

# HAProxy

## Turning Exposed URIs Bulletproof

Securing APIs with HAProxy

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apidays

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# Agenda

- 1** What is HAProxy?
- 2** Broken designs context.
- 3** Fix broken design step by step.
- 4** Questions?



# HAProxy Load Balancer



Highly available load  
balancing for TCP, HTTP,  
QUIC



Request routing



TLS termination



Rate limiting



## High Performance Modules



Next Gen WAF



UDP Load Balancing



Bot Management



SSO Offload



Response policies



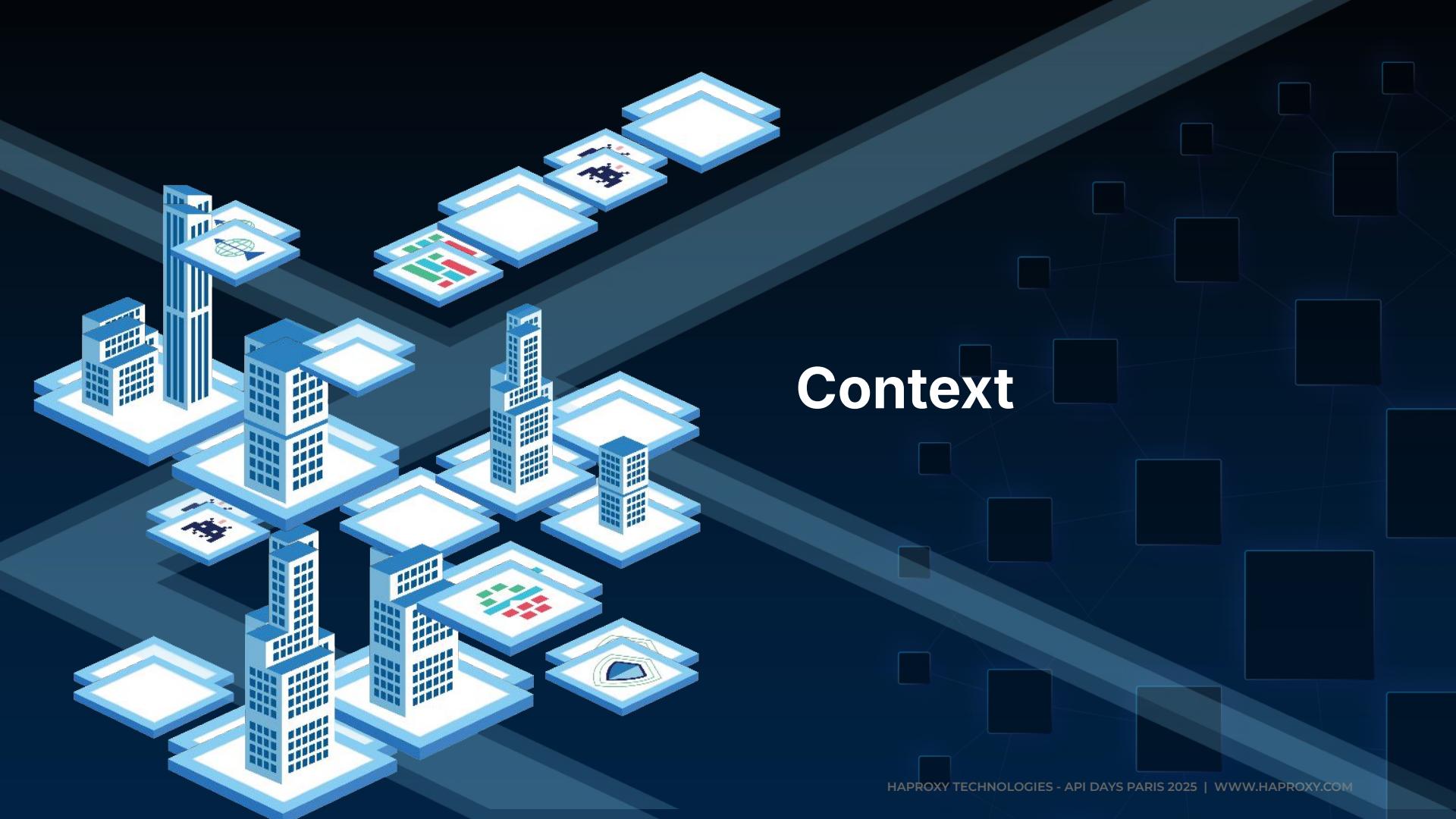
Geolocation & Device Detection



Global Rate Limiting



Dynamic Updates



# Context

# Digital Vault API Innovations

- Provides web site and API to users.
- Missioned you:

*Your mission if you choose to accept it is to  
secure our web platform and API services. Should  
you fail, the SOC will disavow any knowledge of  
your action.*



# Damn Vulnerable API

- Developed by Payatu.  
<https://github.com/payatu/dvapi/>
- Uses top 10 OWASP vulnerabilities.
- CTF like game.
- Provides walkthrough.
- 0xa1: Broken Object Level Authorization
- 0xa2: Broken Authentication
- 0xa3: Broken Object Property Level Authorization
- 0xa4: Unrestricted Resource Consumption
- 0xa5: Broken Function Level Authorization
- 0xa6: Server-Side Request Forgery
- 0xa7: Security Misconfiguration
- 0xa8: Lack of Protection from Automated Threats
- 0xa9: Improper Assets Management
- 0xa10: Unsafe Consumption of APIs



This talk spoils the game solution.

# Disclaimer

- One solution is provided.
- May not fit all cases.
- Always check the documentation.
- Test your environment.
- Know your application.



