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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A vulnerability	/ assessment and p	penetration test wa	is conducted ii	n accordance	with the
organization		regards to the AW	S Cloud enviror	nment.	

Efforts were based on analyzing nodes on the internal segment of the environment of organization and to analyze for improved security posture and configuration.

After assessing the AWS environment, we found several vulnerabilities that should be remediated in order to create a better defensive posture and a more secure set of systems. Our findings, which will be outlined in this report, include the following areas of vulnerabilities:

- Vulnerable S3 bucket
- · Remote access to RDS server
- · Vulnerable WordPress site
- · Weak policies on Security groups
- Misconfiguration on snapshot permissions
- Dumping of Windows AD password hashes
- Cracking of AD pasword hashes
- · Python 2.x reached end of life

We have included remediation steps for the vulnerabilities in this report.

In conclusion, should look to remediate these findings in order to increase the effectiveness of security on the AWS platform.



#### SCOPE OF TESTING

The scope of testing discussed and agreed upon with organization included assessment of the AWS RDS and associated backend services including the S3, EC2, and the hosted WordPress web application. The test would cover vulnerabilities associated with the web application, associated services and the MySQL server hosting the application of organization

The testing was done utilizing a gray box approach. Some credentials were provided in order to speed up the process of testing and vulnerability finding.

The test included the EC2, S3 buckets, associated backend services and the server hosting the web application. There were three (3) external public facing Ips provided in scope for organization of the server hosting the web application, MySQL and its associated services. Furthermore, A minimalistic privileged user account for the SSH service on the Linux environment, and of the web server was provided so a deep internal assessment of the SSH environment could be completed, in which we did find significant warnings needing to be addressed.





### **VULNERABILITY RATING (CRITICALITY)**

A criticality score, between 0 to 49, is calculated by adding individual scores from "Time", "Expertise", "Knowledge required", "Access to product by attacker", "Type of equipment". A following example is shown:

Factor	Value	Points
Time	< 1 week	1
Expertise	Expert	6
Knowledge required	Restricted information	3
Access from Attacker	Moderate	4
Type of equipment	Standard	0

### **Criticality: Medium (14)**

Scores are also labeled based on three levels of criticality:

Very High - Score between 20-24

High - Score between 14-19

Medium - Score between 10-13

Low - Score between 0-9

Please refer to the criticality matrix in the appendix for more information.

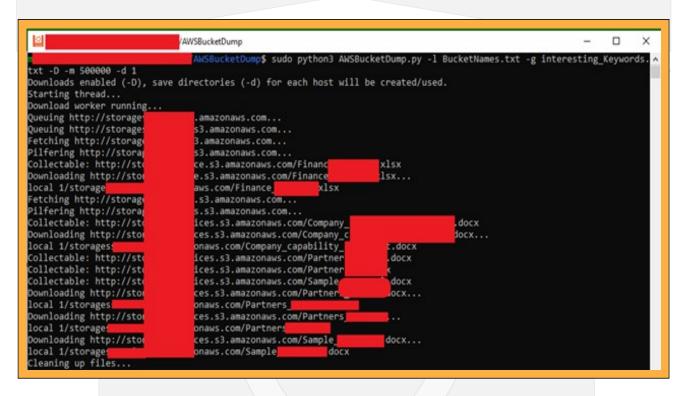


## **SUMMARY OF VULNERABILITIES**

VULNERABILITY #1 CRITICAL (36)

VULNERABLE S3 BUCKET LOCATION: S3 BUCKETS

Some of the S3 buckets are placed with public access. Hence, one using awsbucketdump and a wordlist can locate and even download the data in the S3.



RECOMMENDED
REMEDIATION #1

CRITICALITY: CRITICAL (36)

VULNERABLE S3 BUCKET

LOCATION: S3 BUCKETS

Change the access control list, block public access, revoke list and read permission from "Everyone (public access)".



