CEQUENCE

This Valentine's Day,

Swipe with Caution

A unique breed is steering clear of genuine affection — **scammers** are infiltrating dating apps, weaving deceptive connections with unsuspecting users. This Valentine's Day, these crafty actors are making their presence felt, building connections with honest users, and aiming to extract money from them.

In 2022, according to the FTC, victims fell prey to the preferred falsehoods of romance scammers, resulting in a substantial financial loss of

$1.3 billion

Bots serve as the linchpin for scammers, providing the means to scale their operations. Through the efficiency of automation, these perpetrators intensify their efforts, significantly elevating the likelihood of successful exploits. Similar to a skilled puppeteer orchestrating a multitude of strings, a single swindler often endeavors to cultivate numerous romances concurrently, all with the prospect of securing greater financial gains.

Sneaky Paths to Baiting Users

Fraudsters require numerous accounts as bait, and there are two convenient methods to acquire them:

1 Creation of Fake Accounts

Deceptive individuals closely examine how a platform registers users, finding weaknesses in the system's rules that they can exploit to create many new accounts using automated methods.

2 Account Takeover (ATO)

ATO remains a prevalent threat in the digital landscape. Recent studies indicate that as of 2023, a significant 72% of users continue to reuse passwords, providing scammers with ample opportunities to exploit stolen credentials on popular dating platforms and social media.

Love Bots are on the Prowl

58% of all detected bot activity originated from the US.

In 2023, Cequence detected more than

660 million bot requests

28% of transactions were spoofing an iPhone app.

Cequence protected more than

12 million unique accounts from ATOs on just a single platform.

aws Google Cloud Microsoft Azure OVHcloud DigitalOcean

9% of all bot traffic came from common hosting providers.

Romance scams cost victims

$1.3 billion

Be Careful Sharing the Key To Your Heart… and Your Wallet

Dating sites and apps can partner with Cequence to protect against bots and bad actors, but users should also be wary and protect against fraudulent suitors.

Look for Red Flags	Respond Appropriately
You never meet in person, but things are moving fast.	Slow down and try to authenticate their claims by searching for past activity online.
They claim to work overseas or make repeated excuses for being unavailable to meet.	Search or ask others online if they are being told similar fabrications.
You're asked to send a gift or provide money to help them with a sudden 'emergency.'	Stop. NEVER send money, gifts, or buy tickets on behalf of someone you've never met. Now it's time to consider filing a fraud report.

Top 5 Things to Look For in a Bot Management Solution to Protect Against Romance Fraudsters and More

If you're looking for long-term protection against automated attacks, here's what you need for a perfect match.

1 No Application Modification
Easy to deploy without agents, JavaScript, or SDKs.

2 Broad Use Case Coverage
Protects mobile apps, web applications, and cloud- and microservices-based infrastructure.

3 Rapid Time to Value
Effective immediately without requiring extensive configuration.

4 Retooling Resiliency
Sustains protection even as attackers change up their methods.

5 Plays Well with Others
Works and integrates with your existing infrastructure.

Protect Your APIs – and Your Customers – with Cequence Unified API Protection

The Cequence Unified API Protection platform unites discovery, compliance, and protection across all internal and external APIs to defend against attacks, targeted abuse, and fraud. Onboard APIs in minutes, without requiring any instrumentation, SDK, or JavaScript deployments. Cequence solutions scale to handle the most demanding Fortune and Global 2000 organizations, securing more than 8 billion daily API calls and protecting more than 3 billion user accounts.

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