

Part 1. Foundations

This part of the book creates the firm foundation on which the rest of the book will build.

Chapter 1 introduces the topic of API security and situates it in relation to other security topics. It covers how to define what security means for an API and how to identify threats. It also introduces the main security mechanisms used in protecting an API.

Chapter 2 is a run-through of secure coding techniques that are essential to building secure APIs. You'll see some fundamental attacks due to common coding mistakes, such as SQL injection or cross-site scripting vulnerabilities, and how to avoid them with simple and effective countermeasures.

Chapter 3 takes you through the basic security mechanisms involved in API security: rate-limiting, encryption, authentication, audit logging, and authorization. Simple but secure versions of each control are developed in turn to help you understand how they work together to protect your APIs.

After reading these three chapters, you'll know the basics involved in securing an API.