

Lab-1

Implement user authentication in AWS using IAM.

Group-1

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Introduction

This document describes the implementation of user authentication in AWS using IAM with mandatory Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) enforced for all users.

The implementation uses a laptop-based passkey (FIDO2 security key / platform authenticator) as the second authentication factor.

The objective is to prevent unauthorized access by ensuring that no IAM user can access AWS resources without MFA.

Scope of Implementation

The scope of this implementation includes:

- Creation of IAM users and groups
- Configuration of passkey-based MFA
- Enforcement of MFA using IAM policies
- Secure authentication flow validation
- Submission of implementation to a Git repository

System Architecture

AWS IAM is used to manage authentication and authorization. MFA enforcement is implemented using a deny-based IAM policy applied at the group level.

Architecture Components:

- IAM Users - “Alice”, “Bob”, “Cipher”
- IAM Group - “MFA-Users”
- IAM MFA Enforcement Policy
- FIDO2 Passkey (Laptop Platform Authenticator)

Authentication Mechanism

Primary Authentication Factor

Username and password (IAM user credentials)

Secondary Authentication Factor

Passkey (FIDO2 / WebAuthn)

Stored securely on the user's laptop

Unlocked using device PIN or biometric authentication

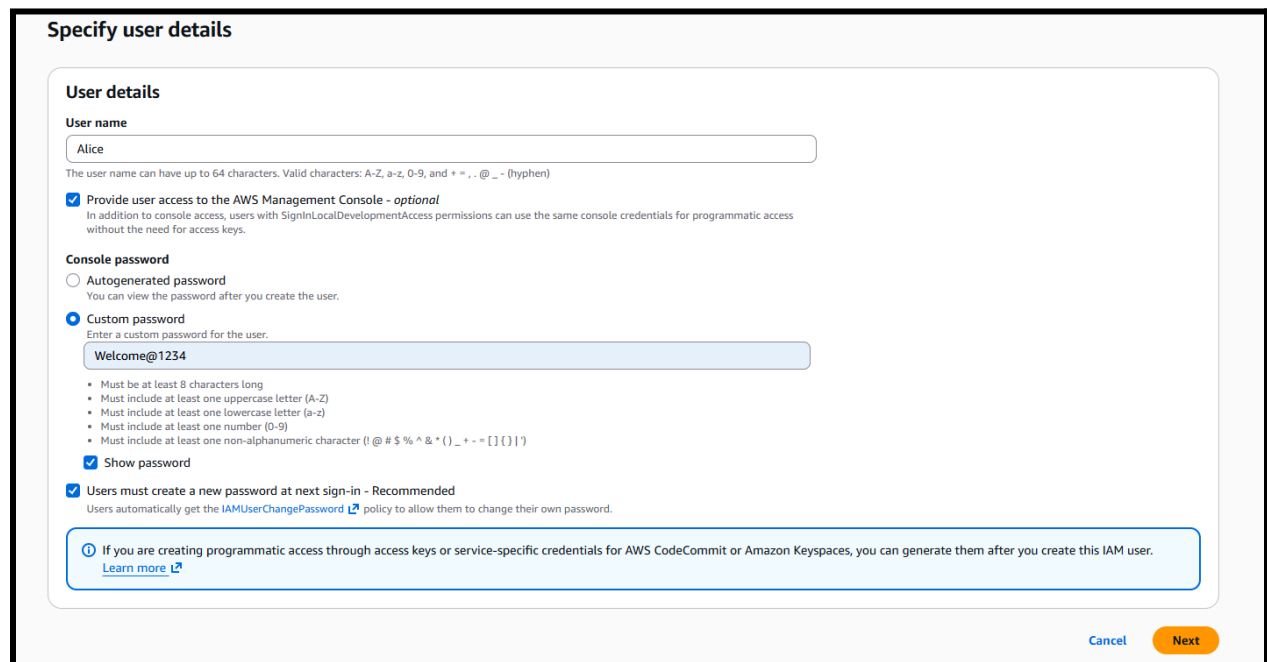
Implementation Procedure:

IAM User Creation:

IAM users were created for individual users requiring access to AWS services.

