



# Protecting Your Web & Mobile Apps Against the Next Wave

H. Lane Williams

Dir. Solutions Engineering – Distributed Cloud Services

October 4, 2022

# Threat Actors Keep Evolving

*July 22, 1999*

On this day, a computer at the University of Minnesota came under attack from a network of 114 other computers infected with a malicious script Trin00. The attack knocked out the university computer for two days.<sup>1</sup>

1 - <https://www.technologyreview.com/2019/04/18/103186/the-first-ddos-attack-was-20-years-ago-this-is-what-weve-learned-since/>



# Agenda



How bots harm businesses



Where do Bad Actors Start?



How to protect yourself



Summary

# Modern attacks begin with breaches and end with fraud

BREACHES, FRAUD, AND ABUSE HAVING GREATER BUSINESS IMPACT



#1

**Credential attacks** leading cause of extreme financial loss over past 5 years (\$10BN)

78%

of orgs reported increase in customer complaints or churn due to **bot attacks** since start of pandemic

1 in 3

global consumers have experienced **fraud** in past 3 months



**Churn**



**Fines**



**Revenue Loss**



**Theft**

# Bots blur the lines between security and fraud



## Application Security

**Set up online access**  
Set up your online account by completing the form. You'll have immediate access once all your information has been submitted.

LAST NAME

SSN  
XXX XX XXXX SHOW

DATE OF BIRTH  
MM

I'm not a robot

**Client login**

User ID  SAVE

Password  SHOW

NEXT

LOG IN



## Fraud Prevention

TRANSFER

**How much money would you like to transfer?**

Transfers may take 1-2 business days to post. Transfers submitted after 7:00 pm EST will be initiated the next business day. Please make sure your selected account has an available balance to cover the amount you enter below.

ONE-TIME TRANSFER      RECURRING TRANSFER

\$      Enter amount      12/31/2020

AMOUNT (\$0.01 - \$50,000.00)      TRANSFER INITIATION DATE

ARRIVES BY 01/04/2021

Optional: For your personal reference only  
MEMO (40 CHARACTERS)

