AKAMAI SOLUTION BRIEF

API Security for Healthcare

Discover how Akamai API Security helps healthcare providers identify and defend against API threats.

APIs enable healthcare providers to enhance and streamline patient care by facilitating a seamless exchange of data between systems, devices, and people. However, this data is often sensitive — from patient records to insurance policies — making APIs a high-value target for attackers.

Are your APIs at risk? Consider the following findings from the 2024 API Security Impact Study:

- Nearly 85% of healthcare organizations experienced API security incidents in 2024, up from 79% in 2023.
- Only 24% with full API inventories know which of their APIs exchange sensitive data, down from 40% in 2023.

Meanwhile, IT and security leaders across several industries report spending more than US$943,000 on average to address and recover from API security incidents.

APIs enable a seamless data exchange, giving healthcare institutions the benefits of greater interoperability and efficiency. However, APIs also expand the attack surface: As they proliferate across applications, cloud environments, and AI models, APIs also grow in risk. Healthcare institutions are inadvertently deploying APIs that are misconfigured, poorly tested, and built without access controls — making it easier for attackers to steal data and disrupt operations.

Akamai API Security helps providers uncover how many APIs they have and the types of data that traverse those APIs, and gives providers the means to protect that data at any given time. Unfortunately, many healthcare professionals consider APIs as part of traditional application security. But AppSec and DevOps personnel need to think separately about the unique security considerations APIs pose for both. As foundational technology enabling modern healthcare, APIs present novel risks that legacy tools cannot address.

To establish a robust API governance and security program, organizations must partner with the right API security vendor. In healthcare, unmonitored data flows pose significant risks, yet many organizations still lack a comprehensive inventory of their APIs. Akamai API Security helps institutions gain full visibility into their API landscape by identifying all active APIs and analyzing the types of data they handle. From there, our solution enables continuous protection through asset management, sensitive data analysis, anomaly detection, API security testing, CI/CD integration, and both manual and automated remediation — seamlessly integrating into third-party workflows.

Challenges

APIs expand the attack surface

Nearly 85% of healthcare organizations experienced API security incidents in 2024

How Akamai API Security addresses API threats

Akamai's solution is purpose-built to help healthcare institutions protect their API estate.

Comprehensive API discovery

Identify and inventory APIs in your environment, including RESTful, GraphQL, SOAP, XML-RPC, and gRPC. Detect unmanaged or outdated APIs that aren't covered by your API gateway, and gain visibility into their attributes and metadata.

Understand API behavior and detect threats

Leverage AI-powered analysis to automatically identify security risks such as data leaks, unauthorized access, misconfigurations, and suspicious activity. Stay ahead of potential threats with continuous monitoring and anomaly detection.

Protect APIs and fix security gaps

Block attacks in real time, fix security misconfigurations, and automatically update firewall rules to stop malicious traffic. Seamlessly integrate with existing security ecosystems — such as WAFs, ticketing systems, and SIEM platforms — to enhance your response capabilities.

Proactively test APIs before deployment

Ensure that APIs are thoroughly tested as part of the development lifecycle, helping uncover business logic flaws, misconfigurations, and other vulnerabilities before they reach production. By integrating security testing early, organizations can proactively address risks and strengthen their API defenses.

Akamai API Security

From API discovery and risk analysis to API testing and compliance

To learn more, visit our API Security page or contact the Akamai sales team.