Project in AWS
Practice Lab

Using Secrets Manager to Authenticate with an RDS Database Using Lambda

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ABOUT THIS LAB

AWS Secrets Manager helps you protect secrets needed to access your applications, services, and IT resources. The service enables you to easily rotate, manage, and retrieve database credentials, API keys, and other secrets throughout their lifecycle.

In this lab, we connect to a MySQL RDS database from an AWS Lambda function using a username and password, and then we hand over credential management to the AWS Secrets Manager service. We then use the Secrets Manager API to connect to the database instead of hard-coding credentials in our Lambda function. By the end of this lab, you will understand how to store a secret in AWS Secrets Manager and access it from a Lambda function.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Create a Lambda Function
- Create the SQS Trigger
- Create a Secret in Secrets Manager
- Test Connectivity from Lambda to RDS Using Credentials from AWS Secrets Manager Create Table in the RDS Database Using Lambda to Check Connectivity
- Modify the Lambda IAM Role

AWS Documentation about Secrets Manager, RDS and Lambda:

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/welcome.html

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/lambda-runtimes.html

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/secretsmanager/latest/userguide/intro.html

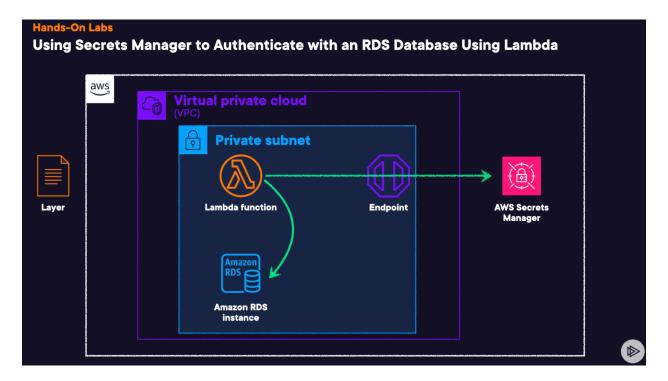
https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonRDS/latest/UserGuide/Welcome.html

Source: https://learn.acloud.guru/course/certified-solutions-architect-associate/

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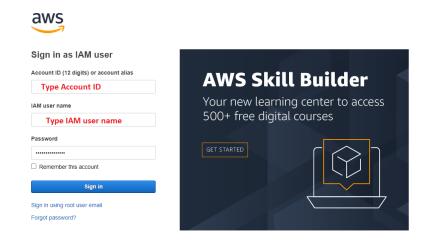
Lab Diagrams



We have the AWS account in **us-east-1** Region. In this lab, you are working for a well-known bank who is looking to transform some of their core processing to Lambda. You've been handed the project as the lead engineer and told this will only be permitted if you can demonstrate how you can effectively configure Lambda to authenticate without the need to hard code credentials. Your VP of security is also mandated that due to the sensitivity of the information held in this application, you'll need to find a way to rotate passwords on a regular basis.

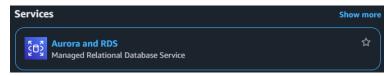
You'll start this lab having been provided with a VPC with 2 private subnets. In these subnets, we have provided you with an RDS database running MySQL. You will first create your Lambda function using the code provided, selecting the deployment method as enabling VPC. Once created, you will create and attach a MySQL layer to the function and test connectivity with the RDS endpoint. Once this has been successfully tested, you'll create an AWS Secrets Manager Secret and enable the password rotation. Finally, once the password's been rotated, you will deploy the code provided to have the Lambda function retrieve the secret from Secrets Manager and authenticate the RDS database.

Log in to your AWS account



1. Create the Lambda Function

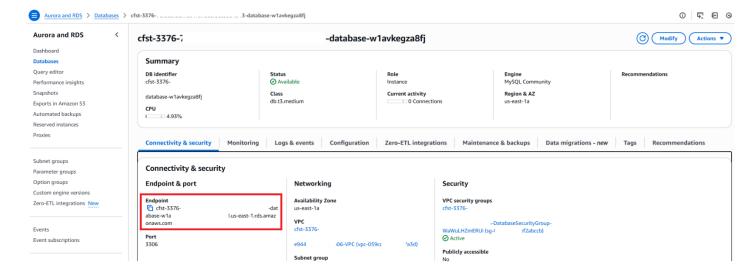
1. Once you are logged into the AWS Management Console, navigate to **RDS** in a new tab.



