



# AWS re:Invent

**SEC 340 - R**

# Using AWS KMS for data protection, access control, and audit

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# Agenda

Quick encryption primer

AWS KMS overview

AWS KMS protecting your data

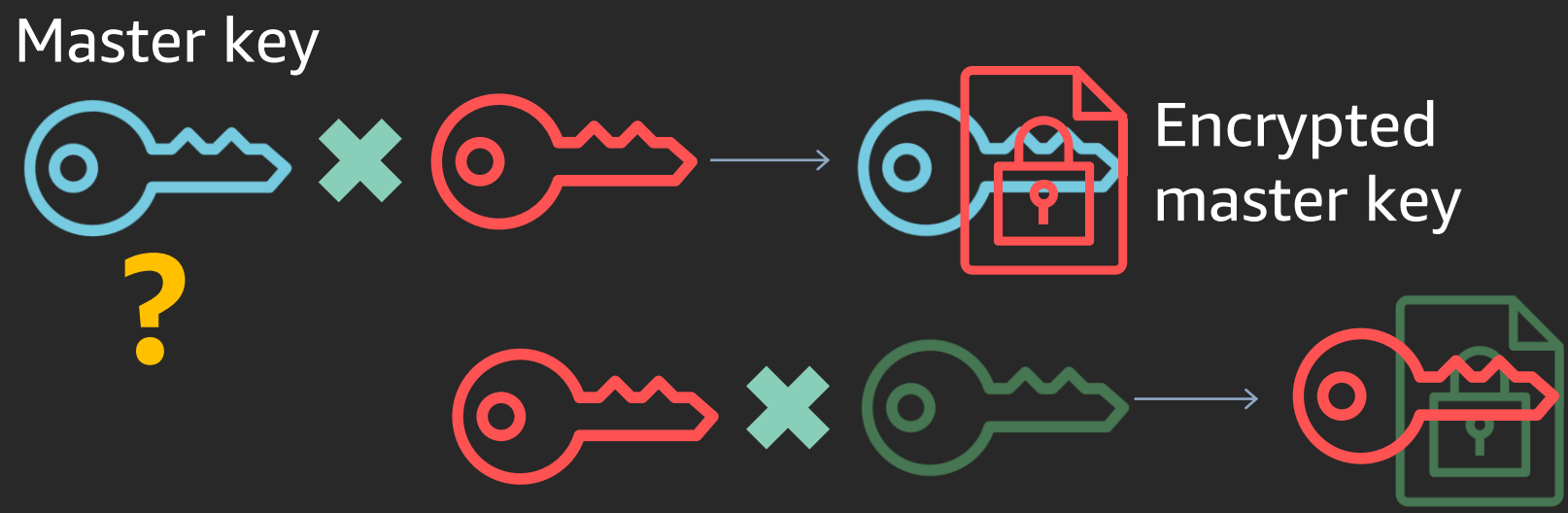
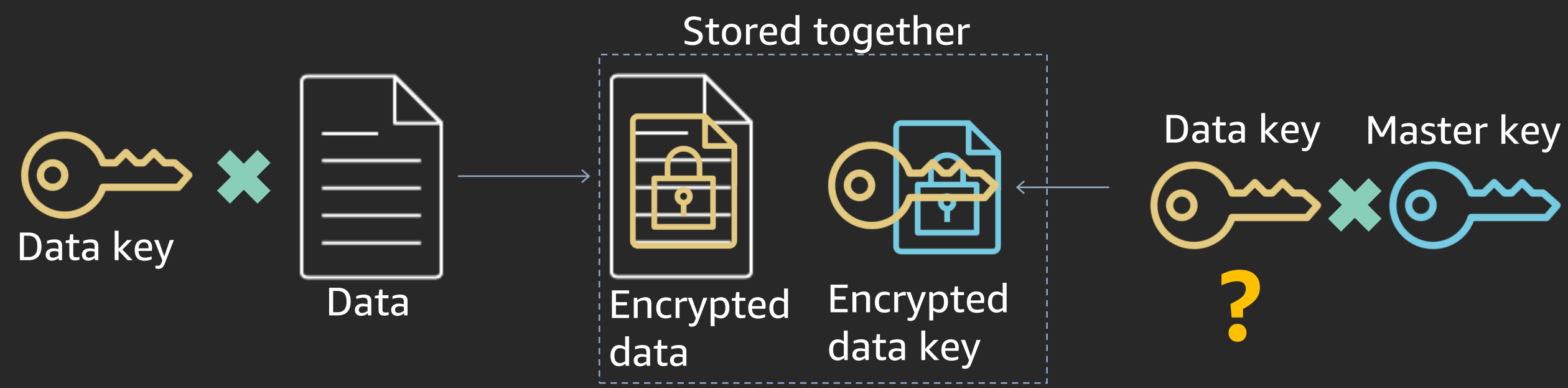
AWS KMS improving audit outcomes

