

Identity & Access Management

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Overview

This lab will walk you through connecting to the instance and configuring security credentials so that you can interact with the AWS APIs and command line tools. This lab will cover the following topics:

- Creating an IAM Group and adding an IAM user to the Group.
- Exploring the properties of an IAM User.
- Creating an IAM Role for EC2

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Managing AWS IAM User and Security Credentials

Creating IAM Users and Groups

To generate AWS API credentials, go to IAM dashboard in the AWS console.

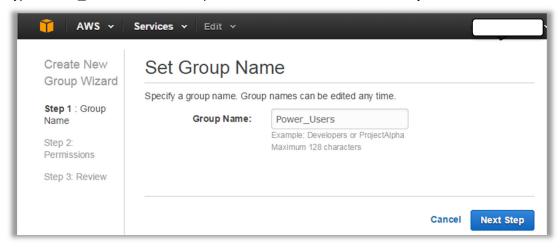


Select "Groups" then Click the "Create a New Group" button.

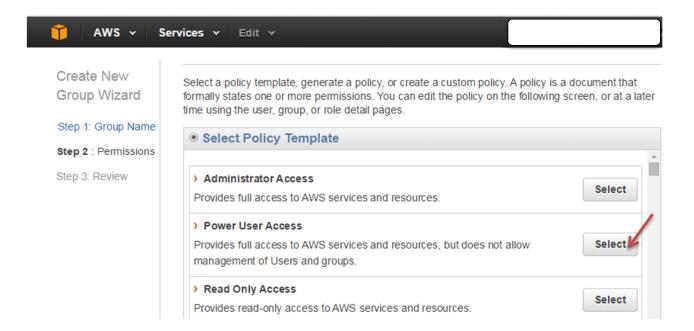


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Type Power_Users into the Group Name: text box and click Next Step.

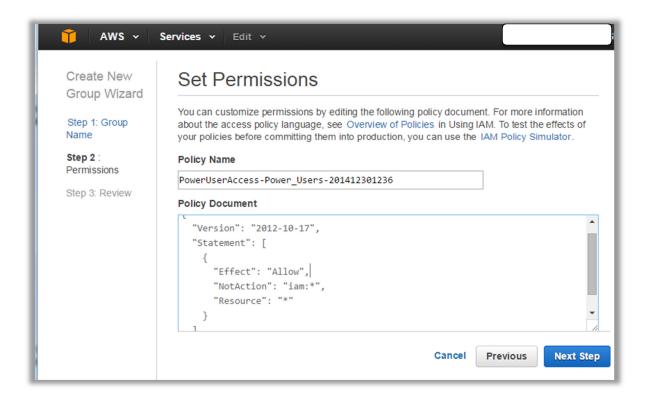


Click the Select button next to Power User Access.

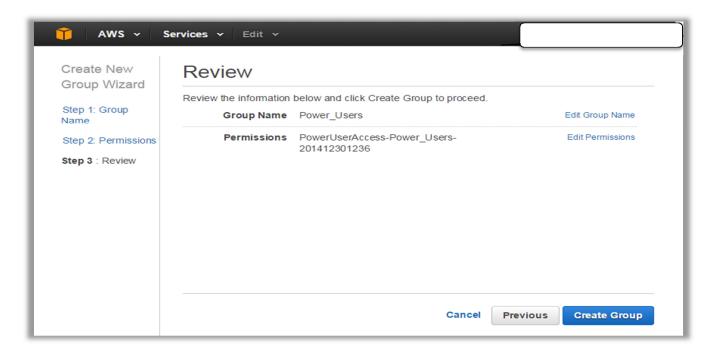


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This will create a "Power User" IAM policy allowing group members to perform any AWS action except perform IAM management (e.g. notice the "NotAction iam:* line). **Click Next Step**:

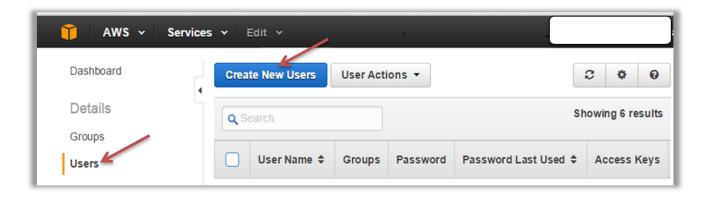


Click on "Create Group" to create group

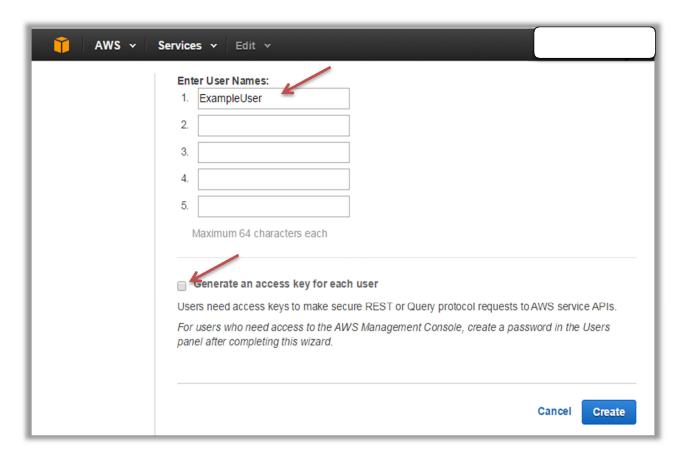


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Select "Users" then Click the "Create a New Users" button.

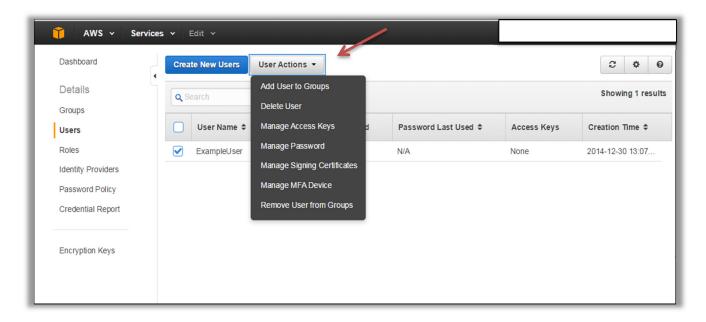


Enter *ExampleUser* in the first text box under **Enter User Names:** Unselect the check box next to **Generate an access key for each user** and click **Create**.

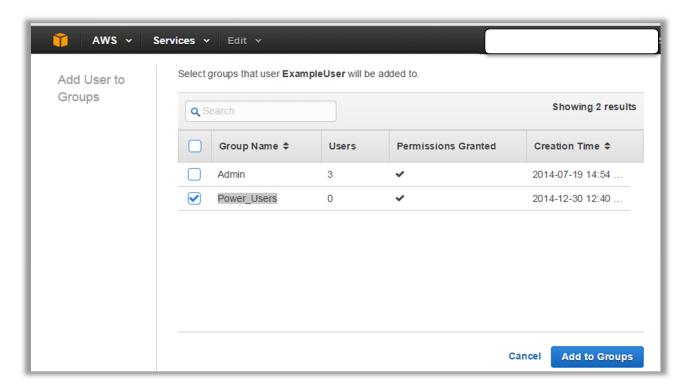


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Select ExampleUser then Click on User Actions and select the Add User to Groups menu option.



Select the Power_User group the click Add to Groups



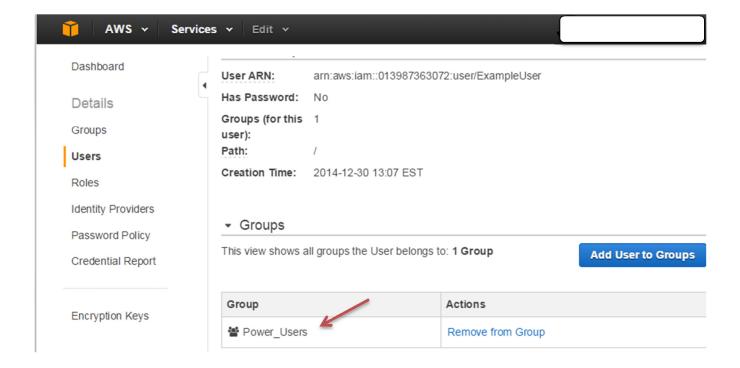
Your new user and group have now been created.

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Managing IAM User Permissions and Credentials

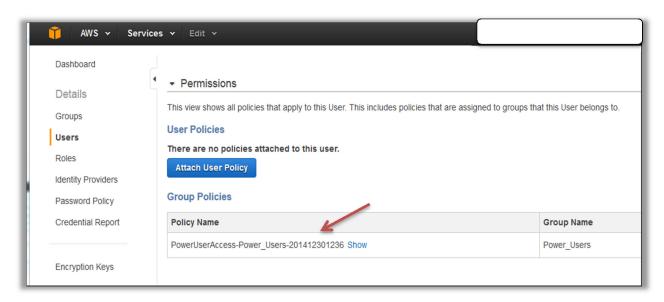
Now that you have created your first IAM user and group, lets take a look at the IAM user properties. Click on the **Users** option in the left-hand menu, then select the *ExampleUser* account that you just created.

