

The Games Shape Plays

Mitigate Bots and other Automated Attacks with F5

Luboš Klokner | F5 | Senior Solution Engineer



Attackers have bosses and budgets too.

12:01 AM · Sep 14, 2014 · Twitter for iPhone



Cost vs Value

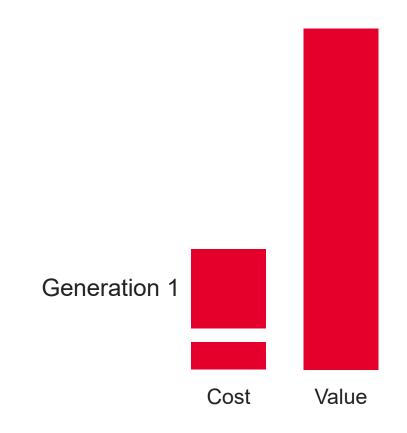


...with no defenses in place, it costs nothing to attack.



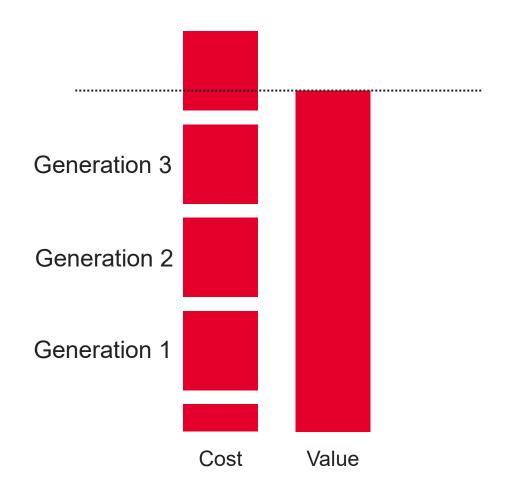


Adding a defense increases cost by forcing evolution.





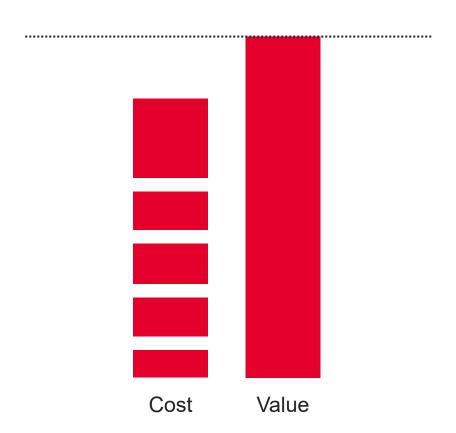
Enough defenses will tip the cost/value ratio in your favor.





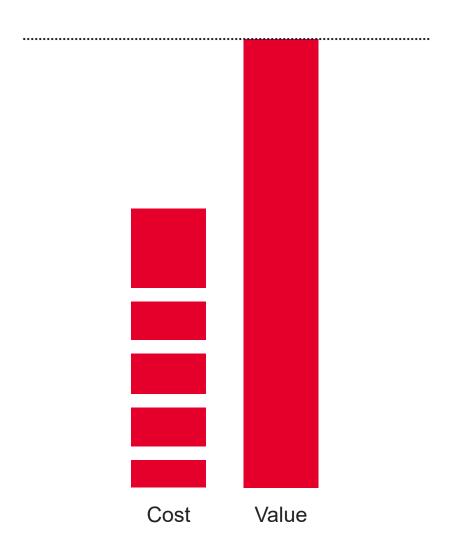
As with all technology, the cost of entry decreases over time.

TECHNOLOGY BECOMES CHEAPER THE MORE IT BECOMES GENERALIZED AND UNDERSTOOD





While the value of successful attacks only goes up.





What's the cost?



What's the cost?

BREAK OUT THE COMPONENTS.

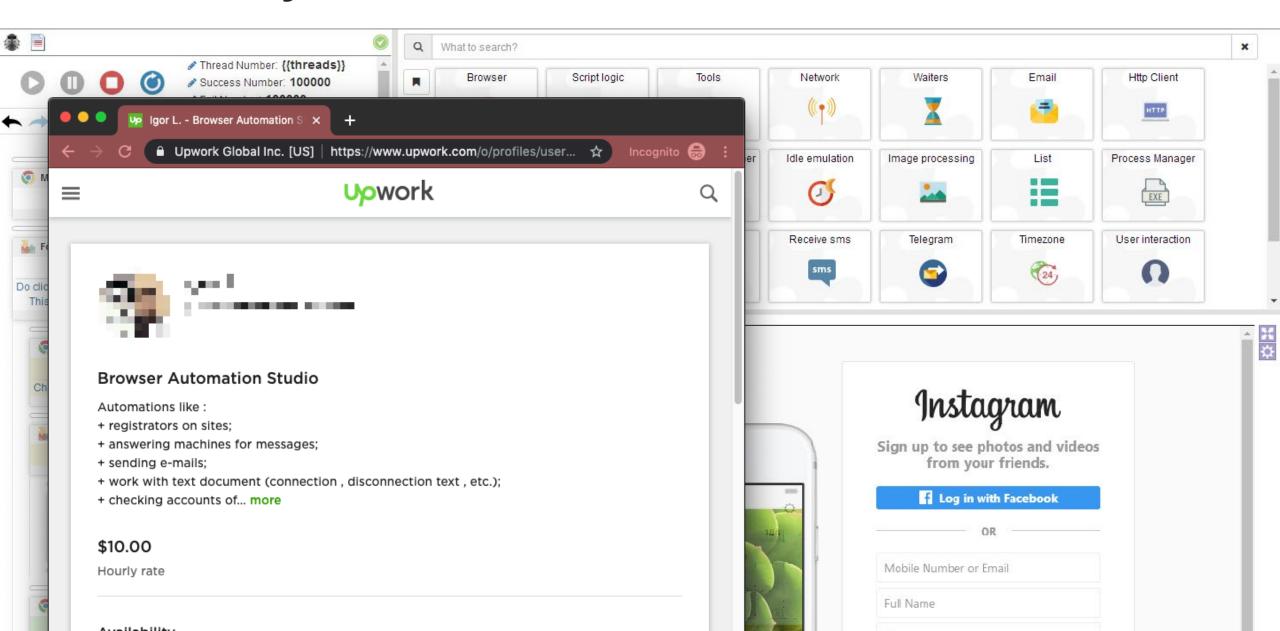
- (1) Gather a dataset (e.g. credentials)
- 2 Automate your actions (e.g. login)
- Defeat Existing Defenses (e.g. CAPTCHA)
- 4 Scale up



