hardware updates



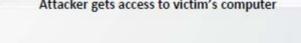
Attacker

Attacker gets access to victim's computer



Victim (Malicious code is executed)









Permanent Denial-of-Service **Attack**



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Phlashing

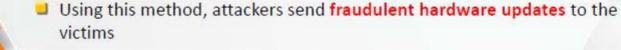
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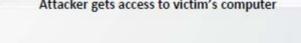
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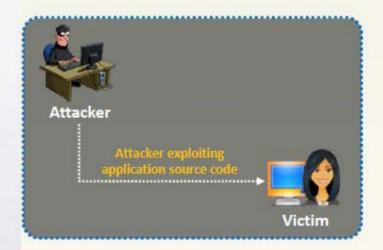
Application-Level Flood Attacks



- Application-level flood attacks result in the loss of services of a particular network, such as emails, network resources, the temporary ceasing of applications and services, and more
- Using this attack, attackers exploit weaknesses in programming source code to prevent the application from processing legitimate requests

Using application-level flood attacks, attackers attempts to:

- Flood web applications to legitimate user traffic
- Disrupt service to a specific system or person, for example, blocking a user's access by repeating invalid login attempts
- Jam the application-database connection by crafting malicious SQL queries



Distributed Reflection Denial of Service (DRDoS)



- A distributed reflected denial of service attack (DRDoS), also known as spoofed attack, involves the use of multiple intermediary and secondary machines that contribute to the actual DDoS attack against the target machine or application
- Attacker launches this attack by sending requests to the intermediary hosts, these requests are then redirected to the secondary machines which in turn reflects the attack traffic to the target
- Advantage:
 - The primary target seems to be directly attacked by the secondary victim, not the actual attacker
 - As multiple intermediary victim servers are used which results into increase in attack bandwidth



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Organized Cyber Crime: Organizational Chart







