



Prashant Lakhera

Feb 24, 2019 · 4 min read · Listen



100 Days of DevOps — Day 14- How to automate the process of EBS Snapshot Creation

Check the updated 101 Days of DevOps Course

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Course Link: <https://www.101daysofdevops.com/courses/101-days-of-devops/>

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Welcome to Day 14 of 100 Days of DevOps, Let continue our journey and focus of this week is a daily DevOps task, to run the business and to save money. We all understand the importance of backups and snapshot is the handy way to create a point in time backups.

Problem: How to take a snapshot of our EBS Volumes everyday

Solution: There are multiple ways to achieve this, I am just focussing on two

- CloudWatch Events
- EBS LifeCycle Manager

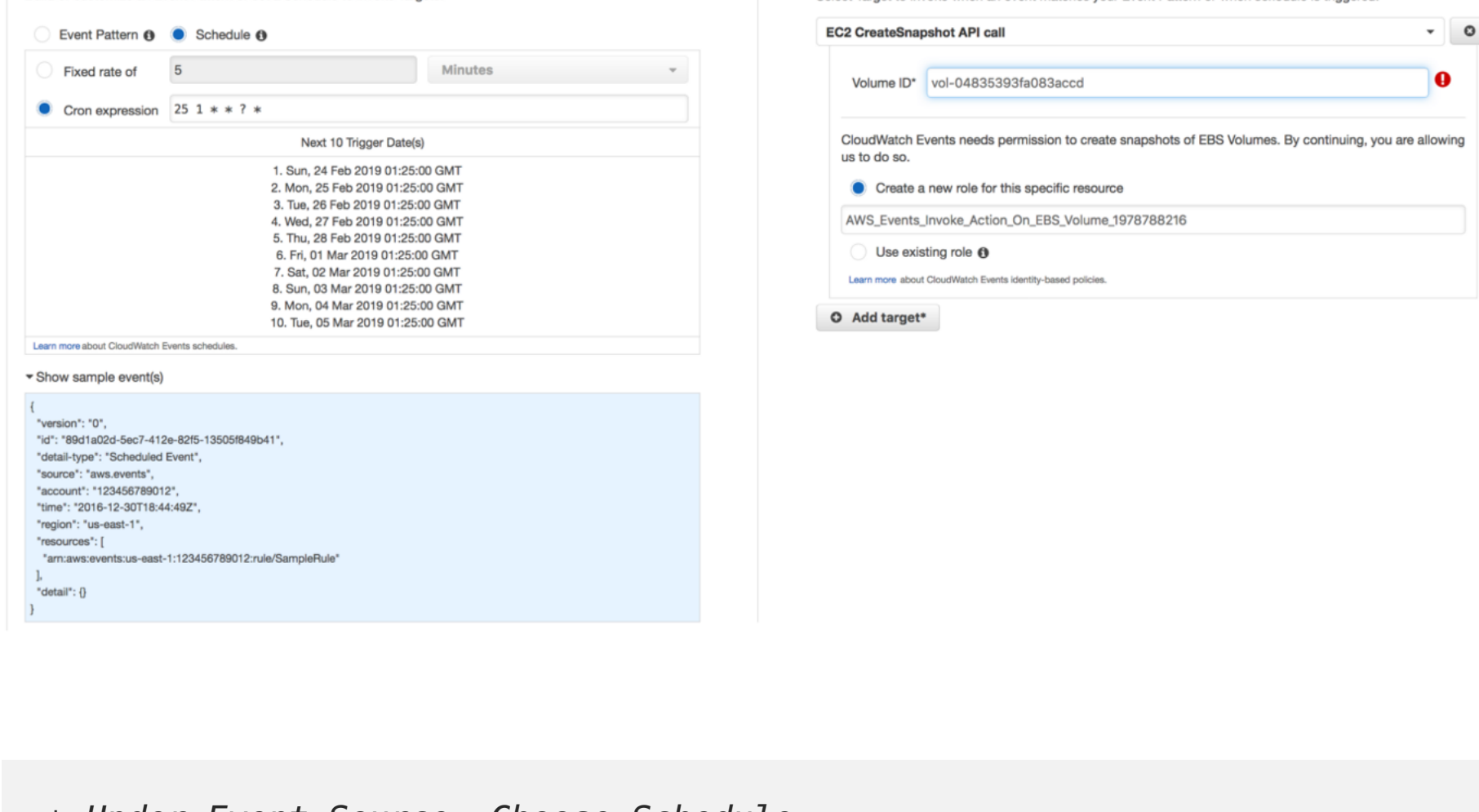
What is EBS Snapshots?