<https://github.com/sg-workshops/apidays-paris-2025>



# Minimal setup

# API Endpoints

- Application has a Swagger page:

<http://dvapi/sagger>

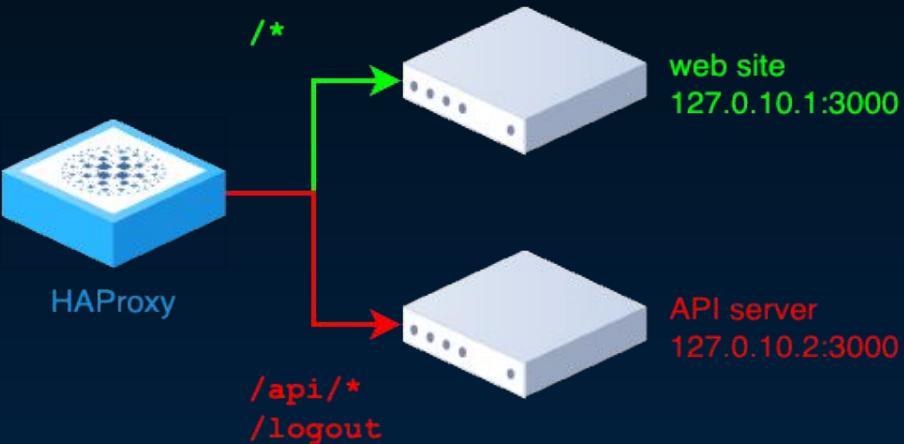
- Only accept request to a known endpoint.
  - Starts with `/api`
  - Is `/logout`
- Limitation should not impact website.

The screenshot shows the DVAPI 1.0.0 OAS 3.0 Swagger UI. At the top, it displays the DVAPI logo and a brief description: "DVAPI or Damn Vulnerable API is an intentionally vulnerable API created for showcasing the OWASP API Top 10 2023. The OWASP API Top 10 is a list of the top 10 most critical security risks for APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) based on the Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP), a nonprofit organization focused on improving the security of web applications and APIs. The OWASP API Top 10 list is periodically updated to reflect the changing threat landscape and evolving best practices for API security." Below this, there is a "Servers" dropdown set to "http://seb.hapee-demo.com" and an "Authorize" button. The main area is titled "User" and lists the following endpoints:

Method	Endpoint	Description	Lock
POST	/api/register	Register	🔓
POST	/api/login	Login	🔒
GET	/api/profile	Profile	🔒
POST	/api/profile	Profile Update	🔒
GET	/api/user/user	Get User	🔒
POST	/api/profile/upload	Upload ProfilePic	🔒
GET	/logout	Logout	🔓

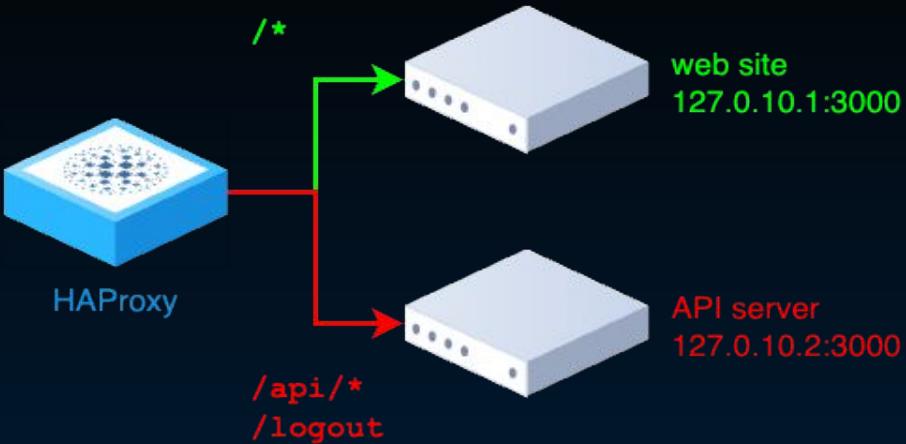
# Initial setup

- 2 servers:
  - web site: `127.0.10.1:3000`
  - API server: `127.0.10.1:3000`
- HAProxy routes the traffic:
  - `/api/*` and `/login` → API server
  - `/*` → web site
- All nodes are on same host for simplicity.



# HAProxy configuration

- Frontend: client facing side.
- Backend: server facing side.
- **use\_backend**: select a specific backend
  - Can have a **condition** : API path is
    - starting with /api/: **-m beg /api/**
    - exactly /logout: **-m str**
  - Can be declared more than once.
  - Are tested sequentially
- **default\_backend**:
  - Optional
  - Selected if all **use\_backend** rules failed.
  - Can only be declared once.
- If no backend can be found: error **503**.



```
frontend dvapi-fe
  bind :80

  # Route API traffic
  use_backend api-be if { path -m str /login }
  use_backend api-be if { path -m beg /api/ }

  # Default traffic: web interface
  default_backend web-be

backend web-be
  server web 127.0.10.1:3000

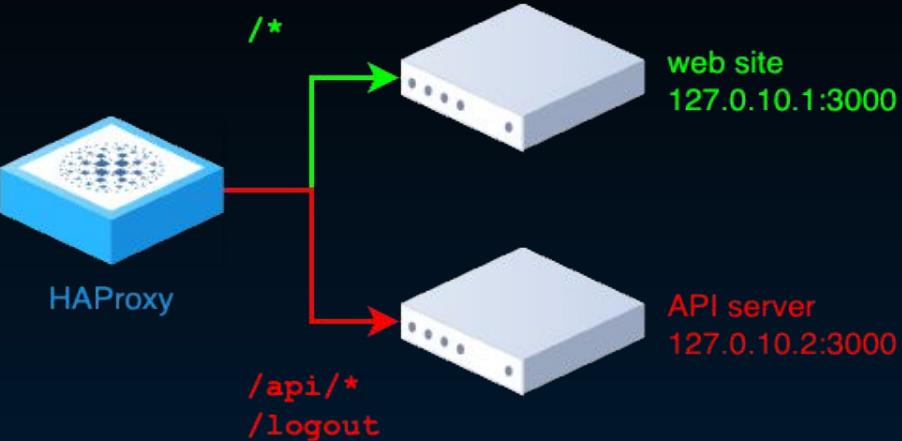
backend api-be
  server api 127.0.10.2:3000
```

# Traffic routing

- ACL: `is_api` checks first component.
  - convertor: `word` splits `path` on `/`.
  - and takes 1st item:  
`/api/login`  
`/api/user/john`  
`/logout`
- ACL are executed when called.

