

Distil Networks & Akamai CDN Integration Guide

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Introduction

This guide outlines a typical integration of Distil Networks' Bot Defense platform with Akamai's CDN. Refer to the traffic workflow section for an understanding of how the integrated systems route requests and responses. Then, use the testing, percentage onboarding, and production configurations to ensure a safe and effective rollout.

Traffic Workflow

The Akamai CDN lets you select different backend resource pools based on the logic within the configured routing rules. Below is a basic Akamai workflow:



Distil typically integrates between the Akamai CDN and origin, thereby allowing it to inspect all HTTP requests and responses. Below is a typical workflow depicting this integration:



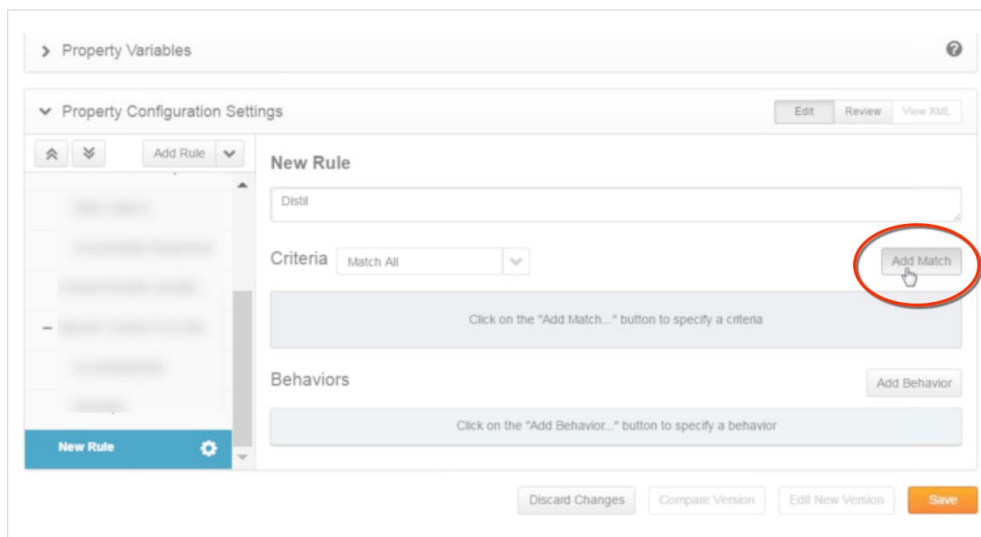
In this scenario, Akamai proxies traffic to the Distil environment. As may be required, the Akamai instance continues to manipulate traffic or apply any rules established prior to Distil being deployed as part of your infrastructure.

The following sections outline specific rules for testing and releasing into full production.

Testing Configuration

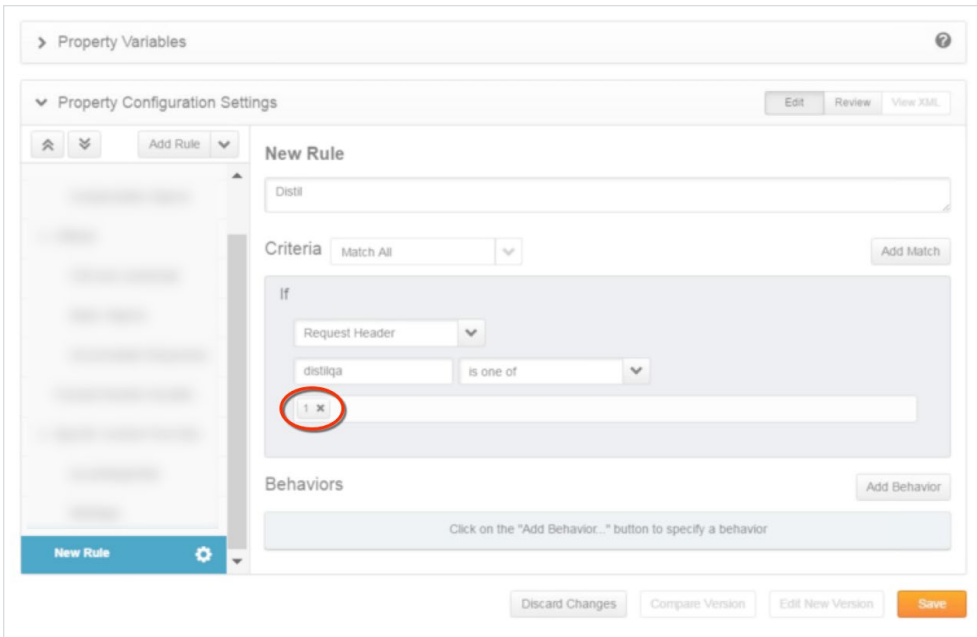
Before going to production, Distil recommends creating a test behavior in the existing Akamai configuration using a header value:

