

Setup the environment

In my journey as an AWS-certified professional, I've embarked on several exciting projects that really showcase my dedication to enhancing cloud security and making sure our operations run smoothly. Here's a quick look at four key policies I put together, each designed to tackle specific security and operational challenges:

1. Control who has permissions to access a resource through a resource-based policy, and scoping down access using a global condition context key
2. Control access to sensitive resources using tags through a SCP
3. Restrict the types of EC2 instances that a principal is allowed to launch through an identity-based policy
4. Ensure AWS services access your resources only on your behalf by adding conditions to a resource-based policy

Services used: IAM, Access Analyzer, S3, SNS

1. I created a policy to grant permissions for those required for this labs: iam:SimulateCustomPolicy and access-analyzer:ValidatePolicy; and added it to my IAM user:

The screenshot shows the AWS IAM console interface for creating a new policy. The breadcrumb navigation at the top reads 'IAM > Policies > Create policy'. On the left, a sidebar indicates 'Step 1 Specify permissions' is the current step, with 'Step 2 Review and create' listed below it. The main area is titled 'Specify permissions' with an 'Info' link. Below the title is a descriptive text: 'Add permissions by selecting services, actions, resources, and conditions. Build permission statements'. The 'Policy editor' section displays a JSON snippet for a policy statement. The JSON is as follows:

```
1 {  
2   "Version": "2012-10-17",  
3   "Statement": [  
4     {  
5       "Effect": "Allow",  
6       "Action": ["iam:SimulateCustomPolicy", "access-analyzer:ValidatePolicy"],  
7       "Resource": "*"   
8     }  
9   ]  
10 }  
11
```

Step 1

[Specify permissions](#)

Step 2

Review and create

Review and create [Info](#)

Review the permissions, specify details, and tags.

Policy details

Policy name

Enter a meaningful name to identify this policy.

Maximum 128 characters. Use alphanumeric and '+=, @-_' characters.

Description - optional

Add a short explanation for this policy.

Maximum 1,000 characters. Use alphanumeric and '+=, @-_' characters.

Permissions defined in this policy [Info](#)

Permissions defined in this policy document specify which actions are allowed or denied. To define permissions for an IAM

Allow (2 of 411 services)

Service	Access level	Resource
Access Analyzer	Limited: Read	All resources
IAM	Limited: Read	All resources

Step 1

Add permissions

Step 2

Review

Add permissionsAdd user to an existing group or create a new one. Using groups is a best-practice way to manage user's permissions by job functions. [Learn more](#)**Permissions options**☐ Add user to group

Add user to an existing group, or create a new one. We recommend using groups to manage user permissions by job function.

☐ Copy permissions

Copy all group memberships, attached managed policies, inline policies, and any existing permissions boundaries from an existing user.

☒ Attach policies directly

Attach a managed policy directly to a user. As a best practice, we recommend attaching policies to a group instead. Then, add the user to the appropriate group.

Permissions policies (1/1208)

Policy name	Type	Attached entities
WorkshopPolicy	Customer managed	0

[Cancel](#) [Next](#)

I used CloudShell to check the policies validity.

2. I downloaded and installed the tool using the below commands:

- `curl 'https://static.us-east-1.prod.workshops.aws/public/8f8433eb-bd06-44bb-a9ef-9da1a03cd419/assets/eval_policy-0.0.33-py3-none-any.whl' --output eval_policy-0.0.33-py3-none-any.whl`
- `pip install eval_policy-0.0.33-py3-none-any.whl`

3. Verify the tool was correctly installed by running this command:

- `eval-policy --version`

```
CloudShell
US-east-1

[cloudshell-user@ip-10-130-67-115 ~]$ curl 'https://static.us-east-1.prod.workshops.aws/public/8f8433eb-bd06-44bb-a9ef-9da1a83cd419/assets/eval_policy-0.0.33-py3-none-any.whl' --output eval_policy-0.0.33-py3-none-any.whl
% Total    % Received % Xferd  Average Speed   Time    Time     Time  Current
                                 Dload  Upload   Total   Spent    Left   Speed
100 24601 100 24601    0     0  69911      0 --:--:-- --:--:-- --:--:-- 69917
[cloudshell-user@ip-10-130-67-115 ~]$ pip install eval_policy-0.0.33-py3-none-any.whl
Defaulting to user installation because normal site-packages is not writeable
Processing ./eval_policy-0.0.33-py3-none-any.whl
Requirement already satisfied: boto3 in /usr/local/lib/python3.9/site-packages (from eval_policy==0.0.33) (1.34.61)
Requirement already satisfied: jmespath<2.0.0,>=0.7.1 in /usr/local/lib/python3.9/site-packages (from boto3->eval_policy==0.0.33) (1.0.1)
Requirement already satisfied: botocore<1.35.0,>=1.34.61 in /usr/local/lib/python3.9/site-packages (from boto3->eval_policy==0.0.33) (1.34.61)
Requirement already satisfied: s3transfer<0.11.0,>=0.10.0 in /usr/local/lib/python3.9/site-packages (from boto3->eval_policy==0.0.33) (0.10.0)
Requirement already satisfied: urllib3<1.27,>=1.25.4 in /usr/local/lib/python3.9/site-packages (from botocore<1.35.0,>=1.34.61->boto3->eval_policy==0.0.33) (1.26.18)
Requirement already satisfied: python-dateutil<3.0.0,>=2.1 in /usr/local/lib/python3.9/site-packages (from botocore<1.35.0,>=1.34.61->boto3->eval_policy==0.0.33) (2.9.0.post0)
Requirement already satisfied: six>=1.5 in /usr/local/lib/python3.9/site-packages (from python-dateutil<3.0.0,>=2.1->botocore<1.35.0,>=1.34.61->boto3->eval_policy==0.0.33) (1.16.0)
Installing collected packages: eval-policy
Successfully installed eval-policy-0.0.33
[cloudshell-user@ip-10-130-67-115 ~]$ eval-policy --version
eval-policy 0.0.33
[cloudshell-user@ip-10-130-67-115 ~]$
[cloudshell-user@ip-10-130-67-115 ~]$
```

All done, now we can create and validate the policies.