AWS KMS providing operational assurance

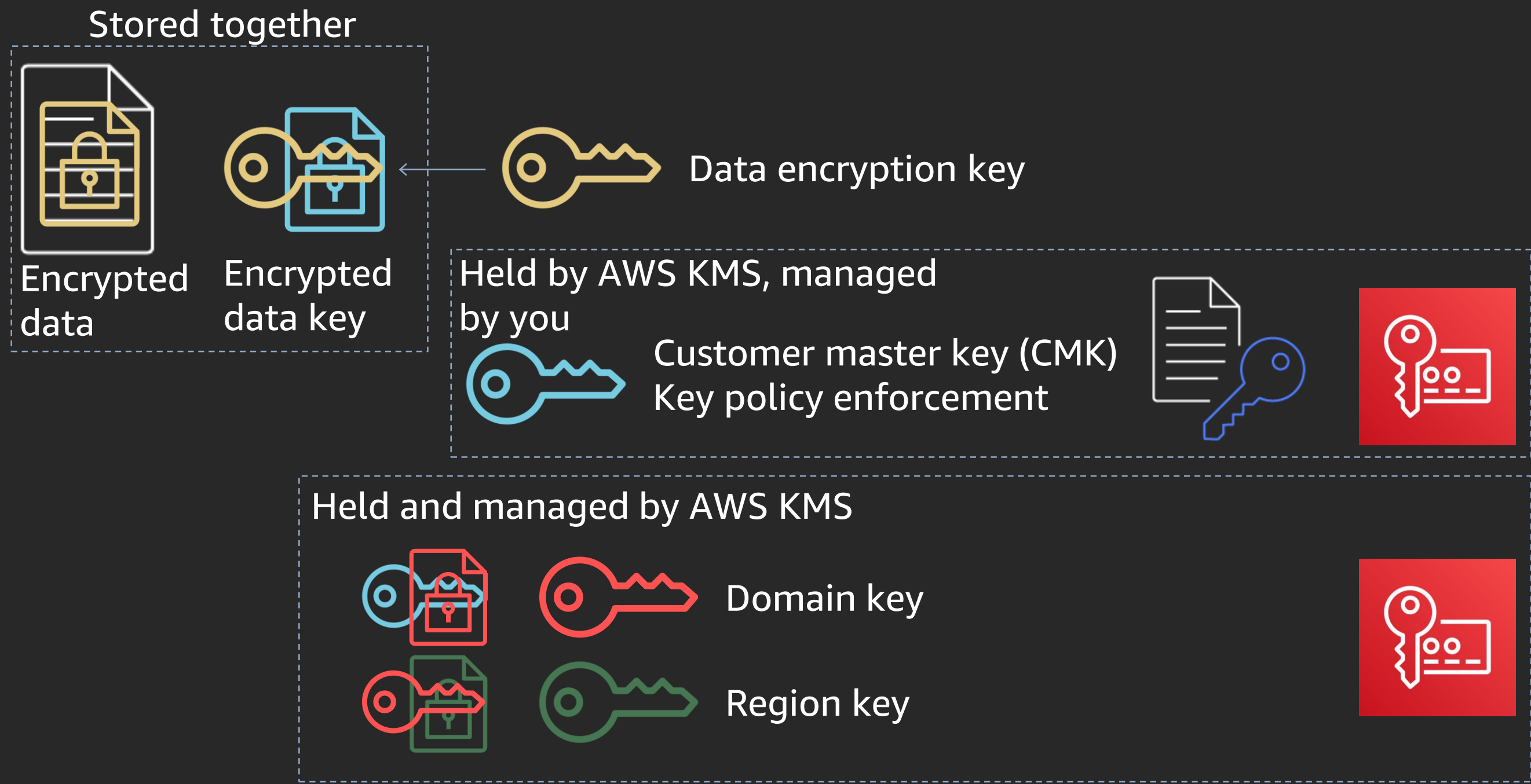
New asymmetric capabilities

# Encryption primer & AWS KMS overview

# Encryption primer



# AWS KMS key hierarchy



# What else can AWS KMS do besides key management?

- AWS KMS gives customers an additional mechanism for access control and data protection
- AWS KMS integration with AWS services provides customers with a robust set of audit records for data events
- AWS KMS enables operational assurance to answer critical questions from stakeholders



