Welcome to the Jungle PENTESTING AWS



@USTAYREADY ON TWITTERSECURITY RESEARCH / RED TEAM @ BHIS

ABOUT MIKE FELCH

- EXPLOITING SINCE RENEGADE BBS BACKDOORS
- POPPING BOXES SINCE /CGI-BIN/PHF IN '97
- SOFTWARE DEV SINCE VISUALBASIC3 WAREZ
- PENTESTING SINCE AROUND 2005



PENTESTING AWS
IN-DEPTH AND AT SCALE

ABOUT THIS TALK

- NOT A REFLECTION OF AMAZON
- WE RELY A LOT ON USING AWS CLI
- LET'S DIG INTO SERVICES
- SCALE ACROSS MANY ACCOUNTS
- REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!

PRESENTATION

AGENDA

- ► HIGH-LEVEL TESTING OVERVIEW
- INITIAL ACCESS PROVISIONING
- PENTEST PHASES
- SCALING THE PENTEST
- NEW TOOL
- CLOSING THOUGHTS



WHAT ARE WE TESTING?

Organizations

Consolidated AWS accounts for easy management

AWS Account

- We test one or more AWS accounts, sometimes not all
- Contains resources in different locations (regions)
- Usually used for scoping pentests

7???

DISCLAIMER

- Depends on the client, sometimes they want something different
- ... like starting as a developer with access to a dev environment

RESOURCES

Resources are "what" you are testing

- EC2: virtual server that comes in different sizes/locations
- S3: object storage with a globally unique name
- RDS: a typical relational database
- Lambda: microservice that runs code without a server
- ... over 200 different types of services

WARNING

- Usually pieced together like Legos
- Done right, can be hard to break
- Done wrong, has major consequences
- Exploit a resource and interact with different resources



SCOPING

How many AWS accounts are being tested?

- 5-10 accounts? One-week in-depth test
- 100+ accounts? Time boxed wide test

How many different resources in each account?

Good to know up front, hard to use in scoping

How many regions are being used in each account?

Great way to reduce reconnaissance time

Be sure to set the client expectations during scoping call!



IAM WHO I AM

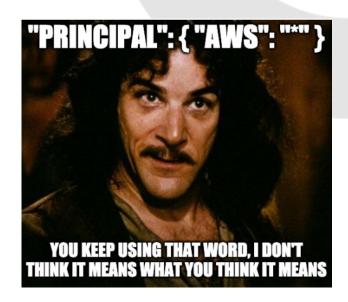
We need read-only access to start testing.. but how?

Solution? Identity and Access Management (IAM)!

- Controls access to AWS resources for users
- Typical users, groups, and permissions
- Uses "policies" to apply permissions for resources to users
- Password policies, MFA, and monitoring w/ CloudTrail
- "Principal" is an entity in AWS (user, role, AWS account, etc)

Why is this important?

- Vulnerable policies are the gateway for our exploitation
- Start testing with read-only access, exploit from there



```
"Version": "2012-10-17",
"Statement":
        "Effect": "Allow",
        "Action":
           "sns:Publish"
        ],
        "Resource": "arn:aws:sns:*:*:SecurityNotifications",
        "Condition": {
            "StringLike": {
                "aws:PrincipalArn": "arn:aws:iam::*:*"
    }
```

```
"Version": "2012-10-17",
"Statement":
                                                    ALLOW TO PUBLISH
       "Effect": "Allow",
       "Action":
                                                           TO THE SNS TOPIC
           "sns:Publish"
                                                           "SecurityNotifications"
       "Resource": "arn:aws:sns:*:*:SecurityNotifications",
       "Condition": {
           "StringLike": {
               "aws:PrincipalArn": "arn:aws:iam::*:*"
                                                           – FOR ANY AWS ACCOUNT
   }
```

ACCESS CREDENTIALS

IAM User Access and Secret Keys

- Access Keys identifies the user making the request
- Secret Keys sign the request confirming the user identity

Console Credentials

- Account ID (or account alias) + email + password
- Root account email + password

