

AWS Certified Security

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AWS Certified Security

Study Guide

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Dario Goldfarb, Alexandre M. S. P. Moraes,
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—The Authors

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Introduction

As the pioneer and world leader of cloud computing, Amazon Web Services (AWS) has positioned security as its highest priority. Throughout its history, the cloud provider has constantly added security-specific services to its offerings as well as security features to its ever-growing portfolio. Consequently, the AWS Certified Security–Specialty certification offers a great way for IT professionals to achieve industry recognition as cloud security experts and learn how to secure AWS environments both in concept and practice.

According to the AWS Certified Security Specialty Exam Guide, the corresponding certification attests your ability to demonstrate the following:

- An understanding of specialized data classifications and AWS data protection mechanisms
- An understanding of data encryption methods and AWS mechanisms to implement them
- An understanding of secure Internet protocols and AWS mechanisms to implement them
- A working knowledge of AWS security services and features of services to provide a secure production environment
- The ability to make trade-off decisions with regard to cost, security, and deployment complexity given a set of application requirements
- An understanding of security operations and risks

Through multiple choice and multiple response questions, you will be tested on your ability to design, operate, and troubleshoot secure AWS architectures composed of compute, storage, networking, and monitoring services. It is expected that you know how to deal with different business objectives (such as cost optimization, agility, and regulations) to determine the best solution for a described scenario.

The AWS Certified Security–Specialty exam is intended for individuals who perform a security role with at least two years of hands-on experience securing AWS workloads.

What Does This Book Cover?

To help you prepare for the AWS Certified Security Specialty (SCS-C01) certification exam, this book explores the following topics:

Chapter 1: Security Fundamentals This chapter introduces you to basic security definitions and foundational networking concepts. It also explores major types of attacks, along with the AAA architecture, security frameworks, practical models, and other solutions. In addition, it discusses the TCP/IP protocol stack.

Chapter 2: Cloud Security Principles and Frameworks This chapter discusses critical AWS Cloud security concepts such as its shared responsibility model, AWS hypervisors,

AWS security certifications, the AWS Well-Architected Framework, and the AWS Marketplace. It also addresses both security *of* the cloud and security *in* the cloud. These concepts are foundational for working with AWS.

Chapter 3: Identity and Access Management This chapter discusses AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM), which sets the foundation for all interactions among the resources in your AWS account. It also covers the different access methods to the AWS IAM services, including AWS Console, AWS command-line tools, AWS software development kits, and the IAM HTTPS application programming interface. Furthermore, the chapter addresses how to protect AWS Cloud environments using multifactor authentication and other best practices.

Chapter 4: Detective Controls This chapter discusses how to gather information about the status of your resources and the events they produce. It also covers the four stages of the detective controls flow framework: resources state, events collection, events analysis, and action. It also discusses Amazon EventBridge and several AWS Cloud services supporting multiple detective activities.

Chapter 5: Infrastructure Protection This chapter explores AWS networking concepts such as Amazon VPC, subnets, route tables, and other features that are related to network address translation (NAT gateways and NAT instances) and traffic filtering (security groups and network access control lists). It also addresses AWS Elastic Load Balancing and how security services such as AWS Web Application Firewall can provide secure access to your cloud-based applications. Finally, it discusses the AWS Shield and AWS's unique approach to mitigate distributed denial-of-service attacks.

Chapter 6: Data Protection This chapter discusses protecting data using a variety of security services and best practices, including AWS Key Management Service (KMS), the cloud hardware security module (CloudHSM), and AWS Certificate Manager. It also covers creating a customer master key (CMK) in AWS KMS, protecting Amazon S3 buckets, and how Amazon Macie can deploy machine learning to identify personal identifiable information (PII).

Chapter 7: Incident Response This chapter introduces the incident response maturity model's four phases—developing, implementing, monitoring and testing, and updating—and provides best practices for each phase. It also discusses how to react to a range of specific security incidents such as abuse notifications, insider threats, malware, leaked credentials, and attacks.

Chapter 8: Security Automation This chapter provides an overview of event-driven security and a range of techniques for identifying, responding to, and resolving issues, using tools and techniques such as AWS Lambda, AWS Config, AWS Security Hub, and AWS Systems Manager. It also discusses WAF security automation and isolating bad actors' access to applications.

Chapter 9: Security Troubleshooting in AWS This chapter discusses using AWS CloudTrail, Amazon CloudWatch logs, Amazon CloudWatch events, and Amazon EventBridge to help troubleshoot the operation of AWS Cloud environments. It also presents access control, encryption, networking, and connectivity scenarios that result from common misconfigurations and integration mishandling.