1. Gather your dataset

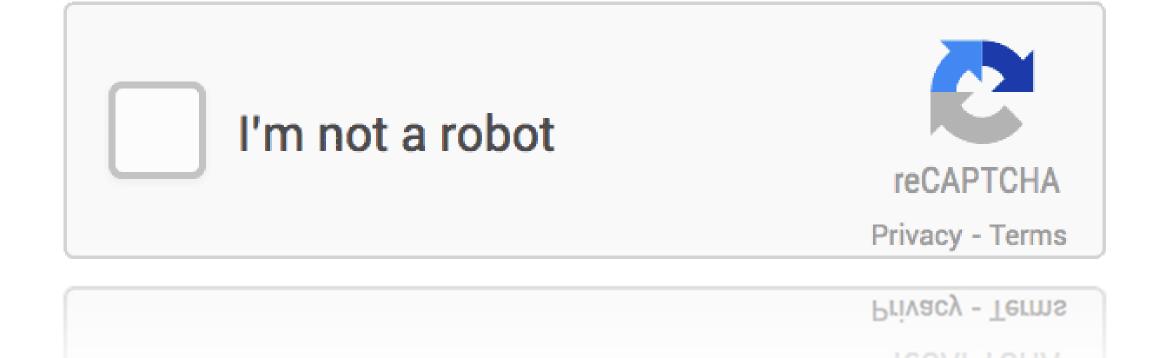


2. Automate your actions

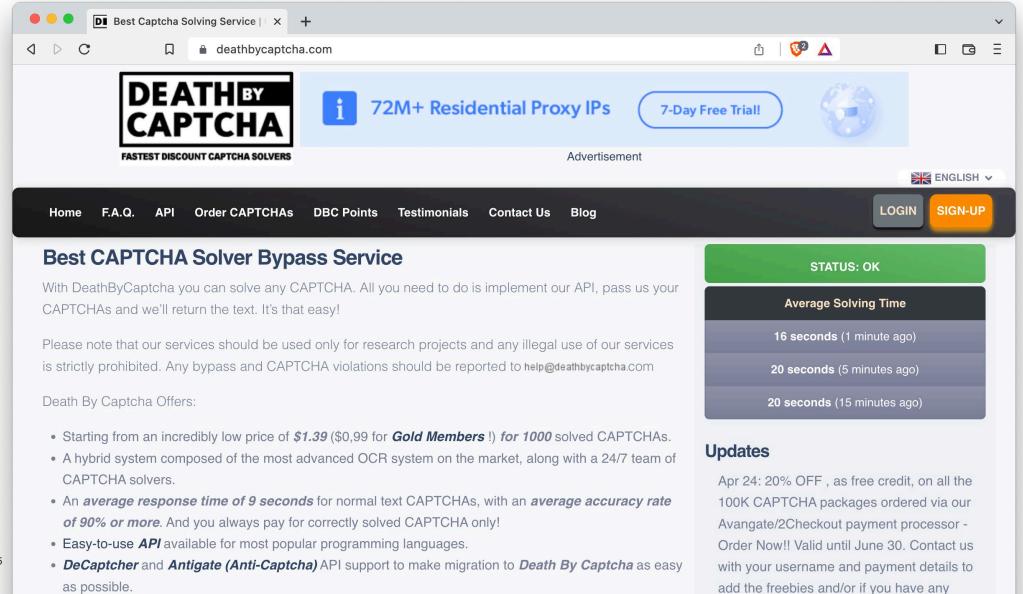


3. Defeat defenses

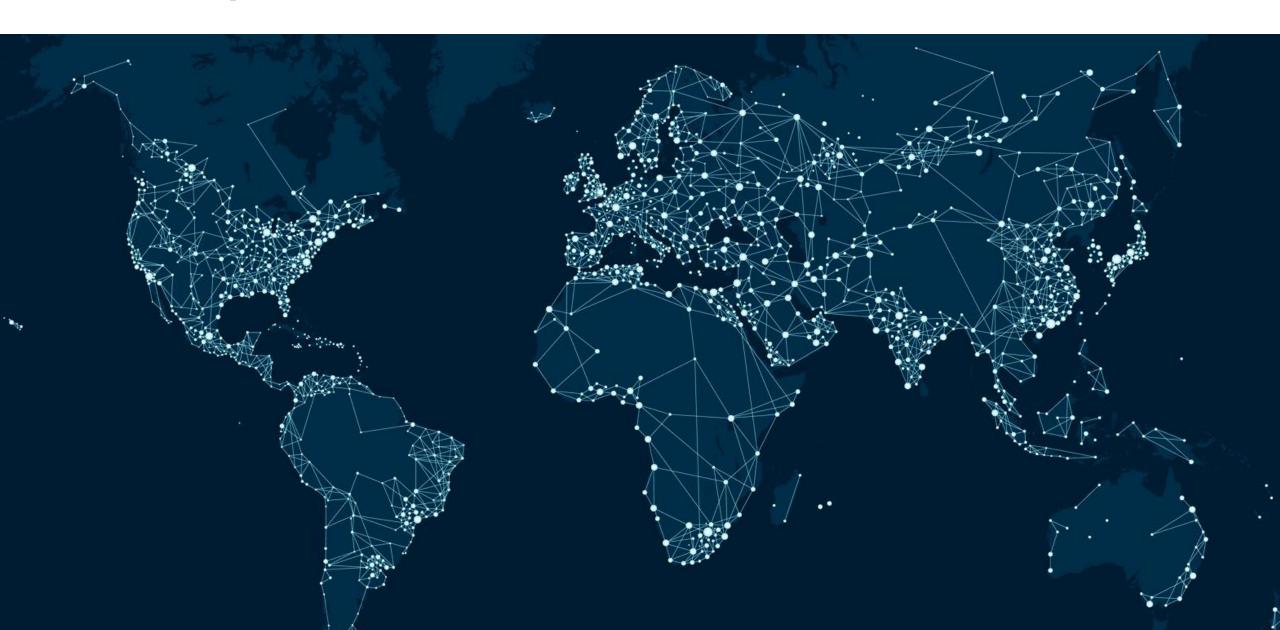




3. Defeat defenses



4. Scale up



A campaign of 100,000 ATO attempts runs around \$200

\$0

For 2.3 billion credentials

\$0 - 40

For an automation tool

\$0 - 140

To solve 100,000 CAPTCHAs

\$0 - 10

For 1,000 IPs

< \$0.002

Two tenths of one penny per ATO attempt.



Evolution of the tools



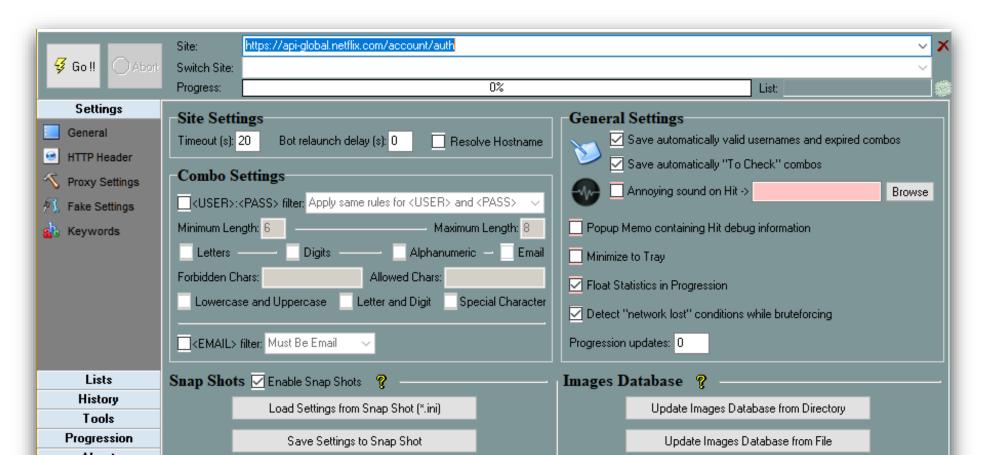


Generation 0: Basic HTTP requests with common tools



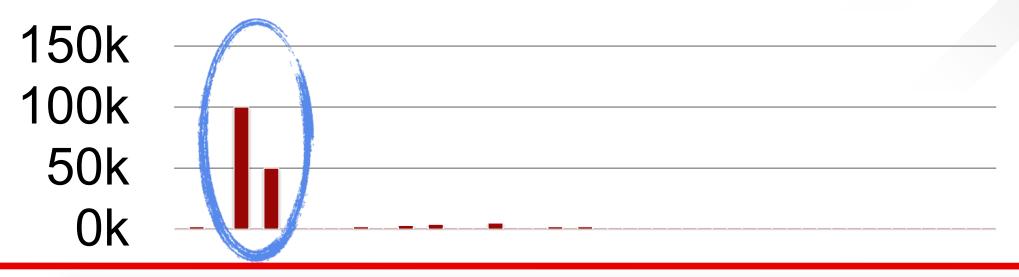


