

WordPress back up after cyber attack

Blog publishing platform WordPress was running normally on Sunday after suffering cyber attacks suspected to have originated in China.

WordPress founder Matt Mullenweg told TechCrunch, a leading Silicon Valley technology blog powered by WordPress, that the first distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks began on Thursday and continued into Friday.

In a typical DDoS attack, a large number of comput-

ers are commanded to simultaneously visit a website, overwhelming its servers, slowing service or knocking it offline completely.

WordPress, which powers millions of websites, said it had been hit by an "extremely large" DDoS attack "affecting connectivity in some cases." Mullenweg told TechCrunch that 98 percent of the attacks over the two-day period originated in China and they were likely "politically

motivated." He said one of the targeted sites was a Chinese-language site operating on WordPress which also appears to be blocked on Chinese search engine Baidu. He did not identify the site.

Hackers operating from China have been frequently accused of carrying cyber attacks including a widely publicized penetration of Google computers in 2009 which led the Internet giant to halt censorship of its search engine in China. **AFP**