

Cyber attack takes down East Coast Netflix, Spotify, Twitter

[Eli Blumenthal](#), USA TODAY 10:39 a.m. EDT October 21, 2016



If you live on the East Coast and had trouble accessing Twitter, Spotify, Netflix, Amazon or Reddit Friday morning, you were not alone.

A large-scale distributed denial of service attack (DDoS) on Internet performance company Dyn brought many popular sites to a standstill. The attack largely affected people on the East Coast, and by 9:30 AM ET, many sites appeared on their way back to normal.

Denial of service attacks are when someone, or a group of people, floods a particular site or service with large amounts of fake traffic in an attempt to overwhelm the system and take it offline. It was not immediately clear who initiated Friday's attack or why.

In an update posted at 8:45AM ET, the company confirmed the attack, noting that "this attack is mainly impacting US East and is impacting Managed DNS customers in this region. Our Engineers are continuing to work on mitigating this issue."

Amazon, whose web service AWS hosts many of the web's popular destinations including Netflix, also reported East Coast issues around the same time. Amazon noted that it was suffering from a "hostname" issue and it was not immediately clear if it was related to the DDoS attack received.

A post on [Hacker News](#) first identified the attack and named the sites that were affected. Several sites, including Spotify and GitHub, took to Twitter this morning to post status updates once the social network was back online.

Websites that went down b/c of this morning's DDoS attack include:

- Twitter
- SoundCloud
- Spotify
- Netflix
- Reddit
- PayPal

— NUFF\$AID (@nuffsaidNY) [October 21, 2016](#)

Positive Side Effect: DDoS attack this morning takes out Reddit, Twitter & Spotify. Work productivity increases by 300% due to workers not being able to “play” at work on any of these sites.