- Performs basic HTTP requests.
- Extensible and highly configurable.
- Tailored towards specific attack use cases.



Early defense: IP Rate limiting.





Free Proxy List	FREE PROXY + W	EB PROXY - S	OCKS PROXY BUY PROXY	COMPANY +
Show 20 \$ entries Search all columns:				
IP Address	Port 🎵	Code ↓↑	Anonymity 11	Https ↓↑
185.122.44.218	36805	IT	elite proxy	yes
41.39.125.250	23500	EG	elite proxy	yes
197.211.245.50	53281	ZW	elite proxy	yes



Iteration 1: Rotate through proxies

Defense: Text-based CAPTCHAs



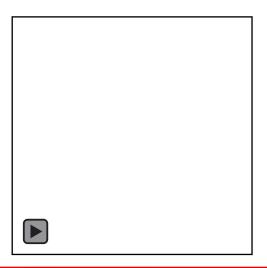


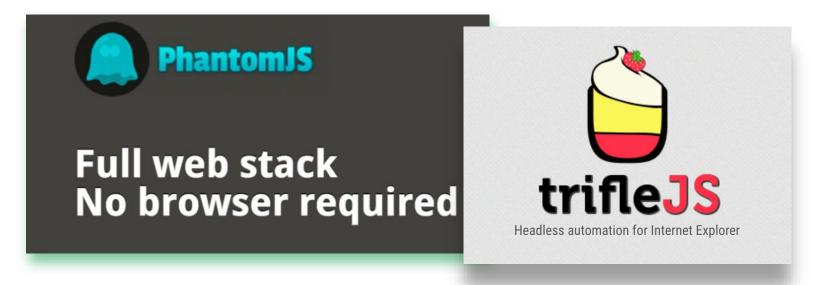




Defense: Dynamic sites and JavaScript heavy defenses.