Criminal Boss

Attackers Crimeware Toolkit Owners Trojan Distribution in Legitimate website



Underboss: Trojan Provider and Manager of Trojan Command and Control





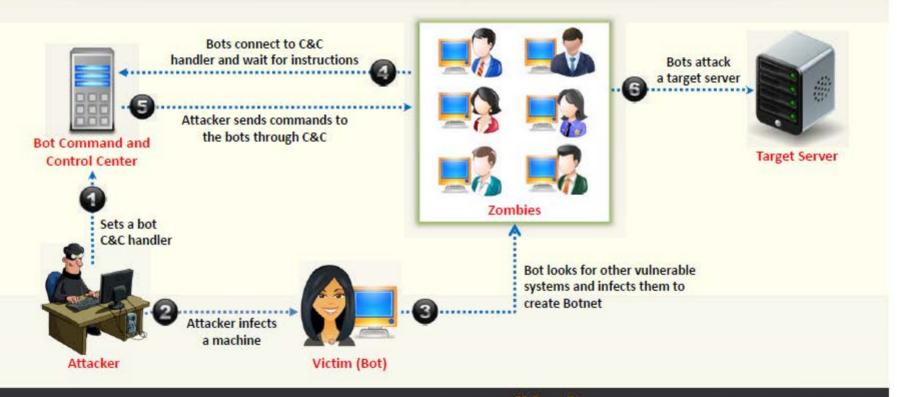


Botnet



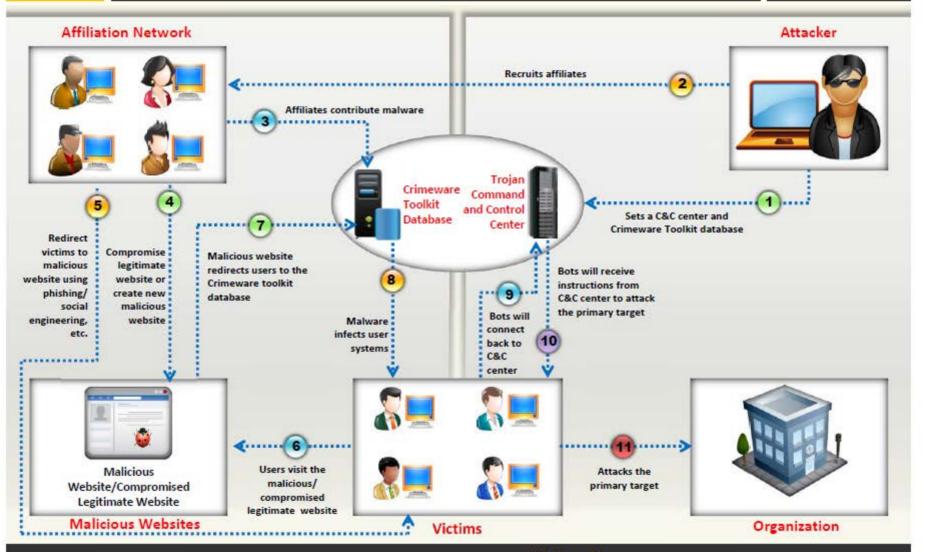
- Bots are software applications that run automated tasks over the Internet and perform simple repetitive tasks, such as web spidering and search engine indexing
- A botnet is a huge network of the compromised systems and can be used by an attacker to launch denial-of-service attacks





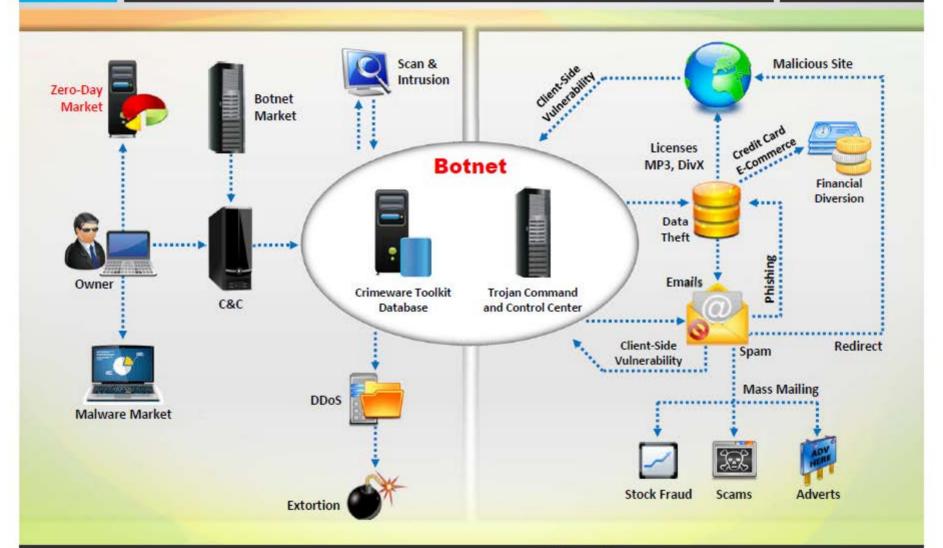
A Typical Botnet Setup





Botnet Ecosystem





Scanning Methods for Finding Vulnerable Machines



Random Scanning

The infected machine probes IP addresses randomly from target network IP range and checks for the vulnerability

Hit-list Scanning Attacker first collects list of possible potentially vulnerable machines and then perform scanning to find vulnerable machine

Topological Scanning

It uses the information obtained on infected machine to find new vulnerable machines

Local Subnet Scanning

The infected machine looks for the new vulnerable machines in its own local network

Permutation Scanning It uses **pseudorandom permutation list of IP addresses** to find new vulnerable machines

How Malicious Code Propagates?



