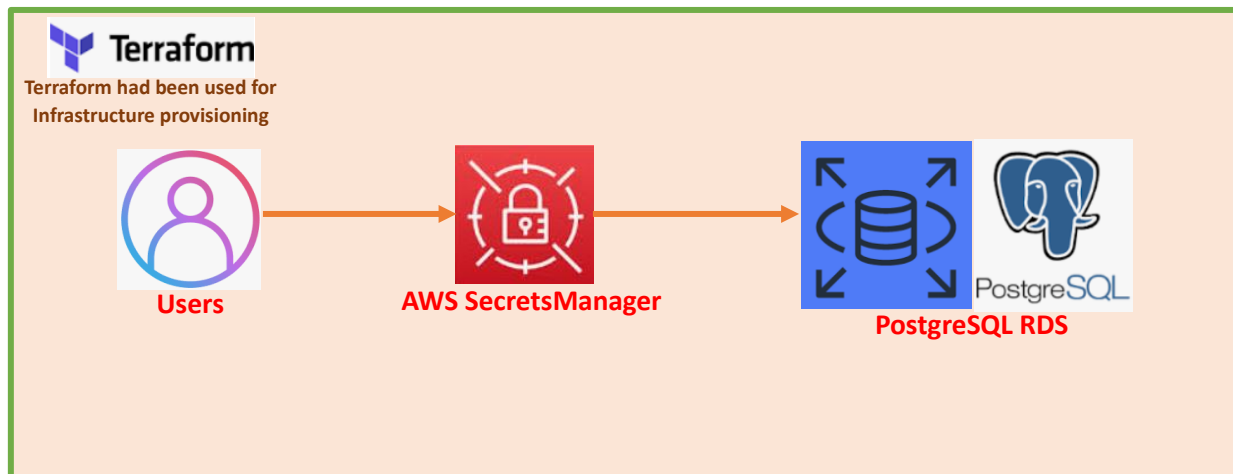


EKS Pod Identity and RDS With AWS SecretsManger



Security is a major concern in any Organisation and hence we should change the password or Access Key and Secret Key of the IAM User on a regular basis. For Security reasons it is suggested to store the password in Aws Secrets Manager. The process of changing the password or Access Key and Secrets Key on a periodic basis is known as rotation of secrets or rotation of Keys of IAM User. After rotation of Keys wherever it was used in the code it should be changed on those places. I had used terraform to provision the infrastructure.

For security reasons it is suggestable to use the RBAC (Role Back Access Control) instead of creating the IAM Users Access Key and Secret Key.

In this project I had provisioned the infrastructure using terraform and I had created an AWS Secret with the name of **aws-secrets-dev**. Make sure in your AWS Account a secret with same name should not exist otherwise terraform will give error. If it was existed and of no use the you can delete it first using the command as written below or change the name of AWS Secrets to be created from the terraform script itself.

```
aws secretsmanager delete-secret --secret-id aws-secrets-dev --force-delete-without-recovery --region us-east-2
```

In the first part of this project, I had demonstrated the PostgreSQL RDS and its credentials was stored in AWS Secrets Manager. First, I logged-in with the initial Users Credentials which was stored in the Secrets Manager. Then for demonstration purpose I rotated the Secrets Manager secret (password). However, you should rotate it as per your organisation.

After Rotation the Password for RDS had been changed and user was able to logged-in using the new credentials as shown in the screenshot attached below.

Below screenshot shows the secrets before its rotation.

Overview | **Rotation** | Versions | Replication | Tags

Secret value [Info](#) Close Edit

Retrieve and view the secret value.

Key/value | Plaintext

Secret key	Secret value
username	postgres
password	HdX*w3cq\$1gspxpTTGxw4y2V:N<d

I was able to logged-in with above shown credential.

```
[root@ ~]# psql -h dbinstance-1.us-east-2.rds.amazonaws.com -U postgres --password
Password:
psql (14.13, server 14.9)
SSL connection (protocol: TLSv1.2, cipher: ECDHE-RSA-AES256-GCM-SHA384, bits: 256, compression: off)
Type "help" for help.

postgres=>
```

For demonstration purpose I rotated the secrets from AWS Secrets Manager as shown in the screenshot attached below.