# AWS KMS protects your data



# AWS KMS helps to protect your data

- Customers use separate customer master keys (CMKs) to partition access to data
- CMK key policy defines access
- CMK authorization ought to separate key administrators from encryption key users
- Improves the intentionality and discretion of data access



# AWS KMS is an additional plane of access control

- Resources protected by AWS KMS require additional authorization
- Even with Amazon S3 full access, accessing objects backed by SSE-KMS requires authorization to use the AWS KMS CMK
- Customers with teams managing sensitive data on Amazon EBS use separate CMKs with discrete authorization
- Amazon RDS separation of duties – separate access to instances and snapshots from access to secrets and credentials



# **AWS KMS improves audit outcomes**

# AWS KMS integration with AWS for audit outcomes

- AWS KMS “encryption context” can be used to correlate events in AWS CloudTrail
- Detective controls & an audit record prove access and ensure non-repudiation
- Use AWS Config to track changes to CMK policy



# Amazon S3 data trail

- Must be enabled by bucket or account
- Records object-level access – GETs & PUTs
- Includes the ARN of the user
- Can be ticked & tied against AWS KMS records in CloudTrail
- Answers critical questions:
- "Who accessed this data?"
- "Did accessing this data always require access to the encryption key?"
- "Was everything stored here always properly encrypted?"

# **AWS KMS provides operational assurance**

# AWS KMS provides operational assurance

- What if someone opens an Amazon S3 bucket to the world?
- What if someone shares an Amazon EBS snapshot?
- How can I definitively prove who has access?
- How can I definitively prove who does not have access?



# Default encryption and robust integrations

- Enable default bucket encryption for Amazon S3 using AWS KMS
- Configure Amazon EBS for default volume encryption using AWS KMS
- Amazon DynamoDB is always encrypted with AWS KMS
- AWS KMS protects TLS certificates with AWS Certificate Manager and Elastic Load Balancing





# For the next 20 mins....

New feature in the service

Differences between existing and new key types

Use cases

What to expect from AWS KMS

Your share of responsibility

# Asymmetric key support

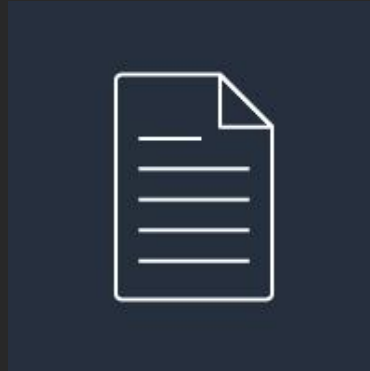
# Digital signature workflow



User creates a  
signing key



Generates  
a signature



User sends signature and  
data to recipient



Recipient verifies  
signature using public key

# Signing in AWS KMS

## RSA and ECC key specs

### Sign API

Message

Message digest

### GetPublicKey API

### Verify API

Audit Trail

## Configure key

### Key type [Help me choose](#)

☐ Symmetric

A single encryption key that is used for both encrypt and decrypt operations

☒ Asymmetric

A public and private key pair that can be used for encrypt/decrypt or sign/verify operations

### Key usage [Help me choose](#)

☐ Encrypt and decrypt

Key pairs for public key encryption

Uses the public key for encryption and the private key for decryption.

☒ Sign and verify

Key pairs for digital signing

Uses the private key for signing and the public key for verification.