Procedure:

- Navigate to IAM → Users
- Create user with console access
- Configure password authentication



The screenshot shows the 'Specify user details' page in the AWS IAM console. It includes a 'User details' section with a text input for 'User name' containing 'Alice'. Below this is a checkbox for 'Provide user access to the AWS Management Console - optional', which is checked. The 'Console password' section has two options: 'Autogenerated password' (unchecked) and 'Custom password' (checked). The custom password input contains 'Welcome@1234'. A list of password requirements is shown below the input. At the bottom, there is a checkbox for 'Users must create a new password at next sign-in - Recommended', which is checked, and a blue information box with a link to 'Learn more'.

Specify user details

User details

User name

Alice

The user name can have up to 64 characters. Valid characters: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, and + = , . @ _ - (hyphen)

☒ **Provide user access to the AWS Management Console - optional**
In addition to console access, users with `SignInLocalDevelopmentAccess` permissions can use the same console credentials for programmatic access without the need for access keys.

Console password

☐ **Autogenerated password**
You can view the password after you create the user.

☒ **Custom password**
Enter a custom password for the user.

Welcome@1234

- Must be at least 8 characters long
- Must include at least one uppercase letter (A-Z)
- Must include at least one lowercase letter (a-z)
- Must include at least one number (0-9)
- Must include at least one non-alphanumeric character (! @ # \$ % ^ & * () _ + = [] { } |)

☒ **Show password**

☒ **Users must create a new password at next sign-in - Recommended**
Users automatically get the `IAMUserChangePassword` policy to allow them to change their own password.

Information: If you are creating programmatic access through access keys or service-specific credentials for AWS CodeCommit or Amazon Keyspaces, you can generate them after you create this IAM user. [Learn more](#)

[Cancel](#) [Next](#)

IAM Group Configuration:

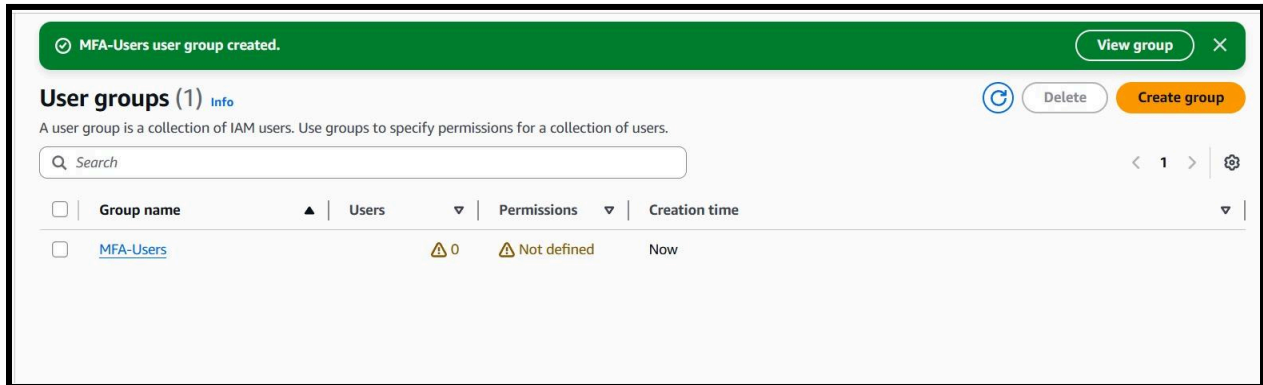
A group named “MFA-Users” was created to manage permissions centrally.

Purpose:

- Simplified policy management

- Consistent security enforcement

All IAM users were added to this group.



MFA Enforcement Policy:

A custom IAM policy was created to deny all AWS actions unless MFA is present.