Overview | **Rotation** | Versions | Replication | Tags

Rotation configuration [Info](#) Rotate secret immediately Edit rotation

Rotation status
✔ Enabled

Rotation schedule
30 days

Last rotated date (UTC)
[REDACTED]

Next rotation date (UTC)
The next rotation is scheduled to occur on or before this date.
[REDACTED]

After rotation below is the credentials present in AWS Secrets Manager.

Overview | **Rotation** | Versions | Replication | Tags

Secret value [Info](#) Close Edit

Retrieve and view the secret value.

Key/value | Plaintext

Secret key	Secret value
username	postgres
password]!y!8I)(b-%A)+[miAVG7<Nqfa56

I logged-in with new credentials which was shown in the screenshot attached above.

```
[root@~]# psql -h dbinstance-1.~.us-east-2.rds.amazonaws.com -U postgres --password
Password:
psql (14.13, server 14.9)
SSL connection (protocol: TLSv1.2, cipher: ECDHE-RSA-AES256-GCM-SHA384, bits: 256, compression: off)
Type "help" for help.

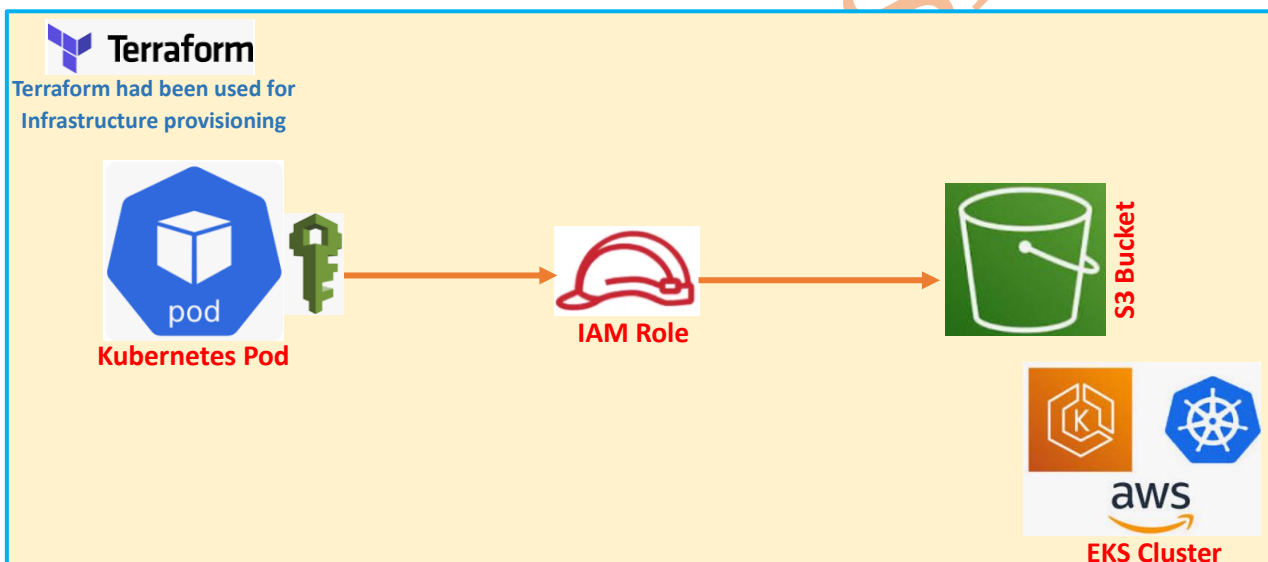
postgres=> \l

```

Name	Owner	Encoding	Collate	Ctype	Access privileges
demodb	postgres	UTF8	en_US.UTF-8	en_US.UTF-8	
postgres	postgres	UTF8	en_US.UTF-8	en_US.UTF-8	
rdsadmin	rdsadmin	UTF8	en_US.UTF-8	en_US.UTF-8	rdsadmin=CTc/rdsadmin
template0	rdsadmin	UTF8	en_US.UTF-8	en_US.UTF-8	=c/rdsadmin +
template1	postgres	UTF8	en_US.UTF-8	en_US.UTF-8	rdsadmin=CTc/rdsadmin +
					=c/postgres +
					postgres=CTc/postgres

```
(5 rows)

postgres=>
```



In the second part of this project, I accessed the S3 bucket from the kubernetes Pod present in the EKS Cluster using the Pod Identity. To achieve this using Pod Identity, you should install EKS Pod Identity add on and attach the proper IAM Role with specific namespace and service account in which the pod was existed to the EKS Cluster. For this project I had attached an IAM Role to provide the privilege of Full S3 Bucket and namespace dexter and service account dexter-sa. I had not used the default service account of the namespace (whenever you create a namespace a service account with the same name will also be created).