### Key spec [Help me choose](#)

☐ RSA\_2048

☐ RSA\_3072

☐ RSA\_4096

☐ ECC\_NIST\_P256

☐ ECC\_NIST\_P384

☐ ECC\_NIST\_P521

☐ ECC\_SECG\_P256K1

Cancel

Next

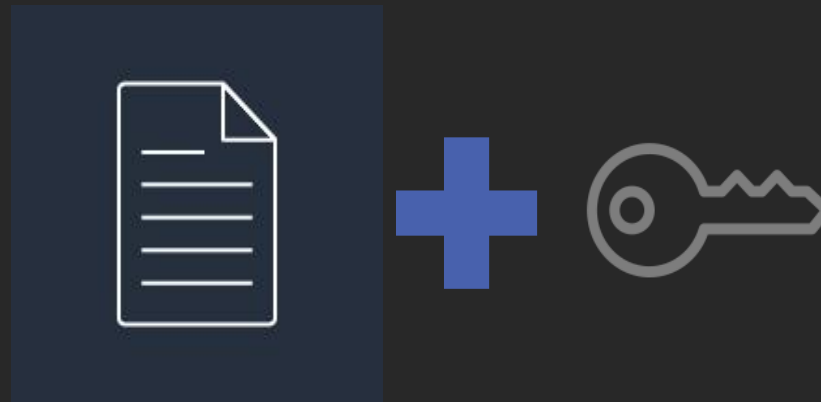
# Asymmetric encryption workflow



User creates an  
encryption key



Downloads  
public key



Recipient encrypts  
using public key and  
sends ciphertext



User decrypts  
using private key

# Encryption in AWS KMS

RSA key specs

GetPublicKey API

Decrypt API  
Key ID

Encrypt API  
Audit trail

## Configure key

### Key type [Help me choose](#)



Symmetric

A single encryption key that is used for both encrypt and decrypt operations



Asymmetric

A public and private key pair that can be used for encrypt/decrypt or sign/verify operations

### Key usage [Help me choose](#)



Encrypt and decrypt

Key pairs for public key encryption

Uses the public key for encryption and the private key for decryption.



Sign and verify

Key pairs for digital signing

Uses the private key for signing and the public key for verification.

### Key spec [Help me choose](#)



RSA\_2048



RSA\_3072



RSA\_4096

Cancel

Next

# GenerateDataKeyPair\*

## Ability to generate public-private key pairs

- As a Customer Master Key

- As a data key pair

## Use the public and private portions for cryptographic operations

- Sign and verify

- Encrypt and decrypt

# Asymmetric and symmetric differences



# Asymmetric and symmetric differences

## Key and key pairs

- Single key for encrypt and decrypt operations

- Public and private key pair for encrypt/decrypt or sign/verify operations

## Operations inside and outside AWS KMS

- Symmetric key operations happen within the service

- Encryption and Verification operations can happen outside the service

## Interoperability

- Ciphertext produced by symmetric keys has AWS KMS specific metadata

- Ciphertext and signatures follow specifications for interoperability

## Integration

- No native integration with AWS services YET

# Asymmetric use cases

# Asymmetric use cases

## Confidentiality

Enable third parties to perform unauthenticated encryption outside of AWS KMS using an RSA public key, but enforce authenticated decryption within AWS KMS using the private portion of the key

## Integrity

Sign a binary, document, auth token (SAML or JWT), or files  
Have third parties verify signatures

# AWS KMS's responsibility

# AWS KMS's responsibility

Generate keys in HSMs and protect within the service

As with symmetric keys, nobody, including AWS employees, can access plaintext private key material

All access and operations are recorded

Availability and durability still applies

AWS KMS will continue to scale to meet your needs

# Your responsibility

# Your responsibility

Use keys designated for signing and encryption accordingly

You must not use asymmetric keys in an integrated AWS service that lets you include a KMS *keyId*

Getting certificates for public keys



Setting right policies



# Parting words

In Northern Virginia, Oregon, Sydney, Ireland, and Tokyo AWS Regions today (with others to come)

Different limits for asymmetric

GenerateDataKeypair\* APIs can only be used with symmetric CMKs

Pricing is different from the current symmetric keys

Asymmetric keys are excluded from the free tier

At AWS, security is the **top priority**



# Resources

## Blog Post

<https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/security/digital-signing-asymmetric-keys-aws-kms/>

## Pricing

<https://aws.amazon.com/kms/pricing/>

## Documentation

<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/kms/latest/developerguide/symmetric-asymmetric.html>

# Related breakouts

SEC322-R - Deep dive into AWS KMS

SEC337 - Toyota Motor North America: Securing the cloud with AWS KMS

SEC348-R - Protecting sensitive data in your AWS workloads (Builder!)

SEC401-R - Using the AWS Encryption SDK for multi-master key encryption (Workshop!)

WPS320-R - Implement access control to data in AWS services using AWS KMS (Builder!)

ENT401-R - A lifecycle approach to governance, compliance, and audit

SEC320-R - We all want the same things: Meeting controls objectives on AWS

STG301-R - Deep dive on Amazon S3 security and management

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