MFA Enforcement Policy (JSON)

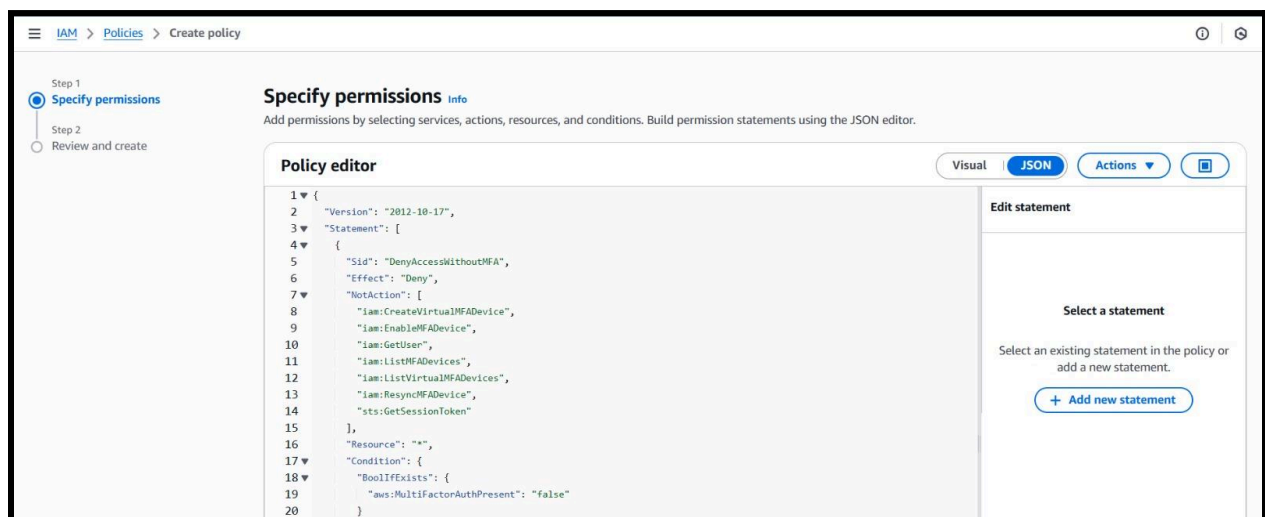
```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Sid": "DenyAccessWithoutMFA",
      "Effect": "Deny",
      "NotAction": [
        "iam:CreateVirtualMFADevice",
        "iam:EnableMFADevice",
        "iam:GetUser",
        "iam:ListMFADevices",
        "iam:ListVirtualMFADevices",
        "iam:ResyncMFADevice",
        "sts:GetSessionToken"
      ],
      "Resource": "*",
      "Condition": {
        "BoolIfExists": {
```

```

    "aws:MultiFactorAuthPresent": "false"
  }
}
]
}

```

This policy was attached to the “MFA-Users” group.



Passkey (FIDO2) MFA Configuration:

Each IAM user was assigned a passkey-based MFA device.

Procedure:

- IAM → User → Security credentials
- Assign MFA device
- Select **Security key (FIDO2)**
- Register laptop passkey

- Verify using device authentication

Step 1

☒ **Select MFA device**

Step 2

☐ Set up device

Select MFA device [Info](#)

MFA device name


Device name
This name will be used within the identifying ARN for this device.

Maximum 64 characters. Valid characters: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, and + = , . @ _ - (hyphen)

MFA device


Device options
In addition to username and password, you will use this device to authenticate into your account.

☒




Passkey or security key
Authenticate using your fingerprint, face, or screen lock. Create a passkey on this device or use another device, like a FIDO2 security key.

