

Immersion Day IAM Hands-On Lab

Getting Started with Identity & Access Management

Identity & Access Management (IAM) Overview

AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) is a free service that enables you to manage access to AWS services and resources securely. Using IAM, you can create and manage AWS users and groups, and use permissions to allow and deny their access to AWS resources. This introductory lab is broken into the following parts:

- Part One: You will create two customer-managed IAM policies.
- Part Two: You will create four AWS IAM users.
- Part Three: You will create one AWS IAM group.
- Part Four: You will create two AWS IAM roles.
- Part Five: You will test the access your configuration has provided.
- Part Six: You will cleanup resources configured in the lab environment.

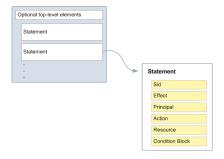
Part One: Create AWS IAM Identity Policies

You manage access in AWS by creating policies and attaching them to IAM entities (users, groups of users, or roles) or AWS resources. A policy is an object in AWS that, when associated with an identity or resource, defines their permissions. AWS evaluates these policies when a Principal entity (user or role) makes a request.

Identity-based policies are <u>JSON</u> (Java Script Object Notation) permissions policy documents that you can attach to an identity (user, group of users, or role) to manage access. A JSON policy document includes these elements:

- Optional policy-wide information at the top of the document
- One or more individual statements

Each statement in a policy includes information about a single permission. If a policy includes multiple statements, AWS applies a logical OR across the statements when evaluating them.



The information in a statement is contained within a series of elements.

- 1. Version Specify the version of the policy language that you want to use.
- 2. Statement Container for the following elements:

- o Sid Include an optional statement ID to differentiate between your statements.
- Effect Use Allow or Deny indicating whether the policy allows or denies access.
- Principal We will NOT use this element in this lab. The Principal element is used in resource policy statements to identify the Principal (account, user, role, or federated user) to which you would like to allow or deny access. This element is NOT used when creating IAM identity policies. In IAM identity policies the Principal is implied from the user or role that the policy is attached to.
- o Action Include a list of actions that the policy allows or denies.
- o Resource Specify a list of resources to which the actions apply.
- Condition (Optional) Specify the circumstances under which the policy grants permission.

If you want to define more than one permission for an entity (user, group, or role), you can use multiple statements in a single policy. You can also attach multiple policies to an IAM entity to manage access. For example, figure 1 has two permission statements included in the policy that enable all DynamoDB actions against two tables located us-east-1 and us-west-2 regions in the AWS Account 123456789012.

Figure 1. Example IAM Identity Policy

We will now create an AWS IAM identity policies using the AWS console.

- Log into the AWS account you plan to use for this lab. Ensure that you authenticate using an
 identity which has been granted Administrative access in the AWS account. It is recommended
 that you use an identity that has the AdministratorAccess policy
 (arn:aws:iam::aws:policy/AdministratorAccess) attached.
- 2. Access the AWS IAM console (https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home#/home) and select Policies from the sidebar or go to https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home?region=us-east-1#/policies. Click Create Policy. On the "Create Policy" screen, select the JSON tab and paste the policy contents from figure 2 below into the JSON text editing panel in the AWS console.

The policy has 3 statements. When attached to an IAM entity these statements:

Allow the Principal (e.g. User) to execute all Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) actions against EC2
instances which have the same department tag as the Principal attempting to perform the
action.

•	Allow the Principal (e.g. User) to describe all EC2 instances within the AWS account. Explicitly deny the Principal (e.g. User) access to manipulate IAM or EC2 tags within the AWS account.