- 2. From the left navigation menu, click **Databases**.
- 3. Click the link for the displayed RDS database.



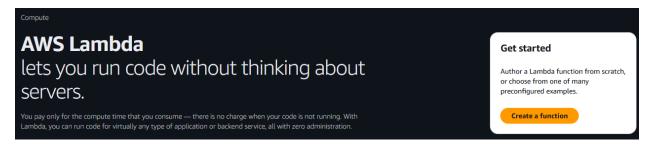
4. Under the **Connectivity & security** section, copy the value for **Endpoint**. Save the value to a text file to use for later.



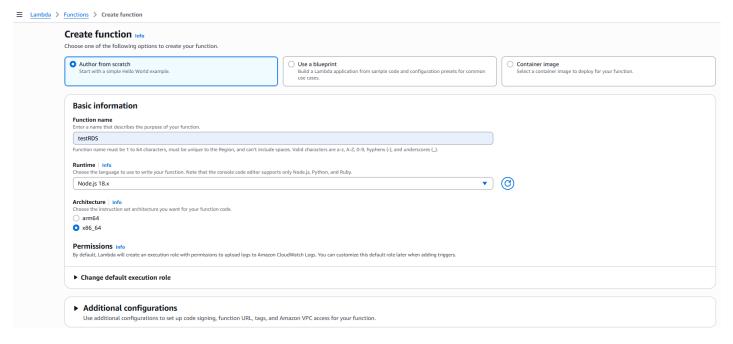
5. In a new tab, navigate to **Lambda**.



6. Click Create a function.



- 7. Make sure the **Author from scratch** option at the top is selected, and then use the following settings:
 - a. Function name: Enter testRDS.
 - b. *Runtime*: Select **Node.js 18.x**.

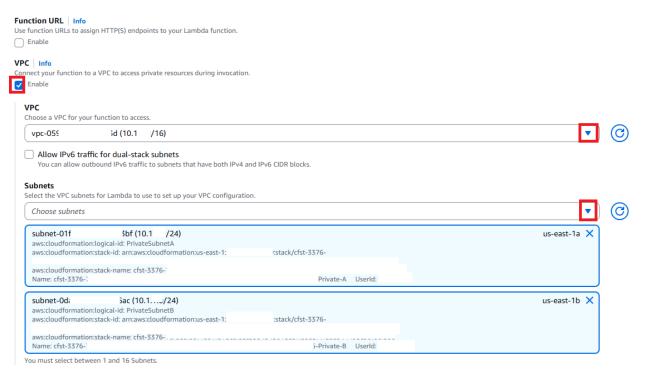


- 8. Expand **Additional configurations**, click **Enable VPC**, and set the following values:
 - a. *VPC*: Select the lab-provided VPC.
 - b. Subnets: Select the two subnets.

▼ Additional configurations

Use additional configurations to set up code signing, function URL, tags, and Amazon VPC access for your function.

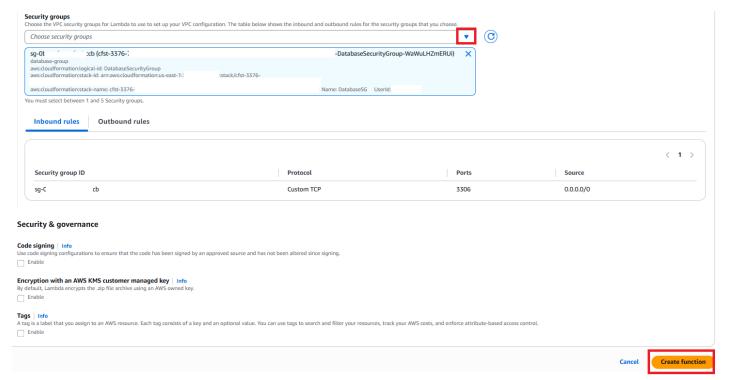
Networking



c. *Security groups*: Select the lab-provided **DatabaseSecurityGroup** security group (**NOT** the default security group).

