## NO<IA

Using AI/ML for network-optimized DDoS mitigation

## The nature of DDoS landscape changed dramatically over last

- Majority **DDoS is crafted or spoofed** using amplification/reflection
  - 'Easy' to mitigate based on pattern match or protocol challenges

#### Today:

- Botnets generate most complex attacks and most DDoS volume
  - Top Botnet device types: webcams, DVRs, routers, NAS, business IOT,...
  - Catalysts: Exponential growth in IOT devices, often running old SW stacks
    - Growth in CVE's
    - Booter services: DDoS-SaaS dramatic drop in DDoS black market prices

#### Trends:

- Roll-out of symmetric GE/10GE access will make things worse...
- Al increases attack variability & realistic HTTPS/DNS/QUIC
   requests © 2024 Nokia
- Use of residential Proxy to mask sources



NOKIA

## Today's DDoS 2020s

- Broadband subscribers *love* IoT devices and (multi-)gigabit FTTH uplinks...
- ... and so do botnet DDoS operators.



WTF! Why is my LG Washing Machine using 3.6GB of data/day?



4:07 AM · Jan 9, 2024 · 17.5M Views

## Today's DDoS 2023+

- People also like free VPNs
- Which often provide backdoor access to subscriber devices as proxy with a "clean" IP reputation
- Initially used for spam, credit card fraud, credential stuffing, click-fraud, buying sneakers, and more recently: DDoS

Source: https://spur.us/cloudrouter-911-proxy-resurrected/

Home Your Privacy Why use VPN? VPN Locations Why is it free? FAQ News

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73,***,***,***	34	US	IL	Rockf	ord		61101	Comcast	Cable	
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73,***,***,***	35	US	IL	Morto	n Grove		60053	Comcast	Cable	
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		110	0.4	0	and the second sec		21401	Comenet	Cable	

English

## How do most out-of-band DDoS solutions detect DDoS attacks?



## Steps usually required to configure DDoS detection

#### Misuse Type | Trigger Rate | High Severity R

- chargen Amplification (bps) | 250 Mbps
   Mbps
- chargen Amplification (pps) | 25 Kpps | 50 K
- CLDAP Amplification (bps) | 250 Mbps | 500
   Mbps
- CLDAP Amplification (pps) | 25 Kpps | 50 Kpps
- DNS | 10 Kpps | 30 Kpps
- DNS Amplification (bps) | 250 Mbps | 500 Mbps
- DNS Amplification (pps) | 25 Kpps | 50 Kpps
- ICMP | 5 Kpps | 10 Kpps
- IP Fragment | 25 Kpps | 50 Kpps
- IP Private | 5 Kpps | 10 Kpps
- IPy4 Protocol 0 | 5 Kpps | 10 Kpps
- L2TP (bps) | 25 Mbps | 50 Mbps
- L2TP (pps) | 25 Kpps | 50 Kpps

mDNS (bps) | 25 Mbps | 50 Mbps NS (pps) | 25 Kpps | 50 Kpps

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hind (bps) | 25 Mbps | 50 Mbps obind (pps) | 25 Kpps | 50 Kpps SNMP Amplification (bps) | 25 Mbps | 50 Mbps

- SNMP Amplification (pps) | 25 Kpps | 50 Kpps
- SSDP Amplification (bps) | 250 Mbps | 500 Mbps
- SSDP Amplification (pps) | 25 Kpps | 50 Kpps
- TCP null | 1.5 Kpps | 20 Kpps
- TCP RST | 1.5 Kpps | 20 Kpps
- TCP SYN | 1.5 Kpps | 20 Kpps
- TCP SYN/ACK Amplification (bps) | 125 Mbps | 150 Mbps
- TCP SYN/ACK Amplification (pps) | 125 Kpps | 150 Kpps
  - UDP | 30 Kpps | 400 Kpps



# **Protecting against** amplification **attacks**



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asa.gov.	569	IN	NS	al4-67.akam.net.	[Request In: 1] [Time: 0.197440		response vs. 65-byte query at IP layer)	
; Query time: 227 msec SERVER: 48 25	#53(	48 25	2) (TCP					
; WHEN: Wed May 29 08:0	2:20 UT	C 2024	2, (10			3	Response is <b>fragmented</b> as it exceeds path MTU	
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### Fast protection against amplification attacks Why amplification?

