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MANDALAY BAY / LAS VEGAS

Detecting Malicious Cloud Account Behavior:

A Look at the New Native Platform Capabilities

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Bio

Previously

- Network Security Engineer
- Penetration Tester/Security Consultant

Past 8+ Years

- Cloud Infrastructure Administrator
- "DevOps" practitioner *
- Ethical Hacking Educator
 - CTF Scenario design
 - Running CTF/Hacking competition workloads inside public clouds using containers **

Past Two Years

- Researching Cloud Security Issues with Containers and Container Orchestrators
 - Hacking and Hardening Kubernetes Clusters by Example: https://youtu.be/vTgQLzeBfRU
- Independent Consulting Securing Containers and Kubernetes

^{*} Ѕоггу

^{**} Not recommended. It seemed like a good idea then.

Detecting Malicious Cloud Account Behavior:



Getting visibility of all relevant account activity...

This Talk is Aimed at

Attackers



Penetration Testers/Security
Consultants who want to know how
malicious activity is being analyzed
and detected with and without the
latest services enabled.

Defenders



Security practitioners who want to know more about cloud-specific threats, attack patterns, and how to gain better visibility and streamline detection workflows.

Business Leaders



Leaders who want to better understand cloud-specific threats, the cloud shared responsibility model, and where to focus to improve detections with a better grasp of the capabilities offered.

Security Architects/Ops/Builders



Those who design, build, and secure applications in cloud platforms who want to better understand how and when to leverage platform services vs DIY.

Roadmap

Explore the Problem Space

- Review two recent breaches
- Highlight cloud attack behavior

Understand the Challenges

- Discuss Pace of Innovation and Skills Gap
- Revisit the Cloud Shared Responsibility Model
- Determining "Normal" vs "Suspicious/Malicious"

The Latest "Native" Cloud Security Services

- Amazon GuardDuty (and supporting services)
- Microsoft Azure Security Center
- Google Cloud Security Command Center

Key Takeaways and Looking Ahead

- What the New Capabilities Offer
- Adoption and Perspectives



Explore the Problem Space

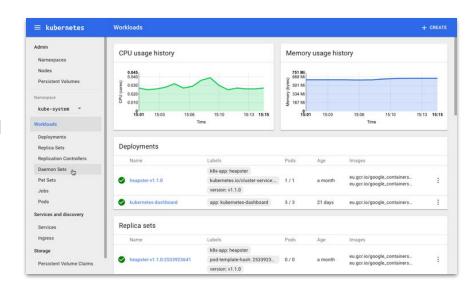
An Electric Car Manufacturer

Exposed Kubernetes Dashboard

- Kubernetes Cluster on AWS
- Installed CPU-throttled crypto-mining workers
- Tight integration with AWS Access Keys led to S3 data exfiltration
- Masked their sources behind a CDN

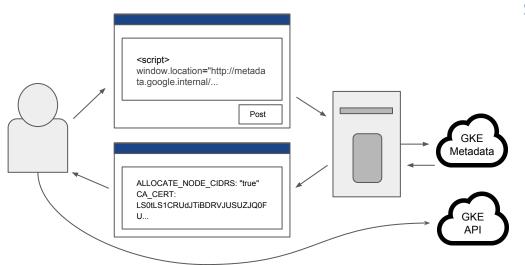
Not Alone

Aviva and Gemalto



http://fortune.com/2018/02/20/tesla-hack-amazon-cloud-cryptocurrency-mining/

An E-Commerce Shopping Platform



Server-side Request Forgery

- \$25K Bug Bounty André Baptista (0xacb)
- Application flaw fetched instance metadata which contained GKE cluster credentials.
- Credentials allowed for escalation and privileged/root access to all nodes in the entire cluster.

Other Potential Concerns

Credential theft

- Phishing
- Malware
- Backdoored libraries/tools
- Password guessing/weak passwords

Malicious Outsiders

- Compromise of 3rd
 Party Services with
 integrated access
- Failure to disable, delete, rotate credentials post termination

Credential Leaks

- Checked into source code
- Technical support tickets
- Public Q&A Tech
 Help chat/forums
- Applications transmit keys in headers, messages, or logs of API calls

You may be a single flaw away from cloud account compromise

Indicators of Malicious Cloud Account Behavior*

Network

- Activity to/from known-bad IPs
- Unusual changes to traffic patterns
- Unusual outbound port usage

DNS

- Queries to known-bad domains (CnC, bots, malware, crypto-mining, etc)
- Queries that embed data in the lookup

Host-based

- OS, Application, Security/Audit logs
- Security endpoint solution events

API Activity

- Multiple failed logins
- Simultaneous API access from different countries
- Attempted activity from terminated accounts/credentials/keys
- Uncommon service/API usage
- Credential/permission enumeration
- Changes to user accounts/logging/detection configurations
- Sensitive changes to user permissions
- Internal resource credentials used from external sources

Understand the Challenges

Pace of Innovation Leaves A Wake

Focus on shipping features first, Increasing business competition outsourcing non-core capabilities. What "Perimeter"? An explosion of cloud services A renaissance of infrastructure and New environments with new security models and attack surfaces. deployment tooling Amplified with all the newly released Always a security expertise shortage features and services.

