

AWS Identity and Access Management (AWS IAM)



IAM: Users & Groups

- IAM = Identity and Access Management, **Global** service
- **Root account** created by default, shouldn't be used or shared
- **Users** are people within your organization, and can be grouped
- **Groups** only contain users, not other groups
- Users don't have to belong to a group, and user can belong to multiple groups



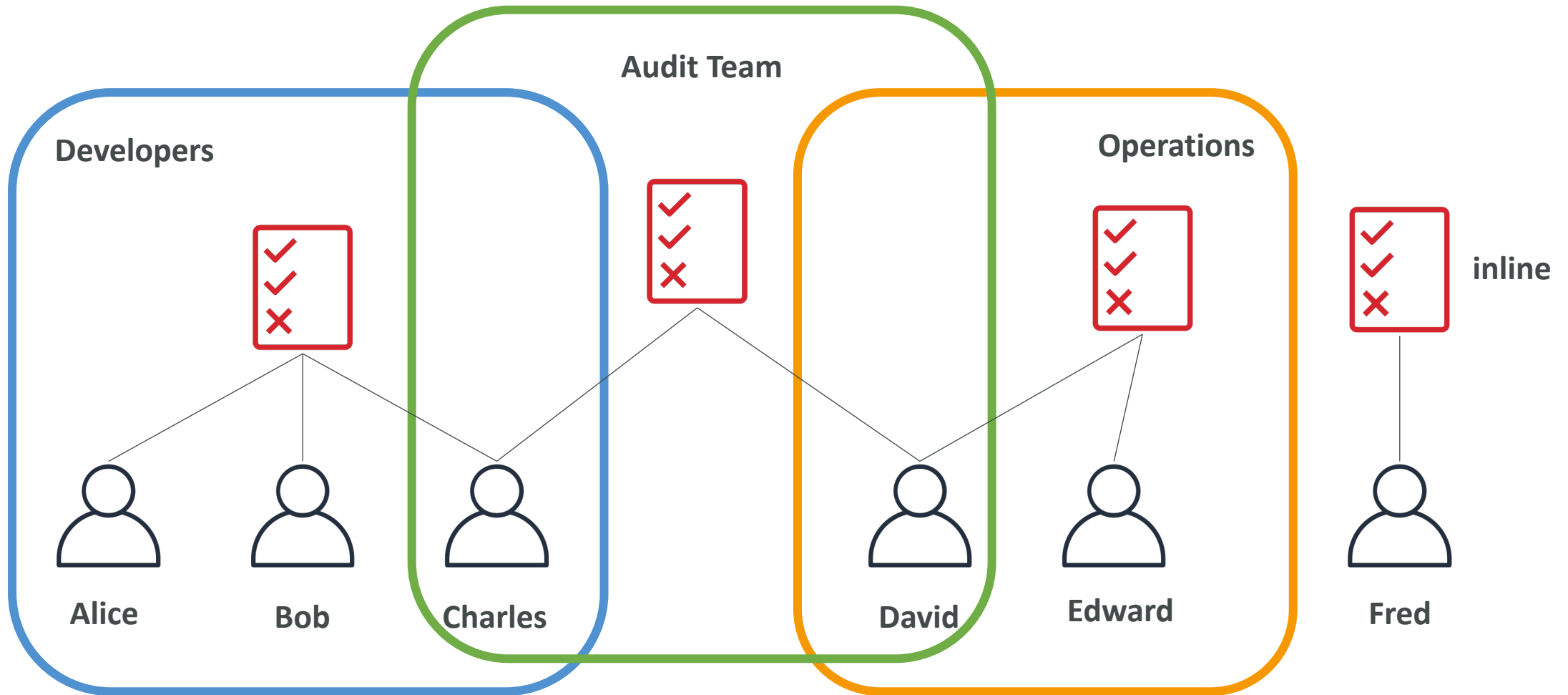
IAM: Permissions

- Users or Groups can be assigned JSON documents called policies
- These policies define the **permissions** of the users
- In AWS you apply the **least privilege principle**: don't give more permissions than a user needs

```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Action": "ec2:Describe*",
      "Resource": "*"
    },
    {
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Action": "elasticloadbalancing:Describe*",
      "Resource": "*"
    },
    {
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Action": [
        "cloudwatch:ListMetrics",
        "cloudwatch:GetMetricStatistics",
        "cloudwatch:Describe*"
      ],
      "Resource": "*"
    }
  ]
}
```