Caveat:

- `path -m beg /api/ /logout` matches:
  - `/logoutgarbage`
  - `/api/something`



```
frontend dvapi-fe
  bind :80

  # is_api is true if 1st component is either api or logout
  acl is_api path,word(1,/) -m str api logout
  use_backend api-be if is_api

  # Default traffic: web interface
  default_backend web-be

backend web-be
  server web 127.0.10.1:3000

backend api-be
  server api 127.0.10.2:3000
```

# Server monitoring

- Activated with **check** directive.
  - Simple TCP check.
  - Opens connection to server.
  - Closes the connection.
- Add **option httpchk** to Layer 7 checks.
- Use **http-check** rules for advanced checks:
  - Specify **method**.
  - Target an **URI**.
  - Select HTTP **version**.
  - Add **headers**.
- See **http-check** rules in document for even more advanced setup.

```
backend web-be
    option httpchk
        http-check send meth HEAD uri /login ver HTTP/1.1 hdr host
web
    server web 127.0.10.1:3000 check

backend api-be
    option httpchk
        http-check send meth HEAD uri /logout ver HTTP/1.1 hdr
host api
    server api 127.0.10.2:3000 check
```

# Preserve client IP address

- Send client IP through HTTP header:
  - **x-forwarded-\***: convention
  - **forwarded**: [RFC 7239](#) (only in backends).
- Can be a security risk.
  - Don't trust external value
  - Remove existing header if unsure.
  - Or save them in alternate headers.
- Check web server documentation.

```
setup:
frontend dvapi-fe
[...]
http-request set-header x-forwarded-for %[src]
http-request set-header x-forwarded-port %[src_port]
http-request set-header x-forwarded-proto
%[ssl_fc,iif(https,http)]  
  
Headers:
x-forwarded-for: 192.0.2.3
x-forwarded-port: 6312
x-forwarded-proto: http  
  
  
setup:
backend api-be
[...]
option forwarded proto by by_port for for_port  
  
Headers:
forwarded: proto=http;by="172.31.43.4:80";for="192.0.2.3:6312"
```

# SSL EZ AS ABC

- HAProxy is an SSL offloader.
- Only 2 options required:
  - **ssl**: bind is over SSL.
  - **crt**: path to the certificate bundle.
  - **strict-sni**: optional only accept known SNI.
- **redirect** from http to HTTPS is **connection is not over SSL**.
  - Use code **307**, not **302**.
  - **307** force to keep the same method.
- **http-request** rules are executed in order of definition.
- Optional: activate HSTS if **connection is over SSL**.

```
frontend dvapi-fe
  bind :80
  bind :443 ssl crt seb.hapee-demo.com.pem strict-sni

  # Redirect http->https
  http-request redirect scheme https code 307 if !{ ssl_fc }

  [...]

  use_backend api-be if is_api
  default_backend web-be

  [...]

  # Activate HSTS if connection is over SSL
  http-after-response set-header strict-transport-security
  "max-age=31536000" if { ssl_fc }
```

# Status page and metrics

- Go to **192.0.2.10:8000/haproxy**
- Login with **admin / haproxy**
- Plug Prometheus collector to **192.0.2.10:8000/metrics**
- Best practice:
  - Use dedicated management network
  - Add source IP address filtering.

```
userlist stats-auth
group admin users admin,john
user admin insecure-password haproxy
user john insecure-password doe
user operator insecure-password secret

frontend stats_fe
    bind 192.0.2.10:8000
    # only allow management network
    # tcp-request connection reject if { src 10.1.1.0/24 }
    use_backend stats_be if { path,word(1,/) -m str haproxy
metrics }

backend stats_be
    stats enable
    stats uri /haproxy/
    acl AUTH http_auth(stats-auth)
    acl AUTH_ADMIN http_auth_group(stats-auth) admin
    stats http-request auth realm "HAProxy Statistics" unless
AUTH
    stats admin if AUTH_ADMIN
    stats show-desc "short description"
    stats show-legends
    stats show-modules
    stats show-node

    http-request use-service prometheus-exporter if { path
/metrics }
```

# HAProxy status page

dvapi-fe		Metrics for dvapi-fe Application																																	
		Queue			Session rate			Sessions						Bytes		Denied		Errors			Warnings		Server								Extra modules				
		Cur	Max	Limit	Cur	Max	Limit	Cur	Max	Limit	Total	LbTot	Last	In	Out	Req	Resp	Req	Conn	Resp	Retr	Redis	Status	LastChk	Wght	Act	Bck	Chk	Dwn	Dwntme	Thrtle	ssl	h3	quic	h2
Frontend		0	0	-	0	0	524	273	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	OPEN									ssl	h3	quic	h2	h1

web-be																				Server						Extra modules										
		Queue			Session rate			Sessions			Bytes		Denied		Errors			Warnings		Server						Extra modules										
		Cur	Max	Limit	Cur	Max	Limit	Cur	Max	Limit	Total	LbTot	Last	In	Out	Req	Resp	Req	Conn	Resp	Retr	Redis	Status	LastChk	Wght	Act	Bck	Chk	Dwn	Dwntme	Thrtle	ssl	h3	quic	h2	h1
	web	0	0	-	0	0		0	0	-	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6s UP	L7OK/200 in 2ms	1/1	Y	-	0	0	0s	-	ssl				
	Backend	0	0		0	0		0	0	52 428	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6s UP		1/1	1	0	0	0	0s		ssl			h2	h1

