AWS IAM Cloud Security Project

Project Summary

This project focused on implementing cloud security controls within Amazon Web Services (AWS), specifically using Identity and Access Management (IAM) to enforce least privilege access. The goal was to restrict user actions on EC2 instances based on role requirements, while also hardening the AWS Management Console against unauthorized access.

Objectives

- Design and apply a least privileged IAM policy tailored to specific EC2 roles.
- Attach the policy to a **user group** for scalable role-based access control.
- Validate policy effectiveness by testing access restrictions on two EC2 instances:
 - Audit Instance read-only access for compliance monitoring.
 - o Sales Instance limited access for operational tasks.
- Harden the AWS Console by configuring MFA, password policies, and access logging.

Tools & Technologies

Tool/Service Purpose

AWS IAM Policy creation, user/group management

EC2 Target resources for access control

IAM Policy

Simulator

Policy testing and validation

JSON policy Ef

Effect, Action, Resource

syntax

Principles of

least

privilege

Implementation Steps

1. Created IAM Users & Groups

- Defined roles for audit and sales teams.
- Grouped users based on access needs.

2. Built Custom IAM Policies

- Used JSON policy editor to define least-privilege rules.
- o Included Allow and Deny statements for EC2 actions.

3. Attached Policies to Groups

o Ensured scalable access control via group assignments.

4. Tested Access with IAM Policy Simulator

- Verified that users could only perform permitted actions.
- Confirmed that restricted actions were blocked.

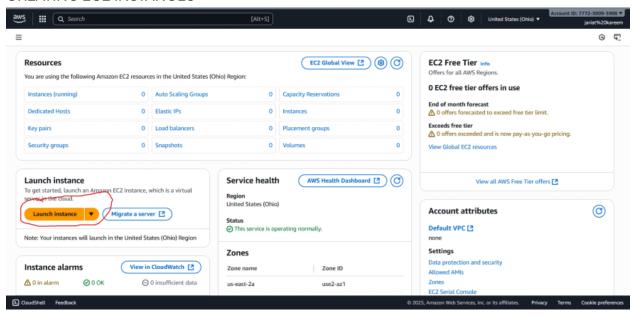
5. Hardened AWS Console

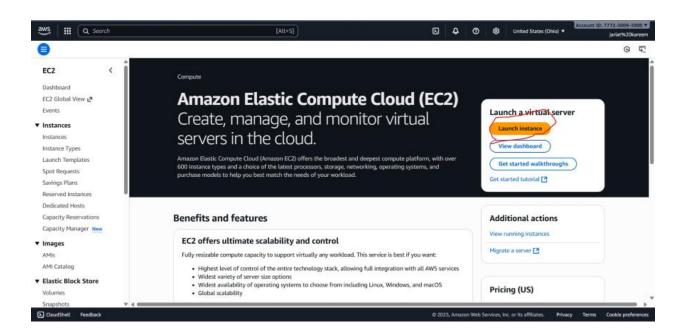
- Enabled MFA for all users.
- Set strong password policies.
- Activated CloudTrail for auditing.