Below screenshot shows a kubernetes manifest file using which I had created a namespace with the name of dexter, a service account with the name of dexter-sa and a pod with the name of therema. I accessed the S3 Bucket from the Kubernetes Pod as shown in the screenshot attached below.

```

[root@~]# kubectl apply -f demo.yaml
namespace/dexter created
serviceaccount/dexter-sa created
pod/therema created
[root@~]# kubectl get pods -n dexter
NAME      READY   STATUS             RESTARTS   AGE
therema   0/1     ContainerCreating   0           10s
[root@ip-10-10-4-91 ~]# kubectl get pods -n dexter --watch
NAME      READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
therema   1/1     Running   0           16s
^C[root@~]# kubectl exec -it therema bash -n dexter -- aws s3 ls
2024-12-13 05:47:07 dolo-dempo
[root@~]# cat demo.yaml
apiVersion: v1
kind: Namespace
metadata:
  name: dexter
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: ServiceAccount
metadata:
  name: dexter-sa
  namespace: dexter
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  name: therema
  namespace: dexter
spec:
  serviceAccountName: dexter-sa
  containers:
  - name: demo
    image: amazon/aws-cli
    command: ["/bin/bash", "-c"]
    args: ["aws s3 ls && sleep 7200"]

```

The above pod executed the command **aws s3 ls** if you will check the kubernetes pod logs also you will find it had listed out the s3 buckets which ensures pod had the access of S3 Buckets. You can use below command to check the kubernetes Pod logs **kubectl logs therema -n dexter**.

To see the live logs, you can see the command as written here **kubectl logs -f <pod_name> -n <namespace>**.

```
cat demo.yaml
```

```
apiVersion: v1
```

```
kind: Namespace
```

```
metadata:
```

```
  name: dexter
```

```
---
```

```
apiVersion: v1
```

```
kind: ServiceAccount
```

```
metadata:
```

```
  name: dexter-sa
```

```
  namespace: dexter
```

```
---
```

```
apiVersion: v1
```

```
kind: Pod
```

```
metadata:
```

```
  name: therema
```

```
  namespace: dexter
```

```
spec:
```

```
  serviceAccountName: dexter-sa
```

```
  containers:
```

```
    - name: demo
```

```
      image: amazon/aws-cli
```

```
      command: ["/bin/bash", "-c"]
```

```
      args: ["aws s3 ls && sleep 7200"]
```

