



Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) is a malicious attack against networked services and digital infrastructure. Using botnets, which may be from compromised computers, large amounts of internet communication requests are sent aimed at incapacitating the targeted service or network.

DDoS may be part of hacktivism or as part of a kinetic military action disabling computer networks and services of critical infrastructure. DDoS may also be used in financially motivated cybercrime where the criminals request a ransom in exchange for stopping or not starting a DDoS.

There are various types of DDoS depending on how it is disrupting a system.

For example:

- **Protocol attack** – the targeted server receives large amounts packets, which are small amounts of data, that cannot be processed.
- **Volumetric attack** – the target network or server is overwhelmed by requests exceeding capacity of the network bandwidth.
- **Application attack** – the targeted website or application experiences a large volume of requests per second.

