

Latest Trends in DDoS Attacks



By: Parul Bhardwaj
Tishon Gumbs
Shahbaz Virk

DDoS Attack

Distributed Denial of Service

Attack occurs when multiple systems flood the bandwidth or resources of a targeted system, usually one or more web server.



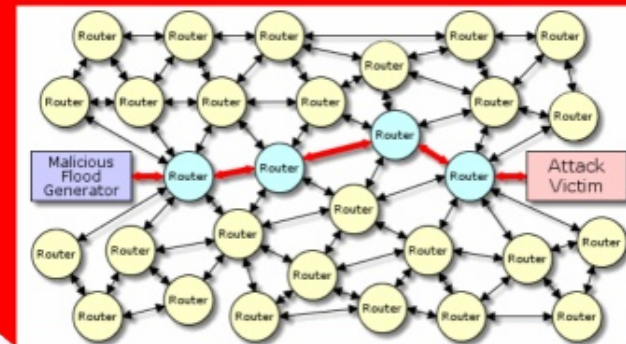
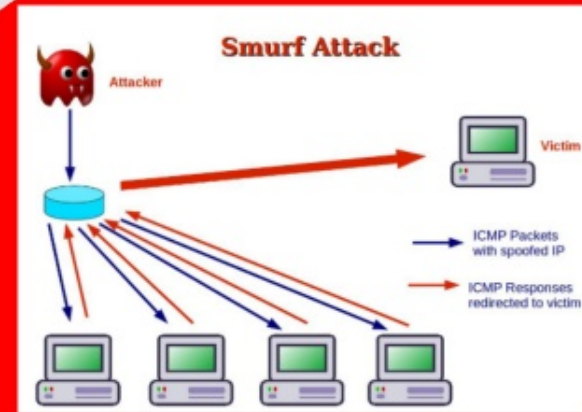
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Methods of Attack

