

250 Webstresser Users to Face Legal Action

- 250 customers of the now dismantled attack-for-hire website WebStresser.org will face legal action for the damage they've caused, according to Europol, the EU's law enforcement agency.
- Investigators from the U.S., U.K., and the Netherlands took down the site and arrested its alleged administrators in April of 2018.
- Before the site was taken down, it had around 151,000 registered users and was responsible for launching some 4 million attacks over 3 years. The people who paid for the attacks are now the ones being targeted.
- Police have seized 60 personal electronic devices from the users. This is the latest phase of "Operation Power Off", which targeted one of the most active point and click distributed denial-of-service attacks.
- The point is to disrupt the popularity of sites like this, and to weaken demand for services like it. WebStresser was just one of many websites like this.
- Many in the hacker community have criticized authorities for targeting the admins and users of these sites instead of what they perceive as more serious cybercriminals, noting that the vast majority of both these groups are young men under the age of 21 and are using these sites to settle petty disputes over online games.
- According to U.S. federal prosecutors, the use of "booter" and "stresser" services to conduct attacks is punishable under both wire fraud laws and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, and may result in arrest and prosecution, the seizure of computers or other electronics, as well as prison sentences and a penalty or fine.