

# Cyber attacks bring websites down

A spate of attacks on many of the web's biggest commercial sites has been disowned by much of the hacking community – who have dubbed the culprit a “packet monkey” for showing little technical originality. Oddly, there was no indication of identity or motive – although many suspect it was a protest against the growing commercialization of the internet

## Brief guide to Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) hacking

### The Hacker

1. **Hacker penetrates unsecured computers on internet, covering tracks using fake internet addresses**

Freely available scripts such as *Stacheldraht*, *trinoo* or *Tribe Flood Network 2000* planted on “slave” computers

2. **At designated time, hacker sends small data “packets” – as little as 40 bytes per second – to slaves...**

### The Slaves



Unbeknown to their owners, hundreds of computers worldwide may be enlisted

3. **...triggering scripts on each slave to send large data packets – around 1,500 bytes – to target server**

### The Target

Difficult to prevent once attack is in progress as weakness is not in target system but in slave network

4. **Commercial server flooded by up to one gigabyte per second. Scripts also send invalid data to crash target server**