Easier for client to generate when testing few accounts

Harder for client to generate when testing many accounts



ASSUMEROLE

Provide internal access, externally

- IAM feature that enables assuming a role w/ permissions
- Great for allowing external accounts to access resources
- External account passes a role ARN (resource name)
- AWS generates temp credentials to external account
- Ideal way for client and tester
- Provide client w/ minimal read-only policy
- Receive role ARN for each account in scope



TESTING ENVIRONMENT

- Be sure to install AWS CLI: https://aws.amazon.com/cli/
- Configure *YOUR* testing AWS account (not clients)
- Add client's AWS accounts into accounts.txt, one per line
- Your keys will be configured in: ~/.aws/credentials

```
AWS Access Key ID [None]:

AWS Secret Access Key [None]:

Default region name [None]:

Default output format [None]:
```

TESTING ENVIRONMENT

- Next, we will configure an AssumeRole for your client accounts in: ~/.aws/config
- · We need a new profile name, we will use the client's AWS account number
- We need the ARN for the role that the client created, that gives our account permission
- · We need to reference our profile name (account), we used "testing" as the name

```
[profile 123456789123]
role_arn = arn:aws:iam::123456789123:role/PentestRole
source_profile = testing
```

TESTING ENVIRONMENT

- Retrieve the caller identity from AWS, to verify the profile works
- We will reference the AssumeRole profile name
- It will use our account to assume the role in our client's account
- Inherits the permissions specified in the policy they used
- If it returns data, we are ready to pentest!

DISCOVERY

For each AWS account being tested...

In each of the regions...

Retrieve each resource...

- · While we are at it, lets pull the policies too
- Is there an easy way to check the policies for issues?
- Indeed... ScoutSuite!

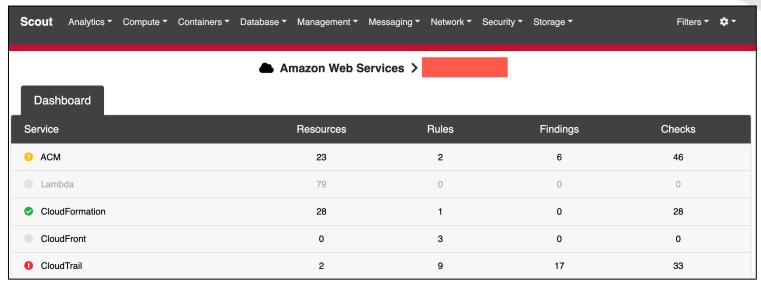
DISCLAIMER

- ScoutSuite seems seemed to be dead.
- ScoutSuite doesn't find everything.
- · ScoutSuite doesn't retrieve all resources.



SCOUTSUITE

- Generates a nice report dashboard w/ details
- Shows configurations and scans policies for potential issues
- Supports other cloud providers (Azure, GCP, etc)



AWS LIST ALL

- Enumerates everything, everywhere!
- Doesn't discover "bad" ⊗
- Takes time and may exhausts rate limits

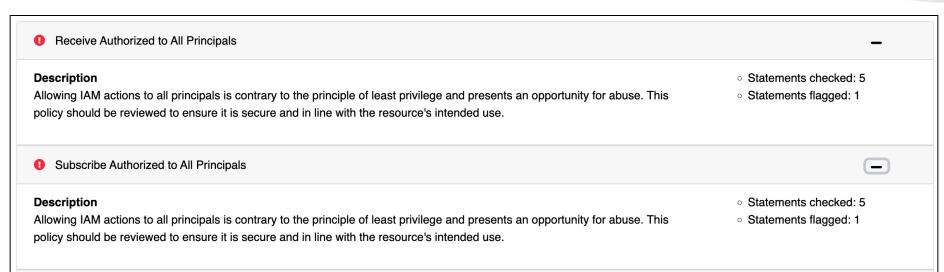
```
aws-list-all query --service ec2 --profile testing --verbose
Building set of queries to execute...
Service: ec2
                                       Region: ap-southeast-1
                                                                Operation: DescribeAddressTransfers
Service: ec2
                                       Region: ap-southeast-1
                                                                Operation: DescribeAddresses
Service: ec2
                                       Region: ap-southeast-1
                                                                Operation: DescribeAddressesAttribute
Service: ec2
                                                                Operation: DescribeAwsNetworkPerforma
                                       Region: ap-southeast-1
tions
Service: ec2
                                       Region: ap-southeast-1
                                                                Operation: DescribeBundleTasks
Service: ec2
                                       Region: ap-southeast-1
                                                                Operation: DescribeByoipCidrs
```