Defense: Header Fingerprinting & Environment Checks





```
GET / HTTP/1.1

Host: localhost:1337

Connection: keep-alive

Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_9_5) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Geo Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, sdch

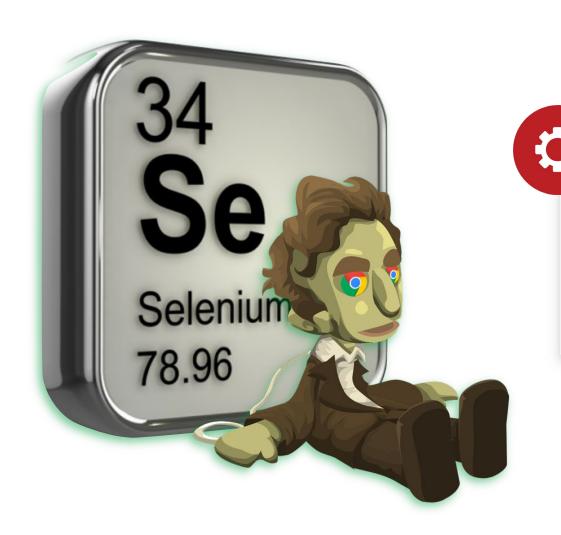
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.8,ru;q=0.6
```



```
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X) AppleWebKit/534.34 (KHTML, like Gecko)
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Connection: Keep-Alive
Accept-Encoding: gzip
Accept-Language: en-US,*
Host: localhost:1337
```



Iteration 4: Scriptable Consumer Browsers



Started with developer libraries like Puppeteer and Selenium.

Now attack tools drive the browsers directly.

