Using AI/ML for Network-optimized DDoS Mitigation

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Some facts:

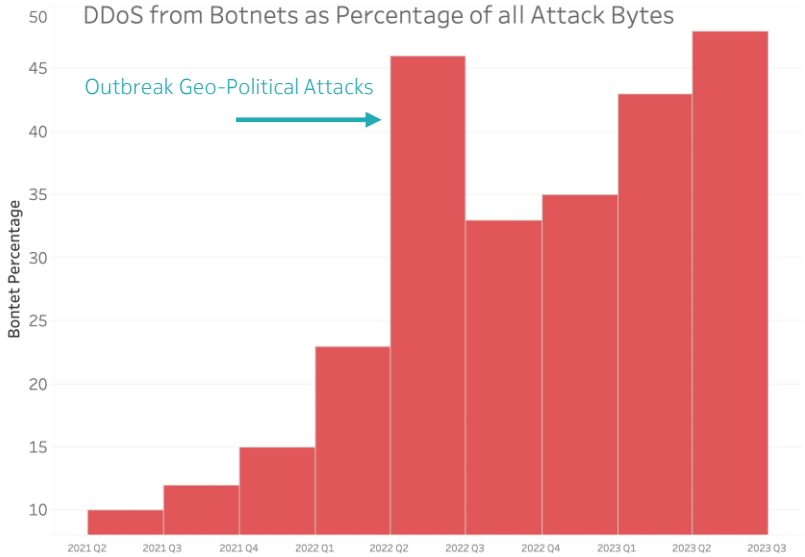
#1: Botnets have taken over the (DDoS) world

2002 - 2022

- Majority of DDoS is spoofed / IPHM
- Originates from 50 EU / AP hosting providers
- Abuses misconfigured NTP / DNS servers

2023

- Botnets are now **majority** of all DDoS bytes
- Botnets now represent **90% of complex attacks**
- **Botnet circumvent traditional anti-DDoS systems**



Nokia data showing botnet originated DDoS traffic as percentage of all attack traffic over last year. Data from GDTA participating service and cloud providers around the world with Nokia commercial DDoS defense solution

Booter services

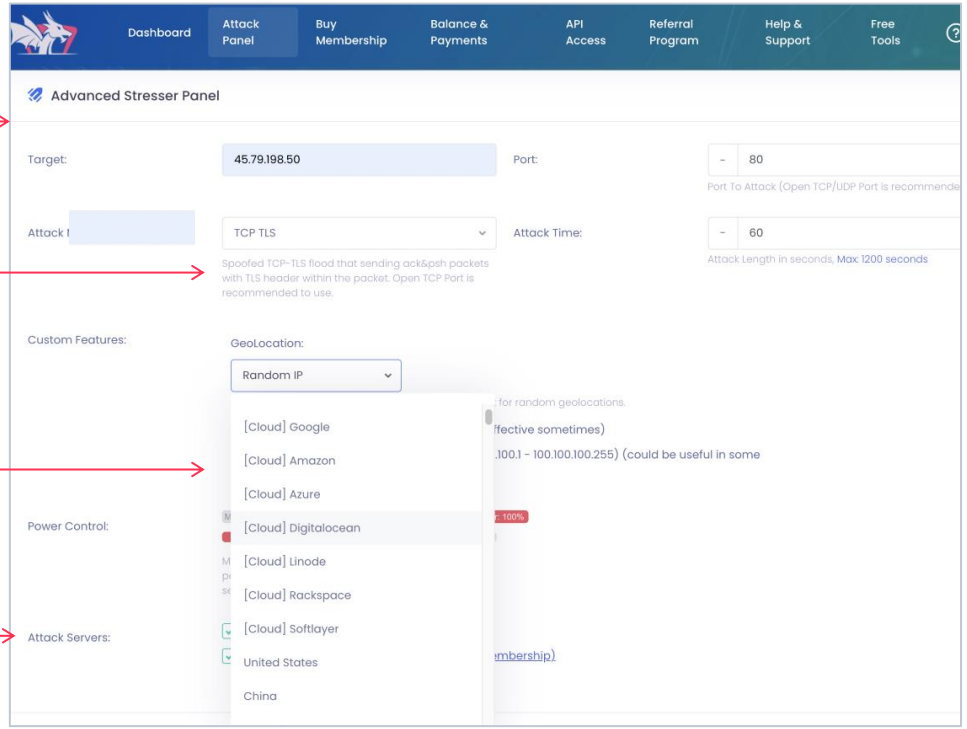
As easy as “click, pay and launch”

Pricing varies, but usually around $50/month paid in cryptocurrency - more for longer duration and multiple concurrent attacks

Mostly UDP amplification and TCP SA with explicit focus on game DDoS. Botnet application DDoS typically require higher spend (“VIP package”)

Typical booter control panel helpfully offering range of source CIDR spoofing options

Most claim 20-30 servers, including VIP reserved instances



Some facts:

#2: There are many bots…

IoT and Cloud are now everywhere in the enterprise

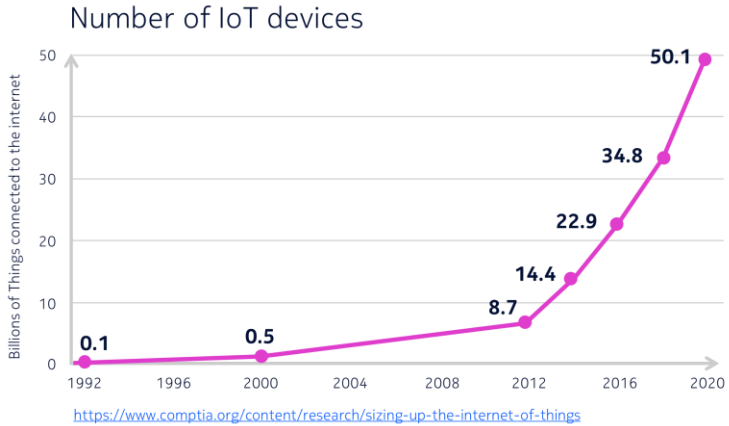
- Surveillance / NVR / DVR
- HVAC, PoS
- Medical imaging

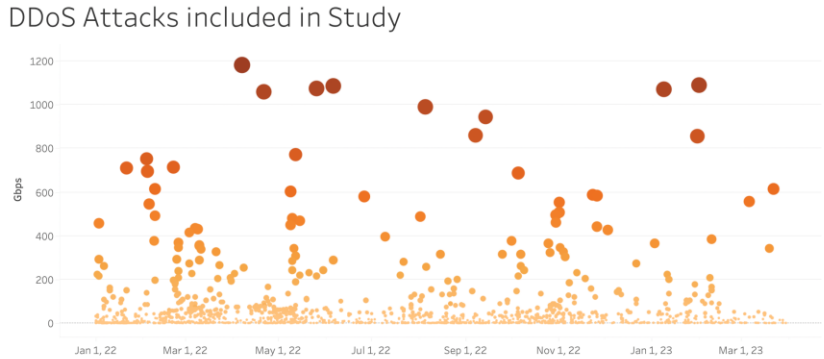
99% of enterprise IoT and properly patched, firewalled and secure, but….

1% of many billion devices is significant.

Today, based on Nokia data (and others), botnet DDoS represents:

- **500k – 1M active IoT hosts**
- **50 - 100 Tbps** aggregate capacity
- **1 - 2 Tbps peak** observed attacks





Some facts:

#2: There are many bots…

- Unsecured DVR easily discoverable via crawling
- Running 2016 firmware - easy to exploit
- From model number, you can find CVE
- From CVE, you can find GitHub exploit code
- With exploit code, **you have a bot…**

Info	Refresh
Device ID	000000
Device Name	CVD-AF16S
Device Type	HY-DVR
Hardware Version	DM-245
Software Version	V7.1.0-20160603
IE Client Version	V2.0.0.277
IP Address	
MAC Address	
HDD Capacity	931G
Video Format	NTSC
Client Port	9000
HTTP Port	80
P2P ID	RSV1611018078580

Some facts:

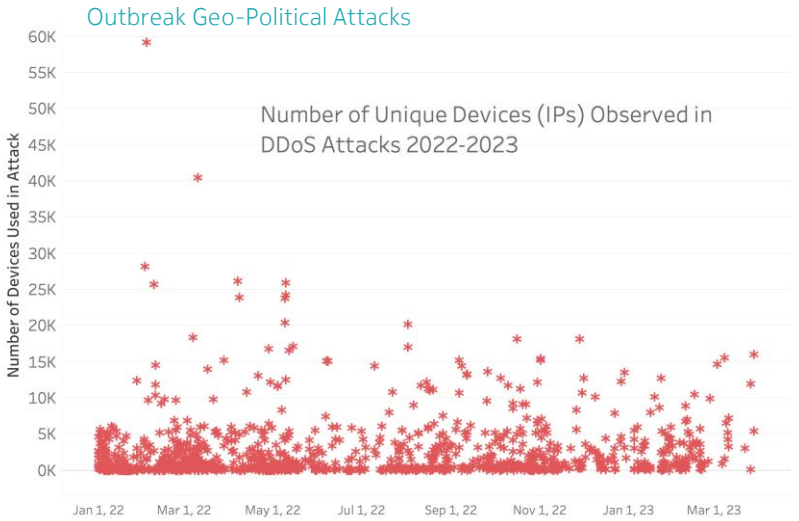
#3: …and (almost as) many botnets

Majority attacks < 5,000 devices and effective against many server / applications

Large networks of **> 60k devices** and geo-political attacks included previously unknown botnet devices

On device types:

- Most botnet are compromised CPE (e.g., Mikrotik router) followed by one of 30-40 brands of DVR
- Botnets tend to attack in “packs” of like devices and topologies
- Cloud is <u>not</u> largest by number of devices, but one of fastest growing in terms of bps / pps capacity



Some facts:

#4: Yet we're still in the early stages of botnet-driven DDoS impact

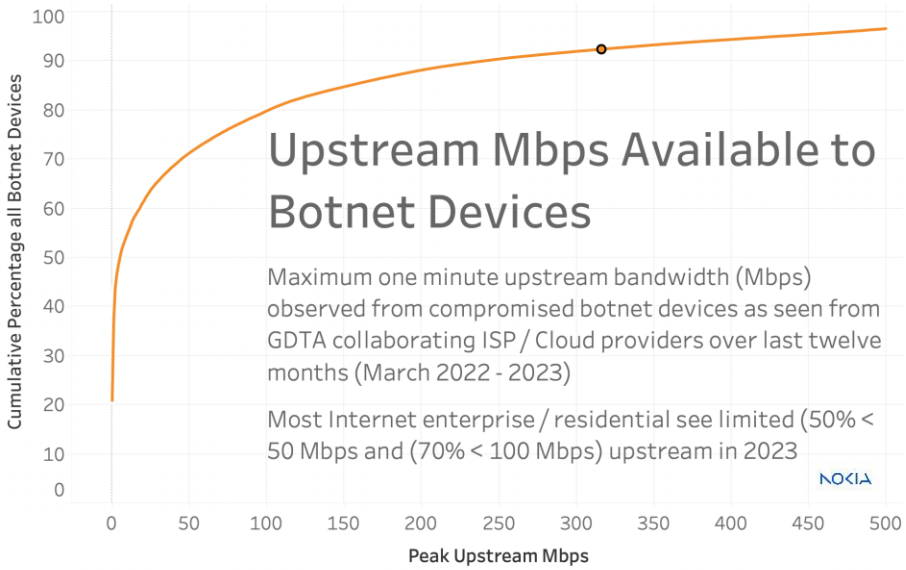
Last 20 years of Internet history

- Most access via Cable / DSL
- Asymmetric access 90 / 10 (down / up)

Botnet threat still limited

- Botnet bps matches industry averages
- 70% of all botnets < 50 Mbps today

i.e., **botnets limited by upstream today's bandwidth** — while race to Gbps symmetrical bandwidth is already well under way.



Some facts:

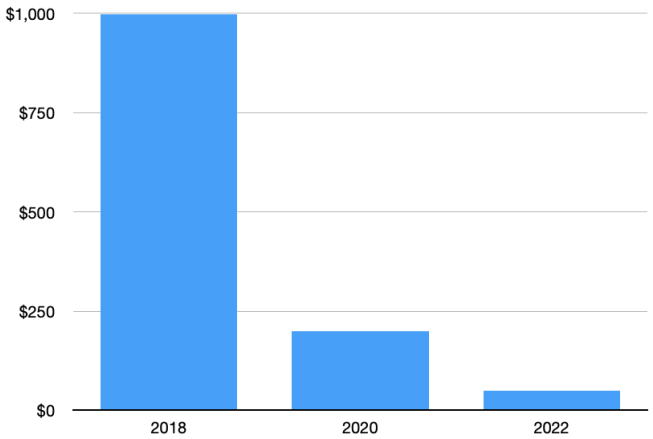
#4: Yet we're still in the early stages of botnet-driven DDoS impact

1000 Mbps maximális letöltési és 40 Mbps feltöltési sebesség
Rendes körülmények között elérhető le/feltöltési sebesség 700/28 Mbps

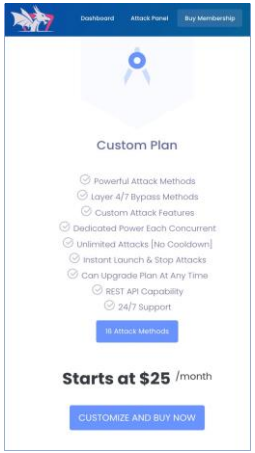
Some facts:

#5: Increasingly Competitive Booter Market and cheap IoT botnets

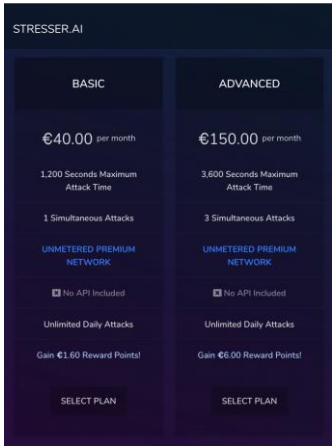
Average Price for Buying DDoS Attacks



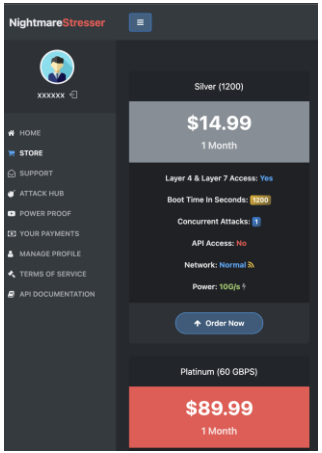
Collapse in daily average US price for launching a 100 Gbps DDoS using illegal booter web sites 2018 - 2022



www.cybervm.io



www.stresser.ai



www.nightmarestresser.com

Why botnet attacks are such a problem

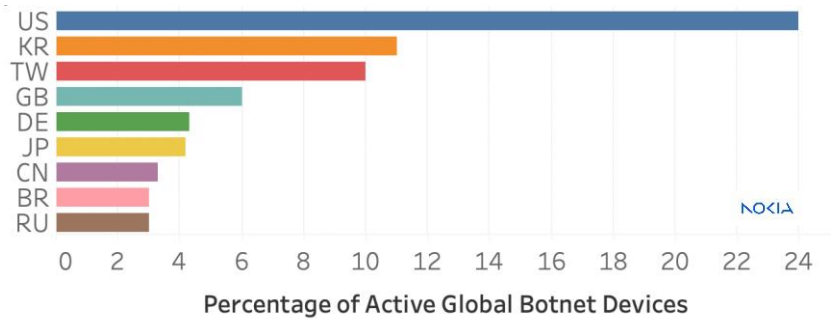
“The call is coming from inside the house”

