Compliance vs Governance Object Lock

Object Lock is a feature of Amazon S3 that helps enforce compliance by preventing deletion or modification of objects for a specified retention period. It ensures that data remains immutable and protected against accidental or malicious deletion, supporting regulatory requirements and data governance policies.

The two types of Object Lock in Amazon S3 are:

1. **Retention Periods**: This mode sets a fixed retention period during which objects cannot be deleted or altered. It ensures data immutability for compliance with regulations like SEC Rule 17a-4(f) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

2. **Legal Hold**: This mode allows you to place legal holds on objects, which prevents them from being deleted by any user until the hold is removed. It is typically used for preserving data relevant to legal or investigative proceedings.

Also, Object Lock has two modes namely:

1. **Compliance Mode**: In this mode, the data is immutable and cannot be altered or deleted by any user, including governing authorities. This ensures the highest level of data protection, often required for regulatory compliance.

2. **Governance Mode**: This mode allows certain users with special permissions, such as governing authorities, to modify or delete the data if necessary. It provides a balance between data protection and administrative flexibility.