Hippo Case Study

	Company size	Key need
hippo	**500+ employees**	• **Cloud visibility**
		• **Vulnerability management**
	Vertical	• **Detection and response**
Hippo.com ⤢	**Insurance**	
	Environments (cloud)	Cloud security unlocked
	🄰🄰🄰 **AWS**	• **Unified view of cloud environment**
		• **Secured multi-cloud infrastructure**

About Hippo

Hippo is a U.S.-based property insurance company headquartered in Palo Alto, California. It provides homeowner's insurance that protects both the dwelling and personal belongings of the policyholder, as well as covering liability for accidents that occur on the insured property. The company leverages artificial intelligence and big data to gather and analyze information about properties.

As a leading provider of innovative home insurance solutions, Hippo has embraced the cloud to power its digitally-driven business model. With a rapidly expanding cloud footprint and a growing reliance on cloud-native services and in-house developed applications, Hippo faced the challenge of maintaining comprehensive visibility and control over its dynamic cloud environment.

Hippo's cloud stack includes a range of cloud-native services that supports their in-house developed applications. Additionally, the company has implemented a comprehensive security stack, including tools for cloud security posture management (CSPM), data security posture management (DSPM), and other security solutions.

At the helm of Hippo's security efforts is Tal Hornstein, the company's CIO and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). Tal and his team are responsible for safeguarding Hippo's cloud infrastructure, applications, and sensitive customer data from evolving cloud threats.

"As our business grew, our cloud footprint expanded rapidly, making it increasingly important to monitor and secure all of our cloud assets," said Tal Hornstein. **"We needed a solution that could provide us with a unified view of our stack and the ability to quickly detect and respond to threats."**

The Challenge - Securing a Rapidly Evolving Microservices-Based Cloud Environment

Hippo utilizes microservices and third-party code to power its growing suite of insurance products and services. However, this introduced new security challenges that Tal and his team had to overcome.

"We use many third-party libraries, and we needed a way to ensure that as we launch our microservices, we don't run any vulnerable or malicious processes within our infrastructure," explained Hornstein.

"With our cloud-based architecture, we can quickly spin up new services, but that also means we have to be vigilant about the security of those components."

Additionally, while Hippo had implemented strong egress access controls, they still had resources that required internet connectivity to function properly. **"We have resources that need to access the internet, so we needed a way to analyze those processes and make sure they're not behaving in any weird or anomalous ways,"** said Hornstein.

These challenges highlighted the need for a more comprehensive and integrated approach to cloud security that could provide Hippo with the visibility, hardening, and detection capabilities required to safeguard its rapidly evolving cloud environment.

Empowering Hippo with Comprehensive Cloud Runtime Visibility and Protection

Seeking a more unified and effective approach to cloud security, Hippo turned to Sweet Security for the following key benefits:
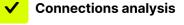
Centralized Cloud Visibility

Sweet enables Hippo to gain a comprehensive view of its entire stack, including infrastructure, applications, and workloads, all within a single pane of glass. **"Sweet gave us the ability to see everything happening in our cloud environment, from asset inventories to potential security challenges,"** said Hornstein. **"This level of visibility was a game-changer for us."**

Gaining visibility into the legitimate connections and data flows within Hippo's cloud environment was another key benefit. **"We needed to gain greater visibility into what kind of legitimate connections we have out in the world, and what is connected to our customers and partners,"** Hornstein explained.

✔ Asset inventory ✔ Topology ✔ Connections analysis

Cloud Hardening for a Stronger Security Posture

By leveraging Sweet's vulnerability management capabilities, Hippo is able to maintain a stronger security posture. **"We finally have a way to detect anomalies and understand whether we are running vulnerable images or applications within our microservices-based environment,"** said Hornstein. **"With Sweet, we can identify these vulnerabilities and take steps to remediate them before they are even deployed to our Production environments."**

✔ Anomaly detection ✔ Vulnerability scanning ✔ Behavioral baseline drift analysis

The Sweet & Hippo Partnership

By leveraging Sweet, Hippo is able to secure its cloud environment and streamline its security operations. **"Sweet has become an invaluable asset in our security arsenal,"** concluded Hornstein. **"With their platform, we can focus on driving innovation and growth, confident that our cloud environment is secure and resilient."**

Ask Sweet experts about how Sweet can help with your cloud security today!