Traditional ISP / CSP security model assumed:

- Protect external edges of network from inbound attacks, especially problematic eastern EU / Asia countries
- Protect against spoofed or amplified traffic
  - Active countermeasure (e.g., SYN cookie, HTTP redirect)
  - Shaping DNS, NTP, LDAP

The reality in 2023:

- In 2023, majority of botnet problem is North America / Europe
- **Largest threat for many ISP is from their own customers**



The technical challenge with botnet DDoS

Traditional payload pattern detection techniques become less effective

Traditional DDoS (till 2022)

- Spoofed IP addresses to trigger reflected amplified responses
- Or floods of crafted packets
- Often from well-known domains

From threshold-based detection

Botnet-based DDoS

- Real devices, real IP-addresses and full TCP stack
- Appears as "regular" HTTP(s) or applications bypassing scrubbing payload ML
- Growing armies of devices connected anywhere

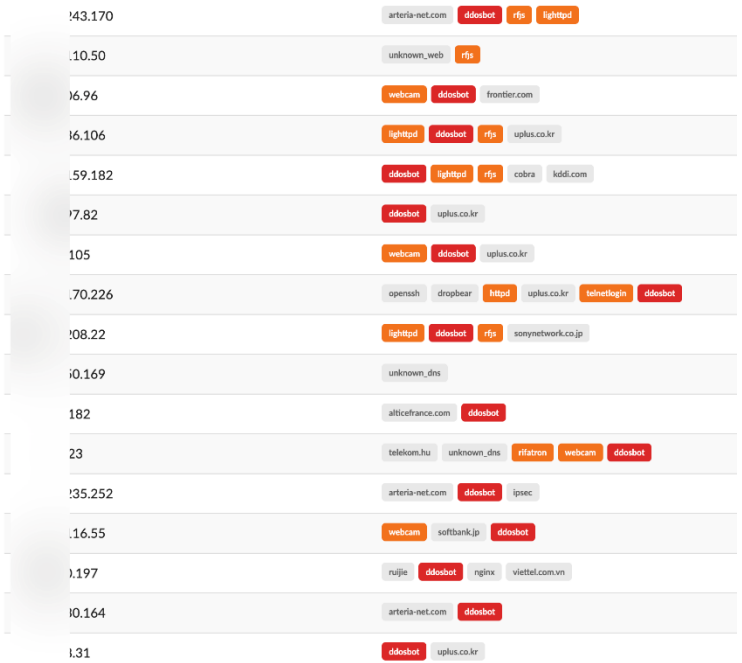
to big-data **knowledge-based** detection

How can we (really) address this?

#1 Anomaly detection

For >95% of DDoS, it's no longer about looking at what's inside the packet — but instead what is sending the packet.

- bps/pps thresholds and baselines are insufficient, and not adapted to most of today's traffic (including flash crowd events)
- A big data-driven approach that correlates network traffic in real-time with broader Internet context (in this case, which type of device is behind a source IP address) is much more effective in reducing DDoS false-positive



Nokia data top sources of traffic in DNS amplification attack to a consumer IP. Data from GDTA participating service and cloud providers around the world with Nokia commercial DDoS defense solution

How can we (really) address this?

#2 AI-based auto-mitigation

Once an attack is detected, a system can generate an automated response based on multiple parameters, which will create an optimized model for **that attack**, at **that time**, on **that network**.

For example:

- What's the attack vector mix?
- What mitigation devices are available on the network? At what scale and cost per bit?
- How can these devices be programmed?
- What's the botnet cluster launching that attack?

>95% attacks can be mitigated on existing (modern) routers, thanks to progress on silicon performance & programmability (particularly NETCONF).

```
entry 8 create
    description ";#DFA;acl_90"
    match protocol 17
        dst-ip ip-prefix-list "VLAB_7_1"
        packet-length lt 40
        fragment false
    exit
    action
        drop
    exit
exit
entry 9 create
    description ";#DFA;acl_571"
    match protocol 6
        dst-ip ip-prefix-list "VLAB_7_1"
        tcp-fin true
        tcp-syn true
    exit
    action
        drop
    exit
exit
entry 10 create
    description ";#DFA;acl_579"
    match protocol 6
        src-ip ip-prefix-list "VLAB_9_518"
    exit
    action
        drop
    exit
exit
entry 4 create
    description ";#DFA;acl_13498"
    match
        dst-ip ip-prefix-list "VLAB_9_495"
        ttl range 1 37
    exit
    action
        drop
    exit
```

