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Office of Technology and Strategic Services

Office of Information Security and Data Privacy

Guidance for Districts and Schools in Information Security and Data Privacy Best Practices

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Information Security and Data Privacy Best Practices

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We have seen several Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) incidents across the state during testing periods. What do we need to do?

Thankfully, the best ways to protect ourselves against DDoS are the same ways we protect ourselves from other types of attacks.

         To stop attacks at the application layer, you need to keep your applications and OS’ up-to-date. Knowing what vulnerabilities are on your network is key to positioning the layers of your layered defenses properly.

o   <https://nvd.nist.gov/>

o   <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas>

         To stop attacks at the network layer, you need to harden your defenses, implement redundancies, and engage vendors for emergency mitigation response.

o   Make use of blacklisting and whitelisting at the firewall level

o   Drop foreign IPs that are known hostile to the U.S.

o   Employ IPS/IDS or SEIM technology to increase your visibility on your network

o   Segment your networks and segregate the testing traffic

o   Consider a secondary ISP for redundancy

         Ensure your anti-virus and anti-malware systems are up-to-date and properly implemented across your network.

         Restrict the usage of portable media, or at the very least scan it on insertion to workstation.

         Issue credentials on a 1:1 basis

         Educate your users

o   <https://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect>

o   <https://staysafeonline.org/ncsam/about-ncsam/>

o   <https://www.educause.edu/focus-areas-and-initiatives/policy-and-security/cybersecurity-program/awareness-campaigns>

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