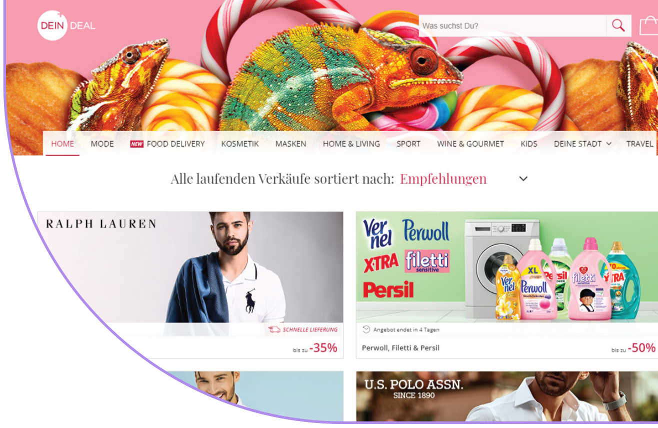

SALT

DeinDeal

CASE STUDY

DeinDeal is the leading Swiss supplier of flash sales. The company operates the two platforms deindeal.ch and my-store.ch. Customers have the opportunity to do time-limited deals at attractive prices, with discounts of up to 70% compared to traditional commerce. In addition to products at attractive prices in the fields of fashion, habitat, brands and products, sport, gastronomy and wine, deindeal.ch and my-store.ch also feature travel offers in Switzerland and around the world – plus great deals in lifestyle products and services. DeinDeal, which merged with my-store.ch in 2016, is a subsidiary of Ringier SA.

Alexandre Branquart is the CTO of DeinDeal, and the co-founder of MyStore. “MyStore and DeinDeal were running on separate platforms, and the merger of the two companies meant that we also needed to rationalize and merge systems,” he explains. “We focused on APIs first, specifically for the mobile apps – it was the logical starting point.”

While the website was not initially running on APIs, the company made the decision to have a full API system, running the same APIs for the website as the mobile apps. Regarding API security, Branquart says, “We were used to classic security for the web front end – WAF, bot management – but when we changed to APIs, it became difficult to apply the same security. You lose a lot of context when you don’t have a web browser anymore, including the control over who is calling your APIs. Is it a legit call? You no longer have enough information to know if you need to stop this person.”

Branquart and his team started looking for API security solutions, starting with tools that could protect API abuse using API definitions, but that approach was not enough. “We needed a way to analyze what is happening – to see the good and bad behavior,” he explains. “I wanted something that understood how users are using my website specifically.” This need for recognition of unique user behavior drove Branquart and his team to engage with Salt Security.

Salt’s holistic approach to API traffic – across load balancers, API gateways, WAFs, Kubernetes clusters, cloud VPCs, and app servers – dynamically provides a full API inventory. “Once we deployed the Salt platform, we

DEIN DEAL

DeinDeal provides an online shopping platform offering a wide range of products including furniture and interior design, fashion, electronics, sports clothing and equipment, food wine, and travel.

Headquarters Zürich

Founded 2010

Infrastructure
Cloudflare, Kong, Azure API management, other public cloud

www.deindeal.ch

were quite surprised to discover a lot of old APIs still running," exclaims Branquart. "We also discovered some routes for calling those APIs that were not alive anymore."

Salt is helping DeinDeal with Swagger file definition, providing the company with a full inventory of all its APIs and showing exactly what data is being sent and received from APIs. "If Salt helps us find even just one API we didn't know about, that's a huge win," says Branquart.

Salt applies machine learning and artificial intelligence to discover all APIs and exposed data as well as baseline DeinDeal's APIs, isolating anomalous behavior and differentiating between changes to APIs and malicious activity. "We release new versions of our APIs on the mobile apps, and sometimes it's difficult to know when we can turn off an older version," says Branquart. "Salt highlights attacks and shows abnormal behavior of the application itself, helping us fix some bugs. By knowing our APIs are fully protected, including older APIs, we can also avoid forcing an app update on our customers."

Top use cases for DeinDeal:

- **dynamic API discovery:** Salt provides DeinDeal with an updated inventory of all its APIs and exposed sensitive data.
- **attack prevention:** DeinDeal is constantly updating its website by changing APIs, and Salt automatically blocks any attacker attempting to abuse a vulnerability.
- **remediation insights:** Salt provides details about API vulnerabilities that DeinDeal developers can use to improve API security posture.

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>
> **– Alexandre Branquart, CTO**

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