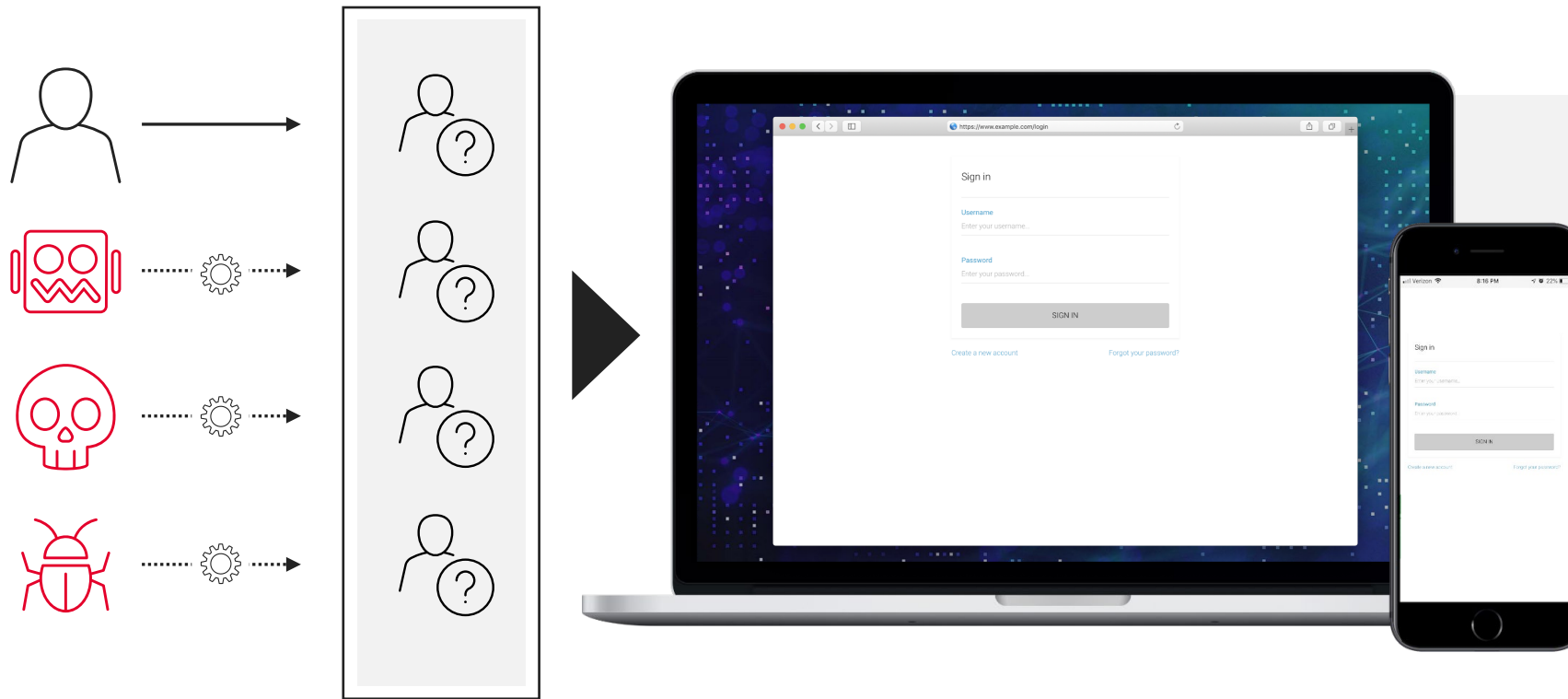
PREVIOUS      NEXT

WAF | DDoS Mitigation |  
API Security Authentication

Transaction Protection | Anti-Fraud |  
Identity Proofing



# Bots are a **fundamentally different** type of threat



- **Bots look like customers and abuse inherent app functionality**

“ ”

Using our WAF and traditional firewalls to manually block IP addresses was a **horribly ineffective** way to mitigate the very real threat posed by bots.

—CISO, Major US Retailer



**Bots have significant impact on the business, government and educational organizations**



**Account takeover**



**Carding**



**Gift Card Fraud**



**Inventory Hoarding**



**Scraping**

# Bots cause harm across your organization

## ATO and Fraud



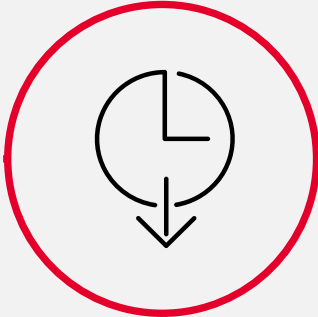
**\$500k** lost annually per organization due to credential stuffing

## Manual bot blocking



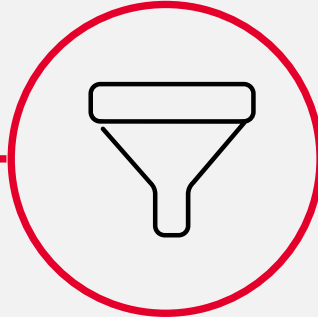
**10k hours** manually blocking bots per year

## Downtime



**80%** of traffic potentially unwanted automation

## Poor customer experience



**4 out of 5** global brands suffer churn due to bots



# Agenda



How bots harm businesses



**Where do Bad Actors Start?**



How to protect yourself




Summary

# Accelerated Attack Lifecycle

STARTS WITH UNWANTED AUTOMATION AND ENDS WITH ACCOUNT TAKEOVER AND APPLICATION FRAUD


Credentials are stolen



Data breach   Phishing   Keyloggers

Over 1 million stolen credentials are reported every day

Stolen credential database is built



genesis security

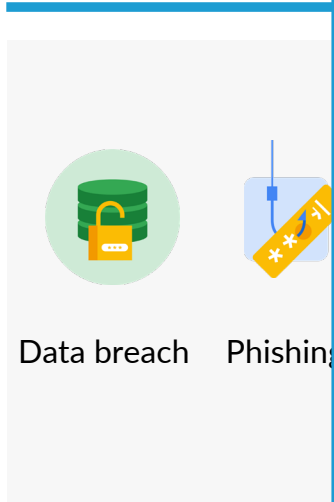
Financials   Identity   BFP   Device ID

The black market has industrialized cyber crimes and fraudulent activities

# Accelerated Attack Lifecycle

STARTS WITH UNWANTED AUTOMATION AND ENDS WITH ACCOUNT TAKEOVER AND APPLICATION FRAUD

Credentials  
stolen



## COMB (Compilation of Breaches)

- 3.2 billion unique pairs of cleartext emails and passwords
- There are ~7.9 billion people on the entire planet