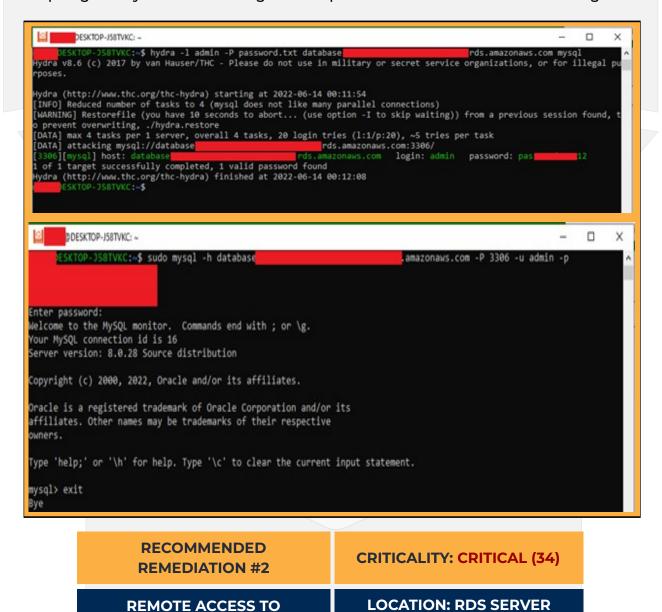
VULNERABILITY #2

CRITICALITY: CRITICAL (34)

REMOTE ACCESS TO
RDS SERVER

LOCATION: RDS SERVER

RDS server is publicly accessible with default username and a guessable password, no fail attempt logout. Hydra was used to guess the password and further was used to log in.



Update NACL/Security Groups to manage the public access to your MySQL, modify and strengthen password.

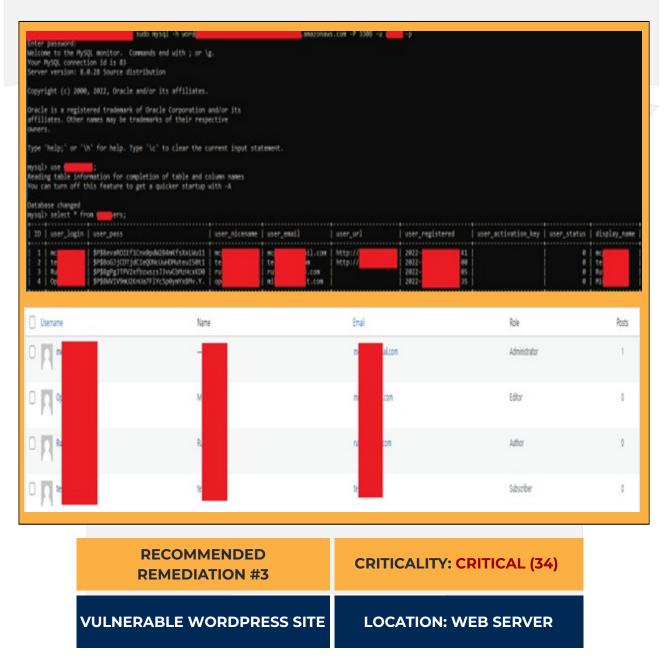
**RDS SERVER** 



VULNERABILITY #3 CRITICALITY: CRITICAL (34)

VULNERABLE WORDPRESS SITE LOCATION: WEB SERVER

The WordPress Site is vulnerable due to the vulnerable EC2 that uses the RDS MySQL from Vulnerability #2. Since an attacker can have access to the RDS MySQL, he/she can create an account and then log in on the WordPress site easily. Now since an attacker have full, he or she can insert new users, update the existing ones, or even delete the whole database.



Fortify the access control to RDS, also use a strong authentication, limit maximum number of wrong tries.