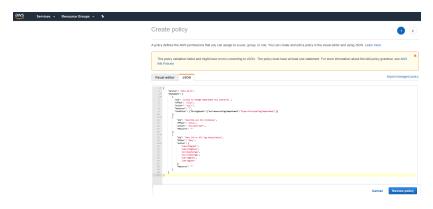
Figure 2. The departmental-ec2-access policy

```
"Version": "2012-10-17",
"Statement": [
        "Sid": "AllowDepartmentEC2Management",
        "Effect": "Allow",
        "Action": "ec2:*",
        "Resource": "*",
        "Condition": {
            "StringEquals": {
                "ec2:ResourceTag/department": "${aws:PrincipalTag/department}"
        "Sid": "AllowEC2DescribeAll",
        "Effect": "Allow",
        "Action": "ec2:Describe*",
        "Resource": "*"
    },
        "Sid": "DenyTagManagement",
        "Effect": "Deny",
        "Action": [
            "iam:UntagUser",
            "iam:UntagRole",
            "ec2:DeleteTags",
            "ec2:CreateTags",
            "iam:TagRole",
            "iam:TagUser"
        "Resource": "*"
   }
]
```

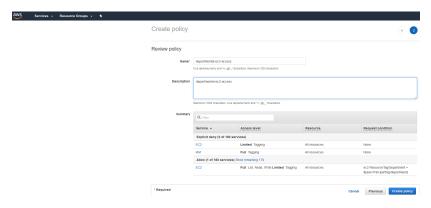
Note: aws:PrincipalTag is an AWS Global Condition Context Key. AWS provides context keys which can be used in IAM policies to restrict access. In this IAM policy, we use it to check that the tag attached to the IAM Principal (e.g. User) making the request. This policy uses the StringEquals operator to

compare the value of the department key attached to the IAM Principal with the department key of the EC2 resource they are attempting to access using the Amazon EC2 ec2:ResourceTag condition key.

3. After pasting the policy from figure 2 into the JSON editor in the AWS Console. Click "Review policy".



4. Name the policy "departmental-ec2-access" and optionally, add a description. Click "Create policy".



- 5. Policy creation is confirmed as you are returned the IAM console policy dashboard.
- 6. Repeat steps 1 through 5 to create a second policy. Name the policy "contractorsroleassumption policy". On the create policy screen, use the policy provided in Figure 3. This policy allows the assumption of an IAM Role if the condition is met that the role has a tag with a key of contractors assume role and a value of true.

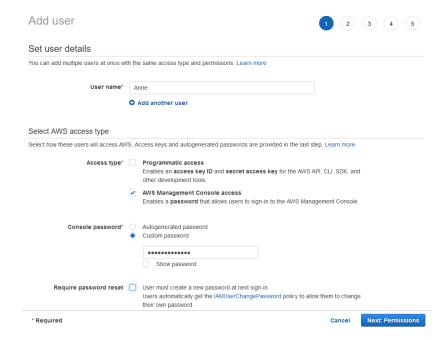
Figure 3. The contractorsassumerole policy

```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": {
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Action": "sts:AssumeRole",
    "Resource": "*",
    "Condition": {"StringLike": {"iam:ResourceTag/contractorsassumerole": "true"}}
}
```

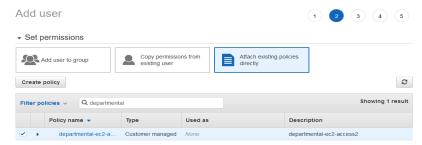
Congratulations! You have created two IAM Identity policies. These policies are customer-managed policies. Customer managed policies are standalone identity–based policies that you create and which you can attach to multiple IAM users, groups, or roles in your AWS account.

Part Two: Create IAM Users

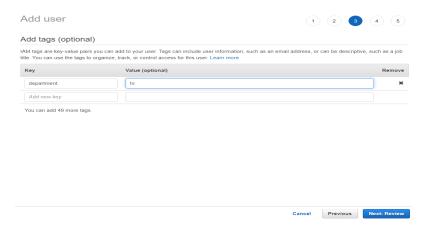
- 1. Access the AWS IAM console and select Users from the sidebar or go to https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home?region=us-east-1#/users. Click Create User.
- 2. On the "Add user" screen, under "Set User Details" enter "Anne" in the User name field
- 3. On the "Add user" screen, under "Select AWS access type", check the checkbox to enable AWS Management Console access. Do not enable programmatic access. Under "Console password" select the Custom password radio button and enter a password in the text box make a note of this password since it will be needed to later to test the security configuration. Ensure the "Require password reset" checkbox is unchecked. Click "Next: Permissions".



