

Your guide to cybersecurity for higher education

A smarter, more scalable approach to secure and power higher education

Why cybersecurity is mission-critical

Higher education institutions with evolving and expansive cybersecurity infrastructures are facing more cyberattacks than ever before. For an industry where knowledge sharing and accessibility are core values, safeguarding sensitive data and networks is essential but increasingly difficult.

Expanding demands on IT

- Increasing requirements for student data protection
- Intellectual property in research is increasingly targeted
- Security is critical in remote learning infrastructures
- Multiple compliance frameworks to manage

Growing attack surface

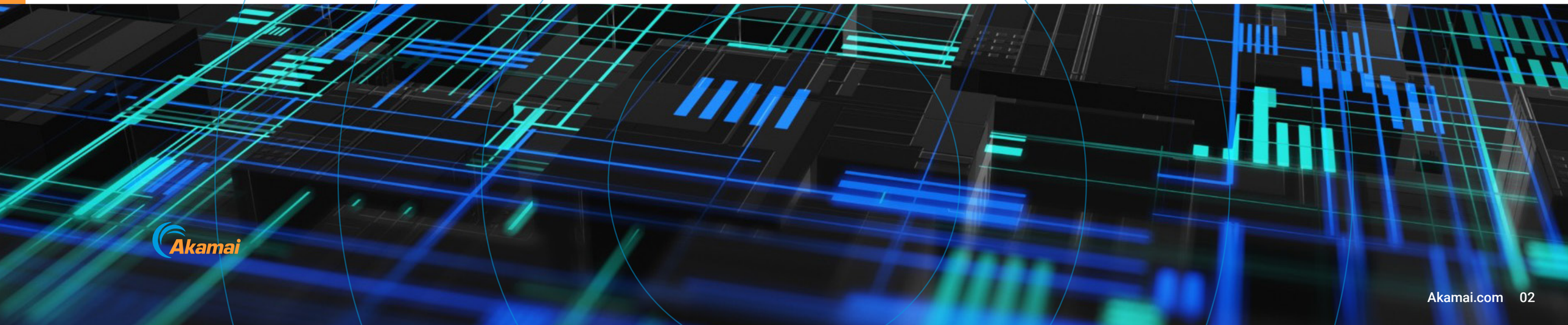
- Apps and APIs are multiplying across departments
- As attack surfaces expand, they become more attractive targets for cybercriminals
- Increased third-party integrations are creating new vulnerabilities
- AI and research systems add complexity

Resource limitations

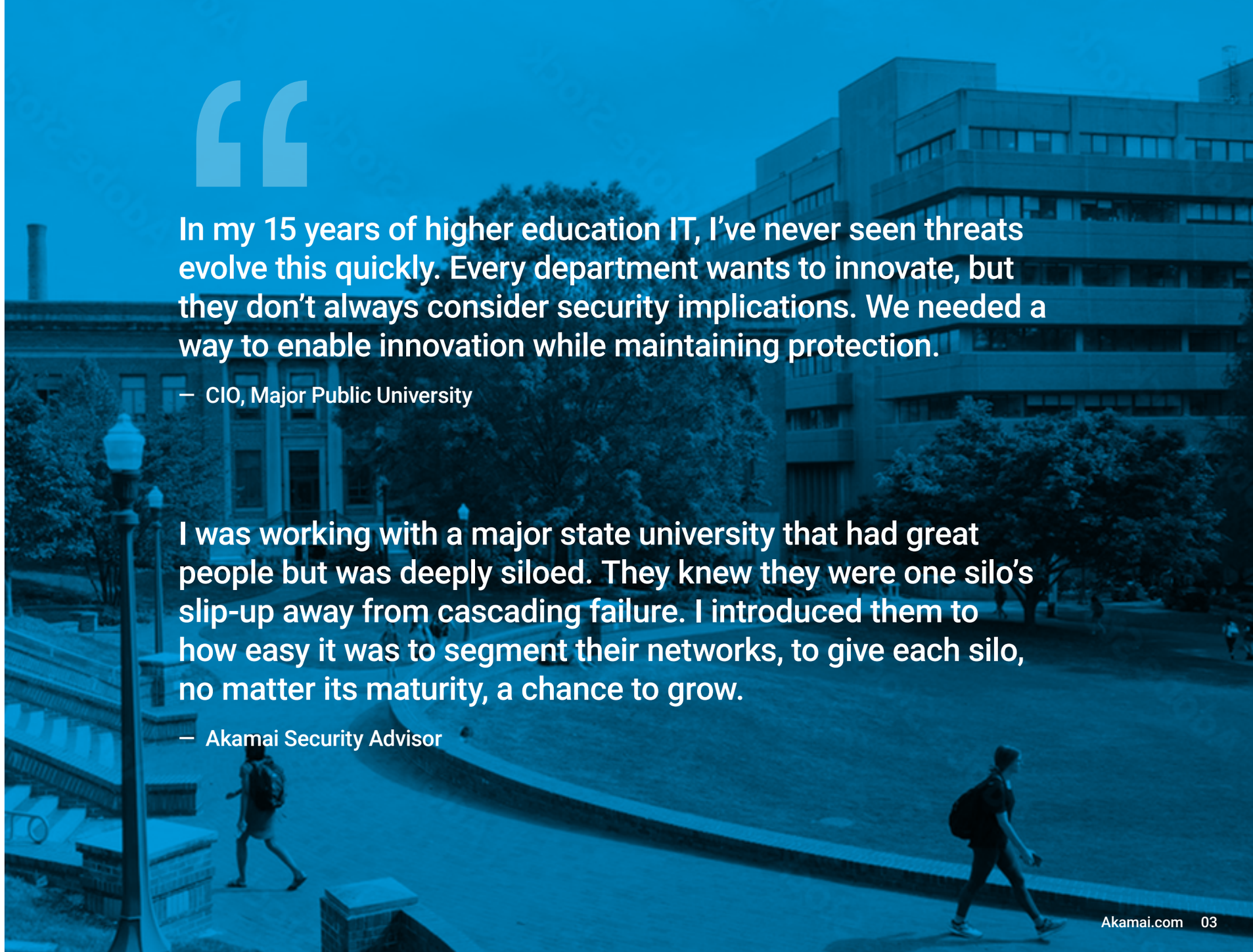
- There is a critical shortage of cybersecurity talent
- Budget constraints are increasing despite growing threats
- There are too many tools and not enough time
- Increasing challenges in training and retention

