APIs are the unseen language of the Internet. They power digital transformation across industries, by allowing applications to talk to one another and operate as crucial back-end services to websites and mobile apps. As a dynamic and somewhat hidden technology, it can be challenging to find detailed information about the API space. We combined findings from our recent API survey of business leaders from over 400 leading technology companies, with industry data to compile four need to know facts about APIs.

1) THE API EXPLOSION IS REAL, WITH NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN.

**WHAT THE DATA SAYS:**

*APIs are growing and more and more APIs:*
  - 11% of APIs have been live for more than five years.
  - 15% of APIs are publicly only developed before 2014 or in the last five years, and 25% developed in the last year.

**WHAT WE THINK:**

The rise of digitalization, and the move to scale and scale APIs to new Enterprises Building APIs to grow digital that are new and enrol the latest APIs to ensure APIs are growing digital APIs was too fast.

2) APPS CONTINUE TO DRIVE THE API REVOLUTION

**WHAT THE DATA SAYS:**

*Open APIs aren't helping:*
  - 20% of enterprises have built APIs to support open mobile apps.
  - 25% of enterprises have built APIs to support open online/mobile APIs.

**WHAT WE THINK:**

While APIs are driving the industry, they are not doing so in their open form. As an app becomes more and more API-driven, it is moving away from open APIs.

3) API SECURITY IS CHALLENGING, AND OPEN APIS AREN'T HELPING

**WHAT THE DATA SAYS:**

*API security is critical:*
  - 40% of organizations cited only a few key challenges they want to solve in the next four years.
  - Most enterprises are creating open APIs to meet the needs of developers.
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  - 40% of enterprises are creating open APIs to meet the needs of developers.

**WHAT WE THINK:**

APIs are the unseen language of the Internet. They power digital transformation across industries, and are needed to enable businesses to provide an unparalleled Internet experience for their customers worldwide. As the global leader in Content Delivery Network (CDN) solutions, Akamai makes the Internet fast, reliable, and secure for its customers. The company’s advanced web performance, mobile performance, cloud security, and media delivery solutions are revolutionizing how businesses optimize consumer, enterprise, and entertainment experiences for any device, anywhere. To learn how Akamai solutions and its team of Internet experts are helping businesses move faster forward, please visit www.akamai.com.

4) PERFORMANCE IS CONSIDERED PARAMOUNT, YET COMPANIES ARE STILL NOT BUILDING FOR FAST, LEAN APIS

**WHAT THE DATA SAYS:**

*API performance is paramount:*
  - 60% of enterprises are building APIs to support native mobile apps.
  - 35% of enterprises have built APIs to support single-page apps.
  - Most enterprises are building and maintaining 100 or more APIs.

**WHAT WE THINK:**

While APIs are growing and more and more APIs: 11% of APIs have been live for more than five years, and 15% of APIs are publicly only developed before 2014 or in the last five years, and 25% developed in the last year. We are in the midst of a digital revolution, and the time to build and optimize APIs is now. Enterprises building APIs to grow their digital APIs was too fast.

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So what does all of this mean? While APIs are unique in their own right, it’s essential to remember that at their core they are online properties, just like a website or mobile app. Therefore, the same rules used to solve today’s web performance challenges — building and optimizing for performance, security, and reliability — apply to APIs as well. Read this focus sheet for a more in-depth look on how to solve these API challenges, or visit our website.

**WORKS CITED**


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