

# ModSecurity Configuration for Tiki

## 1. Introduction

ModSecurity is a powerful, open-source web application firewall (WAF) module that enhances security by protecting **web applications, including Tiki sites, from a wide range of threats** such as **SQL injection, cross-site scripting (XSS), and malicious bots attempting to scrape content or exploit vulnerabilities**. It operates based on predefined rules to filter and block potentially harmful requests. This guide provides a comprehensive walkthrough for setting up and configuring ModSecurity, ensuring **optimal security while preserving Tiki's usability and functionality**.

## 2. Installation

## Step 1: Install ModSecurity

### For Apache (Debian/Ubuntu)

```
sudo apt update  
sudo apt install libapache2-mod-security2
```

## Step 2: Enable ModSecurity

Enable ModSecurity by copying the recommended configuration file:

```
sudo mv /etc/modsecurity/modsecurity.conf-recommended /etc/modsecurity/modsecurity.conf
```

Then, **edit the file**:

```
sudo nano /etc/modsecurity/modsecurity.conf
```

Find:

```
apache
```

```
SecRuleEngine DetectionOnly
```

Change it to:

```
apache
```

```
SecRuleEngine On
```

**Save and close the file.**

### **Step 3: Verify Installation**

Check if ModSecurity is enabled:

```
sudo apachectl -M | grep security2
```

Expected output:

```
security2_module (shared)
```

If the module is not loaded, restart Apache:

```
sudo systemctl restart apache2
```

### **3. Basic Configuration**

## Step 1: Enable the OWASP CRS Rules

Enable the **OWASP Core Rule Set (CRS)**:

```
sudo nano /etc/apache2/mods-enabled/security2.conf
```

Ensure this line is included:

```
apache
```

```
IncludeOptional /usr/share/modsecurity-crs/*.conf
```

Restart Apache:

```
sudo systemctl restart apache2
```

## Step 2: Adjust Anomaly Scoring

Modify anomaly scoring to **reduce false positives**:

```
sudo nano /etc/modsecurity/crs/crs-setup.conf
```

Change:

```
apache
```

```
SecAction "id:900110,phase:1,nolog,pass,t:none,setvar:tx.inbound_anomaly_score_threshold=10000" SecAction  
"id:900120,phase:2,nolog,pass,t:none,setvar:tx.inbound_anomaly_score_threshold=10000" SecAction  
"id:900130,phase:1,nolog,pass,t:none,setvar:tx.outbound_anomaly_score_threshold=10000"
```

Restart Apache:

```
sudo systemctl restart apache2
```

## 4. Tiki-Specific Configuration

### Step 1: Handling False Positives

Exclude **static files**:

```
sudo nano /etc/modsecurity/crs/REQUEST-900-EXCLUSION-RULES-BEFORE-CRS.conf
```

Add:

**apache**

```
SecRule REQUEST_URI "\.(jpeg|jpg|gif|png|bmp|ico|css|js)$" "id:1000017,phase:1,pass,nolog,ctl:ruleEngine=Off"
```

Allow **file uploads in Tiki**:

**apache**

```
SecRule REQUEST_URI "@beginsWith /tiki-upload_file.php" "id:1000021,phase:2,pass,nolog,ctl:ruleRemoveById=200004"
```

Restart Apache:

```
sudo systemctl restart apache2
```

## Step 2: Handling Language-Specific False Positives

Some actions by users on Tiki sites may trigger alerts or blocking due to ModSecurity's filtering rules. For example, words with multiple accented characters in a single word, like "**Měšťáček**" (Czech), can be flagged as suspicious.

To prevent such cases from causing a **500 error** or blocking the page:

### Review ModSecurity logs for blocked requests:

```
sudo tail -f /var/log/apache2/modsec_audit.log
```

### Identify the specific rule blocking the request.

## Create an exception rule in `REQUEST-900-EXCLUSION-RULES-BEFORE-CRS.conf`.

apache

```
SecRule REQUEST_URI "@beginsWith /tiki-editpage.php" "id:100022,phase:2,pass,nolog,ctl:ruleRemoveById=942100"
```

## Restart Apache:

```
sudo systemctl restart apache2
```

This ensures ModSecurity does not incorrectly block legitimate content written in different languages.

## Conclusion

This guide helps secure Tiki with ModSecurity, prevent false positives, and block malicious bots. Regularly monitor logs and adjust exclusion rules for usability.

related pages

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[Security Admin](#)  
[Advanced Settings](#)

external links

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- <http://www.modsecurity.org>
- [http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mod\\_Security](http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mod_Security)
- <http://sourceforge.net/projects/mod-security/>

aliases for this page

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[mod security](#) | [mod\\_security](#)