

From bits to breaches: the nuts and bolts of vulnerability detection in multi-cloud environments

**Carina Deaconu
Ioana Stăncioiu**





01.

Who are we





- Software Engineers @Pentest-Tools.com
- Master Thesis: Vulnerabilities in Google Cloud Storage
- Bachelor Thesis: Vulnerabilities in AWS S3
- New tool on Pentest-Tools.com: Cloud Vulnerability Scanner
- Short **demo** at the end



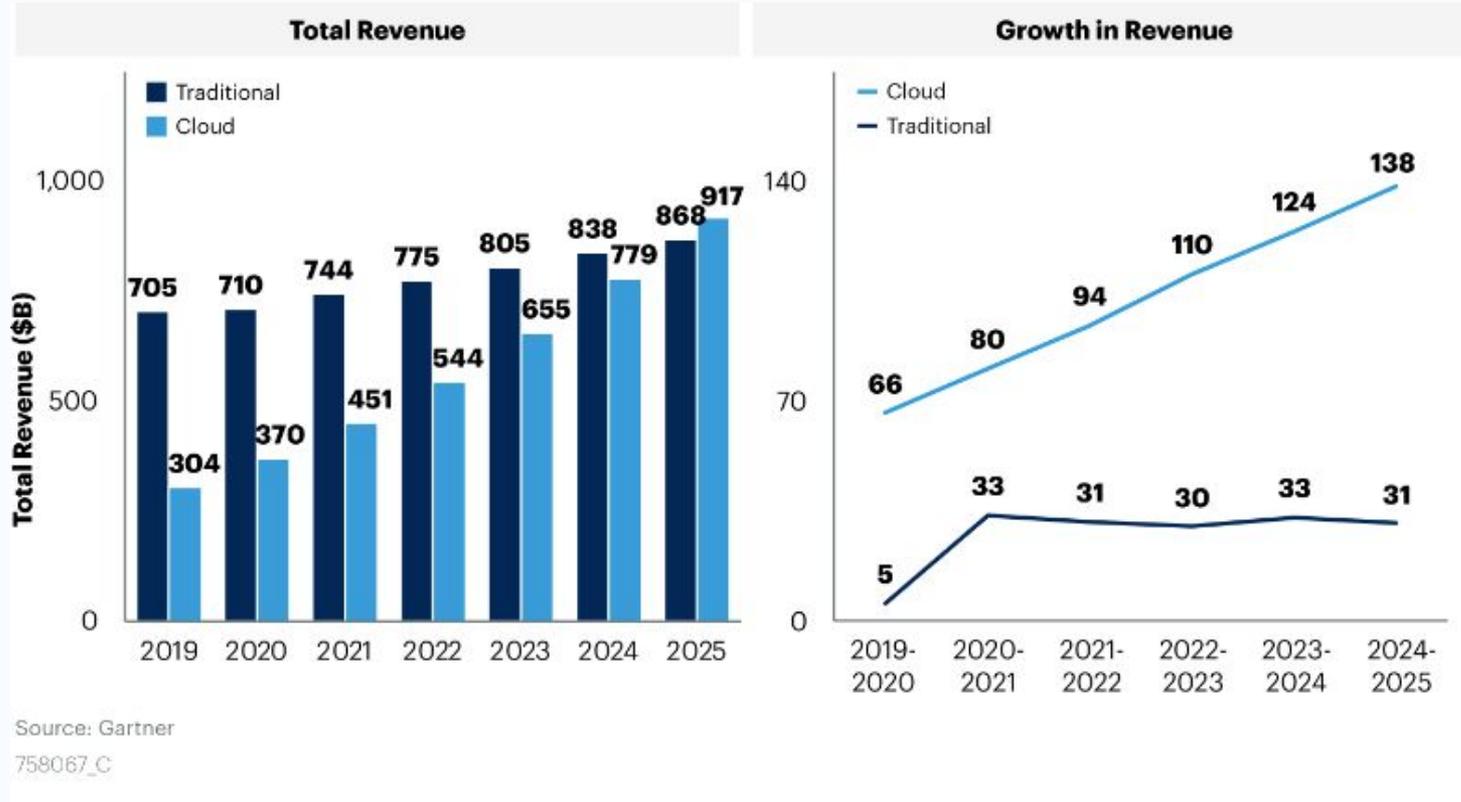


02.

