Vegeta HTTP load testing

START HERE

`echo "GET <url>" | vegeta attack | vegeta report`
Quick test

`vegeta report <file>.bin`
Latency summary

`vegeta attack -rate=<n> -duration=<t>`
Fixed load

`vegeta report -type=json <file>.bin`
Machine output

`vegeta attack -targets=<file>`
Many requests

`vegeta plot <file>.bin > <file>.html`
Latency chart

`vegeta attack > <file>.bin`
Save results

`vegeta encode -to=csv <file>.bin`
Export results

Targets stdin or file → `attack` → **Results** binary stream → `report / plot / encode` → **Output** text, JSON, HTML, CSV

CONCEPTS

Vegeta sends a constant request rate, regardless of how slow the server is. Latency grows instead of throughput dropping.

Results are a binary stream: write it to a file with > or tee, since the report cannot be regenerated otherwise.

Vegeta reads targets, not URLs: even a single URL needs a GET line piped in or in a targets file.

ATTACK

`vegeta attack`
Fire requests from stdin targets

`-rate=<n>/<unit>`
Requests per time unit (default 50/1s)

`-duration=<t>`
How long to attack (0 = forever)

`-targets=<file>`
Read targets from a file, not stdin

`-output=<file>`
Write binary results to a file

`-rate=0 -max-workers=<n>`
Go as fast as possible
A rate of 0 or infinity needs a worker cap or it spawns without limit.

`-header="<Name: value>"`
Add a request header (repeatable)

`-body=<file>`
Body file for every request

`-timeout=<t>`
Per-request timeout (default 30s)

`-workers=<n>`
Initial workers (default 10, grows)

`-max-workers=<n>`
Cap the worker pool

`-name=<name>`
Label the attack in results

`-insecure`
Ignore invalid TLS certificates

`-http2=false`
Force HTTP/1.1

`-keepalive=false`
Open a new connection per request

ATTACK (cont.)

`-redirects=<n>`
Max redirects (-1 = don't follow)

`-format=json`
Targets are JSON lines

`-cert <file> -key <file>`
TLS client certificate and key

`-root-certs <files>`
Trusted root CAs, comma separated

`-connect-to <src>:<dst>`
Redirect host:port to another address

`-resolvers <ip:port,...>`
Use specific DNS servers

`-dns-ttl=<t>`
DNS cache time (-1 off, 0 forever)

`-connections=<n>`
Max idle connections per host

`-lazy`
Read targets lazily to save memory
Saves memory with large target files but adds per-request latency.

`-chunked`
Send body chunked

`-h2c`
HTTP/2 without TLS

`-unix-socket=<path>`
Connect over a Unix socket

`-laddr=<ip>`
Local source IP address

`-max-body=<size>`
Cap captured response body bytes

`-session-tickets`
Resume TLS sessions

`-prometheus-addr=<ip:port>`
Expose live Prometheus metrics
The endpoint exists only while the attack runs.

TARGETS

HTTP targets file

```
# one request per block, blank line between
GET http://localhost:8080/items?x=1
X-Account-ID: 99

POST http://localhost:8080/things
Content-Type: application/json
@./newthing.json
```

TARGETS (cont.)

JSON targets (one per line)

```
{"method":"GET","url":"http://localhost/",
"header":{"X-Id":["1"]},"body":"<base64>"}
```

In the HTTP format a body must be a file reference with @path; inline bodies are not supported. JSON targets take base64 bodies.

Lines starting with # in a targets file are comments.

REPORT

`vegeta report <file>.bin`
Text summary of an attack

`cat <file>.bin | vegeta report`
Read results from stdin

`-type=json`
Metrics as JSON

`-type=hist[0,100ms,200ms]`
Latency histogram with buckets

`-type=hdrplot`
HDR histogram plot data

`-every=<t>`
Print a report at each interval

`vegeta report *.bin`
Merge several runs by timestamp

Reading the text report

Field	Meaning
Requests	Total, rate sent, throughput
Latencies	Min, mean, p50/p90/p95/p99, max
Success	Share of 200-399 responses
Status Codes	Count per code; 0 = send failed
Error Set	Distinct errors seen

PLOT AND ENCODE

`vegeta plot <file>.bin > <file>.html`
Interactive latency-over-time chart

`vegeta plot -title=<text>`
Set the chart title

`vegeta plot -threshold=<n>`
Downsample above n points (4000)

`vegeta plot a.bin b.bin`
Compare runs in one chart

PLOT AND ENCODE (cont.)

`vegeta encode -to=csv <file>.bin`
Convert results to CSV
The CSV has no header row.

`vegeta encode -to=json <file>.bin`
Convert results to JSON lines

`vegeta encode -to=gob`
Convert back to binary

GLOBAL

`vegeta -version`
Print version

`-cpus=<n>`
CPUs to use

`-profile=cpu|heap`
Profile vegeta itself

RECIPES

Quick smoke test

```
echo "GET http://localhost:8080/" | \
  vegeta attack -rate=100 -duration=10s | \
  tee results.bin | vegeta report
```

Compare two rates on one chart

```
echo "GET http://localhost/" > t.txt
vegeta attack -targets=t.txt -name=50qps -rate=50 -duration=10s > r50.bin
vegeta attack -targets=t.txt -name=100qps -rate=100 -duration=10s > r100.bin
vegeta plot r50.bin r100.bin > plot.html
```

Generate POST targets with jq

```
jq -ncM '{method:"POST", url:"http://localhost/",
  body:"{}"|@base64, header:{"Content-Type":["application/json"]}}' | \
  vegeta attack -format=json -rate=100 -duration=5s | vegeta report
```

Distributed attack

```
# divide total rate by machines, run on each:
vegeta attack -targets=t.txt -rate=250 -duration=60s > host1.bin
# collect the files, then merge:
vegeta report host*.bin
```