Course: Cloud and Network Security C3-2024

Student Name: Loise Murugi Murage

Student No: CS-CNS07-24115.

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Week 7 Assignment 1

Class Exercise: Configure ASA Basic Settings and Firewall Using the CLI

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Introduction

From this exercise we will be using CloudGoat a Rhino Security Labs' "Vulnerable by Design" AWS deployment tool. It allows you to hone your cloud cybersecurity skills by creating and completing several "capture-the-flag" style scenarios. Each scenario is composed of AWS resources arranged together to create a structured learning experience. We will also be creating a user from AWS and CLI and attach a policy to an account to apply controls. The Amazon Resource Name is the unique name every resource inside AWS has.

We will be looking at Identity and Access Management, this is the service that will allow you to manage Authentication (the process of defining an identity and the verification of that identity), Authorization (determines what an identity can access within a system once it has been authenticated to it) and Access control (is the methods and process of hoe access is granted to a secure resource) inside your AWS account.

We will be using an IAM user profile which is an entity that you create in AWS to represent the person or application that uses it to interact with AWS. Access Key ID: 20 random uppercase alphanumeric characters like AKHDNAPO86BSHKDIRYT Secret access key ID: 40 random upper and lowercase characters: S836fh/J73yHSb64Ag3Rkdi/jaD6sPl6/antFtU (It's not possible to retrieve lost secret access key IDs).

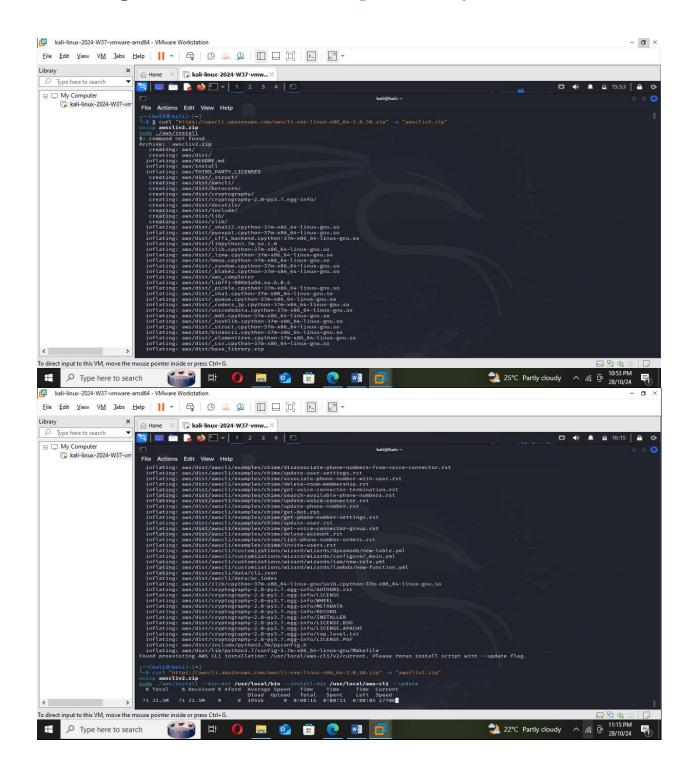
An IAM role is very similar to a user, in that it is an identity with permission policies that determine what it can and cannot do in AWS. It consists of two types of policies: A trust policy, which cannot be empty, defining who can assume the role, and a permissions policy, which cannot be empty, defining what it can access.

Policy Permissions, are used to assign permissions and there are 2 types: AWS managed policies (preconfigured by AWS); Customer Managed Policies: Configured by you. You can create policies based on AWS managed policies (modifying one of them and creating your own), using the policy generator (a GUI view that helps you granting and denying permissions) or writing your own.