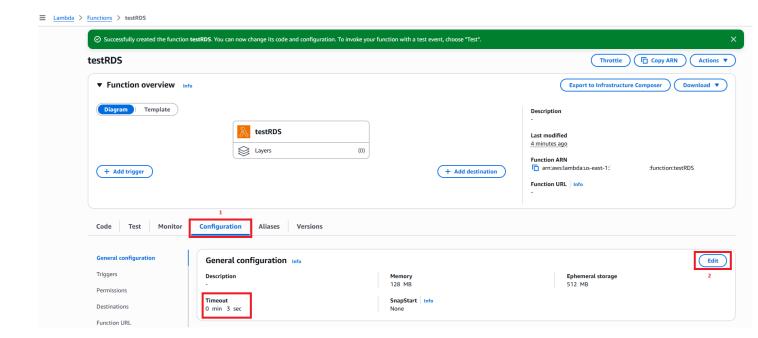
9. Click **Create function**.

Note: It may take up to 5 to 10 minutes to finish creating. The blue bar at the top of the page will indicate the function is being created.

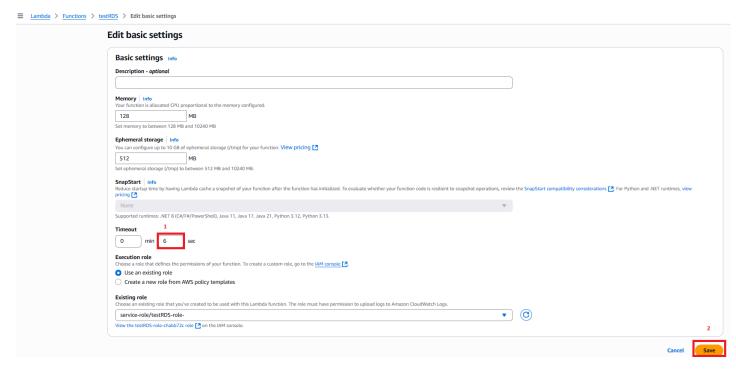


2. Create the MySQL Layer, and Copy Your Code to the Lambda Function

- 1. Once the function has been created, select the **Configuration** tab.
- 2. Next to **General configuration**, click **Edit**.



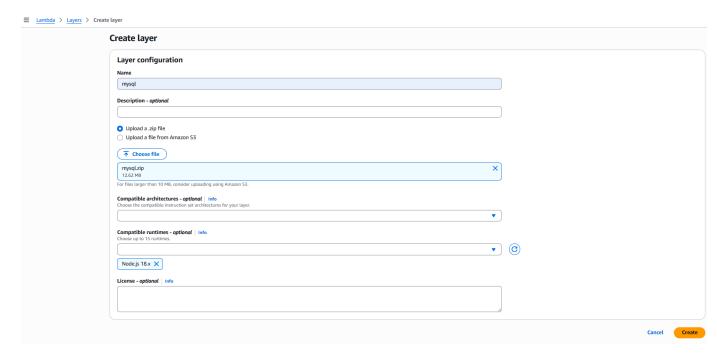
3. Change the **Timeout** setting from 3 seconds to **6** seconds, and click **Save**. This will allow the Lambda function a slightly time to execute for the code that we're providing it.

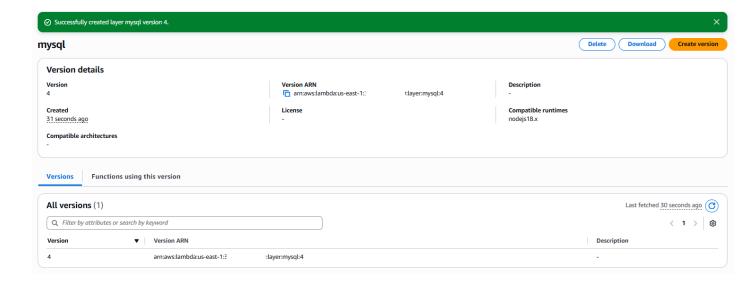


- 4. Select the hamburger menu on the left-hand side, then click **Layers**.
- 5. Click Create layer.



