

 MSc System & Network Engineering

# Automated analysis of AWS infrastructures

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“... a secure cloud services platform, offering compute power, database storage, content delivery and other functionality ...”

## Background



## Background

EC2 (Elastic Compute Cloud)

RDS (Relational Database Service)

S3 (Simple Storage Service)



## Background

VPC

Security groups

IAM



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VPC

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IAM



## Background

### IAM

- Access keys
- Policies
- Users
- Groups
- Roles



## Background

### IAM > Policies

- Effect (Allow/Deny)
- Action
- Resource



# Introduction

- You've infiltrated an AWS infrastructure, **now what?**
- Expanding access
- Knowledge of inaccessible components
- Visualization





## Background

Bloodhound

Active Directory



Research question

Given an infiltrated AWS component, what part of the related infrastructure would an automated tool be able to index?

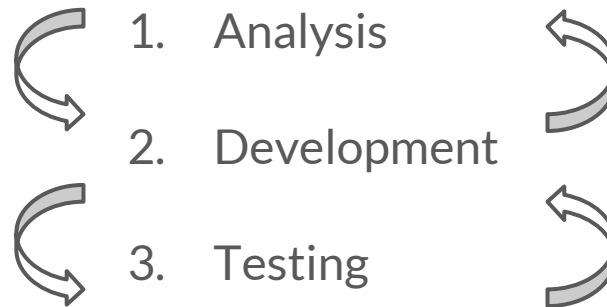


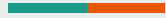
## Methodology

1. Analysis
2. Development
3. Testing



## Methodology





## Analysis

### IAM

- Resource-level permissions
  - \*:Describe\*
  - \*:List\*



## Background

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## Analysis

### IAM

- Resource-level permissions
  - `*:Describe*`
  - `*:List*`



## Analysis

### Metadata server

- EC2
- 169.254.169.254





# Functionality

## Metadata crawler

Captures everything on  
the metadata server...

... including security credentials



# Functionality

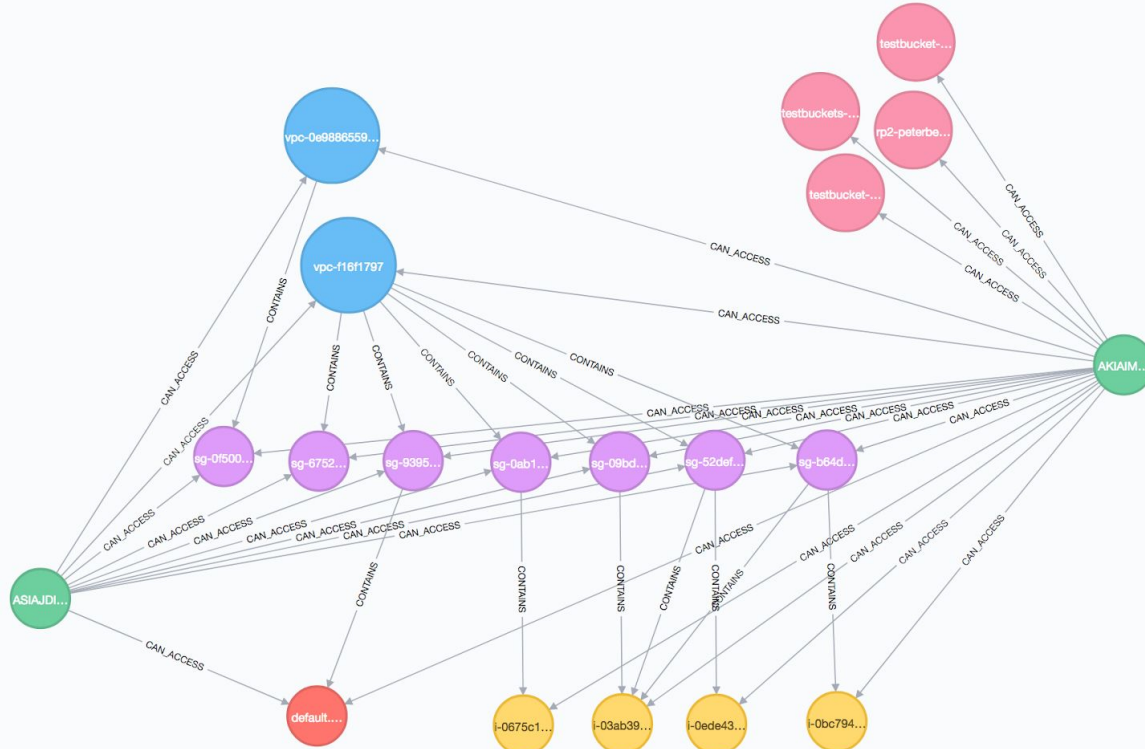
## Permission bruteforcer

Checks what commands  
access keys can use

## Infrastructure analyser

Uses access of key(s) to create  
mapping of infrastructure

(20) S3(4) Credentials(2) EC2(4) SG(7) RDS(1) VPC(2)





## Development

- Neo4j
- boto3
- py2neo





## Conclusion

- Very useful for expanding access & escalating privilege
- Resource-level permissions
- Diversity of keys more important than privilege in terms of enumeration



## Discussion/Future work

Expandable in an infinite number of  
ways



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- Linkurious (visualization)
- STS
  - More AWS services/commands
- Automated infiltration
- Nmapping subnets
- Resource-level permission bruteforcer



**Thank you.  
Any questions?**