4. On the "Set permissions" screen, select the "Attach existing policies directly" option and use the filter search to locate the Identity policy created in part one of this lab. Select the checkbox next to the policy to select it. Click "Next: Tags".



5. On the "Add Tags" screen, add a tag with the Key "department" and a Value of "hr".



- 6. On the "Review" screen, review your choices. Click "Create Users"
- 7. On the final "Add user" screen, verify that user was successfully created. Click Close.
- 8. Repeat Lab Part Two steps 1 through 7 to create the user "Sally". On step 2 enter "Sally" in the User name field. On step 3, provide the Sally with the same permissions as Anne. On step 4, when adding a tag to the user Sally, the tag should have the key "department" and a value of "finance" as seen below.



- 9. Repeat Lab Part Two steps 1 through 7 to create the user "John". On step 2 enter "John" in the User name field. On step 3, DO NOT provide any permissions. On step 4, do not add any tags to the user John.
- 10. Repeat Lab Part Two steps 1 through 7 to create the user "Bob". On step 2 enter "Bob" in the User name field. On step 3, DO NOT provide any permissions. On step 4, do not add any tags to the user Bob.

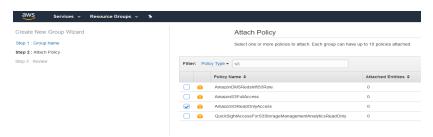
Congratulations! You have created four IAM users. The users are named Anne, Sally, John and Bob.

- Anne has the permission policy "department-ec2-access" attached to her identity. Anne has a tag with a key of "department" and a value of "hr" attached to her identity.
- Sally has the permission policy "department-ec2-access" attached to her identity. Sally has a tag with a key of "department" and a value of "finance" attached to her identity.
- John has no permission policy attached to his identity. John has no tags attached to his identity.
- Bob has no permission policy attached to his identity. Bob has no tags attached to his identity.

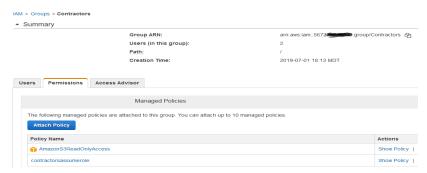
Part Three: Create an IAM Group

An IAM group is a collection of users. Groups are often based on job function and can be used to simplify provisioning common user access requirements. They allow you to manage permissions by applying policies to groups of users, rather than applying policies to each individual user.

- Access the AWS IAM console and select Groups from the sidebar or go to https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home?region=us-east-1#/groups. Click Create New Group.
- 2. Type in Contractors as the Group Name. Go to the Next Step.
- 3. On the Attach Policy screen, enter the search string "S3" in the search bar and check the checkbox next to the AWS managed policy titled "AmazonS3ReadOnlyAccess".
- 4. On the same Attach Policy screen execute a second search. Enter the search string "contractors" for a and add the customer-managed policy named "contractorsroleassumptionpolicy". Policies are what give IAM entities permissions. AWS provides managed policies for many common access needs. We will use the AmazonS3ReadOnlyAccess which will provide read only access to the Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3) to all members of the Contractors group. Click Next Step.



- 5. On the review screen, click Create Group.
- 6. The group is created, and you are returned to the Group creation IAM console. Select the Contractors group and chose "Add Users to Group" from the Group Actions Menu Dropdown.
- 7. Add the users named John and Bob to the Contractors group. Check the checkbox next to their names and Click "Add Users". The IAM groups dashboard will now show the Contractors group has 2 users.

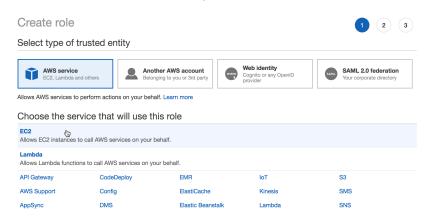


Congratulations! You have created an IAM Group and attached the AWS managed policy AmazonS3ReadOnlyAccess which provides read only access to Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3) to members of this group. You added the customer managed policy named "contractorsroleassumptionpolicy" which will allow members of this group to assume roles which have been tagged with a Key of contractorsassumerole and a Value of true. You added the IAM users John and Bob into the Contractors group.

