Installing aws-iam-authenticator

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Amazon EKS uses IAM to provide authentication to your Kubernetes cluster through the AWS IAM authenticator for Kubernetes (https://github.com/kubernetes-sigs/aws-iam-authenticator). You can configure the stock `kubectl` client to work with Amazon EKS by installing the AWS IAM authenticator for Kubernetes and modifying your kubectl configuration file (./create-kubeconfig.html) to use it for authentication.

> **Note**
>
> If you're running the AWS CLI version 1.16.156 or later, then you don't need to install the authenticator. Instead, you can use the `aws eks get-token` (https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cli/latest/reference/eks/get-token.html) command. For more information, see Create kubeconfig manually (./create-kubeconfig.html#create-kubeconfig-manually).

If you're unable to use the AWS CLI version 1.16.156 or later to create the `kubeconfig` file, then you can install the AWS IAM authenticator for Kubernetes on macOS, Linux, or Windows.

macOS | Linux | Windows

To install `aws-iam-authenticator` with Homebrew

The easiest way to install the `aws-iam-authenticator` is with Homebrew (https://brew.sh/).

1. If you do not already have Homebrew (https://brew.sh/) installed on your Mac, install it with the following command.

```
/bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/mas
ter/install.sh)"
```

2. Install the `aws-iam-authenticator` with the following command.

```
brew install aws-iam-authenticator
```

3. Test that the `aws-iam-authenticator` binary works.

```
aws-iam-authenticator help
```

To install `aws-iam-authenticator` on macOS

You can also install the AWS-vended version of the `aws-iam-authenticator` by following these steps.

1. Download the Amazon EKS vended `aws-iam-authenticator` binary from Amazon S3.

```
curl -o aws-iam-authenticator https://s3.us-west-
2.amazonaws.com/amazon-eks/1.21.2/2021-07-
05/bin/darwin/amd64/aws-iam-authenticator
```

2. (Optional) Verify the downloaded binary with the SHA-256 sum provided in the same bucket prefix.
   a. Download the SHA-256 sum for your system.

```
curl -o aws-iam-authenticator.sha256 https://s3.us-
west-2.amazonaws.com/amazon-eks/1.21.2/2021-07-
05/bin/darwin/amd64/aws-iam-authenticator.sha256
```

   b. Check the SHA-256 sum for your downloaded binary.

```
openssl sha1 -sha256 aws-iam-authenticator
```

   c. Compare the generated SHA-256 sum in the command output against your downloaded `aws-iam-authenticator.sha256` file. The two should match.
3. Apply execute permissions to the binary.

```
chmod +x ./aws-iam-authenticator
```

4. Copy the binary to a folder in your `$PATH`. We recommend creating a `$HOME/bin/aws-iam-authenticator` and ensuring that `$HOME/bin` comes first in your `$PATH`.

```
mkdir -p $HOME/bin && cp ./aws-iam-authenticator
$HOME/bin/aws-iam-authenticator && export
PATH=$PATH:$HOME/bin
```

5. Add `$HOME/bin` to your `PATH` environment variable.

```
echo 'export PATH=$PATH:$HOME/bin' >> ~/.bash_profile
```

6. Test that the `aws-iam-authenticator` binary works.

```
aws-iam-authenticator help
```

If you have an existing Amazon EKS cluster, create a `kubeconfig` file for that cluster. For more information, see Create a kubeconfig for Amazon EKS (./create-kubeconfig.html) . Otherwise, see Creating an Amazon EKS cluster (./create-cluster.html) to create a new Amazon EKS cluster.