Choose the action to perform on the checked servers :

api-be		Application Metrics												System Metrics																						
	Service	Queue			Session rate			Sessions						Bytes		Denied		Errors		Warnings		Server						Extra modules								
		Cur	Max	Limit	Cur	Max	Limit	Cur	Max	Limit	Total	LbTot	Last	In	Out	Req	Resp	Req	Conn	Resp	Retr	Redis	Status	LastChk	Wght	Act	Bck	Chk	Dwn	Dwntme	Thrtle	ssl	h3	quic	h2	h1
	web	0	0	-	0	0		0	0	-	0	0	?	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	6s UP	L7OK/302.in 1ms	1/1	Y	-	0	0	0s	-	ssl				
	Backend	0	0		0	0		0	0	52 428	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6s UP		1/1	1	0		0	0s		ssl			h2	h1

Choose the action to perform on the checked servers :



# Login protection

# Login

- POSTs login data to `/api/login`.
- Returns 401 in case of failure.
- No limitation in case of failure.

X Headers Payload Preview Response Initiator Timing Cookies

▼ General

Request URL	http://172.16.29.103/api/login
Request Method	POST
Status Code	● 401 Unauthorized
Remote Address	172.16.29.103:80
Referrer Policy	strict-origin-when-cross-origin



Username

Password

**SIGN IN**

Authentication failed

Don't you have account? [Create your account](#)

# Rate limit - stick tables

- Key / values storage.
- Key can be almost anything.
- Values can contain:
  - Connections count or rate.
  - Request count or rate.
  - HTTP error (4xx) or failure (5xx).
  - Transferred bytes.
  - General Purpose Counters.
  - etc...
- Entries can have an expiration time.
- Data can be automatically or manually updated.
- Small memory footprint.
- Data be aggregated using Global Profiling Engine (Enterprise module).

# Rate limit - counts      vs.    rates

Counts:

- Incremental only values.
- Provides absolute value since entry creation.
- Useful for usage counter.

Value.

Rates:

- Computed over a sliding window.
- Dynamic information.
- Fine-tune rate limiting.
- Can detect spikes.

Value per unit of time.

# Limit brute force

- Limitation must be by **source IP**.
- Detect HTTP response code
  - 401 - Unauthorized.
  - Store abuse count into **gpc0**.
- Block user after **3** unsuccessful attempts.
  - Arbitrary value
  - Depends on your policy.
- User will be able to connect again after a **5-minute** pause.
- Tables are referred as **peer/table**.

```
peers mypeers
  table per_src_brute_force type ip size 1m expire 5m store
  gpc0

frontend main_fe
  [...]
  acl is_http_abuser sc0_get_gpc0 -m int ge 3

  # track client as soon as possible
  tcp-request connection track-sc0 src table
  mypeers/per_src_brute_force

  # Prevent abuser's future connections
  tcp-request connection reject if is_http_abuser
  # Reject abuser's current request
  http-request reject if is_http_abuser

  [...]

backend api-be
  [...]
  # increment General Purpose Counter if unauthorized
  http-after-response sc-inc-gpc0(0) if { status -m int 401
}
```



# Protect endpoints

# Validate endpoints

- Create a transaction variable `txn.path`.
- Variable will allow to normalize `path`.

Special case: `/api/user/{user}`

- path parameter: `user`.
- Normalize `txn.path`:
  - replace `username` with `{user}`.
  - `/api/user/johndoe` → `/api/user/{user}`.
  - Only if path starts with `/api/user/`.
- `deny` if path is unknown.
- Note: `deny` does not returns a body.
  - Check doc for embellishments.

```
backend api-be
[...]
# Save current path to allow normalisation
http-request set-var(txn.path) path

# Protect API routes. Deny any unknown route
acl is_api var(txn.path),word(1,/) -m str api logout

# /api/user/{user} is special. replace username
# by {user} to normalize endpoint lookups
http-request set-var-fmt(txn.path)
"/%[var(txn.path),word(1,,2)]/{user}" if { path -m beg
/api/user/ }

[...]

# Reject unknown endpoints
http-request deny status 404 if is_api !{ var(txn.path) -m
str -f endpoints.acl }
```

