



IAM DB Authentication

When dealing with databases, having systems put in place for the secure, reliable authentication of agents (such as a user or an application) which have access to the database are legitimate, and prevent unwanted actors from engaging with the database especially when it deals with sensitive information.

RDS instances therefore, utilize and support a whole suite of established traditional authentication methods such as Usernames and Passwords, SSL / TLS certificates, etc. However, AWS has its own set of services that facilitate easy and simple methods of authentication and identity management under their IAM umbrella (will be elaborated on in future sections) of services and are especially critical when connecting AWS resources with RDS databases.

EC2 instances for example, are not allowed permission to connect to RDS tables and databases by default, and we must both enable an option with RDS called IAM DB Authentication as well as assign an IAM role to the EC2 instance if we desire to circumvent the restriction.