

Defenders' Guide 2025

Fortify the Future of Your Defense

Stay ahead of emerging attack vectors — and the new ways threat actors are exploiting old targets. Start with these highlights from our Defenders' Guide anthology.



Organize your defense efforts with security in depth

Three cornerstones to consider



Risk management that prioritizes responses based on the likelihood of a particular threat and the potential of that response to reduce your organization's vulnerability



Network architecture that implements layered security through firewalls, segmentation, and access controls to defend against and contain breaches



Host security that protects individual devices from malware and unauthorized access through system updates, antivirus software, firewalls, and access controls



Where could malware be hiding?

Top protocols for open port incidents in 2024

58.0%

Server message block (SMB)

14.5%

Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP)

12.9%

Secure shell (SSH)



What can attackers do once inside a VPN?

- Use a remote authentication server to authenticate users
- Abuse legit authentication
- Use rogue authentication servers
- Extract and decrypt configuration file secrets

Prevent XSS vulnerabilities

- Add output encoding on all user-controlled parameters
- Defend with code review and web application firewalls
- Stop threat actors' real-world tactics like cookie stealing, website defacement, and session riding/cross-site request forgery



Why are attackers targeting containers?

Akamai researchers uncovered multiple vulnerabilities and tactics in Kubernetes that, when exploited, can lead to:

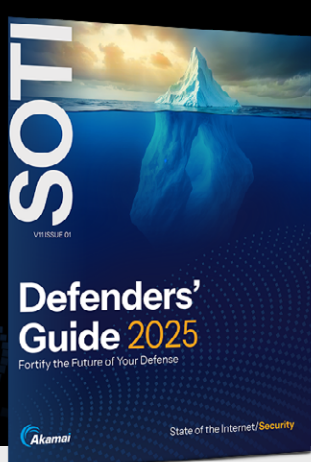
- Data exfiltration
- Privilege escalation
- Remote code execution



Combine proactive measures with reactive readiness

Employ these four foundational principles:

- Implement cyber hygiene everywhere
- Consistently layer your environment behind security platforms
- Keep a laser focus on business-critical services
- Have a trusted incident response team or partner on call



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