- 6. Set the following values:
 - a. Name: Enter mysql.
 - b. *Upload a .zip file*: Select this option, and upload the file:
 - Click **Upload**.
 - Upload the MySQL Library ZIP file you downloaded earlier.
 - c. Compatible runtimes: Select Node.js 18.x.
- 7. Click Create.

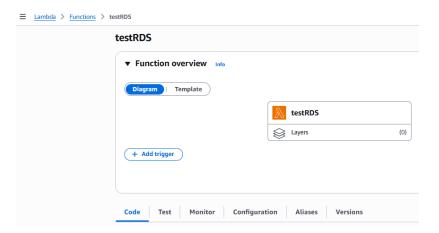




- 8. On the left, click the hamburger menu, and select **Functions**.
- 9. Select the **testRDS** function.



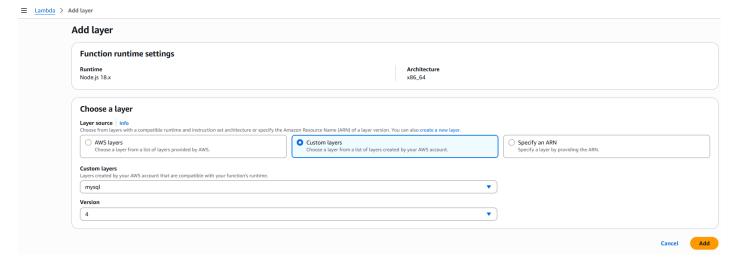
10. Once on the **testRDS** page, ensure the **Code** tab is selected, and scroll down to **Layers**.



11. In the Layers section, click Add a layer.



- 12. Select **Custom layers**, and select the following values:
 - a. Custom layers: Select mysql.
 - b. *Version*: Select the displayed version.
- 13. Click Add. Wait a minute for the function to update.



Now our layer's been added to our Lambda function. The next thing we're going to do is modify the code in the *index.mjs* file.

3. Create Table in the RDS Database Using Lambda to Check Connectivity

1. In the **Code source** section, replace the existing code in the **index.mjs** file with the following code:

```
import mysql from 'mysql2/promise';

export const handler = async (event, context, callback) => {
    try {
        const connection = await mysql.createConnection({
            host: "<RDS Endpoint>",
            user: "username",
            password: "password",
            database: "example",
        });

// Create 'pets' table
    await connection.execute(`
        CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS pets (
        id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
```

```
age INT NOT NULL
  `);
  console.log('Table created: pets');
  // List all tables
  const [rows] = await connection.execute('SHOW TABLES');
  console.log('Tables:');
  rows.forEach((row) => {
   console.log(row[`Tables_in_example`]);
  connection.end();
  callback(null, {
   statusCode: 200,
   body: 'Tables listed successfully',
  });
 } catch (err) {
  console.error(err);
  callback(err, {
   statusCode: 500,
   body: 'Error listing tables',
  });
};
```

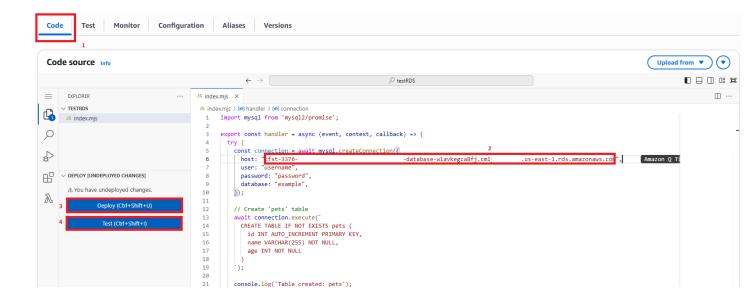
name VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL,

2. Replace the **<RDS Endpoint>** placeholder with the endpoint value you previously copied from RDS. Ensure it remains wrapped in quotes.