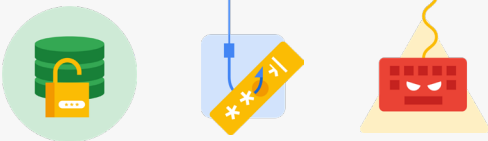
Over 1 million  
credentials are  
reported every day

industrialized cyber crimes  
and fraudulent activities

# Accelerated Attack Lifecycle

STARTS WITH UNWANTED AUTOMATION AND ENDS WITH ACCOUNT TAKEOVER AND APPLICATION FRAUD


## Credentials are stolen



Data breach    Phishing    Keyloggers

Over 1 million stolen credentials are reported every day

## Stolen credential database is built

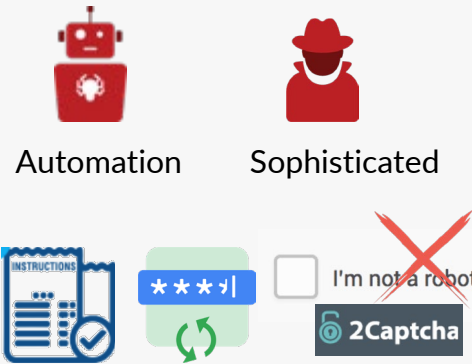


genesis security

Financials    Identity    BFP    Device ID

The black market has industrialized cyber crimes and fraudulent activities

## Accounts are compromised




Automation    Sophisticated

I'm not a robot    2Captcha

Automation, malicious bots, and manual attacks expose users and businesses to fraud

## Leading to fraud and friction



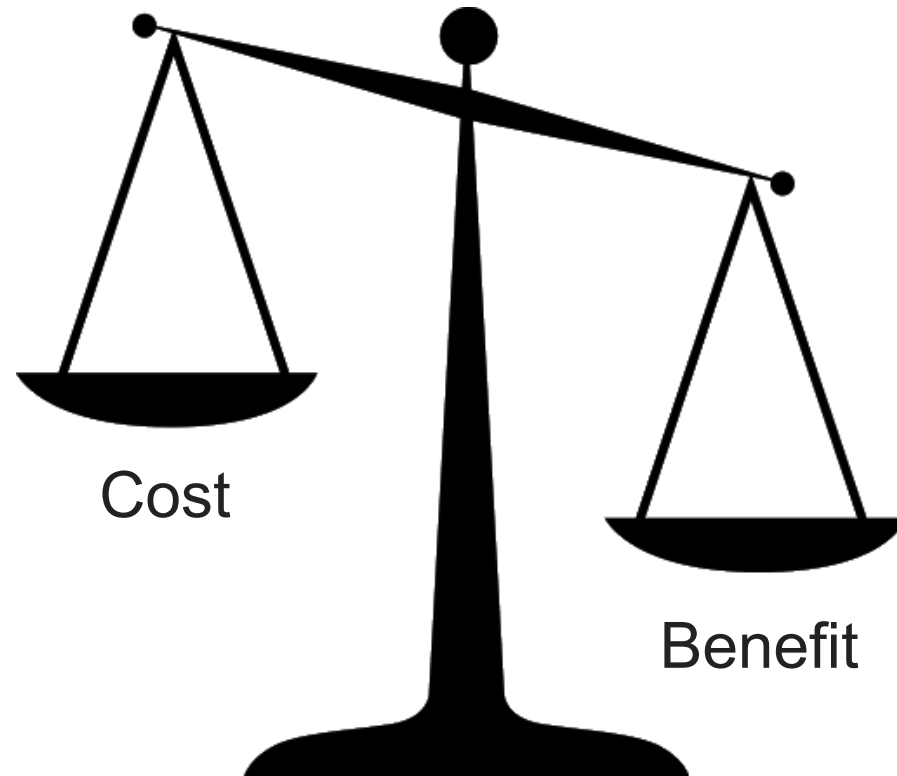
Social engineering    Targeted attacks

MONEY MULE    UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD ALERT

Leading to 65% increase in successful fraud attempts from 2019 to 2020



# Maintaining the Balancing Act



- For the threat actor, it is a cost-benefit analysis.
- If the value outweighs the cost, the attack continues and evolves