- Smurf
- TCP
- Fragmentation
- Reflective
- Non-Reflective



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Types of DDoS Attack



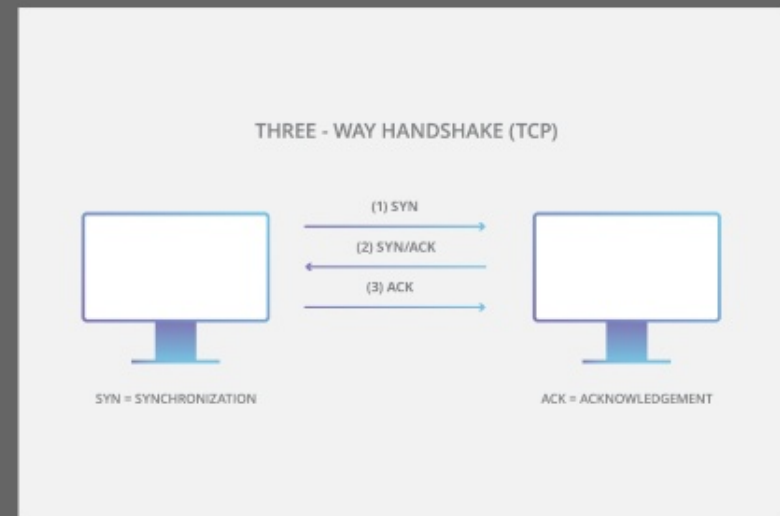
Volumetric

**State
Exhaustion**

Application

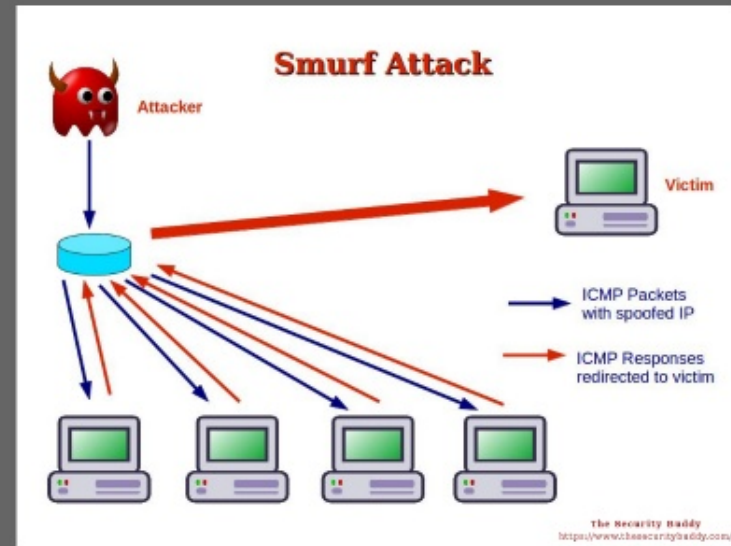
Volumetric

- TCP flood
- ICMP flood
- UDP flood



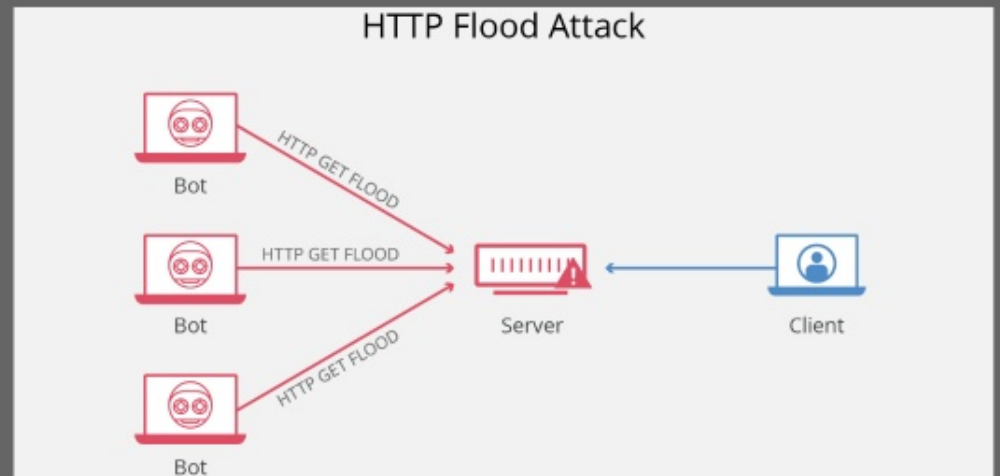
State-Exhaustion

- Smurf Attack
- Ping Flood
- SYN Flood



Application

- Hash DoS attack
- TearDrop attack



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Rise of DDoS Attacks



2013-2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2013- 2014