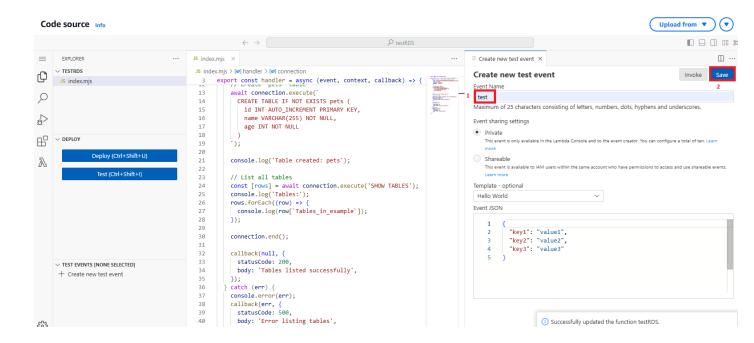
The code will create a new MySQL connection to our database endpoint, using the username as *username* and password as *password*, to gain access. It will be targeting the *example* database and it's going to create a table called *Pets*. Once this is done, a further command's going to be issued, which is a SHOW TABLES command.

If everything has run successfully, we should get a **200-status code** back and the *Pets* table name is listed successfully.

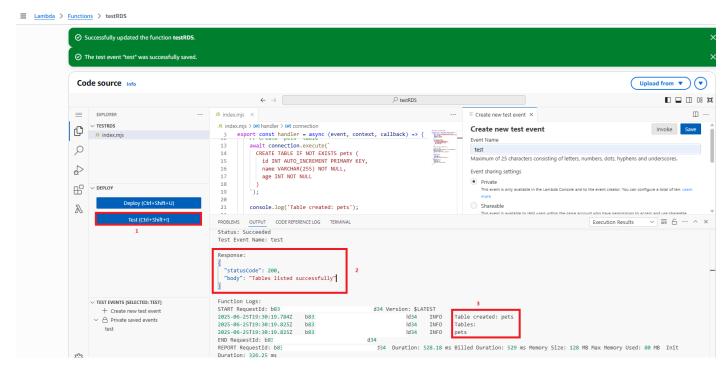
- 3. To the left of the file, click **Deploy**.
- 4. Once the function is updated, click the **Test** tab.



- 5. For **Event name**, enter **test**.
- 6. Click Save.



- 7. Click **Test**.
- 8. Expand **Details**, and note the response includes a **statusCode** of **200**.



Next, we'll configure the Lambda execution role to have access to Secrets Manager, and we'll create our Secrets Manager secret.

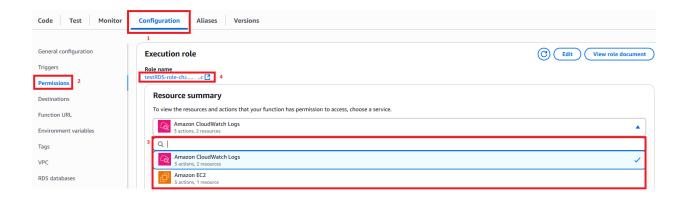
4. Modify the Lambda IAM Role

- 1. Click the **Configuration** tab.
- 2. From the left menu, select **Permissions**. Review the permitted actions in the **Resource summary** section.

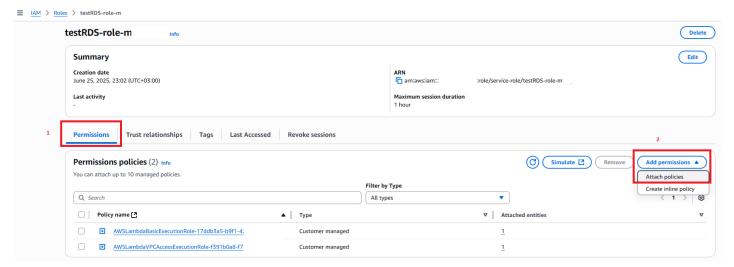
As we can see, it provides a very nice resource summary, which allows us to see the permissions the Lambda execution role has. At the top, our execution role is called *testRDS-role* and a string of characters.

Under resource summary, we can see the Lambda execution role currently has 3 actions permitted to do against 2 resources in CloudWatch Logs and 3 actions permitted to do against 1 resource on Amazon EC2. Let's make the changes!

