

FSV301

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Security Anti-Patterns Mistakes to Avoid

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At AWS, security is job zero. Our infrastructure is architected for the most data-sensitive, financial services companies in the world. We have worked with global enterprises to meet their respective security requirements and have learned that there are best practices and pitfalls to avoid. In this session, we provide a guided tour of governance patterns to avoid – ones that may seem logical at first, but that actually impede your ability scale and realize business agility. We also cover best practices, such as setting up key preventative and detective controls for implementing 360-degrees of security coverage, practicing DevSecOps on a massive scale, and leveraging the AWS services (such as Amazon VPC, IAM, Amazon EMR, Amazon S3, Amazon CloudWatch, and AWS Lambda) to meet the most strict and robust enterprise security requirements.

Anti-Pattern: A common response to a recurring problem that is usually ineffective and risks being highly counterproductive

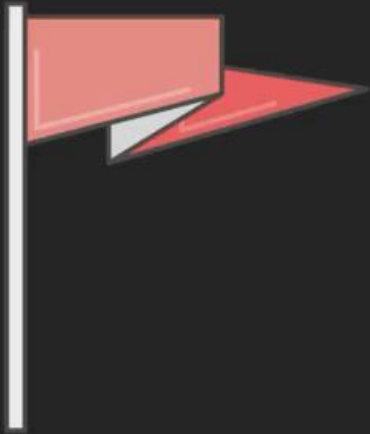


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Risks of Security Anti-Patterns



Lack of SecOps agility

- Slow threat assessments
- **Can't patch fast enough**
- Reactive security posture

Lack of business agility

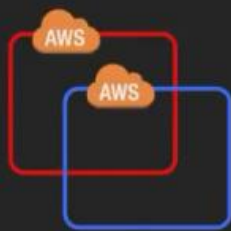
- Slow to onboard new customers
- Hard to practice true DevOps
- **Outpaced by disruptors**
- Rogue dev projects

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Four Types of Security Anti-Patterns



Account Structure



Network Design

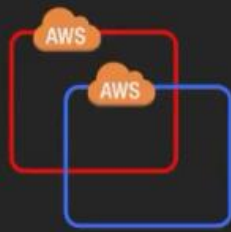


InfoSec Auditing



Software Delivery

Four Types of Security Anti-Patterns



Account Structure



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Anti-Pattern: Personally Owned AWS Accounts

Create an AWS account

Email address

Joe.Individual@bigenterprise.com

Password

.....

Contact Information

☒ Company Account ☐ Personal Account

Full Name* Joe Individual, Your Director of IT

Company Name* Big Enterprise Inc.

Country* United States

Address* 123 Joe's Personal Home Address

City* Joe's Home Town

State / Province or Region* JOE

Postal Code* 01234

Phone Number* (Joe's personal mobile number)

- Root login: one person's inbox
- Root MFA: that person's mobile phone
- *Risk: What if they leave the company?*
- **Only root can edit this. AWS cannot.**



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Best Practice: Group Contacts on All Accounts

Create an AWS account

Email address
aws-be-group@bigenterprise

Password

Contact Information

☒ Company Account ☐ Personal Account

Full Name* BE Product Line A, Dev Group 3

Company Name* Big Enterprise Inc.

Country* United States

Address* 100 Company Main Address

City* Capital City

State / Province or Region* BE

Postal Code* 10001

Phone Number* (Company main number)

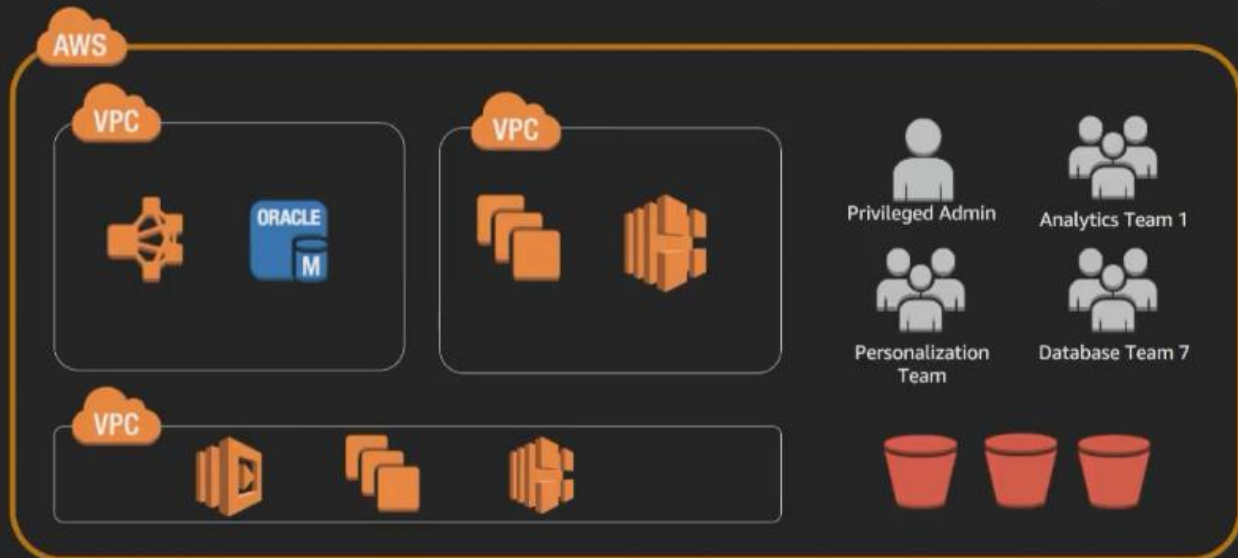
- Root email: team distribution list address
- Root MFA: hardware device, in office safe
- Contact info: company street address
- Phone number: company main number
- **No one logs into account root!** Use IAM only!



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Anti-Pattern: AWS Account Overcrowding



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The diagram illustrates a multi-tenant AWS environment. At the top, an orange cloud icon is labeled 'AWS'. Below it, several VPCs (Virtual Private Clouds) are shown as orange cloud icons. Each VPC contains different teams and resources:

- VPC 1 (Left):** Contains 'Analytics Team 1' (represented by three person icons), 'Database Team 7' (three person icons), an 'ORACLE M' database icon, and a 'BU Architect' (one person icon).
- VPC 2 (Middle):** Contains 'User Profiles Ops Team' (three person icons), 'Privileged Admin' (one person icon), 'Random Developer' (one person icon), and 'Random Contractor' (one person icon).
- VPC 3 (Bottom Left):** Contains 'Personalization Team' (three person icons) and a red bucket icon.
- VPC 4 (Bottom Right):** Contains 'New App Dev Team' (three person icons), 'Capital Markets UX Team' (three person icons), and 'DevSecOpsTeam' (three person icons).

Various orange icons representing different AWS services and resources are scattered throughout the VPCs, including server stacks, buckets, and network components.