- Snapshots are a point in time backups of EBS Volumes that are stored in S3.
- They are incremental in nature i.e first snapshot is the complete backup of your Volume but all the subsequent snapshot is just an incremental change.
- We can use snapshots to create an AMI
- Mostly used for a backup purpose to fully restore your EBS Volumes.
- The recommendation is to frequently take snapshots depending upon your Recovery Time Objective(RTO)
- For data consistency, it's good to stop any write operation before performing snapshots.

CloudWatch Events

Go to AWS Console → Management Tools → CloudWatch → Events → Create rule

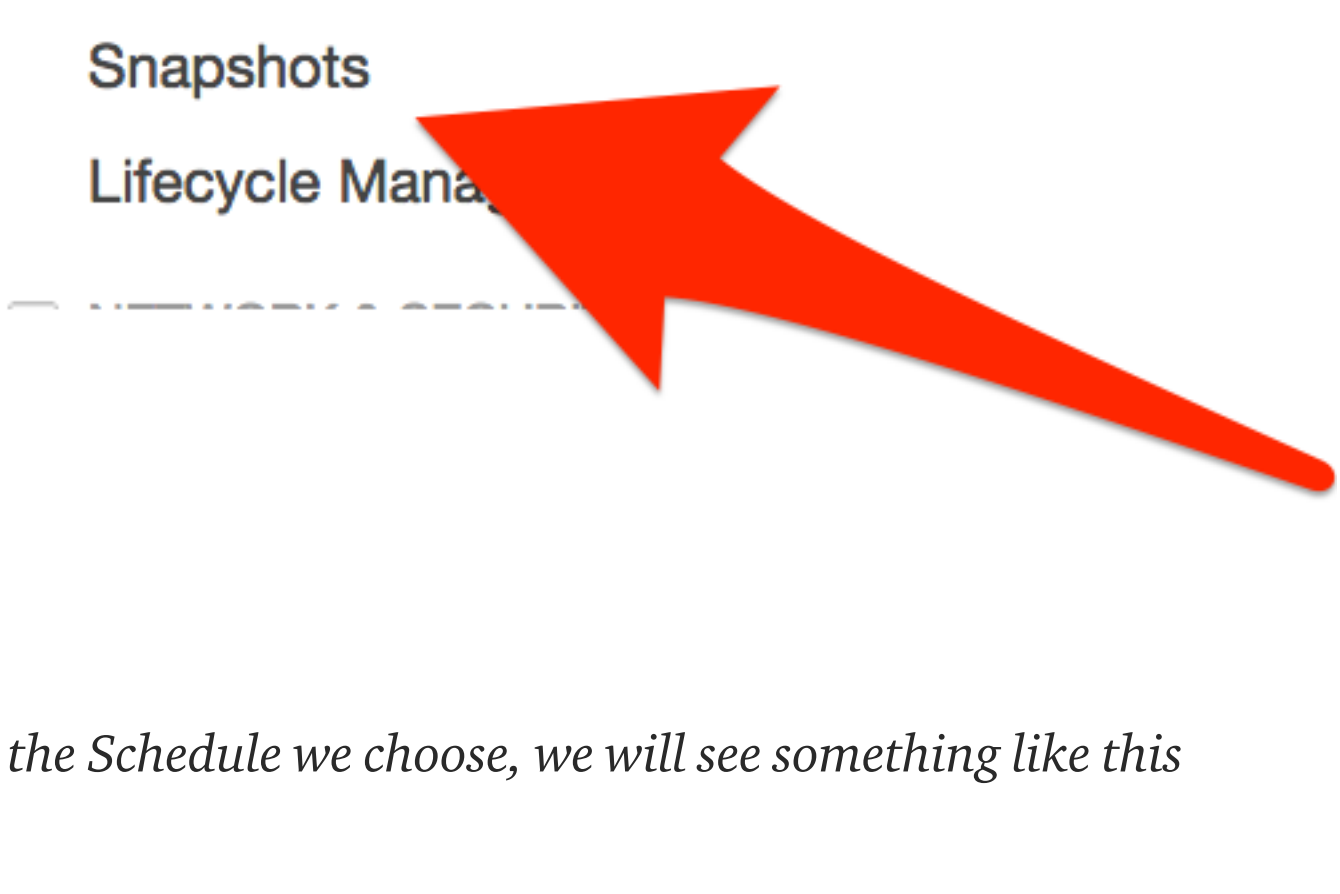
<https://us-west-2.console.aws.amazon.com/cloudwatch>