# Planning & Executing a Bot Attack

## DAMN VULNERABLE WEB APPLICATION

Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA) is a PHP/MySQL web application that is damn vulnerable. Its main goal is to be an aid for security professionals to test their skills and tools in a legal environment, help web developers better understand the processes of securing web applications and to aid both students & teachers to learn about web application security in a controlled class room environment.

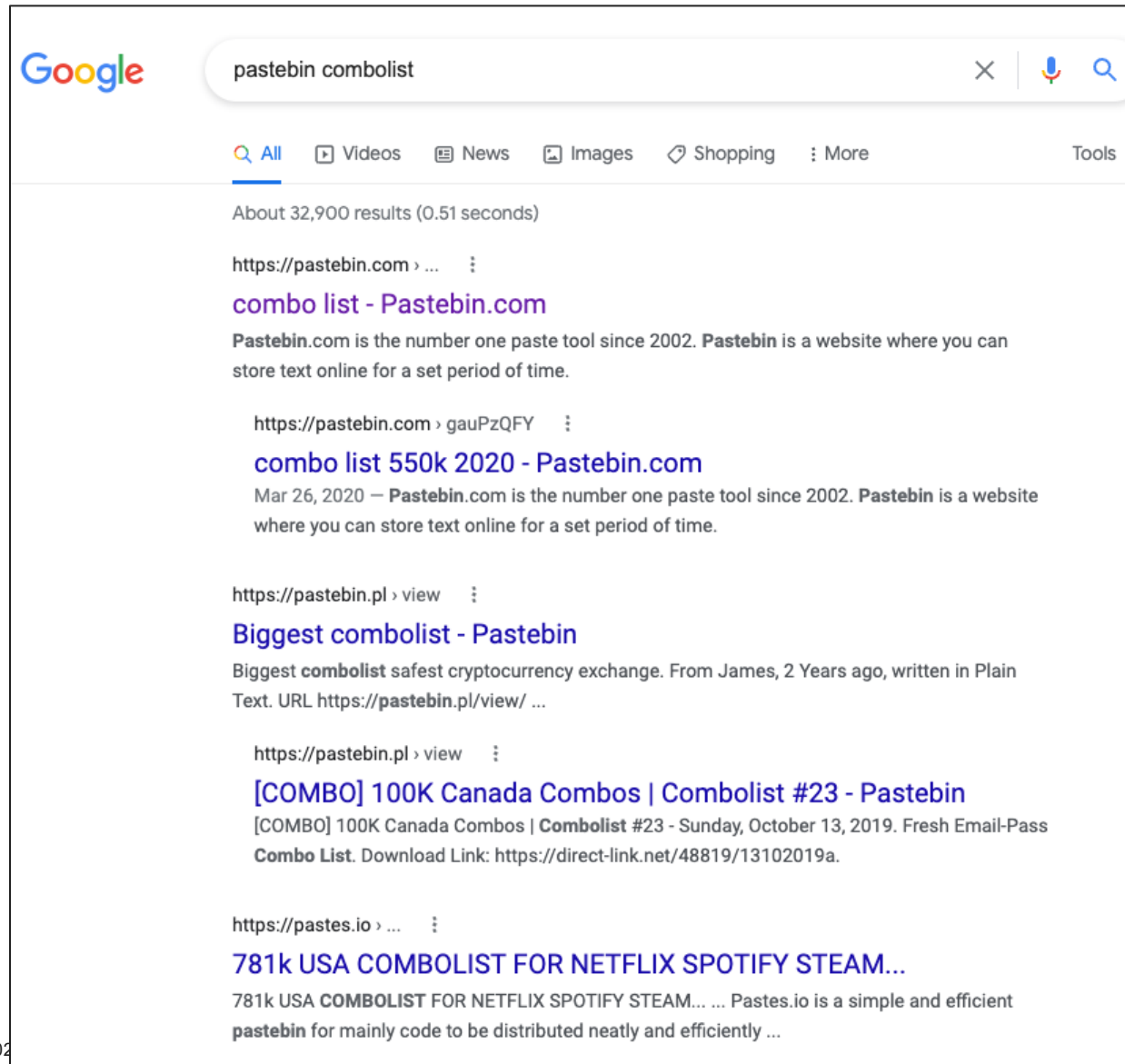
The aim of DVWA is to **practice some of the most common web vulnerabilities**, with various levels of difficulty, with a simple straightforward interface. Please note, there are **both documented and undocumented vulnerabilities** with this software. This is intentional. You are encouraged to try and discover as many issues as possible.