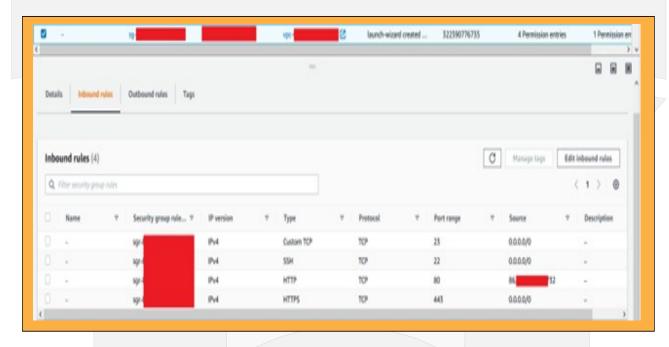


WEAK POLICIES ON SECURITY GROUPS

CRITICALITY: CRITICAL (34)

LOCATION: SECURITY GROUPS

One of the Security Groups is allowing telnet from any IPv4 address, which is dangerous. This security group also allows connection via HTTP which is not secure however the rule only allows internal IP (itself) to communicate so severity is lower.



RECOMMENDED CRITICALITY: CRITICAL (34)

WEAK POLICIES ON SECURITY GROUPS

LOCATION: SECURITY GROUPS

Only use state of the art (secure) protocols and mechanisms and limit the inbound traffic with filtering or whitelisting IP whenever possible.



VULNERABILITY #5

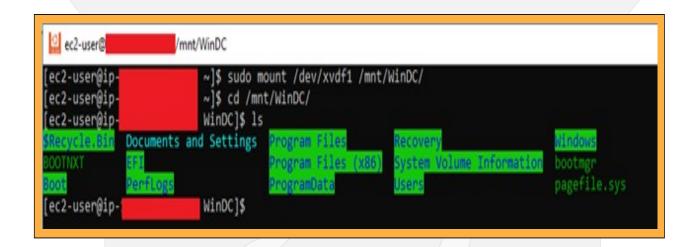
CRITICALITY: CRITICAL (30)

MISCONFIGURATION ON
SNAPSHOT PERMISSIONS

CRITICALITY: CRITICAL (30)

Permissions to create snapshot must be given cautiously as any user having this permission can create and read the snapshots of different services or configurations.

For one example, see below how an end user with additional permission to create screenshot can read the files from another virtual machine, which here is a windows server being used to deploy an Active Directory. So, a user with permissions to create a snapshot, created a Windows server snapshot and convert into a volume following with attaching a EC2 Linux instance of which he has permission to access. Now the user can just log in to Linux EC2 instance mount the drive and read the files and folders.



RECOMMENDED CRITICALITY: CRITICAL (30)

MISCONFIGURATION ON SNAPSHOT PERMISSIONS

CRITICALITY: CRITICAL (30)

LOCATION: IAM

Please review the 'CreateSnapshot' and 'ModifySnapshotAttribute' permissions and at least revoke from low privilege accounts. Also, consider encrypting the drives of every instance.

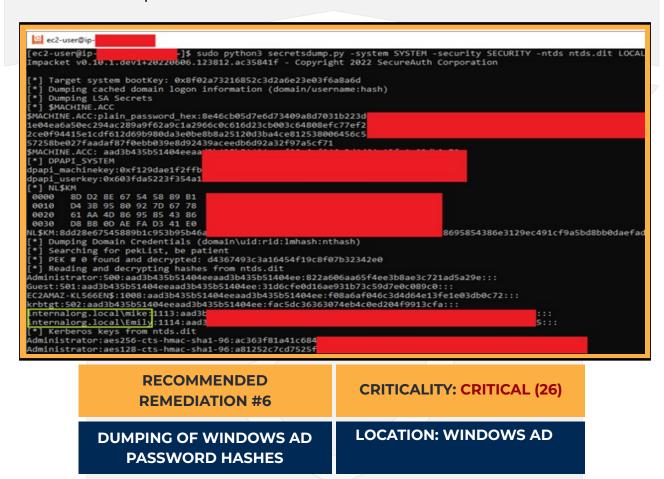


DUMPING OF WINDOWS AD PASSWORD HASHES

CRITICALITY: CRITICAL (26)

LOCATION: WINDOWS AD

Following the vulnerability 5, then an attacker can use tools such as Impacket and extract the hashes of the password and other useful information. Which then can be cracker



Please review the 'CreateSnapshot' and 'ModifySnapshotAttribute' permissions and at least revoke from low privilege accounts. Also, consider encrypting the drives of every instance.



