Networking the Physical World: Lab 2

Samir Farhat Dominguez

March 25, 2022

1 Discussion

Read up on & discuss the role of Policies in Amazon IoT

In the context of AWS, and particularly Amazon IoT, policies are employed in order to manage access and permissions. Policies are created with a set of rules and permissions, and then assigned to users, groups, roles, or IoT devices/Things. There are several policy types employed in the Amazon ecosystem. These are Identity-based, resource-based, permission boundaries, session policies and access control policies. Within IoT we can use identity based policies to allow a device to identify itself to access permissions or functions; resource based to give devices access to DBMS servers or DBs; permission boundaries and access control boundaries to restrict the capabilities of the particular IoT device or IoT device users; as well as session policies to restrict permissions of users interacting with an IoT device. All these come together in order to protect and secure hardware, keys, data, networking and many other necessary points of interest for IoT systems.

Read up on & discuss the role of Thing (Device) Shadows in Amazon IoT and what role they play when something is not connected to the Internet

Thing shadows are a way to extend the usability of IoT devices, and multiple can be assigned to a single registered IoT device/Thing. They allow the state data and functionality of the device to remain even when not connected to AWS IoT. Creation and assignment of shadows is at the discretion of users, although a hidden standard shadow is created at the initial creation if the Thing, just for the sake of consistency. These shadows facilitate the continuous creation and exchange of data for the IoT device, and can allow Amazon IoT to keep updated indirectly by tracking a connected device that is able to connect with the shadow. Shadows can be named and unnamed, of which the latter type can only have a single one per device. The APIs that access these differ slightly, as named shadows need to enable the creation of different views and resolutions of the device, while unnamed cannot.

2 Screenshots of "Run Sample Applications"

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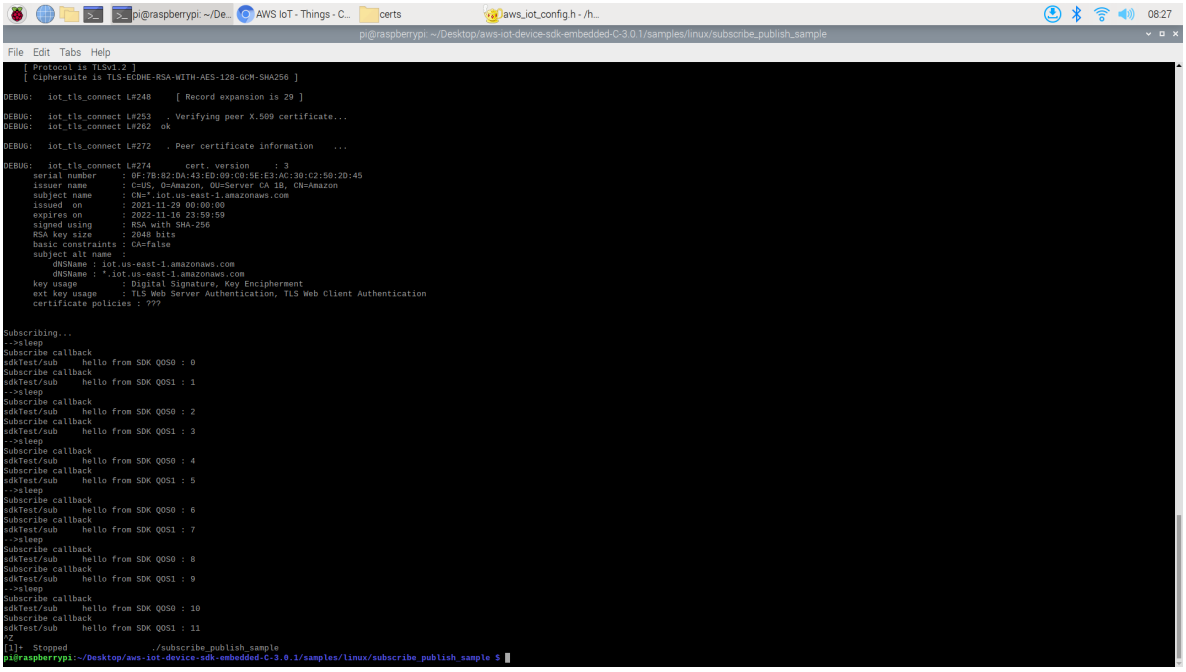

