EXPLORE FALSE POSITIVES THROUGH INCIDENT DETECTION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this lab activity I'll recreate the activity that generates a false positive alert. Then, I'll access and analyze the false positive threat using the Security Command Center (SCC) and take action to address it. I'll be using two separate accounts in this lab: one account to trigger the false positive and another account to analyze and remediate the false positive.

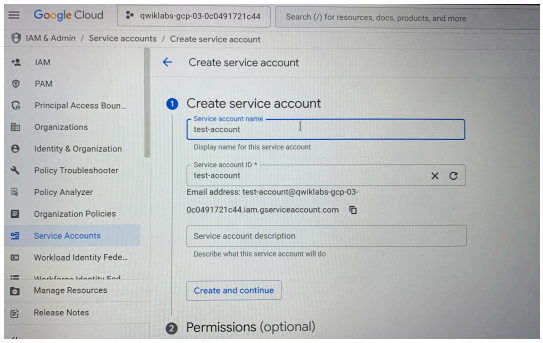
SCENARIO

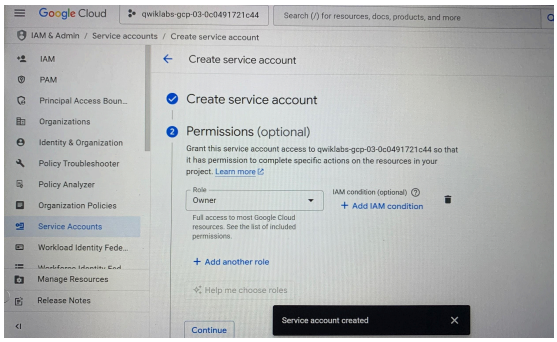
During testing of a new service account, a team member inadvertently created a user-managed key with overly broad permissions. This triggered a low-severity security alert due to insecure key management practices.

Here's how I addressed this alert and closed it as a false positive;

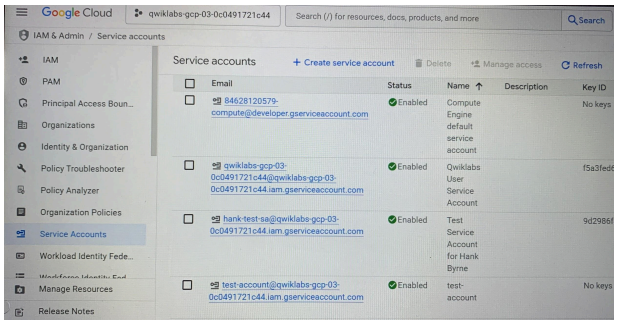
First Step : Create a Service Account

Here, I created a Service Account and granted it permissions sufficient to trigger anomalous threat findings in SCC.



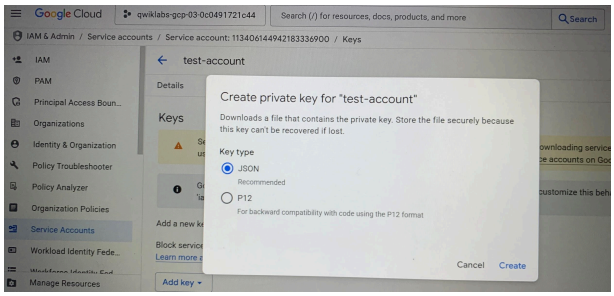


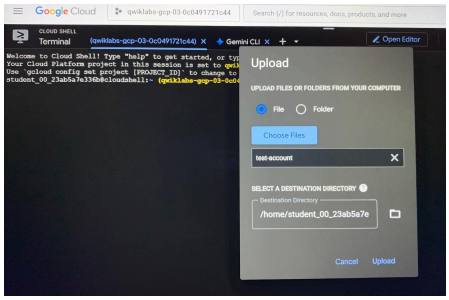
I noticed a **test-account** service account listed in the **service accounts** list.



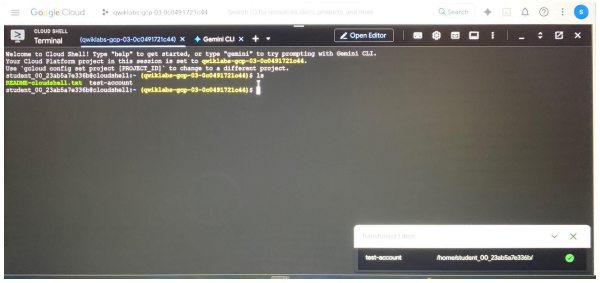
Second Step : Create a JSON authentication key for the Service Account

Here, I created and downloaded a JSON authentication key for the new service account I created previously. I then used Cloud Shell to upload that key to my google account. This triggered a threat finding in SCC.