In the third and last part of this project I used Secret Store CSI driver to Access Secrets Manager secret from Kubernetes Pod of the EKS Cluster. To do so first, I installed secret-store-csi-driver using helm chart as shown in the screenshot attached below.

```
[root@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]# helm repo add secrets-store-csi-driver https://kubernetes-sigs.github.io/secrets-store-csi-driver/charts
"secrets-store-csi-driver" has been added to your repositories
[root@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]# helm install -n kube-system csi-secrets-store secrets-store-csi-driver/secrets-store-csi-driver --set syncSecret.enabled=true --set enableSecretRotation=true
NAME: csi-secrets-store
LAST DEPLOYED: Mon Aug 13 10:22:00 UTC 2024
NAMESPACE: kube-system
STATUS: deployed
REVISION: 1
TEST SUITE: None
NOTES:
The Secrets Store CSI Driver is getting deployed to your cluster.

To verify that Secrets Store CSI Driver has started, run:

  kubectl --namespace=kube-system get pods -l "app=secrets-store-csi-driver"

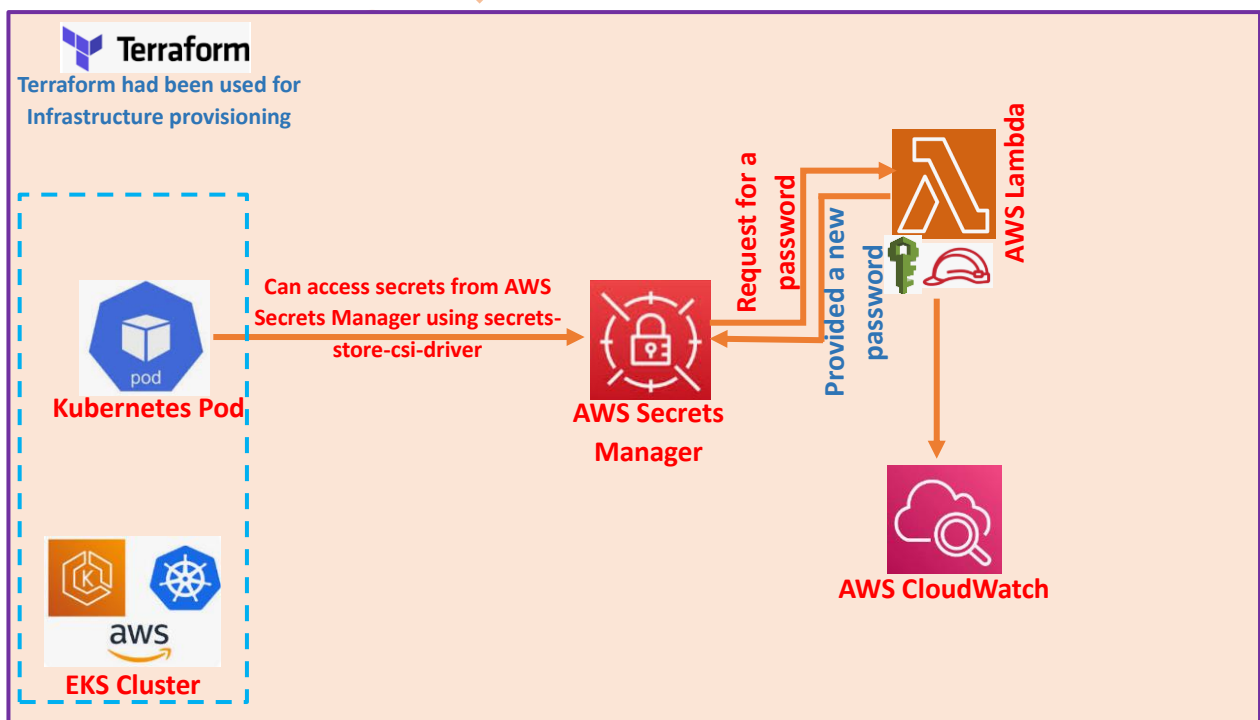
Now you can follow these steps https://secrets-store-csi-driver.sigs.k8s.io/getting-started/usage.html
to create a SecretProviderClass resource, and a deployment using the SecretProviderClass.
[root@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]# kubectl apply -f https://raw.githubusercontent.com/aws/secrets-store-csi-driver-provider-aws/main/deployment/aws-provider-installer.yaml
serviceaccount/csi-secrets-store-provider-aws created
clusterrole.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/csi-secrets-store-provider-aws-cluster-role created
clusterrolebinding.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/csi-secrets-store-provider-aws-cluster-rolebinding created
daemonset.apps/csi-secrets-store-provider-aws created
```

helm repo add secrets-store-csi-driver https://kubernetes-sigs.github.io/secrets-store-csi-driver/charts

helm install -n kube-system csi-secrets-store secrets-store-csi-driver/secrets-store-csi-driver --set syncSecret.enabled=true --set enableSecretRotation=true

kubectl apply -f https://raw.githubusercontent.com/aws/secrets-store-csi-driver-provider-aws/main/deployment/aws-provider-installer.yaml

