



PR Flash  
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## Would a WAF have saved the day for Sony? 'Most likely', says the Deny All Research Center

### Recent events

In the last few weeks, Sony has been the target of two large-scale cyber attacks, which have impacted close to 100 million users of the Sony Playstation Network and Sony Online Entertainment services. According to the Financial Times, **23 000 credit card numbers were stolen, and other sources point to evidence that some of these are available for sale on underground networks.**

### Probable attack vector

Sony disclosed limited information hinting to the methods used by the attackers. Based on public information available to date, the **Deny All Research Center (DARC) is drawing the following conclusions:**

- Both complex, **the attacks likely took advantage of vulnerabilities** in Web servers and/or Web front-ends to database servers ;
- It seems that the attackers used **SQL injection** and/or cross-site scripting (**XSS**) techniques to penetrate the applications and steal the data.

**If these assumptions are right, DARC experts suggest that a Web Application Firewall (WAF) would have prevented the attacks,** and saved Sony the worries and damages it is facing since late April: interruption of service, data theft, lawsuits, reputation damage and impact on stock price.

This situation should serve as reminder that traditional network firewalls aren't capable of stopping today's complex, targeted attacks. Organizations of all sizes need modern security systems, capable of inspecting data flows coming from the Internet and aiming towards their IT. Web Application Firewalls, like Deny All's own rWeb and sProxy, do exactly that.

**For more information on this subject, and for an interview with Renaud Bidou, Deny All's CTO, feel free to contact us.**

**About Renaud Bidou**

Renaud Bidou is CTO of Deny All since 2008. He has been working in the field of security for over 15 years. Renaud joined Deny All from Radware where he worked for 5 years as a Technical & Strategic Specialist with the VP Security with a global coverage. Previously, he founded the company Intexxia in 2000, which was the first French company to operate a SOC (Security Operation Center). Under Renaud's leadership, Intexxia became the 4th French CERT and quickly acquired a reputation of expertise and innovation in many IT security domains.

Renaud Bidou graduated from ISEP in 1996 (Paris Superior Institute of Electronics). He frequently publishes technical articles in IT security magazines and co-authored a book in France. He also regularly teaches in several french universities and often give conferences in major international events such as BlackHat, CanSecWest or IT underground.

**About Deny All**

Deny All is the European leader in the Web Application Firewall (WAF) market. Our reverse proxy-based solutions secure and accelerate 30 000+ Web applications, XML/SOAP Web Services and FTP servers globally. Available as software or appliances, they provide a superior level of protection against known and unknown attacks, ensure application availability and simplify user authentication for customer-facing, transactional, extranet and intranet applications and Service Oriented Architectures. Deny All's flagship products are rWeb, a fully functional WAF, its XML Firewall option and sProxy, an entry-level solution. The offering also includes an application vulnerability scanning service, Edge, and a solution designed for securing FTP connections, rFTP.

Founded in 2001 and headquartered in Paris, France, the company has local teams in Germany, Spain and the Nordics and value-added partners across the globe. Deny All serves enterprises, SME's, outsourcers and cloud providers around the world, Our customers include large financial institutions, state and local governments, industry and services companies, media and e-commerce leaders.