Battling Bot Security Myths

Block Bots, Not Users with F5 and AWS
Protect your AWS services, including Amazon CloudFront CDN, against bad bots without adding user friction. F5® Distributed Cloud Bot Defense uses human domain experts and machine learning to detect malicious bot traffic while admitting legitimate users and helpful bots. With a simple connector, you can protect CloudFront against bot attacks that include credential stuffing, fake account creation, content scraping, and inventory hoarding.

Learn more at f5.com or find F5 Distributed Cloud Services on AWS Marketplace.

Bots, whether they're beneficial or malicious, make up a significant portion of overall internet traffic. Detecting which ones have malicious intent is a challenge, especially with rapid retooling by attackers. Adding too many hurdles for your legitimate users (including good bots) can harm your business, but unchecked bad bots can inflict serious damage.

Are your apps secure against bad bots? Test your knowledge against these common myths.

Myth #1

CAPTCHA will stop bots.

Truth: CAPTCHA stops more humans than bots. Researchers found that bots solved distorted-text CAPTCHA tests correctly nearly every time. Human accuracy ranged from 50% to 84%, and humans required up to 15 seconds to solve the challenges compared to less than a second for bots.[1]

Myth #2

All anti-bot solutions add friction for users.

Truth: While solutions like CAPTCHA can frustrate users and lead to abandonment, not all bot defense solutions are visible to the user. A solution with real-time detection and minimal false positives will stop bad bots without harming the experience for humans.

Myth #3

Distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) protection can block bots.

Truth: DDoS protection stops botnets that are trying to overwhelm your systems but not the bots that are executing brute force attacks or committing fraud. These subtle attacks require more sophisticated detection methods to distinguish intent.

[1] Andrew Searles, et al., An Empirical Study & Evaluation of Modern CAPTCHAs, UC Irvine, July 2023

DC 12.2023 | JOB-CODE-1263872522

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