The diagram illustrates a multi-tenant architecture on AWS. It shows multiple VPCs (Virtual Private Clouds) representing different tenants or teams. Key components include:

- AWS Cloud:** The overall environment.
- VPCs:** Multiple Virtual Private Clouds, each representing a tenant or team.
- Teams and Roles:**
 - Analytics Team 1
 - Database Team 7
 - BU Architect
 - User Profiles Ops Team
 - Capital Markets UX Team
 - New App Dev Team
 - DevSecOpsTeam
 - Personalization Team
 - Random Contractor
 - Random Developer
 - Principal Admin
- Services and Resources:**
 - Amazon S3 (Red bucket icon)
 - Amazon EC2 (Orange server icon)
 - Amazon RDS (Blue database icon)
 - Amazon ElastiCache (Orange cache icon)
 - Amazon IAM (Key icon)
 - Amazon CloudFront (Orange arrow icon)
 - Amazon Kinesis (Orange arrow icon)
 - Amazon EMR (Orange server icon)
 - Amazon Redshift (Orange server icon)
 - Amazon Athena (Orange server icon)
 - Amazon SageMaker (Orange server icon)
 - Amazon Rekognition (Orange server icon)
 - Amazon Lex (Orange server icon)
 - Amazon Polly (Orange server icon)
 - Amazon Transcribe (Orange server icon)
 - Amazon Textract (Orange server icon)
 - Amazon Comprehend (Orange server icon)

Large yellow question marks are placed over the diagram, highlighting areas of complexity or uncertainty.



Multi-Account Strategy: AWS Account per Biz Cap Dev Team

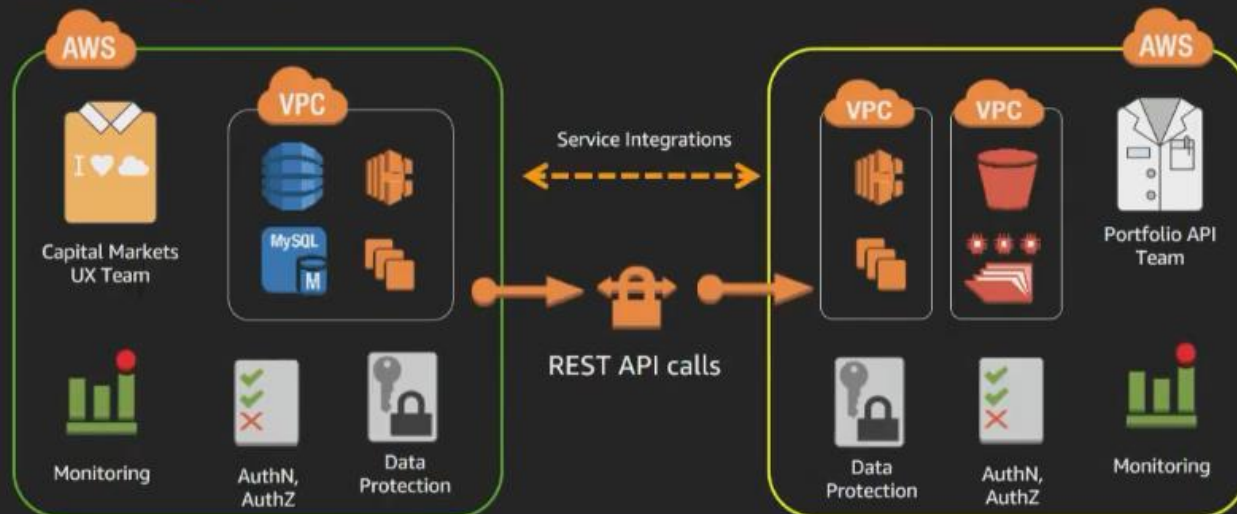


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OO Design: Each Biz Cap Team is a Separate Object