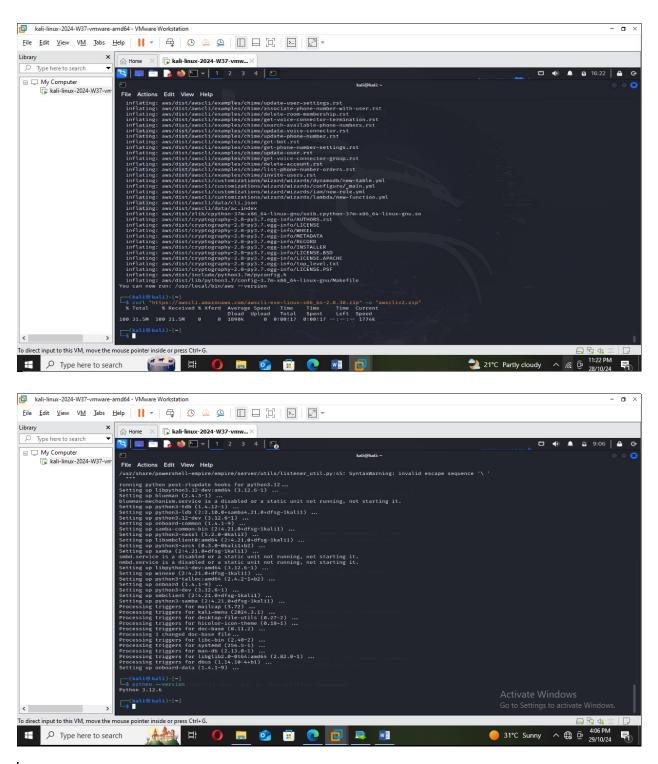
1. Setup:

- Ensure you have an AWS account or access to an AWS environment where you can perform IAM actions.
- Install and configure the AWS CLI if you haven't already. Install AWS CLI, updating and running the version. The below screenshots show the installation process of the requirements for this activity that is Linux Operating system, Python3.6+ is required, Terraform, Jq, and the AWS and an AWS account with sufficient privileges to create and destroy resource.

Week 6 Assignment 4: CloudGoat IAM Privilege Escalation by Rollback Scenario



Week 6 Assignment 4: CloudGoat IAM Privilege Escalation by Rollback Scenario

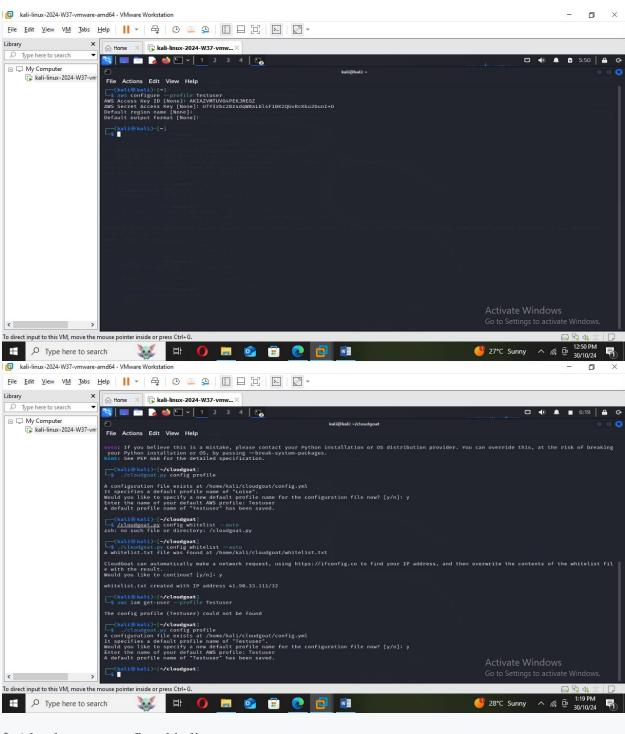


2. Accessing CloudGoat:

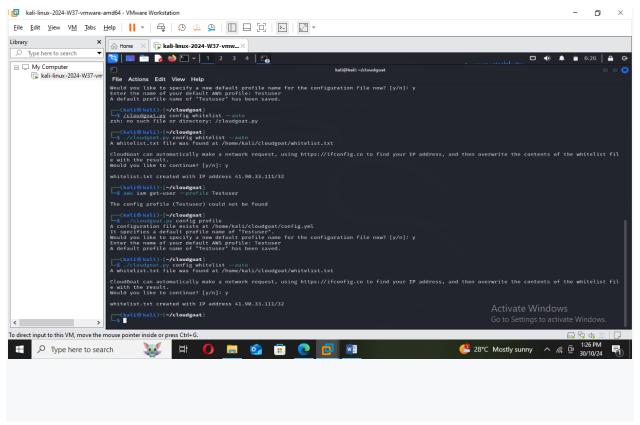
\$ aws configure –profile Testuser

From the CLI we have created a user profile Testuser.