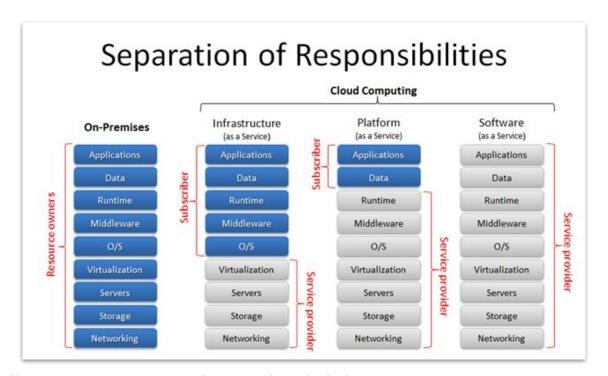
Some Challenges Unique to the Cloud

- Automation amplifies human and configuration errors.
- Inventory is extremely fluid.
- Basic security assumptions invalidate lots of approaches by traditional security products.
- Most cloud services logging mechanisms are very verbose.
- Actions performed against the cloud provider APIs often are hard to combine coherently.
- Some managed cloud services offer little to no security visibility.
- Integration of log and event data from cloud with on-premise SIEM systems.
- Response and Forensics capabilities are difficult to integrate.

Challenges Unique to the Cloud

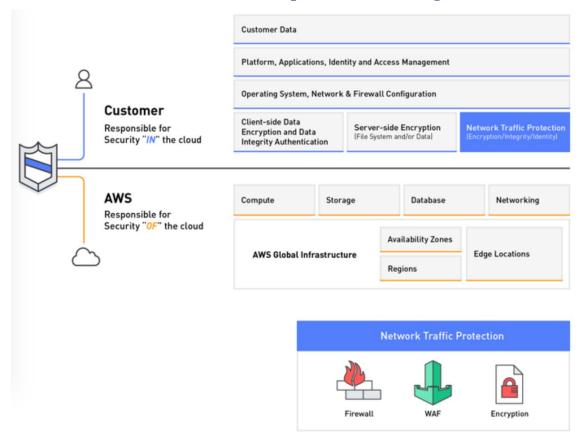
- Traditional security professionals and/or tooling lacking cloud-specific experience.
- Cloud-oriented professionals lacking traditional security experience and/or tooling.
- Traditional security implementation strategies cost time and money with high switching costs.
- Security vendors looking to go "cloud-native" have to heavily modify their approach--per cloud provider, per environment.

Cloud Shared Responsibility Model (2010)

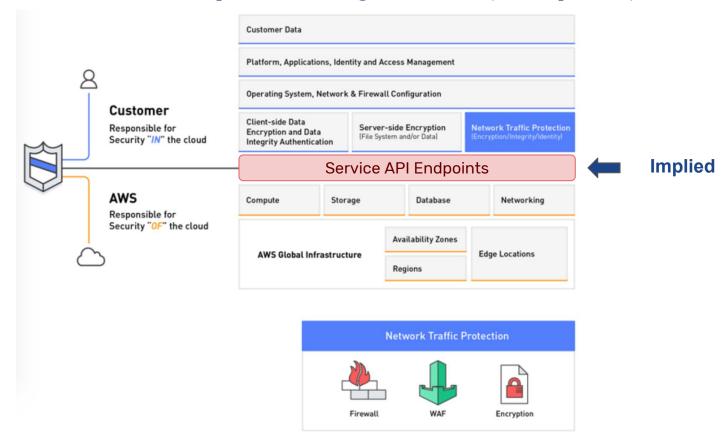


https://blogs.technet.microsoft.com/yungchou/2010/12/17/cloud-computing-for-it-pros-26-what-is-cloud/