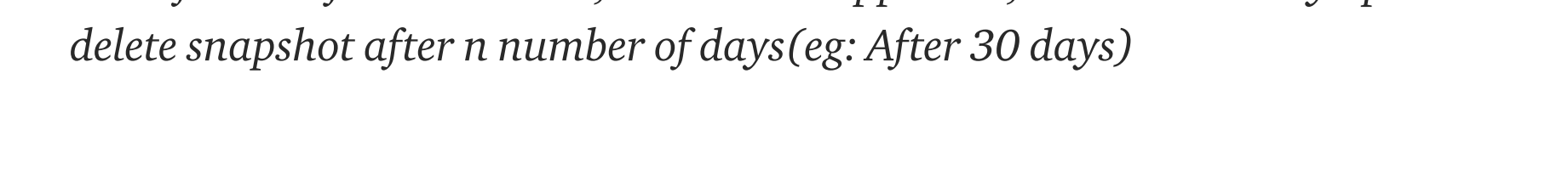
- * Under Event Source, Choose Schedule
- * Choose the Schedule based on your requirement(for eg: I want this Process to be triggered 1.25 am everyday)
- * In the Targets section, Choose EC2 CreateSnapshot API call and give your Volume ID
- * For CloudWatch Event to interact with EBS Volume it need an IAM role, Choose any existing one or create new one

NOTE: All scheduled events use UTC time zone, so might need to change based on your timezone

- On the next screen give your Snapshot some name and Description
- Now go to the EC2 console <https://us-west-2.console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/>
- Under ELASTIC BLOCK STORE, click on Snapshots