☐

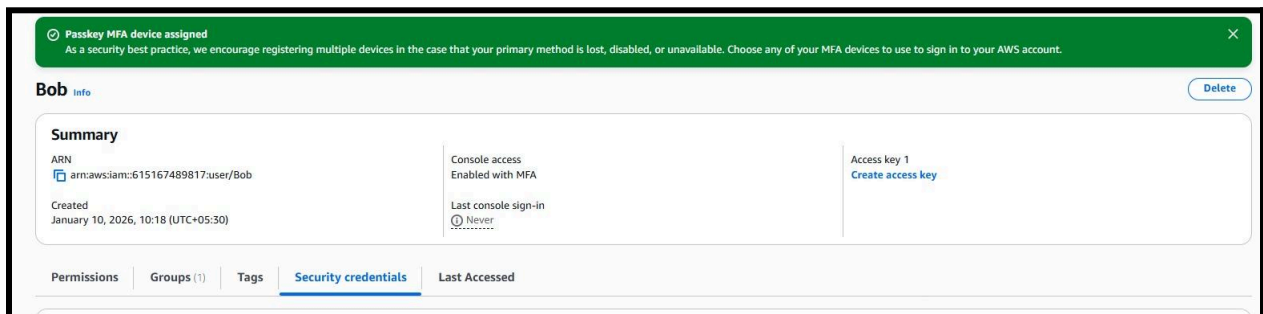
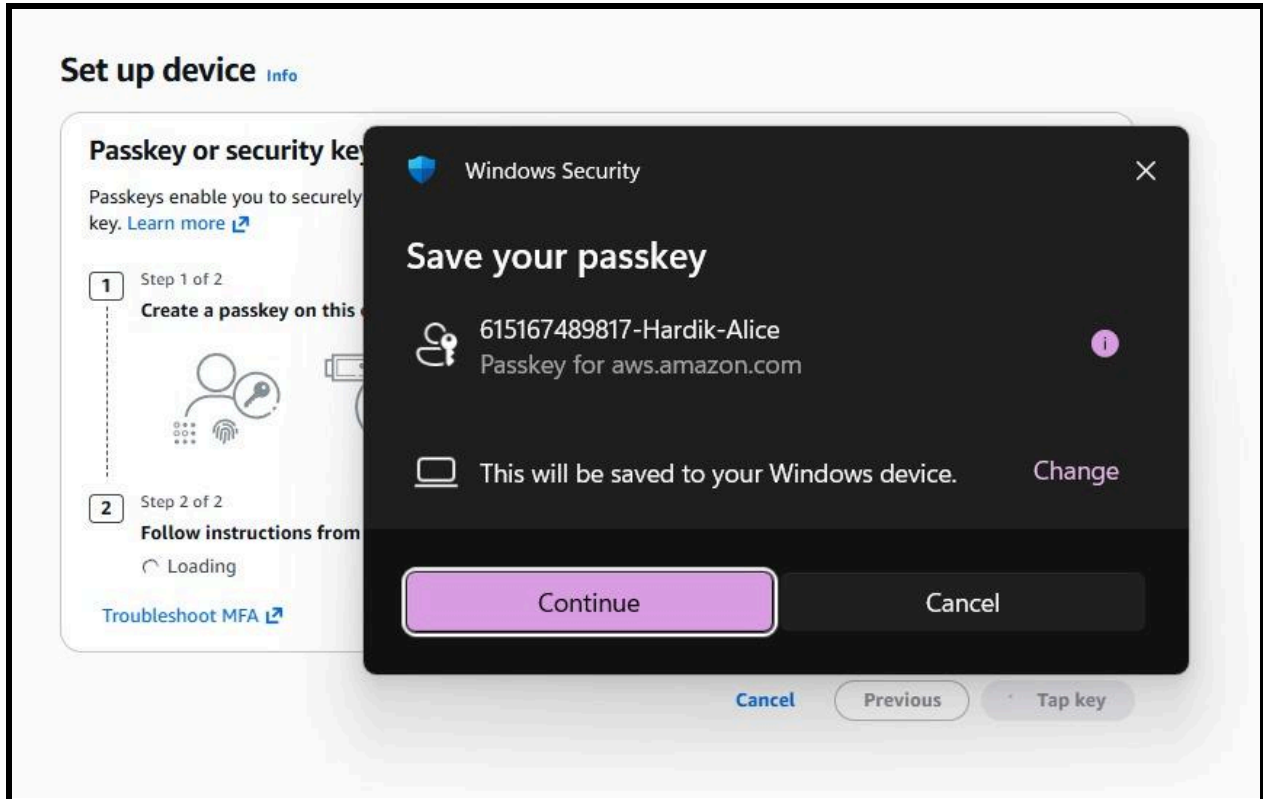