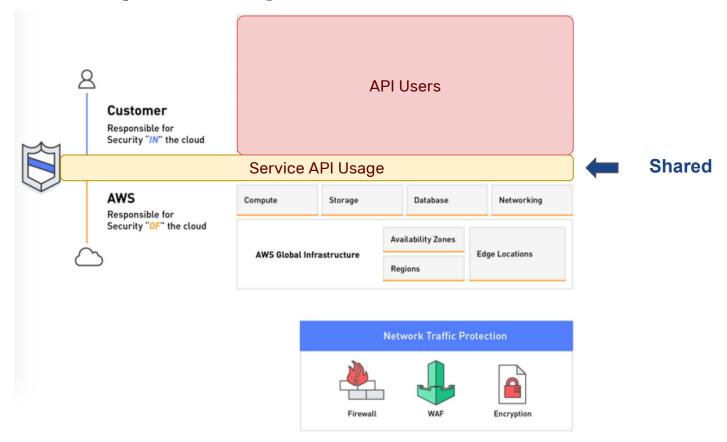
AWS Shared Responsibility Model



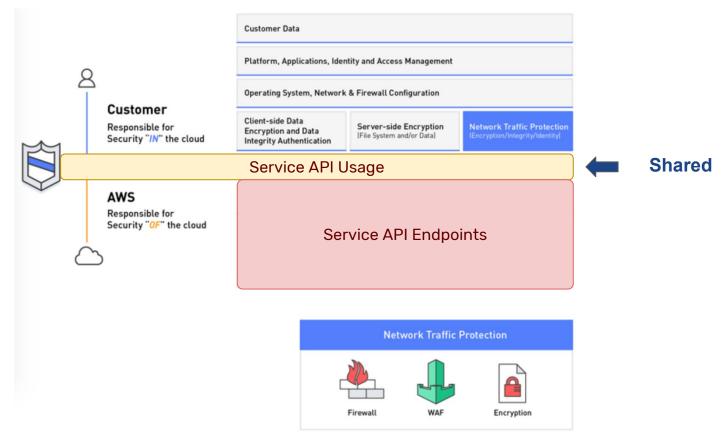
AWS Shared Responsibility Model (Adapted)



Shared Responsibility Model-Provider's View



Shared Responsibility Model - Tenant's View



Ambiguity Abounds

A "get all instances" API request is successfully authenticated from an IP never before seen in this cloud account.

Admin from a hotel while travelling abroad?

OR

Malicious user with stolen credentials.

Ambiguity Abounds

The API was just used to start up 10 large GPU-backed instances in a never-before used region.

A new project working with ML?

OR

A compromised account spinning up crypto-mining instances.

Ambiguity Abounds

Network traffic showing repeated HTTP connections on a high port to an external server on a routine interval.

A recurring task sending telemetry data every 30 minutes?

OR

A command and control channel.

Consider: Many Third Party Services Have Some Form of Access to Your Cloud Account

The Latest "Native" Cloud Security Services

Services In Scope



Microsoft Azure Security Center, Advanced Threat Protection

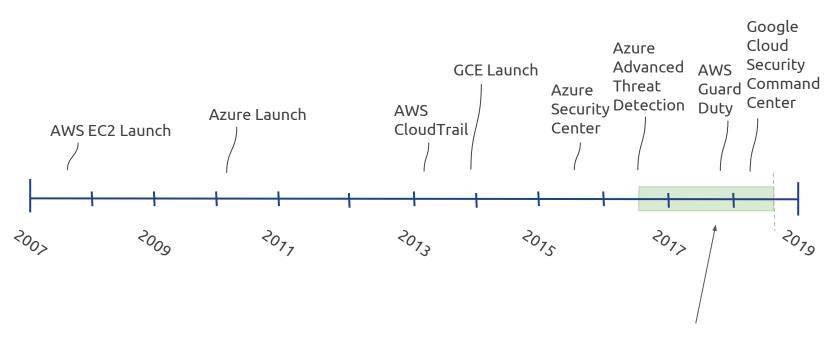


AWS GuardDuty (and CloudTrail, CloudWatch)



Google Cloud Security
Command Center

Service Launches



Very Recently Released

Questions Asked During This Review



- What data sources do they use?
- How do they operate on that data?
- What visibility does that data provide?
- What is not covered in the service?
- What is needed for onboarding?
- What's the cost structure?
- How does it integrate with other internal services and partners?
- How accessible are these services to customization?
- How do you validate the detection capabilities?

Different Questions for Different Roles

Attackers



 What methods and tactics need to change to remain undetected?

Defenders



- What visibility do I now have?
- How much effort is required?
- What is still not covered in the service?

Business Leaders



- What exposure do I have?
- What's the ROI on enabling and maintaining these services

Security Architects/Ops/Builders



- How does this change my infrastructure design?
- What do I no longer have to DIY?



Azure Security Center



Azure Security Center - ATP



Released

- Initial Fall 2015
- Generally Available Spring/Summer 2016

Description

 Azure Security Center provides unified security management and advanced threat protection across hybrid cloud workloads. With Security Center, you can apply security policies across your workloads, limit your exposure to threats, and detect and respond to attacks.

Links and Documentation

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/security-center/

Key Features



Unified Security Dashboard

 Common Windows-style management experience in the cloud and on-premise in a single place.

