

# Flash crowd events

*Customer ranking maximizes useful throughput, prevents server overloads*

While not an attack, “flash crowds” can overwhelm servers with the same effect as a DDoS flood attack.

Web servers can be suddenly hit with an unexpectedly large number of requests, commonly as a result of focused media attention or timelines or unexpected events.

This can overload web servers, which may then be unable to deal with any requests. The overload situation persists because users continue to send requests in an attempt to access the overloaded servers. Thus the Web site becomes inaccessible.

This is a particular problem for stock trading sites, online ticketing sites, sports betting sites, news portals, and government emergency information sites.

As all traffic is legitimate, there is nothing anomalous about it, thus rendering rival anti-DDoS systems ineffectual in dealing with it.

*IntelliGuard DPS, on the other hand, ranks all clients that interact with a network, and limits the requests to a rate web servers can handle. In this type of legitimate traffic flood, the process is “Learn, Rank, Prioritise”, whereby the highest ranked clients are permitted to access the webserver and complete their transaction. Once done so, the next best clients are permitted to access the webserver, and so on, keeping the web servers available and effectively smoothing out large spikes of web requests.*