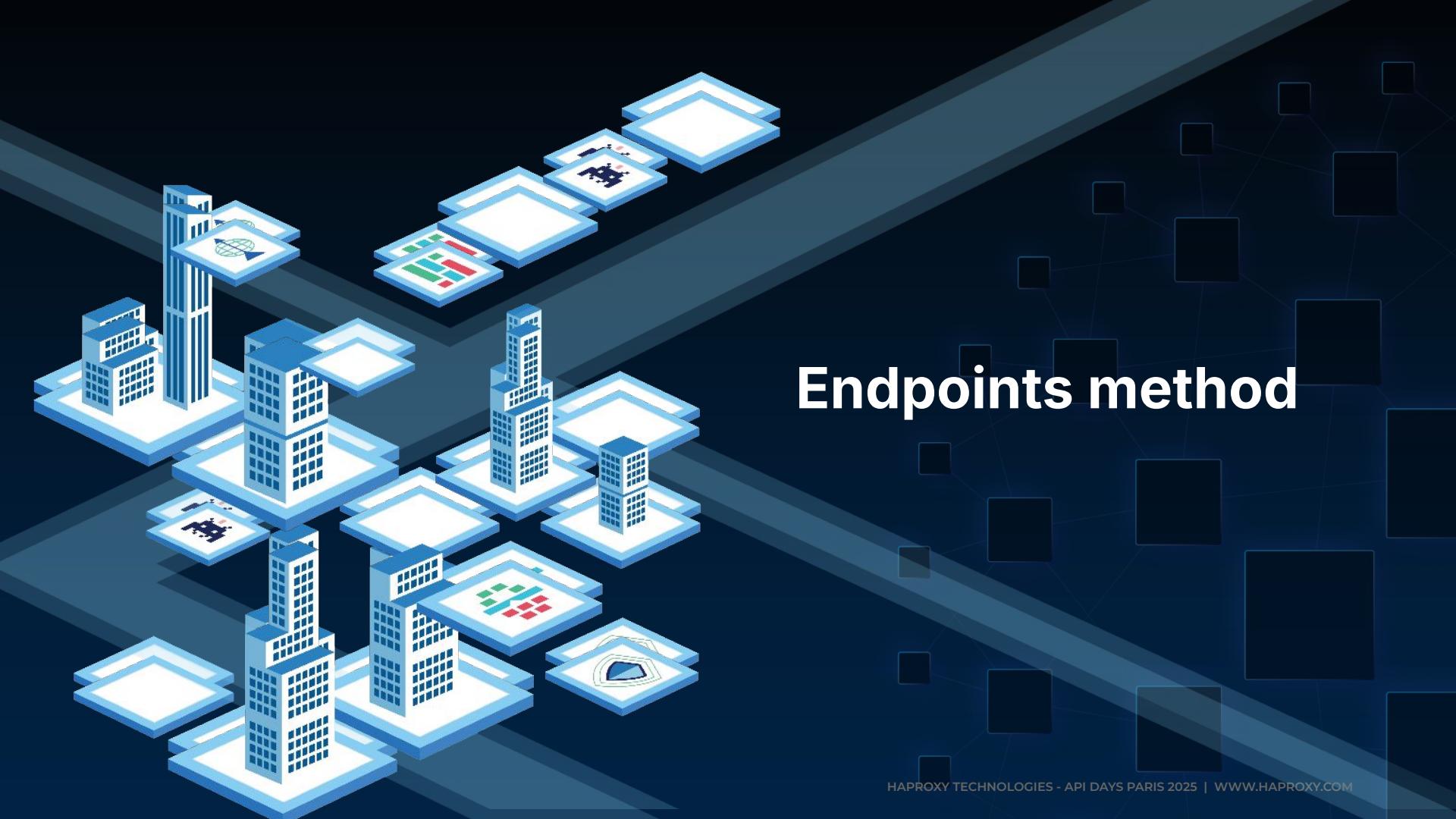
# Validate endpoints (Cont'd)

- Deny any request if normalized path is not known.
- Known paths are looked up from a file: `endpoints.acl`.

`endpoints.acl`:

```
/api/register  
/api/login  
/api/profile  
/api/user/{user}  
/api/profile/upload  
/logout  
/api/addNoteWithLink  
/api/getNote  
/api/addNote  
/api/flag/submit  
/api/allChallenges  
/api/getSolves  
/api/scores  
/api/addTicket  
/api/getticket
```

```
backend api-be  
[...]  
# Save current path to allow normalisation  
http-request set-var(txn.path) path  
  
# Protect API routes. Deny any unknown route  
acl is_api var(txn.path),word(1,/) -m str api logout  
  
# /api/user/{user} is special. replace username  
# by {user} to normalize endpoint lookups  
http-request set-var-fmt(txn.path)  
"/%[var(txn.path),word(1,,2)]/{user}" if { path -m beg  
/api/user/ }  
  
[...]  
  
# Reject unknown endpoints  
http-request deny status 404 if is_api !{ var(txn.path) -m  
str -f endpoints.acl }
```



# Endpoints method

# Upgrade from ACL to MAP

- 1st column: lookup key:
  - normalized path
- 2nd column:
  - Value contains allowed methods.

# Path	METHOD
/api/register	POST
/api/login	POST
/api/profile	POST, GET
/api/user/{user}	GET
/api/profile/upload	POST
/logout	GET
/api/addNoteWithLink	POST
/api/getNote	GET
/api/addNote	POST
/api/flag/submit	POST
/api/allChallenges	POST
/api/getSolves	GET
/api/scores	GET
/api/addTicket	POST
/api/getticket	POST

# ACL files

- ACL is a list of pattern.

```
pattern1  
pattern2  
...  
...
```

- HAProxy checks pattern presence.

```
# check path is in acl file  
http-request deny status 404 if  
  !{ var(txn.path) -m str -f endpoints.acl }
```

# vs. MAP files

- MAP is a key / values file.

```
key1 value1  
key2 value2 with spaces  
...  
...
```

- HAProxy gets value matching key.
- key presence can be checked with -m found.
- values can be splitted using word().

```
# req.ep_data contains the value  
http-request set-var(req.ep_data)  
  var(txn.path),map(endpoints.map)  
  
# check path is in map file  
http-request deny status 404 if  
  !{ var(txn.path),map(endpoints.map) -m found }
```

# Check method

- Allowed method is read directly.
- Special case: `/api/profile`.
  - 2 allowed methods: `POST` and `GET`.
  - Map gives a string: `POST, GET`.
  - HAProxy can only compare single values.
  - Array comparison is not supported.
- HAProxy supports Lua script to extend its functionalities.
- Lua can help to compare multiple values:
  - Split method from map file on comma.
  - Compare each item against HTTP method.

# Path	Methods
<code>/api/register</code>	<code>POST</code>
<code>/api/login</code>	<code>POST</code>
<code>/api/profile</code>	<code>POST, GET</code>
<code>/api/user/{user}</code>	<code>GET</code>
<code>/api/profile/upload</code>	<code>POST</code>
<code>/logout</code>	<code>GET</code>
<code>/api/addNoteWithLink</code>	<code>POST</code>
<code>/api/getNote</code>	<code>GET</code>
<code>/api/addNote</code>	<code>POST</code>
<code>/api/flag/submit</code>	<code>POST</code>
<code>/api/allChallenges</code>	<code>POST</code>
<code>/api/getSolves</code>	<code>GET</code>
<code>/api/scores</code>	<code>GET</code>
<code>/api/addTicket</code>	<code>POST</code>
<code>/api/getticket</code>	<code>POST</code>

# Lua can...

- Access to any HAProxy fetch:

- `txn.f:method()`
  - `txn`: current transaction.
  - `f`: Access to fetch.
  - `method()`: the fetch.

