StormWall: The Most Powerful DDoS Attack in APAC Peaked at 1.3 Gbps in Q3 2023

In Q3 2023, DDoS attacks in the Asia-Pacific region rose by 26% year-over-year, according to StormWall's recent report. StormWall is a cybersecurity provider focused on DDoS protection. The data comes from analyzing attacks against the company's clients.

The rise in DDoS attacks correlates with Russian companies increasingly moving into the APAC region. Due to economic sanctions in the US and EU, these companies are forging new partnerships in countries like China, Hong Kong, India, and North Korea—nations that have amicable relations with Russia. This expansion is creating fresh targets in the region, catching the attention of both profit-driven cybercriminals and hacktivists. As a result, we're seeing the introduction of new attack strategies and technologies.

The report shows that ecommerce companies were hit the hardest, enduring 37% of all Q3 2023 attacks in the APAC region — a staggering 174% increase compared to last year. Telecom and media sectors followed, accounting for 26% and 19% of total attacks, respectively. Geographically, Hong Kong faced the most incidents with 22%, followed by South Korea at 19% and India at 17%.

Brief, high-impact incidents

StormWall's data reveals that most attacks were both short and intense. A notable 38% lasted only between 5 and 15 minutes. Short attacks are hard to detect without automated systems. When looking at bandwidth, 32% of attacks fell within the 1 to 10 Gbps range. The most intense attack clocked in at 1.3 Gbps, targeting a victim in Hong Kong.

Growth of multi-vector and application layer attacks

The situation is further intensified by a rising trend in multi-vector attacks. These target multiple infrastructure elements to find and exploit weaknesses. Another trend concerned the rise of application layer attacks: StormWall recorded a 48% increase in DDoS attacks aimed specifically at web applications.

"In Q3 2023, adversaries honed in on quick, powerful attacks to dodge security measures. Contrary to the belief that DDoS attacks need to last long to be effective, short bursts aimed at vulnerable systems can do significant damage. The effort to restore affected infrastructure is costly in both time and money, which is why most attacks wrapped up in under 15 minutes," said Ramil Khantimirov, StormWall's founder.

More information:

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