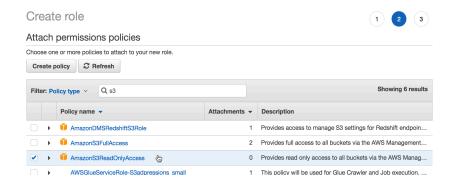
Part Four: Create IAM Roles

IAM Roles can be assumed by AWS services, IAM users, or applications. They are assigned temporary rather than permanent credentials whenever assumed. Using roles for privileged permissions sets can help improve your security posture since credential exposure is minimized.

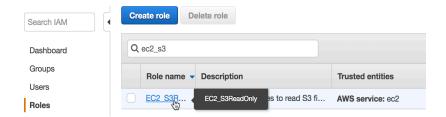
- 1. Access the AWS IAM console and select Roles from the sidebar or go to https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home?region=us-east-1#/roles
- 2. On the **Select type of trusted identity** page, you decide who or what will be able to assume this role. For this lab, we will create a role that allows an EC2 instance to read files in S3. Therefore, we will stay on the **AWS service** tab and select **EC2**. Go to **Next: Permissions**.



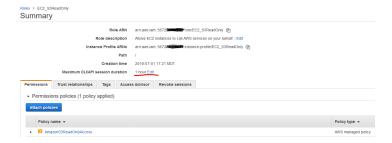
3. Attach a managed policy with S3 Read Only access to the role by typing **s3** into the search bar, and then selecting the **AmazonS3ReadOnlyAccess** policy. Go to the **Next: Review**.



- 4. Give your role a descriptive name, such as **EC2_S3ReadOnly** and edit the **role description** to be a helpful summary of what this role is. When you're done, **Create Role**.
- 5. You are now back on the **Roles** page. Enter the name of the role you just created into the search bar and click on the role name.



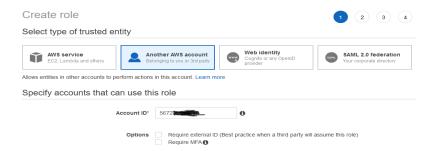
6. You are now on the **Summary** page of the role you just created. Here you can view and edit attributes of the role, such as how long the role's temporary credentials last. The default value as you can see below is 1 hour but can be up to 12 hours. Click on the Trust relationships tab and you will see that ec2.amazonaws.com is listed as a trusted entity that can assume this role.



Congratulations! You've just created an IAM role which will allow EC2 instances in your account to assume this role and read objects in S3. We will now create a role which can be assumed by an IAM user in your account.

- 7. Access the AWS IAM console and select Roles from the sidebar or go to https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home?region=us-east-1#/roles
- 8. On the **Select type of trusted identity** page, select "Another AWS Account". Cross account role assumption is a method to provide privileged access to identities across multiple AWS accounts. For the purposes of this lab we will demonstrate role assumption within one AWS account. We will create a role that we will allow IAM users to switch to this role from within

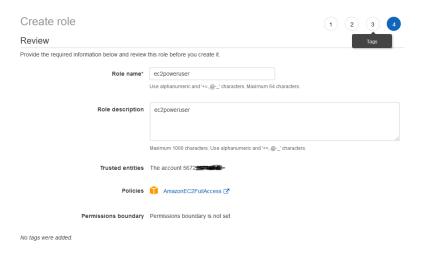
the same account. In the Account ID text box, enter the Account ID of the AWS account that you are currently logged into. For the purposes of this lab, leave both options (require external ID, require MFA) unchecked. Go to **Next: Permissions**.



9. Under the Attach permissions policies screen, use the text box to perform a filtered search for the AmazonEC2FullAccess policy. Check the check box to select this policy and attach it to the role being created. Click "Next: Tags".

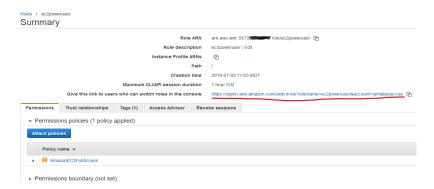


10. On the "Add Tags" screen, add a tag with the Key "contractorsassumerole" and a Value of "true". Click "Next Review". On the review screen name the role "ec2poweruser". Click create role.