- Access to variables:

- `txn.get_var(txn,"req.ep_method")`
  - `txn`: Current transaction.
  - `req.ep_method`: variable name.

- `check-method` action is called:

```
http-request lua.check-method
```

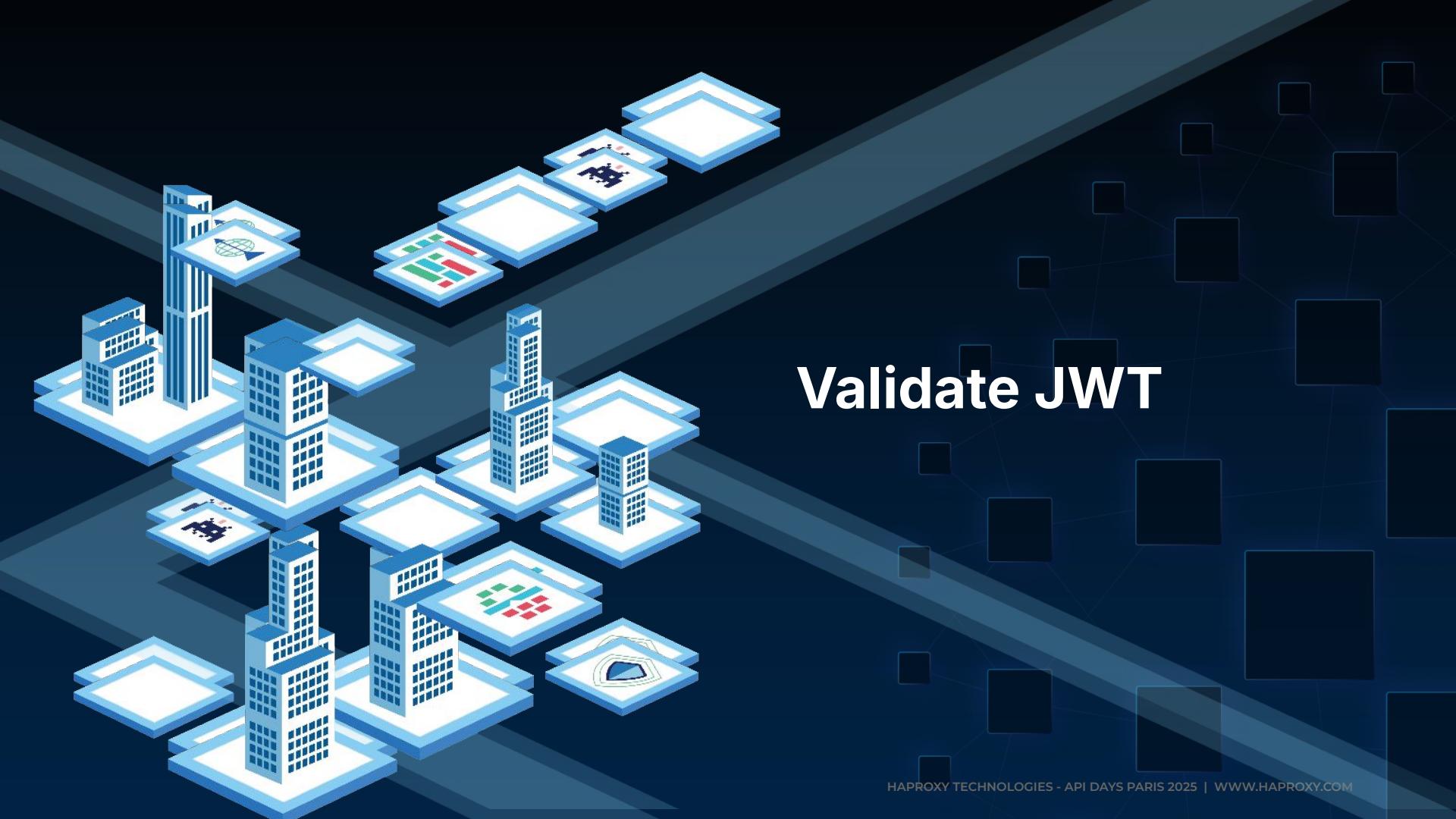
- Deny request if `req.invalid_method` is true:

```
http-request deny status 405 if {  
    var(req.invalid_method),bool }
```

```
--- check_method check that current transaction  
-- method is one of defined in req.ep_method,  
-- which is a comma separated items string.  
--  
-- If set req.invalid_method to true if method  
-- is not allowed. Action to be taken in HAProxy  
-- configuration:  
--  
--     http-request deny if { var(req.invalid_method),bool }  
function check_method(txn)  
    local method = txn.f:method()  
    local allowed_methods = txn.get_var(txn,"req.ep_method")  
    local methods = core.tokenize(allowed_methods,",",true)  
    for _,v in ipairs(methods) do  
        if v == method then  
            return  
        end  
    end  
    txn.set_var(txn,"req.invalid_method",true)  
    return  
end  
  
-- register helpers  
core.register_action("check-method", { "http-req" },  
    check_method)
```

# OWASP

- 0xa1: Broken Object Level Authorization
- 0xa2: Broken Authentication
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- 0xa4: Unrestricted Resource Consumption
- 0xa5: Broken Function Level Authorization
- 0xa6: Server-Side Request Forgery
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- 0xa9: Improper Assets Management
- 0xa10: Unsafe Consumption of APIs