VULNERABILITIES & EXPLOITATION

VULNERABILITY IDENTIFICATION

ANALYZE SCOUTSUITE RESULTS

- Be cautious! Trust but verify.
- Policies can get complex, watch for false positives
- Use AWS CLI to validate
- Find and parse the scoutsuite_results*.js file(s) for JSON



SERVICE EXPLOITATION

BRUTE FORCE RESOURCES

Retrieve resources and try anyway!

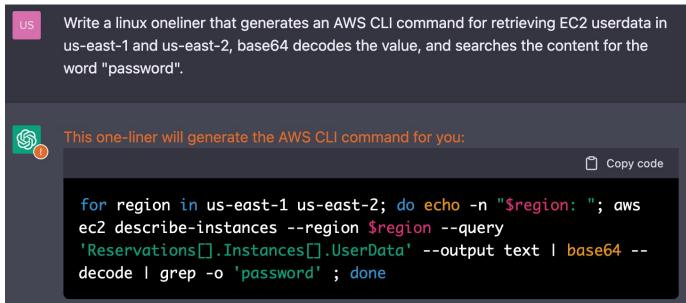
- Example.. query for all SNS topics in regions
- Retrieve the ARN and publish a message
- Check the response for errors... profit!

```
for region in us-east-1 us-east-2; do aws --region $region sns
list-topics | jq -r '.Topics[] | .TopicArn' | xargs -I {} sh -
c "echo $region: {}; aws --region $region sns publish --topic-
arn {} --message 'Test message'"; done
```

CHATGPT

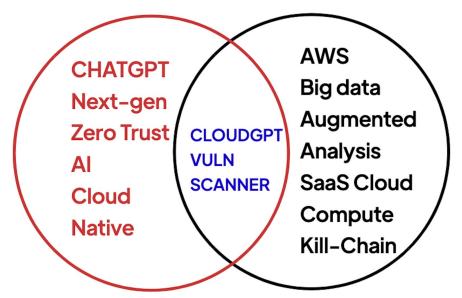
- Generate amazing one-liners to query using AWS CLI
- You can also sanitize a policy and ask if it's vulnerable
- Be careful not to leak customer accounts & resource names!





CLOUDGPT

- ChatGPT + Boto3 = AWS YOLO Vulnerability Scanner
- Full tool done, being released at HackSpaceCon April 13-15 @ Kennedy Space Center, FL



SERVICE EXPLOITATION

ADDITIONAL ATTACK SURFACE

Discover IP/hostnames for external infrastructure

- Elastic IPs
- EC2 Public IPs
- Elastic Load Balancer DNSName
- RDS Endpoint Address
- API Gateway REST APIs
- Elastic Beanstalk Endpoint URL

Scan infrastructure

- Port scan using Nmap
- Screenshot using GoWitness
- Fuzz using Ffuf or Dirbuster
- Normal external/web app pentest, look for SSRF!



SERVICE EXPLOITATION

BRUTE FORCE IAM USERS

Retrieve IAM usernames & cred reports then brute force the AWS web console

- Cred reports show if MFA enabled with user creation & password change dates
- Look for dates prior to November 2020 © (no password policy)
- AWS IAM has ***NO LOCK-OUT POLICY***

```
POST /authenticate HTTP/1.1
Host: us-east-2.signin.aws.amazon.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.15; rv:104.0)
Gecko/20100101 Firefox/104.0
Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=utf-8
Content-Length: 192
Connection: close
action=iam-user-
authenticationsaccount=XXXX&username=XXXX&password=XXXX&client_id=arn%3Aaws%3As
ignin%3A%3Aconsole%2Fcanvas&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fconsole.aws.amazon.co
m%2Fconsole%2Fhome
```

