

Bad Internet Neighbourhoods

Premise

As with anything, the Internet has good areas and bad areas, safe areas and dangerous areas. In real life, it's not just the bad guys that get harmed in bad areas. People doing legitimate business can often be hurt just by being close to troublemakers, and it works the same way online.^[1] Here we will review the various types of bad neighbourhoods on the Internet, and ways for you to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

Spam Ghettos

There are hosting companies on the Internet that allow spamming.^[2] You may wonder how this can harm you. Some major anti-spam organizations blacklist entire ranges of IP addresses to deal with a single offending IP. If your neighbour spams, you might find your IP on a spammer blacklist, even if you haven't sent a single email.^[3] This could block emergency emails, normal business emails, or any other emails, even if you haven't done anything wrong.

Clan Warfare

Many people play games on the Internet and this is fine, of course. Sometimes games get out of hand, both in real life and on the net, and some people take to attacking their opponents outside the game. On the net, this can take the form of DDOS (or distributed denial of service) attacks. They can also take the form of brute force attacks and vulnerability exploits. When one of your neighbours starts fighting outside the game, they often get attacked in return, and you are at great risk of being attacked just by being in the neighbourhood.^[4]

Hacking

Just as with clan warfare, if you find yourself in an internet neighbourhood with hackers and people who engage in IP masquerading, you can easily find yourself the target of retaliatory attacks.^[5] The best defense is to stay out of these neighbourhoods.

Copyright

While we don't condone copyright and other intellectual property violations, it is clear that these do not affect the neighbourhood. Intellectual Property issues are very real to the person whose property is being abused and this is a serious civil matter, however, it is only a civil matter and does not affect the neighbouring servers or IP addresses.^[6] We obey intellectual property laws, but we are not the appropriate enforcement organization for these laws. That power is reserved for the courts with the appropriate jurisdiction.^[7]

Conclusion

At ESecureData, we check every IP in all of our data centres against reputable outside sources daily to ensure that nobody is engaging in activity that will put other clients at risk. We then communicate with the client to help resolve their problem. This ensures that you are less likely to be collateral damage in an internet war you're not even participating in.

Host in a good internet neighbourhood at ESecureData. Visit our website for full plan details: <https://www.esecuredata.com/>

Footnotes

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 - [4] Prolexic, "An Analysis of DrDoS and DDoS Attacks Involving the Multiplayer Video Gaming Community," DrDos White Paper Series, Part IV, 2013, <http://www.prolexic.com/kcresources/white-paper/white-paper-gaming-reflection-attacks-drdo/index.html>
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 - [6] "United States and Canada," OpenNet Initiative, accessed April 15, 2018,
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