# Validate JWT

# JWT structure

- Use `jwt` tool to decode a token.
- Signed with `alg` and a `shared secret`.
- Can contain `claims`.
- Passed with bearer authorization.

```
jwt decode $TOKEN --ignore-exp --secret secret123

Token header
-----
{
  "typ": "JWT",
  "alg": "HS256"
}

Token claims
-----
{
  "iat": 1763385353,
  "isAdmin": "false",
  "userId": "691b1ff693b9f109bc7b84d6",
  "username": "seb"
}
```

# Check token

- **http\_auth\_bearer** extracts the JWT from request authentication headers.
- **jwt\_header\_query** extracts data from a given JSON path.
- **jwt\_verify** validate JWT signature with algorithm and secret.

```
acl has_auth http_auth_bearer -m found

http-request set-var(txn.bearer) http_auth_bearer

# Extract algorithm from JWT header
http-request set-var(txn.jwt_alg)
var(txn.bearer),jwt_header_query('$.alg')

# Check algorithm (as provided by application)
http-request deny if has_auth !{ var(txn.jwt_alg) -m str
"HS256" }

# Validate JWT with application secret
http-request deny if has_auth !{
var(txn.bearer),jwt_verify(txn.jwt_alg,"secret123") -m int 1
}
```

# OWASP

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# JWT forgery

- Upgrade `isAdmin` to `true`.
- `jwt` does not read payload from stdin.
  - use `printf` and `xargs` to generate correct command.
- We have now a valid forged JWT.
- Can be validated using a pipe:

```
jwt decode -j $TOKEN | \  
  jq '.payload.isAdmin = "true"' | \  
  printf "%s\0" "$(cat)" | \  
  xargs -0 -I{} jwt encode --secret secret123 '{}' \  
 | jwt decode --secret secret123 --ignore-exp -
```

```
jwt decode -j $TOKEN  
{  
  "header": {  
    "typ": "JWT",  
    "alg": "HS256"  
  },  
  "payload": {  
    "iat": 1763376850,  
    "isAdmin": "false",  
    "userId": "691739fe93b9f109bc7b833c",  
    "username": "seb"  
  }  
}  
  
# Forge the token  
jwt decode -j $TOKEN | \  
  jq '.payload.isAdmin = "true"' | \  
  printf "%s\0" "$(cat)" | \  
  xargs -0 -I{} jwt encode --secret secret123 '{}'  
  
Token claims  
-----  
{  
  "iat": 1763376850,  
  "isAdmin": "true",  
  "userId": "691739fe93b9f109bc7b833c",  
  "username": "seb"  
}
```

# Check username

- Extract `username` into `txn.jwt_user` variable.
- Deny request if:
  - `username` is not in `admins.acl`.
  - and `isAdmin` is `true`.
- Protect `/api/getNote`:
  - `username` query parameter must match `txn.jwt_user`.

```
# Retrieve username from JWT token
http-request set-var(txn.jwt_user)
var(txn.bearer),jwt_payload_query('$.username')

# Only users declared in admins.acl are allowed to be admin.
http-request deny if !{ var(txn.jwt_user) -m str -f
admins.acl } {
var(txn.bearer),jwt_payload_query('$.isAdmin') -m str true
}

# Protect /api/user/USERNAME
http-request deny if METH_POST { path -m beg /api/user/ } !{
path,word(3,/),strcmp(txn.jwt_user) -m int eq 0 }

# Protect /api/getNote?username=USERNAME
http-request deny if { path -m str /api/getNote } !{
url_param(username),strcmp(txn.jwt_user) -m int eq 0 }
```

# OWASP

- **0xa1:** Broken Object Level Authorization
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- **0xa3:** Broken Object Property Level Authorization
- **0xa4:** Unrestricted Resource Consumption
- **0xa5:** Broken Function Level Authorization
- **0xa6:** Server-Side Request Forgery
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- **0xa9:** Improper Assets Management
- **0xa10:** Unsafe Consumption of APIs



# Protect registration

# URL anatomy

- Registration endpoint does not have rate limiting.
- Same goes with ticket creation.
- Limit access:
  - Per source IP.
  - and per endpoint.
- Some useful fetches, retrieve some **values**:
  - `req.hdr(host)` → `http://api.example.com:8080/api/endpoint?param=value`
  - `req.hdr(host),host_only` → `http://api.example.com:8080/api/endpoint?param=value`
  - `port` → `http://api.example.com:8080/api/endpoint?param=value`
  - `path` → `http://api.example.com:8080/api/endpoint?param=value`
  - `pathq` → `http://api.example.com:8080/api/endpoint?param=value`
  - `base` → `http://api.example.com:8080/api/endpoint?param=value`
  - `baseeq` → `http://api.example.com:8080/api/endpoint?param=value`
  - `url_param(param)` → `http://api.example.com:8080/api/endpoint?param=value`
- **base32+src**:
  - Binary: `base` checksum and source IP address.
  - Ideal to rate limit per endpoint and source IP.

# Rate limit sensitive endpoints

- Create a new `per_src_path_abuse` table:
  - tracks request rate over a 1 min window.
- In backend:
  - track request per base32+src.
  - only for:
    - `/api/register`
    - `/api/addTicket`
  - block the `request if request` rate is too high greater than `3/min`.
  - Increment `gpc0` in case of `abuse`.

```
peers mypeers
[...]
# New table to track abuse per source and endpoint
table per_src_path_abuse type binary len 28 size 1m expire
5m store http_req_rate(1m)

backend api-be
[...]

# track per source and endpoint access
http-request track-scl base32+src table
mypeers/per_src_path_abuse if { path -m str /api/register
/api/addTicket }

# Block request if client abuses
acl is_endpoint_abuser scl_http_req_rate -m int gt 3
http-request deny status 429 if is_endpoint_abuser

# Do not forget to increment gpc0 in case of abuse
http-after-response sc-inc-gpc0(0) if is_api { status -m
int 401 403 404 429 }
```