Siloed systems

- Departmental IT creates shadow systems
- Legacy infrastructure limits security options
- There is a lack of visibility across systems
- It's difficult to coordinate challenges between teams



Impact on the campus



> In my 15 years of higher education IT, I've never seen threats evolve this quickly. Every department wants to innovate, but they don't always consider security implications. We needed a way to enable innovation while maintaining protection.
>
> — CIO, Major Public University

> I was working with a major state university that had great people but was deeply siloed. They knew they were one silo's slip-up away from cascading failure. I introduced them to how easy it was to segment their networks, to give each silo, no matter its maturity, a chance to grow.
>
> — Akamai Security Advisor

Solutions that made the difference



Akamai Guardicore Segmentation

- Created secure boundaries between departments
- Reduced attack surfaces without limiting collaboration

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AAP and API Security

- Discovered and protected unknown APIs
- Provided continuous visibility across all applications

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Automated Threat Detection

- AI-powered monitoring and response
- Reduced IT team burden

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Real solutions for real-world challenges

CASE STUDY 1



Strengthening security posture for a major medical university

A major medical university serving thousands of students and faculty sought to enhance its cybersecurity posture as threats targeting research data and sensitive student information continued to grow.

Challenges:

- Increasing threats to sensitive research and student data
- Limited IT resources to handle escalating security demands
- Difficulty maintaining visibility across systems and networks

Solution:

- The university partnered with Akamai to automate routine security tasks, including threat detection and response, using AI-driven tools to proactively monitor and defend its systems.

Impact:

- By automating security processes, IT staff were able to reallocate time to higher-priority projects. Automated threat monitoring reduced the risk of breaches, enhanced overall system visibility, and provided a proactive security stance.

Results:

- Reduced the burden on IT staff, freeing them for strategic initiatives
- Enhanced security posture with automated threat detection and response
- Increased protection for sensitive data without interrupting daily operations

Real solutions for real-world challenges

CASE STUDY 2



Streamlining IT operations for a large state university system

A large state university system with multiple campuses and remote learning needs faced efficiency challenges in managing routine security tasks, often straining IT resources.

Challenges:

- Dispersed IT infrastructure across multiple campuses
- Inefficient, manual security processes consuming IT resources
- Pressure to maintain security and compliance with limited resources

Solution:

- The university leveraged Akamai's platform to automate up to 80% of routine security tasks, such as patching and endpoint protection, which provided continuous monitoring and simplified compliance reporting.

