

Pulkit

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Lab Exercise 18- Scanning IaC Templates for Vulnerabilities

Objective

- Learn how to scan Infrastructure as Code (IaC) templates for security vulnerabilities.
 - Use open-source IaC security tools to detect misconfigurations.
 - Understand common risks such as public access, unencrypted resources, and insecure network rules.
-

Prerequisites

- A Linux/Windows/Mac machine with:
 - Terraform installed (for sample IaC)
 - **Checkov** (pip install checkov) or **tfsec** (brew install tfsec or binary download)
 - Git installed (optional, for version control of IaC templates)
-

Step 1: Create an Insecure IaC Template

Create a file named main.tf with the following Terraform code:

```
provider "aws" {  
    region = "us-east-1"  
}  
  
resource "aws_s3_bucket" "insecure_bucket" {  
    bucket = "my-insecure-bucket-lab"  
    acl    = "public-read"  
}  
  
resource "aws_security_group" "insecure_sg" {  
    name      = "insecure-sg"  
    description = "Allow all inbound traffic"  
    ingress {  
        from_port  = 0  
        to_port    = 65535  
        protocol   = "tcp"  
        cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]  
    }  
}
```

Step 2: Scan the Template with Checkov

Run Checkov on the current directory:

```
checkov -d .
```

Expected Findings:

- Public S3 bucket access (public-read)
 - Security group open to all inbound traffic
-

Expected Findings:

- Warns about S3 bucket without encryption
 - Flags open Security Group rules
-

Step 4: Review the Report

Example output (Checkov):

```
Check: CKV_AWS_20: "S3 Bucket allows public read access"
```

```
FAILED for resource: aws_s3_bucket.insecure_bucket
```

```
Check: CKV_AWS_260: "Security group allows ingress from 0.0.0.0/0"
```

```
FAILED for resource: aws_security_group.insecure_sg
```

```
[ terraform framework ]: 100%          [[3/3], Current File Scanned=variable.tf
[ secrets framework ]: 100%          [[3/3], Current File Scanned=.\variable.tf

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terraform scan results:

Passed checks: 8, Failed checks: 18, Skipped checks: 0

Check: CKV_AWS_46: "Ensure no hard-coded secrets exist in EC2 user data"
    PASSED for resource: aws_instance.web1
    File: \instance.tf:1-8
    Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/secrets-policies/bc-aws-secrets-1
Check: CKV_AWS_88: "EC2 instance should not have public IP."
    PASSED for resource: aws_instance.web1
    File: \instance.tf:1-8
    Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/public-policies/public-12
Check: CKV_AWS_93: "Ensure S3 bucket policy does not lockout all but root user. (Prevent lockouts needing root account fixes)"
    PASSED for resource: aws_s3_bucket.insecure_bucket
    File: \main.tf:15-18
    Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/s3-policies/bc-aws-s3-24
Check: CKV_AWS_382: "Ensure no security groups allow egress from 0.0.0.0:0 to port -1"
    PASSED for resource: aws_security_group.insecure_sg
    File: \main.tf:19-28
    Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/aws-networking-policies/bc-aws-382
Check: CKV_AWS_277: "Ensure no security groups allow ingress from 0.0.0.0:0 to port -1"
    PASSED for resource: aws_security_group.insecure_sg
    File: \main.tf:19-28
    Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/aws-networking-policies/ensure-aws-security-group-does-not-allow-all-traffic-on-all-ports
```

```
Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/s3-policies/s3-2-acl-write-permissions-everyone
Check: CKV_AWS_126: "Ensure that detailed monitoring is enabled for EC2 instances"
    FAILED for resource: aws_instance.web1
    File: \instance.tf:1-8
    Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/aws-logging-policies/ensure-that-detailed-monitoring-is-enabled-for-ec2-instances

1 | resource "aws_instance" "web1" {
2 |   ami           = var.my-ami
3 |   instance_type = var.my-instance-type
4 |
5 |   tags = {
6 |     Name = "EC2-INSTANCE-variable"
7 |   }
8 | }

Check: CKV_AWS_135: "Ensure that EC2 is EBS optimized"
    FAILED for resource: aws_instance.web1
    File: \instance.tf:1-8
    Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/aws-general-policies/ensure-that-ec2-is-ebs-optimized

1 | resource "aws_instance" "web1" {
2 |   ami           = var.my-ami
3 |   instance_type = var.my-instance-type
4 |
5 |   tags = {
6 |     Name = "EC2-INSTANCE-variable"
7 |   }
8 | }

Check: CKV_AWS_79: "Ensure Instance Metadata Service Version 1 is not enabled"
    FAILED for resource: aws_instance.web1
    File: \instance.tf:1-8
    Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/aws-general-policies/bc-aws-general-31
```

```

Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/s3-policies/s3-16-enable-versioning

15 | resource "aws_s3_bucket" "insecure_bucket" {
16 |   bucket = "my-insecure-bucket-lab"
17 |   acl    = "private"
18 | }

Check: CKV_AWS_145: "Ensure that S3 buckets are encrypted with KMS by default"
FAILED for resource: aws_s3_bucket.insecure_bucket
File: /main.tf:15-18
Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-general-policies/ensure-that-s3-buckets-are-encrypted-with-kms-by-default

15 | resource "aws_s3_bucket" "insecure_bucket" {
16 |   bucket = "my-insecure-bucket-lab"
17 |   acl    = "private"
18 | }

secrets scan results:

Passed checks: 0, Failed checks: 2, Skipped checks: 0

Check: CKV_SECRET_2: "AWS Access Key"
FAILED for resource: cf04d1d1e6899a1c03c6c1d561b2f934995ad77f
File: /main.tf:12-13
Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/secrets-policies/secrets-policy-index/git-secrets-2

12 |   access_key = "AKIAW*****"

Check: CKV_SECRET_6: "Base64 High Entropy String"
FAILED for resource: 750e5c9df478ff2aa9abdlead318676274c272b2
File: /main.tf:13-14
Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/secrets-policies/secrets-policy-index/git-secrets-6

13 |   secret_key = "HHFU3J*****"