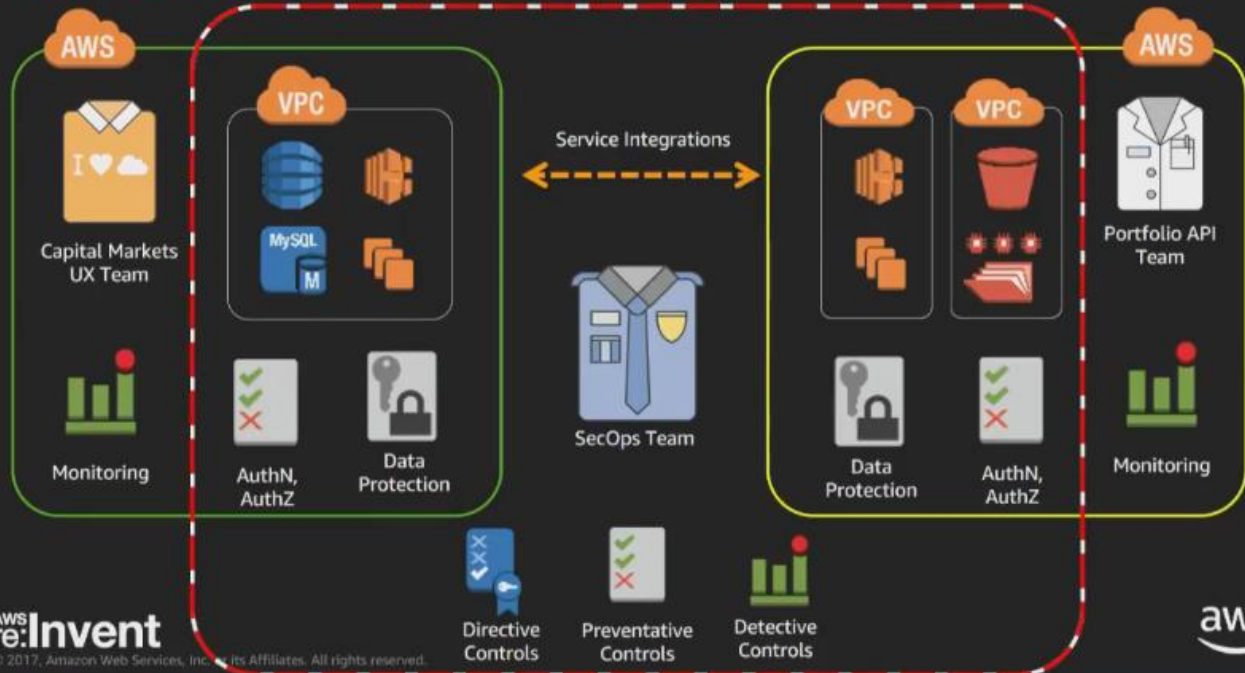


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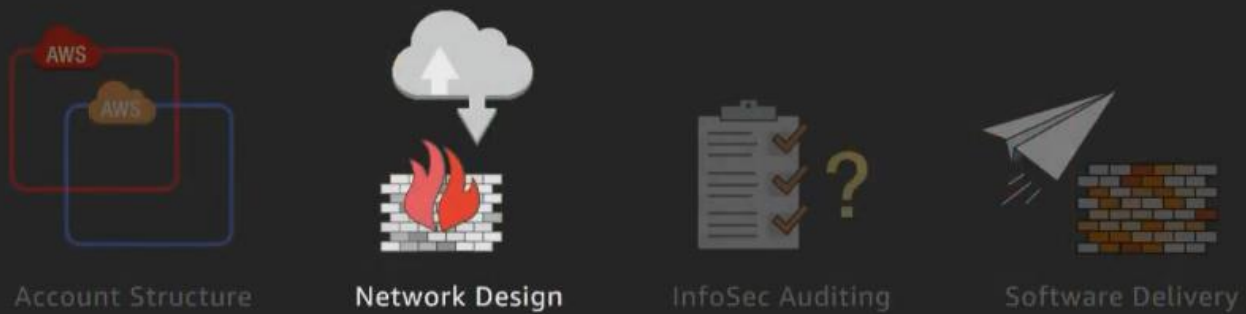
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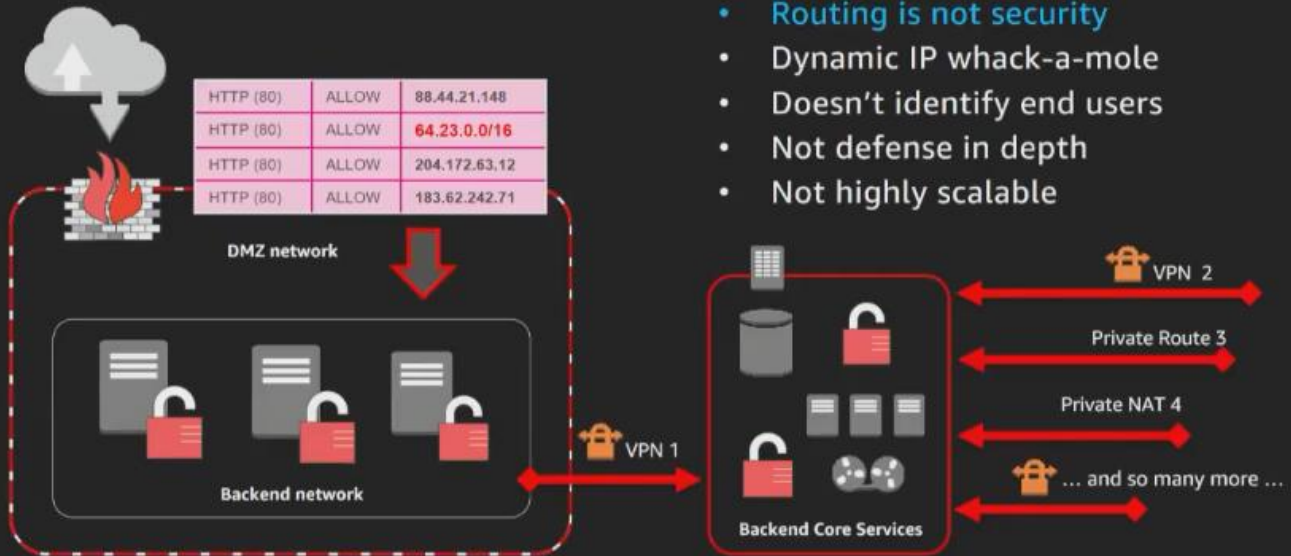
Full Accountability: Builders Build, SecOps Monitors



Four Types of Security Anti-Patterns



Anti-Pattern: Trusted IP Access w/o Client Auth

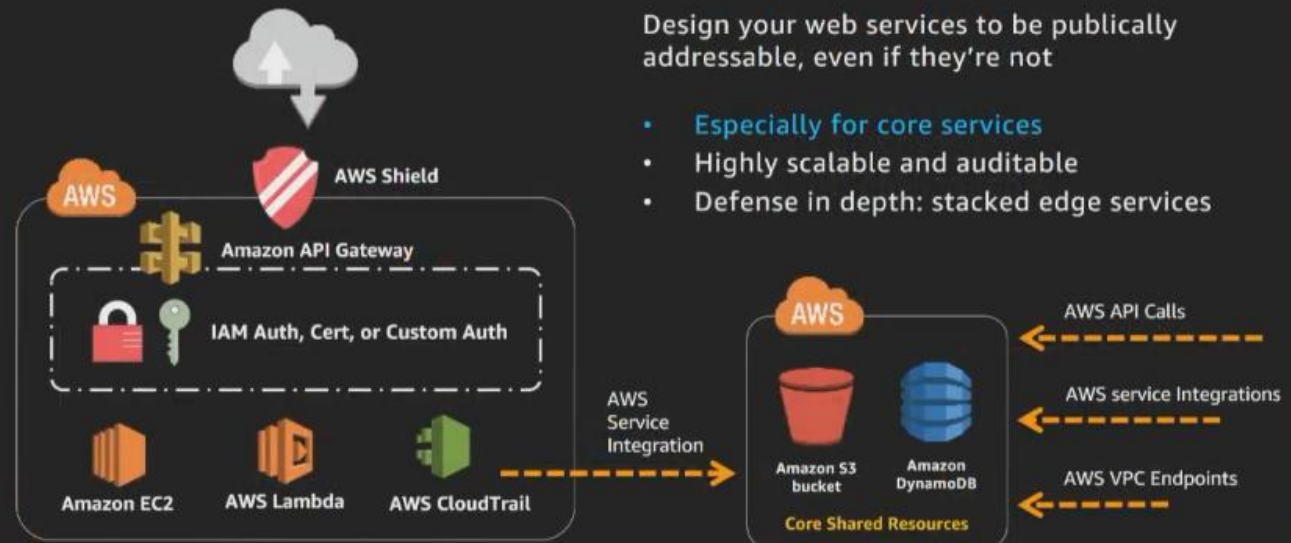


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Best Practice: Implement AuthN and AuthZ

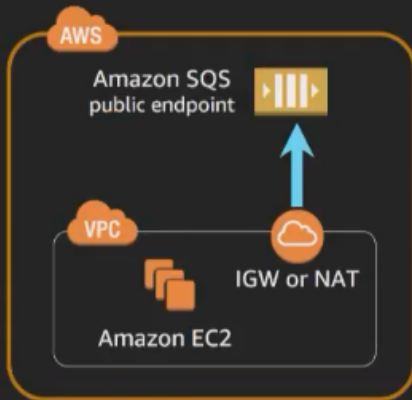


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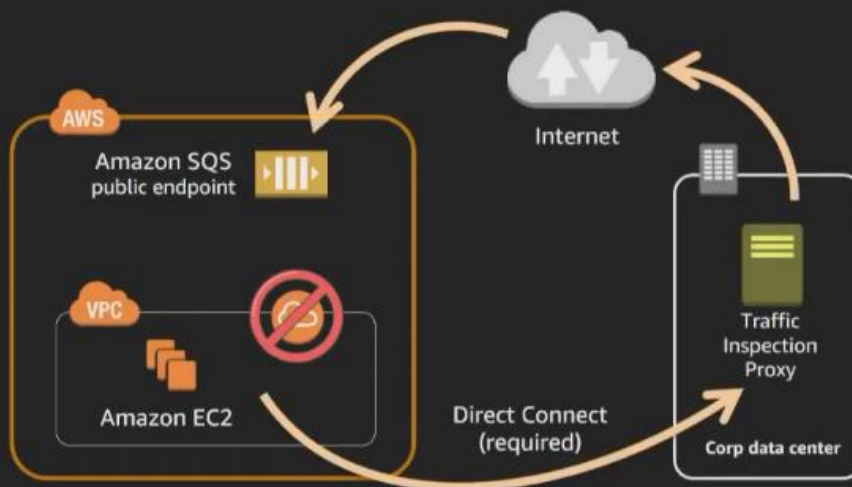