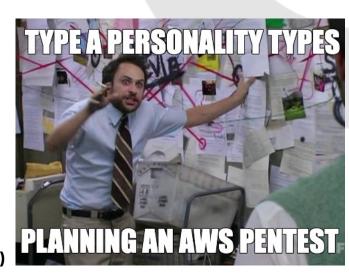


LATERAL MOVEMENT PRIVILEGE ESCALATION

LATERAL MOVEMENT

GOAL: PERMISSION SNOWBALL

- Find assumable roles or creds with different permissions
- Leverage services to pivot around
- Unravel roles, policies, and permissions
- Discover resources you can interact with
- Code and repo commits may have creds
- Sometimes you can leverage external AWS accounts
- Sometimes need to leverage internal roles/creds
- Sometimes don't need any creds at all (i.e. --no-sign-request)



LATERAL MOVEMENT

THIRD-PARTY SERVICES

API keys, tokens, credentials and more!

- Check EC2 User-data
- Check Lambda function code and environment vars
- Check CloudFormation stack parameters
- Check CodeBuild environment vars
- Check SSM Parameter Store (String and StringList)
- ... so much more! Look around.
- Regularly find more AWS keys & resource creds
- Leverage discovered access to third-parties
- Datadog, SendGrid, Git, Docker, API keys, Slack, Teams, etc

REMINDER

Slow down here!



POLICIES POLICIES

Look for policies with higher permissions that you can leverage

PERMISSION	HOW TO EXPLOIT
iam:CreatePolicyVersion	Create policy version for existing policy w/ set-as-default flag
iam:Attach(User/Group/Role)Policy	Add policy for user/group/role that is attacker controlled
iam:Put(User/Group/Role)Policy	Add inline policy for user/group/role that is attacker controlled
iam:SetDefaultPolicyVersion	Change default policy to different version w/ higher permissions
iam:UpdateAssumeRolePolicy	Update assume role policy for a role that is attacker controlled

ODD PERMISSIONS

Look for risky permissions that you can leverage

PERMISSION	HOW TO EXPLOIT
iam:PassRole	Pass existing role to resource or service and use it
iam:NotActions+Effect Allow	Creates prevent list which means everything else is permitted
lambda:CreateEventSourceMapping	Tie event sources to Lambda for triggering execution
glue:Create/UpdateDevEndpoint	Updated SSH public key for dev endpoint
cloudformation:CreateStack	Bad w/ PassRole - Launch resources (create admin etc)

IAM ROLE w/ EC2 METADATA

EC2 Metadata: http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/iam/security-credentials/<role>

IMDSv1

- EC2 instance with an IAM role attached can leak access keys
- Leverage an EC2 hosted web app vulnerable to SSRF
- ... or ability to SSH into an EC2 instance
- v1 does NOT require auth ©
- Retrieve access/secret access keys for the EC2 IAM role

IMDSv2

- v2 does require auth ⊗
- Security fix requiring TOKEN from /latest/api/token via PUT
- Use token in x-aws-ec2-metadata-token header to /latest/meta-data
- EC2 Specifying IMDSv2 will no longer work with IMDSv1



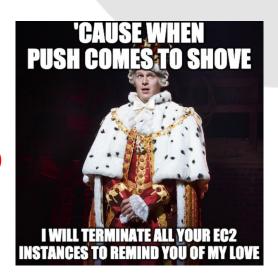
LAMBDA w/ ASSUMEROLE

- Check inline and managed policy versions
- Look for AssumeRole w/ our principal or Principal: "*"
- Call aws sts assume-role --role-arn <arn>
- Copy and configure creds in ~/.aws/credentials
- Check for new permissions within assumed role
- Use new creds w/ elevated permissions
- CreateFunction, UpdateFunctionCode and add new code
- UpdateFunctionConfiguration and add new layer
- · ... profit!



EC2 w/ INSTANCE PROFILE

- Check inline and managed policy versions
- Look for roles that have Runinstances
- Look for roles that have (add/remove) instance-profile permissions
- Can we create a key pair and run an EC2 instance?
- Can we unassign/reassign instance profiles w/ elevated perms?
- · SSH into EC2 w/ key pair ©
- SSM nodes w/ send-command RCE opportunity (AWS-RunShellScript)
- Use EC2 for lateral movement, other service interaction, etc
- · ... profit!