<https://github.com/digininja/DVWA>

- DISCLAIMER

- **Use any newfound knowledge for good!**
- **Tools like DVWA are available to sharpen your skills.**

# Planning & Executing a Bot Attack



The screenshot shows a Google search interface with the query 'pastebin combolist'. The search results are as follows:

- combo list - Pastebin.com**  
Pastebin.com is the number one paste tool since 2002. Pastebin is a website where you can store text online for a set period of time.
- combo list 550k 2020 - Pastebin.com**  
Mar 26, 2020 — Pastebin.com is the number one paste tool since 2002. Pastebin is a website where you can store text online for a set period of time.
- Biggest combolist - Pastebin**  
Biggest **combolist** safest cryptocurrency exchange. From James, 2 Years ago, written in Plain Text. URL <https://pastebin.pl/view/> ...
- [COMBO] 100K Canada Combos | Combolist #23 - Pastebin**  
[COMBO] 100K Canada Combos | **Combolist** #23 - Sunday, October 13, 2019. Fresh Email-Pass **Combo List**. Download Link: <https://direct-link.net/48819/13102019a>.
- 781k USA COMBOLIST FOR NETFLIX SPOTIFY STEAM...**  
781k USA **COMBOLIST** FOR NETFLIX SPOTIFY STEAM... Pastes.io is a simple and efficient **pastebin** for mainly code to be distributed neatly and efficiently ...

- Get list of username/password pairs
  - **Pastebin, purchase on the Dark Web, many other places**

# Planning & Executing a Bot Attack

The screenshot shows the ProxyScape website with a navigation bar (HOME, SERVICES, FREEBIES, HELP CENTER) and a main heading: "Finally! Get Fast, Reliable Proxies... In Minutes!". Below the heading is a sub-heading: "(So you DON'T have to worry about broken proxies again)". The main content area features a list of benefits: "Scrape websites without limits", "Up to 60 000 datacenter proxies", "99% uptime guarantee", and "Unlimited bandwidth". A pricing table is displayed with a dropdown menu set to "United States". The pricing table has two rows of four columns each, showing the number of proxies and the monthly price for each plan. A "View Pricing" button is located at the bottom left of the pricing section.

Proxies	Price /Month
1000 Proxies	\$26.40
2500 Proxies	\$59.40
3000 Proxies	\$70.48
4000 Proxies	\$91.87
5000 Proxies	\$112.20
6000 Proxies	\$131.47
7000 Proxies	\$149.68
8000 Proxies	\$166.84

- Access a Proxy Network
  - ProxyScape, HideMyName, Spys.One, Geonode and others



# Planning & Executing a Bot Attack

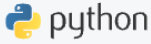





The screenshot shows the 2Captcha website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 2Captcha logo, the text 'Captcha recognition service', and links for 'Work for us', 'API', 'Software', and 'Blog'. There are also 'Sign up' and 'Sign in' buttons. Below the navigation bar, there are two main sections:

- Captcha Solving Service:** This section features a visual of a CAPTCHA being solved (the word 'CAPTCHA' in a distorted font) with a green checkmark. Below this, there are three bullet points: '50¢ Starting from \$1.00 for 1000 solved CAPTCHAs', 'Captcha bypass API for Python, PHP, Java, C++, C#', and 'Auto captcha solver response: less than 12 sec'. At the bottom of this section are 'Learn more' and 'Quick START' buttons.
- Work for 2Captcha:** This section features a visual of a grid-based CAPTCHA being solved with a gold coin icon. Below this, there are three bullet points: 'Home data entry work', 'Instant payments', and 'Easy to start'. At the bottom of this section are 'Learn more' and 'Get PAID' buttons.