Anti-Pattern: Network Egress Backhauling



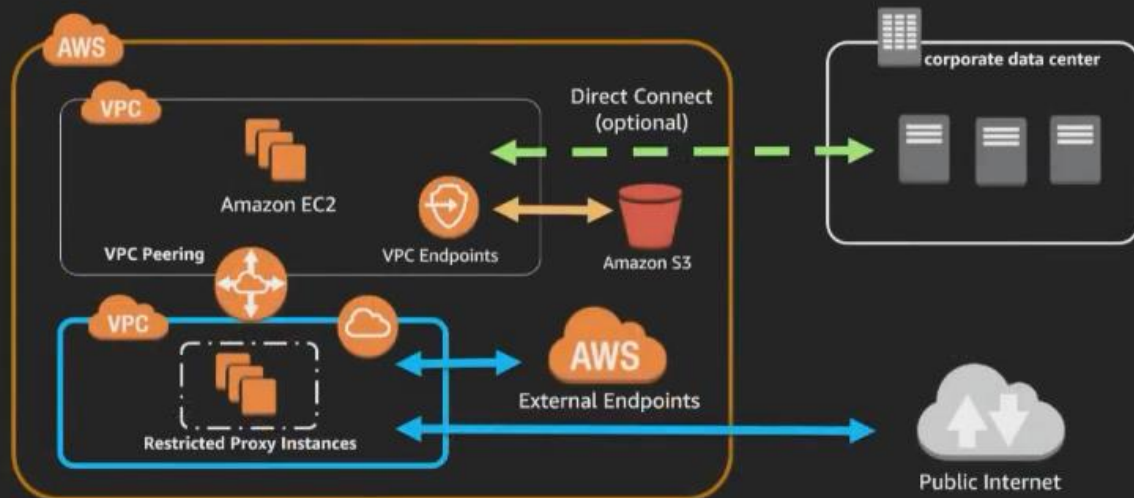
We need some Layer 7 controls on the NAT for traffic going out, a possible solution is below

Anti-Pattern: Network Egress Backhauling



- Requires DX on all VPCs
- Forces hybrid architecture
- Not highly scalable
- Adds fragility
- Adds latency

Use the Cloud to Secure the Cloud



Example: restricted egress via **Exit VPC**

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Use Egress VPCs (a pool of EC2 servers running proxy filtering) instead as above

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Network Design



InfoSec Auditing



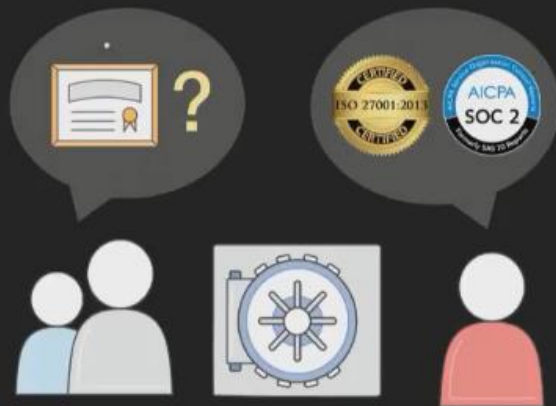
Software Delivery

Anti-Pattern: Security Questionnaires



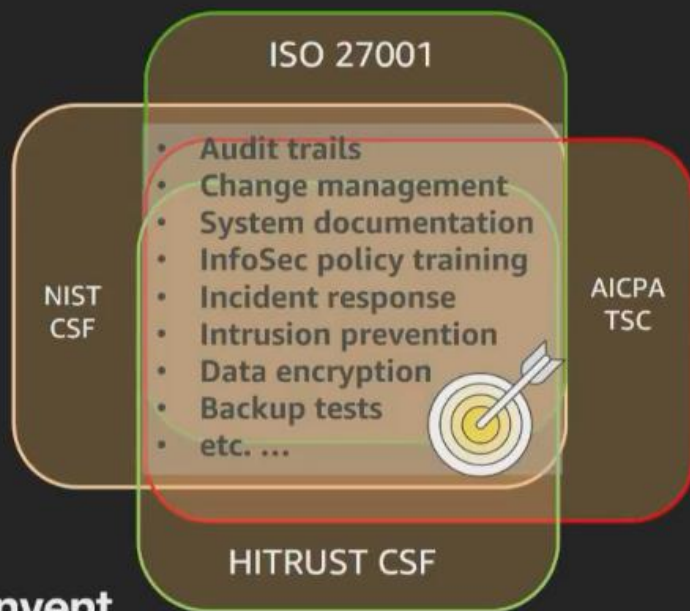
- How some customers audit you
- Point-in-time: not continuous
- Not based on standards
- No independent verification
- Not highly scalable

Best Practice: Attestations Instead of Questionnaires



- SOC 2, PCI DSS, HIPAA, etc...
- Standardized controls:
 - [AICPA Trust Services Criteria \(SOC 2\)](#)
 - NIST Cybersecurity Framework
 - PCI DSS ROC Template (PCI)
 - ISO 27002 (ISO 27001 Annex A)
 - HITRUST CSF (HIPAA)
 - NIST 800-53 (FISMA)
- Third-party QSAs verify compliance
- Recertification cadence

Best Practice: Align with the Standard Controls



Non-standard controls:
lower priority

"Obfuscate
all
hostnames"



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InfoSec Controls Pertaining to Servers

Control	TSC Ref (SOC 2)	PCI DSS v3.2 Ref
Software patching, change management	CC7.5, CC8.1	6.2, 6.4
Anti-virus detection and prevention	CC6.8	5.1
Access logging, anomaly detection	CC7.2	4.3, 10.1
Access management	CC6.1	2.1, 8.1
Data encryption	CC6.1	4.3, 3.5, 3.6
Secrets management	CC6.1	2.1, 3.5
Monitoring	CC7.1, CC7.2	10.1
Time clock synchronization	(CC2.1)	10.4
Asset inventory	CC6.1	2.4, 3.5.1, 9.7.1

Anti-Pattern: Manual Technical Auditing



- How you audit yourself
- Manual technical audits
- Not highly scalable
- Inconsistent process
- Typically reactive

Best Practice: Continuous **Automated** Auditing



DevSecOps: security as code:

- Proactive controls enforced by code
- Continuous evidence-based auditing

Continuous detective controls:

- Amazon CloudWatch Logs + Alarms
- Amazon Inspector for EC2
- Amazon Macie for Amazon S3
- AWS Trusted Advisor
- AWS Config rules
- Cloud Conformity
- Cloud Custodian
- evident.io
- Dome9
- cfn-nag
- ...and many more!



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Anti-Pattern: Not Using AWS Native-Managed Services



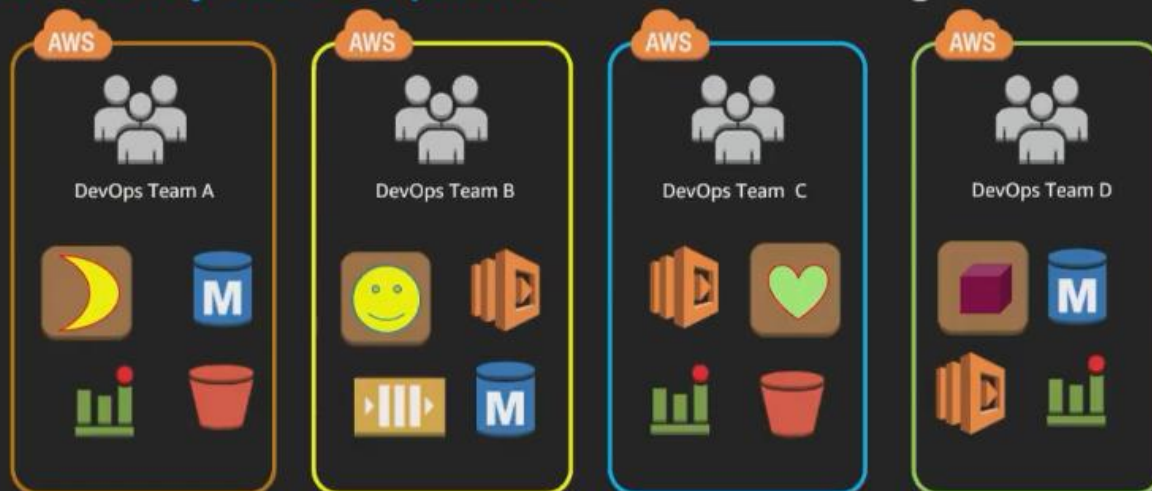
Methodology sprawl: audit complications + **patch drift**