Notice the user is a member of the **Power_Users** group that you added them to..

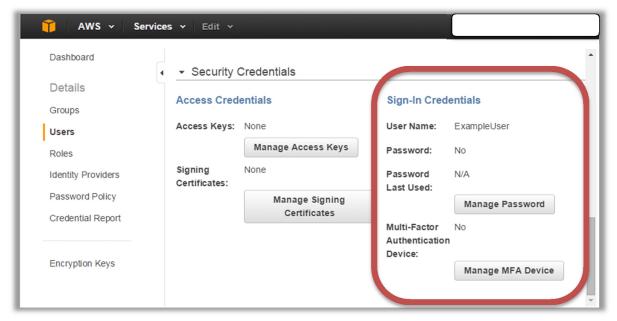


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Now scroll down to **Permissions** to see the individual User and Group Policies that will be applied to this account. Note that this user only has the Power_Users group policy (that you just created) applied to the account.



Scroll down to **Security Credentials**. This is where you can assign or change a User's Console Password and Multi-Factor Authentication device.



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And also Create, Rotate, or Revoke a user's API Access Keys (for using the AWS Command Line tools or other direct access to the AWS APIs through custom or 3rd party applications).



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IAM Roles for EC2

Applications or Command Line Tools running on Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) instances that make requests to Amazon Web Services (AWS) must sign all AWS API requests with AWS access keys. AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) Roles for EC2 instances, is a feature that makes it easier for your applications and command line tools to securely access AWS service APIs from EC2 instances. An IAM role with a set of permissions can be created and attached to an EC2 instance on launch. AWS access keys with the specified permissions will then be automatically made available on EC2 instances that have been launched with an IAM role. IAM roles for EC2 instances manages the muck of securely distributing and rotating your AWS access keys out to your EC2 instances so that you don't have to.

Using IAM roles for instances, you can securely distribute AWS access keys to instances and define permissions that applications on those instances use when accessing other services in AWS. Here are some things you should know about using IAM roles for instances:

- AWS access keys for signing requests to other services in AWS are automatically made available on running instances.
- AWS access keys on an instance are rotated automatically multiple times a day. New access keys will be
 made available at least five minutes prior to the expiration of the old access keys.
- You can assign granular service permissions for applications running on an instance that make requests to other services in AWS.
- You can include an IAM role when you launch On-Demand, Spot, or Reserved Instances.
- IAM roles can be used with all Windows and Linux AMIs.

Warning

If you are using services that use instance metadata service (IMDS) with IAM roles, you should ensure that you do not expose your credentials when the services make HTTP calls on your behalf. You should either include logic to ensure that these services cannot leak information from IMDS, or you should have the appropriate firewall rules in place so that the services cannot access IMDS. Types of services that could expose your credentials include:

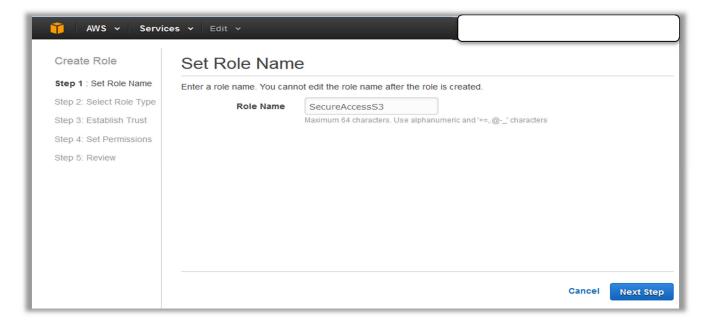
- HTTP proxies
- HTML/CSS validator services
- XML processors that support XML inclusion

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To create an IAM Role for EC2, click on the Roles link on the left-hand menu and click Create New Role:

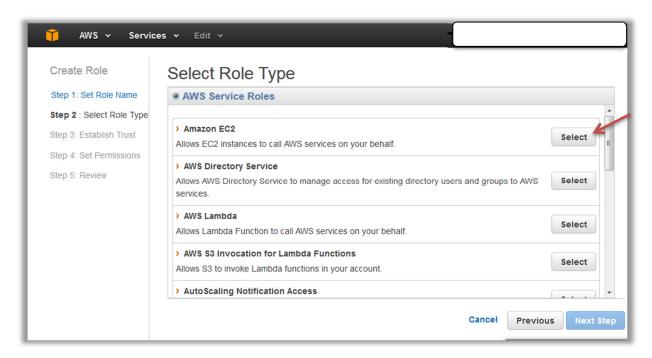


Create a new role called SecureAccessS3 and click Next Step:

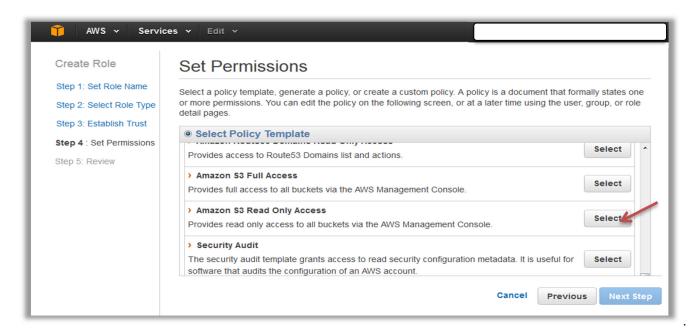


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IAM supports several different types of Roles – select the **Amazon EC2** Service Role for this example, but IAM roles can be used to grant access to AWS Services, other AWS Accounts, and 3rd Party Identity Providers.

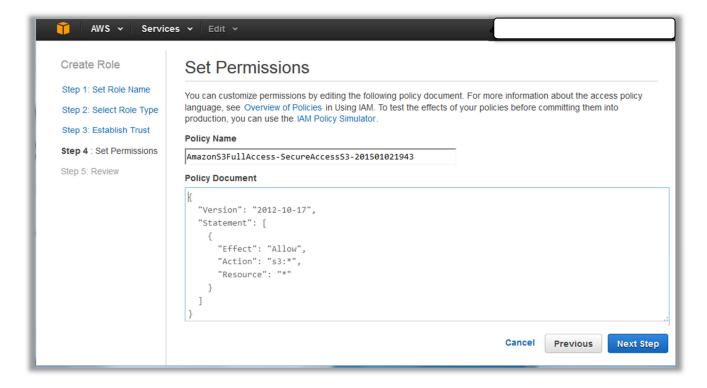


We now need to set permissions for this new role. Scroll down to find the **Amazon S3 Full Access** template and click **Select.**



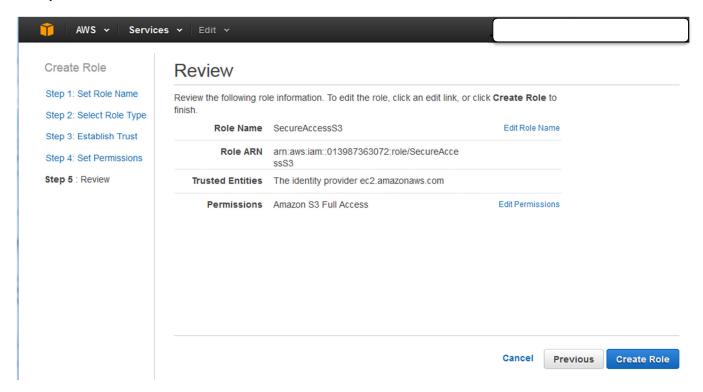
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You now have the opportunity to edit the policy template. Following the principle of least priviledge, we would recommend that you further restrict S3 access to specific S3 buckets or resources. However for the purposes of this lab, click **Next Step** to accept the default policy.

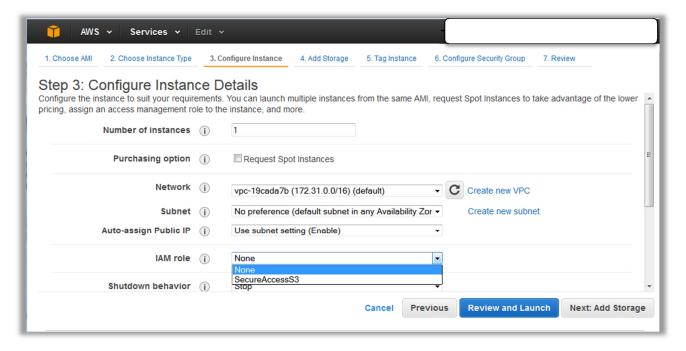


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Finally, click the Create Role button to create this role



You can now use the newly created IAM Role when you launch an EC2 instance. For example, in the EC2 Console, you can select the role as part of launch process. Once the instance is launched, applications and tools that access AWS services will automatically pick up temporary credentials made available to the instance by the infrastructure.



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Congratulations! You have created your first IAM user, group, and role!

To learn more about IAM Roles for EC2 instances, please visit <u>Working with Roles</u> in the Using IAM guide and <u>Using IAM roles with Amazon EC2 Instances</u> in the Amazon EC2 User Guide.