Figure 1

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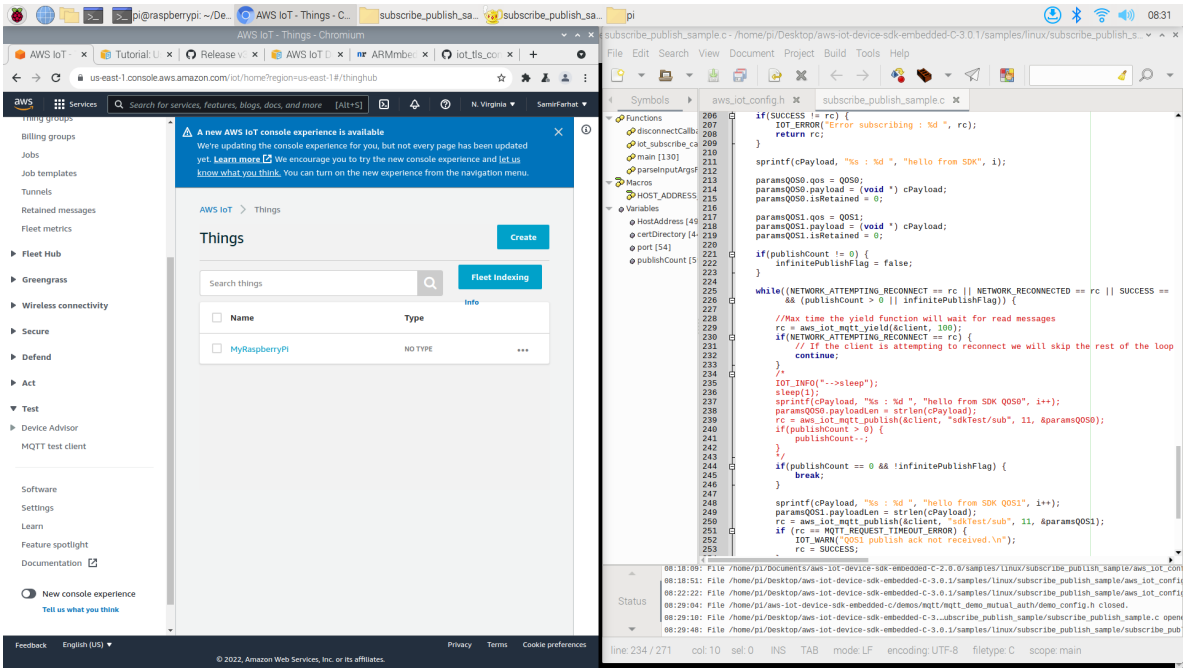

Figure 2

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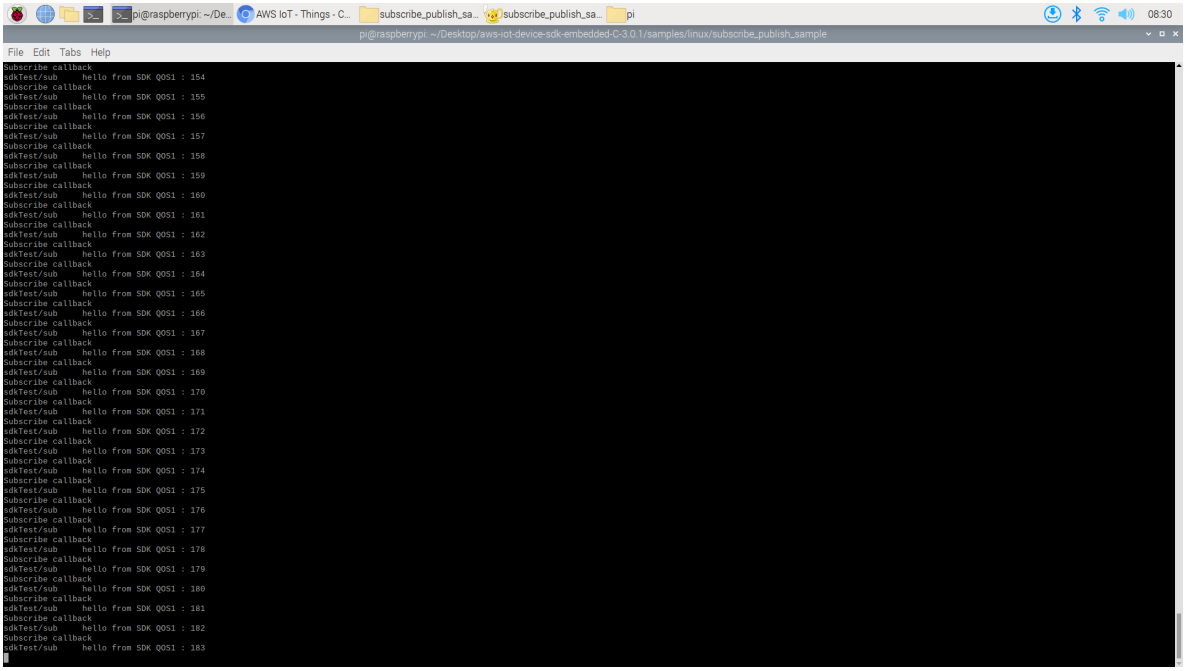