Security Recommendation Engine

• Suggests a lot of security hygiene items to address proactively. Offers customizable policy (XML) for user-supplied checks.

Microsoft Provided Agent

 OS, Application, Security/Audit logs, missing patches, weak configurations and more supplement network-based detections. Can be automatically enabled for all VMs.

Key Features (Cont'd)

Third-Party Security Tool Integration Marketplace

 Centrally integrate your choice of multiple security endpoint solutions, host-based vulnerability management agents, and network-security devices with a few clicks and some license keys.

Custom Alert Rules

Custom queries on all log event types to trigger notification alerts.

File Integrity Monitoring (Preview)

• Validates the integrity of Windows files, Windows registry, and Linux files

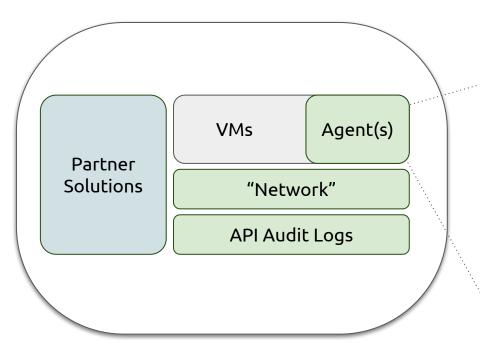
REST API

 Integration with your existing security systems and workflows for inserting and pulling events.



Detection Data Sources

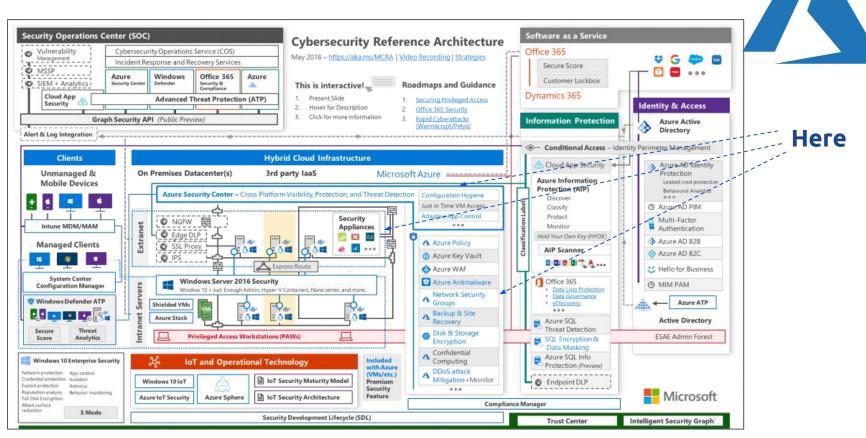




Microsoft Agent Operating Systems

- Windows Server (of course)
- Amazon Linux 2012.09 --> 2017
- CentOS Linux 5,6, and 7
- Oracle Linux 5,6, and 7
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux Server 5,6 and 7
- Debian GNU/Linux 6, 7, 8, and 9
- Ubuntu 12.04, 14.04, 16.04 LTS
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11/12

Architecture



Detections



Threat Intelligence

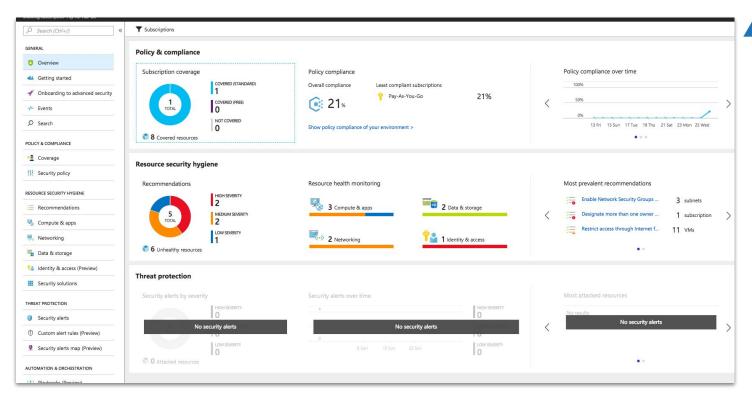
- Outbound communication to a malicious IP address
- Threat intelligence monitoring and signal sharing across all their services