- Based on the Schedule we choose, we will see something like this

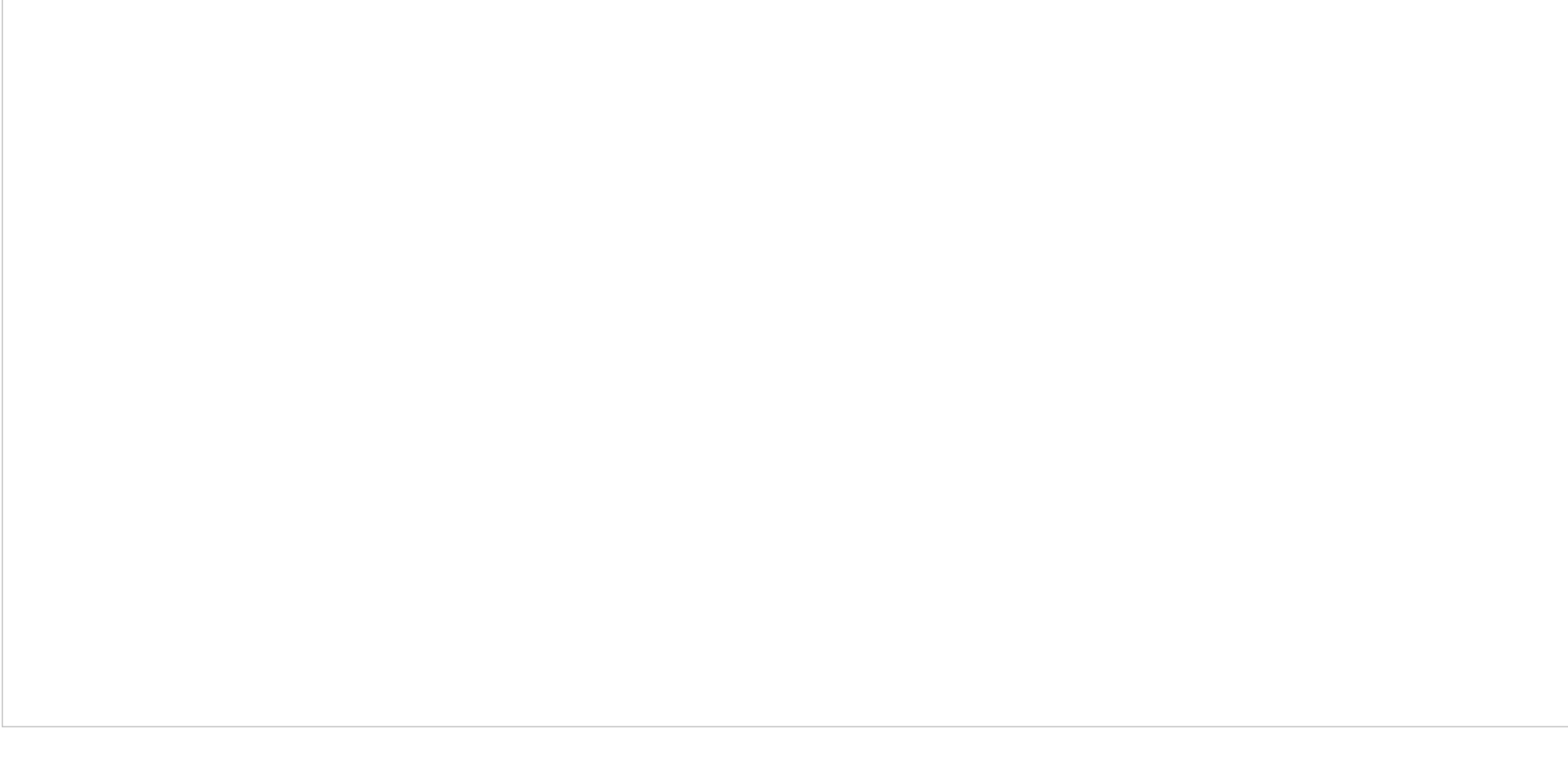


- One of the major limitations, I see in this approach, is I don't see any option to delete snapshot after n number of days(eg: After 30 days)

Data Life Cycle Manager

- This is probably the easiest way, where using single service we can Create and Manage(deleting it after 'n' number of days) EBS snapshots

Go to AWS → Compute → EC2 → Elastic Block Store → Lifecycle Manager → Create Snapshot Lifecycle Policy



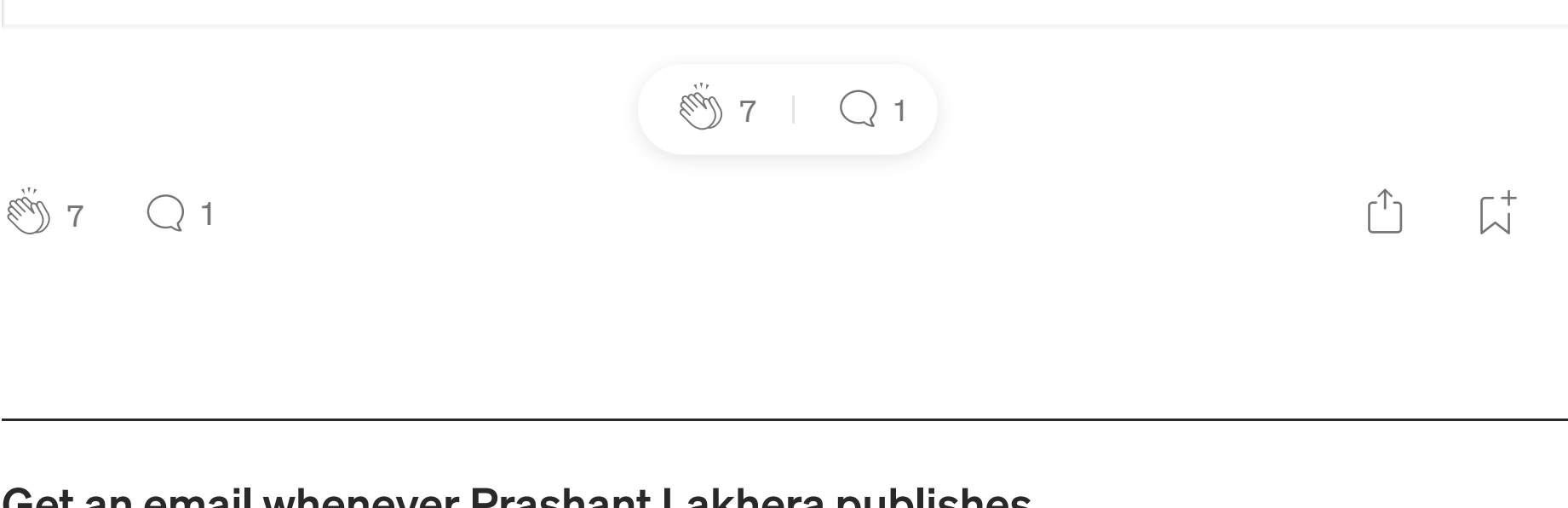
Description: Add a description to your policy to help you identify what it is intended for.
Target volumes with tags: Add the Volume
Create snapshots every: 12 or 24 hour
Snapshot creation start time: 5:00(Timing is in UTC)
Retention rule: 30(Depending upon your requirement)
Keep all the other values as default