Attackers use three techniques to propagate malicious code to newly discovered vulnerable system

Attacker places attack toolkit on the central source and copy of the attack toolkit is transferred to the newly discovered vulnerable system

Central Source Propagation









Back-chaining Propagation Attacker places attack toolkit
on his/her system itself and
copy of the attack toolkit
is transferred to the newly
discovered vulnerable system

Attack toolkit is transferred at the time when the new vulnerable system is discovered

Autonomous Propagation



Attacker

Exploit and Copy Code



Repeat



Victim

Next Victim

Botnet Trojan: Blackshades NET



ate bot - Default Your no ip goes here IP/DNS: 123 no ip info ✓ Smart DNS:	77	Note:	Information
Port: 3080 Transfer port: 4747 Enter your Server ID Keylog name: na		Because of the interesting nature of cSocketMaster, sometimes it will not work when testing within our own natwork. Please test outside of your network (other PCs and virtual PCs do not	
Filename: Y9SP306I3M.exe ☑ Hide File		count).	
Install path: App Data Temp Sub folder:		Active-X Startup may hang on some systems. It is not required to use it. Mutex prevents multiple instances of bots from running. File name is what is installed as. You may change the name after build. Server ID is what appears in the ID column, can be whatever you want.	
install mode: I Install Melt Protect Process			
Delay No Delay ○ 10 Seconds ○ 1 Min ○ 5 Mins		nstall directory does not really matter. HKCU is the reg-key entered in the Current/Version/Run location	Select Range
HKCU Window: Delender Startup			Select Plandom
ActiveX: (FF0CFB0B-C1EF-9E27-974C-4F9DBEAA19E Gener		DEC LINE ATTENTION!	
Mutex ZMBAZN92GH Gener	ate	Warning! Please take your time to read the following text for your	ever boot
Other Inlect USBs In Compress with UPX Change Icon Clone File Information		Your computer his basically been hijacked, and your private files your computer has now been encrypted, which means that they ar impossible to access, and can only be decryped/restored by us	stored on
Save Back Example settings .NET Crypter settings		Now, it's your decision to choose whether to ignore this, or follow	the easy
nections Create Server Create Station Statistics Settings	Database	Please settle X USD IBAN >> 27 0040 0158 0000 0178 2101 >>>> SWIFT >>>> >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	City Stack
kShades NET has the ability to create aries which employ custom obfuscation	STATE OF THE STATE OF	Reference: Blackshades, key (WARNING: This must be included a message or reterence; offserwise your files will not be restored)	
rithms or Crypters, which can be bou	ght	Hole - Nov. Book and an independent we in the individual - Early provided	m white - No. Leave
ough the Bot/Crypter marketplace em	bedded	Despitation Sections on Testing Homes Williams (Company 11-And Body-Seaton 200) on Testing Homes W. Carton part Mile.	Made and 1 of 10 ft.
ne BlackShades controller		Test Transmission 1: Organistic in	

Botnet Trojans: Cythosia Botnet and Andromeda Bot



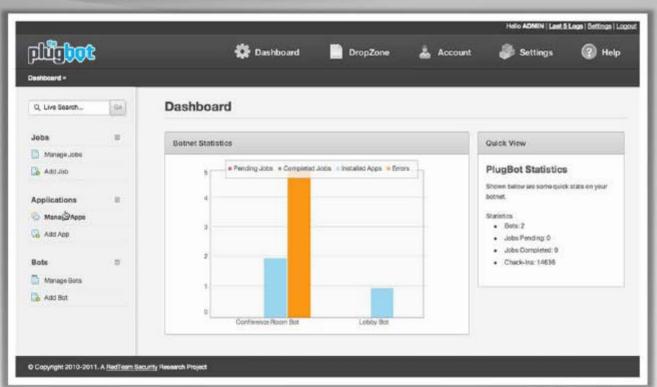


Botnet Trojan: PlugBot





- PlugBot is a hardware botnet project
- It is a covert penetration testing device (bot) designed for covert use during physical penetration tests