PRIVILEGE ESCALATION

COGNITO IDENTITIES

- User pools assist with user sign-in/sign-up
- Identity pools assist with what users can access
- We are looking for Identity Pool ID's
- Look in JavaScript, HTTP response headers, GitHub, etc.
- May need to auth to web app using Cognito, retrieve JWT
- JWT is passed to identity pool, retrieves temp AWS keys
- Keys are used to enumerate AWS access
- Sometimes Identity Pool's allow unauth access
- Mobile app and hardware devices sometimes embed them

aws cognito-identity get-id --identity-pool-id <pool id>
aws cognito-identity get-credentials-for-identity --identity-id prev id>

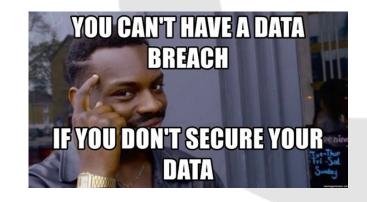


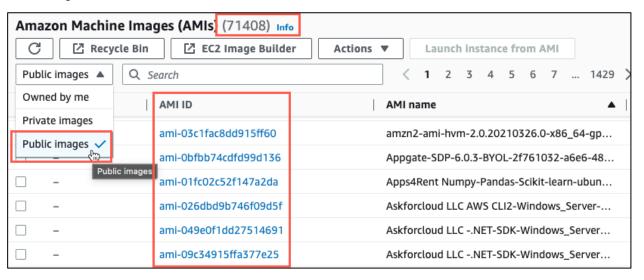
PUBLIC AMI

EC2 -> AMIs -> Public Images filter

aws ec2 describe-images --query 'Images[*].[Name,Public]'

- Run EC2 instance in your AWS account using public AMI
- Enumerate the filesystem like it's 1999!





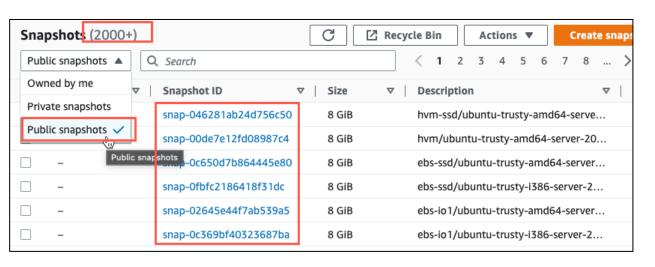
PUBLIC EBS

EC2 -> Snapshots -> Public Snapshots filter

aws ec2 describe-snapshots --query 'Snapshots[*].[Name,Public]'

- Attach EBS volume to EC2 instance in your AWS account using
- Enumerate the filesystem like it's 1999!





PUBLICIZE YOURSELF

- Share an AMI or snapshot with your external AWS account
- Launch an EC2 instance in your external account, SSH in!

In Customer Account

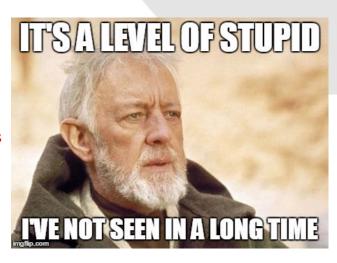
aws ec2 modify-snapshot-attribute --snapshot-id <snap id> -attribute createVolumePermission --operation-type add -user-ids
<your account ID>

In Tester Account

aws ec2 create-volume --snapshot-id <snap id>



· NEVER MAKE AN AMI OR EBS PUBLIC ON A PENTEST!!!!!



HACKING S3 BUCKETS

- Inspect HTML & JavaScript files
- Resources hosted at <something>.s3.amazonaws.com
- Browse to http://<ip>/ and see if it redirects to AWS S3
- nslookup <ip> = s3-website-<region>.amazonaws.com
- http://<domain>.s3-website-<region>.amazonaws.com
- SSL Certs SAN and brute force
- GitHub searches
- Google searches
- Burp Suite plugin called AWS Extender



aws s3 ls s3://<bucket name>/

LOOP THROUGH ACCOUNTS

Remember that accounts.txt you created... lets use it!