I created a kubernetes manifests file named as mederma.yaml as mentioned below. Using this manifests file I created a namespace named as **mederma**, Secret provider class named as **postgresql-aws-secrets**, service account named as **mederma-sa**, deployment named as **postgresql-asm** and kubernetes service named as **postgresql-svc** in the namespace **mederma**.



```
[root@ ] ~]# vim mederma.yaml
[root@ ] ~]# kubectl apply -f mederma.yaml
namespace/mederma created
secretproviderclass.secrets-store.csi.x-k8s.io/postgresql-aws-secrets created
serviceaccount/mederma-sa created
deployment.apps/postgresql-asm created
service/postgresql-svc created
[root@ ] ~]# kubectl get pods -n mederma
NAME                                READY   STATUS    RESTARTS   AGE
postgresql-asm-7b465547fc-tqzrq    1/1     Running   0           21s
[root@ ] ~]# kubectl get svc -n mederma
NAME                                TYPE        CLUSTER-IP      EXTERNAL-IP      PORT(S)          AGE
postgresql-svc                      LoadBalancer  a                a                5432:32699/TCP   44s
[root@ ] ~]# psql -h a                0.us-east-2.elb.amazonaws.com -U admin --password
Password:
psql (14.13, server 14.15 (Debian 14.15-1.pgdg120+1))
Type "help" for help.

admin=# \l

          List of databases
  Name | Owner | Encoding | Collate | Ctype | Access privileges
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
admin | admin | UTF8      | en_US.utf8 | en_US.utf8 |
postgres | admin | UTF8      | en_US.utf8 | en_US.utf8 |
template0 | admin | UTF8      | en_US.utf8 | en_US.utf8 | =c/admin +
template1 | admin | UTF8      | en_US.utf8 | en_US.utf8 | admin=CTc/admin +
          =c/admin +
          admin=CTc/admin
(4 rows)
```

I was able to login into the PostgreSQL Kubernetes pod using the Aws secrets Manager secrets credentials as shown below.

[AWS Secrets Manager](#) > [Secrets](#) > aws-secrets-dev

[Overview](#) [Rotation](#) [Versions](#) [Replication](#) [Tags](#)

Secret value Info [Close](#) [Edit](#)

Retrieve and view the secret value.

[Key/value](#) [Plaintext](#)

Secret key	Secret value
username	admin
password	Z6PF7K6F4P

```
[root@ ] ~]# kubectl get secrets -n mederma
NAME                                TYPE      DATA   AGE
postgresql-k8s-secret              Opaque    2        33m
[root@ ] ~]# kubectl get secrets/postgresql-k8s-secret -n mederma -o yaml
apiVersion: v1
data:
  k8s-password: WjZQRjdLNkY0UA==
  k8s-username: YWRtaW4=
kind: Secret
metadata:
  creationTimestamp: " "
  labels:
    secrets-store.csi.k8s.io/managed: "true"
  name: postgresql-k8s-secret
  namespace: mederma
  ownerReferences:
  - apiVersion: apps/v1
    kind: ReplicaSet
    name: postgresql-asm-
    uid:
  resourceVersion: " "
  uid:
type: Opaque

[root@ ] ~]# echo WjZQRjdLNkY0UA== | base64 -d
Z6PF7K6F4P[root@ ] ~]#
[root@ ] ~]# echo YWRtaW4= | base64 -d
admin[root@ ] ~]#
```

```
cat mederma.yaml
```

```
---
```

```
apiVersion: v1
```

```
kind: Namespace
```

```
metadata:
```

```
  name: mederma
```

```
---
```

```
apiVersion: secrets-store.csi.x-k8s.io/v1
```

```
kind: SecretProviderClass
```

```
metadata:
```

```
  name: postgresql-aws-secrets
```

```
  namespace: mederma
```

```
spec:
```

```
  provider: aws
```

```
  parameters:
```

```
    region: us-east-2
```

```
  objects: |
```

```
    - objectName: "aws-secrets-dev"
```

```
      objectType: secretsmanager
```

```
      jmesPath:
```

```
        - path: username
```

```
          objectAlias: medermausername
```

```
        - path: password
```

```
          objectAlias: medermapassword
```

```
secretObjects:
```

```
  - secretName: postgresql-k8s-secret
```

```
    type: Opaque
```

```
    data:
```

```
      - objectName: medermausername
```

```
        key: k8s-username
```

```
      - objectName: medermapassword
```



```
    key: k8s-password
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: ServiceAccount
metadata:
  name: mederma-sa
  namespace: mederma
  annotations:
    eks.amazonaws.com/role-arn: arn:aws:iam::027330342406:role/eks-pod-identity-role-secretmanager-dev
---
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: postgresql-asm
  namespace: mederma
spec:
  replicas: 1
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: postgresql
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: postgresql
    spec:
      serviceAccountName: mederma-sa
      containers:
        - name: postgresql
          image: postgres:14
          ports:
```

```
- containerPort: 5432

volumeMounts:
  - name: secrets
    mountPath: /mnt/secrets
    readOnly: true

env:
  - name: POSTGRES_USER
    valueFrom:
      secretKeyRef:
        name: postgresql-k8s-secret
        key: k8s-username
  - name: POSTGRES_PASSWORD
    valueFrom:
      secretKeyRef:
        name: postgresql-k8s-secret
        key: k8s-password

volumes:
  - name: secrets
    csi:
      driver: secrets-store.csi.k8s.io
      readOnly: true
      volumeAttributes:
        secretProviderClass: postgresql-aws-secrets
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
  name: postgresql-svc
  namespace: mederma
spec:
  type: LoadBalancer
```