Output of mitigation strategy model to a router through NETCONF

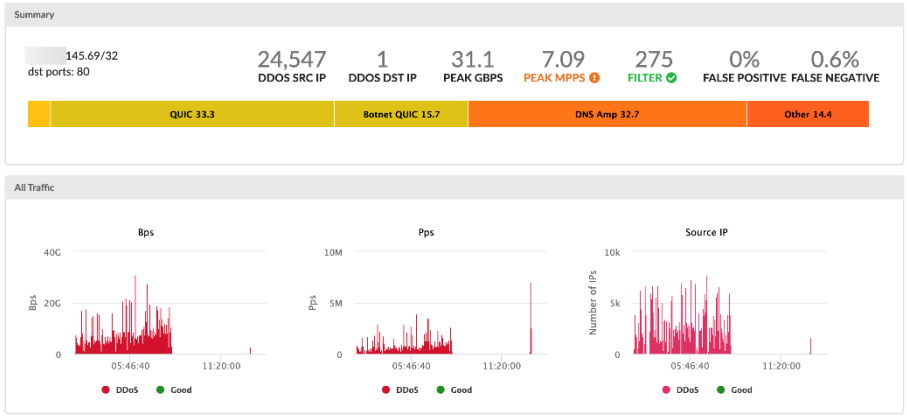
How can we (really) address this?

#3 Adaptive mitigation & collaborative learning

Instead of being driven by FUD:

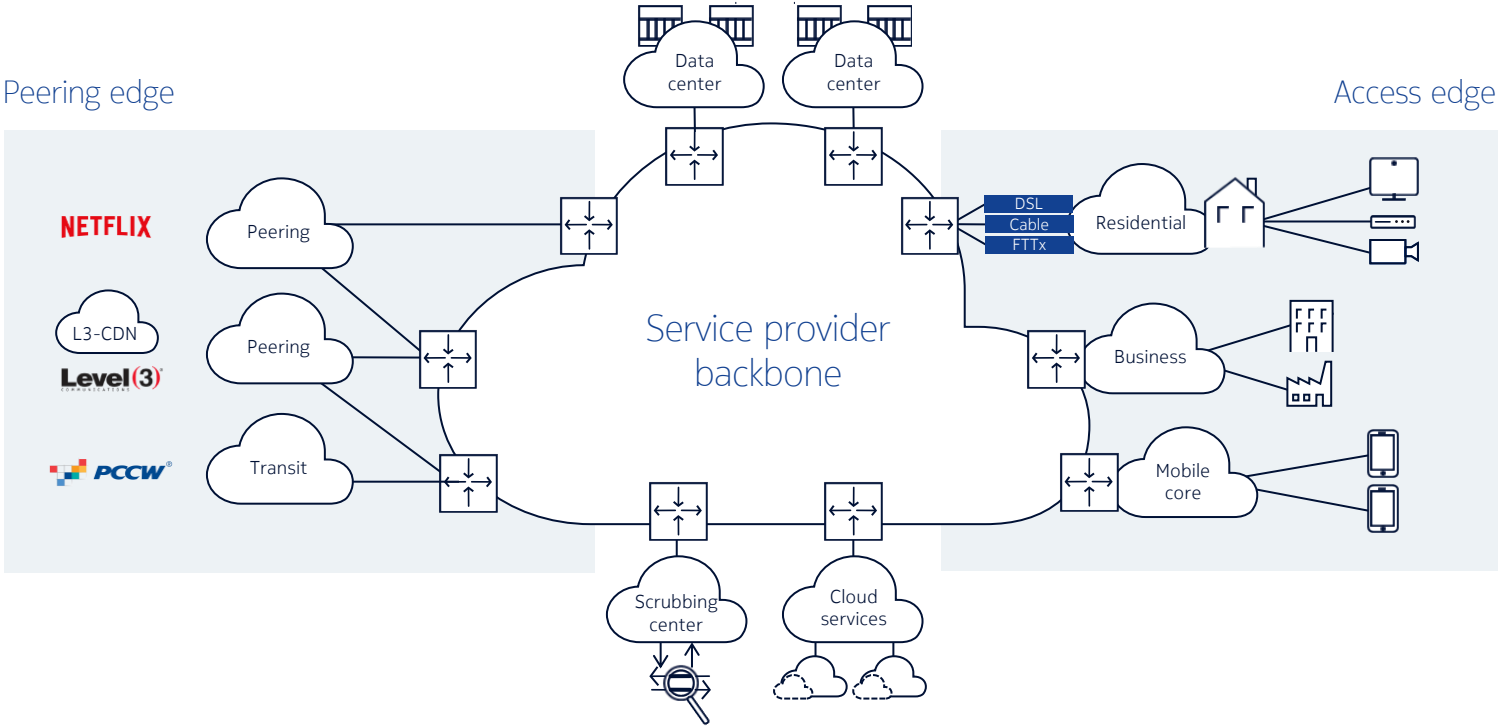
- Mitigation effectiveness can be **measured** against body of real-world attacks
- Model can be **trained** on new attacks to optimize countermeasures
- False-negative/false-positive rates can be understood and optimized

This does require **active collaboration between CSPs**, to share (anonymized) DDoS treat intelligence data in real-time.



Summary from DDoS attack in April 2023 to an EU government host. Data from GDTA participating service and cloud providers around the world with Nokia commercial DDoS defense solution

What is today's security perimeter?



