



EU Commission Workshop

API Essentials

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API Breaches are on the rise!

- 300+ breaches reported on apisecurity.io since Oct. 2018
- And those are just the public ones!
- Most recurrent causes (combination of):
 - Lack of Input validation
 - Lack of Rate Limiting
 - Data/Exception leakage
 - BOLA/IDOR (Authorization)



Hacking Starbucks and Accessing Nearly 100 Million Customer Records

🕒 June 20, 2020 👤 samwcyo

APIs have different vulnerabilities

OWASP API Security Top 10

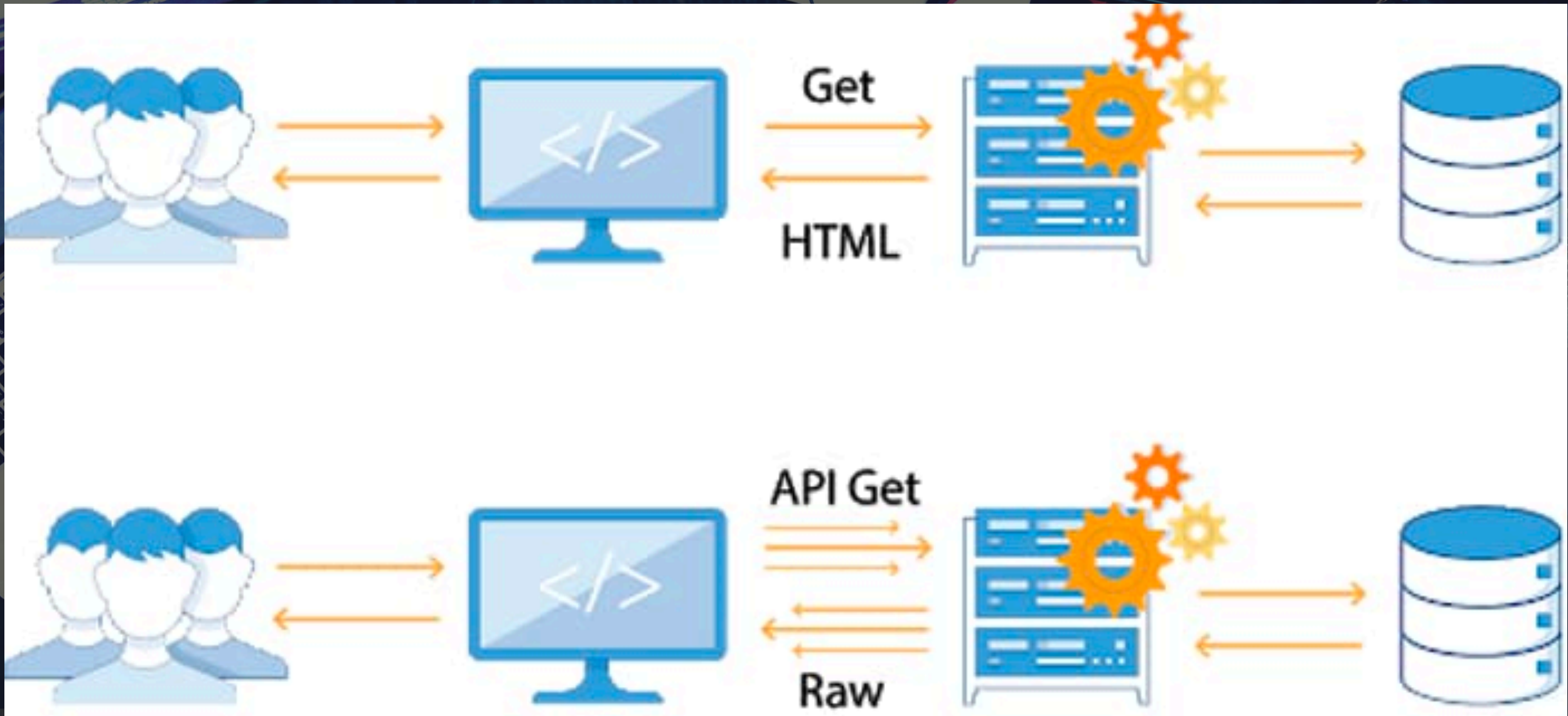
- API1 : Broken Object Level Access Control
- API2 : Broken Authentication
- API3 : Excessive Data Exposure
- API4 : Lack of Resources & Rate Limiting
- API5 : Missing Function Level Access Control
- API6 : Mass Assignment
- API7 : Security Misconfiguration
- API8 : Injection
- API9 : Improper Assets Management
- API10 : Insufficient Logging & Monitoring





**WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING?**

Applications Architecture has changed!





