



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/blob/master/README.md>) . 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 file 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/)  (<https://brew.sh/>) .

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

```
/bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Hom
ebrew/install/master/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-iam-authenticator` by following these steps.

1. Download the `aws-iam-authenticator` binary from GitHub for your hardware platform. The first command downloads the `amd64` release. The second command downloads the `arm64` release.

```
curl -Lo aws-iam-authenticator
https://github.com/kubernetes-
sigs/aws-iam-
authenticator/releases/download/v0.6.
11/aws-iam-
authenticator_0.6.11_darwin_amd64
```

```
curl -Lo aws-iam-authenticator
https://github.com/kubernetes-
sigs/aws-iam-
```



```
authenticator/releases/download/v0.6.11/aws-iam-authenticator_0.6.11_darwin_arm64
```





2. (Optional) Verify the downloaded binary with the SHA-256 checksum for the file.

- a. Download the SHA-256 checksum file.

```
curl -Lo aws-iam-authenticator.txt
https://github.com/kubernetes-
sigs/aws-iam-
authenticator/releases/download/v0
.6.11/authenticator_0.6.11-checksu
ms.txt
```

- b. View the checksum for the authenticator binary that you downloaded. The first command returns the amd64 checksum. The second command returns the arm64 checksum.

```
awk '/aws-iam-
authenticator_0.6.11_darwin_amd64/
{print $1}' aws-iam-
authenticator.txt
```

```
awk '/aws-iam-
authenticator_0.6.11_darwin_arm64/
{print $1}' aws-iam-
authenticator.txt
```

An example output is as follows.

```
7656bd290a7e9cb588df1d9ccec43fab7f
2447b88ed4f41d3f5092fd114b0939
```

- c. Determine the SHA-256 checksum for your downloaded binary.

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

An example output is as follows.



```
SHA256(aws-iam-authenticator)=  
7656bd290a7e9cb588df1d9ccec43fab7f  
2447b88ed4f41d3f5092fd114b0939
```

The returned output should match the output returned in the previous step.

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 $HOME/bin/aws-iam-  
authenticator && export  
PATH=$HOME/bin:$PATH
```

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

```
echo 'export PATH=$HOME/bin:$PATH' >>  
~/.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 [Creating or updating a kubeconfig file for an Amazon EKS cluster \(./create-kubeconfig.html\)](#) . Otherwise, see [Creating an Amazon EKS cluster \(./create-cluster.html\)](#) to create a new Amazon EKS cluster.