



# Cyber Alert

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**TLP:GREEN**

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## DDoS Attacks

**(U) SCOPE:** The Connecticut Intelligence Center is providing this information to its partners to provide situational awareness on a recent spike in Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. The information in this product was derived from direct access to cyber incidents reported in the State of Connecticut as well as from open source information.

**(U) SUMMARY:** On 09/10/2020, eight (8) different school systems in the State of Connecticut were targeted with DDoS attacks. The attacks were all short in duration, lasting no longer than 30 minutes; however, several school systems experienced repeated attacks throughout the day. The attacks used a combination of CLDAP amplification, DNS amplification, IP fragmentation, and various UDP traffic with the largest recorded peak being 20 Gbps. While the majority of attacks appear to have been mitigated by the Connecticut Education Network (CEN), there were also some outages and disruptions reported.

**(U) OUTLOOK:** It is common to see a rise in DDoS attacks being carried out against schools at the commencement of a school year, or after an extended break. Additionally, the implementation of remote learning environments has not only made many schools more vulnerable to DDoS attack, but also created an environment where successful attacks are even more disruptive. The increased frequency and effectiveness of these attacks, in concert with recent attacks in the news possibly influencing copycats, likely contribute to the overall number of attacks on CT school systems.<sup>i</sup> These attacks could persist for the immediate future, but should decline in frequency as the school year continues.

The Connecticut Intelligence Center will continue to monitor this reporting and will provide further information on the impact/significance to the State of Connecticut if warranted. Incident Reporting, Information and inquiries should be directed to CTIC at (860) 706-5500 or [ctic.cyber@ct.gov](mailto:ctic.cyber@ct.gov).

### **(U) SOURCES:**

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/miami-high-schooler-charged-cyberattacks-stopped-online-learning-n1239219>

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