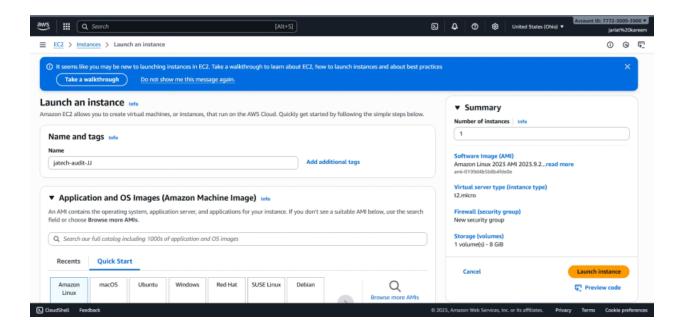
Results & Impact

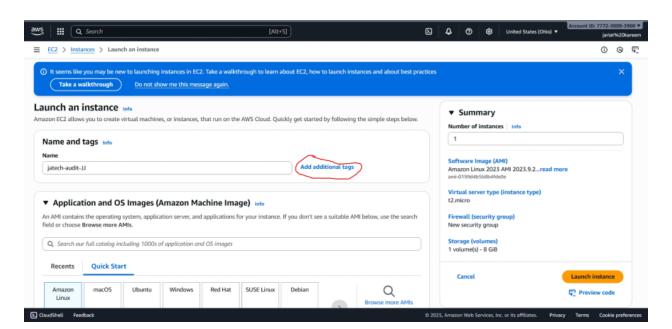
- Achieved 100% compliance with least-privilege principles.
- Prevented unauthorized access to EC2 instances.
- Improved overall security posture of the AWS environment.
- Demonstrated practical skills in IAM, EC2, and cloud security best practices.