**Why should you care
about Cloud Security**



Cloud technologies are on the rise

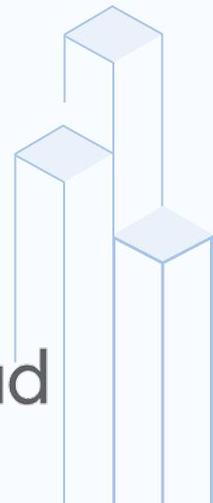




Top cloud providers



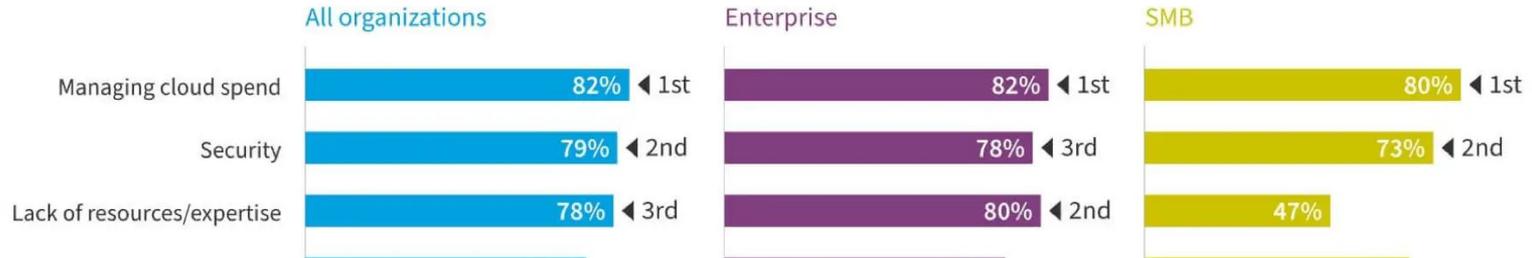
Google Cloud





Security is a top priority

Top cloud challenges



- Cloud infrastructures function by a **shared responsibility model**.
- Through 2025, **99%** of cloud security failures will be the customer's fault.



Security incidents in recent years

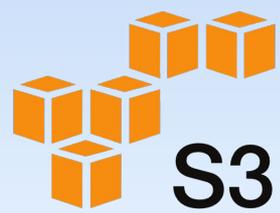
- S3 bucket misconfig of pre-signed URLs
- Cloud Misconfig Exposes 3TB of Sensitive Airport Data in Amazon S3 Bucket: 'Lives at Stake', 2022
- McGraw Hill's S3 buckets exposed 100,000 students' grades and personal info, 2022
- A famous Turkish beauty brand, Cosmolog Kozmetik, suffered a leak in its Amazon S3 bucket, 2021





03.

Hacking AWS





About AWS Simple Storage Service

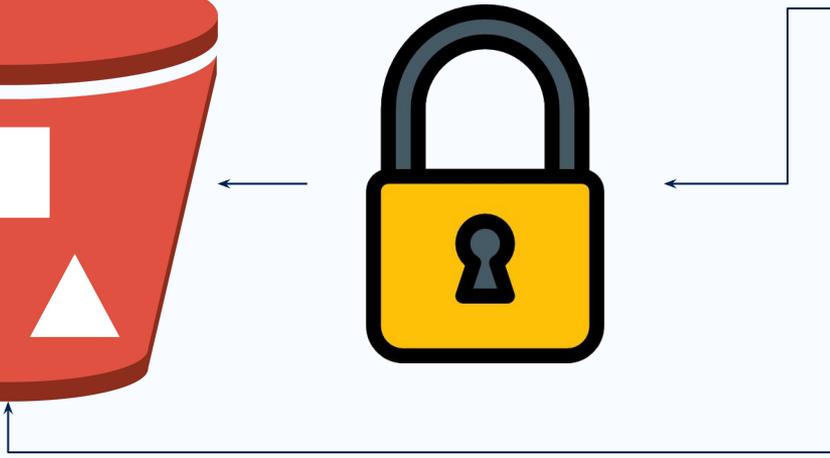
<https://bucket-name.s3.amazonaws.com>



Authenticated user



Unauthenticated user





Relevant bucket permissions and configurations

Permissions

s3:ListBucket permission to list the bucket contents

s3:GetObject permission to read the contents of an object

s3:GetBucketACL permission to read the bucket's ACL

s3:PutObject permission to overwrite the contents of an object

s3:PutBucketACL permission to overwrite the bucket ACL and gain access to the bucket's content