Chapter 10: Creating Your Security Journey in AWS This chapter discusses security in AWS and mapping security controls. It also exemplifies a security journey through three phases: infrastructure protection, security insights and workload protection, and security automation.

Appendix A: Answers to Review Questions This appendix provides the answers to the review questions that appear at the end of each chapter throughout the book.

Appendix B: AWS Security Services Portfolio This appendix provides an overview of the 18 AWS cloud services dedicated to security, identity, and compliance.

Appendix C: DevSecOps in AWS This appendix introduces DevSecOps, the AWS family of services that implement DevOps practices, and how security controls can be implemented in an automated pipeline.

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Sample Tests The sample tests in the test bank include all the questions at the end of each chapter as well as the questions from the assessment test. In addition, there are two practice exams with 50 questions each. You can use these tests to evaluate your understanding and identify areas that may require additional study.

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Glossary The online glossary is a searchable list of key terms introduced in this exam guide that you should know for the AWS Certified Security Specialty (SCS-C01) certification exam.



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AWS Certified Security Study Guide—Specialty (SCS-C01) Exam Objectives

This table shows the extent, by percentage, of each domain represented on the actual examination.

Domain	% of Examination
Domain 1: Incident Response	12%
Domain 2: Logging and Monitoring	20%
Domain 3: Infrastructure Security	26%
Domain 4: Identity and Access Management	20%
Domain 5: Data Protection	22%
Total	100%



Exam objectives are subject to change at any time without prior notice and at AWS's sole discretion. Please visit the AWS Certified Security—Specialty website (aws.amazon.com/certification/certified-security-specialty) for the most current listing of exam objectives.

Objective Map

Objective	Chapter
Domain 1: Incident Response	
1.1 Given an AWS abuse notice, evaluate the suspected compromised instance or exposed access keys	7

Objective	Chapter
1.2 Verify that the Incident Response plan includes relevant AWS services	1, 2, 7, 10
1.3 Evaluate the configuration of automated alerting, and execute possible remediation of security-related incidents and emerging issues	8, 10
Domain 2: Logging and Monitoring	
2.1 Design and implement security monitoring and alerting	1, 4, 10
2.2 Troubleshoot security monitoring and alerting	9
2.3 Design and implement a logging solution	4, 10
2.4 Troubleshoot logging solutions	9
Domain 3: Infrastructure Security	
3.1 Design edge security on AWS	1, 5, 8, 10
3.2 Design and implement a secure network infrastructure	1, 5, 10
3.3 Troubleshoot a secure network infrastructure	5, 9
3.4 Design and implement host-based security	2, 4, 10
Domain 4: Identity and Access Management	
4.1 Design and implement a scalable authorization and authentication system to access AWS resources	1, 3, 10
4.2 Troubleshoot an authorization and authentication system to access AWS resources	3, 9
Domain 5: Data Protection	
5.1 Design and implement key management and use	6, 10
5.2 Troubleshoot key management	6, 9
5.3 Design and implement a data encryption solution for data at rest and data in transit	1, 6, 10

Assessment Test

1. Which one of the following components should not influence an organization's security policy?
 - A. Business objectives
 - B. Regulatory requirements
 - C. Risk
 - D. Cost-benefit analysis
 - E. Current firewall limitations

2. Consider the following statements about the AAA architecture:
 - I. Authentication deals with the question "Who is the user?"
 - II. Authorization addresses the question "What is the user allowed to do?"
 - III. Accountability answers the question "What did the user do?"

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Only I is correct.
 - B. Only II is correct.
 - C. I, II, and III are correct.
 - D. I and II are correct.
 - E. II and III are correct.
3. What is the difference between denial-of-service (DoS) and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks?
 - A. DDoS attacks have many targets, whereas DoS attacks have only one each.
 - B. DDoS attacks target multiple networks, whereas DoS attacks target a single network.
 - C. DDoS attacks have many sources, whereas DoS attacks have only one each.
 - D. DDoS attacks target multiple layers of the OSI model and DoS attacks only one.
 - E. DDoS attacks are synonymous with DoS attacks.
 4. Which of the following options is incorrect?
 - A. A firewall is a security system aimed at isolating specific areas of the network and delimiting domains of trust.
 - B. Generally speaking, the web application firewall (WAF) is a specialized security element that acts as a full-reverse proxy, protecting applications that are accessed through HTTP.
 - C. Whereas intrusion prevention system (IPS) devices handle only copies of the packets and are mainly concerned with monitoring and alerting tasks, intrusion detection system (IDS) solutions are deployed inline in the traffic flow and have the inherent design goal of avoiding actual damage to systems.