

http4k distribution & regulatory readiness

About http4k (org.http4k), the Kotlin HTTP toolkit your teams build on · Briefing for engineering, platform and security leadership · From the http4k maintainers

Summary. Two changes land seven weeks apart. They are unrelated in origin, but they compound.
Taken together: the speed at which you are expected to respond goes up, while the rate at which fixes reach you through the public repository goes down. That gap is the thing to decide about. Nothing is being removed from Maven Central, and for many organisations accepting the slower cadence will be the right answer.

HOW HTTP4K REACHES YOUR BUILD TODAY

http4k comes in two editions. The **Community Edition** is free and Apache-2.0 licensed, and is what most teams use. **Enterprise Edition** is a paid subscription that adds long-term support, priority support and supply-chain evidence. By default, builds resolve the Community Edition from **Maven Central**, the public repository that serves most JVM dependencies. We also publish to our own repository, **maven.http4k.org**, which Enterprise Edition subscribers use. It receives two things Central does not: the long-term support releases, and the evidence that each artifact is the one we signed. From October a third difference appears, which is how often Central receives anything at all.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- 11 Sep 2026** EU CRA **Article 14** applies, if you place software on the EU market. An *actively exploited* vulnerability in your product, including one inside a third-party component, becomes a 24-hour reporting event. **Article 69(3)** extends this to products already on the market, so legacy software counts.
- 1 Oct 2026** Sonatype enforce Maven Central publishing limits. One full http4k release is roughly 2.4x the monthly size allowance and 6.5x the monthly file allowance. Frequency is not the constraint; http4k is 200+ modules on one coordinated version. The first release you notice missing will be late in the year.

WHAT DIFFERS BETWEEN THE TWO REPOSITORIES

	MAVEN CENTRAL	MAVEN.HTTP4K.ORG
Release cadence	Approximately quarterly from October	Every 1-2 weeks, unchanged
Long-term support	Not published	LTS releases, up to 24 months per major version
Evidence of what you received	Not published to Maven Central	SLSA Build L2 provenance, CycloneDX SBOMs, signed licence reports

Alongside each artifact on maven.http4k.org we publish a record of what went into it, and proof that it is the one we built and signed. The **http4k Verify** Gradle plugin checks all of it automatically before your code compiles, so the assurance is captured at build time rather than reconstructed during an audit.

Who asks for this evidence varies: a customer security questionnaire, an auditor, or CRA **Article 13(6)** if you sell into the EU. None of it has ever been on Maven Central, so the Sonatype change has no effect.

OPTIONS OPEN TO YOU

OPTION	EFFORT	RESIDUAL EXPOSURE
Accept the quarterly cadence	None. Nothing to change.	Security fixes may land up to a quarter later than today. No supply-chain evidence available for http4k artifacts. Viable if you have no defined patching commitment and no CRA exposure.
Clone and maintain http4k	Substantial, and ongoing.	You get the cadence but no supply-chain evidence, and you are now patching a 200+ module codebase you did not write. Covers the Community Edition only: Pro modules cannot be rebuilt to avoid a subscription.
http4k Enterprise Edition	Procurement + annual cost. Reconfigure build + Artifactory equivalent.	Closes the cadence gap and gives you the supply-chain evidence for http4k artifacts, with response times set out in the EE agreement.

The question to answer first: do you hold a patching commitment, contractual or regulatory or internal, that a quarterly cadence would breach? If not, the first option is a perfectly reasonable answer, and we would rather you chose it knowingly than drifted into it.

If it would help, we will spend 30 minutes with your team on the options against your own patching and compliance position, including an indicative cost.

enterprise@http4k.org · Current status, updated as it changes: <http4k.org/distribution>