THE ARCHON

TECHNOLOGY INTELLIGENCE

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

API Attack Surface Is Exploding in 2026

APIs have become the fastest-growing attack vector, outpacing traditional web applications and driving a surge in breach attempts.

CONTROL FRAMEWORK

Our Scoring Framework

We evaluate each platform on four capability pillars—Discovery, Testing, Runtime Protection, Governance—each weighted equally. Effectiveness is measured by detection rate, false-positive ratio, and integration depth.

CONTROL FRAMEWORK

Top 10 API Security Tools – 2026 Rankings

Applying the framework yields the following scores (out of 100): 1. Salt Security – 90 2. Imperva API Security – 88 3. Data Theorem – 86 4. Akamai API Security – 84 5. Cloudflare API Shield – 82 6. IBM Security Verify – 80 7. Axway API Management – 78 8. Kong Enterprise – 76 9. Tyk – 74 10. Postman – 72

CONTROL FRAMEWORK

Salt Security – Strong API protection

Full-stack API discovery across hybrid clouds. AI-driven anomaly detection with very low false positives. Seamless CI/CD integration via native plugins.

CONTROL FRAMEWORK

2 Imperva API Security – Score 88

• Policy-driven protection engine • Built-in DDoS mitigation for API traffic • Unified dashboard for dev and security teams

CONTROL FRAMEWORK

3 Data Theorem – Score 86

• Automated API mapping from source code to runtime • Continuous testing with zero-day coverage • Integrated risk reporting for compliance

CONTROL FRAMEWORK

4 Akamai API Security – Score 84

• Edge-based protection with low latency • Real-time threat intelligence feeds • Granular access controls via API gateway

CONTROL FRAMEWORK

5 Cloudflare API Shield – Score 82

• Schema-validation enforcement at the edge • Automatic token rotation and rate limiting • Integrated with Cloudflare Zero Trust suite

EXECUTIVE TAKEAWAY

Executive Takeaway

The market favors platforms that combine deep discovery, automated testing, low-latency runtime enforcement, and strong governance workflows. While some vendors stand out, organizations should prioritize the tool that best fits existing CI/CD pipelines and compliance frameworks.