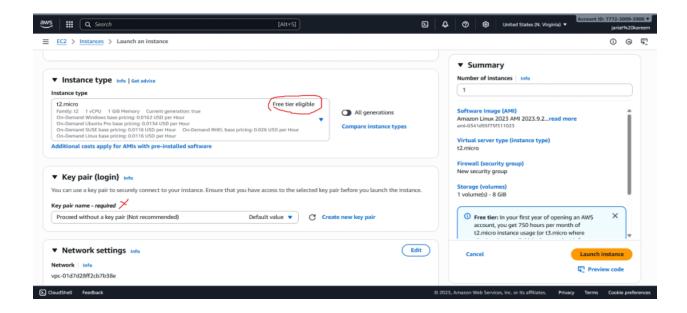
CREATING EC2 INSTANCES

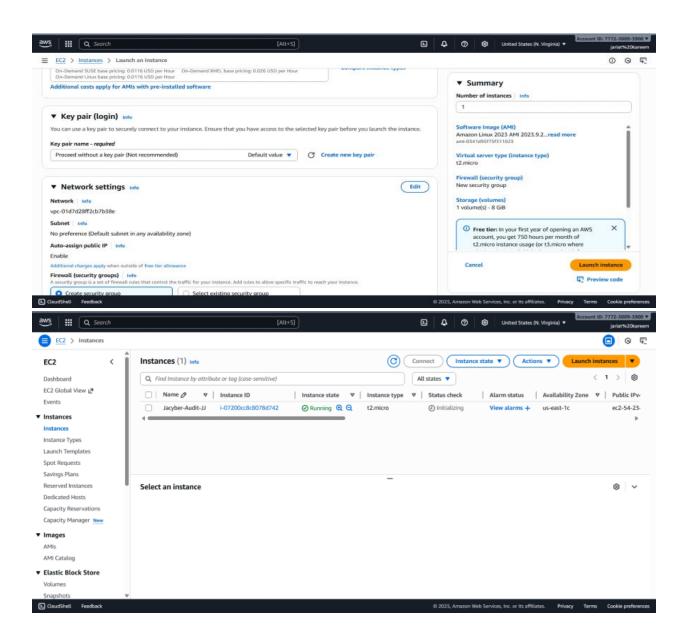


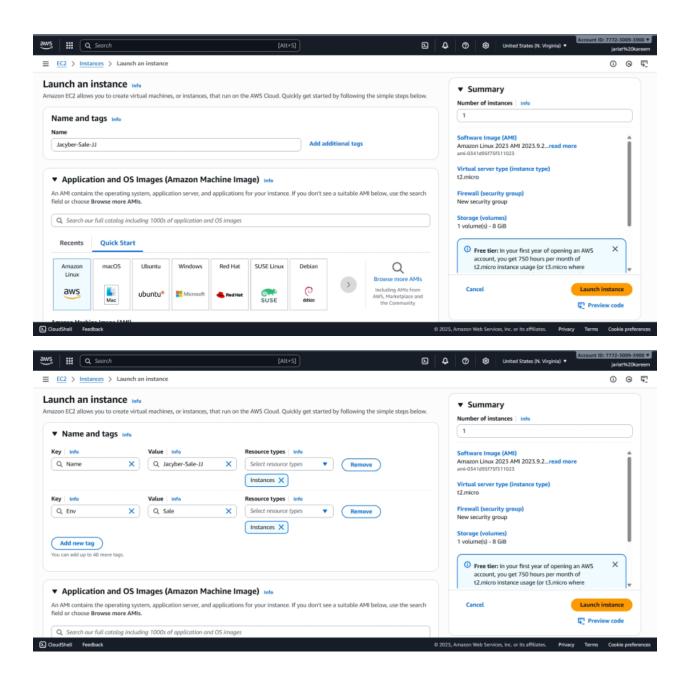


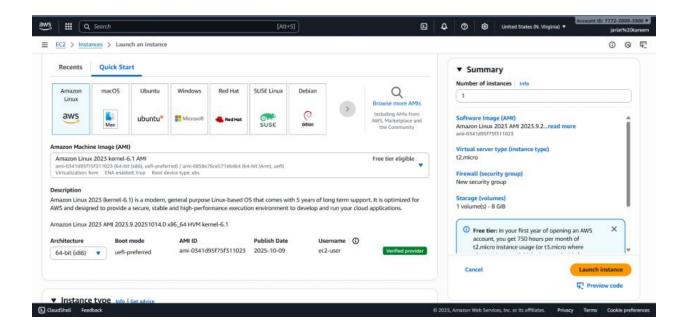


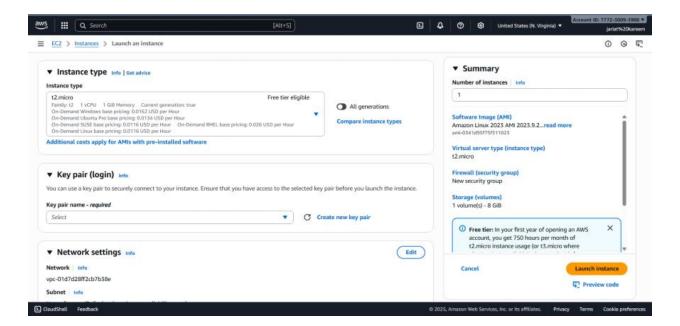


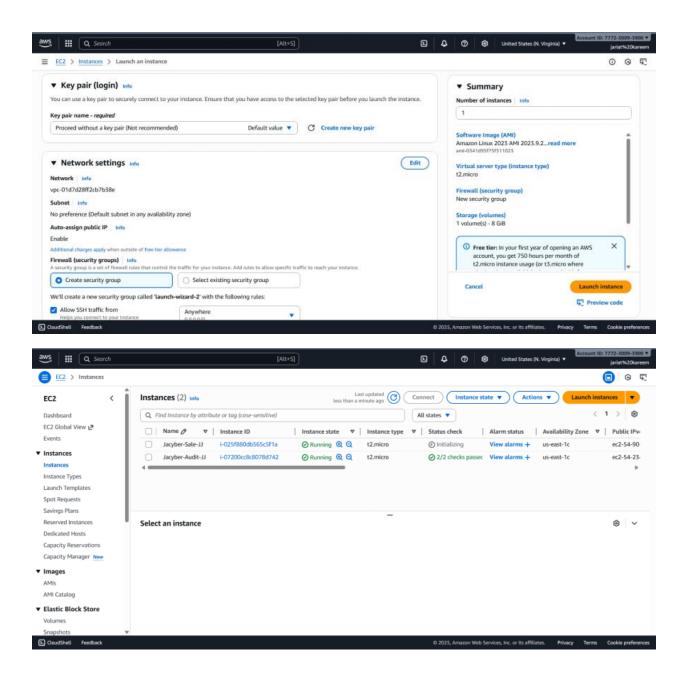






