

HoPLA: a Honeypot Platform to Lure Attackers

Elisa Chiapponi¹, Onur Catakoglu², Olivier Thonnard² and Marc Dacier¹

¹ Eurecom, France

² Amadeus IT Group, France

elisa.chiapponi@eurecom.fr; marc.dacier@eurecom.fr;
onur.catakoglu@amadeus.com; olivier.thonnard@amadeus.com;

Abstract

Airline websites are the victims of unauthorized online travel agencies and aggregators that use armies of bots to scrape prices and flight information. These so-called Advanced Persistent Bots (APBs) are highly sophisticated. They are provided by specialized companies that offer them as “bots as a service” and they leverage professional proxying companies (mis)using millions of residential IP addresses. On top of the valuable information taken away, these huge quantities of requests consume a very substantial amount of resources on the airline websites. In this work, we present a platform capable of mimicking these sites, at a much lower cost, and we provide early results on an experiment in which we have lured for almost 2 months a number of bots and have fed them indistinguishable inaccurate information.