
Anexia fights off Austria's largest cyber attack to date

Cyber attacks on Austrian companies have increased significantly – IT service provider Anexia has fought off the heaviest attack to date thanks to the increased infrastructure of project "Backbone Europe" – protection can only be guaranteed by specialists.

Klagenfurt, March 5, 2018: Since last week, IT companies around the world have been on alert. On Thursday, the online service for software development projects, Github, was victim to the world's largest cyber attack to date, in which previously unknown attackers attempted to paralyze the site by means of a "DDoS" attack (distributed denial of service) of record-breaking strength.

In Austria, cyber attacks are also increasing significantly. "We currently have over 5,000 attacks per hour on our servers, and are aware of other operators who are registering an increase in attacks as well," said Alexander Windbichler, CEO and founder of Anexia, one of Austria's leading cloud- and hosting service providers. "These DDoS attacks can be compared to an avalanche of data. Hackers try to force servers to crash by sending numerous requests from a variety of different sources, to paralyze the services that are running on them. The targets of these attacks are online portals, e-commerce applications, or highly sensitive data servers."

The largest cyber attack on Austria successfully blocked

While Github was under siege last Thursday, Anexia customers were also being attacked. The attackers used a new method called the "Memcached Amplification Attack," with their sights set on UDP port 11211. This attack on the Anexia server, which is considered to be the largest ever registered to an Austrian provider, was recorded at a size of nearly 700 Gb/sec. "The target of the attack was a well-known international service provider and long-time client of our comprehensive services. The attack lasted 13 minutes and was successfully blocked thanks to our Cyber Defense Specialists and our Backbone Europe infrastructure, which was completed three months ago. The operations of both the business and the customers were able to continue uninterrupted," says Windbichler.

Customers protected thanks to Backbone Europe

Backbone Europe refers to Anexia's innovative distributed and self-healing infrastructure, which uses large bandwidths to defend against even massive DDoS attacks, thereby actively protecting customers. The infrastructure project, in which more than 3,000 km of fiber-optic cables were laid across Europe, was completed in December 2017 and, at over one million euros, is the largest investment of the Carinthian IT company to date. Further information on the Backbone Europe project can be found at www.backboneeurope.com

Every minute offline costs – protection by specialists is imperative

"The goal of such attacks is always to bring websites and online services to a standstill. For operators of affected websites, this can quickly cause damage in the millions. Every minute that a large Internet retailer is offline costs money. Reliability, confidentiality, and security are the highest priority for our customers. Often the platform operators are blackmailed by the hackers, and only after a ransom is paid – usually in bitcoins – is the attack stopped. The perpetrators behind these attacks usually remain unidentified," said Windbichler, summarizing the challenges facing the hosting providers.



About Anexia

Anexia was founded in 2006 by Alexander Windbichler, now 32, in Klagenfurt, Austria. The IT service provider offers high-quality customized solutions in cloud- and managed hosting, as well as individual software and app development. At the same time, Anexia also operates its own independent data centers. With approximately 170 employees in nine branches in Europe and the United States, Anexia has more than 80 international server locations and serves around 10,000 active customers (including Lufthansa, BMW, Airbnb, Netflix and others). Further information: www.anexia-it.com

Press contact

Lucia Schöpfer
Marketing & Communications
presse@anexia-it.com
+43-50-556-885

Lenz Simon
0676 3022163
presse@anexia-it.com