Defense: Browser Fingerprinting





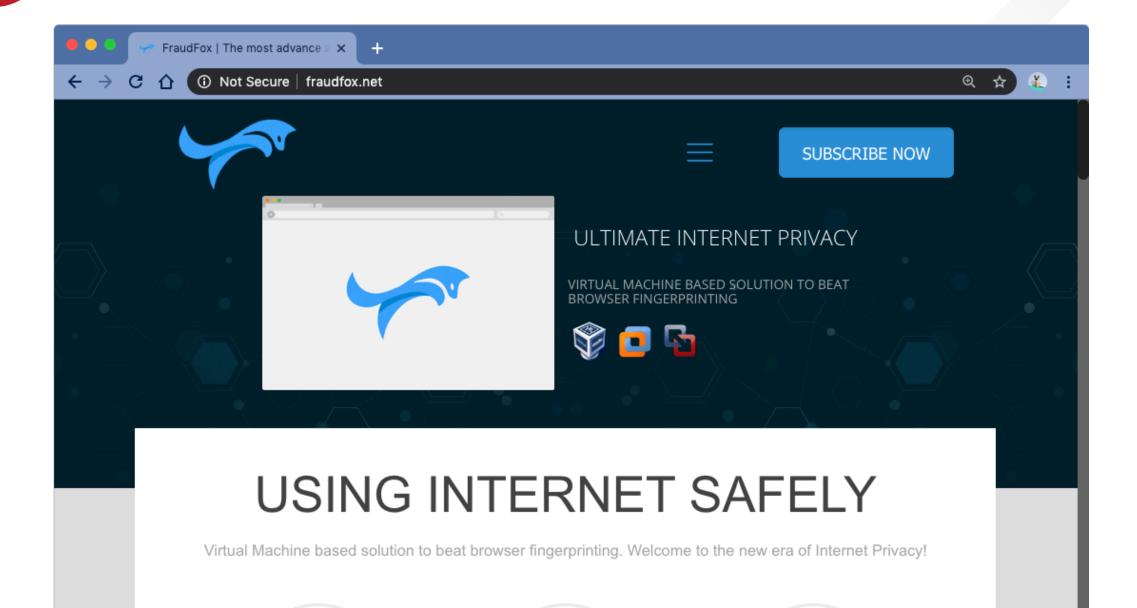


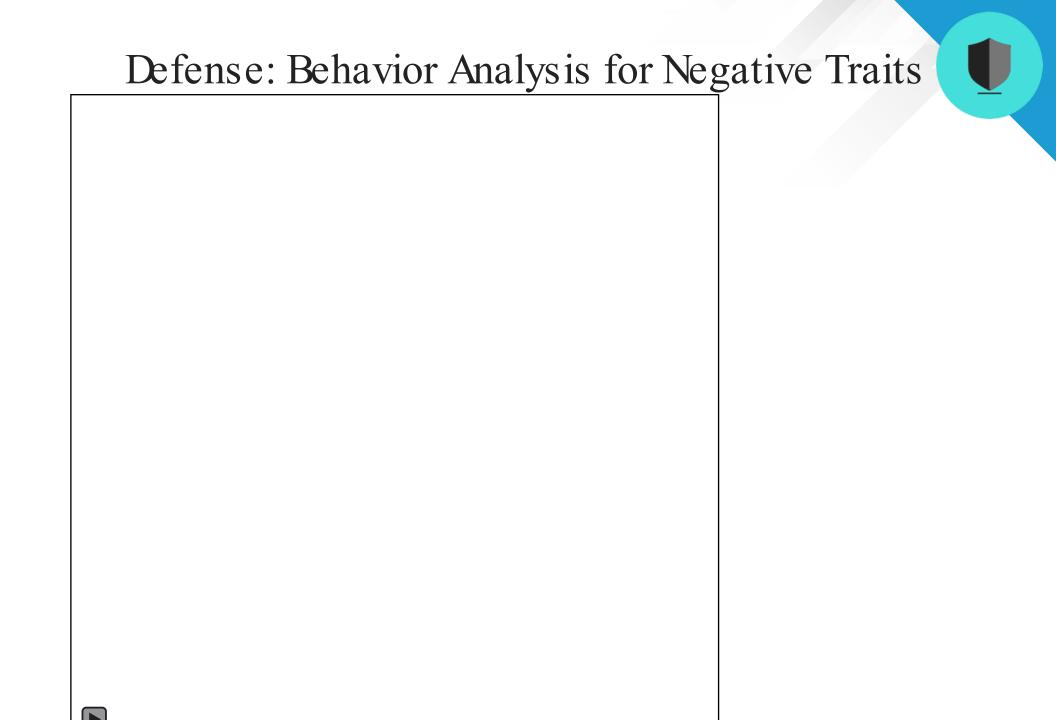
Browser Fingerprinting

Data like screen size, fonts, plugins, & hardware combine to produce a unique value.



Iteration 5: Randomizing Fingerprint Data Sources







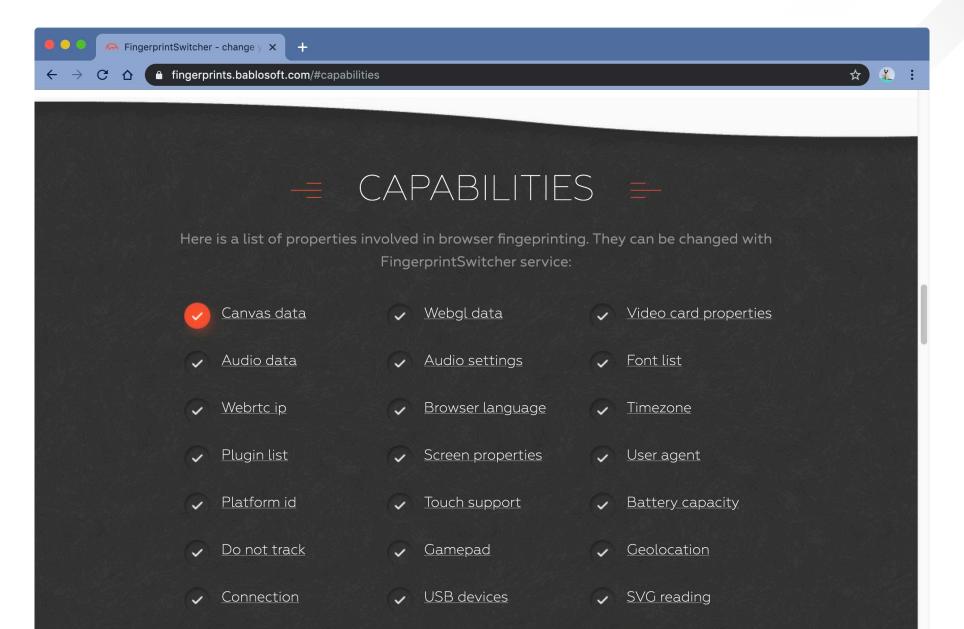
Iteration 6: Human Behavior Emulation



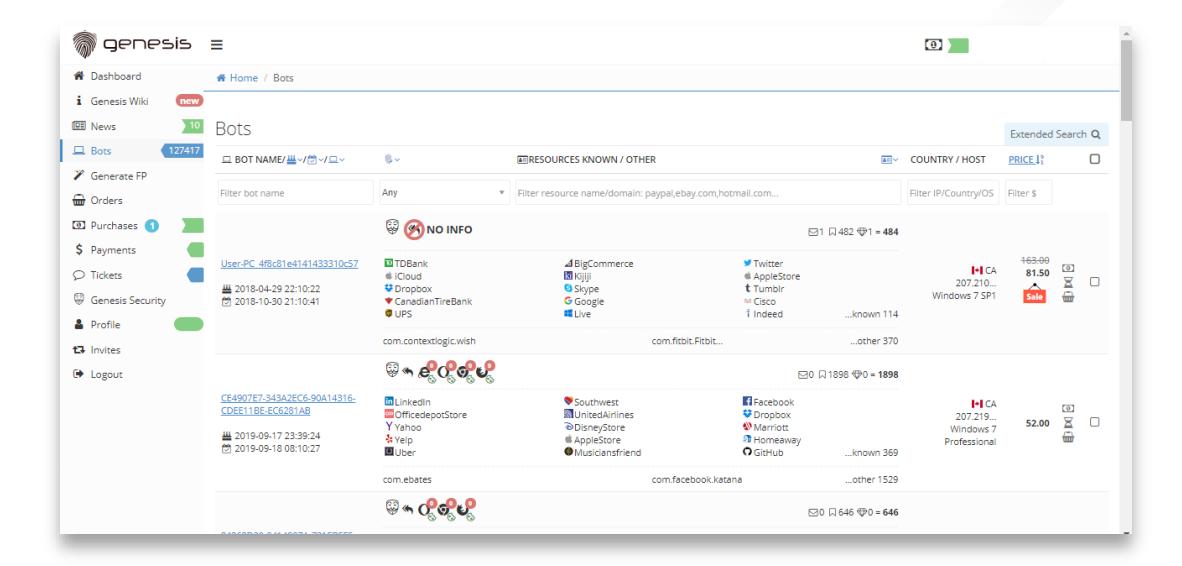
Where we go from here?