Authenticator app
Authenticate using a code generated by an app installed on your mobile device or computer.

☐



Hardware TOTP token
Authenticate using a code generated by Hardware TOTP token or other hardware devices.



Authentication Flow

Flow Description:

1. User enters IAM username and password
2. AWS validates credentials

3. Passkey challenge is triggered
4. User authenticates using laptop PIN/biometric
5. IAM policy verifies MFA presence
6. Access is granted

IAM user sign in ⓘ

Account ID or alias [\(Don't have?\)](#)

615167489817

☒ Remember this account

IAM username

Alice

Password

Welcome@1234

☒ Show Password

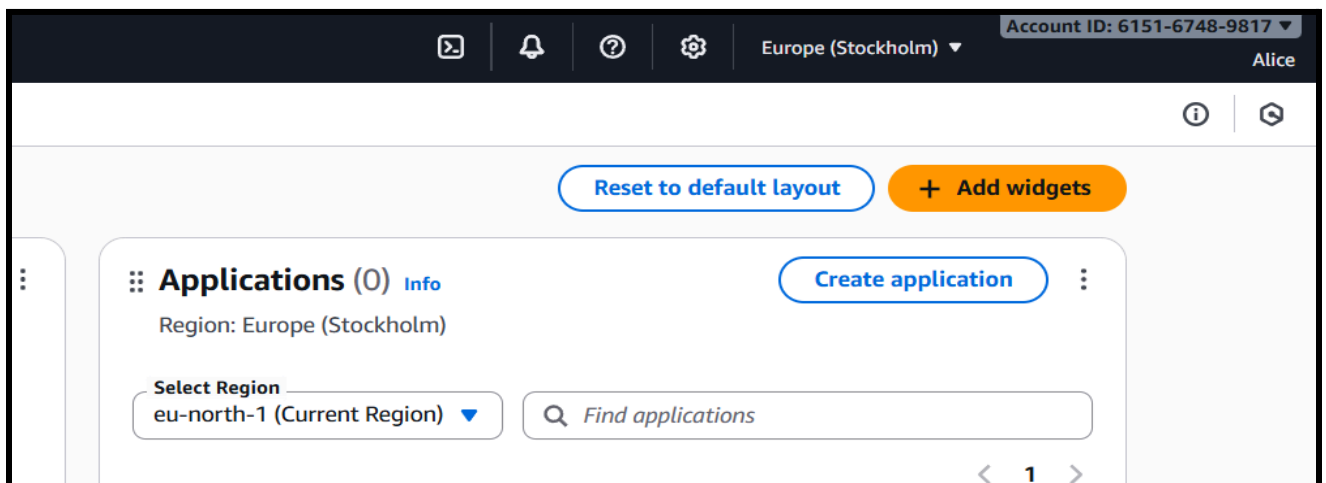
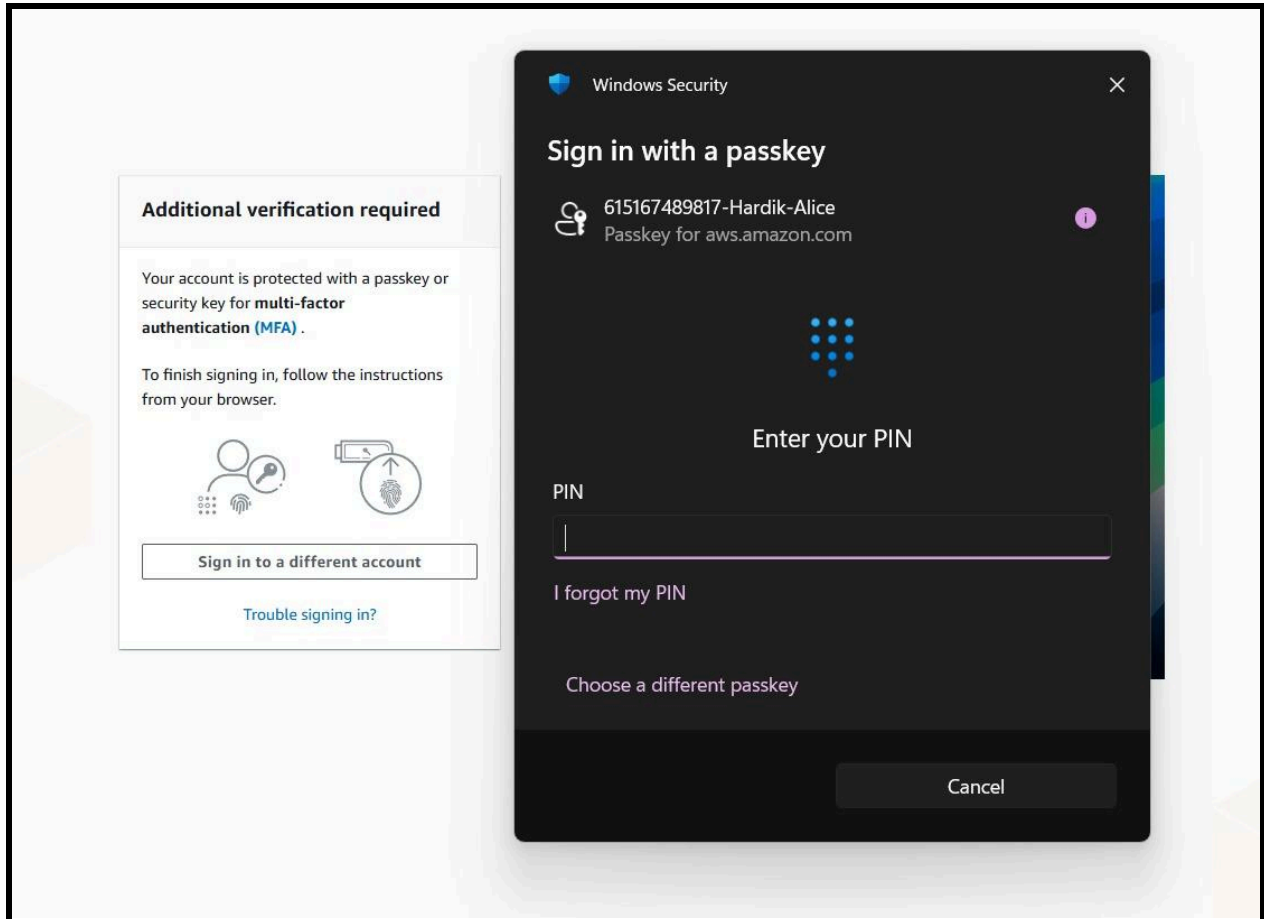
[Having trouble?](#)

Sign in

Sign in using root user email

[Create a new AWS account](#)

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Security Analysis

Scenario	Result
Login without MFA	Access denied
Login with passkey MFA	Access granted

Security Benefits

- Phishing-resistant authentication
- No OTP interception risk
- Hardware-backed credential storage
- Compliance with AWS security best practices

Conclusion

This implementation successfully enforces secure user authentication in AWS using IAM with passkey-based MFA.

By combining IAM authentication, FIDO2 passkeys, and deny-based policies, the system ensures strong access control and improved cloud security.