

application

interface

API

programming

API Security Quick -Audit Checklist

API SECURITY AUDIT CHECKLIST

#	API Security area	Security Checks	Findings	Pass / Fail
1	API Key Management:	Are API keys managed securely, and is their distribution restricted to authorized users or applications?		
2	OAuth 2.0 Implementation:	Are API keys adequately protected from unauthorized access or exposure?		
		Are API keys managed securely, and is their distribution restricted to authorized users or applications?		
		Are API keys adequately protected from unauthorized access or exposure?		
		Is OAuth 2.0 correctly implemented to provide secure user authentication?		
		Are access tokens and refresh tokens properly issued, validated, and revoked when necessary?		
3	Rate Limiting Controls	Is there a rate-limiting mechanism in place to prevent abuse or excessive use of the API?		
		Are rate limits enforced and configured appropriately to minimize the risk of service disruptions?		
4	Input Validation Procedures	Are input validation and data sanitization mechanisms effectively preventing injection attacks, such as SQL injection and cross-site scripting (XSS)?		
5	CORS Configuration	Is Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS) properly configured to restrict cross-origin requests and protect against unauthorized access?		
		Are security headers like Content Security Policy (CSP), Strict-Transport-Security (HSTS), and X-Content-Type-Options in place to enhance security?		
6	Error Handling Practices	Are error messages designed to avoid revealing sensitive information and provide generic responses?		
		Are errors properly logged, and is there a process for monitoring and incident response when security incidents occur?		
7	Audit Logging	Are comprehensive audit logs maintained to record API requests, including source, timestamp, and actions performed?		
		Is there an effective monitoring and alerting system in place to detect and respond to suspicious activities or anomalies?		
8	Versioning Strategy	Is versioning effectively implemented to ensure backward compatibility while introducing new features and changes to the API?		
		Is backward compatibility maintained to avoid breaking changes in existing API versions?		
9	File Upload Security	If the API allows file uploads, is there a mechanism to restrict uploads to safe file types and scan for potential malware?		
		Are uploaded files stored securely and not executed as scripts?		
10	Data Encryption	Is data transmitted over the API encrypted using secure protocols like HTTPS (TLS/SSL)?		
		Is sensitive data, including user credentials, stored in an encrypted form?		
11	API Documentation	Is there comprehensive and up-to-date documentation available to guide developers in using the API securely?		
		Do developers receive proper training and education on security best practices when interacting with the API?		
12	Third-Party API Security	When integrating with third-party APIs, is there a process for assessing their security practices and ensuring data protection and validation?		
13	DoS Protection Mechanisms	Are there measures in place to mitigate the risk of DoS attacks, such as rate limiting, traffic analysis, and web application firewalls (WAFs)?		
14	API Key Management Procedures	Are API keys securely managed and rotated regularly to minimize the risk of unauthorized access in the event of key compromise?		
15	Security Assessment Procedures	Is there a process for conducting regular security assessments and penetration testing on the API using tools like OWASP ZAP, Postman, or Burp Suite?		
		Are identified vulnerabilities addressed promptly and documented for audit purposes?		
16	Compliance Checks	Is the organization's API security practices configured to meet legal and regulatory compliance requirements relevant to the industry and jurisdiction?		
17	Feedback and Improvement Process	Is there a feedback loop for collecting input from developers, security professionals, and auditors to drive continuous improvement of API security practices?		

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