Task A

1. What is a DDoS attack?

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| A cyber-attack on a specific server or network with the intended purpose of disrupting normal operation. |

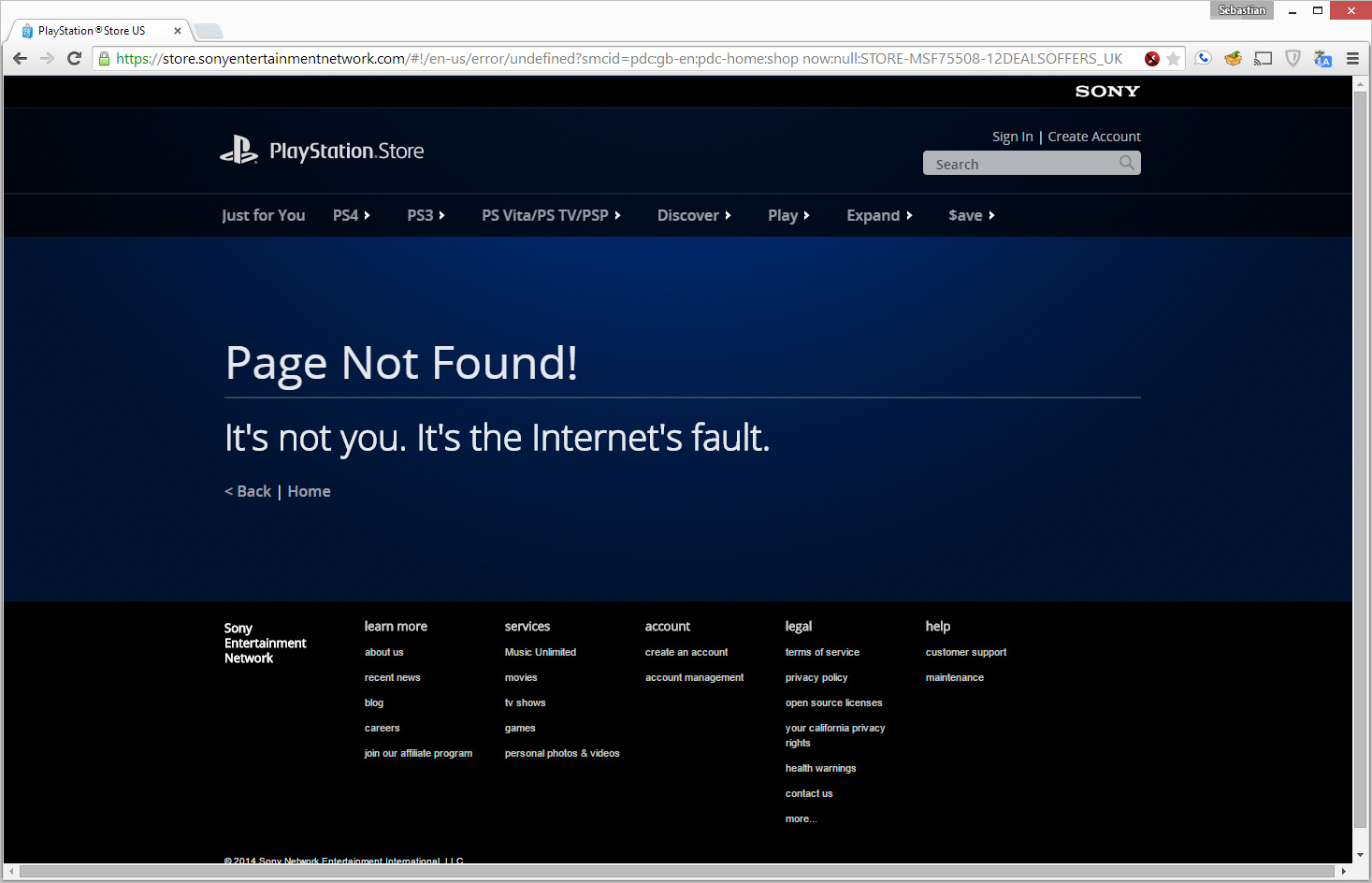
1. How does a DDoS attack work?

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| Network resources – such as web servers – have a finite limit to the number of requests that they can service simultaneously. Whenever the number of requests exceeds the capacity limits of any component of the infrastructure, the level of service is likely to suffer in one of the following ways:   * The response to requests will be much slower than normal. * Some – or all – users’ requests may be totally ignored. |

1. Why do hackers use a DDoS attack instead of a DoS attack?

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| Because it is much more difficult for a server to be able to deal with multiple requests from multiple machines, a DoS attack would involve an attack by one machine which won’t have the same impact. |

1. Back in 2015, a black hat hacking group called Lizard Squad performed a DDoS attack on gaming platforms such as: Xbox Live and PlayStation Network.



1. Why did this attack on Sony and Microsoft happen at the worst time of the year?

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| It was during the busy Christmas period where demand for gaming will be high. |

1. How did these affect users?

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| Anyone who received an Xbox One or PS4 for Christmas was unable to get online on Christmas Day, after huge amounts of fake traffic were sent to Microsoft’s and PlayStation’s networks, causing them to crash. This meant gamers couldn’t play certain games, access the services’ online stores or download anything to their consoles. |

1. What was the motive behind this attack?

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| A hacker who claimed to be a member of lizard squad said the attacks were orchestrated partly for amusement, but also because it wished to demonstrate weaknesses in the company’s systems. |