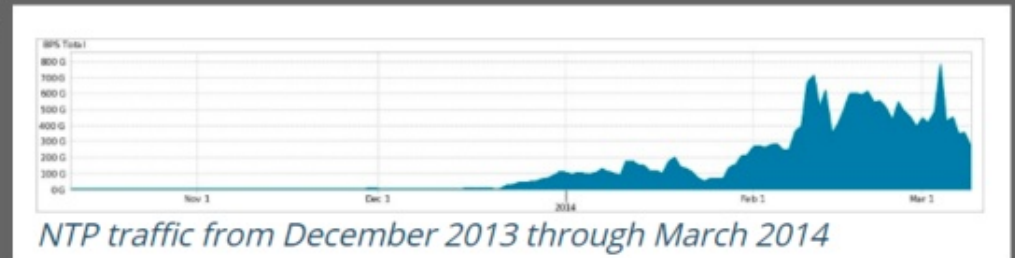
The Time is Now

Network Time Protocol

A series of NTP reflection/amplification attacks were launched against multiple online gaming services, causing widespread outages.

Average NTP traffic globally in November 2013 was 1.29 GB/sec, by February 2014 it was 351.64 GB/sec

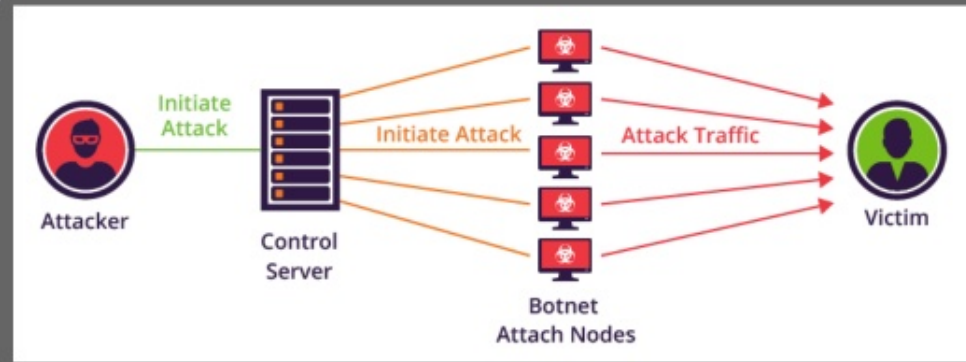
NTP was used in 14% of DDos events overall but 56% of events over 10 GB/sec and 84.7% of events over 100 GB/sec



2015

Rise of IOB

By 2015, UDP- based reflection/ amplification attacks were responsible for generating some of the largest volumetric DDoS flood attacks ever observed.



