IAM Section

IAM: Users & Groups

- IAM = Identity and Access Management, Global service
- Root account created by default, shouldn't be used or shared
- Users are people within your organization, and can be grouped
- Groups only contain users, not other groups
- Users don't have to belong to a group, and user can belong to multiple groups



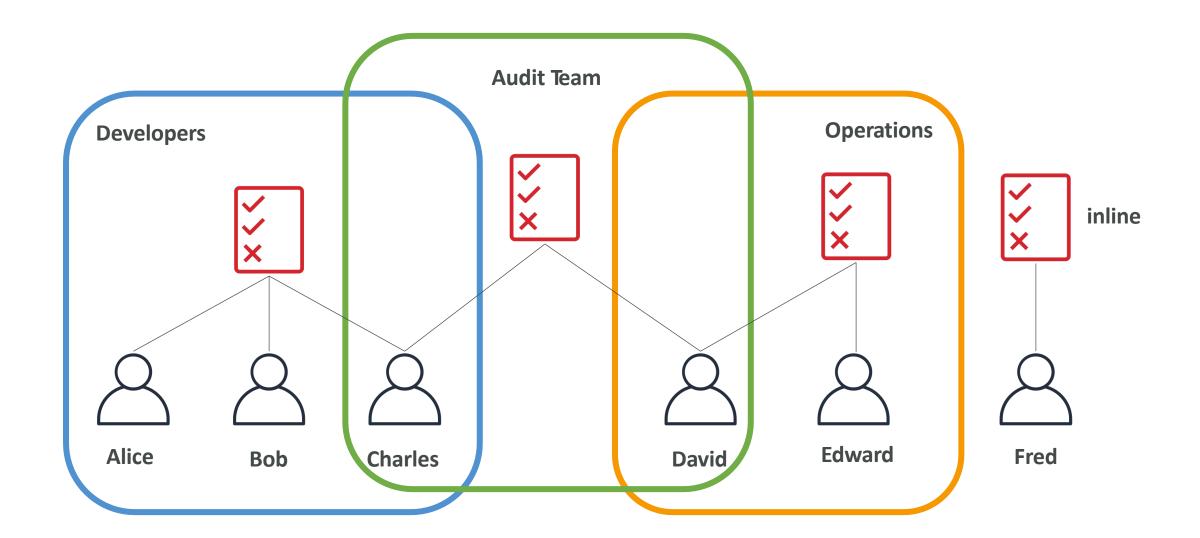


IAM: Permissions

- Users or Groups can be assigned JSON documents called policies
- These policies define the permissions of the users
- In AWS you apply the least privilege principle: don't give more permissions than a user needs

```
"Version": "2012-10-17",
"Statement": [
       "Effect": "Allow",
       "Action":
       "ec2:Describe*",
       "Resource": "*"
       "Effect": "Allow",
       "Action":
       "elasticloadbalancing:Describe*",
       "Resource": "*"
       "Effect":
       "Allow",
       "Action": [
           "cloudwatch:ListMetrics",
           "cloudwatch:GetMetricStatistic
           s", "cloudwatch: Describe*"
        "Resource": "*"
```

IAM Policies inheritance



Policy Types:

- Identity Based Policy: Applicable on users, groups of users, and roles
 - 1. AWS Managed policy:
 - 2. Custom Managed Policy:
 - 3. Inline Policy
- Resource Based policy: For Attaching to AWS resources such as Amazon S3 bucket
- Session based Policy: To create a temporary session for a role or an user

IAM Policies Structure

Consists of

- Version: policy language version, always include "2012-10-17"
- Id: an identifier for the policy (optional)
- Statement: one or more individual statements (required)

Statements consists of

- Sid: an identifier for the statement (optional)
- Effect: whether the statement allows or denies access (Allow, Deny)
- Principal: account/user/role to which this policy applied to
- Action: list of actions this policy allows or denies
- Resource: list of resources to which the actions applied to
- Condition: conditions for when this policy is in effect (optional)

```
"Version": "2012-10-17",
"Id": "S3-Account-Permissions",
"Statement": [
        "Sid": "1",
        "Effect": "Allow",
        "Principal": {
            "AWS": ["arn:aws:iam::123456789012:root"]
        "Action": [
            "s3:GetObject",
            "s3:PutObject"
        "Resource": ["arn:aws:s3:::mybucket/*"]
```

IAM – Password Policy

- Strong passwords = higher security for your account
- In AWS, you can setup a password policy:
 - Set a minimum password length
 - Require specific character types:
 - including uppercase letters
 - lowercase letters
 - numbers
 - non-alphanumeric characters
 - Allow all IAM users to change their own passwords
 - Require users to change their password after some time (password expiration)
 - Prevent password re-use

Multi Factor Authentication - MFA



- Users have access to your account and can possibly change configurations or delete resources in your AWS account
- You want to protect your Root Accounts and IAM users
- MFA = password *you know* + security device *you own*



Main benefit of MFA:
 if a password is stolen or hacked, the account is not compromised

MFA devices options in AWS

Virtual MFA device



Google Authenticator (phone only)



Authy (multi-device)

Support for multiple tokens on a single device.