Behavioral Analytics

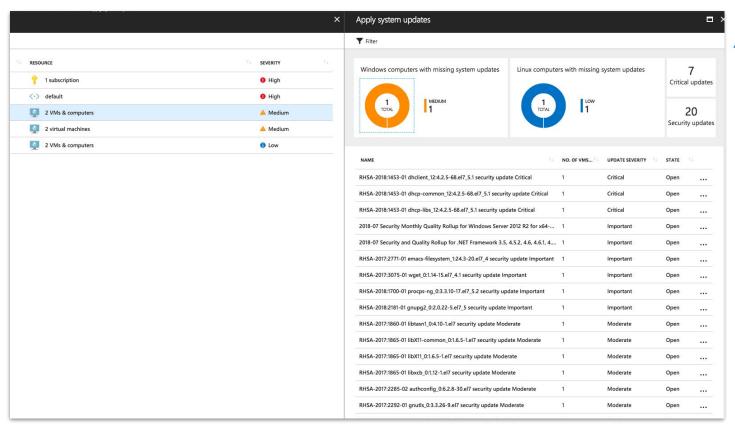
- Suspicious process execution: models processes behaviors and monitors process executions to detect outliers
- Hidden malware and exploitation attempts: memory analysis, crash dump analysis
- Lateral movement and internal reconnaissance: monitors process and login activities such as remote command execution network probing, and account enumeration
- Malicious PowerShell Scripts: inspects PowerShell activity for evidence of suspicious activity
- Outgoing attacks: take part in brute force, scanning, DDoS, and Spam sending campaigns

Anomaly Detection

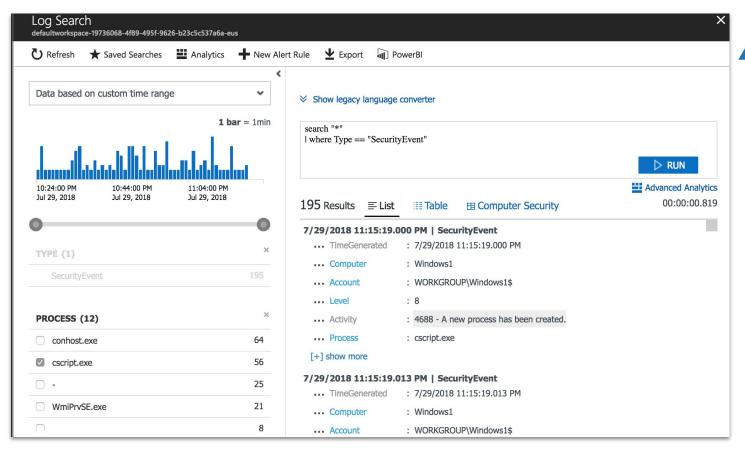
Inbound RDP/SSH brute force attacks













Value Added



Hybrid-first approach

• Leverages the vast amount of enterprise management features and capabilities applied to Azure resources.

Provides a Microsoft-supported Windows/Linux Agent

 Supported OSes get enhanced detection capabilities (logs, process monitoring, crash dump analysis)

Integrated, Self-Service Partner Marketplace

• Adding a solution is a few clicks and a license away in many cases.

Leverages the Azure Log Analytics Service

Mature integrations, advanced querying, and full-featured REST API

Areas for Improvement

Areas for Improvement

- A detailed list of anomalous detection capabilities is not yet available.
- Ability to see and therefore tune parameters and settings for all detections, per detection.
- Ability to add custom detections into the native analytics engine/flow
- There can be a significant delay from agent deployment to it reporting in the Dashboard.
- The Security Center UI can be overwhelming at times and options tucked several layers deep in configuration workflows.
- The Security Center UI allows for direct modification of live VMs to install agents/partner solutions which breaks the rules of immutable infrastructure.
 - The "feel" is distinctly Enterprise-focused and drives work primarily through the UI, not as much emphasis in the documentation on using code/APIs for automation.
- The ability to supply custom threat/IP feeds to aid in improving detection accuracy.



Amazon GuardDuty et al



Amazon GuardDuty et al



Released

- AWS CloudTrail: Spring 2013
- AWS VPC Flow Logs: Summer 2015
- Amazon GuardDuty: Winter 2017

Description

 Amazon GuardDuty offers threat detection that enables you to continuously monitor and protect your AWS accounts and workloads.

Links and Documentation

https://aws.amazon.com/guardduty/

Key Features



Watches Data Streams

 Analyzes continuous streams of meta-data generated from your account and network activity found in AWS CloudTrail Events, Amazon VPC Flow Logs, and DNS Logs.

Integrates Threat Intelligence Feeds

- Uses integrated threat intelligence such as known malicious IP addresses, anomaly detection, and machine learning to better identify threats.
- You can supply your own IP lists for "good" and "bad" hosts.

Generates Findings

• Creation action creates CloudWatch events useful for triggering Lambda functions for further processing and sending notifications.

Cross-Account Visibility

 Events can be centralized across multiple "member" accounts to a centralized "master" account.