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Consistency and Compliance from AWS-Managed Services



Refer to **AWS Artifact** for AWS attestations and responsibilities

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Example: Amazon RDS At-Rest Encryption Audit

```
import boto3
ec2 = boto3.client('ec2')
regions = ec2.describe_regions()

# Lambda invoked by a Cloudwatch Scheduled Event
def handler(event, context):
    # scan each AWS region
    for reg in regions['Regions']:
        # check each RDS instance in region
        rds = boto3.client('rds', \
            region_name = reg['RegionName'])
        try:
            dbis = rds.describe_db_instances()['DBInstances']
            for dbi in dbis:
                print '{} {} {}'.format(\
                    reg['RegionName'], \
                    dbi['DBInstanceIdentifier'], \
                    dbi['StorageEncrypted'])

        # react if database StorageEncrypted is False
```



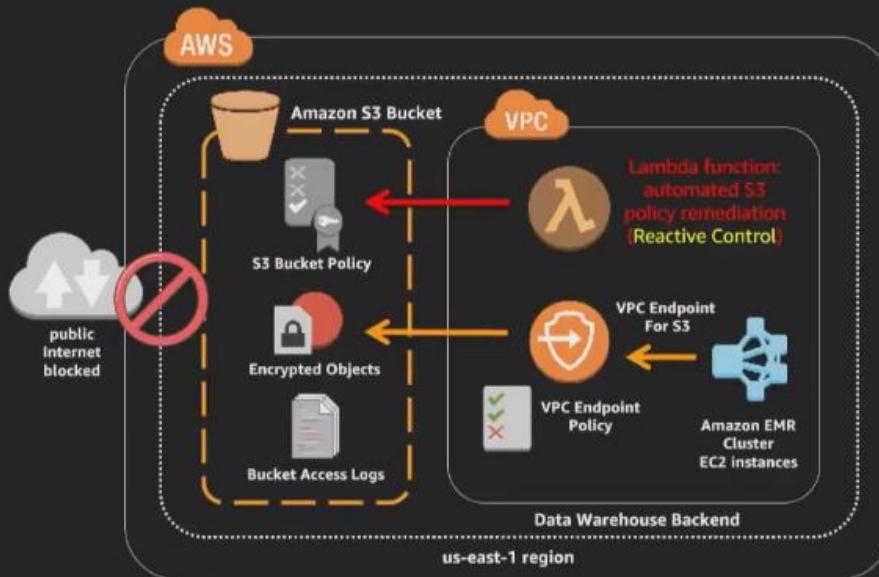
- (Python example)
- Can be serverless
- Can be continuous
- Can log the results
- Can send alerts
- Can remediate
- No DB connection
- AWS Config rule: **RDS_STORAGE_ENCRYPTED**

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Example: Amazon S3 Bucket Security Controls



Preventative controls:

S3 Bucket Policy

- Deny request unless:
- From specific sourceVpc
- From specific sourceVpc
- (AND) has specific IAM role
- (AND) Server Side Encryption
- (AND) Secure Transport (SSL)
- (AND MFA Delete required)
- (AND Versioning Enabled)

VPC S3 Endpoint Policy

- Denies S3 request unless:
- Targeted to specific S3 buckets

Detective controls:

AWS Config rules

- s3-bucket-logging-enabled
- s3-bucket-public-read-prohibited
- s3-bucket-public-write-prohibited
- s3-bucket-ssl-requests-only

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Best Practice: Train Your Technical Auditors



- AWS Auditor Learning Path
- AWS Tech Essentials
- Goal: [DevSecOps](#)

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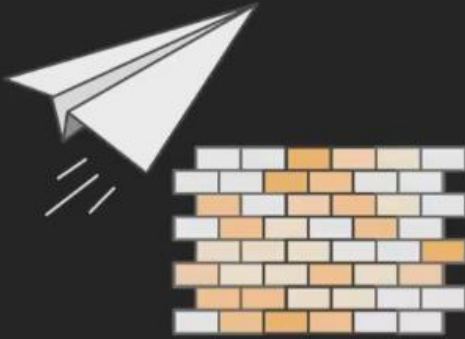


InfoSec Auditing



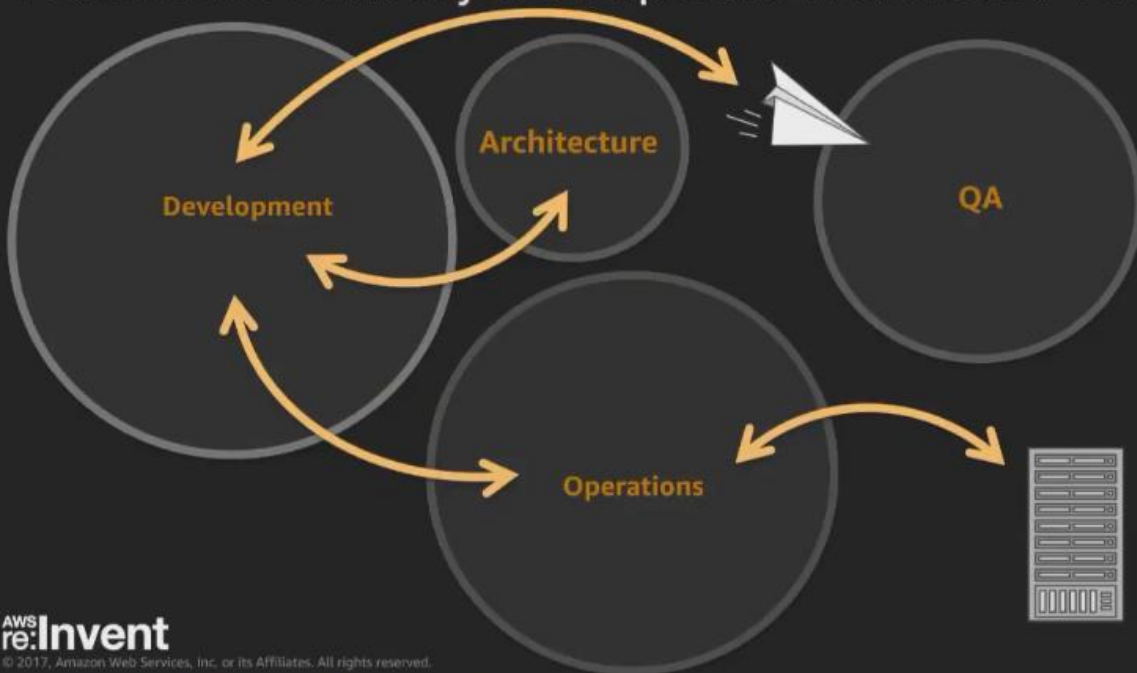
Software Delivery

Anti-Pattern: Over-the-Wall Software Delivery



- Dev, QA, and ops kept separate
- Manual handoff processes
- CI/CD logistically blocked
- Tight controls and guardrails
- Post-deployment security checks
- Infrequent release cycles
- Infrequent patch rollouts