IAM Policies inheritance



IAM Policies Structure

- Consists of
 - **Version:** policy language version, always include “2012-10-17”
 - **Id:** an identifier for the policy (optional)
 - **Statement:** one or more individual statements (required)
- Statements consists of
 - **Sid:** an identifier for the statement (optional)
 - **Effect:** whether the statement allows or denies access (Allow, Deny)
 - **Principal:** account/user/role to which this policy applied to
 - **Action:** list of actions this policy allows or denies
 - **Resource:** list of resources to which the actions applied to
 - **Condition:** conditions for when this policy is in effect (optional)

```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Id": "S3-Account-Permissions",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Sid": "1",
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Principal": {
        "AWS": ["arn:aws:iam::123456789012:root"]
      },
      "Action": [
        "s3:GetObject",
        "s3:PutObject"
      ],
      "Resource": ["arn:aws:s3:::mybucket/*"]
    }
  ]
}
```

IAM – Password Policy

- Strong passwords = higher security for your account
- In AWS, you can setup a password policy:
 - Set a minimum password length
 - Require specific character types:
 - including uppercase letters
 - lowercase letters
 - numbers
 - non-alphanumeric characters
 - Allow all IAM users to change their own passwords
 - Require users to change their password after some time (password expiration)
 - Prevent password re-use



Multi Factor Authentication - MFA

- Users have access to your account and can possibly change configurations or delete resources in your AWS account
- You want to protect your Root Accounts and IAM users
- MFA = password *you know* + security device *you own*



Alice

Password

+



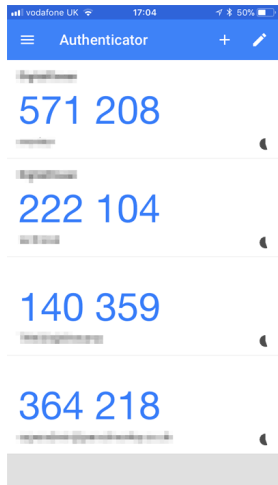
=>

Successful login

- Main benefit of MFA:
if a password is stolen or hacked, the account is not compromised

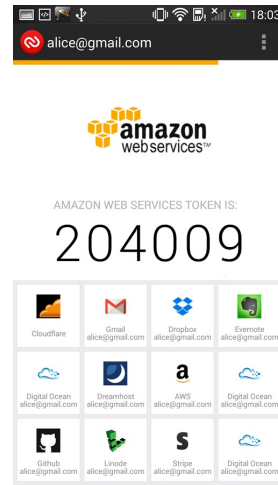
MFA devices options in AWS

Virtual MFA device



Google Authenticator
(phone only)

Support for multiple tokens on a single device.



Authy
(phone only)

Universal 2nd Factor (U2F) Security Key



YubiKey by Yubico (3rd party)

Support for multiple root and IAM users
using a single security key

MFA devices options in AWS

Hardware Key Fob MFA Device



Provided by Gemalto (3rd party)

Hardware Key Fob MFA Device for AWS GovCloud (US)



Provided by SurePassID (3rd party)



How can users access AWS ?


- To access AWS, you have three options:
 - AWS Management Console (protected by password + MFA)
 - AWS Command Line Interface (CLI): protected by access keys
 - AWS Software Developer Kit (SDK) - for code: protected by access keys
- Access Keys are generated through the AWS Console
- Users manage their own access keys
- Access Keys are secret, just like a password. Don't share them
- Access Key ID \sim username
- Secret Access Key \sim password

Example (Fake) Access Keys

Access keys

Use access keys to make secure REST or HTTP Query protocol requests to AWS service APIs. For your protection, you should never share your secret keys with anyone. As a best practice, we recommend frequent key rotation. [Learn more](#)

Create access key

| Access key ID | Created | Last used | Status | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------|---|
| AKIASK4E37PV4TU3RD6C | 2020-05-25 15:13 UTC+0100 | N/A | Active | Make inactive  |

- Access key ID: AKIASK4E37PV4983d6C
- Secret Access Key: AZPN3zoiWozWCndljhB0Unh8239aIbzbzO5fqgkZq
- Remember: don't share your access keys

What's the AWS CLI?

- A tool that enables you to interact with AWS services using commands in your command-line shell
- Direct access to the public APIs of AWS services
- You can develop scripts to manage your resources
- It's open-source <https://github.com/aws/aws-cli>
- Alternative to using AWS Management Console

```
→ ~ aws s3 cp myfile.txt s3://ccp-mybucket/myfile.txt
upload: ./myfile.txt to s3://ccp-mybucket/myfile.txt
→ ~ aws s3 ls s3://ccp-mybucket
2021-05-14 03:22:52          0 myfile.txt
→ ~
```



What's the AWS SDK?