How it Works

Amazon CloudTrail





Account activity occurs

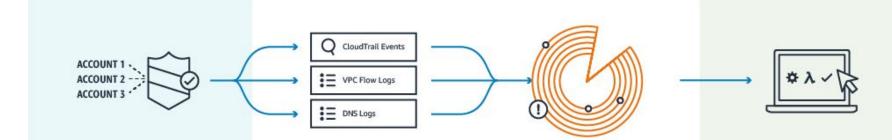
CloudTrail records a CloudTrail Event You can view/download your activity in the CloudTrail Event History

You can set up CloudTrail and define an Amazon S3 bucket for storage A log of CloudTrail Events is delivered to an S3 bucket and optionally to CloudWatch Logs and CloudWatch Events

How it Works







Enable GuardDuty

With a few clicks in the console, monitor all your AWS accounts without additional security software or infrastructure to deploy or manage

Continuously analyze

Automatically analyze network and account activity at scale, providing broad, continuous monitoring of your AWS accounts

Intelligently detect threats

GuardDuty combines managed rule-sets, threat intelligence from AWS Security and 3rd party intelligence partners, anomaly detection, and ML to intelligently detect malicious or unauthorized behavior

Take action

Review detailed findings in the console, integrate into event management or workflow systems, or trigger AWS Lambda for automated remediation or prevention

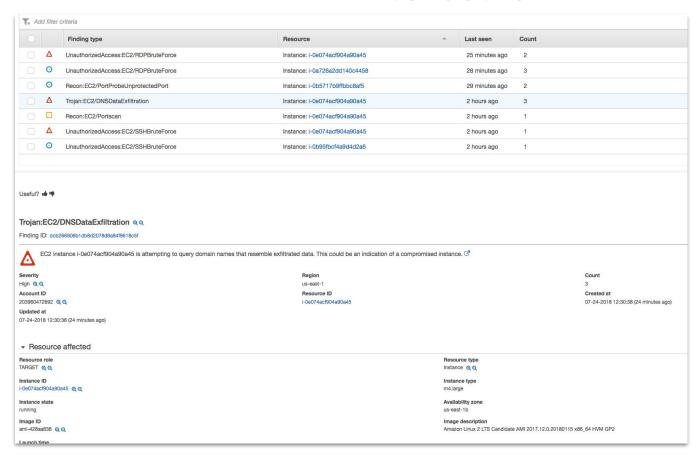
Detections



"Threat Purposes" (Types of Findings)

- **Backdoor** Compromised AWS resource contacting its C&C server.
- Behavior Activity patterns that are different from the established baseline.
- **Cryptocurrency** Detecting software that is associated with cryptocurrencies.
- **Pentest** Potential attack activity generated by known pen testing tools.
- **Persistence** An IAM user is behaving differently from the established baseline.
- **Recon** Reconnaissance attack underway probing ports, listing users, database tables, etc.
- **Resource Consumption** An IAM user is behaving differently from the established baseline to create new resources, such as EC2 instances.
- **Stealth** Detects attacks leveraging an anonymizing proxy server, disguising the true nature of the activity.
- **Trojan** Malicious activity associated with certain Trojan applications.
- **Unauthorized Access** A suspicious activity pattern by an unauthorized individual.

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/guardduty/latest/ug/guardduty_finding-types.html

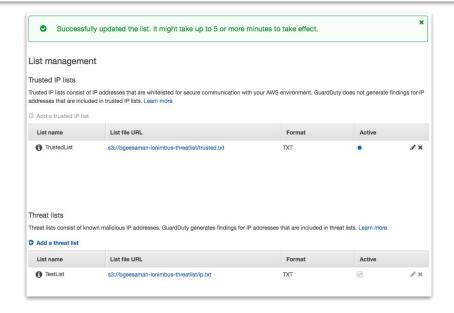




Sample Notification and IP Lists



| AWS Notifications | 🗎 Inbox - Gmail |
|--|--------------------|
| AWS Notification Message | |
| To: Brad Geesaman | |
| | |
| "GuardDuty Finding I ID:eeb26699a7ff108caeacf5db60caa658: The EC2 instance i-0ca0829bc33a5f132 may be compromised and should be investigated. Go to https://console.aws.ama. | zon.com/guardduty" |
| E | |
| If you wish to stop receiving notifications from this topic, please click or visit the link below to unsubscribe: https://sns.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/unsubscribe.html/SubscriptionAm=am:aws:sns:us-west-2:203960472692:GuardDuty-Example:799ccb29-0605-44b4-841a-c1ad1e9bcbd6&Endpol | nt=bradgeesaman@ |
| Please do not reply directly to this email. If you have any questions or comments regarding this email, please contact us at https://aws.amazon.com/support | |



Demo



Value Added



Zero-Impact Setup

 Nearly a "one-click" installation process that does not affect any running workflows.

Clear Listing of GuardDuty Detections

 Allows you to know what AWS is monitoring and what you may want a partner to supplement.

Extremely Broad Partner Ecosystem

 Many options to choose from in many different areas of security, not just detection.

Strong Detection of API Misuse

 Several key detections for behaviors associated with compromised credentials.

