

Akamai AI and API Manager or Akamai API Gateway

Select the right solution for your API management needs

DECISION GUIDE FOR AKAMAI CONNECTED CLOUD

Akamai's inline CDN API Gateway is a lightweight, scalable solution, whereas Akamai AI and API Manager (AAM) deployed on Akamai Cloud offers deeper functionality and customization while maintaining and extending strengths in scale, distribution and performance. Below we compare the two solutions to help you make the right choice for your API management needs.

Capability	Akamai API Gateway	
> ACCESS CONTROL		
Validate JWTs and API keys at the edge	Supported	OAuth, JWT, API Key validation, Mutual TLS (mTLS), and programmable fine-grained authorization with unlimited customization options.
Create API keys and manage their lifecycle	Supported	Advanced API key creation with expiration, revocation, GitHub Secret Scanning, policy assignment, programmable usage rules.
Authenticate traffic before reaching origin	Supported	Fully programmable auth logic at the edge with seamless OAuth2 integration and custom IdP connections.
Reject undesirable API calls	Basic capabilities	Sophisticated programmable policies for custom rejection logic, content filtering, and security rules.
> TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT		
Set/enforce rate limits per API consumer	Basic rate limits on incoming requests per time unit and consumer	Intelligent, dynamic rate limiting based on JWT claims, user ID, org, IP, or any custom attribute with no coding required.
Customizable authorization capabilities	Extremely limited	Advanced JWT claim-based logic for complex tiered access, dynamic permissions, and integrated monetization plans.
> REPORTING		
Analyze API consumer usage	Basic analytics	Enterprise-grade analytics dashboard with rich visualizations plus seamless integrations with TrafficPeak and other observability platforms.
Review traffic and error patterns	Supported	Comprehensive native insights with real-time error tracking, request tracing, and actionable alerts.
> POLICY DEFINITION		
Support Swagger 2.0 / 3.0 / RAML onboarding	Import into a proprietary document	Natively powered by OpenAPI documents with interactive validation, testing, and documentation generation.

Capability	Akamai API Gateway	
Programmatic product control via API	Basic API interfaces for programmatic control with limited customization	Enterprise-ready Git and API programmability with JavaScript custom logic deployment and version control.
Set routing rules	Basic routing rules for API traffic	Sophisticated conditional routing based on headers, paths, JWT claims with A/B testing capabilities.
> CLOUD ADVANTAGES		
Unlimited proxy setup	Supported	True unlimited API scalability with no performance degradation for any number of routes per tenant.
Extensive caching options	Basic API response caching options	Advanced, programmable, granular response caching with custom cache keys, flexible TTLs, and invalidation controls.
Deployment model	Inline Akamai CDN delivery traffic only	CDN-agnostic, upstream control for traffic, security, and dev workflows.
> DEVELOPER EXPERIENCE		
GitOps-native config and deployments	Not supported	Git-based configuration with CI/CD integration, GitHub Secret Scanning, and automated deployment pipelines.
Interactive Developer Portal	Not supported	Feature-rich, customizable portal with interactive API documentation, self-serve API key management, testing console, and automated code samples.
Built-in Monetization	Not supported	Complete API monetization solution with usage tracking, flexible tiered pricing, quotas, and billing integration.
> EXTENSIBILITY		
Plugin/Integration ecosystem	Limited and lacks programmability	Extensive native integrations ecosystem including Akamai Security, TrafficPeak, DataDog, and all major OAuth providers.
> PERFORMANCE FEATURES		
API Acceleration (caching, batching, transforms)	Limited to basic caching options	Enterprise-grade response transformation, request batching, intelligent caching, and optimization controls.

How AAM Goes Further

Akamai's inline CDN API Gateway provides a solid foundation for basic functionality and simple use cases, but modern API strategies demand more. AAM delivers that next level with unmatched programmability through JavaScript/TypeScript policies, a native GitOps approach for seamless deployments, and comprehensive OpenAPI support for validation and documentation. As Akamai's recommended solution for advanced API management needs, AAM extends beyond foundational capabilities with sophisticated security, customization, and developer experience features while allowing more flexibility to leverage in a multi-CDN environment.



AI and API Manager

Built into Akamai Connected Cloud

Programmable

GitOps

OpenAPI

Multi-CDN