Traditional Delivery via Separate Functional Teams



DevOps: Small Interdisciplinary Delivery Teams

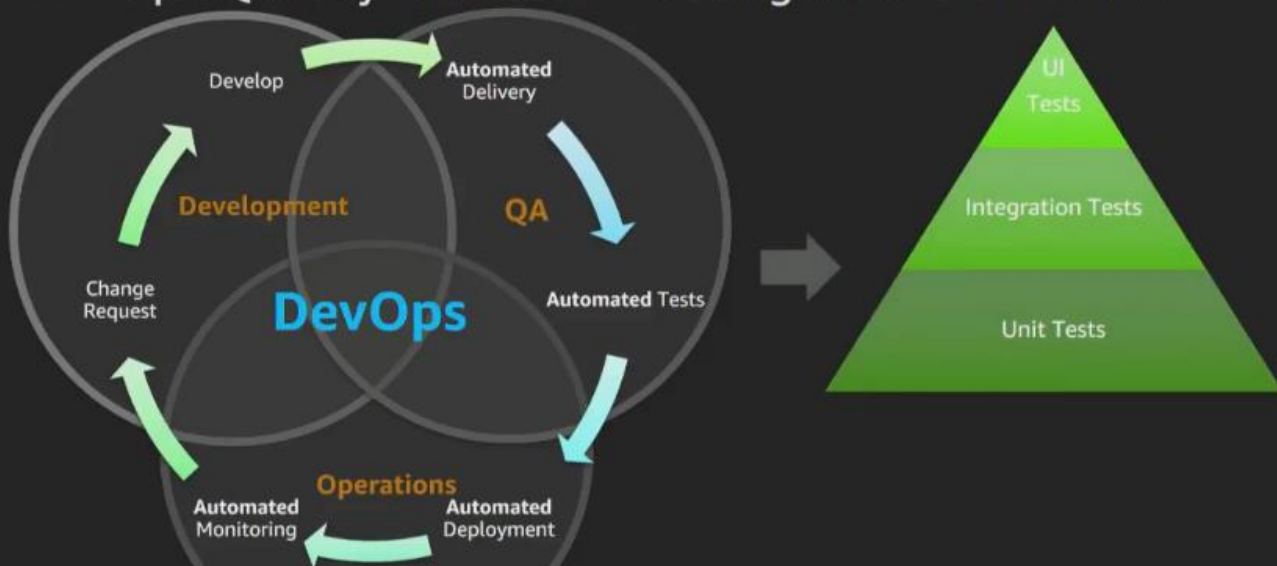


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DevOps Quality: Fanatical Testing and Automation

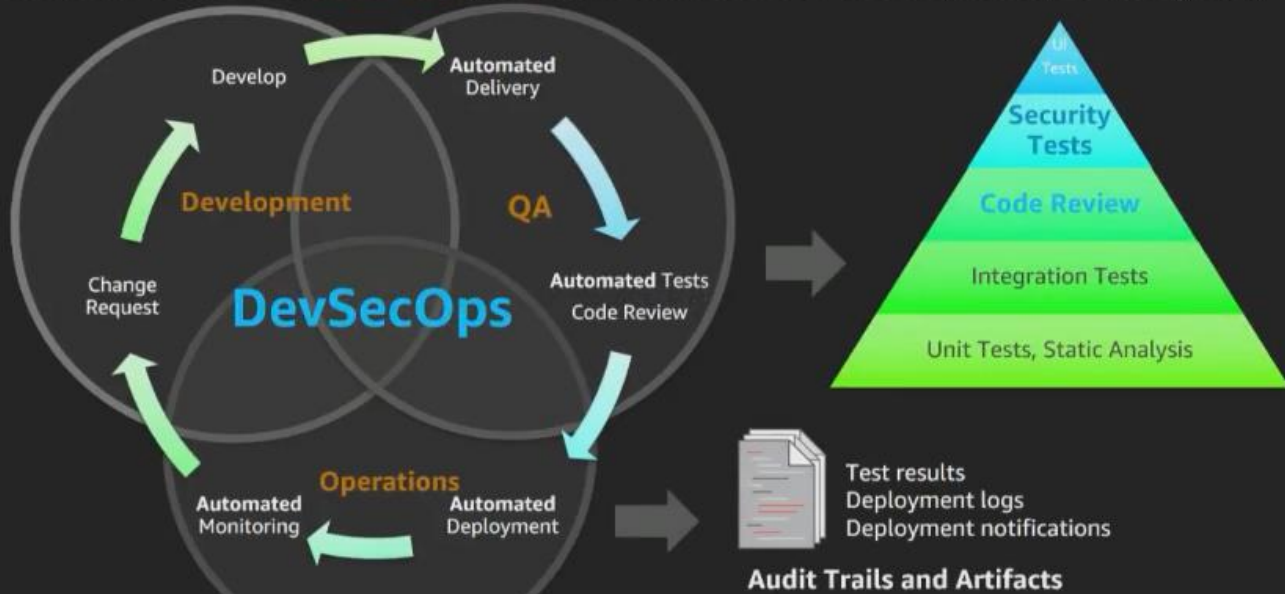


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Critical Practice: SSDLC (Secure Software Development Lifecycle)



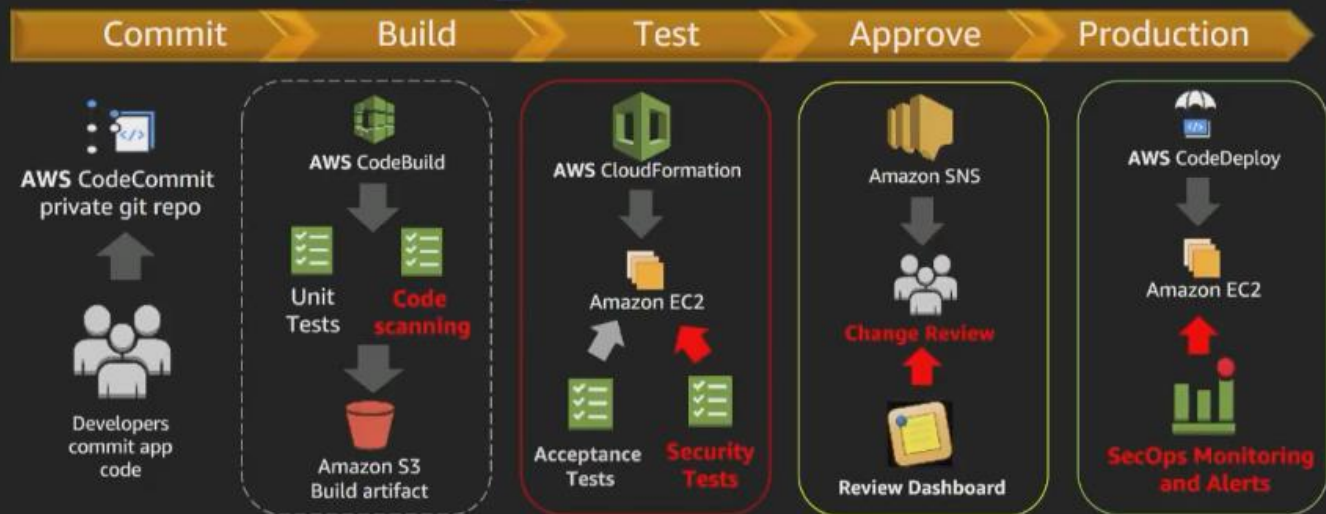
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Example: DevSecOps Pipeline on AWS