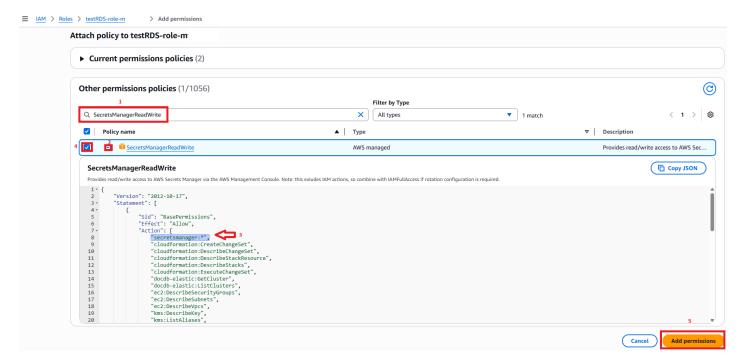
3. Click the **testRDS-role-** link above **Resource summary** to open IAM.



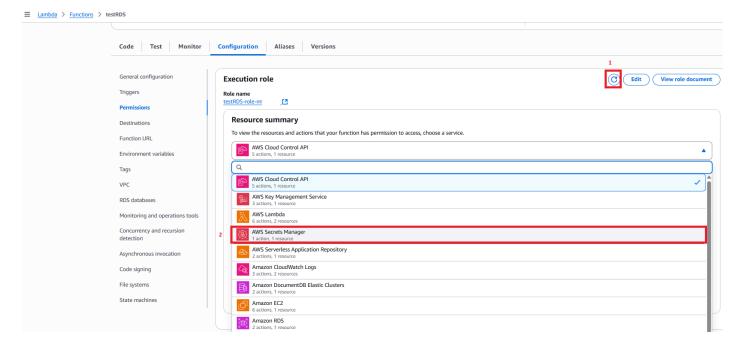
4. As we can see, under permissions, we don't have permission at the moment allowing access to Secrets Manager. On the right side of the **Permission policies** box, click **Add permissions** → **Attach policies**.



- 5. Search for and check the box next to the **SecretsManagerReadWrite** policy name. This is an AWS-managed policy. Click on the "+" to see what is allowed through the policy.
- 6. This policy has a few actions to be allowed. This is ok to do in a learning environment, but if this is your production environment, please make sure you're following the principle of least privilege and instead, configure a custom policy allowing only the permissions you need for the Lambda execution role, which in this case, we can remove the actions to "secretsmanager:*".
- 7. For the lab we are ok with the policy as it is, so click the checkbox of the policy.
- 8. Click **Add permissions**.



- 9. Wait a few moments for your configurations to take effect.
- 10. Go back to Lambda, and click the **Refresh** icon at the top of the page. Observe all the additional permissions the role has access to. We are interested in AWS Secrets Manager.



5. Create a Secret in Secrets Manager

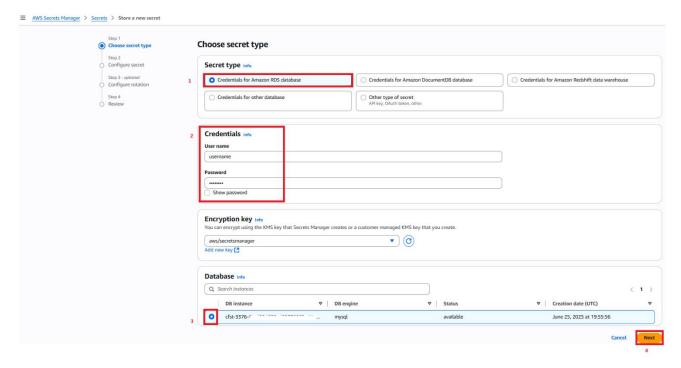
1. In a new browser tab, navigate to **Secrets Manager**.



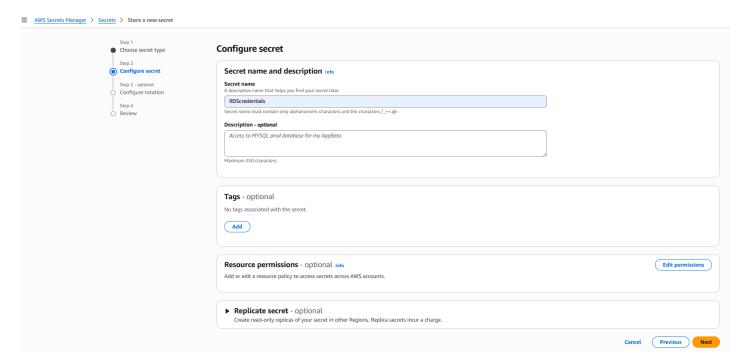
2. Click Store a new secret.



