

Cybersecurity Incident Report

Section 1: Identify the type of attack that may have caused this network interruption

One potential explanation for the website's connection timeout error message is:

The logs show that: a large number of TCP SYN requests coming from an unfamiliar IP address causing the web server to stop responding

This event could be: SYN attack, a type of DoS attack

Section 2: Explain how the attack is causing the website to malfunction

When website visitors try to establish a connection with the web server, a three-way handshake occurs using the TCP protocol. Explain the three steps of the handshake:

1. A SYN packet is sent from the source to the destination, requesting to connect.

2. The destination replies to the source with a SYN-ACK packet to accept the connection request. The destination will reserve resources for the source to connect.

3. A final ACK packet is sent from the source to the destination acknowledging the permission to connect.

Explain what happens when a malicious actor sends a large number of SYN packets all at once: overwhelms the server's available resources to reserve for the connection. When this happens, there are no server resources left for legitimate TCP connection requests.

Explain what the logs indicate and how that affects the server: server is unable to open a new connection to new visitors who receive a connection timeout message.