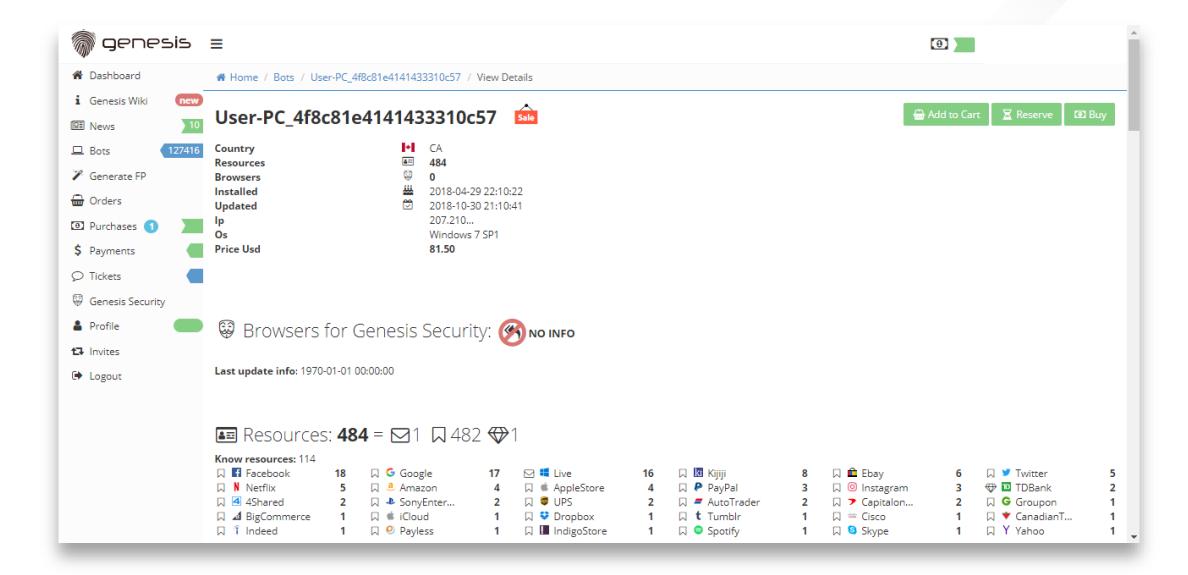




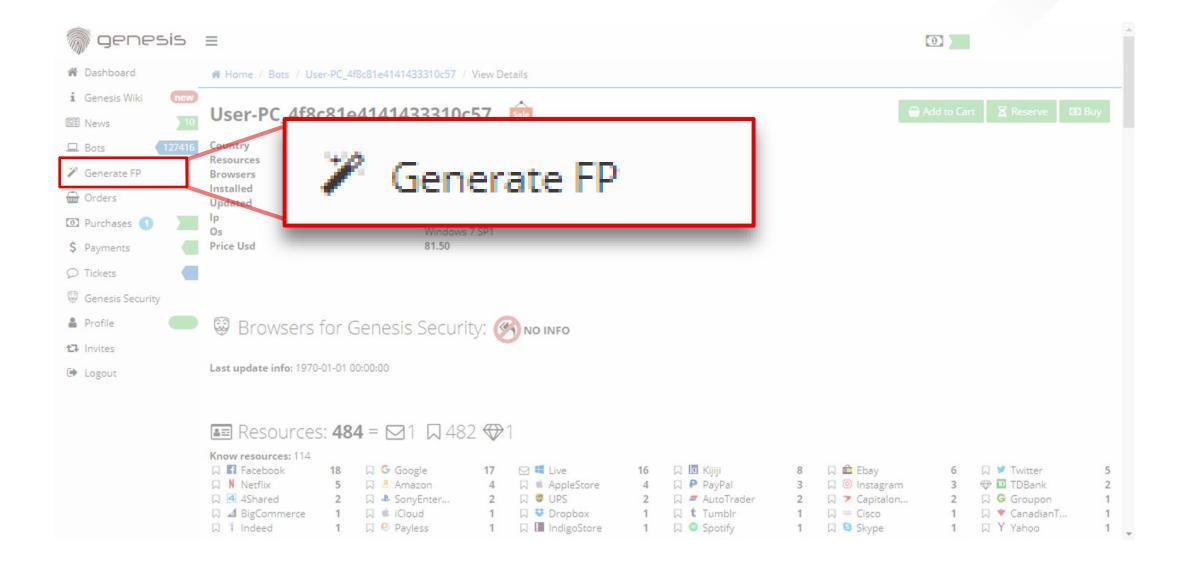




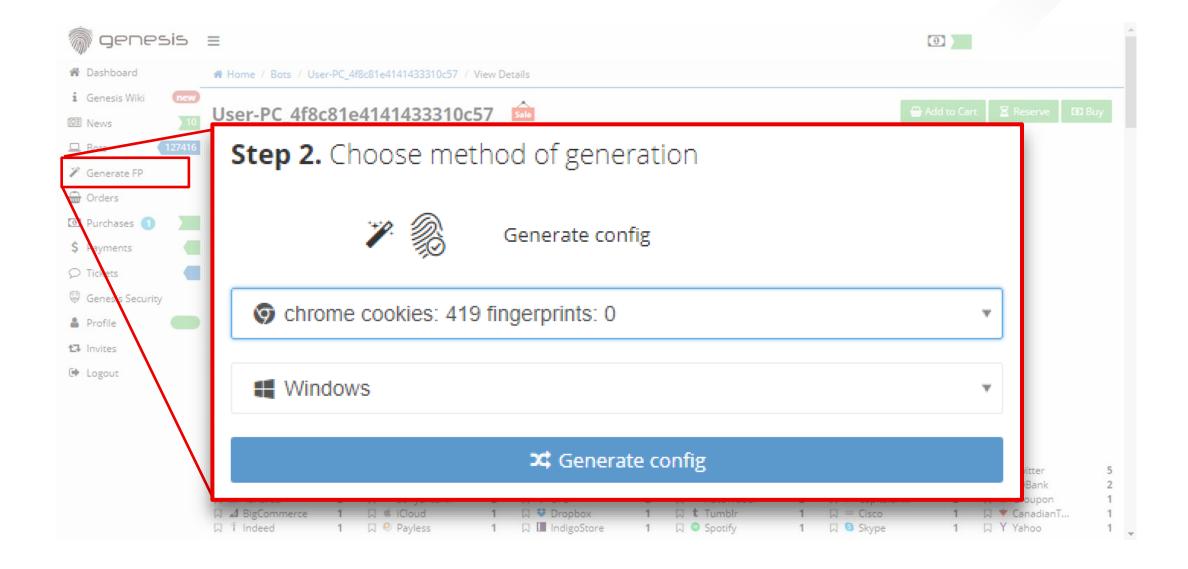




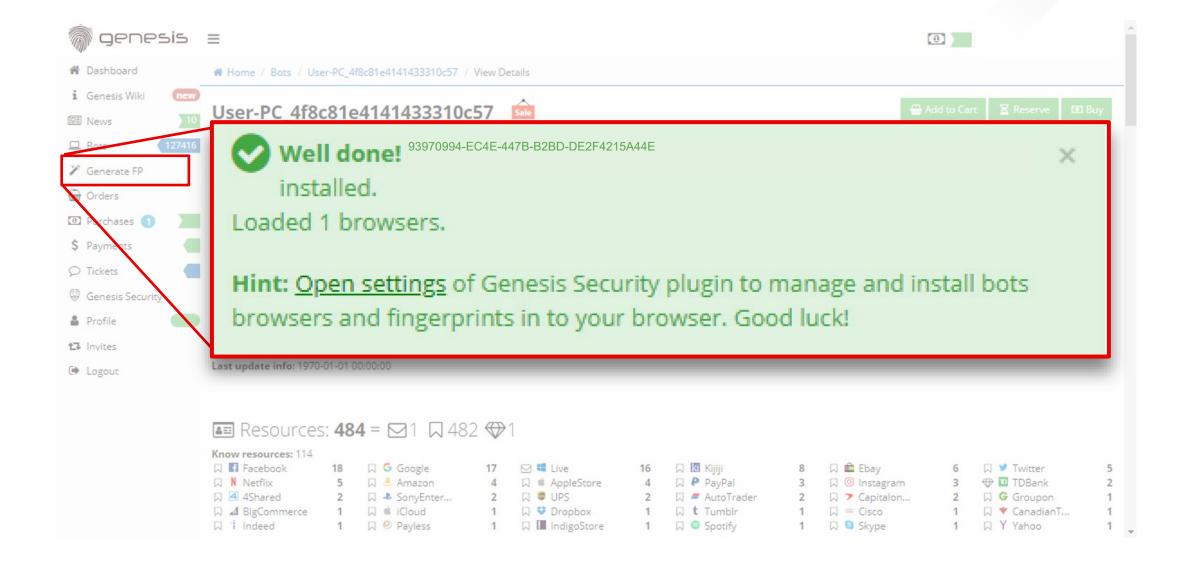
















Modern Bot Defense



Client Interaction Signals

F5 analyzes three categories of signals to identify illegitimate traffic

Status Code: © 288 OK
• Request Headers (10)
• Response Headers view source opires: Thu, 17 Oct 2013 10:53:04 +0000

Network

Normalized list of safe HTTP headers. A finite data source useful for basic patterns and attacks.