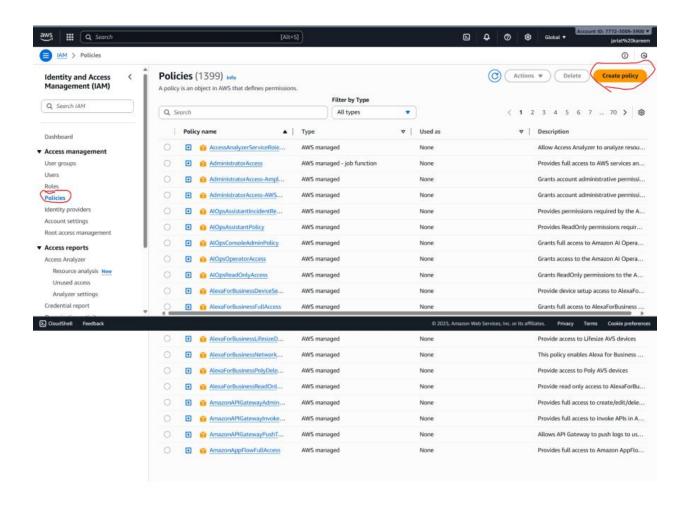


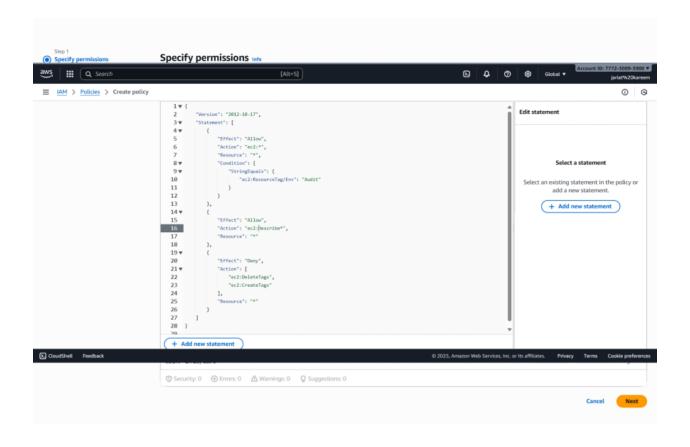


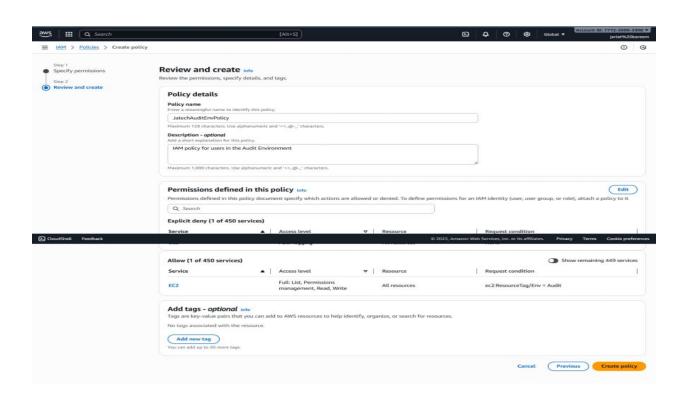


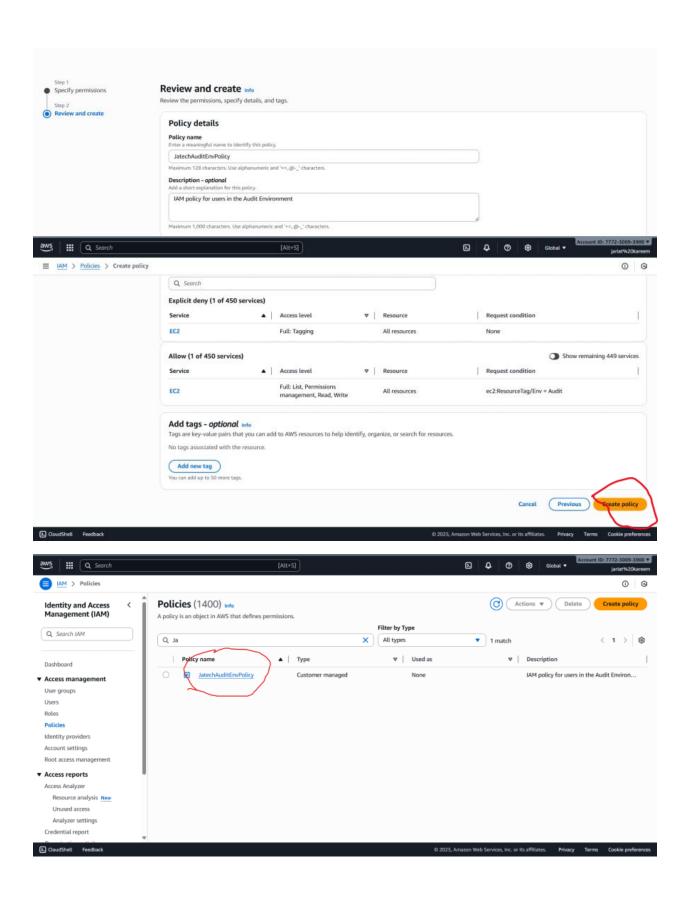
Creating the IAM policy

I Authored a custom AWS IAM policy to enforce least-privilege access by explicitly blocking start/stop actions on the Audit EC2 instance while permitting those actions on the Sales EC2 instance. This policy ensured operational control was limited to designated resources, aligning with cloud security best practices and role-based access requirements.