- While relatively basic, DNS amplification is still a very popular attack vector
  - In short-lived attacks (e.g., gaming) as more than enough to congest a residential connection
  - As complement in more complex attacks (to fill pipes while other vectors can target in-line appliances or application servers)
  - (and unlike more esoteric UDP services like TFTP or QOTD, DNS is still somewhat useful for most subscribers)



## dns\_port\_combo detection rule

- Secure Genome rules are expressed with the **Deepfield Model Language**.
- Some of the traffic from this attack matches:
  - Protocol UDP, and
  - Source port 53, and
  - Destination ports 22 or 23 or 53 or...
- Straightforward as only operates on 5-tuple metadata

(df['protocol'] == **17**) &

(df['port.src'].isin([53])) &

(df['port.dst'].isin([22,23,53,80,110,161,427,443]))

## dns\_amplifier\_fragment detection rule

- Slightly more complex as this relies on **Genome context for the source IPs**
- Some of the traffic from this attack matches:
  - Protocol UDP, and
  - Source port 0, and
  - Source IP is known as a DNS amplifier
  - Source IP is <u>not</u> part of major public DNS resolvers, DNS root servers, main DNS gTLD/ccTLD servers, and major authoritative nameservers
- Additional criteria with source cardinality (per /24 destination)

(df['protocol'] == **17**) &

(df['port.src'].isin([0])) &

(df['genome.src'].isin([
 GENOME\_AMPLIFIER\_DNS ])) &

(~df['genome.src'].isin([ GENOME\_PUBLIC\_DNS, GENOME\_DNS\_ROOT, GENOME\_DNS\_GTLD, GENOME\_DNS\_CCTLD, GENOME\_DNS\_NAMESERVERS ]))

#### Deepfield Secure Genome Al powered "DDoS threat map" of the Internet

#### Internet-wide security context

- **Crawling** over 5 billion IPv4+IPv6 addresses scanned and categorizing Ports, UDP-based reflectors, applications, device type, CVEs, etc.
- DDoS samples from GDTA customers and honeypots
- Open and commercial data feeds

#### Up-to-date visibility into:

- DDoS vectors and details
- Botnets and residential proxies
- Known/open reflectors
- Booter & spoofed fingerprints
- · IoT device details
- Device software versions and CVEs

#### Supervised learning + model training for Defender

- DDoS Detection Engine
- DDoS Mitigation Compiler Engine



#### Knowing the Bad actors



**NO<IA** 

### Fast protection against amplification attacks Amplification 101

.48.252		Search	
Summary H	listory JSON		
IP	.48.252		
Tag	ddosamp ddosbot	dns_all dnvrs-webs hikvision	mikrotik viettel.com.vn
OS			
Third Party API			
Static	-		
Routeviews	.48.0/21	AS7552 viettel.co	com.vn
13 © 2024	Nokia		

### Why Genome awareness Reflector/amplifier awareness



# **Protecting against** Botnet-based **attacks**



### Attack Profile Botnet TCP

- 4K sources
- 117 Gbps / 16Mpps in original attack
- Attack vectors:
  - Botnet TCP
- Randomized source ports
- · Large packet length
- Topologically-close bots



### Attack Profile #4 Botnet TCP random

 Mix of webcams/DVRs, routers (TP-Link, Intelbras, ZTE, etc.)

