

# The 25-Point Production-Readiness Checklist

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A production-readiness checklist is the set of security, compliance, reliability, and operational requirements an app must meet before it serves real users. Work through these 25 points before you launch.

## Security (5)

- 1. Every secret (API keys, DB credentials, tokens) lives in environment variables or a secrets manager - never committed to the repo or shipped in client-side code.
- 2. Authentication and authorization are enforced on the server for every endpoint, with real role checks - not just hidden buttons in the UI.
- 3. All user input is validated and sanitized server-side, and the app has been tested against the OWASP Top 10 (injection, XSS, SSRF, and friends).
- 4. Dependencies are scanned for known vulnerabilities (npm audit, Snyk, Dependabot) and pinned to specific versions.
- 5. HTTPS is enforced everywhere, with secure cookies, HSTS, and sensible security headers (CSP, X-Frame-Options, X-Content-Type-Options).

## Data & compliance (4)

- 6. Personal data (PII) is encrypted in transit and at rest, and you can clearly answer "what data do we store, where, and why?"
- 7. A data-retention and deletion policy exists, and the app can honor export/deletion requests (GDPR/CCPA) plus any sector rules that apply (HIPAA, PCI DSS, FedRAMP).
- 8.

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- 15. Uptime, latency, and error-rate monitoring is live, and alerts actually reach a human who can respond.
- 16.