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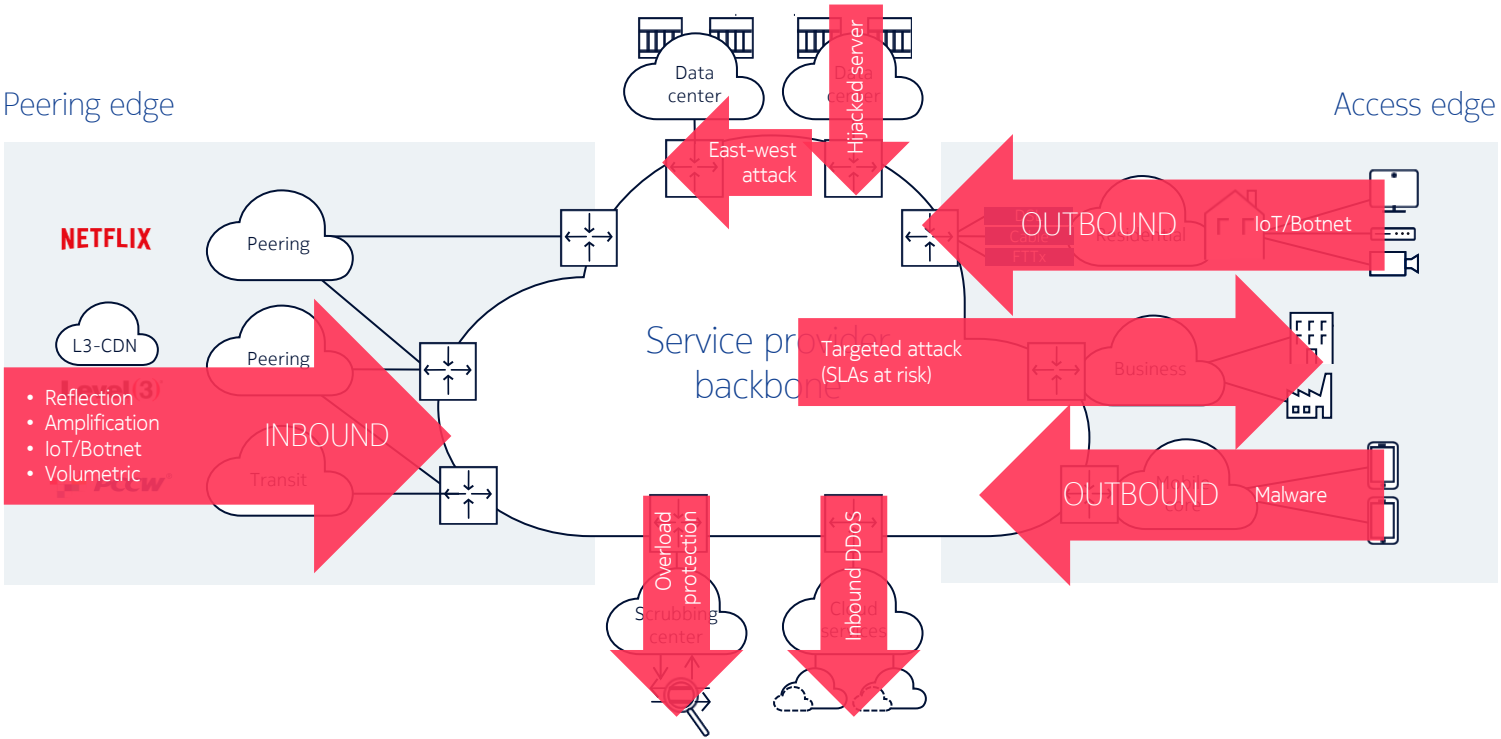


Nokia Deepfield Defender in a nutshell

A high-scalable **software platform** that combines

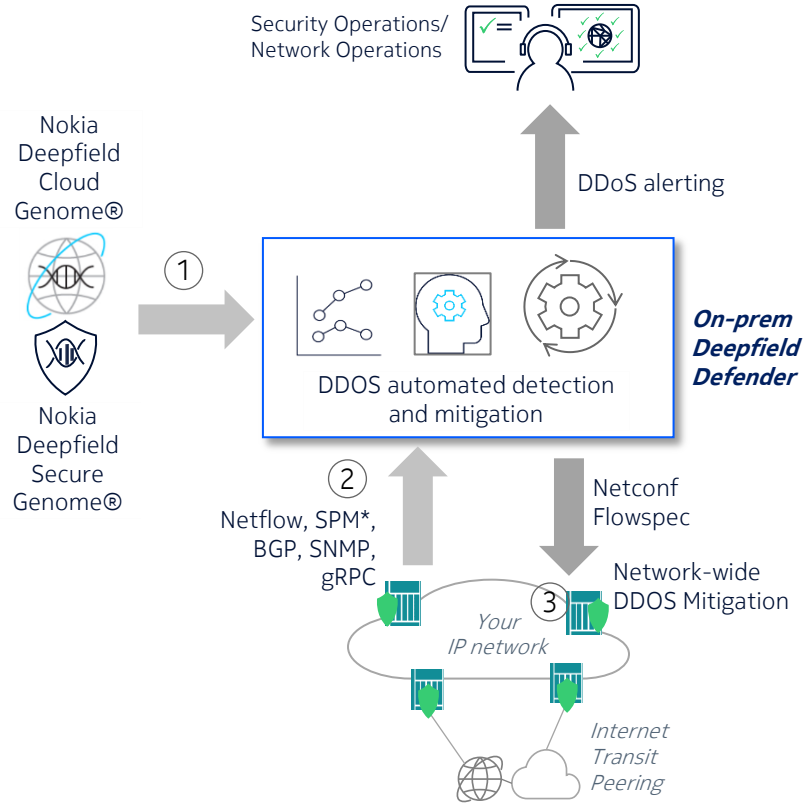
① Nokia Deepfield Genome® - a **big data** based Supply-Chain and Security map of the Internet