Environment

Browser and device signals that reveal both immediate signs of spoofing, alongside emergent patterns



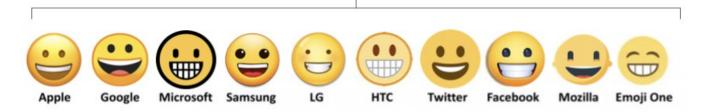
Behaviour

User interaction signals that reveal signs of invalid interactions, scaled interactions or pseudo-randomness



Browser Environment Signals

D



Emojis render differently on different platforms/apps

OxFFFFFFFFFFFFF

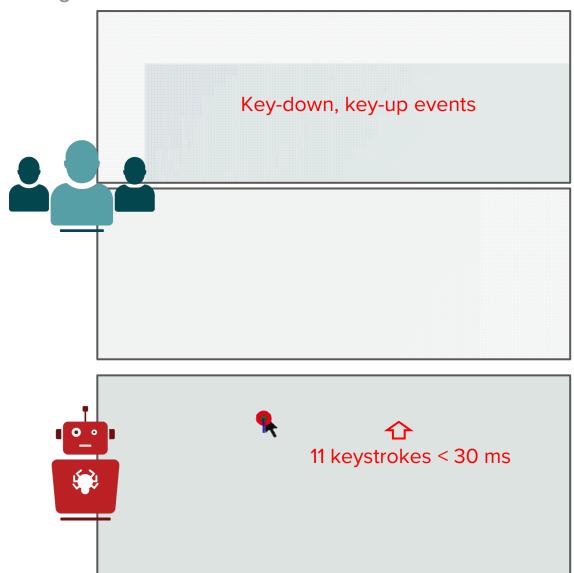
Really big numbers convert differently on different platforms