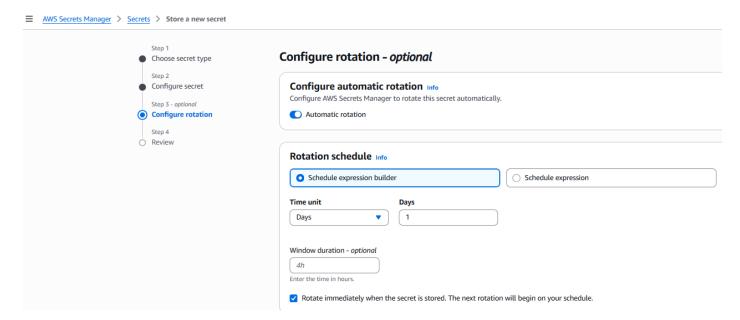
- 3. With Credentials for Amazon RDS database selected, set the following values:
 - a. *Username*: Enter usernameb. *Password*: Enter password
 - c. *Encryption key*: Leave this as the default option.
 - d. Database: Select the listed DB instance.
- 4. Click Next.



- 5. On the next page, for **Secret name**, enter **RDScredentials**.
- 6. Leave the rest of the defaults as they are, and click **Next**.

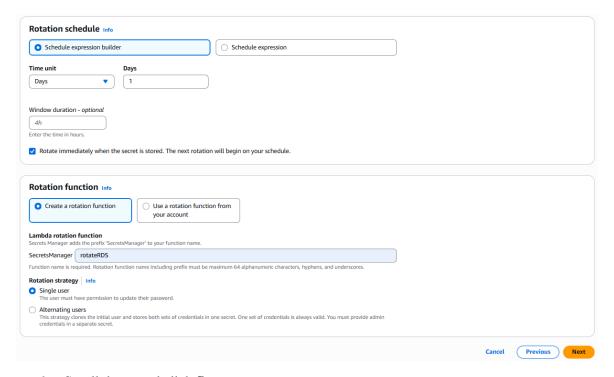


- 7. On the next page, set the following values:
 - a. Toggle the Automatic rotation option to enable it.
 - b. Leave *Schedule expression builder* selected.
 - c. *Time unit*: Select **Days**, and enter **1**. So, for every 1 day, the password is going to be rotated.

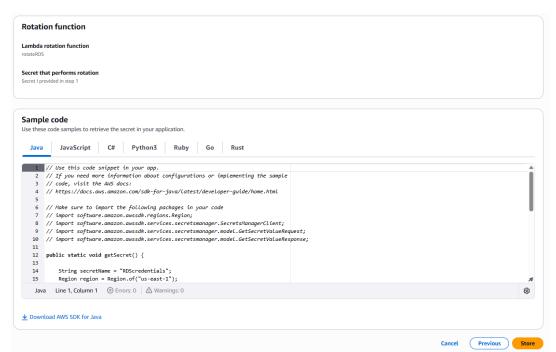


- d. Leave *Create a rotation* function selected. So, in order for the password to be rotated, a new Lambda function (an application) is going to be created in the background, which is going to do the pass of the rotation for us.
- e. SecretsManager: Enter rotateRDS.
- f. Under Rotation strategy, leave Single User selected.

8. Click Next.



9. Scroll down and click **Store**.

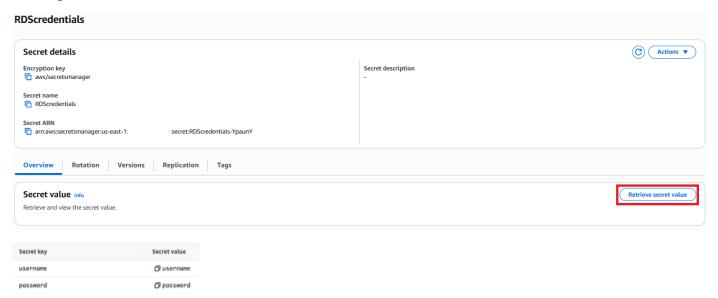


Note: If it doesn't show, click on the Refresh button.

