



# CloudTrail

Since AWS environments are so large and complicated, it is often helpful for us to be able to track the actions that are undertaken by users, services and agents in relation to each other. AWS CloudTrail provides us with the ability to do just that, recording said actions as events within it. CloudTrail is always automatically enabled on every AWS account on the point of creation and helps us perform **operational and risk auditing, governance and compliance** operations on our AWS account.

The above description might make it sound like CloudTrail serves many of the same functions as CloudWatch but such beliefs are not to be heeded. This is because CloudTrail is best understood as a tracking tool, allowing us to keep a breadcrumb trail of all the minute actions that were performed within our AWS environment while AWS CloudWatch is mainly a monitoring tool, used to observe the current status of various AWS resources.

## ***TLDR;***

CloudTrail ⇒ Tracking

CloudWatch ⇒ Monitoring