Configurations

Encryption

Logging

Versioning

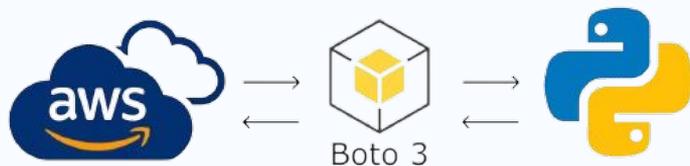
CORS

Replication

Ownership



How we discover misconfigurations



- We use the python boto3 package to query AWS with an unauthenticated and authenticated client.
- We deliberately send POST requests with an invalid body so we don't alter the target.
- Responses differ depending on the access level:
 - **200 OK** - action is permitted
 - **403 Forbidden** - not authorized to perform action
 - **404 Not Found** - bucket or object doesn't exist
 - **400 Bad Request** - the request body is invalid, but the action is permitted



The risk of **READ** access

- Data breaches
- Access to documents containing sensitive information
- Helps in identifying misconfigured objects



The risk of **WRITE** access

- Overwriting data
- Gaining additional access to the bucket and infrastructure
- Serving malware to end users



04.

Hacking GCP





Google Cloud Storage

- A **bucket** → multiple **blobs**.
- Bucket URL:

https://storage.googleapis.com/storage/v1/b/<bucket_name>

- **404 Not Found/400 Bad Request** → bucket doesn't exist
- **403 Forbidden** → buckets exists and is private (cannot be accessed without the right credentials)
- **200 OK** → bucket exists and is public to all users





Retrieving bucket permissions

- Of an **unauthenticated** user (= any user on the Internet)
 - Google public API
- Of an **authenticated** user (= a user logged in with any Google account) → service account +
 - *gcloud*
 - Python Google client





Most relevant bucket permissions

READ

- `storage.buckets.get` - retrieve details about a bucket;
- `storage.objects.list` - see bucket contents (the list of blobs);
- `storage.objects.get` - see the contents of a blob;
- `storage.buckets.getIamPolicy` - read IAM policy of the bucket;

WRITE

- `storage.objects.create` - add new blobs to the bucket;
- `storage.objects.delete` - delete blobs from the bucket;
- `storage.objects.update` - modify metadata of the blobs;
- `storage.buckets.setIamPolicy` - modify bucket ACL (⇒ `priv esc!`)





Privilege escalation using `storage.buckets.setIamPolicy`

`storage.buckets.setIamPolicy`

→ update IAM with role `roles/storage.admin` granted to `allUsers`

→ profit as admin





Types of access control on a bucket

- **uniform bucket-level access** (default): the same set of permissions across the bucket and its objects, through bucket-level IAM
- **fine-grained**: different types of access to objects can be specified using object ACLs, in addition to bucket-level IAM
- default object ACL if none is specified





Relevant configurations of the bucket

- Logging
- Object versioning/retention policy
- Labels
- Object lifecycle rules
- Customer-managed encryption key
- CORS





05.

Open source tools





Pacu

Scout Suite

CloudSploit

S3Scanner

AWS Extender

CloudBrute

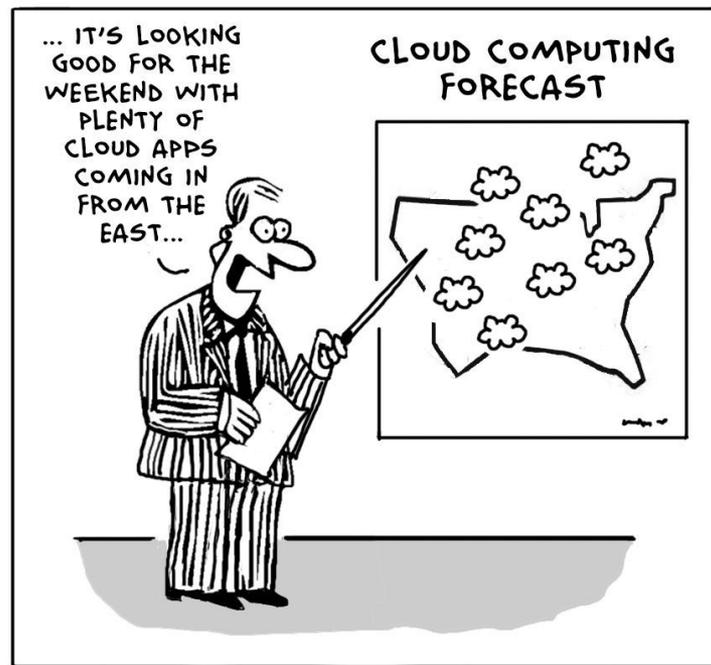
S3Enum

Checkov



Mitigations & Good practices

- Don't use ACLs to secure access to your bucket
- Double check bucket policies and ACLs
- Use the principle of least privilege
- Use encryption
- Enable the "Block public access" option
- Enable MFA for sensitive operations
- Monitor continuously





05.

Demo time!

