WHEN VASTFLUX ATTACKS
A HUMAN SATORI TEAM ADVENTURE
ISSUE #1

15¢
We’d like to thank the real humans of the Satori team for their work in taking down VastFlux:

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and many more brave humans.

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Another day, another disruption. The Satori Threat Intelligence & Research team is celebrating their accomplishments.

At the Hacker Evil Lair
It’s malvertising!

The fraudsters are stacking the ads - and they’re stacking a lot of ads - up to 25!

VASTFLUX!

At the Hacker Evil Lair
Keep out

What’s the status of our ad fraud operation?

Here’s where we’re at right now:

We're now peaking at 12 billion fraudulent ad requests a day
We control 11 million devices
And we've now spoofed 1700 apps

This is the biggest operation we've ever seen!
I think I get what's going on here...

Back at Satori HQ

10 YEARS STRONG
Advertisers think they’re paying for an ad to be shown because they’re getting “verification” -

Advertisers are losing money and consumers have no idea

When a human lands on a site with a vastflux ad slot, their phone gets hot and the battery depletes because it’s unknowingly running all these ads!

First they buy an ad spot, then they flip it and sell that same spot to a bunch of different advertisers

They stack the ads in the same spot. It’s like booking a hotel room, then renting it out multiple times for the same slot -

They take the money and run!

But the ad is hiding in the stack!

The device is not infected but the ad space is

We have to stop vastflux!

Snap!

Zzttup!

Clik! Clik!
They're still kicking! We need to add more pressure!

We don't have much left in us, sir, they're too powerful.

We're not going to let them win. Keep going!

They're so weak now, but how do we take them out completely?
We're almost there, but we need everyone's help!

Now it's time to take them down with...

You know what that means...

Time to deploy our secret weapon, MODERN DEFENSE!

Using our visibility into more than 20 trillion digital interactions a week, HUMAN monitors the bad actors and flags their movements.

They then deploy protections for their customers on the Human Defense Platform, creating a network effect!

Now it's time to take them down with...

The Human Collective!

Human customers!

The Satori team!

Pew!

Zap!

Pow!
We have no more defenses. It's over.

I call this drink, the vastini!

Hopefully we have more time before the next fraud operation...

Wait, I think I found something!
On January 19, 2023 the Human Satori Threat Intelligence & Research team published their research of the most sophisticated ad fraud botnet they ever found, VASTFLUX. The fraudsters behind the operation used multiple threat models to make their scheme profitable, like ad stacking and malvertising. This is the biggest ad fraud scheme Human has uncovered with a whopping 12 billion fraudulent bid requests, and being in the fraud fighting business for 10 years, that’s saying something. The months-long battle between our Satori team and the bot operators culminated in an unprecedented private takedown, protecting everyone in the programmatic advertising ecosystem. While this story is exaggerated (we don’t know what their evil lair looks like unfortunately), the details of their rise and fall are all real.

Ready to Dive Deeper?

Check out all of our resources around VASTFLUX:

The Fight for Humanity on the Internet is Never Over

We need you to make our mission a reality. See all of our open roles at humansecurity.com/careers