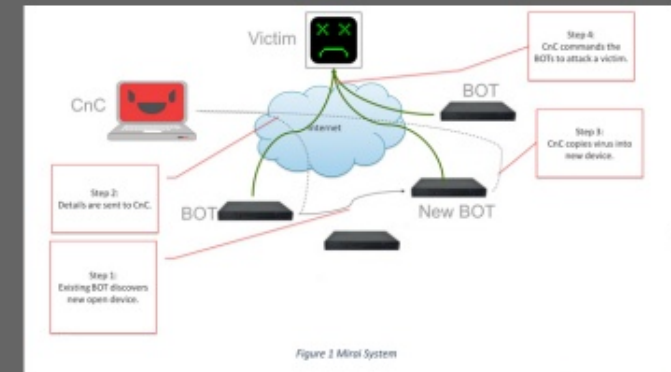
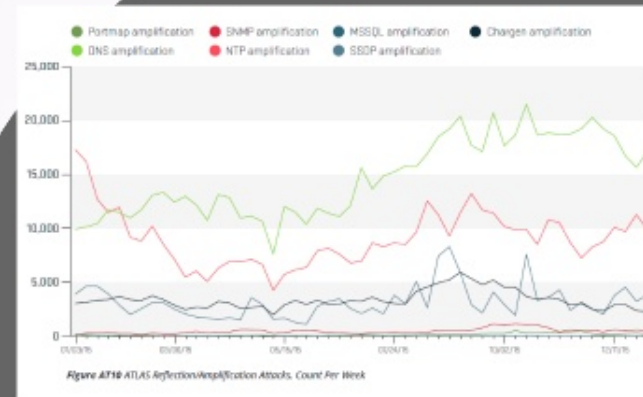
2016

No Stone Unturned

In 2016, ATLAS documented a strong resurgence of DNS as the dominant protocol being leveraged for reflection/amplification attacks

Mirari Botnet

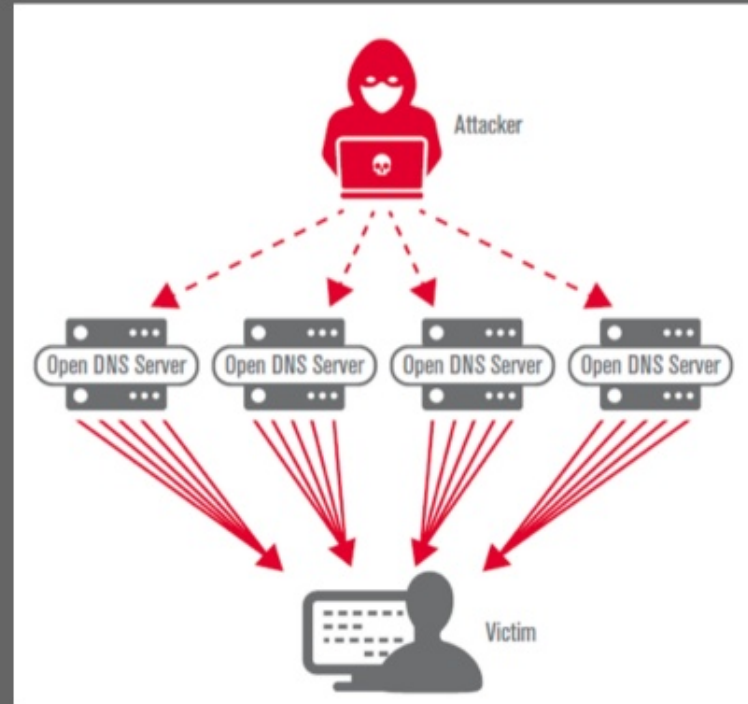
- Mirai is a self-propagating botnet virus
- The Mirari botnet code infects poorly infected devices by using telnet to find those that are still using factory default



