

FEATURE BRIEF

Enhance Your API Security with Salt Surface

Introduction

In today's digital landscape, APIs are the crucial backbone for modern applications, enabling the seamless data exchange that drives business innovation. However, this explosion in connectivity also exposes organizations to significant and growing security risks, as APIs have become prime targets for sophisticated cyberattacks. Traditional security measures often fall short, making robust, API-centric security essential for protecting valuable data and infrastructure. Salt Security offers a comprehensive, AI-infused API security platform that provides panoramic discovery, posture governance, and behavioral threat protection for all of your APIs. To enhance these capabilities, Salt developed Salt Surface.

Salt Surface is an active reconnaissance tool meticulously designed to mimic the tactics and techniques used by advanced API attackers. Its primary purpose is to help organizations proactively identify, validate, and understand the risks associated with their exposed API endpoints. Unlike traditional passive discovery methods that rely solely on observing existing API traffic, Salt Surface employs active discovery techniques. This allows it to uncover hidden, unmonitored, and forgotten APIs, providing a true and accurate picture of an organization's external attack surface.

How Salt Surface is Different

Salt Surface stands out with its unique active discovery capabilities, which provide a far more comprehensive view than traditional passive methods. Serving as a powerful reconnaissance tool, Salt Surface delivers a deep and nuanced understanding of an organization's API attack surface, exposing current risks and potential security gaps before threat actors can exploit them.

The technology is powered by the continuous expertise and cutting-edge research from Salt Labs, a recognized leader in the API security research field. This ensures that Salt Surface's discovery techniques are always evolving, staying current with the latest tactics employed by attackers. While competing tools often provide large volumes of unrelated or low-context data, Salt Surface focuses on delivering relevant, actionable intelligence. All findings are consolidated into a clear, actionable assessment report and are immediately evaluated against a dedicated set of posture governance policies. This integrated approach helps organizations move swiftly from discovery to remediation, justifying security investments and building internal buy-in for security initiatives.



Key Capabilities of Salt Surface

Salt Surface provides a multi-faceted approach to discovering risks and reducing your API attack surface:

- **Comprehensive API Discovery:** Salt Surface actively researches all of an organization's internet-facing API assets, thoroughly examining domains and subdomains to pinpoint every potential API endpoint. This process is adept at uncovering elusive shadow and zombie endpoints that might otherwise be overlooked by methods that only see existing traffic. It goes beyond traditional attack surface scanning, which often stops at the host level, to find the thousands of APIs beneath the surface—the proverbial "doors, windows, and crawl spaces" that attackers seek to exploit.
- **Vulnerability and Misconfiguration Detection:** The scan is highly effective at identifying critical security risks associated with discovered APIs. It detects common and severe misconfigurations, highlights potential vulnerabilities, and finds instances of sensitive data exposure. This moves beyond simple inventory to provide crucial context about the risk level of each asset.
- **Proactive Posture Governance:** Findings from Salt Surface are automatically evaluated against a robust set of posture governance policies built specifically for externally discovered assets. This provides instant insight into security gaps and policy violations without requiring a single log or traffic sensor to be deployed. This capability allows security teams to understand their security posture from day one and begin remediation efforts immediately, ensuring that security measures are correctly deployed across different environments.
- **Actionable Assessment Reporting:** All discoveries, risks, and policy violations are compiled into a single, consolidated, and evidence-based assessment report. This report is designed to be highly actionable, providing security teams with the clear, prioritized information they need to address vulnerabilities effectively. Furthermore, the report serves as a powerful tool for communicating risk to leadership and building internal buy-in for security programs.

Acme Corp Surface Summary Report

Reconnaissance & API posture analysis



Overview

acmecorp.com acmelabs.com

2

Top Level Domains Scanned

1354

Total Hosts Found

1315

Total APIs Found

593

Posture Gaps Found

Posture Gaps by Category

Severity Classification

589

Sources Breakdown

Discovered API sources like JavaScript, GitHub, and scanners

1

APIs Security Balance

Shows good vs. bad security practices based on API scan results.

66%

Conclusion

Salt Surface is an essential capability for any organization that prioritizes proactive API security. By providing advanced, active discovery of risks—including shadow APIs, misconfigurations, and vulnerabilities—and delivering clear, actionable guidance through its comprehensive assessment report and dedicated posture policies, Salt Surface empowers organizations to significantly strengthen their security posture. It allows businesses to see their APIs through the eyes of an attacker and proactively close security gaps before they can be exploited, protecting their most valuable data and applications.

