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Platform Administrator Authentication Guide

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This guide covers system-wide authentication configuration for RADIANT platform administrators: managing Cognito pools, global security policies, tenant authentication settings, and compliance

configuration.

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Overview

As a Platform Administrator, you manage authentication infrastructure across all tenants. Your responsibilities include:

Responsibility	Scope
Cognito Pool Management	Configure AWS Cognito settings
Global Security Policies	Set platform-wide security baselines
Tenant Oversight	Monitor and assist tenant authentication
OAuth Provider Registry	Manage platform-level OAuth settings
Compliance Configuration	Configure audit, retention, and compliance features
Incident Response	Handle security incidents and emergency access

```
graph TB
    subgraph "Platform Admin Scope"
        PA[Platform Admin] --> COGNITO[Cognito Pools]
        PA --> GLOBAL[Global Policies]
        PA --> TENANTS[Tenant Oversight]
        PA --> OAUTH[OAuth Registry]
        PA --> COMPLIANCE[Compliance]
        PA --> INCIDENT[Incidents]
    end

    subgraph "Tenant Scope"
        TENANTS --> T1[Tenant 1]
        TENANTS --> T2[Tenant 2]
    end
```

```
TENANTS --> TN[Tenant N]
end
```

```
COGNITO --> T1
COGNITO --> T2
COGNITO --> TN
```

Note: Platform administrators always require MFA and have shorter session timeouts (30 minutes) compared to tenant users.

Cognito User Pool Management

User Pool Architecture

RADIANT uses separate Cognito User Pools for different user types:

Pool	Purpose	Users
End-User Pool	Think Tank, Curator, Tenant Admin users	Organization members
Platform Admin Pool	RADIANT platform administrators	Internal operations

```
graph LR
    subgraph "AWS Cognito"
        EUP[End-User Pool]
        PAP[Platform Admin Pool]
    end

    subgraph "Applications"
        TT[Think Tank]
        CU[Curator]
        TA[Tenant Admin]
        RA[RADIANT Admin]
    end

    EUP --> TT
    EUP --> CU
    EUP --> TA
    PAP --> RA
```

Configuring the End-User Pool

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Infrastructure** → **Cognito**
2. Select **End-User Pool**
3. Configure settings:

Setting	Description	Recommended
Password policy	Minimum requirements	12+ chars, mixed case, number, symbol
MFA configuration	Available MFA methods	TOTP enabled
Account recovery	How users reset passwords	Email verification
Email configuration	SES for transactional emails	Use verified SES domain
Lambda triggers	Custom authentication logic	Pre-signup, Post-confirm

Configuring the Platform Admin Pool

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Infrastructure** → **Cognito**
2. Select **Platform Admin Pool**
3. This pool has stricter defaults:

Setting	Value	Changeable
Self-registration	Disabled	No
MFA	Required (TOTP)	No
Password length	16+ characters	Can increase only
Session duration	30 minutes	Can decrease only

Managing App Clients

App clients define how applications connect to Cognito:

1. Navigate to **Cognito** → **App Clients**
2. View existing clients:

Client	Application	OAuth Flows
thinktank-web	Think Tank Web	Authorization Code + PKCE
curator-web	Curator Web	Authorization Code + PKCE
admin-web	Admin Dashboard	Authorization Code + PKCE
api-m2m	Machine-to-Machine	Client Credentials

3. To create a new client, click **Add Client** and configure:
 - **Name:** Descriptive identifier
 - **Generate secret:** Yes for server apps, No for SPAs
 - **OAuth flows:** Select appropriate flows
 - **Scopes:** Limit to required scopes

Global Security Policies

Password Policy Baseline

Set minimum password requirements that all tenants must meet:

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Security** → **Global Policies**

2. Under **Password Baseline**:

Setting	Minimum	Maximum	Default
Length	8	—	12
Uppercase	Required	—	Required
Lowercase	Required	—	Required
Numbers	Required	—	Required
Symbols	Optional	—	Required
History	0	24	5

Tenants can only set policies **stricter** than the baseline.