② **Telemetry** from your routers

③ with the power of **high-performance Router silicon**

to provide **DDoS protection**

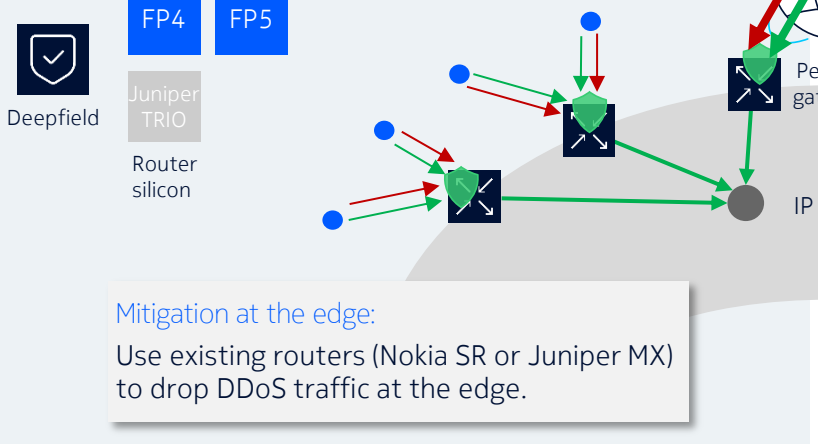
- **at every edge** – the most efficient point
- and **for every customer**
- **at a fraction of the cost** of appliance-based solutions



* SPM (Sample Packet Mirroring) - Only supported fpr Nokia SR and Juniper MX

Deepfield Router based DDoS mitigation – Implementation options

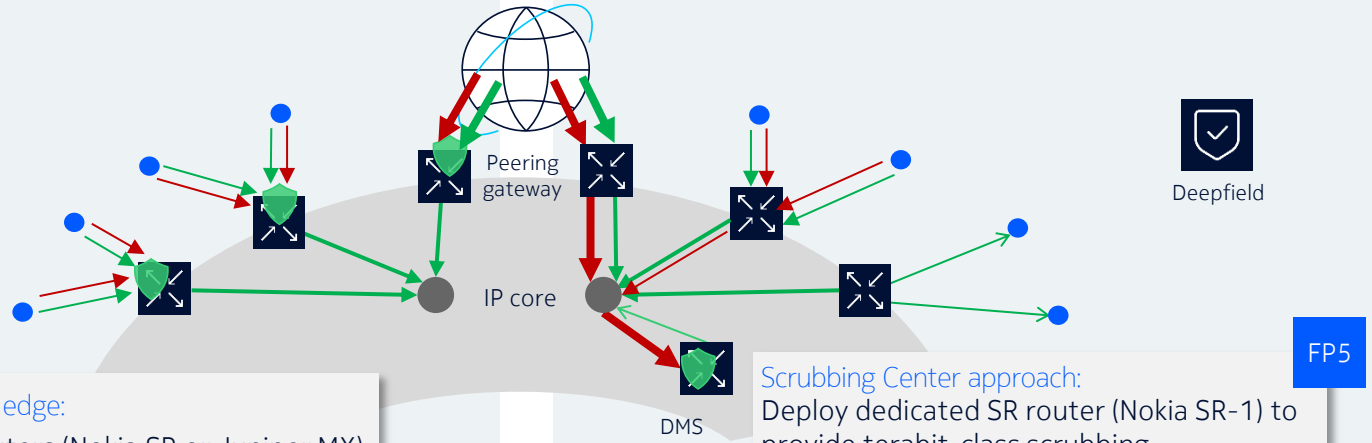
Edge router-based mitigation



Mitigation at the edge:

Use existing routers (Nokia SR or Juniper MX) to drop DDoS traffic at the edge.

Alternative: Off-ramp to Defender Mitigation System (DMS)



Scrubbing Center approach:

Deploy dedicated SR router (Nokia SR-1) to provide terabit-class scrubbing in a controlled SW environment.