- Get a CAPTCHA Solving Service
  - 2Captcha, DeathbyCaptcha, Endcaptcha, CaptchaSniper and others
  - All these services are API driven and can solve most all captchas

# Planning & Executing a Bot Attack







Supported API clients:

 python Solve captcha in Python	 php PHP captcha solver	 JS Captcha solver on JavaScript. Coming soon	 GO Anti captcha with Golang	 C# Bypass captcha using C#	 Java Bypass captcha with Java
---	---	---	--	--	--

DBC, DeCaptcher, Antigat (Anti-CAPTCHA) API support for quick migration to 2Captcha

[2Captcha API](#)  
[Captcha solving scripts](#)


Our service works with:

					
---	---	---	---	--	---

[More than 300 programs in the catalog](#)

Supported captchas

Normal captcha	Text captcha	Click captcha	Rotate captcha	reCAPTCHA V2	reCAPTCHA V2 Callback
reCAPTCHA V2 Invisible	reCAPTCHA V3	reCAPTCHA Enterprise	KeyCAPTCHA	GeeTest CAPTCHA	hCaptcha
FunCaptcha	Capy Puzzle CAPTCHA	TikTok captcha			



The process of solving reCAPTCHA Enterprise is as follows: we determine the type of reCAPTCHA, it can be V2 or V3, after which we take the captcha image from the page of its placement in the form of the data-sitekey parameter and transfer it to the 2Captcha service, where it is solved by the employee, after which it is returned to us answer in the form of a token, which must be entered in the appropriate field to solve the captcha

- Get a CAPTCHA Solving Service
  - 2Captcha, DeathbyCaptcha, Endcaptcha, CaptchaSniper and others
  - All these services are API driven and can solve most all captchas

# Planning & Executing a Bot Attack

**Browser Automation Studio** is packed with all of the cutting-edge features you want and need:



Can create standalone bots.

You can create standalone application and send to customer or publish online with several clicks.



Well documented, well tested.

Has video tutorials, wiki and big community. Tested on many projects.



Open source.

You can fork and add new features by yourself. Examine how BAS works.



Application store.

Sell your scripts in our shop. Earn with no initial investment.



No coding skills required! Make applications in visual constructor.

Use a variety of visual components to create a script.



Easy and powerful multithreading.

Set thread number to make your script run in multithreading mode.



Javascript as embedded language.

Use javascript to empower your scripts. Node.js and NPM modules are also supported.



Cheap ReCaptcha 2.0 solving.

BAS uses special technology, which saves your money on any website, that has recaptcha 2.0. Version 3.0 is also supported.



Automatic captcha solving.

Integration with captcha solving services: 2captcha, rucaptcha, anti-captcha.



Capmonster 2, Captcha sniper integration.

Use software to solve captchas for free!



100% browser emulation with Chrome engine.

BAS uses Chrome engine to emulate browser. Humanlike mouse movements and keyboard emulation.



Use the FingerprintSwitcher service to change browser fingerprint.

It supports a variety of methods - changing Canvas fingerprint, WebGL, Audio, and other.



Receive sms module.

Activate phone module included.



Very fast and optimized HTTP client(up to 2000 threads).

Increase speed of your scripts by using HTTP client.