CRACKING OF LOCATION: WINDOWS AD AD PASWORD HASHES

The password policy is very weak, hashcat is able to relatively easily reverse the passwords to clear text form from hashed form.

RECOMMENDED CRITICALITY: VERY HIGH (24)

CRACKING OF LOCATION: WINDOWS AD AD PASWORD HASHES

Put in place a better password policy, such as minimum 12 characters including upper case, lower case, number, and special characters while evading dictionary words such as city name, famous people's name etc.



VULNERABILITY #10 CRITICALITY: HIGH (19)

PYTHON END OF LIFE LOCATION: EC2 INSTANCE

Utilization of end-of-life software. The instance has a python version of 2.7 within the environment, which is no longer supported and will not receive new updates including security patches.

```
mpsychon

Python 2.7.17 (default, Mar 18 2022, 13:21:42)

[GCC 7.5.0] on linux2

Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.

>>> exit()
```

RECOMMENDED CRITICALITY: HIGH (19)

PYTHON END OF LIFE LOCATION: EC2 INSTANCE

Python 3 or above should be utilized within the instance instead of Python 2.



# RECOMMENDATION [1] NO MFA, ACCESS KEYS FOR ROOT

**CRITICALITY: (N.A.)** 

Root user access without access keys is enabled, it is not a recommended practice. Also, not having an MFA is considered as non-compliant in several certification authorities.

Use access keys and non-root account for day-to-day activities. Also, put in place an MFA, OTP through SMS, Mobile application, email etc.





# RECOMMENDATION [2] UNUSED S3 BUCKETS

**CRITICALITY: (N.A.)** 

Unused S3 are present contributing to the billing.

Go through all the S3 buckets delete the S3 which are deployed during pre-prod and are not in use currently.





## RECOMMENDATION [3] OUTDATED SNAPSHOTS

**CRITICALITY: (N.A.)** 

Consider removing snapshots (linked to same volume to an instance) of data which have more recent snapshots. Some of the snapshots are as old as 1 year. Consider encrypting the snapshots in case you need to move them around.

Delete the old snapshots whose recent version is available; these snapshots contribute to billing.



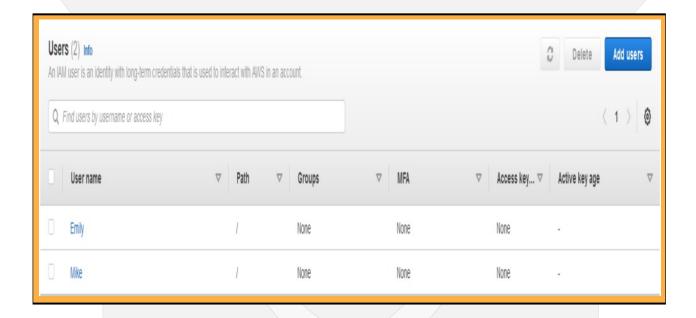


# RECOMMENDATION [4] BETTER SEGREGATION OF USER ACCOUNTS

**CRITICALITY: (N.A.)** 

There exist only two more accounts apart from root to handle Administration, Operation, Maintenance and Configurations. Also, their paths are default "/", not separated by groups, also there exist no MFA as well as access keys.

Consider creating different account with different permissions even if a same person will use more than one account. Also, consider grouping users, give them access keys and enable MFA. It is beneficial in terms of increasing security as well as helps in better logging and monitoring.