MFA Policy Baseline

Define minimum MFA requirements:

User Type	Platform Minimum	Tenant Can Override
Tenant Owners	Required	No (cannot weaken)
Tenant Admins	Required	No (cannot weaken)
Members	Hidden	Yes (can require)

Session Policy Baseline

Setting	Platform Limit	Tenant Range
Max session length	30 days	1 hour - 30 days
Inactivity timeout	7 days	15 min - 7 days
Concurrent sessions	10	1 - 10

Rate Limiting

Protect against abuse with rate limits:

Endpoint	Limit	Window
/auth/signin	10 requests	1 minute per IP
/auth/signup	5 requests	1 minute per IP
/auth/password-reset	3 requests	1 hour per email
/auth/mfa/verify	5 requests	1 minute per user

Tenant Authentication Management

Viewing Tenant Auth Status

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Tenants**

2. The **Authentication** column shows:
 - **Healthy:** No issues
 - **Warning:** Potential issues (high failure rate, expiring certs)
 - **Critical:** Active issues (SSO down, lockouts)

Tenant SSO Oversight

View and assist with tenant SSO configurations:

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Tenants** → [Tenant] → **SSO**
2. View:
 - SSO provider details
 - Certificate expiration dates
 - Recent authentication success/failure rates
 - Error logs

Certificate Expiration Alerts

Automatic alerts are sent when:

Timeframe	Alert Level	Recipients
30 days before	Info	Tenant admins
14 days before	Warning	Tenant admins, Platform admins
7 days before	Critical	All admins + escalation
Expired	Emergency	All + service status page

Assisting Tenant Users

To help a tenant user with authentication issues:

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Tenants** → [Tenant] → **Users**
2. Find the user
3. Available actions:
 - **Reset password:** Send password reset email
 - **Reset MFA:** Clear MFA configuration
 - **Unlock account:** Remove logout
 - **Terminate sessions:** Force re-authentication
 - **View auth logs:** See recent activity

Audit: All platform admin actions on tenant users are logged with full context.

OAuth Provider Management

Platform OAuth Applications

Manage applications that can integrate with RADIANT across tenants:

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **OAuth** → **Applications**
2. View registered applications:

Field	Description
Name	Application display name
Publisher	Verified publisher (if any)
Client ID	Public identifier
Redirect URIs	Allowed callback URLs
Scopes	Maximum permitted scopes
Status	Active, Suspended, Pending Review

Registering a Platform App

For first-party or verified partner applications:

1. Click **Register Application**
2. Enter application details:
 - **Name:** Display name shown to users
 - **Description:** What the app does
 - **Publisher:** Company/developer name
 - **Logo URL:** 256x256 PNG/SVG
 - **Privacy Policy URL:** Required
 - **Terms of Service URL:** Required
3. Configure OAuth settings:
 - **Redirect URIs:** Exact match required
 - **Allowed scopes:** Select from available scopes
 - **Token lifetime:** Access token expiration
4. Click **Register**
5. Securely store the **Client Secret** (shown only once)

Scope Definitions

Scope	Access	Sensitivity
<code>openid</code>	Basic identity	Low
<code>profile</code>	Name, avatar	Low
<code>email</code>	Email address	Medium
<code>read:sessions</code>	View user sessions	Medium
<code>write:sessions</code>	Modify sessions	High
<code>read:files</code>	Access user files	High
<code>write:files</code>	Upload/delete files	High
<code>admin:tenant</code>	Tenant admin actions	Critical

Suspending an Application

If an application is compromised or violates policies:

1. Find the application in the list
2. Click **Suspend**
3. Select reason:
 - **Security incident**

- **Policy violation**
 - **Publisher request**
4. All tokens are immediately invalidated
 5. Tenants are notified

Compliance & Audit

Audit Log Configuration

Configure what authentication events are logged:

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Compliance** → **Audit Configuration**
2. Enable/disable event categories:

Category	Events	Default
Authentication	Sign-in, sign-out, failures	Enabled
MFA	Setup, verification, reset	Enabled
Password	Change, reset, policy violations	Enabled
Session	Create, terminate, timeout	Enabled
Admin Actions	All admin operations	Enabled (cannot disable)
OAuth	Authorization, token issuance	Enabled

Log Retention

Configure retention periods (compliance requirements may mandate minimums):

Log Type	Default	Minimum	Maximum
Authentication	90 days	30 days	7 years
Admin Actions	7 years	1 year	7 years
Security Incidents	7 years	7 years	7 years

Compliance Reports

Generate pre-built compliance reports:

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Compliance** → **Reports**
2. Available reports:

Report	Contents	Frequency
Authentication Summary	Sign-in stats, failure rates, MFA adoption	Weekly/Monthly
Security Incidents	Failed logins, lockouts, anomalies	Daily/Weekly
SSO Health	Provider status, cert expirations	Weekly
User Access Review	User permissions across tenants	Quarterly
Admin Activity	All platform admin actions	Monthly

Report	Contents	Frequency
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SIEM Integration

Export logs to external SIEM systems:

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Compliance** → **Integrations**
2. Configure export:
 - **Destination:** S3 bucket, CloudWatch, or direct SIEM
 - **Format:** JSON, CEF, or LEEF
 - **Frequency:** Real-time, hourly, or daily batch
3. Test the integration
4. Enable export

Emergency Procedures

Security Incident Response

flowchart TD

```

A[Incident Detected] --> B{Severity?}
B -->|Critical| C[Immediate Lockdown]
B -->|High| D[Targeted Response]
B -->|Medium| E[Investigation]

C --> F[Disable affected accounts]
C --> G[Revoke all sessions]
C --> H[Block IP ranges]

D --> I[Reset affected passwords]
D --> J[Require MFA re-enrollment]

E --> K[Review audit logs]
E --> L[Assess impact]

```

Emergency Account Lockdown

To immediately lock down a compromised account:

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Emergency** → **Lockdown**
2. Enter the **user email** or **tenant ID**
3. Select lockdown scope:
 - **Single user:** Lock one account
 - **Tenant-wide:** Lock all users in a tenant
 - **Platform-wide:** Lock all non-admin users (extreme)
4. Confirm with your MFA code
5. Document the incident

Emergency Access Bypass

For critical situations where normal auth is unavailable:

1. Contact the **on-call platform engineer**
2. Provide incident details and verification
3. The engineer can issue a **time-limited bypass token**
4. All bypass usage is logged and reviewed

Warning: Emergency bypass is audited and should only be used for genuine emergencies.

Credential Rotation

Rotate Cognito and OAuth secrets:

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Infrastructure** → **Secrets**
 2. Select the credential to rotate
 3. Click **Rotate**
 4. Update any dependent systems
 5. Verify functionality
 6. Revoke the old credential
-

Infrastructure Configuration

Cognito Lambda Triggers

Custom logic hooks in the authentication flow:

Trigger	Purpose	Example
Pre Sign-up	Validate/modify registration	Block disposable emails
Post Confirmation	Actions after verification	Create default workspace
Pre Authentication	Before password verification	Check IP allowlist
Post Authentication	After successful auth	Log custom metrics
Pre Token Generation	Customize token claims	Add tenant context

Email Templates

Customize authentication emails:

1. Navigate to **Platform Admin** → **Infrastructure** → **Email Templates**
2. Available templates:

Template	Trigger
Verification	New user email verification
Password Reset	Forgot password request
MFA Setup	MFA enrollment confirmation
Security Alert	Suspicious activity detected

Template	Trigger
Session Alert	New device sign-in

3. Customize:
 - Subject line
 - Body content (HTML + plain text)
 - Sender name
4. Preview and test before saving

Multi-Region Configuration

For global deployments:

Setting	Description
Primary region	Main Cognito pool location
Replica regions	Read replicas for lower latency
Failover	Automatic failover on primary outage

Related Documentation

- [Authentication Overview](#)
- [Tenant Admin Guide](#)
- [Security Architecture](#)
- [OAuth Developer Guide](#)
- [Compliance Documentation](#)