STACK**HAWK**

Global Airline Company Operationalizes API Security at Scale

BACKGROUND

For anyone who's ever booked a flight online, you know how frictionless the experience needs to be. One global leader in air travel's digital presence lies in a complex ecosystem of applications and services that power everything from booking to check-in to loyalty programs and critical internal systems. With an increasingly complex microservices architecture, the company faced growing challenges with maintaining strong security without slowing down development.

Global Airline

Use Case

Standardizing and Scaling Security

Industry

Transportation

Employees

+18,300

Location

UK

> *I love a lot of the features, especially API Discovery. It's groundbreaking.*
>
> - DevSecOps

THE PROBLEM

Struggles with scaling security testing, development bottlenecks and a growing security backlog due to unclear processes and challenges with complex authentication.

THE SOLUTION

Implement StackHawk's API security solution to integrate with their development workflows, support complex authentication, and shift security testing left.

THE RESULT

Accelerated development cycles, a significantly reduced security backlog, and a fundamental shift towards a developer-centric security culture.

CHOOSING A SOLUTION

The evolution the airline experienced created several pain points:

Unclear Ownership and Processes: Security scanning responsibilities were spread across rotating security teams with inconsistent approaches and lacked a standardized workflow

Resource Bottlenecks: Limited security resources created bottlenecks that slowed down development cycles

Scaling Challenges: External penetration testing could no longer keep pace as their microservices footprint expanded

Complex Authentication: Their sophisticated authentication mechanisms made it difficult for traditional/legacy security testing tools to navigate

After an extensive evaluation of API security solutions, they chose StackHawk for its unique capabilities:

Seamless Integration with Existing Workflows

StackHawk's deep integrations with GitHub Actions and Jira were game-changers for the airline. The GitHub Actions integration allowed them to embed security testing directly into their CI/CD pipelines and automatically trigger scans on pull requests, giving developers immediate feedback before merging code. With the Jira integration, discovered issues are automatically assigned/routed to the appropriate teams, removing the need for manual handoffs. Both of these integrations have enabled developers to address security issues without disrupting their normal workflows.

Support for Complex Authentication

The airline's authentication requirements presented significant challenges for most security tools. StackHawk's flexible authentication handling provided the capabilities needed to properly navigate complex authentication workflows and test their protected APIs.

Shifting Security Left

The ability to integrate security testing early in the development lifecycle was crucial for the airline. StackHawk's modern design made it possible to run comprehensive security scans during the development and testing phases, not just in production. This shift has enabled developers to find and fix vulnerabilities before production, making security testing part of the development process rather than an afterthought.

Developer Empowerment

Perhaps most importantly, StackHawk's developer-centric approach resonated with the airlines' vision for developers to own the dynamic security testing process, allowing them to scale security efforts effectively. StackHawk's remediation guides, vulnerability overviews, run-time context and developer tools have armed developers with comprehensive and useful information about security findings they need to take action.

STACKHAWK

Learn how to Ship Secure Software Faster at **www.stackhawk.com**

EXPERIENCE WITH STACKHAWK

Since implementing StackHawk, the airline has seen tangible improvements in its security posture and development efficiency.

Accelerated Development Cycles

By shifting security left and automating testing, the airline has significantly improved its release velocity without compromising security.

Reduced Security Backlog

The early visibility into vulnerabilities provided by StackHawk has dramatically reduced the airline's backlog of security tickets. Instead of handing developers external penetration reports long after they've moved on from the code, developers now catch issues sooner—when fixes are simpler and less costly.

A Culture Shift

The most significant impact has been on the airline's security culture. They have experienced a fundamental shift in how their teams approach security: Developers now have ownership and visibility into security testing, allowing them to think about potential vulnerabilities earlier and design more secure systems from the start.

STACK**HAWK**

Learn how to Ship Secure Software Faster at **www.stackhawk.com**