NOTE: Snapshot creation start time hh:mm UTC — The time of day when policy runs are scheduled to start. The policy runs start within an hour after the scheduled time

Looking forward from you guys to join this journey and spend a minimum an hour every day for the next 100 days on DevOps work and post your progress using any of the below medium.

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- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/795382630808645/>
- Medium: <https://medium.com/@devopslearning>
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- GitHub Link: <https://github.com/100daysofdevops>

Reference



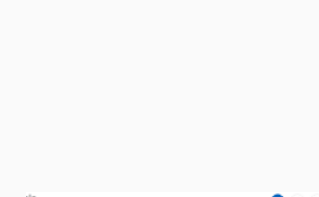
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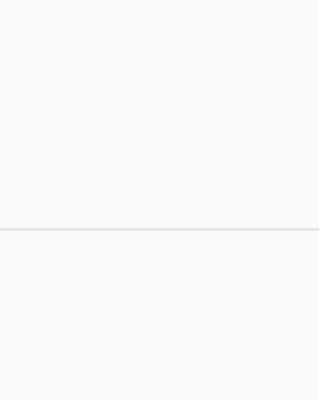
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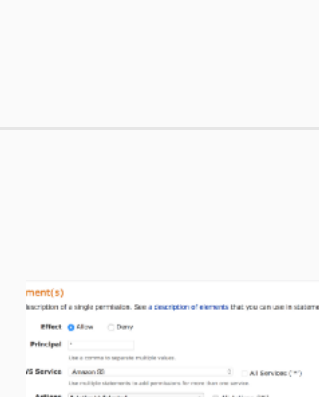
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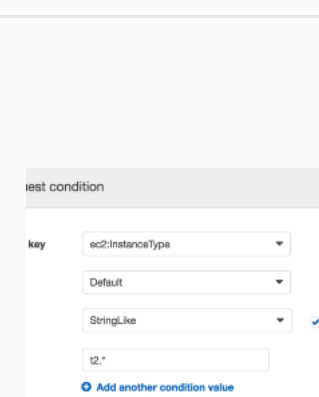
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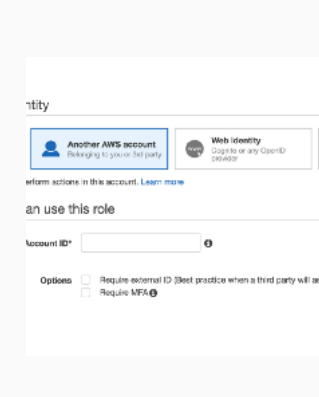
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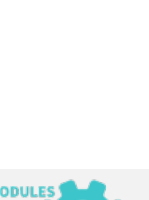
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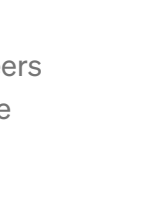
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