2017

Success Breeds Imitation

In 2017, attackers continued to use reflection/ amplification techniques to exploit vulnerabilities in DNS, NTP, SSDP, CLDAP, Chargen and other protocols to maximize the scale of their attacks

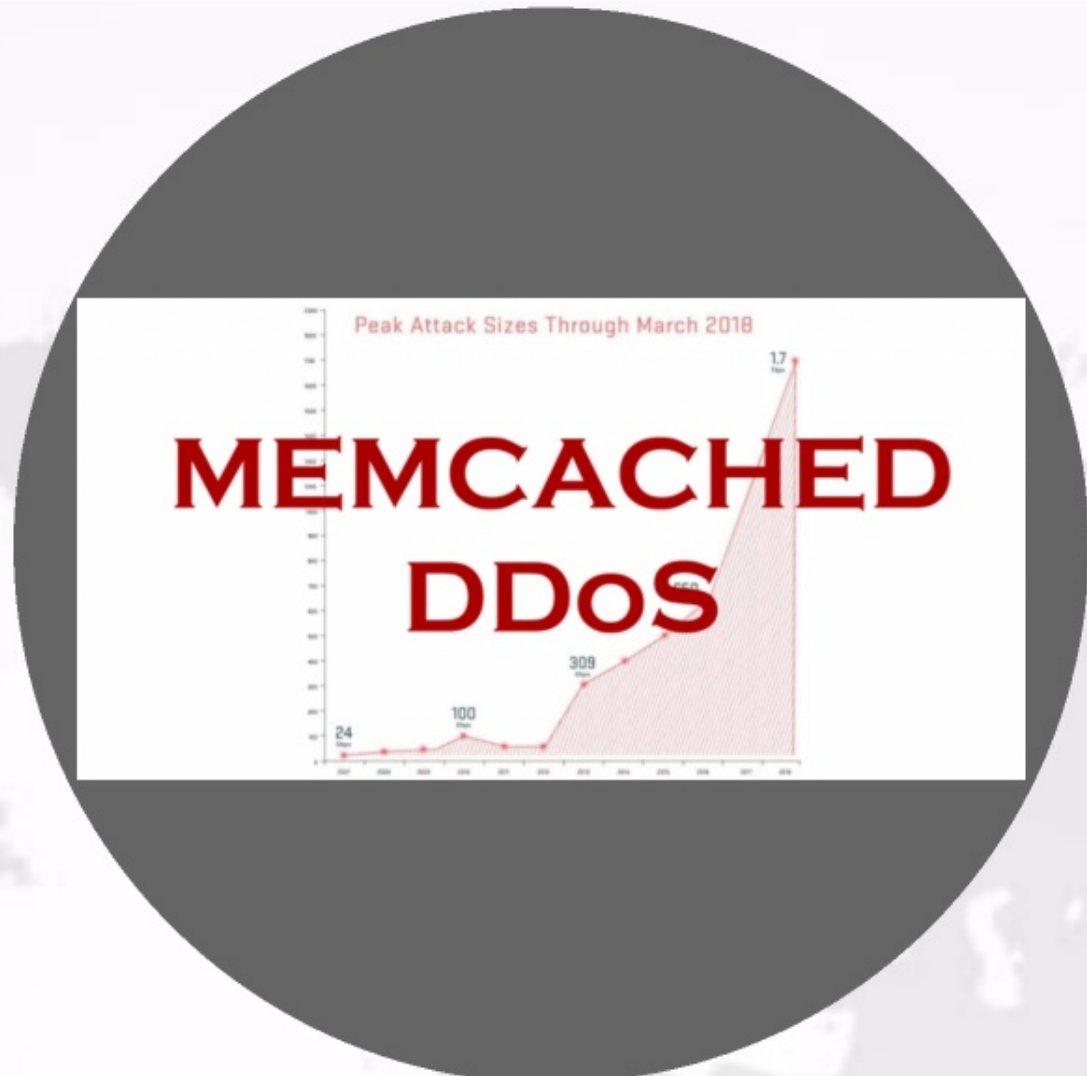


2018

Memcached: High-bandwidth reflection/amplification exploits

In 2018, another widely used application, memcached, has joined the ranks of high-bandwidth reflection/amplification exploits.

Open source and free, memcached is a high-performance, distributed memory caching system designed to optimize dynamic web applications.