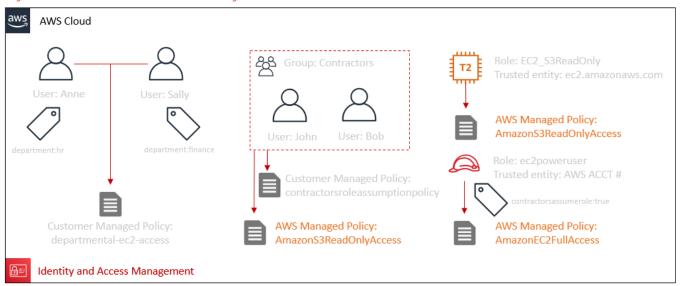
11. The role is created successfully. Access the ec2poweruser role details page by searching for role by name from the Roles dashboard or by accessing https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home?#/roles/ec2poweruser

12. Confirm that AmazonEC2FullAccess is listed under attached policies and copy the switch roles console link from your IAM dashboard (example link location underlined in red in the image below). Copy into a text editor for safekeeping. You will need this URL in Part Five of this lab to test access.



Part Five: Test Access

Figure 4. Provisioned IAM Configurations



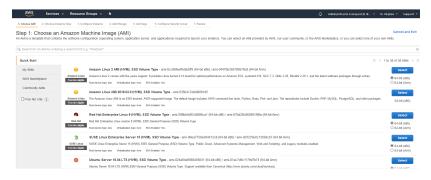
We can summarize the existing configurations we have completed in this lab as follows:

- A customer managed IAM identity policy named departmental-ec2-access.
- A customer managed IAM identity policy named contractorsroleassumptionpolicy.
- A user named Anne, who has a tag with the key of department and the value of hr. Anne has the departmental-ec2-access policy attached to her identity.
- A user named Sally, who has a tag with the key of department and the value of finance. Sally has the departmental-ec2-access policy attached to her identity.
- A user named John.
- A user named Bob.

- An IAM Group named Contractors which has the AWS Managed policy named AmazonS3ReadOnlyAccess attached to the group. John and Bob are members of the group.
- A role named EC2_S3ReadOnly (which has a trust policy making the role assumable by an EC2 instance) that has the Amazon managed policy named AmazonS3ReadOnlyAccess attached to the role.
- A role named ec2poweruser (which has a trust policy making the role assumable by IAM entities within this AWS account) that has the Amazon managed policy named AmazonEC2FullAccess attached to the role. The role has a tag with the Key of contractorsassumerole and the Value of true

We have used both AWS and Customer managed policies. We have attached policies to IAM users, IAM Roles and Groups of IAM users. We have tagged IAM Users Anne and Sally. We have tagged the ec2poweruser IAM Role. It is not possible to tag a Group of users. In the next part of this lab, we will test the access provided.

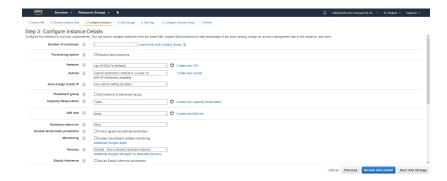
1. Ensure that you are still logged into your AWS account using an identity which has been granted Administrative access in the AWS account. It is recommended that you use an identity that has the AdministratorAccess policy (arn:aws:iam::aws:policy/AdministratorAccess) attached. Access the EC2 Console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/v2/home?region=us-east-1#Home: Click the Launch instances blue button. The EC2 Launch wizard screen loads. On "Step 1: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)" page, select an Amazon Linux 2 AMI



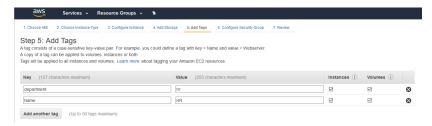
2. On "Step 2: Choose an Instance Type", select a t2.micro or t2.nano EC2 instance type. Click "Next: Configure Instance Details".



3. On "Step 3: Configure Instance Details", choose an appropriate VPC and subnet within your account to launch your EC2 instance. Note: Neither SSH inbound to, or outbound Internet access from the EC2 instance are required during this lab. Click "Next: Add Storage".