FROM PROTECTING THE PERIMETER...

...TO PROTECTING THE DATA




MANY APIS, DEPLOYED OFTEN



**APPLICATION
DEVELOPMENT**



**APPLICATION
SECURITY**

An aerial, high-angle view of a city, likely Rome, showing a dense grid of buildings and streets. In the center, a prominent monument with a large archway is visible. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white box containing text.

“The perimeter has disappeared. It’s no longer about protecting boundaries, it’s about protecting data.”

To make it worse!

- ▶ **API Security is considered too late**
 - ✓ Security teams can't do their job properly
- ▶ **API Security is hard**
 - ✓ Complex standards, limited skills
- ▶ **Each API must be protected individually**
 - ✓ 100's of specific policies to write



What needs to happen...



Development is **agile** - **Security** must be as well!



Security must **start early** and become fully part of the API lifecycle!



Developers must become become **key actors** of security



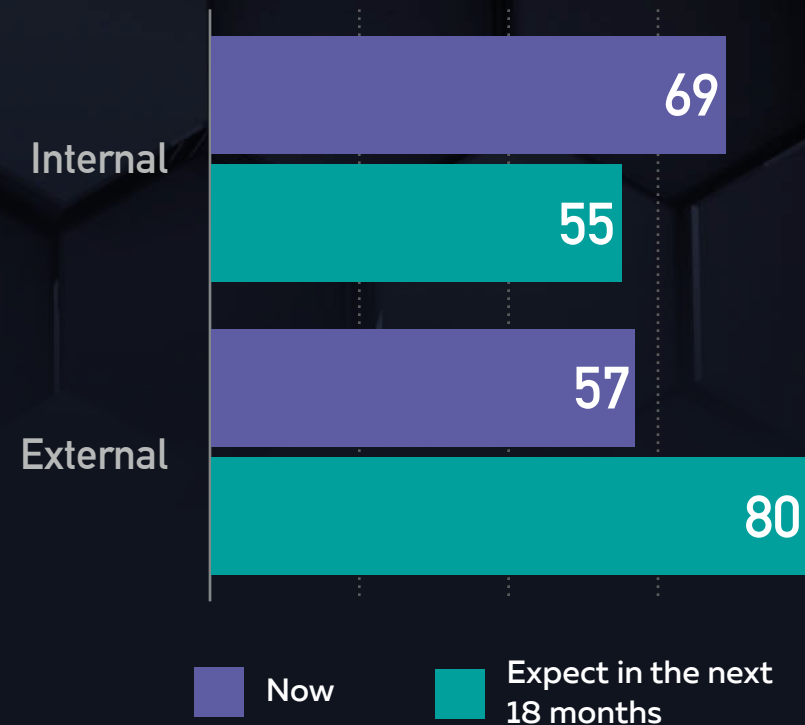
ALL APIS SHOULD BE TREATED AS PUBLIC



WHAT ARE APIS FOR ?

EXPOSING ENTERPRISE DATA
AND PROCESSES.

Have you experienced the theft or corruption of internal corporate or user/consumer information by Internal or External threat actors?



Source: @ and HIS Research - Sample: 208 Enterprise Security Professionals " Accenture



**KEEP
CALM
AND
TRUST
NONE**

“

“I think that a lot of people think that because there is **no GUI** on an API that **no one can find it** and it is invisible. **But we can find them in about five seconds** with a proxy...

...**Almost every threat that applies to a web app, can happen to an API**, but a lot of people for some reason are not protecting them as much as their web applications.”

Tanya Janca

Application Security Evangelist - AppSec Podcast

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ?

- Proceed to a full inventory of APIs within the enterprise
- Implement APIs governance
- Evaluate your API Security coverage



SECURITY NEEDS TO BE RISKED-BASED

“

“Security is a risk control measure...**In the security sphere, one size does not fit all.** We have to take ‘appropriate measures’.