http://theplugbot.com

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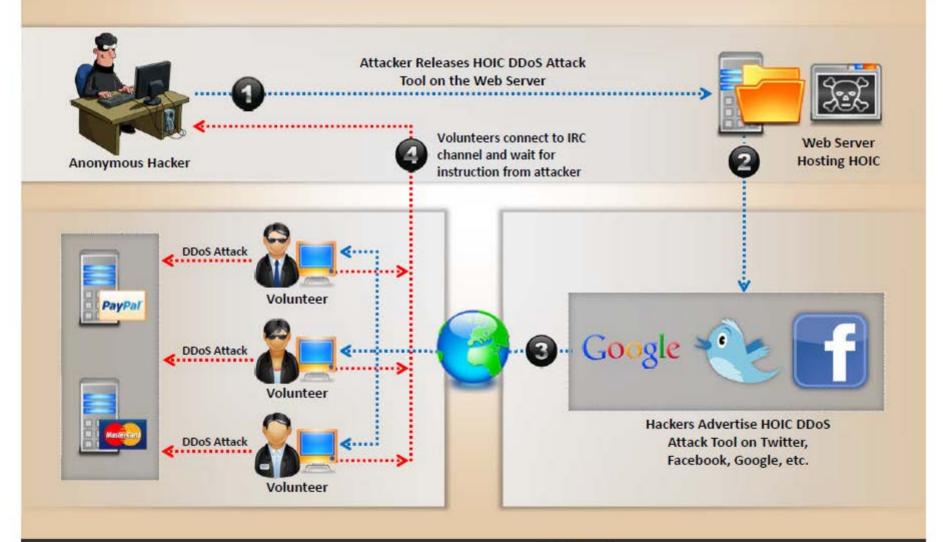
Countermeasures

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DDoS Attack





Hackers Advertise Links to Download Botnet





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DoS and DDoS Attack Tool: Pandora DDoS Bot Toolkit



The Pandora DDoS Bot Toolkit is an updated variant of the Dirt Jumper DDoS toolkit

It offers five distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack modes

It generates five attack types:

- # HTTP min
- HTTP download
- # HTTP Combo
- Socket Connect
- Max Flood





DoS and DDoS Attack Tools: Dereil and HOIC





Dereil

Dereil is professional (DDoS) Tools with modern patterns for attack via TCP, UDP, and HTTP protocols



http://sourceforge.net

HOIC



HOIC makes a DDoS attacks to any IP address, with a user selected port and a user selected protocol



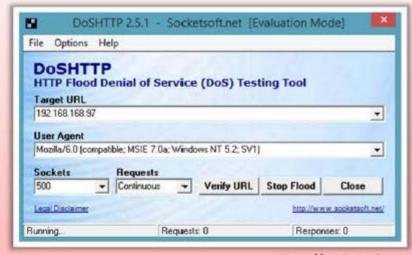
http://sourceforge.net

DoS and DDoS Attack Tools: DoS HTTP and BanglaDos



DoS HTTP

- DoSHTTP is HTTP Flood Denial of Service (DoS) Testing Tool for Windows
- It includes URL verification, HTTP redirection, port designation, performance monitoring and enhanced reporting
- It uses multiple asynchronous sockets to perform an effective HTTP Flood



http://socketsoft.net

BanglaDos



http://sourceforge.net

DoS and DDoS Attack Tools







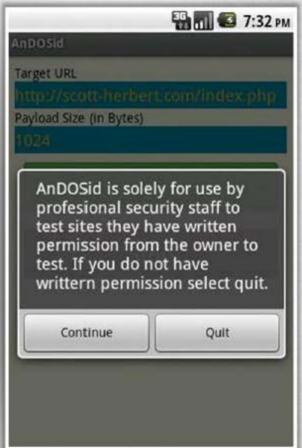
DoS and DDoS Attack Tool for Mobile: AnDOSid



AnDOSid allows attacker to simulate a DOS attack (A http post flood attack to be exact) and DDoS attack on a web server from mobile phones