Figure 3

8 and 9

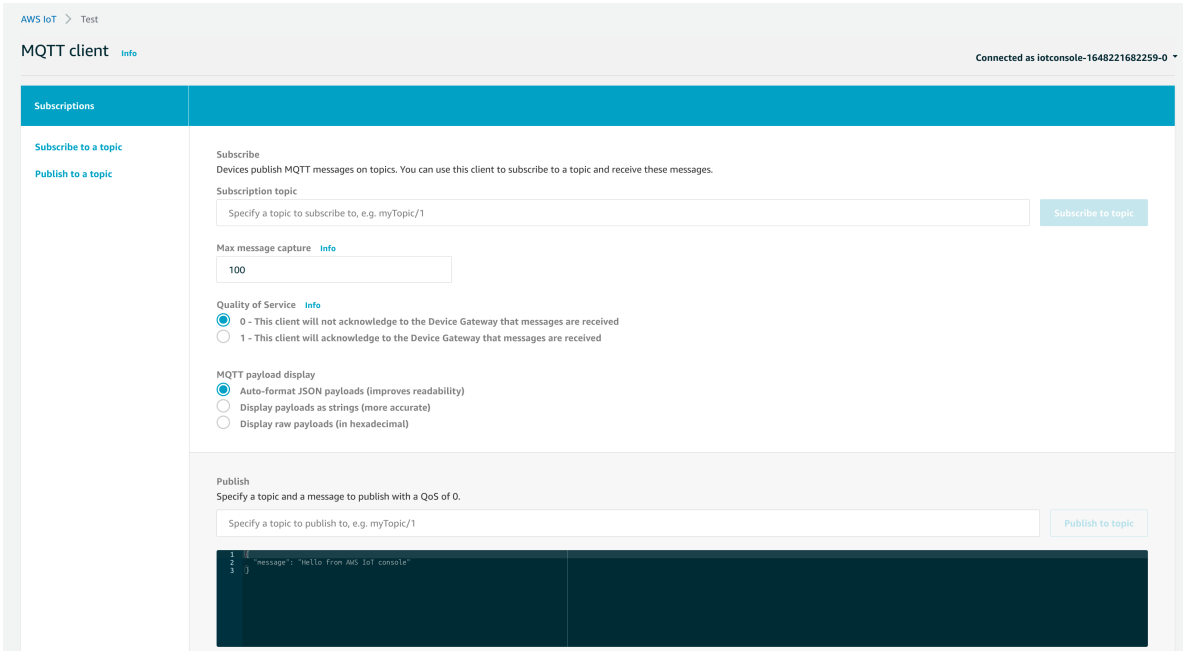

Figure 4

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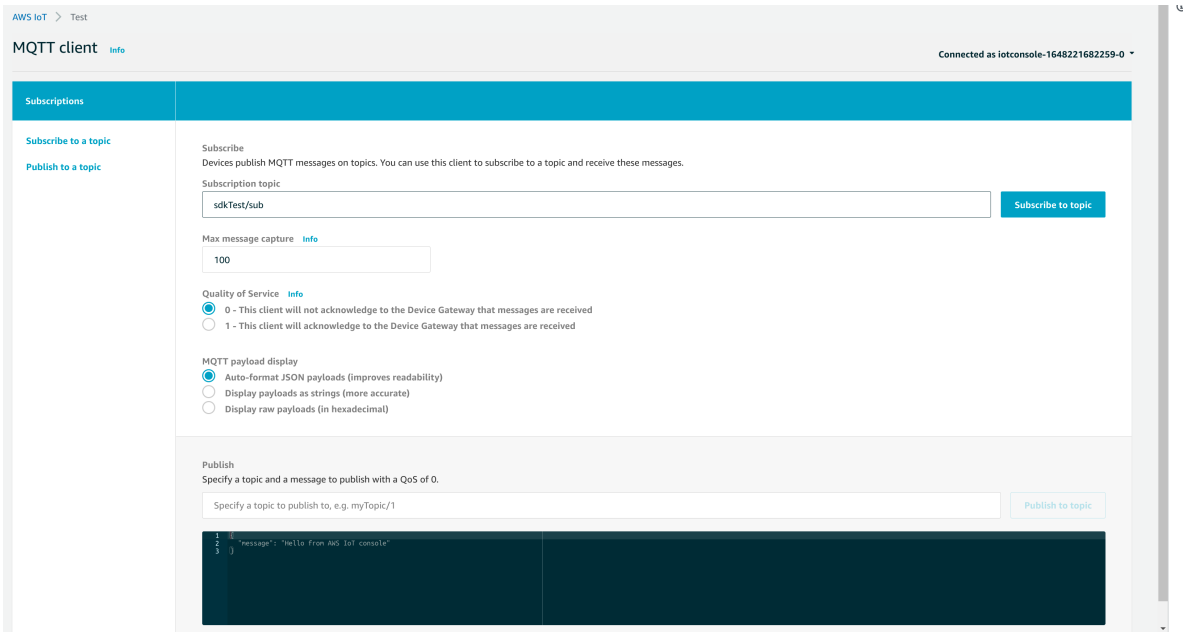