 AWS CodePipeline

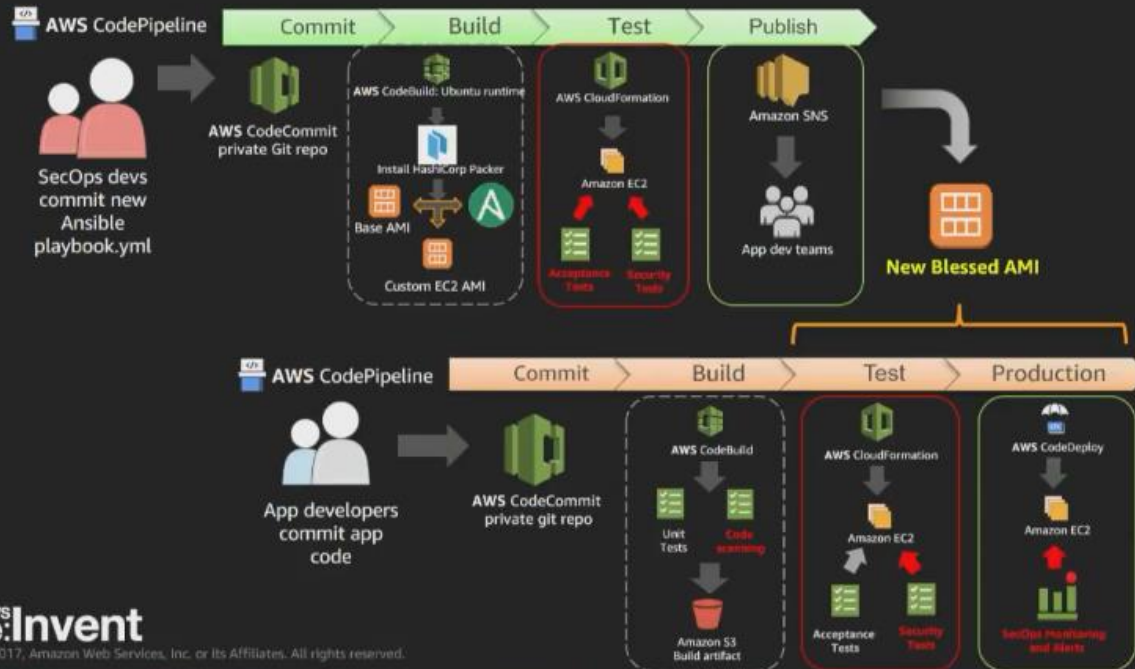


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Example: Continuous and Routine OS Rehydration, Patching



DevSecOps at Fidelity Investments

Jonathan Baulch

Director of Architecture

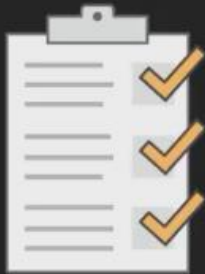
Fidelity Investments

How Fidelity is Leveraging AWS



- Web application re-platform
- Big-data analytics
- Artificial Intelligence platform
- DevOps transformation

