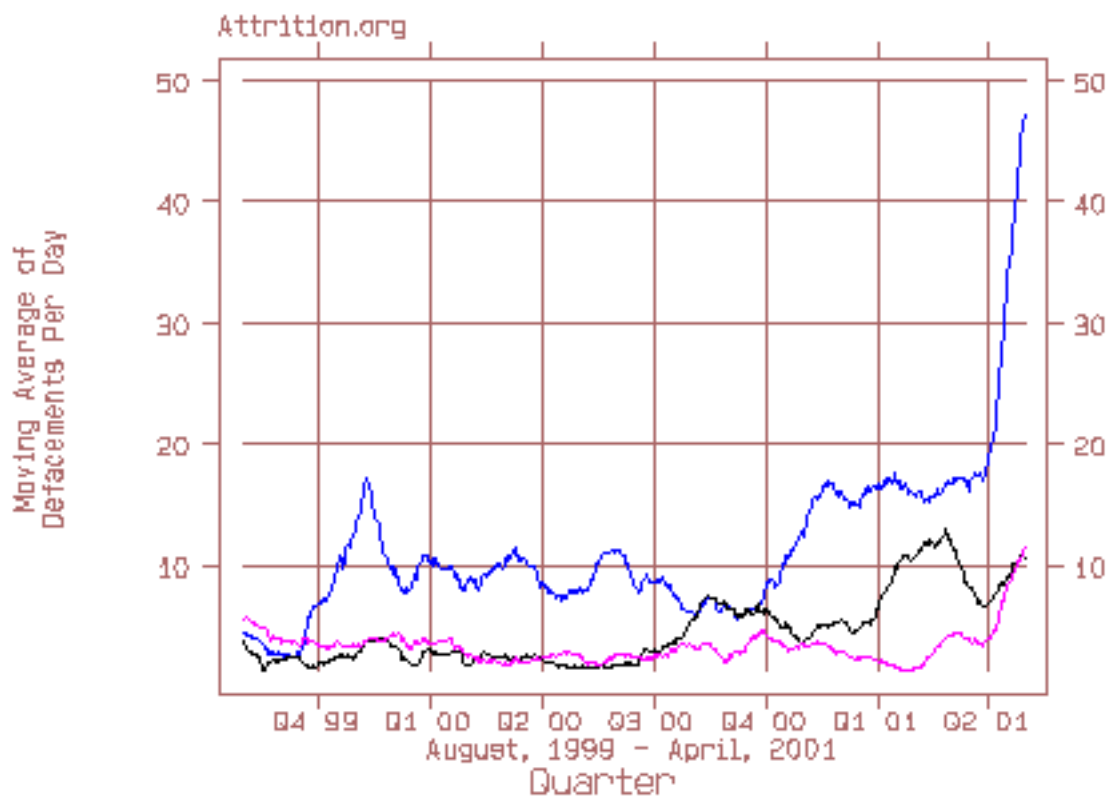
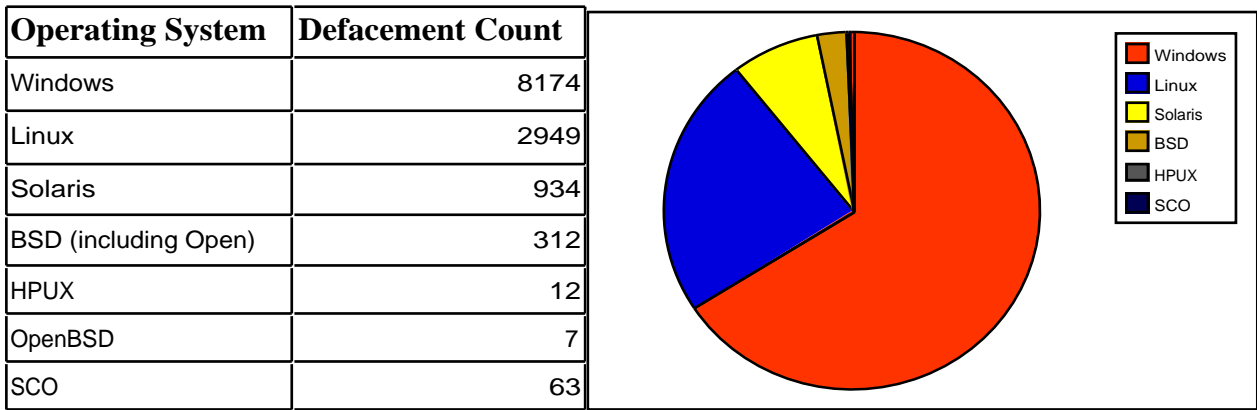