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DDoS Attack Key Insights

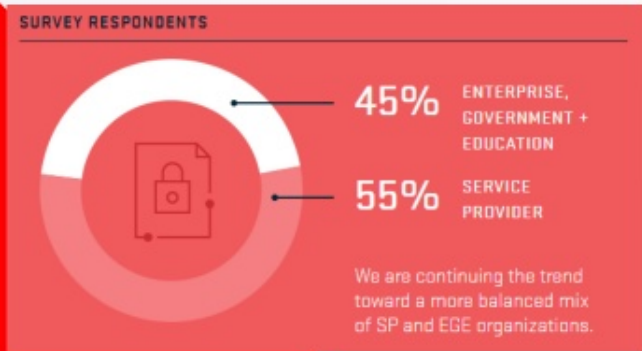


Targets

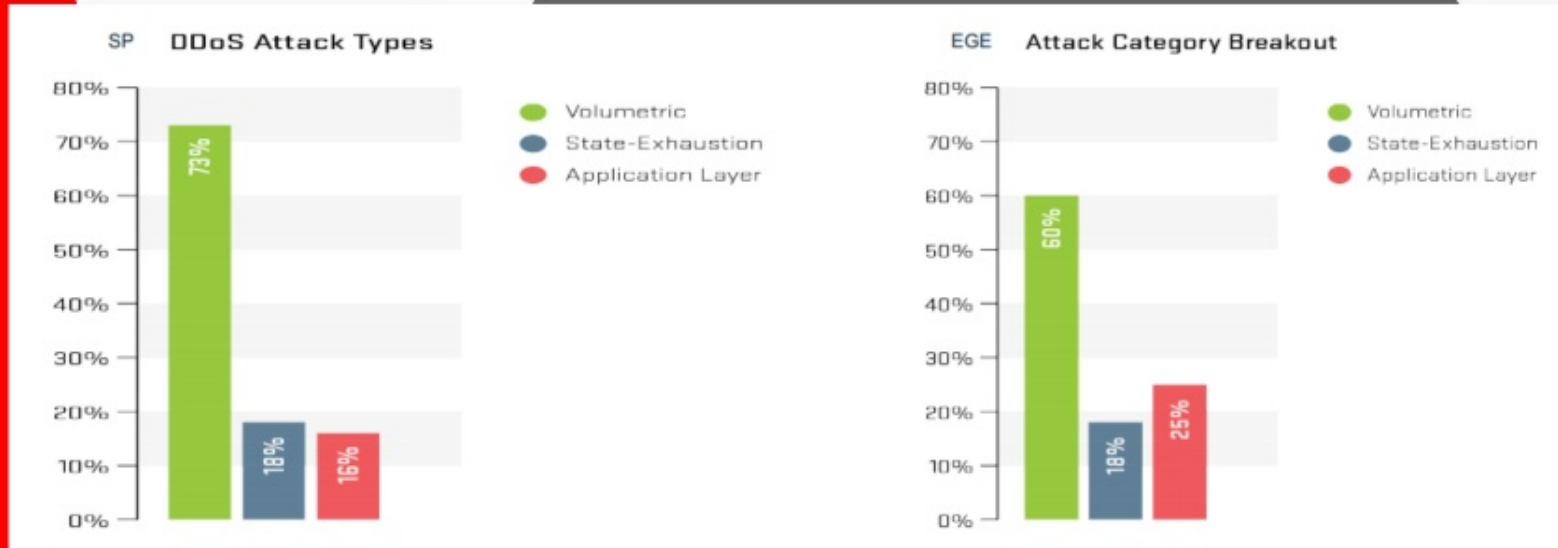
Complexity

Noteworthy

Major Targets

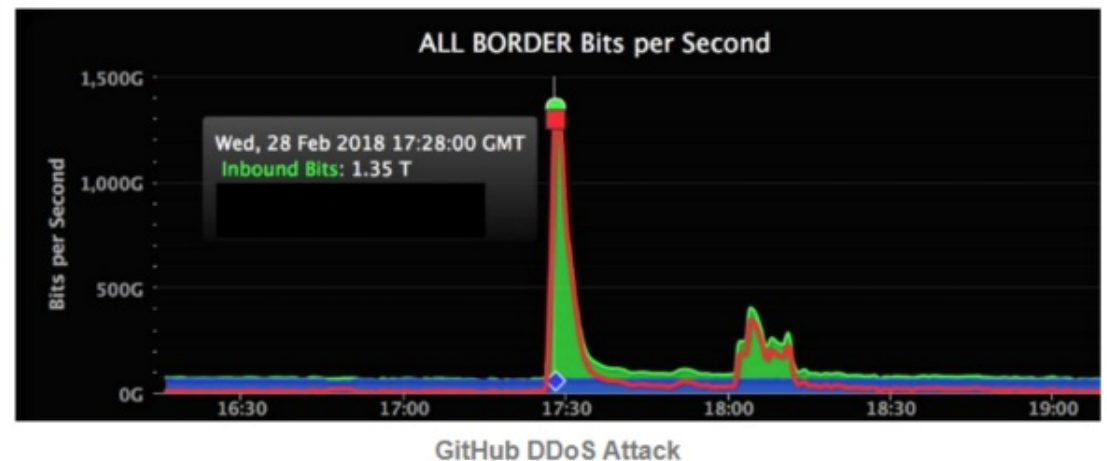


Complexity: Attack Types



Famous DDoS Attacks

- **Github:** 1.35 TBPS
- **Occupy Central, Hong Kong:** 500 GBPS
- **Cloudflare:** 400 GBPS



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Challenges

- **Rising Threats:** Numerous Stronger attacks
- **Greater Variety:** Different server parts targeted with combinations of several attack strategies
- **Mitigation Gap:** Only ~57% of organizations have a strategy