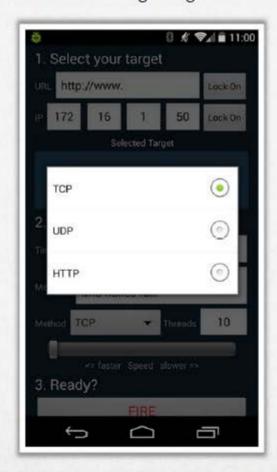
http://andosid.android.informer.com

DoS and DDoS Attack Tool for Mobile: Low Orbit Ion Cannon (LOIC)



Android version of Low Orbit Ion Cannon (LOIC) software is used for flooding packets which allows attacker to perform DDoS attack on target organization







https://github.com

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Detection Techniques



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Detection techniques are based on identifying and discriminating the illegitimate traffic increase and flash events from legitimate packet traffic

Activity Profiling



Changepoint Detection



All detection techniques define an attack as an abnormal and noticeable deviation from a threshold of normal network traffic statistics

Wavelet-based Signal Analysis

Activity Profiling



1

An attack is indicated by:

- An increase in activity levels among the network flow clusters
- An increase in the overall number of distinct clusters (DDoS attack)



2

Activity profile is done based on the average packet rate for a network flow, which consists of consecutive packets with similar packet fields



3

Activity profile is obtained by monitoring the **network packet's header information**

Wavelet-based Signal Analysis





Wavelet analysis describes an input signal in terms of spectral components



Wavelets provide for concurrent time and frequency description



Analyzing each spectral window's energy determines the presence of anomalies



Signal analysis determines the time at which certain frequency components are present

Sequential Change-Point Detection



Isolate Traffic

Change-point detection algorithms isolate changes in network traffic statistics caused by attacks



Filter Traffic The algorithms filter the target traffic data by address, port, or protocol and store the resultant flow as a time series



Identify Attack Sequential change-point detection technique uses Cusum algorithm to identify and locate the **DoS attacks**; the algorithm calculates deviations in the actual versus expected local average in the traffic time series



Identify Scan Activity

This technique can also be used to identify the typical scanning activities of the network worms



DoS/DDoS Countermeasure Strategies



Absorbing the Attack

- Use additional capacity to absorb attack; it requires preplanning
- It requires additional resources



Degrading Services



Identify critical services and stop non critical services



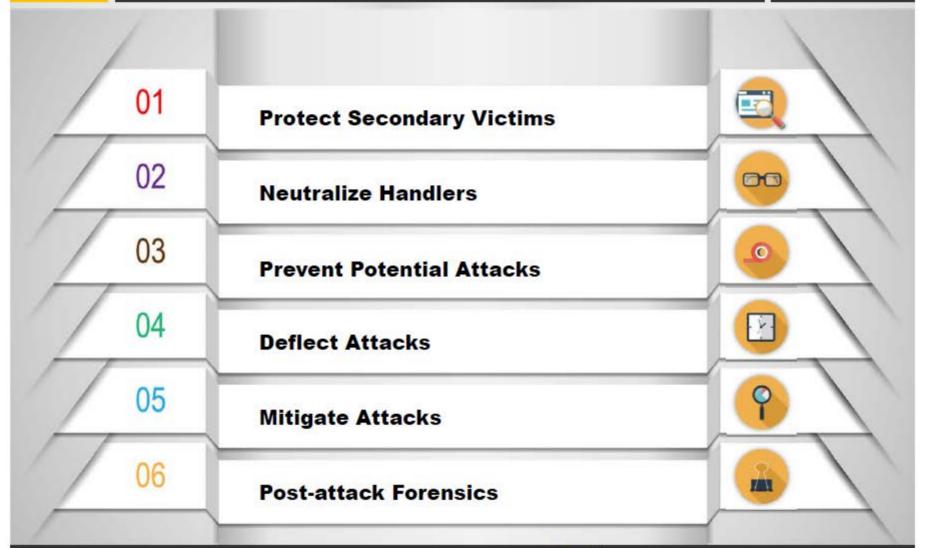
Shutting Down the Services





DDoS Attack Countermeasures





DoS/DDoS Countermeasures: Protect Secondary Victims





Install anti-virus and anti-Trojan software and keep these up-to-date

Increase awareness of security issues and prevention techniques in all Internet users





