The challenge of protecting APIs vs. web apps

Providing API 'write' access to the wrong person can lead to various security issues, including data breaches, unauthorized access, and potential financial losses. It’s crucial to implement robust security measures to protect APIs from malicious attacks.

The State of API Security and Management

An API-centric world

As a result, API traffic continues to grow, reaching a peak of over 30% in 2023.

Unprotected APIs

Organizations that lack a comprehensive API security strategy face significant risks, including the possibility of exposure to malicious traffic.

59.2% of APIs are considered unprotected, leaving them vulnerable to various threats.

15,000 businesses and organizations use APIs every day, with the number expected to grow exponentially in the coming years.

Common API vulnerabilities

Market demand for API security and management has increased in parallel to the growth of API traffic, errors, and attacks.

API traffic error

APIs are vulnerable to various errors, including authentication failures, authorization issues, and rate limiting.

59.2% of APIs are affected by various traffic errors, leaving them susceptible to potential threats.

Investigation method

Traditional methods of investigating API traffic are ineffective, as they lack the necessary tools and resources to properly analyze and mitigate threats.

The challenge of protecting APIs vs. web apps

A web application

A properly protected API

Key distinctions

APIs are more attacked vs. web apps.

APIs can be sensitive, whereas web apps are generally less sensitive.

APIs require more attention vs. web apps.

APIs are more complex vs. web apps.

APIs are more dynamic vs. web apps.

3 key ways to defend APIs

More needs to be done to mitigate vulnerabilities.

More needs to be done to ensure the visibility of API traffic.

More needs to be done to implement effective security measures.

APIs are essential to modern businesses, and protecting them is crucial for maintaining a secure and efficient online environment.

Want to learn more?

Access Cloudflare’s 2023 API Security and Management Report

Cloudflare, Inc.