

The Internet Archive taken down by DDoS attacks

Anna Washenko : 2-3 minutes : 10/9/2024

The Internet Archive has been hit with a series of DDoS attacks this week that have taken the service offline. [The Verge](#) noticed a popup on the site today when the online database went down. The popup has since disappeared, but the site is not currently available.

According to security researcher [Troy Hunt](#), the DDoS attack came just as the Internet Archive was preparing to disclose a previous breach of its site that resulted in the theft of more than 31 million records. Hunt, who runs the [haveibeenpwned](#) service, said that the timing of the two attacks appears to be "entirely coincidental" and that there are likely "multiple parties" involved. "It's clearly not just one attack," he wrote.

Internet Archive founder Brewster Kahle has been publishing updates on the attacks on X, with the latest [news](#) simply that the team is attempting to bring the site back online. A DDoS organization known as Blackmeta [claimed](#) responsibility for the attacks with a confusing message that the platform "belongs to the USA." The Internet Archive is a non-profit headquartered in San Francisco that provides free access to a vast library of software and media, as well as hosting the Wayback Machine web archive. The message also referenced the stolen records with "HIBP" referring to Hunt's [haveibeenpwned](#) site that tracks compromised accounts.

This [isn't the first time](#) the archive has been targeted by DDoS attacks, but this week's attacks are the latest in a string of bad news for the Internet Archive. The platform has been fighting a legal battle over ebook copyrights and recently [lost its appeal](#) in the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Update October 9, 2024, 7:25 PM ET: This story was updated with additional information from security researcher Troy Hunt.