10. Once it's done, refresh your page and click **RDScredentials**.



11. In the **Secret value** section, click **Retrieve secret value**. You should see the password listed as *password*.



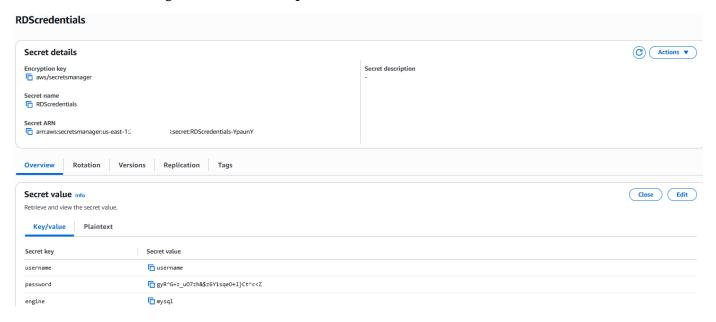
12. Go back to the **Lambda** browser tab, and click the hamburger menu in the upper-left. Then, select **Functions**. You should also see the **SecretsManagerrotateRDS** function.



13. To check if the function is running, from the left menu, click **Applications**. The function should show as **Create complete**.

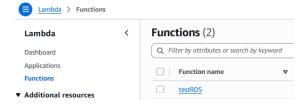


14. Back in **Secrets Manager** browser tab, click the **Refresh** button, and click **Retrieve secret value** to see the secret again. You will see the *password* is now a series of random characters.



6. Test Connectivity from Lambda to RDS Using Credentials from AWS Secrets Manager

- 1. Go back to **Lambda** (so it's able to pull the secret from Secrets Manager and log in to MySQL RDS instance).
- 2. From the left menu, select **Functions**.
- 3. Select the **testRDS** function.



- 4. Click the **Code** tab.
- 5. Replace the code in *index.mjs* with the following:

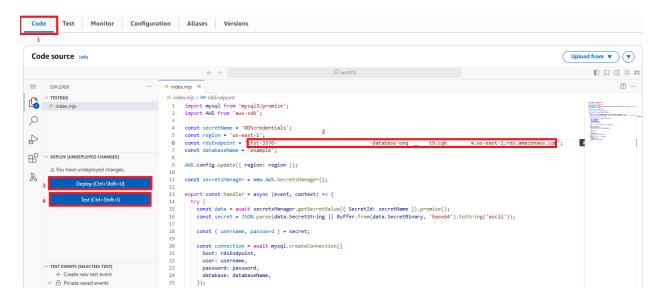
import mysql from 'mysql2/promise';
import AWS from 'aws-sdk';

```
const secretName = 'RDScredentials';
const region = 'us-east-1';
const rdsEndpoint = '<RDS Endpoint>';
const databaseName = 'example';
AWS.config.update({ region: region });
const secretsManager = new AWS.SecretsManager();
export const handler = async (event, context) => {
 try {
  const data = await secretsManager.getSecretValue({ SecretId: secretName }).promise();
  const secret = JSON.parse(data.SecretString || Buffer.from(data.SecretBinary,
'base64').toString('ascii'));
  const { username, password } = secret;
  const connection = await mysql.createConnection({
   host: rdsEndpoint,
   user: username,
   password: password,
   database: databaseName,
  });
  const [rows] = await connection.execute('SHOW TABLES');
  console.log('Tables:');
  rows.forEach((row) => {
   console.log(row[`Tables_in_${databaseName}`]);
  });
```

```
connection.end();

return {
    statusCode: 200,
    body: 'Tables listed successfully',
    };
} catch (err) {
    console.error('Error:', err.message);
    return {
        statusCode: 500,
        body: 'Error listing tables',
    };
};
```

- 6. Replace the **<RDS Endpoint>** placeholder with the endpoint you copied earlier in the lab. This is going to retrieve RDS credential secret name from Secrets Manager. It will open a connection to the MySQL RDS database using the host as the RDS endpoint and the user and password taken from the information of the RDS secret.
- 7. Click **Deploy**.
- 8. Once the function is updated, click the **Test** tab.



9. Once you have the green banner at the top, click **Test**. Expand Details, and note the response includes a **statusCode** of **200** and the tables are listed successfully.