Nat Sakimura

Fixing OAuth, Nat Sakimura, July 20, 2016, <https://nat.sakimura.org/2016/07/20/fixing-oauth/>



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ?

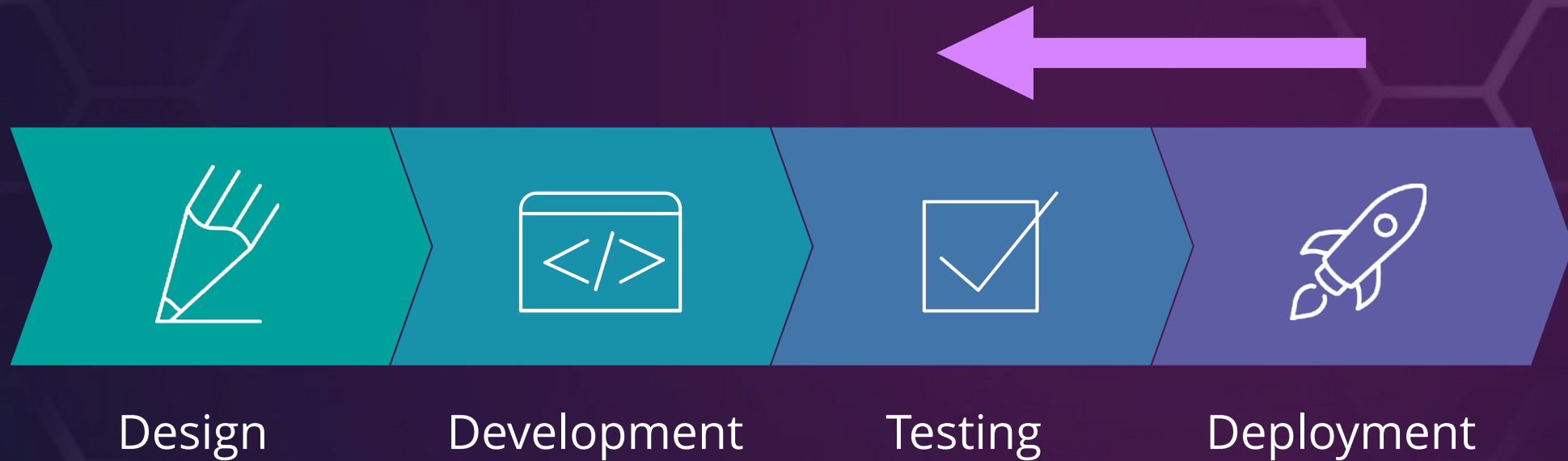
- Establish a threat model for all APIs
 - What is the data sensitivity (a.k.a Would I make the news if that data was leaked?)
 - Who is going to access, now and later ?
- Establish corporate security policies based on that threat model, managed by the security teams.



SECURITY MUST BE AUTOMATED



INJECTING SECURITY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE API LIFECYCLE



SHIFTING SECURITY LEFT

Dev Sec Ops Benefits

- Everyone is responsible for security, everyone has a role to play
 - No more “throwing over the fence” approach
- Vulnerabilities found early take up to **30x less effort** to solve
- Secure by design principles
 - Automated reviews
 - Automated security testing
- Security becomes transparent, thanks to security as code
- Developers iteratively learn about best practices
- Security is continuously improved



IMPLEMENT VULNERABILITY SCANS

- ▶ Infrastructure Scans
- ▶ TLS + Security Setup
 - ✓ APIs Server, CDN, HTTP Server
 - ✓ Security headers
- ▶ Code analysis (Static, Dynamic, Interactive)
- ▶ Third-party libs / frameworks
- ▶ Apps / APIs (e.g. OWASP ZAP)
- ▶ Authentication
- ▶ Authorization
- ▶ DevOps Scripts!

**Choose platforms/tools where
functionality is exposed as APIs/CLI.**

WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU DO ?

- Apply security policies as early as possible in the API lifecycle
- Choose a platform where security policies can be applied automatically, with minimum involvement of developers
- Test APIs with “security ON” from Day 1!



FINAL THOUGHTS

- ▶ We have best practices and recommendations which work for finance and can be adapted to all industries, including government.
- ▶ We need to invest in educating and leveraging the “Development Army”
- ▶ We need to act like hackers and start testing APIs for all edge cases
- ▶ We need to automate and engrain security into our API development journey.



Thank you!

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