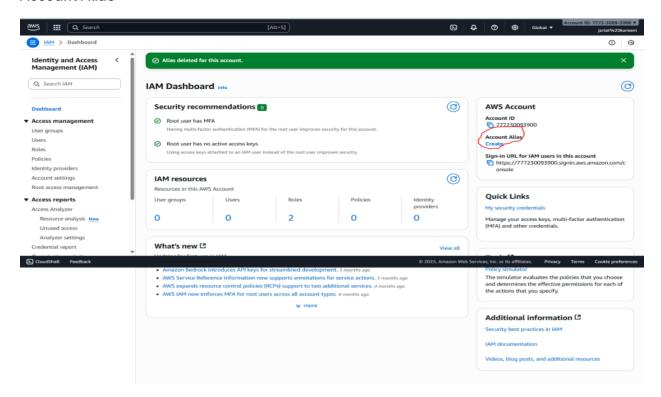


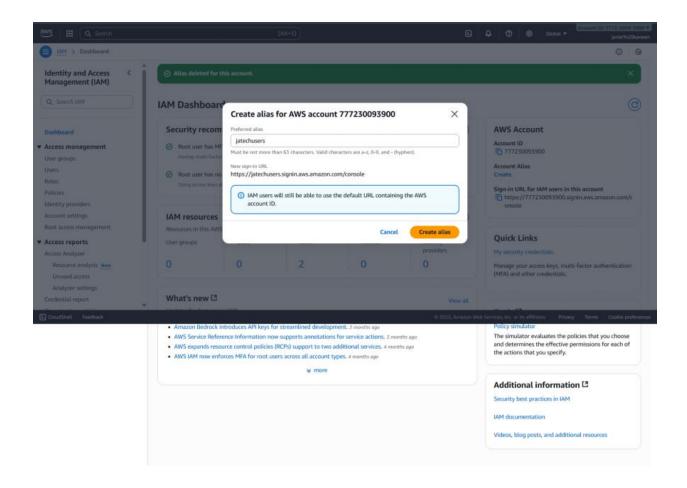




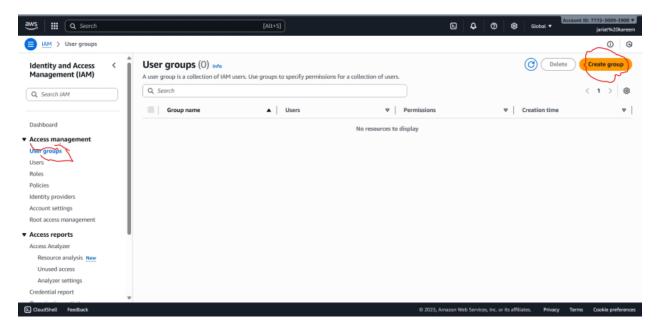


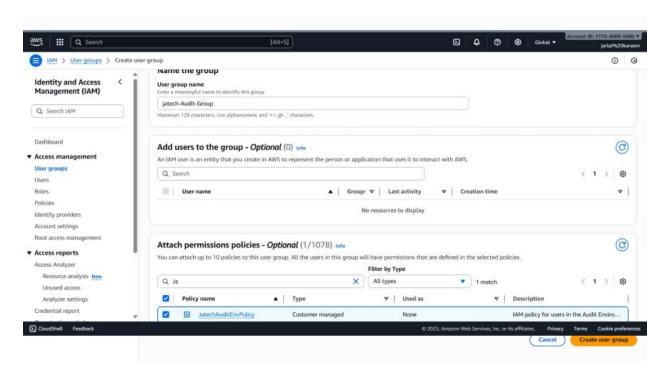
Account Alias