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Prevention and Mitigation



Plan

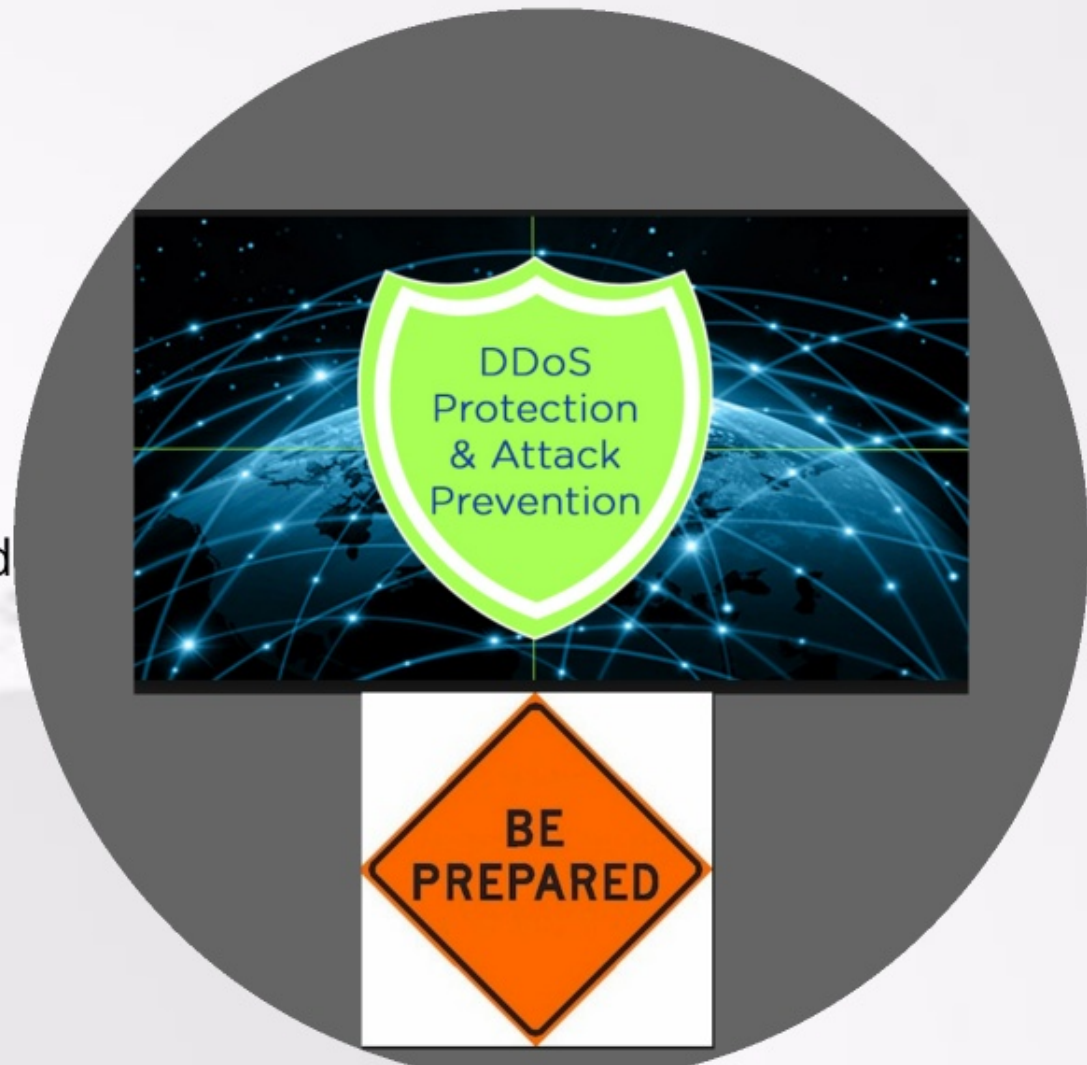
Secure

**Transparent
Mitigation**

Outsource

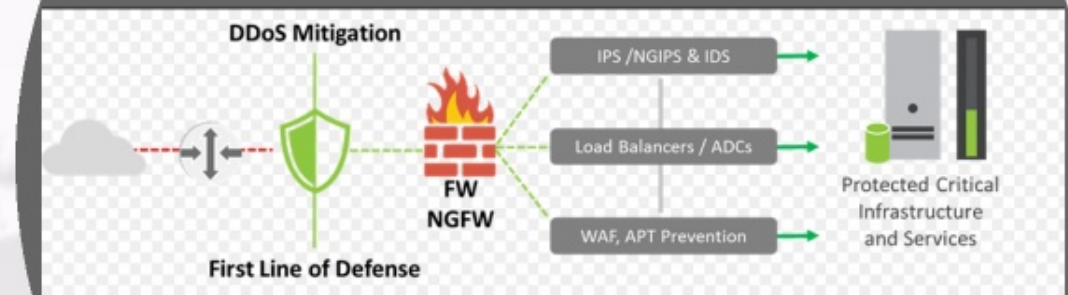
Have a Plan

- Systems Checklist
- Form a response Team
- Define notification and escalation procedures
- Include the list of internal and external contacts