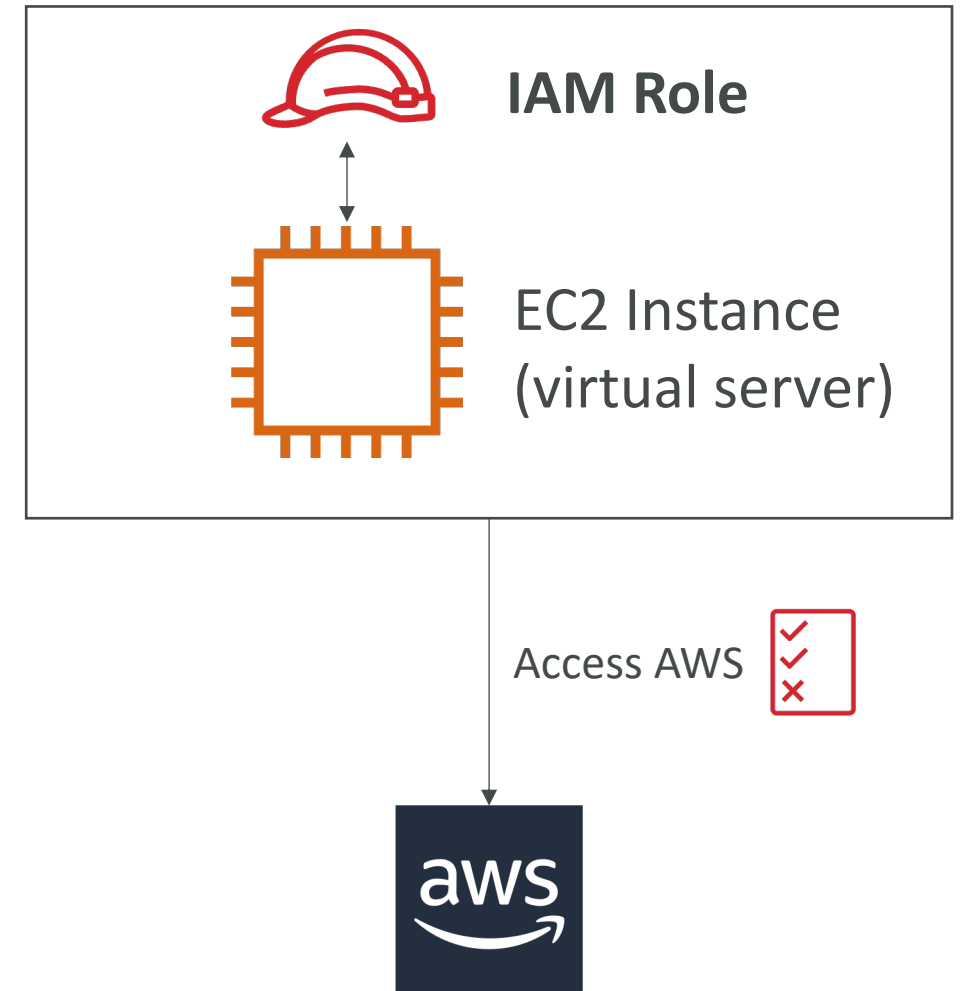
- AWS Software Development Kit (AWS SDK)
- Language-specific APIs (set of libraries)
- Enables you to access and manage AWS services programmatically
- Embedded within your application
- Supports
 - SDKs (JavaScript, Python, PHP, .NET, Ruby, Java, Go, Node.js, C++)
 - Mobile SDKs (Android, iOS, ...)
 - IoT Device SDKs (Embedded C, Arduino, ...)
- Example: AWS CLI is built on AWS SDK for Python **Boto**



Your Application

IAM Roles for Services

- Some AWS service will need to perform actions on your behalf
- To do so, we will assign **permissions** to AWS services with **IAM Roles**
- Common roles:
 - EC2 Instance Roles
 - Lambda Function Roles
 - Roles for CloudFormation



IAM Security Tools

- IAM Credentials Report (account-level)
 - a report that lists all your account's users and the status of their various credentials
- IAM Access Advisor (user-level)
 - Access advisor shows the service permissions granted to a user and when those services were last accessed.
 - You can use this information to revise your policies.



IAM Guidelines & Best Practices

- Don't use the root account except for AWS account setup
- One physical user = One AWS user
- **Assign users to groups** and assign permissions to groups
- Create a **strong password policy**
- Use and enforce the use of **Multi Factor Authentication (MFA)**
- Create and use **Roles** for giving permissions to AWS services
- Use Access Keys for Programmatic Access (CLI / SDK)
- Audit permissions of your account using IAM Credentials Report & IAM Access Advisor
- **Never share IAM users & Access Keys**



IAM Section – Summary

- **Users:** mapped to a physical user, has a password for AWS Console
- **Groups:** contains users only
- **Policies:** JSON document that outlines permissions for users or groups
- **Roles:** for EC2 instances or AWS services
- **Security:** MFA + Password Policy
- **AWS CLI:** manage your AWS services using the command-line
- **AWS SDK:** manage your AWS services using a programming language
- **Access Keys:** access AWS using the CLI or SDK
- **Audit:** IAM Credential Reports & IAM Access Advisor