Figure 5

11 and 12

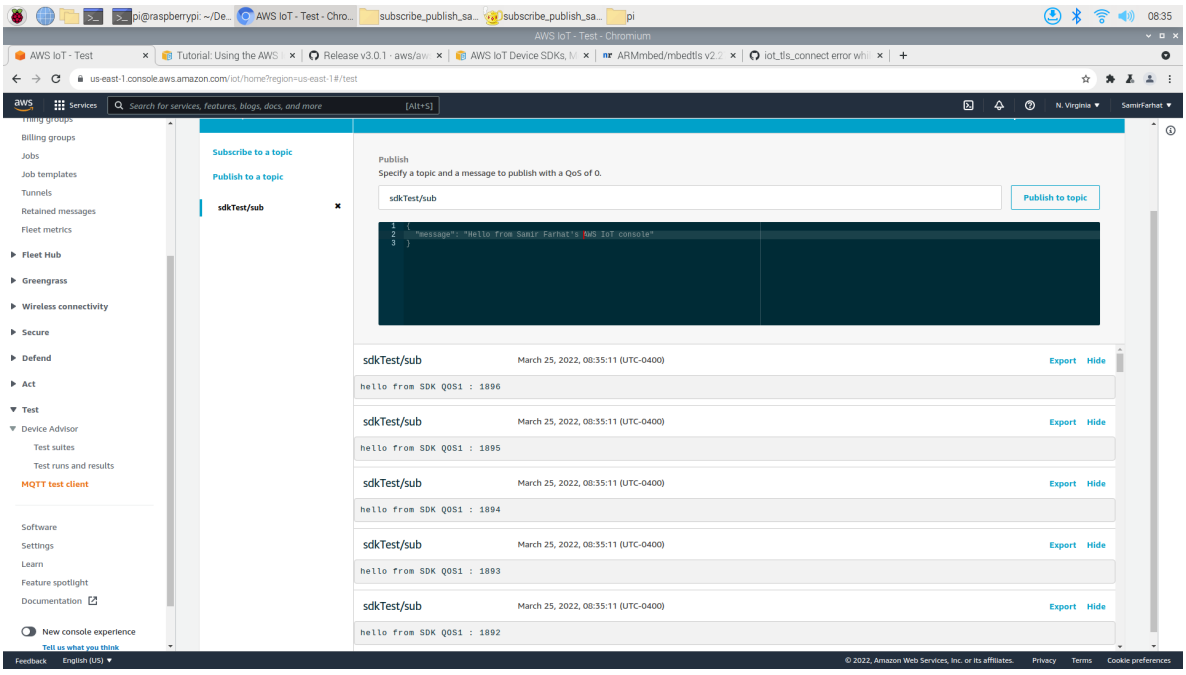

Figure 6

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