

# Deception by Design:

## How Fraudsters' Attack Strategies Fool Fraud Teams

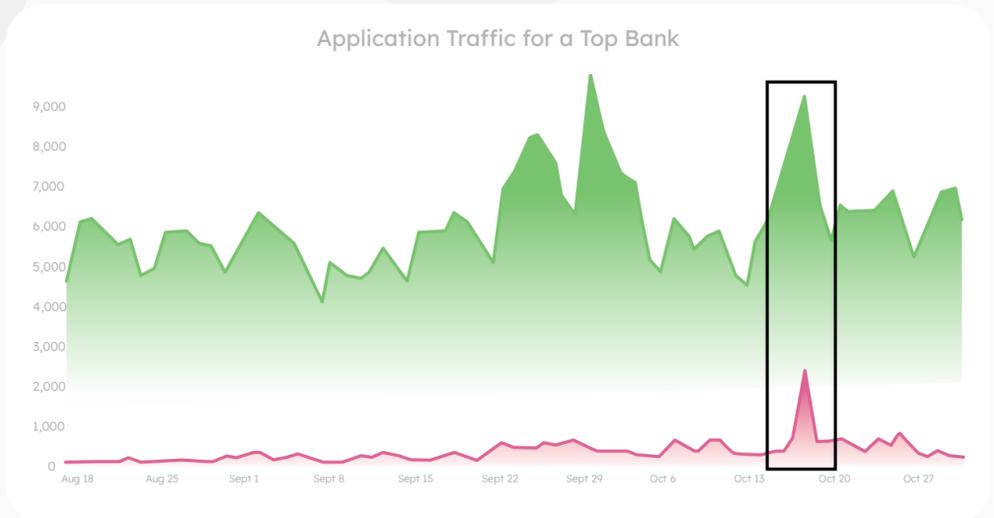
Fraudsters are smarter than you think. They combine advanced technologies with sophisticated strategies to overwhelm defenses, misdirect fraud teams, and wreak havoc on digital businesses.

**Case in point:** here are two bot-led attacks with very different intentions.

### Attack A:

#### What's happening here?

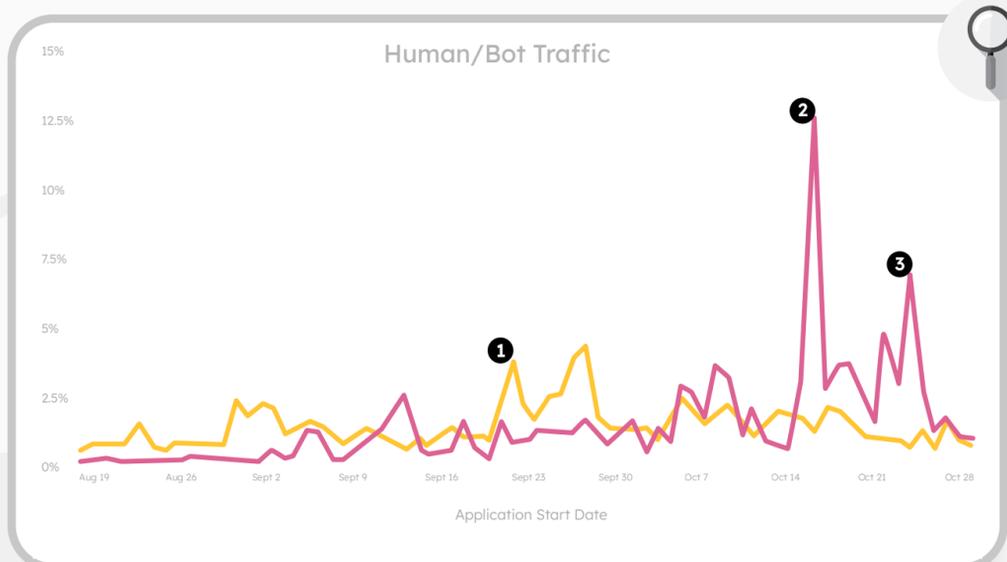
The peak of this attack was preceded by human probes and bot script testing ①. The resulting bot spike ② was designed to overwhelm a specific vulnerability in the bank's fraud stack and was successful enough for fraudsters to send their bots back for more ③.



We call this a **blitz**.