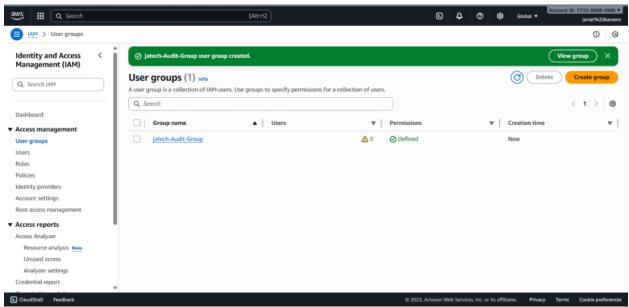


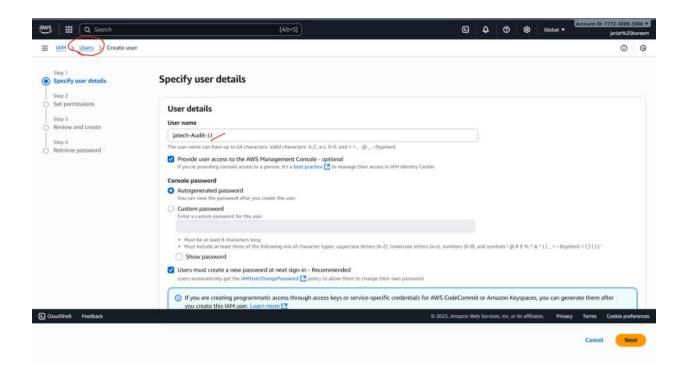


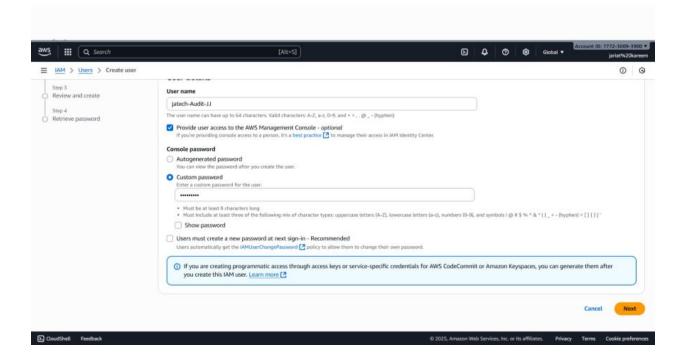
IAM Users and Group

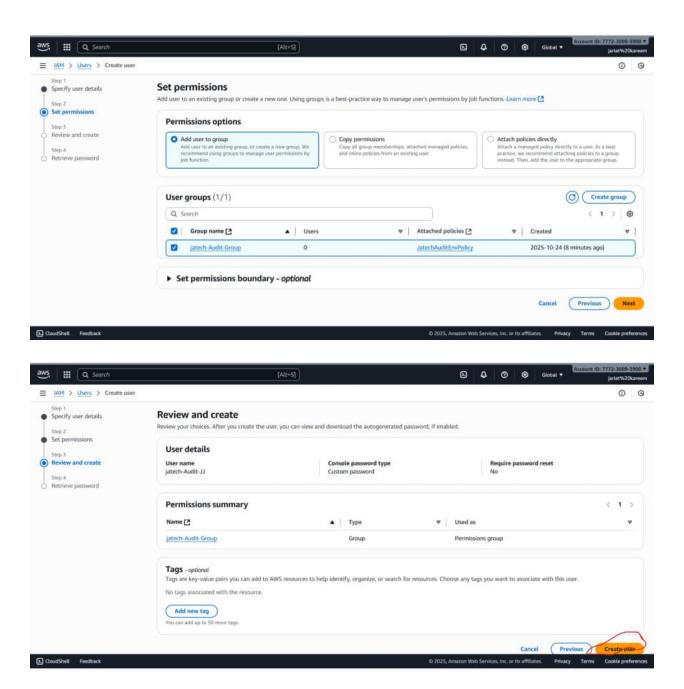


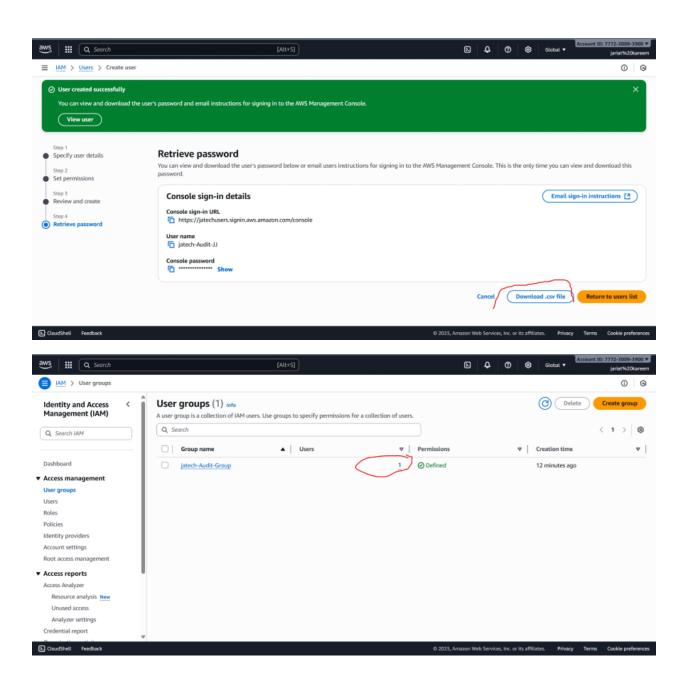