Both options match or exceed scrubber-based mitigation efficacy

Summary

DDoS botnets are nascent, but already most of DDoS traffic today

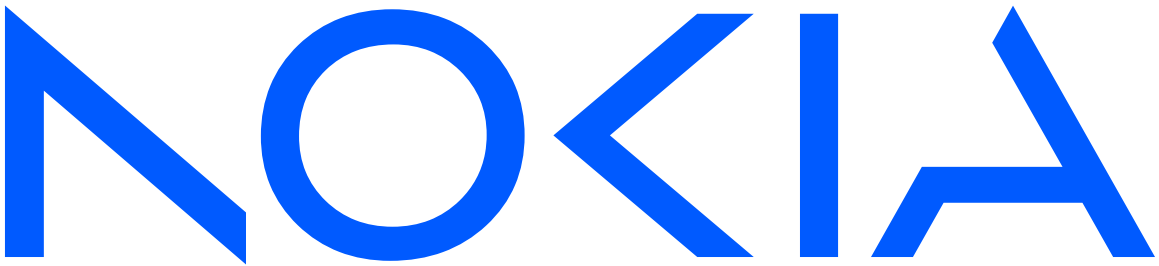
- Exponential growth of enterprise IoT
- ISP symmetrical 1Gbps marketing arms race
- Nation-state attacks with large botnet networks

Enterprise IoT botnets are everyone's problem

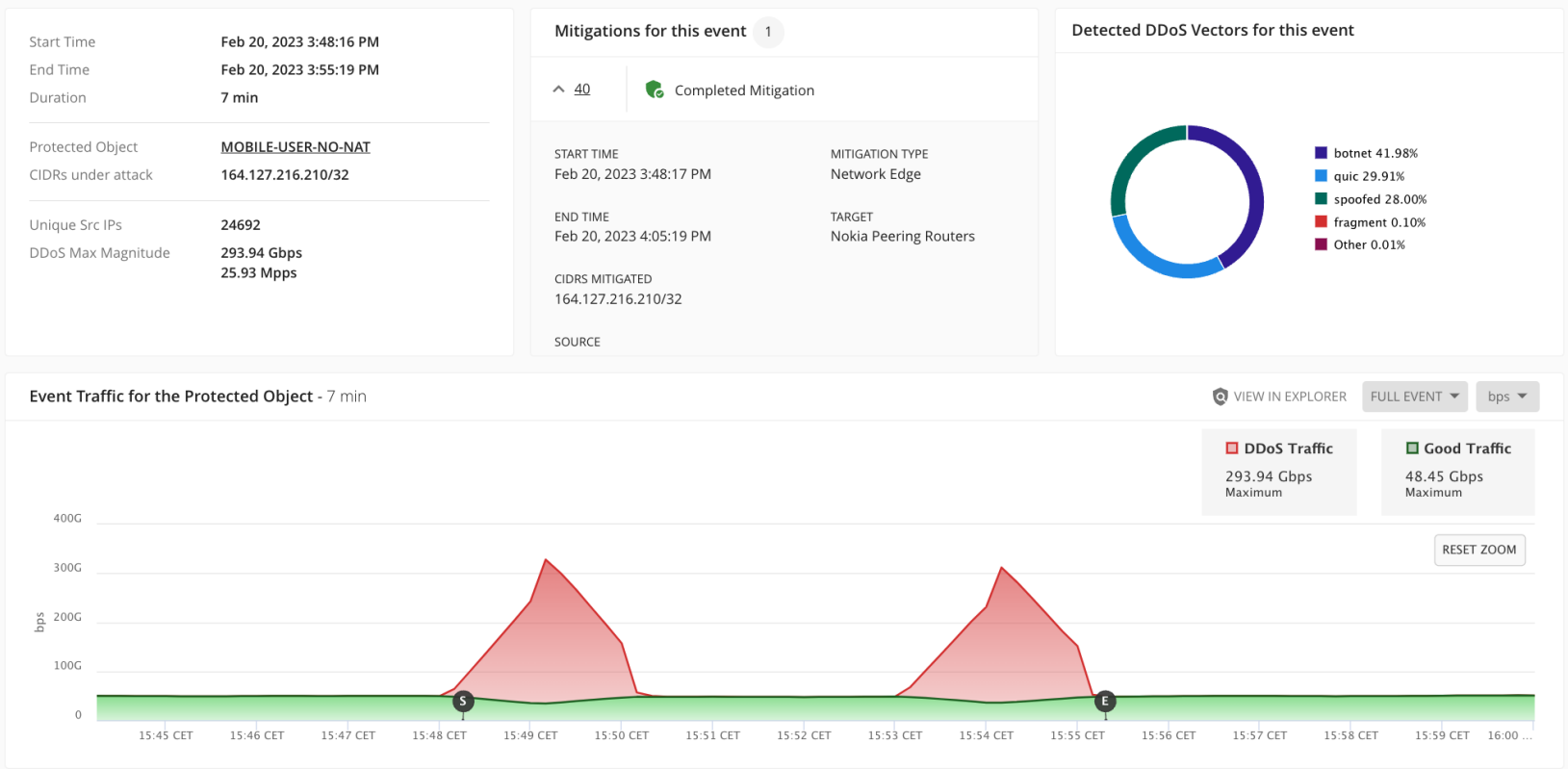
- ISP, enterprise, vendors must take proactive IoT threat mitigation

AI/ML provide us tools to more effectively address that threat

- Models can (and should) be trained on real-world data sets
- More collaboration is essential to share current DDoS data


NOKIA

With Nokia Deepfield, DDoS gets automatically classified…



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