Hellfire for Redirectors (Hellfire for redirectors) - Websecurity (English translation)

Пекельний вогонь для редиректорів (Hellfire for redirectors) - Websecurity - Author not stated, websecurity.com.ua.

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Content (translated into English)

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In my article Redirectors' Hell (Redirectors' hell), I described the possibility of creating an infinite redirect to carry out a DoS attack. In the article, I focused on carrying out this attack between two redirect services.

However, the Redirectors' Hell attack can be carried out not only between two redirect services, but also between a redirect service (in particular tinyurl.com) and any website that has an open redirector. This will result in a Looped DoS.

For the demonstration, I used the tinyurl.com service and one of the bigmir.net redirectors.

DoS (Looped DoS):

The attack is bidirectional: tinyurl.com <-> passport.bigmir.net. It places a load on both websites.

http://tinyurl.com/hellfire-url http://passport.bigmir.net/logout?url=http://tinyurl.com/hellfire-url

Thus, any redirector on any website can be used to carry out a Looped DoS attack.

Different clients behave differently: Mozilla automatically stops a looping redirect (displaying a Redirect Loop Error), while IE does not. If the client accessing these websites does not stop the redirect itself—for example, a search engine bot—this will place a heavy load on the servers.

Note that Mozilla's restriction will work only for redirectors that return the appropriate server headers (Location or Refresh). If the redirector uses tags for redirection (meta-refresh or JS), this browser restriction will not work.

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