MONCLICK ELIMINATES THE THREAT OF DDOS ATTACKS
AFTER EXPERIENCING NUMEROUS DDoS ATTACKS, ONE OF ITALY’S LEADING E-COMMERCE BRANDS TURNED TO KASPERSKY LAB TO ENSURE THE NORMAL OPERATION OF ITS WEBSITE

Monclick was established in 2005 within the Esprinet Group, one of the leading distributors of consumer electronics, as an e-commerce site specializing in the sale of technology products. Over the years, it has developed into a successful brand, constantly expanding its catalog (which now consists of over 65,000 product codes), and user base. In March 2014, Monclick became part of Project Informatica, a group with over 25 years of experience in the Information Technology sector.

Challenge
During April 2016 Monclick was targeted by a series of repeated DDoS attacks designed to make the site unavailable. Initially, the company managed to keep the portal online, first by limiting access to Italian visitors only, then by redirecting a portion of the traffic through a scrubbing center (mitigation system for DDoS attacks) set up by the web hosting provider.

“In the company’s 11 year history we had never faced a problem of this kind,” states Roberto Penzo, Monclick’s IT & Web Director. “The availability of the website has always been one of our key strengths.”
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In the meantime, a request for money in exchange for ceasing the attacks was received and promptly rejected. The attacks then increased in intensity and became difficult to contain. “The data center manager told us that, given the volume of the DDoS attacks, its mitigation was causing problems for the entire data center, not just Monclick,” recalls Enrico Bassi, a system engineer for Monclick’s technical partner, Project Informatica. “That is why, in conjunction with Monclick, we enlisted the help of Kaspersky Lab with whom we already had an existing partnership, to resolve the issue, restore the normal function of the site and ensure the recovery of the business.”

The Kaspersky Lab solution

The Kaspersky Lab solution selected by Monclick to counter the attack was Kaspersky DDoS Protection (KDP), a security solution which, in the event of a DDoS attack, redirects traffic to specific scrubbing centers where it is filtered and any malicious traffic is eliminated. The clean data is then directed to the original destination.

“Monclick called us in the afternoon and by that evening, our KDP team colleagues had deployed and tested the solution, including GRE tunnels and BGP redirection,” explains Giampero Cannavò, Head of the B2B Channel for Kaspersky Lab.

When the attacks started again, it was therefore possible to exclude negative effects, maintaining the availability and accessibility of the website (only a few issues occurred in relation to the lower page load speed due to the need for further fine-tuning, impossible to carry out in an emergency situation).
“As far as we were concerned, the decision to purchase the solution was chiefly made because, in a business such as e-commerce, it is extremely important to ensure that the site is constantly available online,” states Penzo. “It is not only a question of maintaining company image, but above all ensuring that users can make purchases via the platform 24 hours a day and avoiding being penalized by search engine bots or ‘spiders’, those of Google in particular. Indeed a lack of accessibility can have a negative impact on the positioning of a website’s pages.”

The following week Monclick signed an agreement with Kaspersky Lab for protection of its business online resources.