Impact:

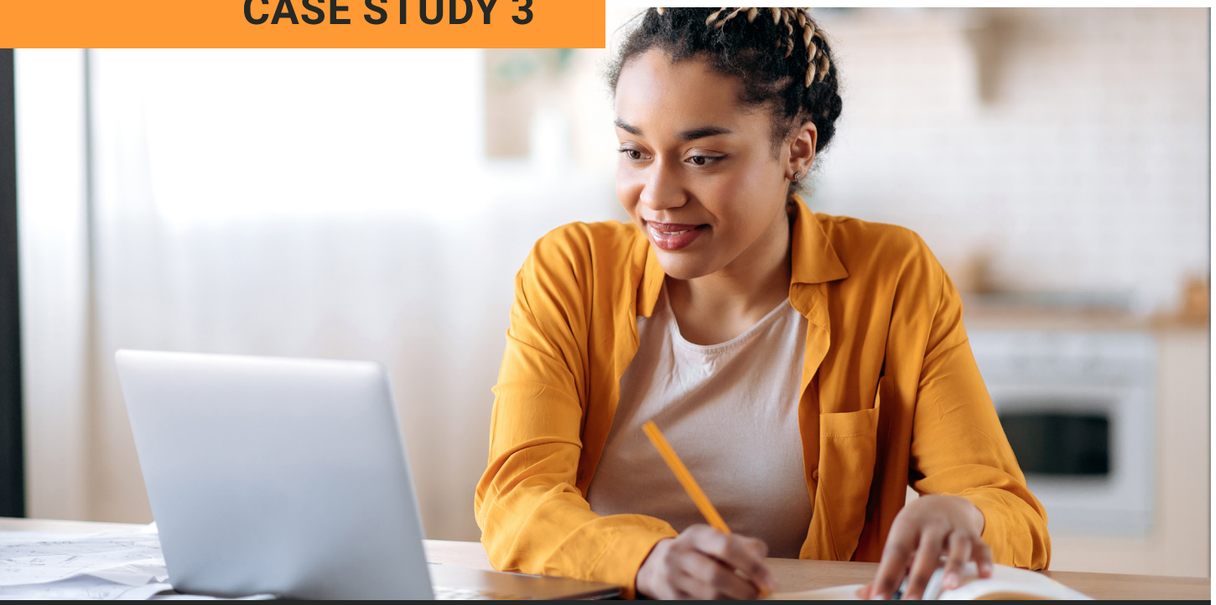
- Automating these processes saved hours each week, allowing IT teams to focus on more strategic, value-adding initiatives that benefit students and faculty directly. Compliance became simpler and faster with automated reports and audit tracking.

Results:

- Significant time savings, allowing IT resources to be reallocated to critical projects
- Improved security and compliance with less manual oversight
- Enhanced audit capabilities and continuous security monitoring

Real solutions for real-world challenges

CASE STUDY 3



Adopting Zero Trust to safeguard access at a multi-campus institution

A multi-campus community college adopted a Zero Trust-approach to better secure its network and protect sensitive data accessed by students and faculty on- and off-campus.

Challenges:

- Complex access requirements due to remote and on-campus students
- Rising concerns over unauthorized access to sensitive data
- Limited resources to manage and monitor access manually

Solution:

- By implementing Akamai's Zero Trust solution, the school automated access controls and strict user verification across its network, ensuring only authorized users could access sensitive resources.

Impact:

- The automated access management significantly reduced the time IT teams spent on manual security checks. Enhanced visibility enabled IT staff to proactively identify and address security vulnerabilities.

Results:

- Streamlined access management for remote and on-campus students
- Increased visibility across the network and better insight into user behavior
- IT teams could focus on long-term security planning rather than routine checks

Benefits of Akamai's Platform

Higher education institutions of all sizes need a smarter approach that meets them where they are today, with security that protects data and fuels ongoing efficiencies. Akamai's comprehensive power and protect platform for higher education provides:

Uninterrupted learning and research

- Zero downtime during security events
- Minimal latency for global access
- Seamless research collaboration

Proactive threat prevention

- Block attacks before impact
- Continuous adaptation to new threats
- Real-time threat intelligence

Simplified compliance

- Automated compliance reporting
- Built-in security controls
- Reduced audit preparation time