An Attrition Eulogy and a Biased Review of Web Servers

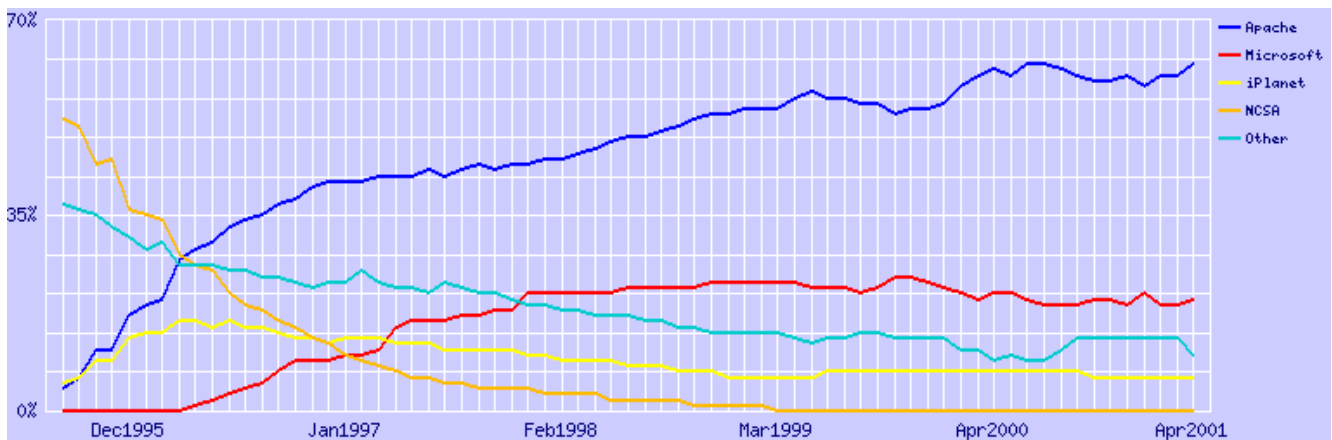
I have no affiliation with the wonderful Attrition mirror (<http://www.attrition.org/>), other than being a long admirer of them. Today (May 22nd 2001 EST), they announced their closure, citing the hard work and thankless efforts they have suffered. At times they were mirroring over 100 defaced web sites per day. We wish all involved the very best.

It seems a good time to review some of the statistics they were able to generate. Their moving average graphs (updated incompletely below) did highlight what were the most common platforms for hacking in to. For most of the duration that they recorded statistics of web server platform, it was clear that WinNT and Win2k were the most commonly hacked (they are combined in blue below), with Linux coming a distant second. Solaris started as a more popular target, but lost its popularity late in 2000.





Now if we turn to Netcraft <http://www.netcraft.com/> and their regular web server usage survey, we can see what web servers people are using. Notice the strong lead held by Apache. IIS limps into not even maintain 20% of the survey.



Let's assume that half the iPlanet (Netscape) servers are on Windows, and also half of the "other" category. So at most, MS-Windows servers power 30% of the internet. It's hard to work to find out what the remaining portions are; it seems that a small majority of Apache systems run Linux; probably around 35% of the internet; Solaris comes next, picking up most iPlanet installations, probably giving it around 25% with FreeBSD making up the most of the rest. Let's get some ratios...

Operating System	Market Share	Percentage Defacements	"Security Factor"
Windows	30	65.6	0.46
Linux	35	23.7	1.48
Solaris	25	7.5	3.33
BSD	10	2.5	3.99

Linux -- three times safer to run than Windows.

***BSD -- twice as safe as Linux.**