Universal 2nd Factor (U2F) Security Key



YubiKey by Yubico (3rd party)

Support for multiple root and IAM users using a single security key

MFA devices options in AWS

Hardware Key Fob MFA Device



Provided by Gemalto (3rd party)

Hardware Key Fob MFA Device for AWS GovCloud (US)



Provided by SurePassID (3rd party)

How can users access AWS?



- To access AWS, you have three options:
 - AWS Management Console (protected by password + MFA)
 - AWS Command Line Interface (CLI): protected by access keys
 - AWS Software Developer Kit (SDK) for code: protected by access keys
- Access Keys are generated through the AWS Console
- Users manage their own access keys
- Access Keys are secret, just like a password. Don't share them
- Access Key ID ~= username
- Secret Access Key ~= password

Example (Fake) Access Keys

Access keys

Use access keys to make secure REST or HTTP Query protocol requests to AWS service APIs. For your protection, you should never share your secret keys with anyone. As a best practice, we recommend frequent key rotation. Learn more

Create access key

Access key ID	Created	Last used	Status	
AKIASK4E37PV4TU3RD6C	2020-05-25 15:13 UTC+0100	N/A	Active Make inactive	×

- Access key ID:AKIASK4E37PV4983d6C
- Secret Access Key: AZPN3zojWozWCndIjhBoUnh8239a1bzbzO5fqqkZq
- Remember: don't share your access keys

What's the AWS CLI?

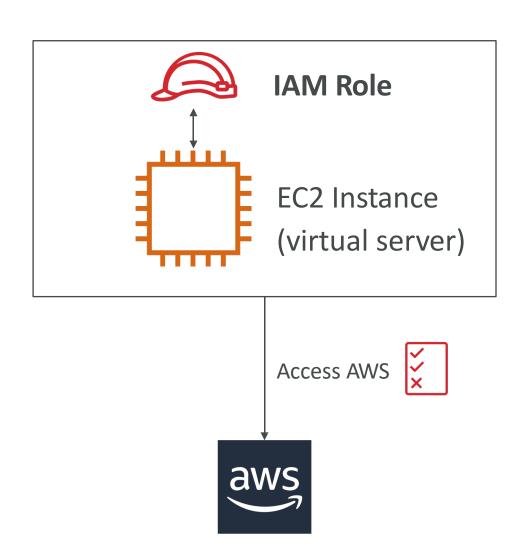
- A tool that enables you to interact with AWS services using commands in your command-line shell
- Direct access to the public APIs of AWS services
- You can develop scripts to manage your resources
- It's open-source https://github.com/aws/aws-cli
- Alternative to using AWS Management Console

Sample AWS CLI Commands

- aws ec2 create-key-pair --key-name my-key-pair --query "KeyMaterial" --output text > my-key-pair.pem
- aws iam list-users -output table
- aws ec2 describe-instances
- aws ec2 run-instances --image-id ami-062df10d14676e201 --count 1 --instance-type t2.micro --key-name oct-2022 --security-group-ids sg-0482521c7fdd36d3d --region ap-south-1
- aws ec2 stop-instances --force --instance-ids i-dddddd70
- aws ec2 terminate-instances --instance-ids i-44a44ac3
- aws ec2 start-instances --instance-ids i-5c8282ed

IAM Roles for Services

- Some AWS service will need to perform actions on your behalf
- To do so, we will assign permissions to AWS services with IAM Roles
- Common roles:
 - EC2 Instance Roles
 - Lambda Function Roles
 - Roles for CloudFormation



IAM Security Tools

- IAM Credentials Report (account-level)
 - a report that lists all your account's users and the status of their various credentials

- IAM Access Advisor (user-level)
 - Access advisor shows the service permissions granted to a user and when those services were last accessed.
 - You can use this information to revise your policies.

IAM Guidelines & Best Practices



- Don't use the root account except for AWS account setup
- One physical user = One AWS user
- Assign users to groups and assign permissions to groups
- Create a strong password policy
- Use and enforce the use of Multi Factor Authentication (MFA)
- Create and use Roles for giving permissions to AWS services
- Use Access Keys for Programmatic Access (CLI / SDK)
- Audit permissions of your account with the IAM Credentials Report
- Never share IAM users & Access Keys

IAM Section – Summary

•Users: mapped to a physical user, has a password for AWS Console



- Groups: contains users only
- Policies: JSON document that outlines permissions for users or groups
- Roles: for EC2 instances or AWS services
- Security: MFA + Password Policy
- •AWS CLI: manage your AWS services using the command-line
- •AWS SDK: manage your AWS services using a programming language
- •Access Keys: access AWS using the CLI or SDK
- Audit: IAM Credential Reports & IAM Access Advisor