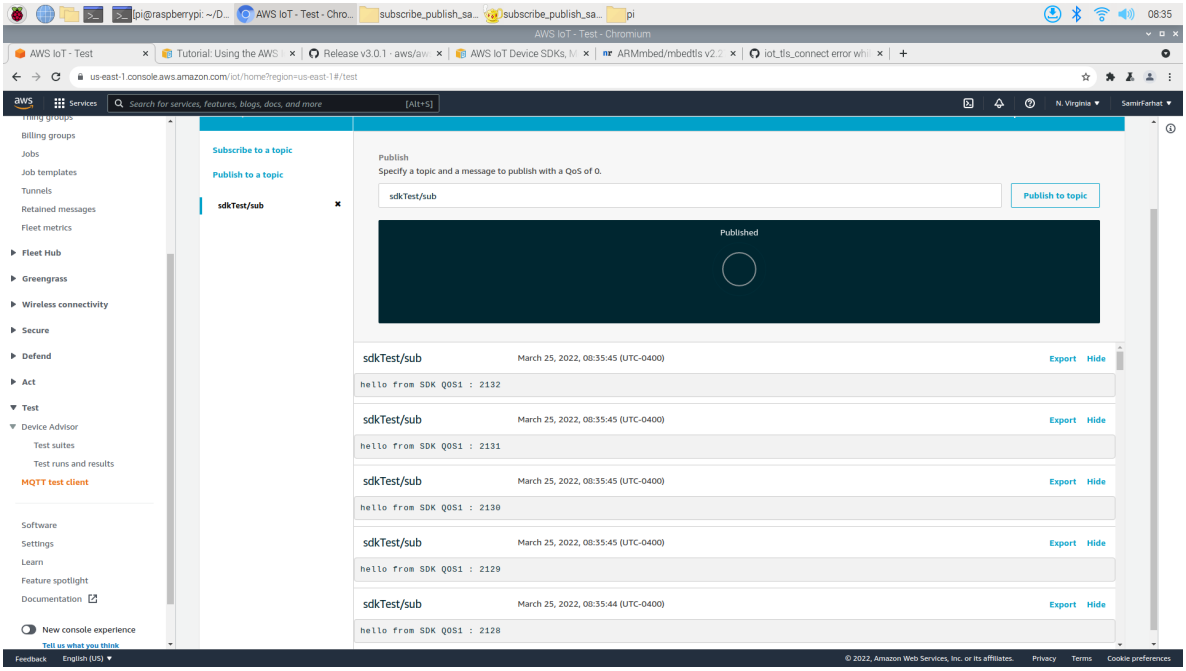

Figure 7

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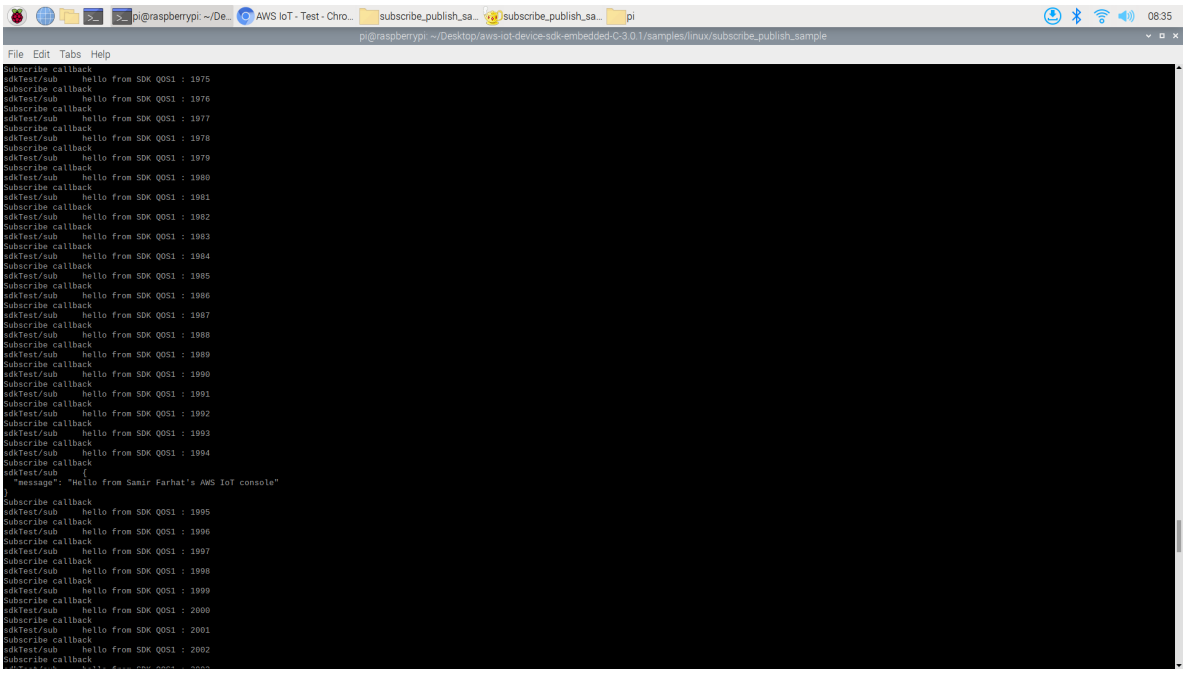

Figure 8