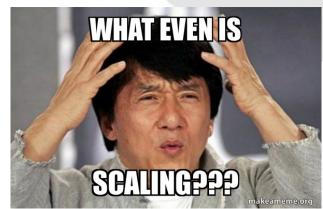
cat accounts.txt | while read a; do python scout.py aws --profile \$a --no-browser --report-dir

./reports/\$a/ --report-name \$a --logfile ./logs/\$a.log; done

- Consider limiting to specific regions
- Generates a report and log file
- Set each account number to the profile name in ~/.aws/config
- I've used this for 300+ accounts in one test

DISCLAIMER

Rate limits suck. Scout has --max-rate and --max-workers flags



QUICK ANALYSIS

Now that Scout is done, lets parse some data!

- Report data in scoutsuite_results*.js file
- So many more issues we can search for

EC2 Userdata Example

```
find . -type f -name 'scoutsuite_results*.js' -exec tail -n +2 {} \; | jq '.services.ec2.regions[].vpcs[].instances[] | select (.user_data != null) | .arn, .user_data'
```

Lambda Environment Variables Example

```
for r in $(find . -type f -name 'scoutsuite_results*.js'); do cat "$r" | tail -n +2 | jq '.services.awslambda.regions[].functions[] | select (.env_variables != []) | .arn, .env_variables'; done
```

INTRODUCING OUTPOST

Nothing sexy but useful!

- Quickly generate ~/.aws/config using AssumeRole for all accounts
- Prior to pentest, test AWS accounts using profiles from accounts.txt
- Generate findings for Scout vulnerability scans (danger/warning)
- 300+ accounts? No problem. It parses all results and generates findings
- Generates list of finding, affected resources, and vulnerable account
- After scanning with Scout, use Outpost to find quick wins

INTRODUCING OUTPOST

```
(t) ▷ ~/Code/outpost > git $\mathbb{P}$ main > python outpost.py --help
usage: outpost.py [-h] --command COMMAND [--config-creds] [--assume ASSUME] [--accounts ACCOUNTS]
                  [--primary PRIMARY] [--token TOKEN] [--secret-key SECRET KEY] [--access-key ACCESS KEY]
                  [--directory DIRECTORY] [--risk RISK] [--project PROJECT]
optional arguments:
 -h, --help
                        show this help message and exit
  --command COMMAND
                        Commands: generate, report, testaccounts
  --config-creds
                        Configure creds while using the generate command
  --assume ASSUME
                        Optional assume role ARN, use ACCOUNT_ID for placeholder. (i.e.
                        arn:aws:iam::ACCOUNT_ID:role/ROLENAME
  --accounts ACCOUNTS
                        File containing account numbers (one account per line)
  --primary PRIMARY
                        Primary account used to assume roles
  --token TOKEN
                        Primary AWS session token
  --secret-key SECRET KEY
                        Primary AWS secret access key
  --access-kev ACCESS KEY
                        Primary AWS access key
  --directory DIRECTORY
                        Parent directory of ScoutSuite report(s)
  --risk RISK
                        Select finding risk to report: danger, warning
                        Project name for report details
  --project PROJECT
```

CLOSING THOUGHTS

CLOSING THOUGHTS

CLIENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Always. Use. CloudTrail.
- Implement a routine AWS pentest on all accounts
- Restrict policies to specific principals
- Always implement a least-privilege model
- Block web app access to 169.254.169.254
- Watch out for PassRole on "*"
- Avoid using "Principal": { "AWS": "*" }
- Avoid NotActions+Allow

Have questions? Need a pentest? Reach out!

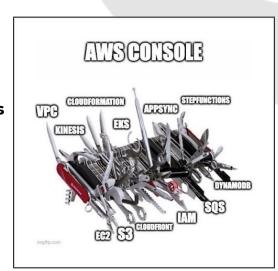


CLOSING THOUGHTS

PENTESTER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Follow traditional pentest phases
- The more attack surface you know, the better the test
- Lots of accounts? Spread a wide net and zero your focus
- Few accounts? Discover everything and dig deep into policies/roles
- Create cheat sheets of oneliners for repetitive tasks
- Get familiar with the AWS service offerings
- Great time to start, cloud pentesting is still very new

Have questions? Want to learn to pentest AWS? Reach out!



THANKS FOR JOINING!



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