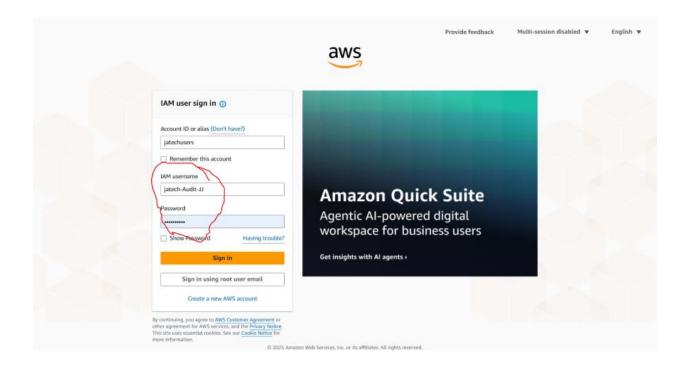


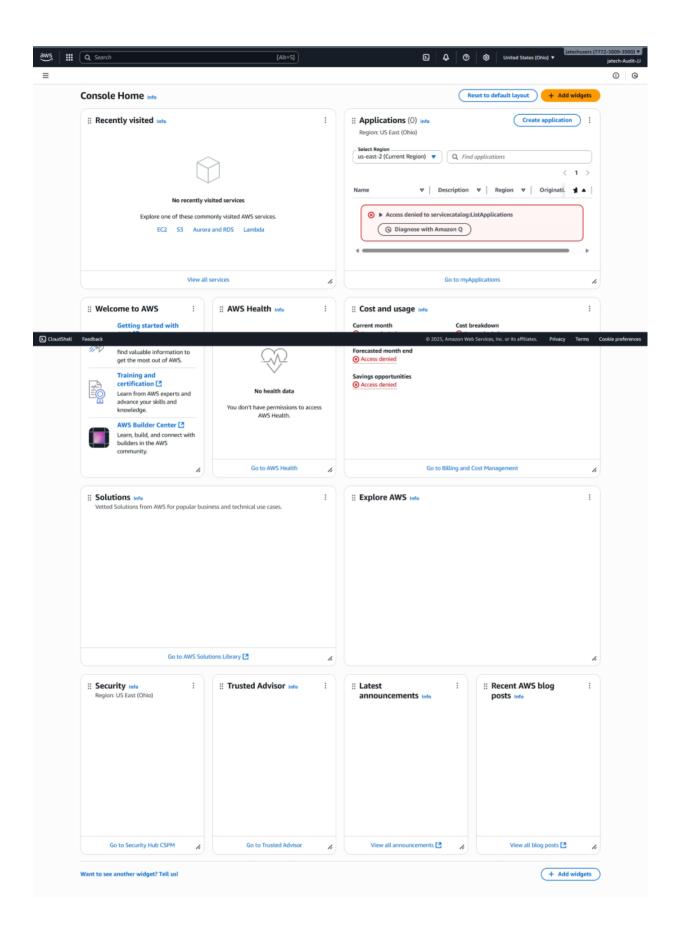


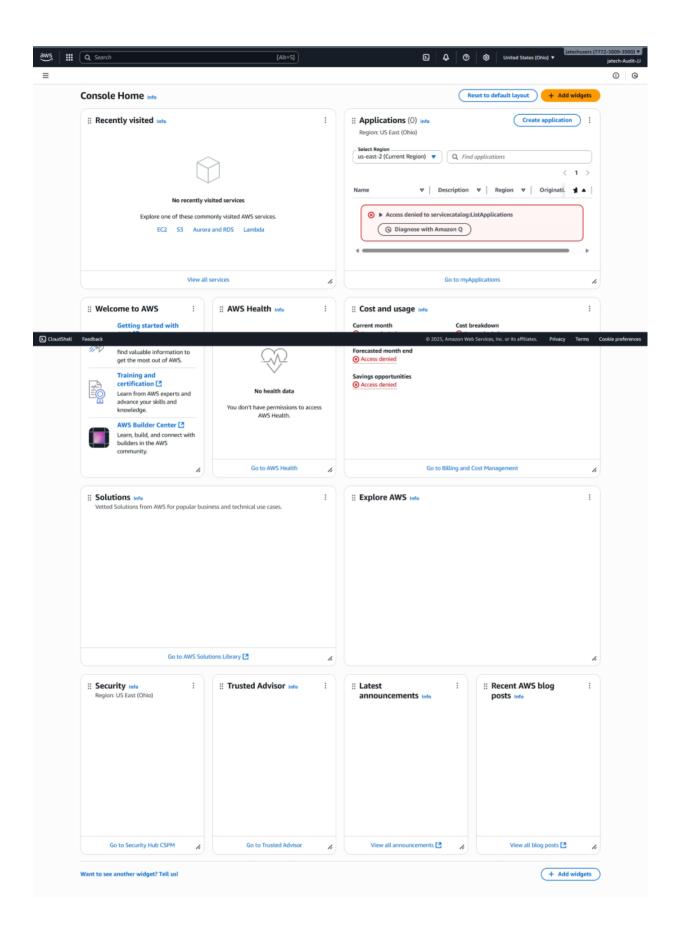




Logging in as an IAM User







Testing the policy

