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**AWS Command Line Interface**

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# Authenticating using IAM user credentials for the AWS CLI

PDF (/pdfs/cli/latest/userguide/aws-cli.pdf#cli-authentication-user)

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**Warning**

To avoid security risks, don't use IAM users for authentication when developing purpose-built software or working with real data. Instead, use federation with an identity provider such as [AWS IAM Identity Center](#) (https://docs.aws.amazon.com/singlesignon/latest/userguide/what-is.html) .

This section explains how to configure basic settings with an IAM user. These include your security credentials using the config and credentials files. To instead see configuration instructions for AWS IAM Identity Center, see [Configuring IAM Identity Center authentication with the AWS CLI \(./cli-configure-sso.html\)](#) .

**Topics**

- Step 1: Create your IAM user (./cli-authentication-user.html#cli-authentication-user-create)
- Step 2: Get your access keys (./cli-authentication-user.html#cli-authentication-user-get)
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  - Directly editing the config and credentials files (./cli-authentication-user.html#cli-authentication-user-configure-csv.titlecli-authentication-user-configure-file)

**Step 1: Create your IAM user**

Create your IAM user by following the [Creating IAM users \(console\)](#) (https://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/id\_users\_cre

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Step 1: [Create your IAM user](#) (#cli-authentication-user-create)

Step 2: Get your access authentication keys (cli-authentication-user-get)

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**Recommended tasks**

**How to**

Create IAM user for workloads without IAM roles (https://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/getting-started-workloads.html)

Enable and configure IAM Identity Center (https://docs.aws.amazon.com/singlesignon/latest/userguide/getting-started.html)

**Learn about**

Understand IAM Identity Center for workforce access (https://docs.aws.amazon.com/singlesignon/latest/userguide/what-is.html)

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cli/latest/userguide/cli-authentication-user.html#cli-authentication-user-create

1/5

[ate.html#id\\_users\\_create\\_console](#)) procedure in the *IAM User Guide*.

- For **Permission options**, choose **Attach policies directly** for how you want to assign permissions to this user.
- Most "Getting Started" SDK tutorials use the Amazon S3 service as an example. To provide your application with full access to Amazon S3, select the `AmazonS3FullAccess` policy to attach to this user.

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## Step 2: Get your access keys

1. Sign in to the AWS Management Console and open the IAM console at <https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/> (<https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/>).
2. In the navigation pane of the IAM console, select **Users** and then select the **User name** of the user that you created previously.
3. On the user's page, select the **Security credentials** page. Then, under **Access keys**, select **Create access key**.
4. For **Create access key Step 1**, choose **Command Line Interface (CLI)**.
5. For **Create access key Step 2**, enter an optional tag and select **Next**.
6. For **Create access key Step 3**, select **Download .csv file** to save a `.CSV` file with your IAM user's access key and secret access key. You need this information for later.
7. Select **Done**.

## Configure the AWS CLI

For general use, the AWS CLI needs the following pieces of information:

- Access key ID
- Secret access key
- AWS Region
- Output format

The AWS CLI stores this information in a *profile* (a collection of settings) named `default` in the `credentials` file. By default, the information in this profile is used when you run an AWS CLI command that doesn't explicitly specify a profile to use. For more information on the `credentials` file, see [Configuration and credential file settings in the AWS CLI](#) ([./cli-configure-files.html](#)).

To configure the AWS CLI, use one of the following procedures:

### Topics

- [Using `aws configure` \(#cli-authentication-user-configure-wizard\)](#)
- [Importing access keys via `.CSV` file \(#cli-authentication-user-configure-csv\)](#)
- [Directly editing the config and credentials files \(#cli-authentication-user-configure-csv.titlecli-authentication-user-configure-file\)](#)

## Using aws configure

For general use, the `aws configure` command is the fastest way to set up your AWS CLI installation. This configure wizard prompts you for each piece of information you need to get started. Unless otherwise specified by using the `--profile` option, the AWS CLI stores this information in the `default` profile.

The following example configures a `default` profile using sample values. Replace them with your own values as described in the following sections.

```
$ aws configure
AWS Access Key ID [None]:
AKIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE
AWS Secret Access Key [None]:
wJalrXUtnFEMI/K7MDENG/bPxRfiCYEXAMPLEK
EY
Default region name [None]: us-west-2
Default output format [None]: json
```

The following example configures a profile named `userprod` using sample values. Replace them with your own values as described in the following sections.

```
$ aws configure --profile userprod
AWS Access Key ID [None]:
AKIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE
AWS Secret Access Key [None]:
wJalrXUtnFEMI/K7MDENG/bPxRfiCYEXAMPLEK
EY
Default region name [None]: us-west-2
Default output format [None]: json
```

## Importing access keys via .CSV file

Instead of using `aws configure` to enter in access keys, you can import the plain text `.csv` file you downloaded after you created your access keys.

The `.csv` file must contain the following headers.

- User Name - This column must be added to your `.csv`. This is used to create the profile name used in the the `config` and `credentials` files when you import.
- Access key ID
- Secret access key

**Note**

During initial access keys creation, once you close the **Download .csv file** dialog box, you cannot access your secret access key after you close the dialog box. If you need a `.csv` file, you'll need to create one yourself with the required headers and your stored access keys information. If you do not have access to your access keys information, you need to create a new access keys.

To import the `.csv` file, use the `aws configure import` command with the `--csv` option as follows:

```
$ aws configure import --csv
file://credentials.csv
```

For more information, see [aws\\_configure\\_import](#) ([./cli-configure-files.html#cli-config-aws\\_configure\\_import](#)) .

## Directly editing the config and credentials files

To directly edit the config and credentials files, perform the following.

1. Create or open the shared AWS credentials file. This file is `~/.aws/credentials` on Linux and macOS systems, and `%USERPROFILE%\aws\credentials` on Windows. For more information, see [Configuration and credential file settings in the AWS CLI](#) ([./cli-configure-files.html](#)) .
2. Add the following text to the shared credentials file. Replace the sample values in the `.csv` file that you downloaded earlier and save the file.

```
[default]
aws_access_key_id =
AKIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE
aws_secret_access_key =
wJalrXUtnFEMI/K7MDENG/bPxRfiCYEXAMP
LEKEY
```

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