Extortion via DDoS on the rise

By Denise Pappalardo and Ellen Messmer, Network World, 05/16/05

Criminals are increasingly targeting corporations with distributed denial-of-service attacks designed not to disrupt business networks but to extort thousands of dollars from the companies.

Ivan Maksakov, Alexander Petrov and Denis Stepanov were accused of receiving $4 million from firms that they threatened with cyberattacks.

The trio concentrated on U.K. Internet gambling sites, according to the prosecution. One bookmaker, which refused to pay a demand for $10,000, was attacked and brought offline--which reportedly cost it more than $200,000 a day in lost business.

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DoS extortion is no longer profitable

In the last six months of 2006 we saw a pretty sharp decline in the daily number of denial of service attacks. Although there are likely a number of factors at play here, I think there is one primary factor: denial of service extortion attacks are no longer profitable.

reddit hot new browse stats

This link runs a slooow SQL query on the RIAA's server. Don't click it; that would be wrong. (tinyurl.com)

814 points posted 8 days ago by keyboard_user 211 comments

reddit hot new browse stats

Clicking this link loads 120,000 copies of the RIAA's captcha. Clicking would be wrong, don't do it. (antisocial.propagation.net)

452 points posted 4 days ago by mridlen 292 comments

NOV 08 8

DDoS makes a phishing e-mail look real

Posted by Munir Kotadia @ 12:00 — 0 comments

Just as Internet users learn that clicking on a link in an e-mail purporting to come from their bank is a bad idea, phishers seem to be developing a new tactic -- launch a DDoS attack on the Web site of the company whose customers they are targeting and then send e-mails "explaining" the outage and offering an "alternative" URL.

Russia accused of unleashing cyberwar to disable Estonia

· Parliament, ministries, banks, media targeted
· Nato experts sent in to strengthen defences

Ian Traynor in Brussels
Thursday May 17, 2007
The Guardian

A three-week wave of massive cyber-attacks on the small Baltic country of Estonia, the first known incidence of such an assault on a state, is causing alarm across the western alliance, with Nato urgently examining the offensive and its implications.

U.S. cyber counterattack: Bomb 'em one way or the other

National Cyber Response Coordination Group establishing proper response to cyberattacks

By Ellen Messmer, Network World, 02/08/07

San Francisco — If the United States found itself under a major cyberattack aimed at undermining the nation's critical information infrastructure, the Department of Defense is prepared, based on the authority of the president, to launch a cyber counterattack or an actual bombing of an attack source.

Posted on Tuesday, August 12th, 2008 | Bookmark on del.icio.us

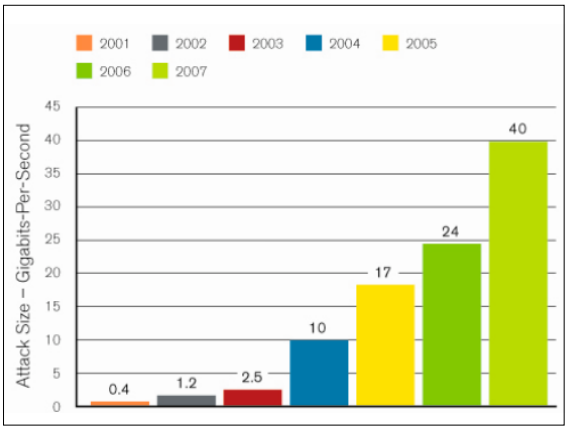
Georgia DDoS Attacks - A Quick Summary of Observations

by Jose Nazario

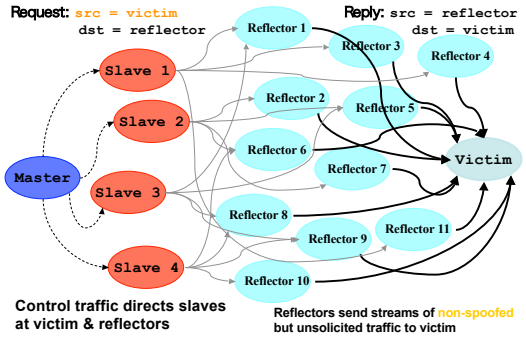
The clashes between Russia and Georgia over the region of South Ossetia have been shadowed by attacks on the Internet. As we noted in July, the Georgia presidential website fell victim to attack during a war of words. A number of DDoS attacks have

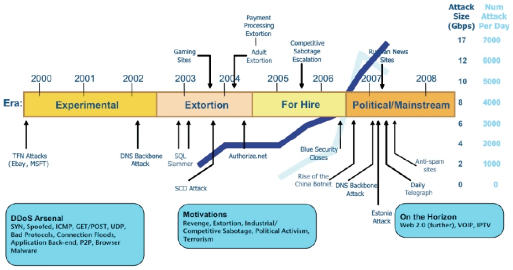
Raw statistics of the attack traffic paint a pretty intense picture. We can discern that the attacks would cause injury to almost any common website.

Average peak bits per second per attack	211.66 Mbps
Largest attack, peak bits per second	814.33 Mbps
Average attack duration	2 hours 15 minutes
Longest attack duration	6 hour



Diffuse DDoS: Reflector Attack





Packet sent	Response from victim
TCP SYN (to open port)	TCP SYN/ACK
TCP SYN (to closed port)	TCP RST (ACK)
TCP ACK	TCP RST (ACK)
TCP DATA	TCP RST (ACK)
TCP RST	no response
TCP NULL	TCP RST (ACK)
ICMP ECHO Request	ICMP Echo Reply
ICMP TS Request	ICMP TS Reply
UDP pkt (to open port)	protocol dependent
UDP pkt (to closed port)	ICMP Port Unreach
...	...

Table 1: A sample of victim responses to typical attacks.