selector:

app: postgresql

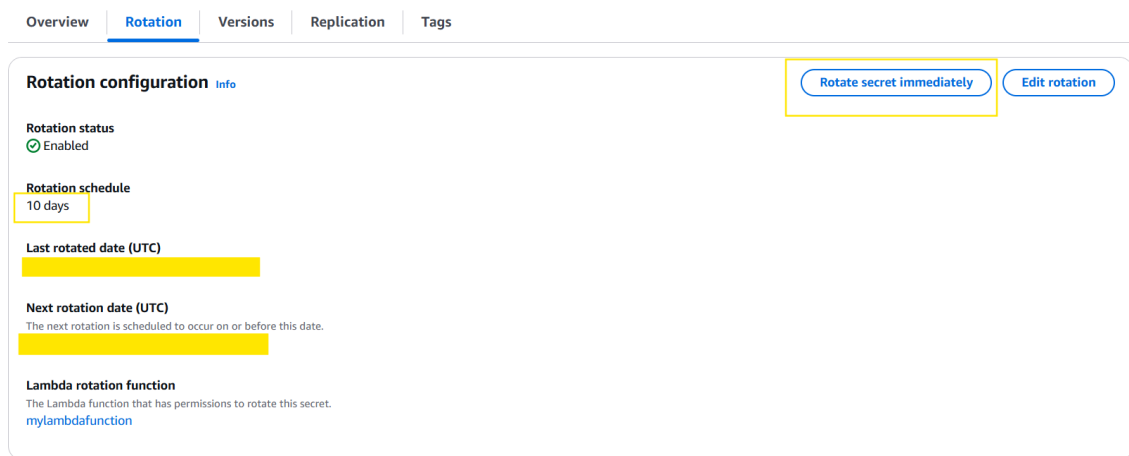
ports:

- port: 5432

targetPort: 5432

For demonstration purpose I rotated the password from AWS Secrets Manager. For Password rotation I used Lambda function.

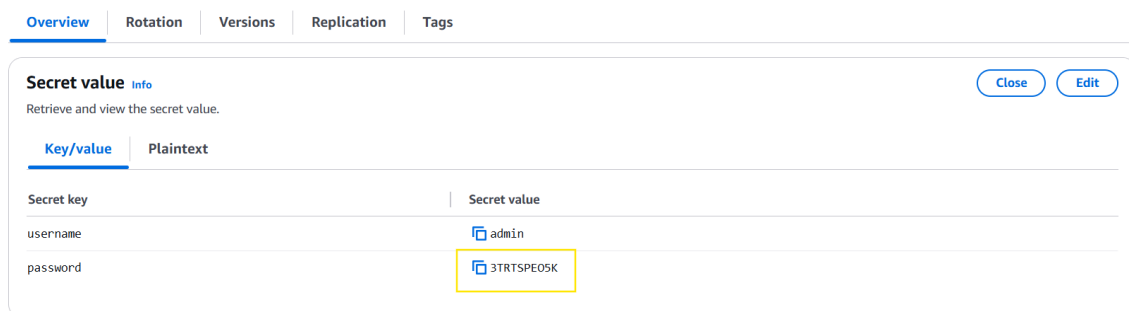
[AWS Secrets Manager](#) > [Secrets](#) > aws-secrets-dev



The screenshot shows the 'Rotation configuration' page in AWS Secrets Manager. The 'Rotation' tab is selected. The configuration includes: 'Rotation status' as 'Enabled', 'Rotation schedule' as '10 days', 'Last rotated date (UTC)' as a redacted date, 'Next rotation date (UTC)' as a redacted date, and 'Lambda rotation function' as 'mylambdafunction'. There are two buttons: 'Rotate secret immediately' and 'Edit rotation'.