```

Step 5: Apply Fixes (Optional)

Modify the IaC template to:

- Set S3 bucket ACL to private
- Enable encryption (AES256)
- Restrict Security Group to specific IP ranges

Code:

A screenshot of a code editor interface showing a Terraform configuration file. The tabs at the top include qa.tfvars, main.tf (which is the active tab), instance.tf, prod.tfvars, variable.tf, and dev.tfvars. The status bar at the bottom shows the file path as 'Terraform-demo > main.tf > provider "aws"', and various status indicators like 'Ln 12, Col 2', 'Spaces: 2', 'UTF-8', 'CRLF', 'Terraform', 'Signed out', 'Go Live', and a refresh icon.

```
14 resource "aws_s3_bucket" "log_bucket" {
30   lifecycle_rule {
31     id      = "log-archive"
32     enabled = true
33
34     expiration {
35       days = 365
36     }
37   }
38 }
39
40 resource "aws_s3_bucket_public_access_block" "log_bucket_pab" {
41   bucket = aws_s3_bucket.log_bucket.id
42
43   block_public_acls      = true
44   block_public_policy    = true
45   ignore_public_acls    = true
46   restrict_public_buckets = true
47 }
48
49 resource "aws_s3_bucket_public_access_block" "secure_bucket_pab" {
50   bucket = aws_s3_bucket.secure_bucket.id
51
52   block_public_acls      = true
53   block_public_policy    = true
54   ignore_public_acls    = true
55   restrict_public_buckets = true
56 }
57
58 resource "aws_security_group" "secure_sg" {
59   name      = "secure-sg"
60   description = "Allow limited inbound traffic"
61
62   ingress {
```

A screenshot of a code editor interface showing a Terraform configuration file. The tabs at the top include qa.tfvars, main.tf (which is the active tab), instance.tf, prod.tfvars, variable.tf, and dev.tfvars. The status bar at the bottom shows the file path as 'Terraform-demo > main.tf > provider "aws"', and various status indicators like 'Ln 12, Col 2', 'Spaces: 2', 'UTF-8', 'CRLF', 'Terraform', 'Signed out', 'Go Live', and a refresh icon.

```
58 resource "aws_security_group" "secure_sg" {
62   ingress {
63     description = "Allow SSH from a specific IP range"
64     from_port   = 22
65     to_port     = 22
66     protocol    = "tcp"
67     cidr_blocks = ["10.0.0.0/16"]
68   }
69
70   ingress {
71     description = "Allow HTTP from a specific IP range"
72     from_port   = 80
73     to_port     = 80
74     protocol    = "tcp"
75     cidr_blocks = ["10.0.0.0/16"]
76   }
77
78   ingress {
79     description = "Allow HTTPS from a specific IP range"
80     from_port   = 443
81     to_port     = 443
82     protocol    = "tcp"
83     cidr_blocks = ["10.0.0.0/16"]
84   }
85 }
```