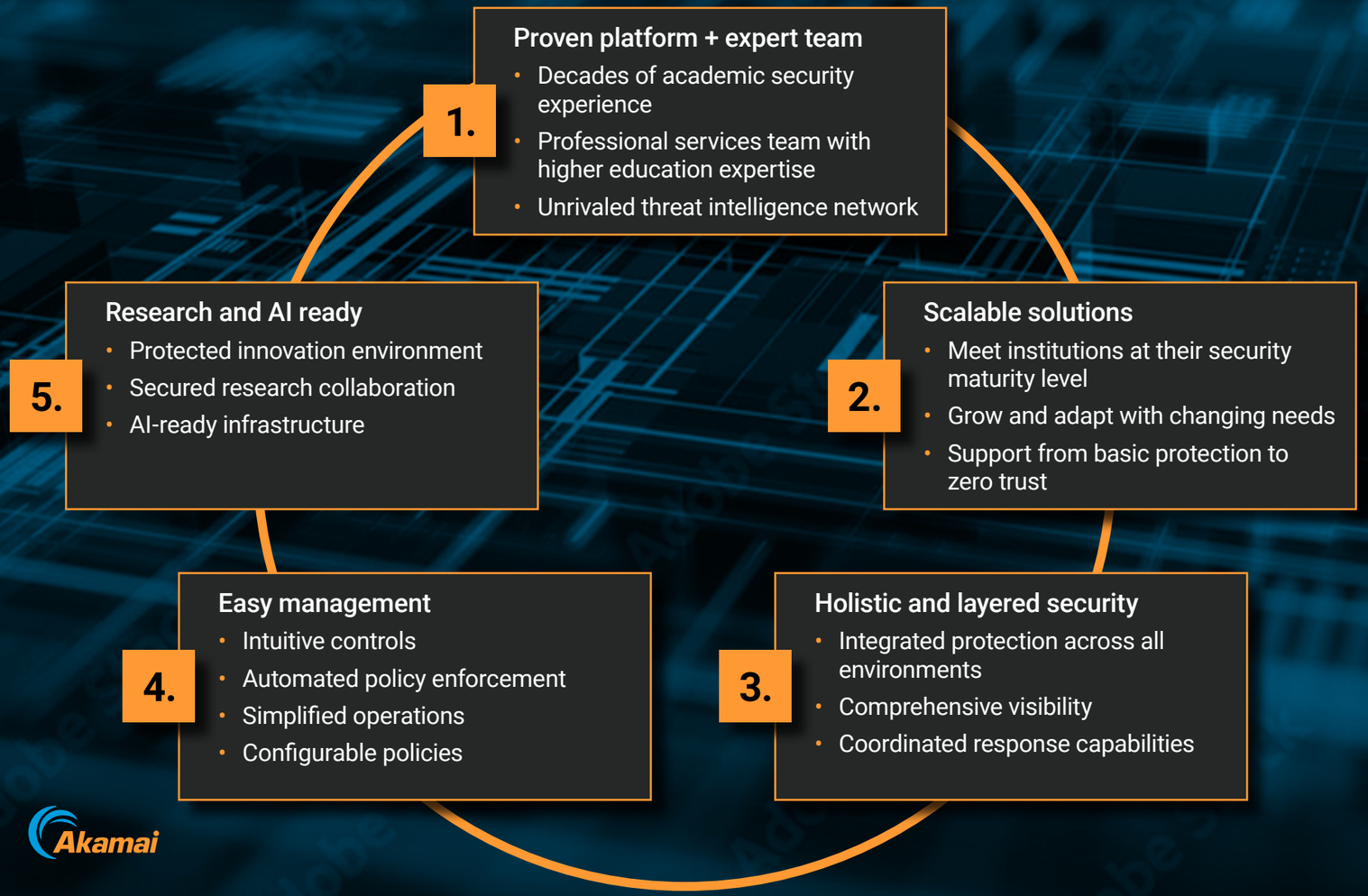
Optimized resources

- Automated routine tasks
- Unified security management
- Reduced alert fatigue



The Akamai Difference

Akamai empowers higher education institutions with advanced cybersecurity solutions tailored to meet the unique demands of academic environments. Our solutions prioritize the protection of sensitive data and uninterrupted access for students, faculty, and researchers alike, fostering a safe environment for academic growth and collaboration.



- 25+ years in academia
- 135 countries
- 228 colleges and universities worldwide
- 4,200 locations
- 360,000 servers
- Billions of daily transactions
- 1,400+ networks
- 100% availability
- 24/7 monitoring
- 1,900+ experts on hand

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Discover the Power of Akamai for Higher Education

Akamai is ready to help your institution tackle today's cybersecurity challenges and prepare for tomorrow. With intelligent automation, advanced threat protection, and a flexible, scalable platform, Akamai's solutions support the educational mission while protecting data, applications, and people.

Learn how Akamai can help secure your institution while fueling innovation.

Schedule a demo

Akamai secures and delivers digital experiences for the world's largest companies. Akamai's intelligent edge platform surrounds everything, from the enterprise to the cloud, so customers and their businesses can be fast, smart, and secure. Top brands globally rely on Akamai to help them realize competitive advantage through agile solutions that extend the power of their multi-cloud architectures. Akamai keeps decisions, apps, and experiences closer to users than anyone — and attacks and threats far away. Akamai's portfolio of edge security, web and mobile performance, enterprise access, and video delivery solutions is supported by unmatched customer service, analytics, and 24/7/365 monitoring. To learn why the world's top brands trust Akamai, visit akamai.com, blogs.akamai.com, or @Akamai on Twitter. You can find our global contact information at akamai.com/locations. Published 12/24.