Src IP	÷	Peer 🔶		Geno	me 🔶	% Byt	es 🗸
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.251.95	36878	.86.33	56439	34 botnet	ddsebol mb possible_proxy mini, web_server zte_device canastolecom.com.br webcam uc-httpd unknown_drs 83	5808000	1,452
25.163	45819	.86.33	56439	34 botnet	ddosbot torrent unknown, web	5808000	1,452
.5.44	49917	.86.33	56439	42 topflood	ddosbot lpacet.com unknown_https unknown_web =	5808000	1,452
76.152	39653	.86.33	56439	42 topflood	ddssbot mhnet.com.br 55	5808000	1,452
5.2	55950	.86.33	56439	7 specfed	ddssbot network.bg ==	5808000	1,452
\$4.196	48680	.86.33	56439	42 tcpRood	bol-bg.com 🚥	5808000	1,452
5.220	48736	.86.33	56439	42 tcpflood	wildpark.net 💳	5808000	1,452
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71.226	52048	.86.33	56439	34 botnet	ddsibot torrent hulumtele.com tablet ==	5808000	1,452
.71.63	38929	.86.33	56439	34 botnet	ddsibot hikvision dipelnet.com.br 88	5808000	1,452
3.21	48525	.86.33	56439	34 botnet	dds:bot ipacct.com talink =	5808000	1,452
120.34	49069	.86.33	56439	34 botnet	ddssbot dahuatech 📾	5808000	1,452
51.198	51536	.86.33	56439	34 botnet	ddsubot	5808000	1,452
197.31	48038	.86.33	56439	42 topfised	cabotelecom.com.br 50	5808000	1,452
.57.2	44123	.86.33	56439	34 botnet	opmannp mikotik ddosang opensah7 nginx dm_ali	5808000	1,452
36.6	49684	.86.33	56439	34 botnet	ddssbot dmms-webs hilvision	5808000	1,452
32.28	46106	.86.33	56439	34 botnet	ddosbot telia.com 10	5808000	1,452

## Example botnet info in Deepfield Secure Genome Active DDoS botnet IP's over last days



## Example bot info in Deepfield Secure Genome What does Secure Genome know about this botnet DVR?



## Example bot info in Deepfield Secure Genome

CVE awareness to assess risk even before we see the IPs/device in attacks



## **Benefits of ML-based detection**

- Thresholds-based detection primarily relies on 5-tuple measurements: imprecise because you need to guess what is an "acceptable" value
  - **High false-positive rate** (flash crowd events, sudden changes of traffic patterns, etc.)
  - **High false-negative rate**, especially with botnet-based traffic (which can look like legitimate traffic)
  - Thresholds are different per customer type (and change over time!)

- Through ML techniques, Genome enriches flows in real-time, and adds additional context/signal:
  - Fragmented traffic is unusual but is safe to drop if we know it originates from DNS servers that we know are used for amplification attacks
  - Similarly (as we will see later), it's easier to feel more confident to drop UDP traffic if we see it originates from 150 similar webcams and directed to a subscriber IP
- This provides much more accuracy (and explainability)

# **Protecting against Proxy-based attacks**



## State-sponsored DDoS attacks

Menu =

#### **PRIVACY** Affairs

Home » News » NoName Joins Forces With Cybercriminal Rings To Hit Sweden

#### NoName Joins Forces with Cybercriminal Gangs To Hit Sweden

By Miklos Zoltan - 5 March 2024 Founder - Privacy Affairs Alex Popa Fact-Checked this

NoName continues its hacking spree, this time turning its attention towards Sweden. While the hackers didn't state the reason for the attack clearly, one can be easily deduced. After all, Sweden has been supporting Ukraine since the beginning of the war.

Two websites were hit, and NoName announced that the services were no longer available

#### NoName Hits Denmark Again

By Miklos Zoltan . 1 March 2024 Founder - Privacy Affairs

Alex Popa Fact-Checked this

NoName stayed true to its word and continues to pound Denmark relentlessly. The organization posted yet another batch of Danish victims on its public platform. The number is 5 now.