- Choose your software
  - **Selenium, OpenBullet2, Browser Automation Studio and many others**
- **Define and test your proxies**
- **Define the file that contains usernames and passwords**
- **Define login success and login failure**
- **Record username/password pairs with successful logins**

# Planning & Executing a Bot Attack

Supported API clients:

python PHP JS GO C# Java

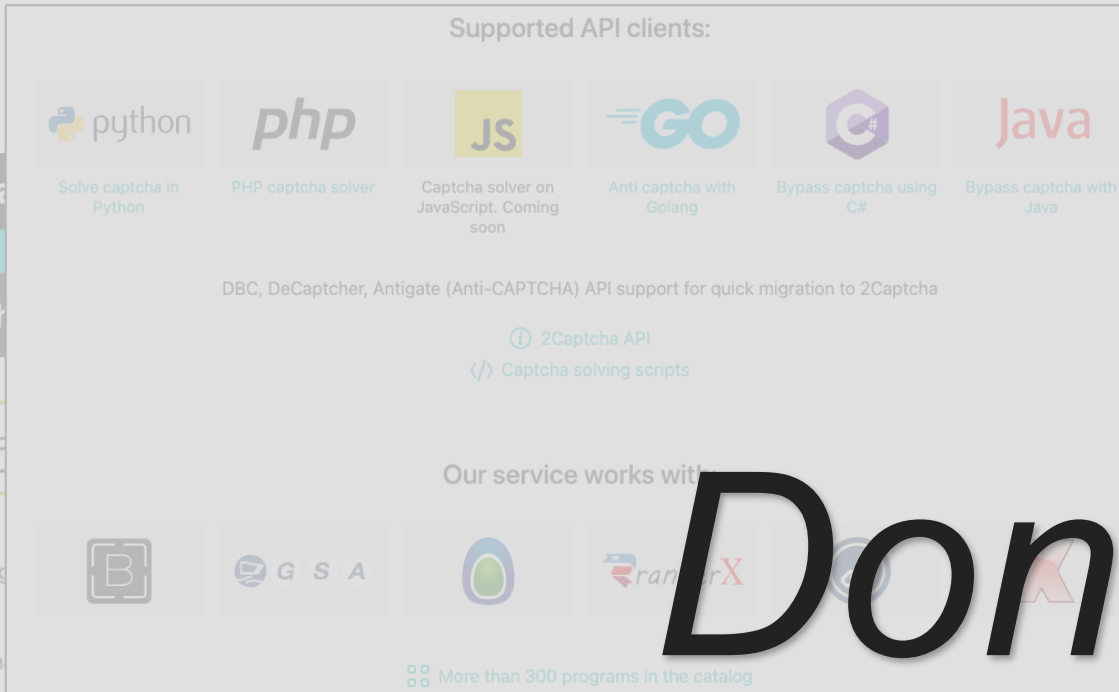
Solve captchas in Python PHP captcha solver Captcha solver on JavaScript. Coming soon Anti captcha with Golang Bypass captcha using C# Bypass captcha with Java

DBC, DeCaptcher, Antigat (Anti-CAPTCHA) API support for quick migration to 2Captcha

2Captcha API  
Captcha solving scripts

Our service works with:

More than 300 programs in the catalog



*Done!*

- Get a CAPTCHA Solving Service
  - 2Captcha, DeathbyCaptcha, Endcaptcha, CaptchaSniper and others
  - All these services are API driven and can solve most all captchas

Supported captchas

Normal captcha Text captcha Click captcha Rotate captcha reCAPTCHA V2 reCAPTCHA V2 Callback

reCAPTCHA V2 Invisible reCAPTCHA V3 reCAPTCHA Enterprise KeyCAPTCHA GeeTest CAPTCHA hCaptcha

FunCaptcha Capy Puzzle CAPTCHA TikTok captcha

The process of solving reCAPTCHA Enterprise is as follows: we determine the type of reCAPTCHA, it can be V2 or V3, after which we take the captcha image from the page of its placement in the form of the data-sitekey parameter and transfer it to the 2Captcha service, where it is solved by the employee, after which it is returned to us answer in the form of a token, which must be entered in the appropriate field to solve the captcha





# Agenda



How bots harm businesses



Where do Bad Actors Start?