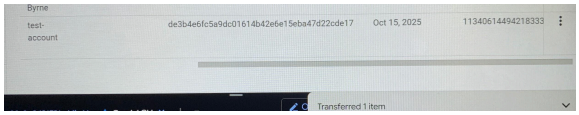




I inputted the **"Ls"** command into the cloud shell terminal

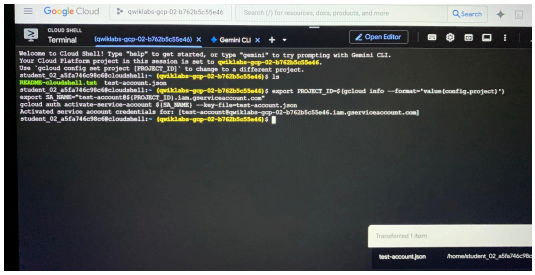


This command lists the key file that was previously uploaded
In the **test account** page, in the **key** list, I noticed the key created with the **key creation date** as the current date.



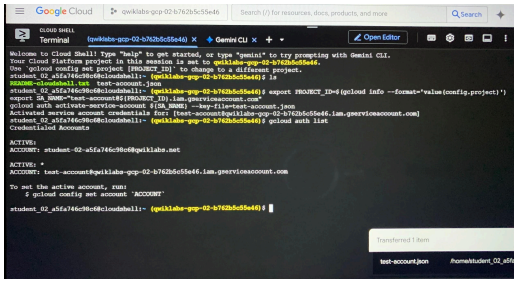
Third step : Trigger The False Positive Findings
Here, I reconfigured the cloud shell environment to use the new **test-account** service account that I created in the First Step. This triggered a threat Finding in SCC. Then, I assigned excessive permissions to the lab project.

I inputted the following command into the cloud shell terminal;
export PROJECT_ID=$(gcloud info --format='value(config.project)')
export SA_NAME="test-account@${PROJECT_ID}.iam.gserviceaccount.com"
gcloud auth activate-service-account ${SA_NAME} --key-file=test-account.json
This command activates the new service account



I inputted the following command into the cloud shell terminal;
gcloud auth list
This command confirms that you activated the service account and that gcloud is using this service account.

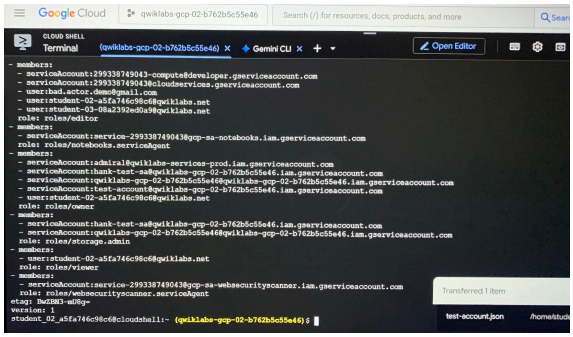
The following output confirms the service account is active:



I inputted the following command into the Cloud shell terminal:

export STUDENT2="Google Cloud username 2"
gcloud projects add-iam-policy-binding $PROJECT_ID --member user:$STUDENT2 --role roles/editor

This command grants the editor role to user 2 so that you can access and remediate the false positive finding in the next task.



Fourth Step: Sign in as the second user

I switched Google Cloud accounts by logging into the Google Cloud console using the second user account provided in the lab details. This user account was what I used to perform the remaining tasks.

Fifth Step: View the Threat Finding in SCC

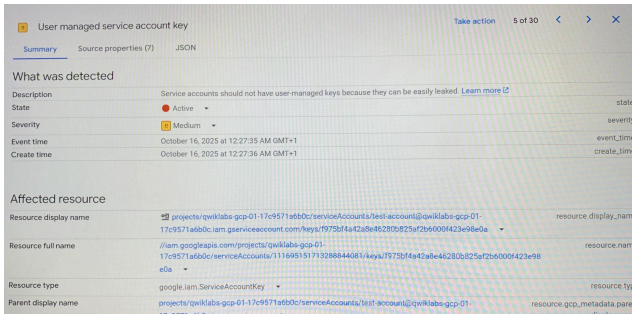
Here, I'll locate and examine the SCC finding generated by the Service Event Threat Detection. This finding is a false positive that was triggered by the activity I generated in steps 1-3.

I displayed the findings in the **Findings query results** panel and was able to answer the following questions

Severity of the alert—> medium

The threat finding class for the alert—> misconfiguration

When is it important to monitor for threats—> whenever your device is on



Final Step: Fix the Finding

Here, I remediated the false positive by deleting the JSON authentication key for the **test-account** service account.

CONCLUSION

I used SCC to investigate a false positive and took action to remediate it. As a Cloud security analyst, I'll likely encounter false positive alerts. It's important to understand how and why false positive alerts are triggered and how I can take action to remediate them.