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# Upload size

# Size matters

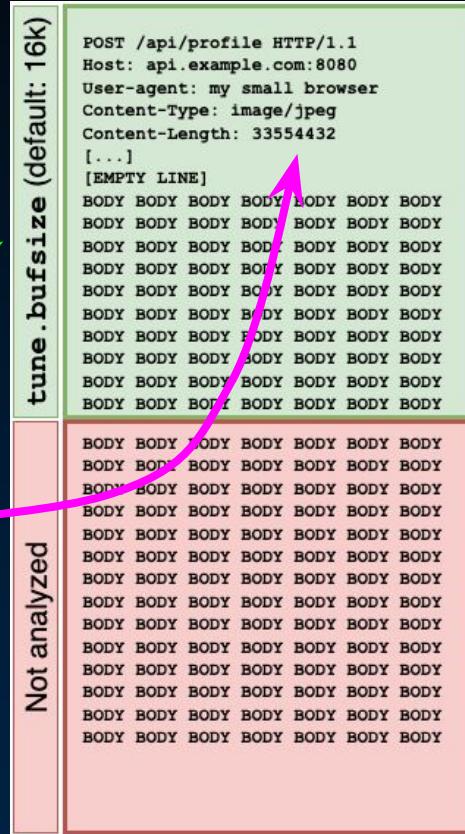
- No check is performed when uploading a profile picture.
- POST requests do not have any limitation.
- Endpoint map can be extended to add request body limitation:

/api/register	<code>POST;5120</code>
/api/login	<code>POST;5120</code>
/api/profile	<code>POST,GET;5120</code>
/api/user/{user}	<code>GET;0</code>

- Split **method** and **size** using **word()** converter:
  - `http-request set-var(req.ep_method) var(req.ep_data),word(1,;)`
  - `http-request set-var(req.ep_size) var(req.ep_data),word(2,;)`
- Notes:
  - GET should not have a body. ... but it can since not forbidden.

# Notes on body sizes

- HAProxy only analyses 16k by default (see `tune.bufsize` option in global):
    - Headers.
    - Part of the body.
    - End of body may not be analyzed.
  - Check body length:
    - `req.body_len`: available body size in bytes (in the request buffer, may be lower than advertised body size).
    - `req.body_size`: advertised body size from `Content-Length` header, or available data size if `Transfer-Encoding` is `chunked`.
  - Rule of thumb: always check `advertised size`.



# Check request size on HAProxy

- Retrieve the max allowed body size from map file (as seen before)
- Test the advertised `req.body_size`.

Caveats:

- HAProxy cannot compare a value (such as `req.body_size`) to a variable:  
`{ req.body_size -m int gt var(req.ep_post_size) }`
- Need to subtract `req.ep_post_size` to `req.body_size`:
  - > 0 (`gt 0`): body is too large: reject.
  - = 0 (`eq 0`): body is the max size: OK.
  - < 0 (`gt 0`): body is less than max size: OK.

```
backend api-be
[...]

# Get max upload size for current endpoint
http-request set-var(req.ep_post_size)
var(req.ep_data),word(2,;) if is_api

# deny request if too large
http-request deny status 413 if is_api {
    req.body_size,sub(req.ep_post_size) -m int gt 0 }

[...]

# Do not forget to increment gpc0 if content is too large
http-after-response sc-inc-gpc0(0) if is_api { status -m
int 401 403 404 413 429 }
```

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# Miscellaneous fixes

# Inject user attributes

- `score` and `solves` can be set when registering new user.
- HAProxy can validate body if:
  - Fits in `tune.bufsize` value (16k by default).
  - Body is `buffered`.
- Use `json_query` to get value from a json path.
- Bonus: block access to unreleased challenges.

```
{  
    "username": "john",  
    "password": "secret-password",  
    "score": 123456,  
    "solves": [  
        "1":1,"2":1,"3":1,"4":1,"5":1,  
        "6":1,"7":1,"8":1,"9":1,"10":1  
    ]  
}  
  
backend api-be  
[...]  
  
# Wait for body content  
option http-buffer-request  
  
[...]  
# Do not allow users to setup a score at registration time  
http-request deny if { path -m str /api/register } {  
    req.body,json_query('$.score') -m found }  
    # Same with scores  
    http-request deny if { path -m str /api/register } {  
    req.body,json_query('$.solves') -m found }  
  
# Unreleased challenges  
http-request deny if { path -m str /api/allChallenges } {  
    req.body,json_query('$.unreleased') -m found }
```

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# NoSQL injection

- Example of NoSQL injection:

```
{"username": "admin", "password": {"$ne": null}}
```

- **json\_path** fails if object is not a:
  - number (integer, float, boolean)
  - string
  - array
  - dictionaries are not return.
- Simply deny request if password **cannot be retrieved** for:
  - user registration.
  - user login.

```
backend api-be
[...]
# Deny invalid passwords
http-request deny if { path -m str /api/register
/api/login } !{ req.body, json_query('$.password') -m found }
```

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# Unfixable by design

- `/api/AddNoteWithLink` cannot be fixed:
  - Is meant to add a note with a link.
  - Fetches data from URL.
  - Broken design.
- Only solution: disable endpoint.
  - Remove `/api/AddNoteWithLink` from endpoint map.
  - Block endpoint with an explicit rule.

In endpoint map file:

```
/logout                      GET;0
# /api/addNoteWithLink        POST;5120
/api/getNote                  GET;0
```

```
backend api-be
[...]
```

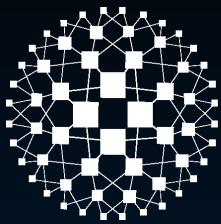
```
# Deny broken endpoints
http-request deny if { path -m str /api/AddNoteWithLink }
```

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**Thank you  
for your attention**



# HAPROXY

## Questions?

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