1. Log in to the [Luna Control Center](#).
2. Open the existing account and group configuration.
3. Click **Create a New Version**.
4. Expand the **Property Configuration Settings** menu on the **Create a New Version** page.
5. Select **New Rule**.
6. Enter a name for the rule, e.g., *Send Traffic to Distil or Distil Origin*.
7. Click **Add Match**.



8. Select **Request Header** from the dropdown.
9. Enter *distilqa* in the **Request Header Name** the dropdown.

10. Enter *1* in the **Request Header Value** field.



11. Click **Add Behavior**.

12. Select **Origin Server**.

13. Select **Incoming Host Header** for the **Forward Host Header** field.

14. Select **Origin Hostname** for the **Cache Key Hostname** field.

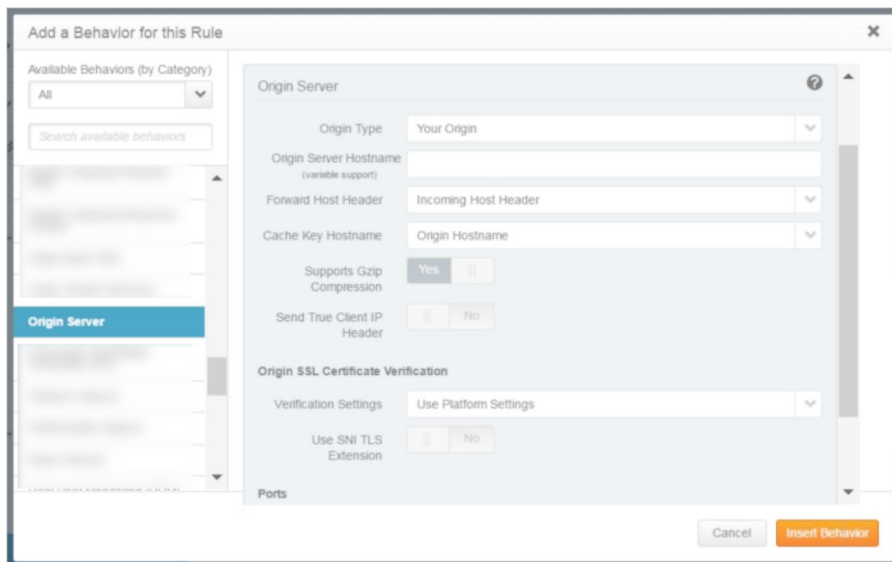
15. Set **True Client IP** to **Yes**.

NOTE: Setting **True Client IP** to **Yes** opens a conditional field for **Allow Clients to Set True Client IP**. This conditional field is enabled by default. To disable **Allow Clients to Set True Client IP**, select **No**.

16. Set **Verification Settings** to **Use Platform Settings**.

17. Set **Use SNI TLS Extension** to **No**.

The behavior will be an **Origin Server** rule. See the screenshot below for details.