- 4. On "Step 4: Add Storage", accept the default storage size allocated to your EC2 instance.
- 5. Click "Step 5: Add Tags". Add two tags. The first tag should have the key "department" and a value of "hr". The second tag should have the key "Name" and a value of "HR". **Attention these values are case sensitive !!** Click "Next Configure Security Group"



7. On "Step 6: Configure Security Group", create a new security group with a name and description of "resource-tagging-lab". Remove all inbound rules to the EC2 instance that are defined in the security group. Click "Review and Launch"



- 8. On "Step 7: Review Instance Launch", review/validate your configurations. Click Launch. You will be prompted by the "Select an Existing Key Pair or Create a New Key Pair" prompt. Choose "Proceed without keypair" from the dropdown menu bar in the prompt and tick the checkbox to acknowledge that you will not be able to connect to the provisioned EC2 instance. Operating system access is not required for this lab.
- 9. **Repeat steps 2a through 2h** to provision a second EC2 instance in your AWS account to provision an EC2 instance for the FINANCE department. When completing steps 2a through 2h for a second time, change the tag values provided in step f. When creating the FINANCE EC2 instance, the first tag should have the key "department" and a value of "finance". The second

tag should have the key "Name" and a value of "FINANCE". Please treat these values as case sensitive!!

- 10. Test Anne's access and ability to administer resources for the hr department
 - a. Return to the AWS IAM console (https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home#/home). Make note of the IAM users sign-in link immediately underneath the welcome banner (see example screenshot below). You will use this to sign in using the IAM User identities we have created in this lab (Anne, Sally and John) to validate their access. Copy the IAM users sign-in link into a text editor for safekeeping. It should be of the format

https://youraccountID-or-alias.signin.aws.amazon.com/console

Welcome to Identity and Access Management

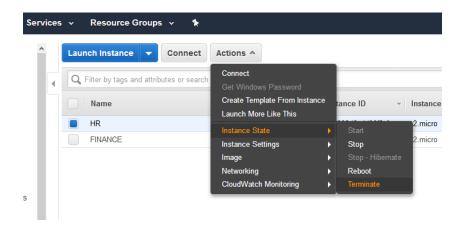
IAM users sign-in link:

https://iamlabexercise.signin.aws.amazon.com/console 🚑

- b. **Log out of the AWS console**. Log in as Anne using the IAM users sign-in link you collected from the IAM Console. Specify the IAM user Anne as the User and use the password your specified earlier when creating the user Anne.
- 11. Continue testing Anne's access. Access the EC2 console

 (https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/v2/home?region=us-east1#Instances:sort=instanceState
). Select the checkbox for the EC2 instance named FINANCE.

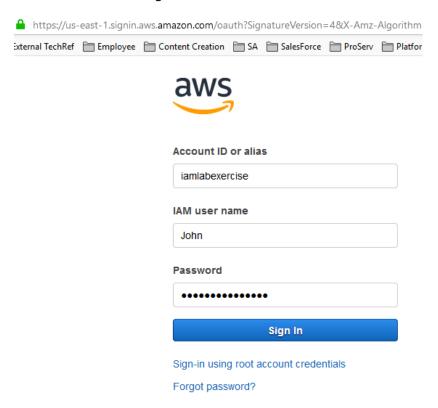
 Using the Actions menu, attempt to Terminate the EC2 instance named "FINANCE" by selecting STOP under the Instance State menu option. The operation will fail because the department tag value attached to the EC2 instance does not match the department tag value attached to the Principal (Anne). The condition in the statement titled "AllowDepartmentEC2Management" in the departmental-ec2-access policy is not met and the request fails. Attempt the same operation after deselecting the EC2 instance named "FINANCE" and selecting the instance named "HR". The operation will succeed because the condition in the policy statement is met and the action is allowed. Log out of the AWS Console.