Areas for Improvement



Areas for Improvement

- Ability to tune parameters for all settings and detections
- Ability to add custom detections into the native analytics engine/flow
- API ability to create custom findings, not just view them.
 - Would allow GuardDuty to be the aggregation interface from many sources.
 - Would allow for user-created integrations to drive through the same interface.

Google Cloud Security Command Center



Google Cloud Security Command Center

Released

- Google StackDriver: Spring 2016
- Google Cloud VPC Flow logs: Spring 2018
- Google Cloud Security Command Center (Alpha): Spring 2018

Description

 The Cloud Security Command Center (Cloud SCC) is the canonical security and data risk database for Google Cloud Platform (GCP). Cloud SCC enables you to understand your security and data attack surface by providing asset inventory, discovery, search, and management.

Links and Documentation

https://cloud.google.com/security-command-center/

Key Features



Asset Discovery/Inventory

Across App Engine, Compute Engine, Cloud Storage, and Cloud Datastore

Anomaly Detection

• Identifies threats like botnets, cryptocurrency mining, anomalous reboots, and suspicious network traffic.

Sensitive Data Identification

Scans storage buckets that may contain sensitive and regulated data using the DLP API.

Application Vulnerability Detection

Scan App Engine applications for web vulnerabilities using Cloud Security Scanner.

Key Features (Cont'd)



Access Control Monitoring

• Forseti validates access control policies and alerts when policies are misconfigured or unexpectedly change.

Third-Party Security Tool Integration

Centrally integrate output from tools such as Cloudflare, CrowdStrike, Palo Alto Networks,
 Qualys, and RedLock into the Cloud SCC

Real-Time Notifications

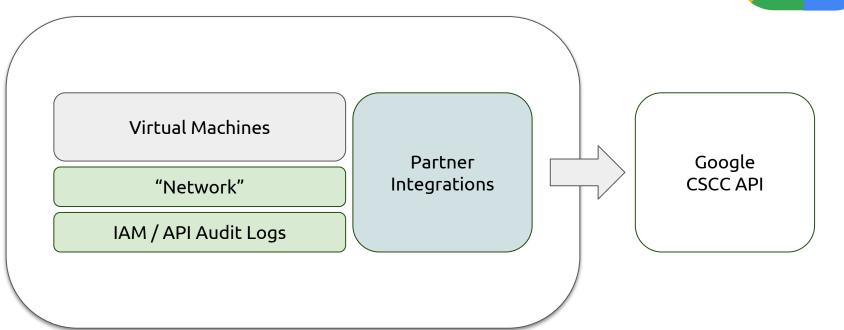
Receive Cloud SCC alerts via Gmail, SMS, and Jira with Cloud Pub/Sub notification integration.

REST API

• Integration with your existing security systems and workflows.

Detection Data Sources



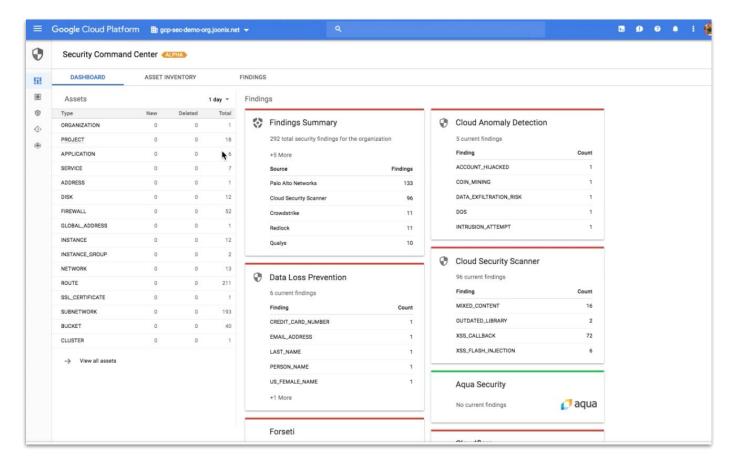


Detections

As Listed but not Detailed

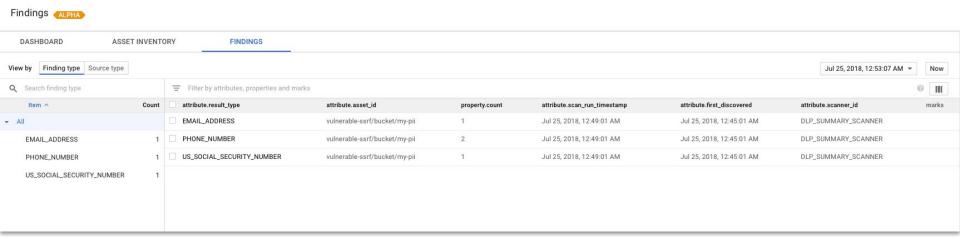
- Botnets
- Cryptocurrency mining
- Anomalous reboots
- Suspicious/anomalous network traffic