After rotation password had been changed as shown in the screenshot below for AWS Secrets Manager.

[AWS Secrets Manager](#) > [Secrets](#) > aws-secrets-dev



The screenshot shows the 'Secret value' page in AWS Secrets Manager. The 'Overview' tab is selected. The page displays a table with two columns: 'Secret key' and 'Secret value'. The 'Secret key' column has two rows: 'username' and 'password'. The 'Secret value' column has two rows: 'admin' and '3TRTSP05K'. The 'password' row is highlighted with a yellow box.

I checked the Kubernetes secrets in the namespace **mederma** and found that the new credential had been reflected. Finally, I scaled-down the deployment **postgresql-asm** to replicas as zero and then scaled up the same deployment to replicas as 1. I found the password had been changed and I was able to logged-in into the PostgreSQL pod using the new password as shown in the screenshot attached below.

```
[root@~]# kubectl get secrets -n mederma
NAME                                TYPE    DATA  AGE
postgresql-k8s-secret              Opaque  2      40m
[root@~]# kubectl get secrets/postgresql-k8s-secret -n mederma -o yaml
apiVersion: v1
data:
  k8s-password: M1RSVFNQURU81Sw==
  k8s-username: YWRtaW4=
kind: Secret
metadata:
  creationTimestamp: "2023-10-10T10:49:11Z"
  labels:
    secrets-store.csi.k8s.io/managed: "true"
  name: postgresql-k8s-secret
  namespace: mederma
  ownerReferences:
  - apiVersion: apps/v1
    kind: ReplicaSet
    name: postgresql-asm-5f6f6f6f6f
    uid: 5f6f6f6f6f
  resourceVersion: "123456789"
  uid: 5f6f6f6f6f
type: Opaque
[root@ip-10-10-4-91 ~]# kubectl scale deployment postgresql-asm --replicas=0 --namespace=mederma
deployment.apps/postgresql-asm scaled
[root@ip-10-10-4-91 ~]# kubectl scale deployment postgresql-asm --replicas=1 --namespace=mederma
deployment.apps/postgresql-asm scaled
```

```
[root@~]# echo YWRtaW4= | base64 -d
admin
[root@~]# echo M1RSVFNQURU81Sw== | base64 -d
3TRTSPE05K
```

```
[root@~]# kubectl exec -it postgresql-asm-5f6f6f6f6f bash -n mederma -- cat /mnt/secrets/medermapassword
3TRTSPE05K
[root@~]# kubectl exec -it postgresql-asm-5f6f6f6f6f bash -n mederma -- cat /mnt/secrets/medermausername
admin
```

```
[root@~]# psql -h a[redacted].us-east-2.elb.amazonaws.com -U admin --password
psql (14.13, server 14.15 (Debian 14.15-1.pgdg120+1))
Type "help" for help.

admin=# \l

          List of databases
  Name  | Owner  | Encoding | Collate  | Ctype    | Access privileges
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 admin  | admin  | UTF8     | en_US.utf8 | en_US.utf8 |
 postgres  | admin  | UTF8     | en_US.utf8 | en_US.utf8 |
 template0  | admin  | UTF8     | en_US.utf8 | en_US.utf8 | =c/admin +
 template1  | admin  | UTF8     | en_US.utf8 | en_US.utf8 | =c/admin +
          |         |         |         |         | admin=CTc/admin
(4 rows)
```

OIDC (Open ID Connect) and **Federated Identity** had been used to access the AWS Secrets Manager secret from Kubernetes Pod of EKS Cluster.

OIDC is a protocol using which a User can logged-in into one Application and can access other applications. **Federated Identity** is method by which user can access multiple Applications using single set of credentials.