

# Test your knowledge of the AWS shared responsibility model



by

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Do you know where AWS' security responsibility ends and yours begins? Try your hand with this quick quiz.

**AWS** security »

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In a traditional data center, an enterprise exercises total control over its facility and assumes full responsibility for infrastructure security and operation. But with the public cloud, that all changes, and now, many users need to grow accustomed to the AWS shared responsibility model.

Public cloud adopters can shed the expense and management burden of traditional IT infrastructure in favor of ondemand, pay-as-you-go services. But they also surrender control and insight into that infrastructure and must trust the provider to ensure availability and security.

While AWS says it can provide secure cloud infrastructure, it cannot guarantee the security of workloads in the cloud. It's a subtle but profound distinction that delineates the separation between providers and users. When you migrate workloads and data to the cloud, it doesn't absolve you of regulatory compliance and corporate

governance obligations. The provider can deliver tools and technologies necessary to protect an environment, but it's up to users to implement them to secure workloads and data.

Thus, AWS and its users share security responsibilities. See how much you know about the AWS shared responsibility model and your cloud accountability with this brief quiz.

#### YOUR SCORE: 7 out of 8 - Read the answers to the guiz below.



#### QUESTION 1

What is AWS responsible for securing?

AWS-owned hardware

AWS-owned software

AWS-owned networking

All of the above

YOUR ANSWER - All of the above

MORE INFORMATION:

Answer: In the AWS shared responsibility model, AWS must secure the hardware, software, networking and facilities that operate its cloud services.





# **QUESTION 2**



Which AWS security tasks are users' responsibilities?

Securing data with encryption

Administering identity and access management

Configuring security groups

All of the above

YOUR ANSWER - All of the above

MORE INFORMATION:

Answer: In the AWS shared responsibility model, users must configure and manage all AWS security-related features, such as the AWS firewall and security groups. AWS security configuration varies depending on the service, but it's all up to the user to determine his or her needs.



#### X QUESTION 3

What constitutes "inherited controls" in AWS' shared responsibility model?

Physical and environmental controls

Patch management

Zone security

None of the above

**YOUR ANSWER - Patch management** 

**CORRECT ANSWER** - Physical and environmental controls

MORE INFORMATION:

Answer: AWS presumes that users "inherit" the physical security attributes of its data centers. AWS manages these variables, which include physical controls, such as locked doors and video surveillance, and environmental controls, such as temperature and humidity.

## **QUESTION 4**

Patch management is solely the responsibility of the user.

True

False

**YOUR ANSWER - False** 

MORE INFORMATION:

Answer: Although AWS is not responsible for patch management within user-controlled services or instances, the cloud provider patches and updates systems used to operate the AWS infrastructure. AWS refers to this as "shared control" of the environment.

## **QUESTION 5**

Who holds the responsibility to protect user data stored on physical disks?

Government regulatory agencies

Users

**AWS** 

All of the above

**YOUR ANSWER - Users** 

MORE INFORMATION:

Answer: While AWS ensures the availability of physical disks, users must protect the actual data stored on those disks. AWS has no responsibility for lost, deleted or unsecured customer data.



#### **QUESTION 6**

AWS provides which resources to bolster cloud security consistent with the AWS shared responsibility model?

**AWS Knowledge Center** 

**AWS Enterprise Support** 

AWS training and certification

All of the above

YOUR ANSWER - All of the above

#### MORE INFORMATION:

Answer: The AWS shared responsibility model is not a discipline per se, but the cloud provider offers advice and guidance through a number of resources, such as its online knowledge base, formalized training and certification. These materials, along with optional live support via options like the Enterprise Support plan, can help AWS users better understand and accommodate the shared responsibility model.



## **✓** QUESTION 7

AWS applies all but which of the following security policies to its data center employees?

Restricts access to only U.S. citizens

Time-bound, layer-specific access

Multifactor authentication mechanisms

Entryway detection systems

YOUR ANSWER - Restricts access to only U.S. citizens

#### MORE INFORMATION:

Answer: AWS provides multifaceted data center security designed for perimeter, infrastructure, data and environment layers of protection. But only the AWS GovCloud region restricts employee access to verified U.S. citizens.



## QUESTION 8

According to the AWS customer agreement, which of the following types of AWS usage could result in account suspension?

Use that poses a security risk to a service itself

Use that could negatively affect AWS servers or customer workloads

Use that violates the law

All of the above

YOUR ANSWER - All of the above

MORE INFORMATION:

Answer: AWS can suspend your account for all of these reasons and more, including if you breach the customer agreement in any way or if your business declares bankruptcy. During this suspension period, the customer remains responsible for accumulated charges and cannot receive any service credits.

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