| Summary | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| Security marks | | | |
| No marks | | | |
| Attributes | | | |
| Asset Id | vulnerable-ssrf/bucket/my-pii | | |
| Configuration Id | bf32ed7a46ef88f385768ee87b816e6b5b9b5e893edc93ee8e05693be4d15a54 | | |
| First Discovered | July 25, 2018 at 12:45:01 AM UTC-4 | | |
| d | 80fbe57de6ce511e0095a90d0a7f502f992dd8b9bb570f329a0f1358806a6805 | | |
| Result Type | US_SOCIAL_SECURITY_NUMBER | | |
| Scan Run Id | projects/vulnerable-ssrf/dlpJobs/i-5405955858454632083 | | |
| Scan Run Timestamp | July 25, 2018 at 12:49:01 AM UTC-4 | | |
| Scanner Id | DLP_SUMMARY_SCANNER | | |
| Jpdate Time | July 25, 2018 at 12:48:56 AM UTC-4 | | |
| Properties | | | |
| Count | 1 | | |



Value Added



Zero-Impact Setup

 Alpha setup process requires a few manual steps, but they do not affect any running workflows.

Strong Partner Focus

• The API and Interface feature partner solutions and integrate their output streams into a single management interface.

Framework-Oriented

• Similar to the Stackdriver logging service in that it's a framework for handling all security events across all applicable services.

Limitations and Suggestions

Limitations

- Still in Alpha, so anomalous detection capabilities are still in the early stages.
- Not yet a comprehensive or detailed list of detection capabilities.

Suggestions

- Ability to tune all settings and detections
- Ability to add custom detections into the native flow
- Ability to see total permission scope vs actual usage and recommend policy restrictions
- Integrate security detections for all managed services (Database, BigData, Storage, Kubernetes)
- Integrate the notification and alerting functionality natively
- Cross-project management

Key Takeaways and Looking Ahead

Key Takeaways

Attackers



There are still opportunities for exploitation, pivoting/lateral movement, and escalation. But, the time is soon approaching where stealth must be applied and detection windows are shrinking. Have to get in and get out quickly as persisting now greatly increases the chances of discovery.

Defenders



Greatly increased visibility without roadblocking development teams that want to move quickly.

Can deal you in at the "DevSecOps" table.

Can reduce or eliminate a lot of manual or brittle integration efforts/tooling already in place.
Can allow for multiple solutions to run in parallel with minimal additional effort.

Key Takeaways

Security Architects/Ops/Builders



If I'm not implementing these capabilities in my systems and designs, I will want to revisit that.

There may be new opportunities to simplify and offload customized integration efforts on new designs.

Business Leaders



Add capabilities and visibility previously ignored for very low cost

Remove undifferentiated heavy lifting and take advantage of

Position my computing environments using a shared/common understanding for integration points

More easily bring in my trusted vendor partners in to add value

Recognize there are network effects of a thriving ecosystem of easily integrated solutions that can keep up with the accelerated pace of innovation

Reduce switching costs--Even run in parallel

Have you just started your cloud adoption journey?

- Most likely, yes. There are immediate and cost-effective benefits.
- Do explore the natively-integrated partner/vendor space to supplement capabilities to meet the security needs of your workloads.
- Ensure that your solution choices work well with the current development and operations processes and don't diminish their ability to cleanly automate and maintain their applications.

Have you been building your own log/event analysis pipelines using your own internal capabilities?

- Even if you are satisfied with your implementation, you may want to revisit and explore opportunities to refactor and simplify using the newer patterns and APIs.
- Also, consider running it in parallel. The detection benefits offered by the providers will continue to improve, and the cost is reasonable in most cases.

Have you been building your own log/event analysis pipelines using only third-party vendors that don't directly integrate into the platform console?

- Talk to your vendors about their plans to offer their solutions directly in the cloud provider's marketplaces. Standardizing and streamlining the onboarding processes and administration mechanisms has mutual benefits: easier for you and the vendor reaches more customers directly.
- Assess any gaps in your detection capabilities to see if the vendor solution helps cover them.

Are you a mature, cloud-native organization with a balanced portfolio of well implemented security solutions, a strong grasp of your risk and exposure, and a highly-qualified staff of well-funded cloud security professionals who are threat-hunting geniuses?

- Congratulations on your Unicorn status!
- Keep a close eye on the developments and improvements as the providers mature their solutions and capabilities--especially on the aspects that you don't have control over as a tenant in their cloud.

Wherever possible, avoid undifferentiated heavy lifting

The Framework is the Key

Watch this space closely

Security solution vendors -- Take note



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Thank you!
Questions?

@bradgeesaman