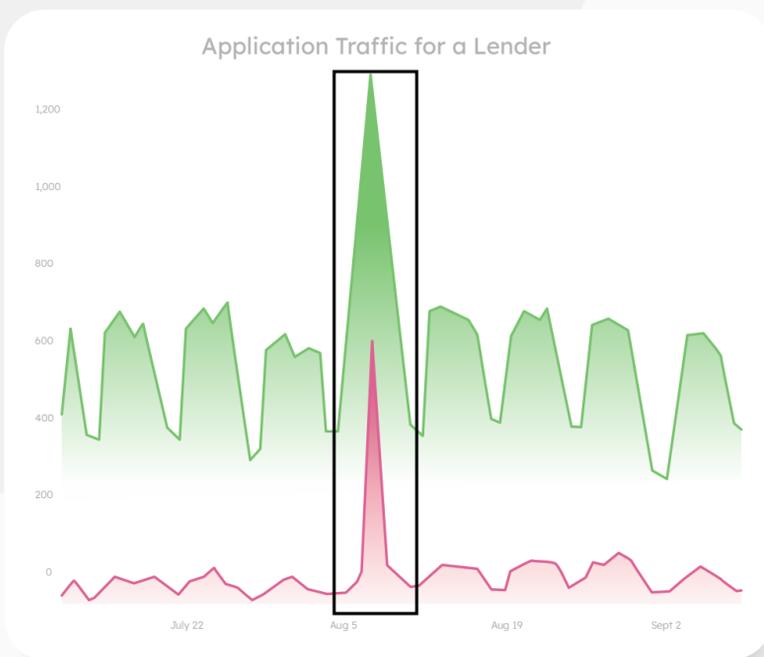
#### Key Indicators of a Blitz:

- Alternating human and bot testing spikes
- Increasing number of application steps completed in each testing spike
- Total traffic remains near baseline despite increased fraud volume



● Bots ● Humans

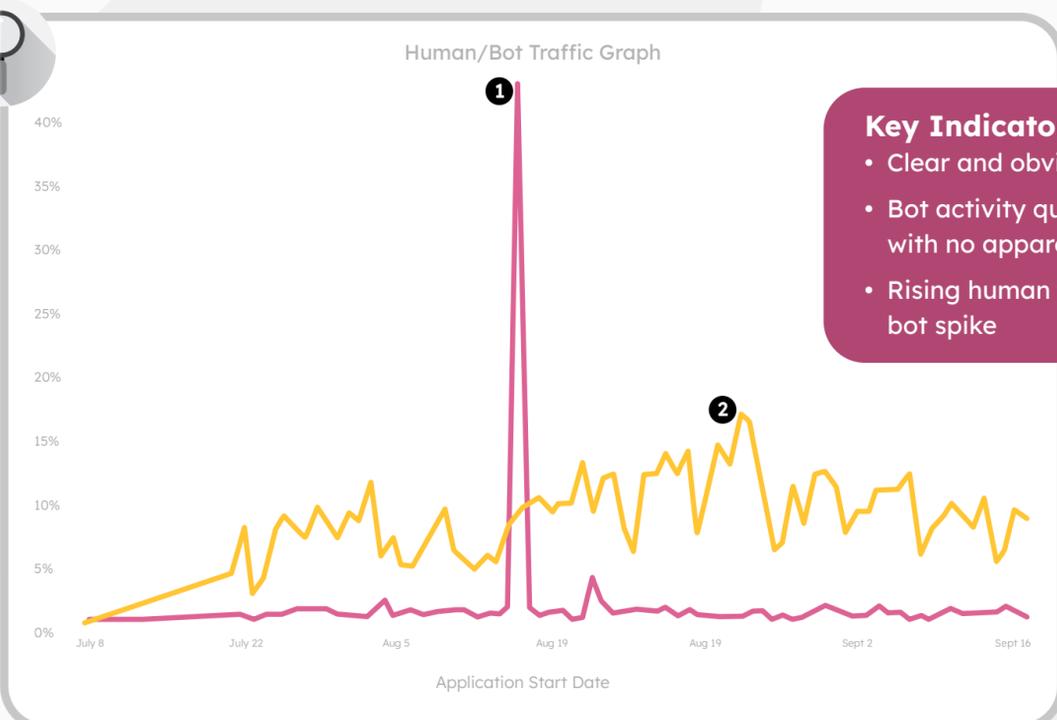
### Attack B:



#### What's different about this attack?

Unlike Attack A, this bot spike wasn't successful — **because it wasn't meant to be**. The obvious volume spike ① was a distraction designed to draw the fraud team's attention away from the real threat: a growing (but much less noticeable) group of human fraudsters ②.

This deceptive attack strategy is a **feint**.



#### Key Indicators of a Feint:

- Clear and obvious spike in total volume
- Bot activity quickly appears and disappears with no apparent testing or follow-up
- Rising human fraud activity following the bot spike

● Bots ● Humans

#### The best defense against fraudsters' tactics?

Knowing the signs that precede attacks and how to differentiate danger from distractions.

To learn more, download [The Fraud Attack Strategy Guide](#).