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DDoS Attacks Growing Faster in Size, Complexity

The size of distributed denial of service attacks continued to grow at a faster rate than ever last year, and the attacks also increased in frequency and complexity, according to Arbor Networks' latest Worldwide Infrastructure Security Report.

Distributed denial-of-service, or DDoS, attacks are at one level the most basic kind of cyberattack — compromised devices, like personal computers infected by a virus, are marshaled into huge robot networks or botnets, and flood the targeted website or other system with junk data, slowing real traffic to a crawl or stopping it altogether.

Fifty-three percent of service providers said they are seeing more than 21 attacks per month — up from 44 percent in the prior year. Frequency grew much faster for other sectors. Twenty-one percent of data center respondents see more than 50 attacks per month versus only 8 percent last year, for instance.