## SECURITY MATRIX [TO\_UPDATE]

No.	Interface	Attack Path	Result
1.	S3 Bucket	Some of the S3 buckets have public access enabled and can be abused using tools such as AWSBucketDump.	Exploitable
2.	RDS Server (MySQL)	Public access to the RDS server is enabled and have default username with very weak	Exploitable
3.	WordPress Website sues RDS server to keep the back-end data, since an attcker can create users on RDS server then can login to the WordPress website.		Exploitable
4.	4. Security Groups There are security groups who allows non secure communication protocol and can be access publicly.		Exploitable
5.	IAM (Windows AD)	Because of misconfigured createsnapshot permission an attacker can create a snapshot of the Windows AD and then dump the password hashes and crack them as the password policy is not strong enough.	



## **KNOWN VULNERABILITIES / END OF LIFE**

No.	CVE No.	Affected Service	CVE - Details	CVSS Score	Result
1.	N.A.	Python 2.x	Python 2.x have reached end of its life and won't receive any security updates and patches from its developers. Keep using python 2.x and its libraries can cause serious damage in case a vulnerability is to be found in future.	N.A.	N.A.





## RECOMMENDATIONS [TO\_UPDATE]

Recommendations	Description	Required immediate remediation
REC [1]: No access keys, MFA for root account.	Root user access without access keys is enabled, it is not a recommended practice. Also, not having an MFA is considered as non-compliant in several certification authorities.	YES
REC [2]: Unused S3 buckets.	Unused S3 are present contributing to the billing.	NO
REC [3]: Out dated snapshots.	Consider removing snapshots (linked to same volume to an instance) of data which have more recent snapshots.  Some of the snapshots are as old as 1 year. Consider encrypting the snapshots in case you need to move them around.	NO
REC [4]: Segregation of user accounts.	There exist only two more accounts apart from root to handle Administration, Operation, Maintenance and Configurations. Also, their paths are default "/", not separated by groups, also there exist no MFA as well as access keys.	YES



### **APPENDIX**

### 1. CRITICALITY RATING:

Listed below are the vulnerability ratings for the first two vulnerabilities. This section has been redacted, please refer to the full report for criticality ratings for all the vulnerabilities found.

## 1.A VULN [1]:

Factor	Value	Points
Time	<= 1 day	18
Expertise	Layman	8
Knowledge required	Restricted information	7
Access to product by	Moderate	1
Type of equipment	Standard	2

Total

36

## 1.B VULN [2]:

Factor	Value	Points	
Time	<= 1 week	15	
Expertise	Competent	6	
Knowledge required	Restricted information	7	
Access to product by	Easy	4	
Type of equipment	Standard	2	

Total

34



## 2. CRITICALITY REFERENCE TABLE:

Factor		Value
Time taken for the exploitation	<= 1 day	18
	<= 1 week	15
	<= 2 weeks	13
	<= 1 month	10
	<= 2 months	7
	<= 3 months	4
	<= 4 months	2
	<= 5 months	1
	>5 months	0
Attacker skills	Layman	8
	Competent	6
	Expert	3
	Multiple experts	0
Knowledge required by the attacker	None	11
	Restricted information	7
	Sensitive information	3
	Critical information	0



Factor	,	Value
Access to the product by the attacker	Not necessary/unlimited	10
	Easy	4
	Moderate	1
	Difficult	0
	None	N.A.
Type of equipment needed	None/ standard	2
	Specialised software	0

## 3. TOOLS REFERENCED:

	Tool	Version
AWSBucket	Dump	2021.4
Nmap		7.4p
Hashcat		6.2.5
Impacket		0.10.1
Hydra		8.6
Hashcat		8.0



## 4. ACRONYMS:

Acronyms	Full Form
SSH	Secure Shell
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	Secure HyperText Transfer Protocol