Disable unnecessary services, uninstall unused applications, and scan all the files received from external sources

Properly configure and regularly update the built-in defensive mechanisms in the core hardware and software of the systems



DoS/DDoS Countermeasures: Detect and Neutralize Handlers





Network Traffic Analysis Analyze communication protocols and traffic patterns between handlers and clients or handlers and agents in order to **identify the network nodes** that might be infected by the handlers



Neutralize Botnet Handlers There are usually few DDoS handlers deployed as compared to the number of agents. Neutralizing a few handlers can possibly render multiple agents useless, thus thwarting DDoS attacks



Spoofed Source Address There is a decent probability that the spoofed source address of DDoS attack packets will not represent a valid source address of the definite sub-network

DoS/DDoS Countermeasures: Detect Potential Attacks



- Scanning the packet headers of IP packets leaving a network
- Egress filtering ensures that unauthorized or malicious traffic never leaves the internal network



Egress Filtering

- Protects from flooding attacks which originate from the valid prefixes (IP addresses)
- It enables the originator to be traced to its true source



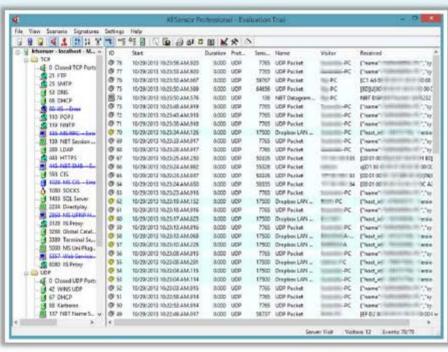
Ingress Filtering

Configuring TCP Intercept prevents DoS attacks by intercepting and validating the TCP connection requests



DoS/DDoS Countermeasures: Deflect Attacks





Systems that are set up with limited security, also known as Honeypots, act as an enticement for an attacker



Honeypots serve as a means for gaining information about attackers, attack techniques and tools by storing a record of the system activities



Use defense-in-depth approach with IPSes at different network points to divert suspicious DoS traffic to several honeypots



http://www.keyfocus.net



DoS/DDoS Countermeasures: Mitigate Attacks





Load Balancing Increase
bandwidth on
critical
connections to
absorb
additional traffic
generated by an

Replicate servers to provide additional failsafe protection

Balance
load on each
server in a
multiple-server
architecture to
mitigates DDoS
attack

Set
routers to access
a server with a
logic to throttle
incoming traffic
levels that are
safe for the

server

Throttling
helps in
preventing
damage to
servers by
controlling the
DoS traffic

Can be
extended to
throttle DDoS
attack traffic
and allow
legitimate user
traffic for
better results

Throttling



Post-Attack Forensics





DDoS attack traffic patterns can help the network administrators to develop **new filtering techniques** for preventing the attack traffic from entering or leaving the networks



Analyze router, firewall, and IDS logs to identify the source of the DoS traffic. Try to trace back attacker IP's with the help of intermediary ISPs and law enforcement agencies



Traffic pattern analysis: Data can be analyzed - post-attack - to look for specific characteristics within the attacking traffic



Using these characteristics, the result of traffic pattern analysis can be used for updating load-balancing and throttling countermeasures

Techniques to Defend against Botnets



RFC 3704 Filtering

Any traffic coming from unused or reserved IP addresses is bogus and should be filtered at the ISP before it enters the Internet link