Behavior Signals

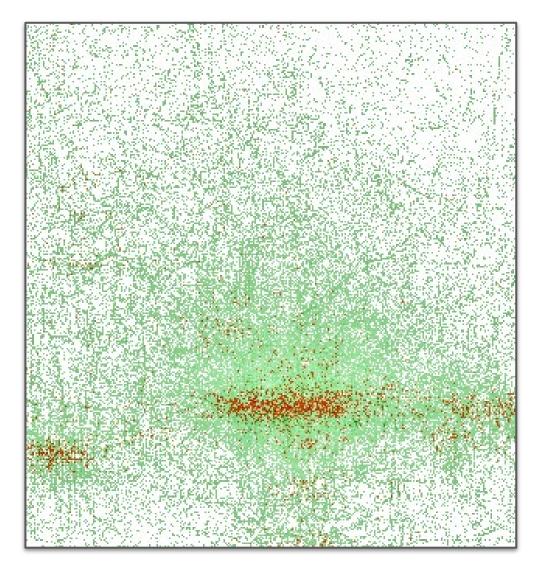
Immediate and Long Term Patterns Emerge from Advanced Automation

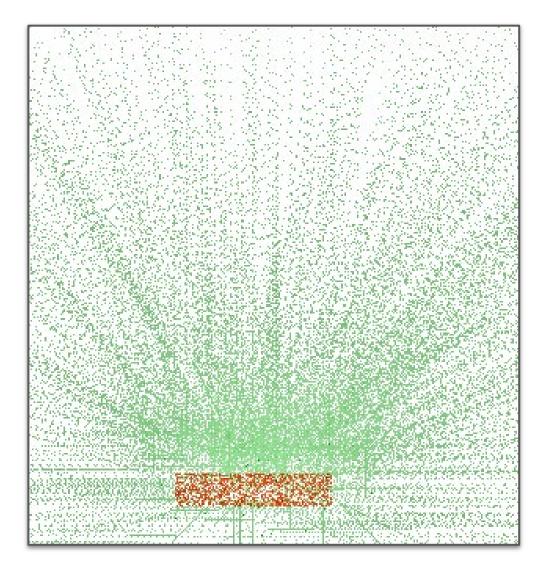
Blue Bar	Key-down.		
Orange Bar	Key-up.		
Red Circle	Mouse-click.		
Green Tick	Captured mouse event.		
Dashed Line	High speed movement between two points.		
Brown Square	Long pause.		
Grey Line	Transition from non- mouse event to mouse event.		





Can you tell which is automated?



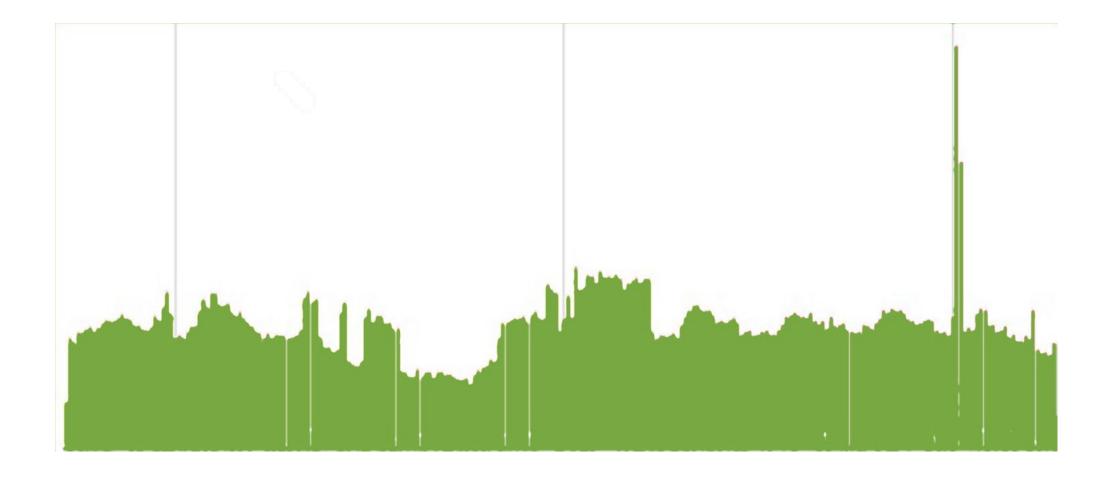




Are you human or bot?

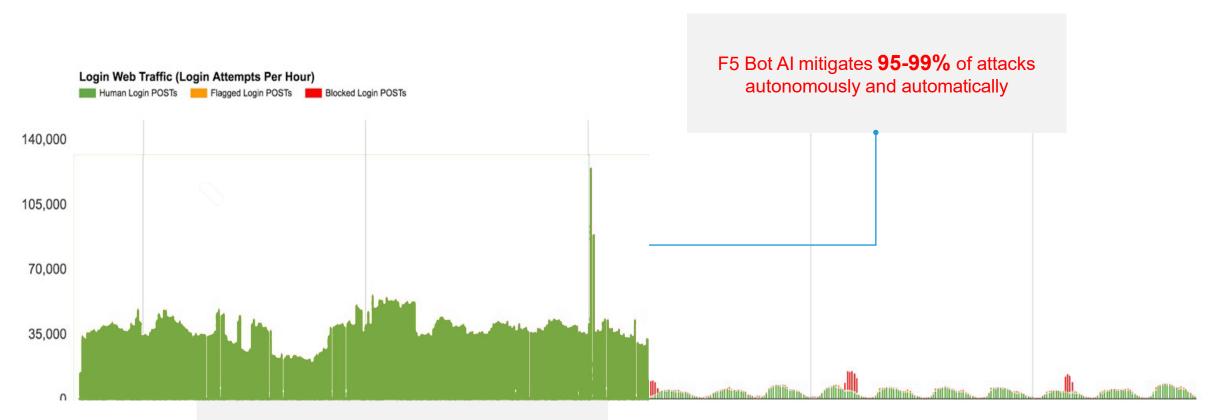


Typical customer traffic





Typical customer traffic after F5 deployment



- 30k credential stuffing attacks *per hour*
- 0.1-2% attack success rate
- \$50 lost *per ATO*



