

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.
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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):

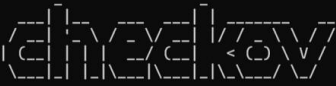
```
Check: CKV_AWS_20: "S3 Bucket allows public read access"
```

```
    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-policies/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: 750e5c9df478ff2aa9abd1ead318676274c272b2
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:

```
qa.tfvars  main.tf 4 X instance.tf prod.tfvars variable.tf dev.tfvars
Terraform-demo > main.tf > provider "aws"

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 {
```

```
qa.tfvars  main.tf 4 X instance.tf prod.tfvars variable.tf dev.tfvars
Terraform-demo > main.tf > provider "aws"

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.