Cisco IPS Source IP Reputation Filtering

Reputation
services help in
determining if an
IP or service is a
source of threat or
not, Cisco IPS
regularly updates
its database with
known threats
such as botnets,
botnet harvesters,
malwares, etc. and
helps in filtering
DoS traffic

Black Hole Filtering

Black hole refers to network nodes where incoming traffic is discarded or dropped without informing the source that the data did not reach its intended recipient

Black hole filtering refers to discarding packets at the routing level

DDoS Prevention Offerings from ISP or DDoS Service

Enable IP Source
Guard (in CISCO) or
similar features in
other routers to
filter traffic based
on the DHCP
snooping binding
database or IP
source bindings
which prevents a
bot to send
spoofed packets

DoS/DDoS Countermeasures





Use strong encryption mechanisms such as WPA2, AES 256, etc. for broadband networks to withstand against eavesdropping



Ensure that the software and protocols are up-to-date and scan the machines thoroughly to detect any anomalous behavior



Disable unused and insecure services



Block all inbound packets originating from the service ports to block the traffic from reflection servers



Update kernel to the latest release



Prevent the transmission of the fraudulently addressed packets at ISP level



Implement cognitive radios in the physical layer to handle the jamming and scrambling attacks

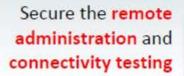
DoS/DDoS Countermeasures

C E H

(Cont'd)



Configure the firewall to deny external ICMP traffic access





Q

Perform the thorough input validation

Data processed by the attacker should be stopped from being executed





Prevent use of unnecessary functions such as gets, strcpy etc.

Prevent the return addresses from being overwritten



DoS/DDoS Protection at ISP Level





Most ISPs simply blocks all the requests during a DDoS attack, denying even the legitimate traffic from accessing the service



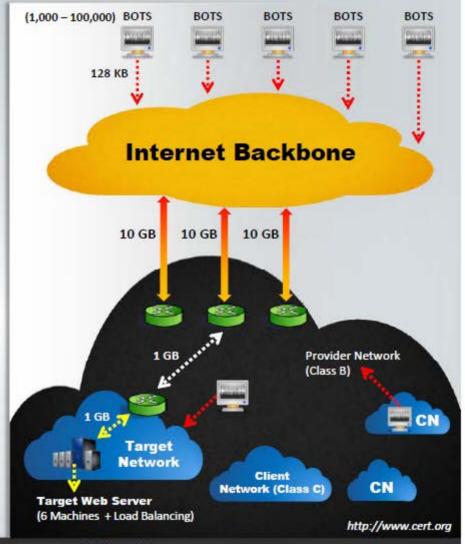
ISPs offer in-the-cloud DDoS protection for Internet links so that they do not become saturated by the attack



Attack traffic is redirected to the ISP during the attack to be filtered and sent back



Administrators can request ISPs to block the original affected IP and move their site to another IP after performing DNS propagation



Enabling TCP Intercept on Cisco IOS Software



To enable TCP intercept, use these commands in global configuration mode:

Step	Command	Purpose
1	access-list access-list-number (deny permit) top any destination destination-wildcard	Define an IP extended access list
2	ip top Intercept list access-list-number	Enable TCP Intercept



TCP intercept can operate in either active intercept mode or passive watch mode. The default is intercept mode

The command to set the TCP intercept mode in global configuration mode:

Command	Purpose
ip tcp intercept mode {intercept watch}	Set the TCP intercept mode



http://www.cisco.com

Advanced DDoS Protection Appliances





http://www.fortinet.com



http://www.checkpoint.com



http://www.cisco.com



http://www.arbornetworks.com

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DoS/DDoS Protection Tool: FortGuard Anti-DDoS Firewall 2014



FortGuard Anti-DDoS Firewall provides a fundamentally superior approach to mitigating DDoS attacks, with a design that focuses on passing legitimate traffic rather than discarding attack traffic



Features:

- Protection against SYN, TCP Flooding and other types of DDoS attacks
- Attack packets filtering;
 UDP/ICMP/IGMP packets rate management
- Protection against arp spoofing



DoS/DDoS Protection Tools





NetFlow Analyzer

http://www.manageengine.com



SDL Regex Fuzzer

http://www.microsoft.com



WANGuard Sensor

http://www.andrisoft.com



NetScaler Application Firewall

http://www.citrix.com



Incapsula

http://www.incapsula.com



FortiDDoS

http://www.fortinet.com



DefensePro

http://www.radware.com



DOSarrest

http://www.dosarrest.com



Anti DDoS Guardian

http://www.beethink.com



DDoSDefend

http://ddosdefend.com

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Denial-of-Service (DoS) Attack Penetration Testing



DoS attack should be incorporated into Pen testing plans to find out if the network server is susceptible to DoS attacks

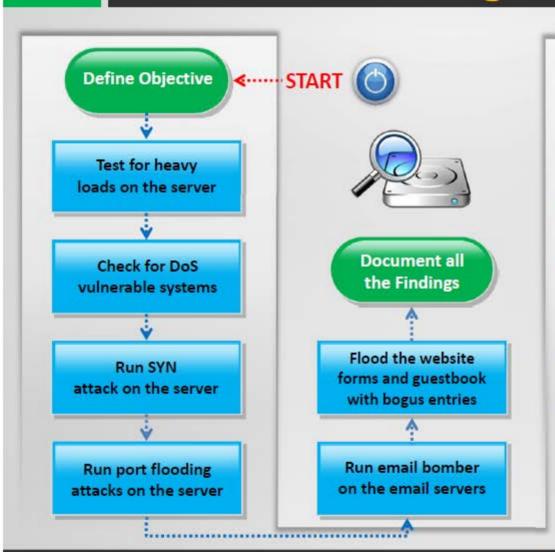
DoS Pen Testing determines minimum thresholds for DoS attacks on a system, but the tester cannot ensure that the system is resistant to DoS attacks

The pen tester floods the target network with traffic, similar to hundreds of people repeatedly requesting the service in order to check the system stability

Pen testing results will help the administrators to determine and adopt suitable network perimeter security controls such as load balancer, IDS, IPS, Firewalls, etc.

Denial-of-Service (DoS) Attack Penetration Testing (Cont'd)





- Test the web server using automated tools such as Webserver Stress Tool and JMeter for load capacity, server-side performance, locks, and other scalability issues
- Scan the network using automated tools such as Nmap, GFI LanGuard, and Nessus to discover any systems that are vulnerable to DoS attacks
- Flood the target with connection request packets using tools such as Dirt Jumper DDoS Toolkit, Dereil, HOIC, and DoS HTTP
- Use a port flooding attack to flood the port and increase the CPU usage by maintaining all the connection requests on the ports under blockade. Use tools LOIC and Moihack Port Flooder to automate a port flooding attack
- Use tools Mail Bomber to send a large number of emails to a target mail server
- Fill the forms with arbitrary and lengthy entries



Module Summary



Denial of Service (DoS) is an attack on a computer or network that reduces, restricts or prevents accessibility of system resources to its legitimate users A distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack involves a multitude of compromised systems attacking a single target, thereby causing denial of service for users of the targeted system Attacker uses various techniques to carry out DoS/DDoS attacks on the target but these attacks are basically categorized into; volumetric attacks, fragmentation attacks, TCP state-exhaustion attacks, and application layer attacks ☐ There are organized groups of cyber criminals who work in a hierarchical setup with a predefined revenue sharing model, like a major corporation that offers criminal services A botnet is a huge network of the compromised systems and can be used by an attacker to launch denial-of-service attacks Detection techniques are based on identifying and discriminating the illegitimate traffic increase and flash events from legitimate packet traffic The pen tester floods the target network with traffic, similar to hundreds of people repeatedly requesting the service in order to check the system stability