Secure Infrastructure / Network

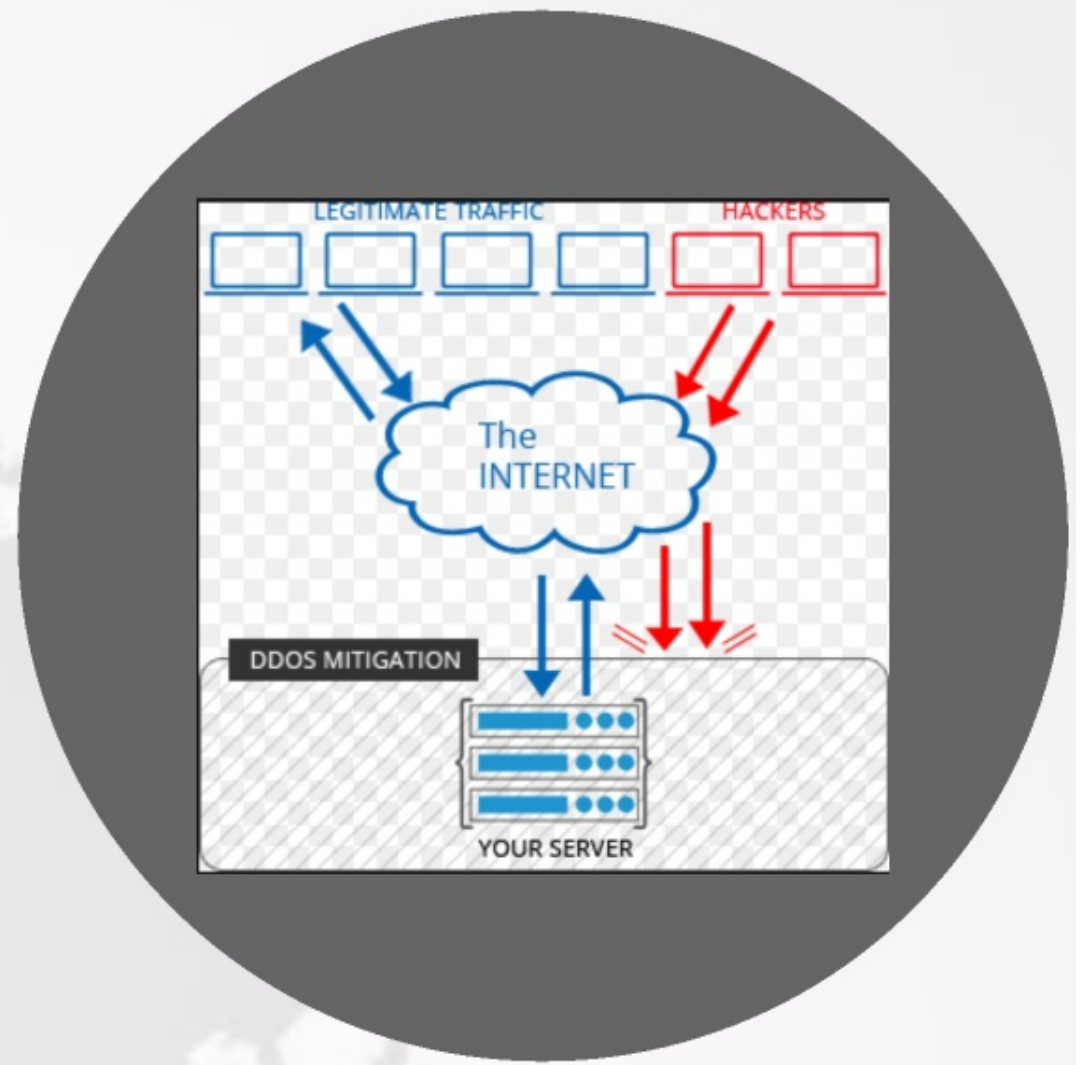
- Firewalls
- VPN
- Anti-spam
- Content-Filtering
- Load Balancing
- Strong Security Practices



Transparent Mitigation

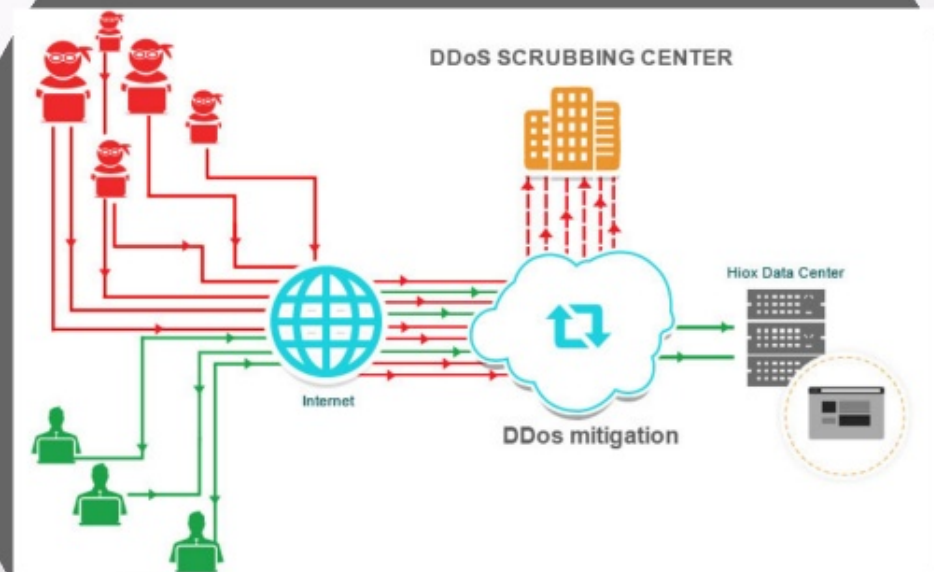
Monitor the Network for:

- Slowdown
- Spotty Connectivity on Intranet
- Intermittent website shutdown
- Incoming/Outgoing Traffic



Outsourcing

- Leverage the Cloud
- Combination of in-house and third party security service
- Consider DDoS-as-a-Service :
Tailor-made security architecture



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Current DDoS Attack Data



Source: <http://www.digitalattackmap.com/#anim=1&color=0&country=ALL&list=0&time=17957&view=map>

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Question time

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References:

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