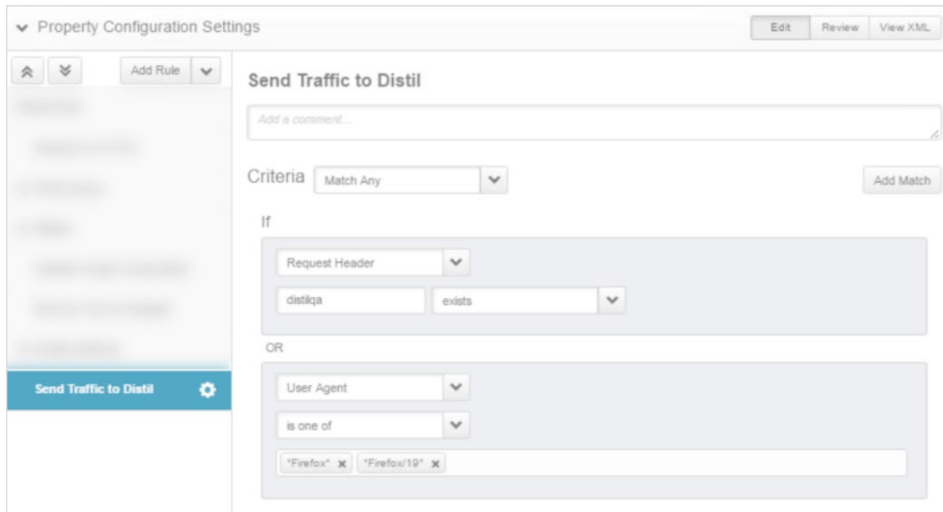


Percentage Onboarding Configuration

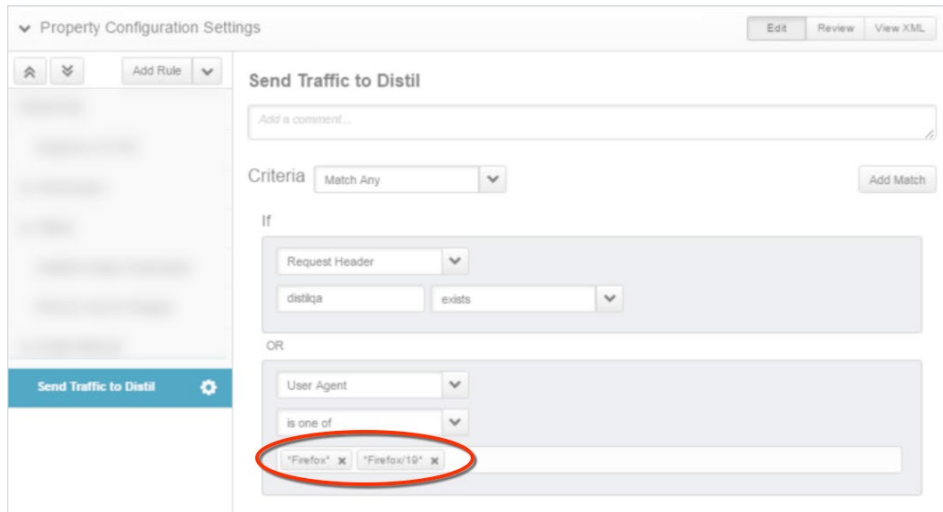
When initially onboarding, it is best to only send a percentage of traffic to Distil. This can be achieved via a similar mechanism as the *distilqa* header (step 9 of [Testing Configuration](#)), but uses a user agent match instead.

Distil recommends using Web Analytics (for example, Google Analytics) to evaluate which user agent is the best candidate for the initial onboarding.

The following screenshot shows the conditions (**Criteria** dropdown) for sending traffic to Distil. In this case, traffic is sent to Distil if the HTTP request header *distilqa* exists OR if the HTTP request header user agent contains *Firefox*. With this configuration, testing may still continue with other browsers; only users having *Firefox* as their user agent will have traffic sent to Distil.



1. Locate the configuration you created and tested in the [Testing Configuration](#).
2. Click **Edit**.
3. Scroll down to the previously added rule, then update the existing **Request Header** match by changing **is one of** to **exists**.
4. Select **Add Match**.
5. Select **User Agent** from the dropdown.
6. Confirm the criteria is set to **is one of** and then add the appropriate User Agent values (these are *Firefox* and *Firefox/19* in the screenshot below).



7. Ensure the **Match All** or **Match Any** field at the top of the rule is set to **Match Any**.
8. Activate this configuration in the environment that it is being applied to. Distil always recommends validating logic in the Akamai staging environment before pushing changes to production.

Production Configuration

For the full allocation of production traffic to the Distil environment, remove the existing match criteria used for the Distil **Server Origin** origin configuration. Akamai will then use Distil for the origin server. This configuration should also be validating in staging first before being pushed to production.