Layers of Security at Fidelity



Prevention

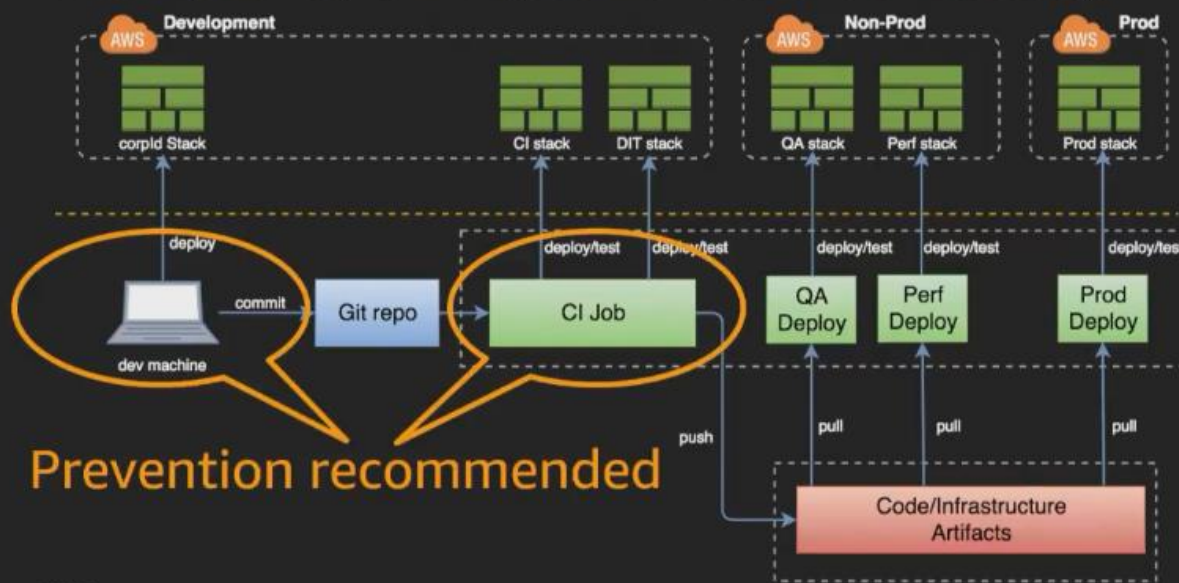


Detection

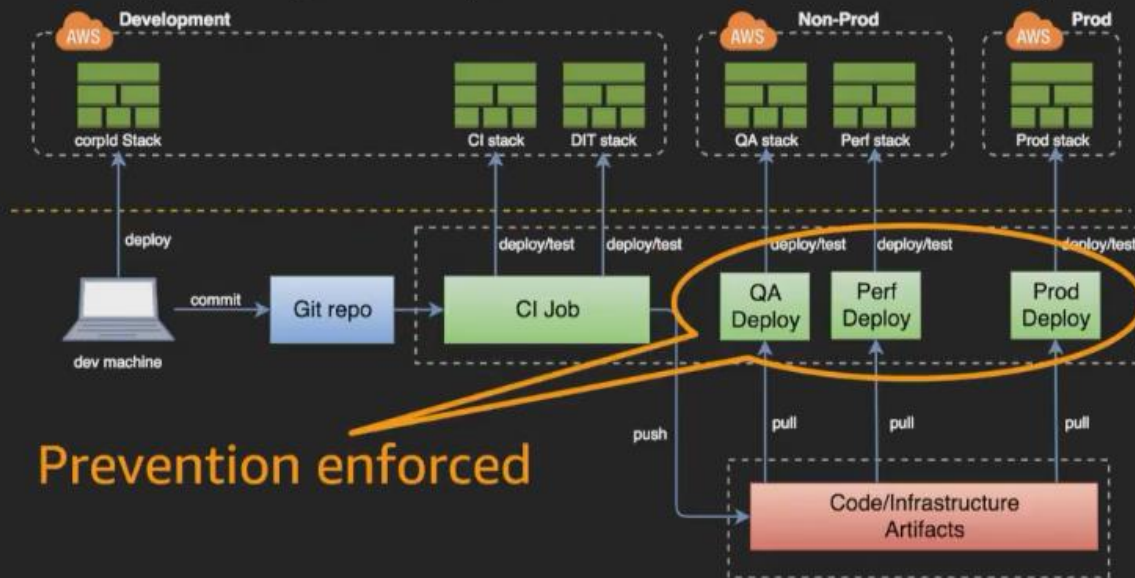


Remediation

Example CI/CD Pipeline Used at Fidelity



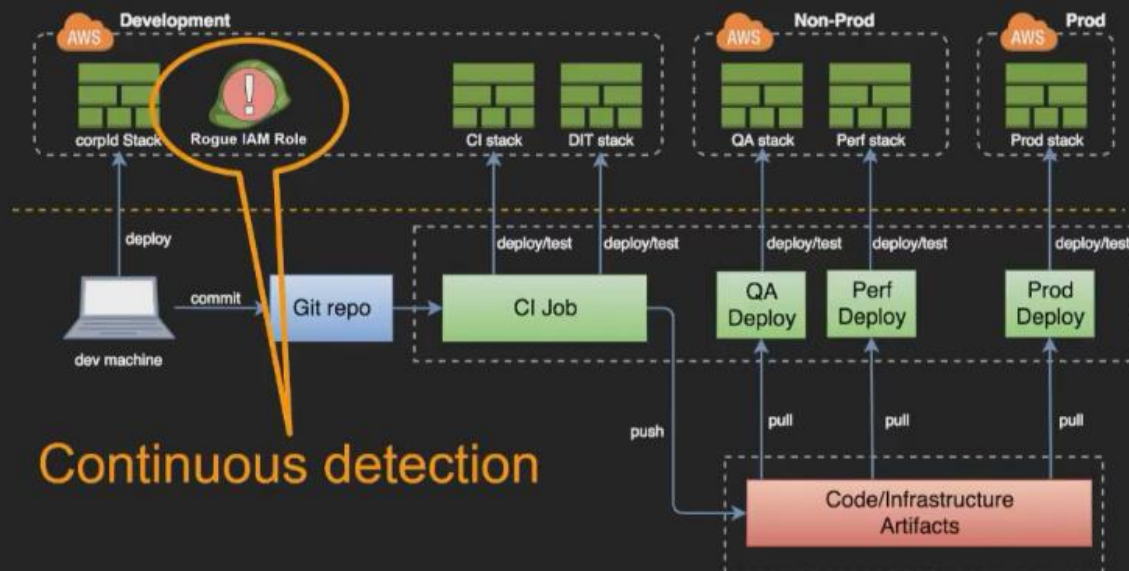
Example CI/CD Pipeline Used at Fidelity



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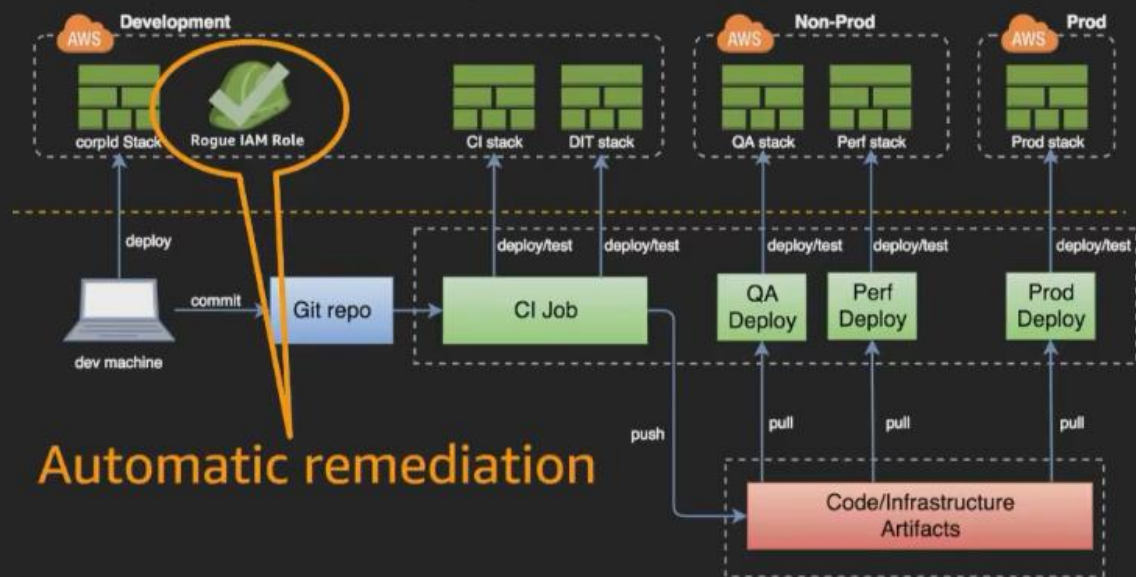
Example CI/CD Pipeline Used at Fidelity



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Example CI/CD Pipeline Used at Fidelity



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cfn-nag: Linting for CloudFormation Templates



- Free, open source
- Extremely extensible
- Least-privilege checking
- Access-logs check
- Encryption checks
- Security groups checks
- and more!


Extending cfn-nag for Fidelity



We created rules covering our AWS infrastructure to be used with cfn-nag rules.

Example: IAM policy compliance check

```
...
"Resources": {
  "sqsProducer": {
    "Type": "AWS::IAM::Role",
    "Properties": {
      "RoleName": "SQS_Producer",
      "AssumeRolePolicyDocument": {
        "Version": "2012-10-17",
        "Statement": [
          {
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Principal": {
              "AWS": {
                "Fn::Join": [ ...
```



Every role requires
a whitelist attached

Compliance exception caught by cfn-nag

```
$ cfn_nag_scan -i sampleCfnCft.json
```

```
-----  
sampleCfnCft.json  
-----  
-----
```

```
| FAIL FID1  
|  
| Resources: ["sqsProducer"]  
|  
| Role does not have IAM Whitelist policy attached
```



```
Failures count: 1
```

```
Warnings count: 0
```

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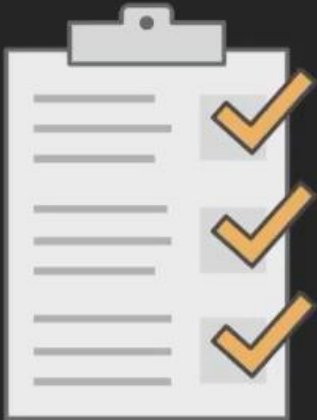
We execute cfn-nag on all of our CF templates before deployments

Critical Learnings



- Avoid the wall-drive controls through practical use cases
- DevSecOps increases not only agility, but security as well
- Application team empowerment

Key Takeaways



Standard controls:

- Prescriptive
- Certifiable

Managed services:

- Consistent controls
- Less overhead

DevSecOps practices:

- Faster delivery
- Faster patching
- Faster innovation

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Thank you!

Please submit your evaluations!

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