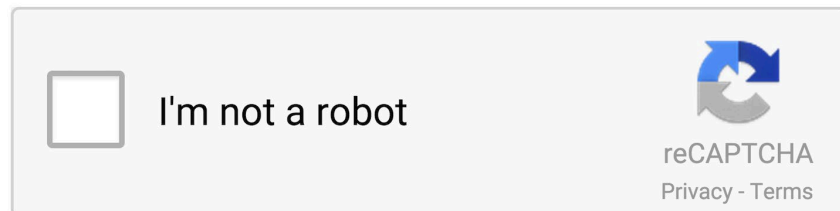
**How to protect yourself**



Summary

# How to Protect Yourself

- Use a CAPTCHA



- Use a CAPTCHA
  - **Yes, they are easily bypassed but they do increase the cost for attackers and makes it a little more difficult.**

# How to Protect Yourself

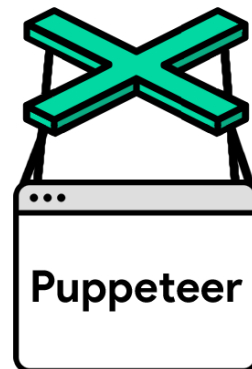
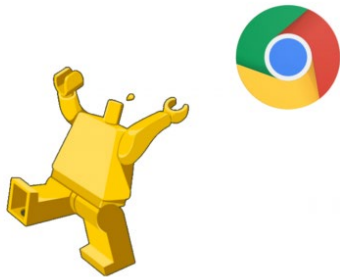
- Use a CAPTCHA
- **Rate Limit non-residential ISP's**

- Rate limit non-residential ISP's
  - **Most of your real consumer traffic should not be coming from AWS, Azure, Digital Ocean, Choopa or other cloud hosting providers.**



# How to Protect Yourself

- Use a CAPTCHA
- Rate Limit non-residential ISP's
- **Block or Track Headless Browsers**



- Block or Track Headless Browsers
  - **Headless Chrome and Firefox are commonly used by attackers because they are real browsers and can execute JavaScript.**
  - **Selenium and Puppeteer are popular ways to automate headless browsers**

# How to Protect Yourself

- Use a CAPTCHA
- Rate Limit non-residential ISP's
- Block or Track Headless Browsers
- **Require JavaScript on your site**



- Fingerprint your clients
  - **Somewhat simple but it does require CPU and a real browser which increases the cost for an attacker**



# How to Protect Yourself

- Use a CAPTCHA
- Rate Limit non-residential ISP's
- Block or Track Headless Browsers
- Require JavaScript on your site
- **Fingerprint Your Clients**



- Fingerprint your clients
  - **Use this as your required JavaScript**
  - **Client telemetry will help you see patterns in traffic that otherwise may be missed.**
  - **FingerprintJS on Github**

# How to Protect Yourself

- Use a CAPTCHA
- Rate Limit non-residential ISP's
- Block or Track Headless Browsers
- Require JavaScript on your site
- Fingerprint Your Clients
- **Offer Multi-Factor Authentication**



- Offer Multi-Factor Authentication
  - **A very important countermeasure that increases the difficulty and increases the cost for attackers**

# How to Protect Yourself

- Use a CAPTCHA
- Rate Limit non-residential ISP's
- Block or Track Headless Browsers
- Require JavaScript on your site
- Fingerprint Your Clients
- Offer Multi-Factor Authentication
- **Track Login Success Rate**



- Track Login Success Rate
  - **Credential stuffing attacks significantly decrease login success rate**

# How to Protect Yourself

- Use a CAPTCHA
- Rate Limit non-residential ISP's
- Block or Track Headless Browsers
- Require JavaScript on your site
- Fingerprint Your Clients
- Offer Multi-Factor Authentication
- Track Login Success Rate
- **Check user passwords against Pwned Passwords**



- Check user passwords against Pwned Passwords
  - **Have I Been Pwned is a site run by Troy Hunt to quickly assess if your users are still using passwords that were part of a breach.**
  - <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>



# Agenda



How bots harm businesses



Where do Bad Actors Start?



How to protect yourself



**Summary**



# Summary

- Automation is a different type of challenge and effects your business in many ways
- Understand how your attackers are targeting your web applications
- Enable additional protections for your web applications