- The 5 involved in the attacks are Aarhus City. Odense City, Town of Horsens. Postnord online store, and Helsingor City
- NoName justified the attack by invoking Denmark's continuous support of Ukraine
- This situation has been going on for several weeks, with NoName attacking multiple Danish targets per day
- NoName's determination to burn Denmark stems from the state's stated intention to
- continue to support Ukraine



## Threat actor & primary attack type

- Conducts DDoS attacks against various websites from organizations (both governmental and private)
- Uses Telegram channels to claim responsibility for attacks, issue threats, and share tools like their custom DDoS software "DDoSia"
- Developed a cryptocurrency payment system to reward contributors (volunteer-based system as opposed to malware/exploitation)
- Attacks primarily rely on Web DDoS, i.e. crafted HTTPS GET/POST requests that can overwhelm a server even with a relatively low number of sources/requests

This attack type presents multiple challenges:

oLow number of sources
oLow bps/pps
oTLS-encrypted
oUsing valid parameters (URI endpoint, headers, etc.)
oNot originating directly from known botnets (but from residential proxies)



Continuing our DDoS attacks on Taiwanese websites

XTaiwan's Ministry of Finance tax portal check-host.net/check-report/1e3e96d2kf8e

Hualian Airport check-host.net/check-report/1e3e96d2kf8e

Kega Financial Holdings electronic cabinet check-host.net/check-report/1e3e9851kaea

XMega Investment Trust check-host.net/check-report/1e3e9914kd6c

Changhua Bank check-host.net/check-report/1e3e9994kd63

Sunshan Airport check-host.net/check-report/1e3e9a3fk2aa

XTaipei Exchange (TPEx) - Taipei Stock Exchange check-host.net/check-report/1e3e9b81k380

XAuthorization on e-government website check-host.net/check-report/1e3e9d02kcc1

XMega Financial Holdings check-host.net/check-report/1e3e9f8ck936

https://t.me/noname05716eng/4294

**NOKIA** 

#### How to detect and protect?

Typical response from NoName targets is to enforce a **geo-block** Problems with geo-blocking approach:

- attack traffic sourced from **residential proxies** across the world
- Large proportion attack traffic from **European countries**, Significant % attack sourced from within country

□ **Better approach** is to add awareness of residential proxies for network traffic flows to detect these anomalies



NOKIA

## **Faster Detection**



## Ultra-fast detection and mitigation with streamed traffic Sample Bort Mirroring (SPM) – or IPFIX 315



#### SPM based detection:

- Eliminates flow-cache induced delay due to router flow-cache inherent to Netflow
- Enables advanced detection using full header & payload



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# **Deepfield** solution architecture

(Brief) recap



## Defender mitigates attacks using the most efficient strategy For the observed attack and the deployed hardware



#### Mitigation Compiler Engine

The **intelligence** to build in real-time the AI optimized mitigation strategy

- Using Deepfield Secure Genome ML models trained on real-world attack samples
- Compiles surgical filters and countermeasures for deployed hardware
- Effective against all known DDoS and emerging vectors





#### ML-based network-optimized mitigation

#### 1609 filters

Order 🔺	Countermeasure	Num Term	% Bytes	% Packets
2300	drop_udp_min_pkt_len_v4 (gid 28)	1	0	2
2500	drop_gre_min_pkt_len_v4 (gid 91)	1	0	0
2700	drop_fragment (gid 1)	1	26	22
3000	drop_large_dns (gid 3)	1	15	11
3010	drop_small_dns (gid 85)	1	0	0
3050	drop_large_ntp (gid 93)	1	0	1
3100	drop_amplifier_ports_src1 (gid 18)	1	0	0
4800	drop_bot_v1 (gid 16)	751	48	53
4900	drop_bot_v2 (gid 69)	801	7	8
6500	drop_syn_flood_src_extended (gid 77)	50	0	1





30 sec

#### Mitigation Compiler Engine (MCE)

- Inference from Deepfield Secure Genome ML models (trained on 10K+ real-world attack samples)
- Generates optimized mitigation strategies for complex DDoS attacks
- Effective against known DDoS and emerging vectors

#### **Nokia Deepfield GDTA**

- Global DDoS Threat Alliance
- Opt-in membership
- Sharing information about threats for improved protection against the latest DDoS threats as they emerge