Step 6: Rescan the Template

Run the scan again:

```
checkov -d .
```

```
PASSED for resource: aws_s3_bucket.log_bucket
File: \main.tf:14-38
Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/aws-networking-policies/s3-bucket-should-have-public-access-blocks-defaults-to-false-if-the-public-access-block-is-not-attached
Check: CKV_AWS_126: "Ensure that detailed monitoring is enabled for EC2 instances"
FAILED for resource: aws_instance.web1
File: \instance.tf:1-8
Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/aws-logging-policies/ensure-that-detailed-monitoring-is-enabled-for-ec2-instances

1 | resource "aws_instance" "web1" {
2 |   ami           = var.my-ami
3 |   instance_type = var.my-instance-type
4 |
5 |   tags = {
6 |     Name = "EC2-INSTANCE-variable"
7 |   }
8 | }

Check: CKV_AWS_135: "Ensure that EC2 is EBS optimized"
FAILED for resource: aws_instance.web1
File: \instance.tf:1-8
Guide: https://docs.prismacloud.io/en/enterprise-edition/policy-reference/aws-policies/aws-general-policies/ensure-that-ec2-is-ebs-optimized

1 | resource "aws_instance" "web1" {
2 |   ami           = var.my-ami
3 |   instance_type = var.my-instance-type
4 |
5 |   tags = {
6 |     Name = "EC2-INSTANCE-variable"
7 |   }
8 | }

Check: CKV_AWS_79: "Ensure Instance Metadata Service Version 1 is not enabled"
FAILED for resource: aws_instance.web1
File: \instance.tf:1-8
```

Now the findings should be **resolved or reduced**.

The failed checks now reduced to 8 those failed check is now due to enabling AES-256 encryption and checkov by default follow KMS configuration

Step 7: Document Findings

Create a simple findings log:

1. S3 Bucket (`insecure_bucket` -> `secure_bucket`)

The original S3 bucket, `insecure_bucket`, was publicly readable. The updated configuration, now named `secure_bucket`, implements the following security best practices:

- **ACL:** The Access Control List (ACL) was changed from `public-read` to `private`, preventing public access to the bucket's contents.
- **Versioning:** Versioning is now enabled to protect against accidental deletion or modification of objects.
- **Encryption:** Server-side encryption with AES256 is now enabled to encrypt all objects stored in the bucket.
- **Logging:** All access to the bucket is now logged to a separate `log_bucket`.
- **Lifecycle Policy:** A lifecycle policy has been added to manage object transitions to different storage classes (Standard-IA and Glacier) and to expire them after a certain period.
- **Public Access Block:** A public access block has been added to prevent the bucket from being accidentally exposed to the public.

2. New S3 Bucket for Logging (`log_bucket`)

A new S3 bucket, `log_bucket`, has been created to store access logs from the `secure_bucket`. This bucket is also configured with security best practices:

- **ACL:** The ACL is set to `log-delivery-write` to allow the S3 service to write logs to it.
- **Versioning and Encryption:** Versioning and server-side encryption are enabled.
- **Lifecycle Policy:** A lifecycle policy is in place to automatically delete logs after 365 days.
- **Public Access Block:** A public access block is configured to ensure the log bucket remains private.

3. Security Group (`insecure_sg` -> `secure_sg`)

The original security group, `insecure_sg`, allowed all inbound traffic from any source (`0.0.0.0/0`) on all TCP ports. This has been replaced with a much more restrictive security group, `secure_sg`, which only allows:

- **SSH (port 22):** from the `10.0.0.0/16` IP range.
- **HTTP (port 80):** from the `10.0.0.0/16` IP range.
- **HTTPS (port 443):** from the `10.0.0.0/16` IP range.