Week 6 Assignment 4: CloudGoat IAM Privilege Escalation by Rollback Scenario



\$./cloudgoat.py config whitelist --auto
We have configured the whitelist to whitelist our IP address as seen below



3. Understanding the Scenario:

• Read the scenario description and objectives provided in the CloudGoat

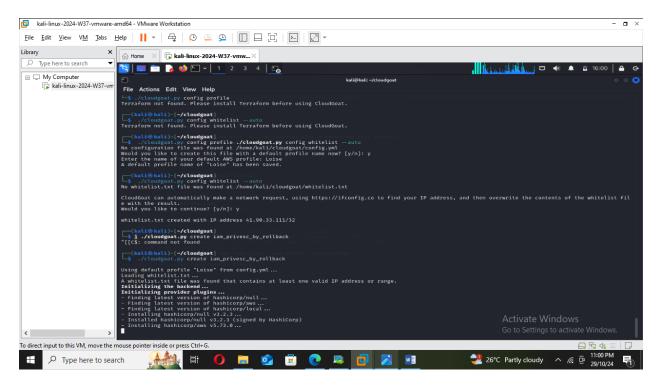
documentation to understand the context and goals of the

"iam privesc by rollback" scenario.

From this scenario, we are able to see to review the previous IAM policy versions and restore one which allows full admin privileges, resulting in a privilege escalation exploit.

Familiarize yourself with AWS IAM concepts such as users, roles, policies, and permissions.

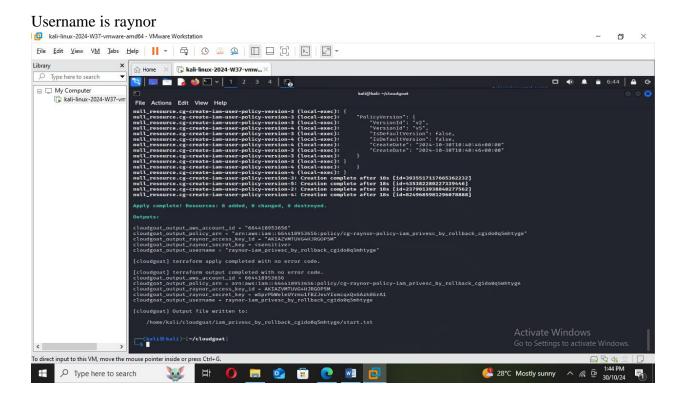
- 1. Starting as the IAM user, the attacker has only a few limited seemingly harmless privileges available to them.
- 2. The attacker analyzes the user's privileges and notices the SetDefaultPolicyVersion permission allowing access to 4 other versions of the policy via setting an old version as the default.
- 3. After reviewing the old policy versions, the attacker finds that one version in particular offers a full set of admin rights.
- 4. Attacker restores the full-admin policy version, gaining full admin privileges and the ability to carry out any malicious actions they wish.
- 5. As a final step, the attacker may choose to revert the user's policy version back to the original one, thereby concealing their actions and the true capabilities of the IAM user.



• Familiarize yourself with AWS IAM concepts such as users, roles, policies, and permissions.

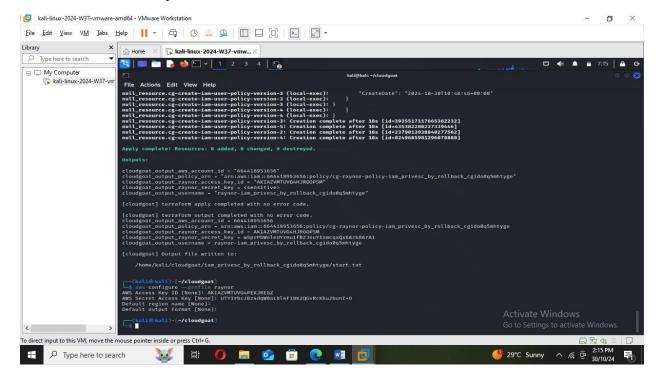
4. Starting the Scenario:

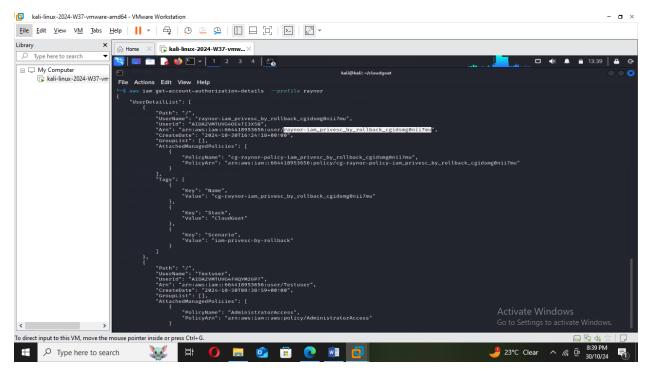
- Once CloudGoat is deployed, access the CloudGoat environment using the provided credentials or IAM user.
- Launch the "iam_privesc_by_rollback" scenario from the CloudGoat menu or command-line interface.



a. aws configure --profile raynor

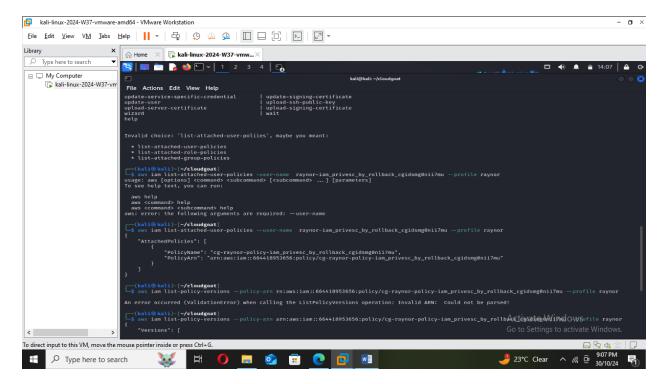
We have added user raynor as seen below.





b. aws iam list-attached-user-policies --user-name raynor --profile raynor

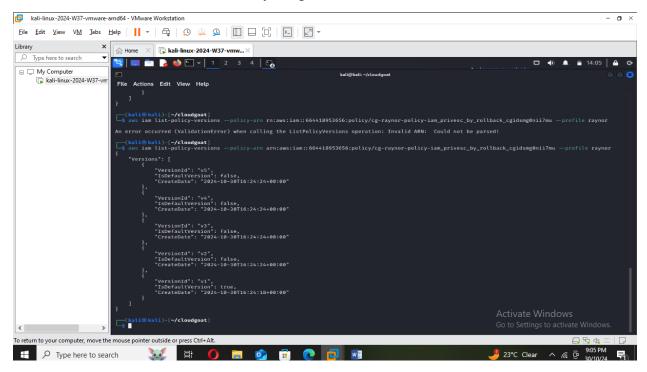
Our policy Arn "PolicyArn": "arn:aws:iam::664418953656:policy/cg-raynor-policy-iam_privesc_by_rollback_cgidsmg0nii7mu"



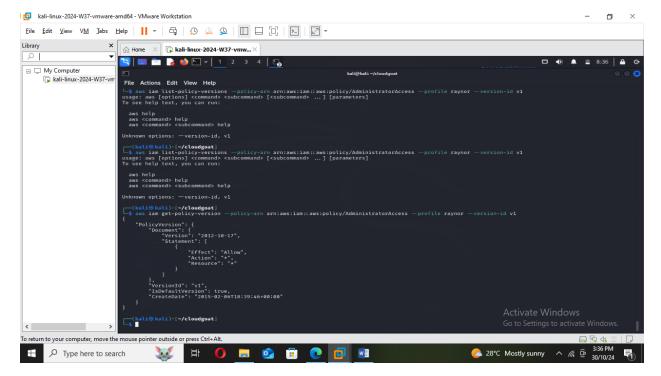
C. aws iam list-policy-versions --policy-arn <generatedARN>/cg-raynor-policy --profile raynor

"PolicyArn": "arn:aws:iam::aws:policy/AdministratorAccess"