- 12. Test Sally's access and ability to administer resources for the finance department.
 - a. Log in as Anne using the IAM users sign-in link you collected from the IAM Console. Specify the IAM user Sally as the User and use the password your specified earlier when creating the user Sally.
 - b. Access the EC2 console (https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/v2/home?region=us-east-1#Instances:sort=instanceState). Attempt to Stop the EC2 instance named "FINANCE". The operation will succeed. Do not terminate the EC2 instance named "FINANCE". Log out of the AWS Console.

Congratulations !! You have validated access for Anne and Sally to departmental EC2 resources based on tag key and tag values.

- 13. Test John's ability to access S3 as a result of his membership to the contractors group.
 - a. Log in as John using the IAM users sign-in link you collected from the IAM Console. Specify the IAM user John as the User and use the password your specified earlier when creating the user John.



- b. Access the S3 console (https://s3.console.aws.amazon.com/s3/home?region=us-east-1#). The operation will succeed. Attempt to create a new S3 bucket. The operation will fail. John has been provided read only access to S3 via his membership of the Contractors IAM group.
- 14. Test John's ability to assume the ec2poweruser role given his "assumerole" tag with a value of "true"
 - a. While still logged in as the IAM user John, use the link captured in part four step 12 of this lab to switch roles to ec2poweruser role. Paste the link or type in a browser. It should be of the format

 $\verb|https://signin.aws.amazon.com/switchrole?roleName=ec2poweruser&account= \verb|youraccountID-or-alias|| account | acc$

Alternatively, use the switch role option under the user menu in the primary AWS console



Provide your AccountID or account alias, the role name and a display value and color. Click Switch role.



Having assumed the ec2poweruser role, proceed to the EC2 console and terminate the remaining EC2 instance named "FINANCE". The operation will succeed. Access the S3 console. The operation will fail. You do not have access to the S3 console. This is because the permissions of your IAM user (e.g. John) and any roles that you switch to (e.g. ec2poweruser) are not cumulative. John has S3 read access as a result of his membership to the Contractors IAM Group. The ec2poweruser role has access to EC2 but no access to S3. Only one set of permissions is active at a time. When you switch to a role, you temporarily give up your user permissions and work with the permissions that are assigned to the role. When you exit the role, your user permissions are automatically restored.

Congratulations !! You have validated the IAM user John has read only access to S3 and validated his ability to assume the ec2poweruser role with its associated permissions. You observed how permissions are not cumulative with role assumption. You used the ec2poweruser role to clean up EC2 resources provisioned to test IAM user access in the lab.

Part Six: Clean up Lab Resources

We will now cleanup the remaining resources provisioned for this lab. Log into the AWS account you used for this lab. Ensure that you authenticate using an identity which has been granted Administrative access in the AWS account. It is recommended that you use an identity that has the AdministratorAccess policy (arn:aws:iam::aws:policy/AdministratorAccess) attached.

1. Access the AWS IAM console (https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home#/home) and select Policies from the sidebar or go to https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home?region=us-east-1#/policies. Use the search bar to search for the Policy you created in Part One. Select the radio

- button next to the Policy you created (named departmental-ec2-access) and then select "Delete" from the Policy Actions dropdown menu. Accept confirmations to delete the IAM Policy.
- Access the AWS IAM console and select Users from the sidebar or go to <u>https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home?region=us-east-1#/users</u>. For each user created in this lab (Anne, Sally, John), select the checkmark next to their username and then click "Delete User". Accept confirmations to delete the IAM user identities.
- 3. Access the AWS IAM console and select Groups from the sidebar or go to https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home?region=us-east-1#/groups. Check the checkmark next to the group named Contractors and then select "Delete Group" from the Group Actions dropdown menu. Accept confirmations to delete the IAM Group.
- 4. Access the AWS IAM console and select Roles from the sidebar or go to https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home?region=us-east-1#/roles. Use the search bar to search for the Role you created in Part One. Check the checkmark next to the Role named EC2_S3ReadOnly and then click "Delete Role". Accept confirmations to delete the IAM Role.
- 5. Access the EC2 console (https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/v2/home?region=us-east-1#Instances:sort=instanceState). Validate that the instances named HR and Finance have been terminated successfully.

Additional Resources

IAM Introduction: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/introduction.html
IAM Best Practices: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/access_policies.html
IAM Tutorials: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/tutorials.html