

In the News....

Anonymous dupes users into joining Megaupload attack

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CS466: Computer Security

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Meet the Players

The logo for MEGAUPLOAD, featuring the word "MEGA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font and "UPLOAD" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font with a slight gradient and shadow effect. The entire logo is set against a light gray rectangular background.

- "File Hosting" Service

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- "File Hosting" Service
- Large web site that allows distribution of illegal media
- Headquarters in Hong Kong but servers world wide

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- Motion Picture Association of America MPAA
- Recording Industry Association of America RIAA
- Universal Music

Shut down of Megaupload



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing the URL <http://www.megaupload.com/?d=540BCWXF>. Below the address bar is a tab labeled "NOTICE". The main content of the page is a notice with a red border featuring the word "Seized" repeated in a pattern. At the top of the notice are three circular logos: the Department of Justice seal, the FBI Anti-Piracy Warning seal, and the IPR Center seal. The text of the notice reads:

This domain name associated with the website Megaupload.com has been seized pursuant to an order issued by a U.S. District Court.

A federal grand jury has indicted several individuals and entities allegedly involved in the operation of Megaupload.com and related websites charging them with the following federal crimes:

Conspiracy to Commit Racketeering (18 U.S.C. § 1962(d)), Conspiracy to Commit Copyright Infringement (18 U.S.C. § 371), Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering (18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)), and Criminal Copyright Infringement (18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 2319; 17 U.S.C. § 506).

Shut down of Megaupload



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- Kim Dotcom, the founder was one of the 4 arrested

Meet the Instigator

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- Within hours a DDoS was Launched in retaliation
- Distributed Denial-of-Service
- Here is how they did it....

Low Orbit Ion Cannon LOIC



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- Open source network stress testing application

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- Named after a fictitious weapon from the Command and Conquer video game
- Sends a deluge of packets to server
- Used in Denial-of-Service attacks

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- 5635 people were confirmed to have launched LIOC
- Question is how many knew what they were doing and should all be held liable

The Result

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- Availability GONE

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- Harm - Availability only, Integrity and Confidentiality intact

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- Besides commerce why is this kind of attack bad?
- What is Anonymous trying to prove?
- Should the Justice Department have that much power?
- How should copyrighted material be protected?

Where I found information

<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2012/012012-anonymous-dupes-users-into-joining-255143.html>

<http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223557/>

<http://pastehtml.com/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/> for some explanation of terms

<http://www.justice.gov/>

<http://www.megaupload.com> for picture of seized site