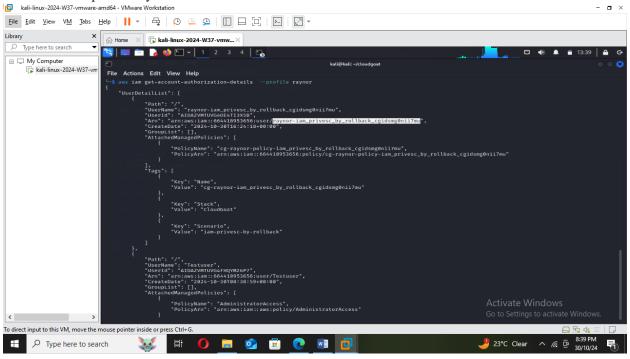
From the screenshot below we are currently using v1, which is true, the rest are false



From the screenshot below we see a detailed information of the policy version

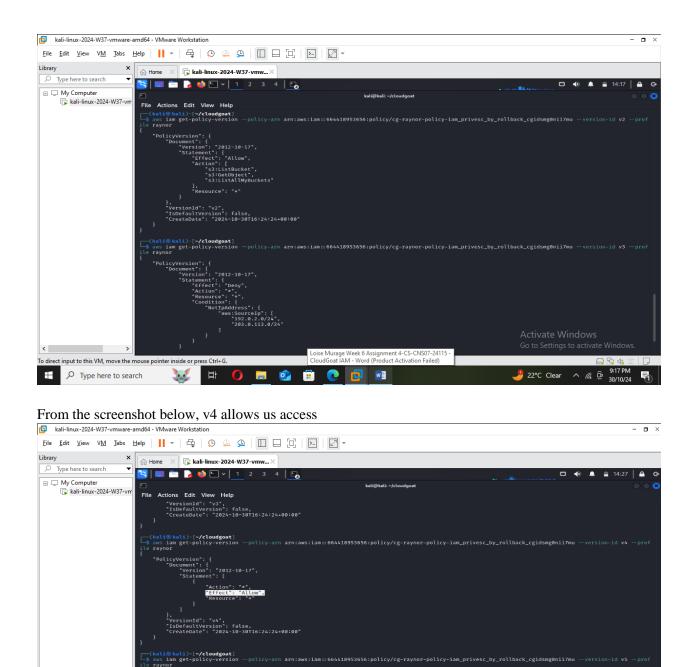


d. aws iam set-default-policy-version --policy-arn <generatedARN>/cg-raynor-policy --version-id <versionID> --profile raynor



5. Exploring Initial Configuration:

- Use the AWS CLI or AWS Management Console to examine the initial IAM configuration, including existing users, roles, and policies.
- Identify any permissions assigned to the user or role provided in the scenario.



6. Performing Privilege Escalation:

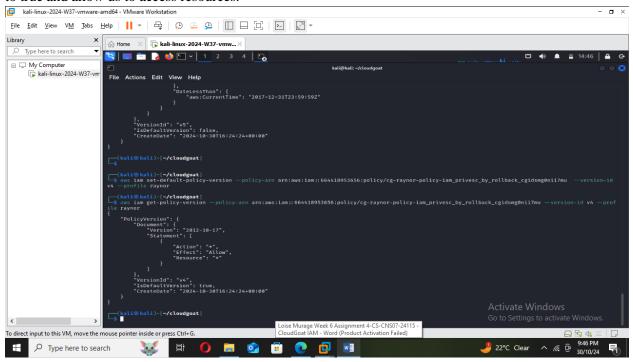
• Follow the steps outlined in the scenario to exploit IAM permissions and escalate privileges.

• Pay attention to any rollback mechanisms or configuration changes that can be

abused to gain elevated access.

aws iam set-default-policy-version --policy-arn <generatedARN>/cg-raynor-policy --version-id <versionID> --profile raynor

From the screenshot below, we were able to escalate privileges and change configurations on v4 to true and allow us to access resources.



Conclusion

From this exercise, our Scenario was iam_privesc_by_rollback, where we were able to review previous IAM policy versions and restore one which allows full admin privileges, resulting in a privilege escalation exploit. At first we only had a few limited privileges then we analyzed Raynor's privileges and noticed the SetDefaultPolicyVersion permission - allowing access to 4 other versions of the policy via setting an old version as the default, which was v1. After reviewing the old policy versions, we find that version 4 in particular offers a full set of admin rights to allow us carry out any malicious actions. We have used six main commands in CloudGoat; create, list, destroy, config, whitelist and pro