



Data protection

Securing data in the cloud

Ultimately, it's all about the data

While the adoption of cloud platforms brings forth a plethora of benefits from scalability to cost savings, there are significant responsibilities for the customer with regard to security. When transitioning or implementing workloads into public cloud, one of the top concerns at many levels of the organization is security. Organizations are looking to gain confidence that their data will be protected. Done effectively, cloud security should meet or improve upon levels that exist in traditional environments.

One of the advantages of Amazon Web Services (AWS) is that IT operations are easier to perform; however, a challenge is that mistakes can snowball. For instance, the misconfiguration of a data store can expose sensitive information such as personally identifiable information (PII), payment card industry (PCI) data, or

protected health information (PHI). In the recent past, a marketing analytics company did not employ appropriate controls on an Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3) bucket within their AWS environment. As a result of this misconfiguration, data regarding 123 million US households was leaked and included home addresses, occupation, and mortgage information.

Properly securing a cloud environment can protect data and decrease the potential for these types of security incidents.

A defense-in-depth security solution is one that covers the cloud infrastructure from end to end. Deloitte's [Secure.Vigilant.Resilient.™](#) framework, coupled with the native services built in AWS, can provide an expansive solution.

Secure – having risk prioritized controls to defend against known and emerging threats.

Vigilant - having threat intelligence and situational awareness to identify harmful behavior.

Resilient – having the ability to recover from, and reduce the impact of, cyber incidents.



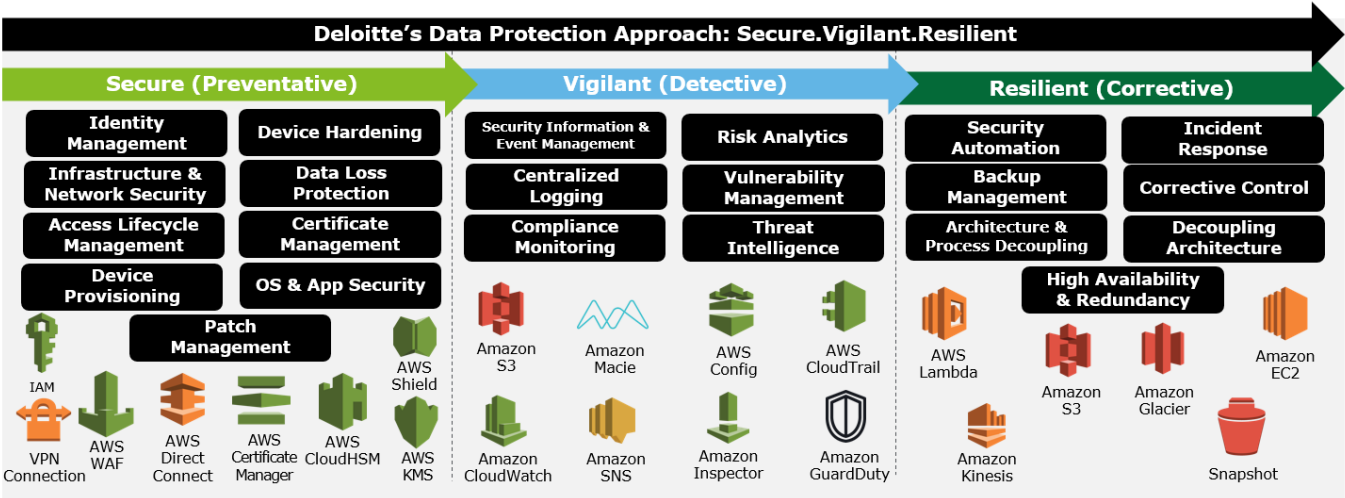
Protect your data

Data protection in a public cloud requires a different mindset compared to traditional on premise implementations due to the shared responsibility between the cloud provider and the enterprise. Traditionally, enterprises had full control over the eco-system – from the infrastructure to the operating systems, the data, and through to the application. In AWS, the infrastructure is implemented, secured, and controlled by AWS, whereas the virtual infrastructure services including the guest operating system, the data, and application are the responsibility of the enterprise.

Additionally, in the Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) model, many of the assets and services that were previously held within the bounds of the enterprise data center are now accessed through public application programming interfaces (APIs). These APIs are accessible from the public internet which significantly changes the threat vectors and risk profile. These differences can cause some discomfort due to the *perceived* risk of no longer being inside the enterprise network perimeter.

Deloitte has developed an end-to-end data protection approach based on its *Secure.Vigilant.Resilient* framework that leverages both native AWS and third-party offerings. These capabilities are deployed in a layered methodology to provide preventative, detective, and corrective controls which work in concert to enable defense-in-depth.

By adopting this data protection approach, it enables organizations to secure their cloud by providing the specific data protection measures required to give enterprises confidence in the security of their assets and their data.



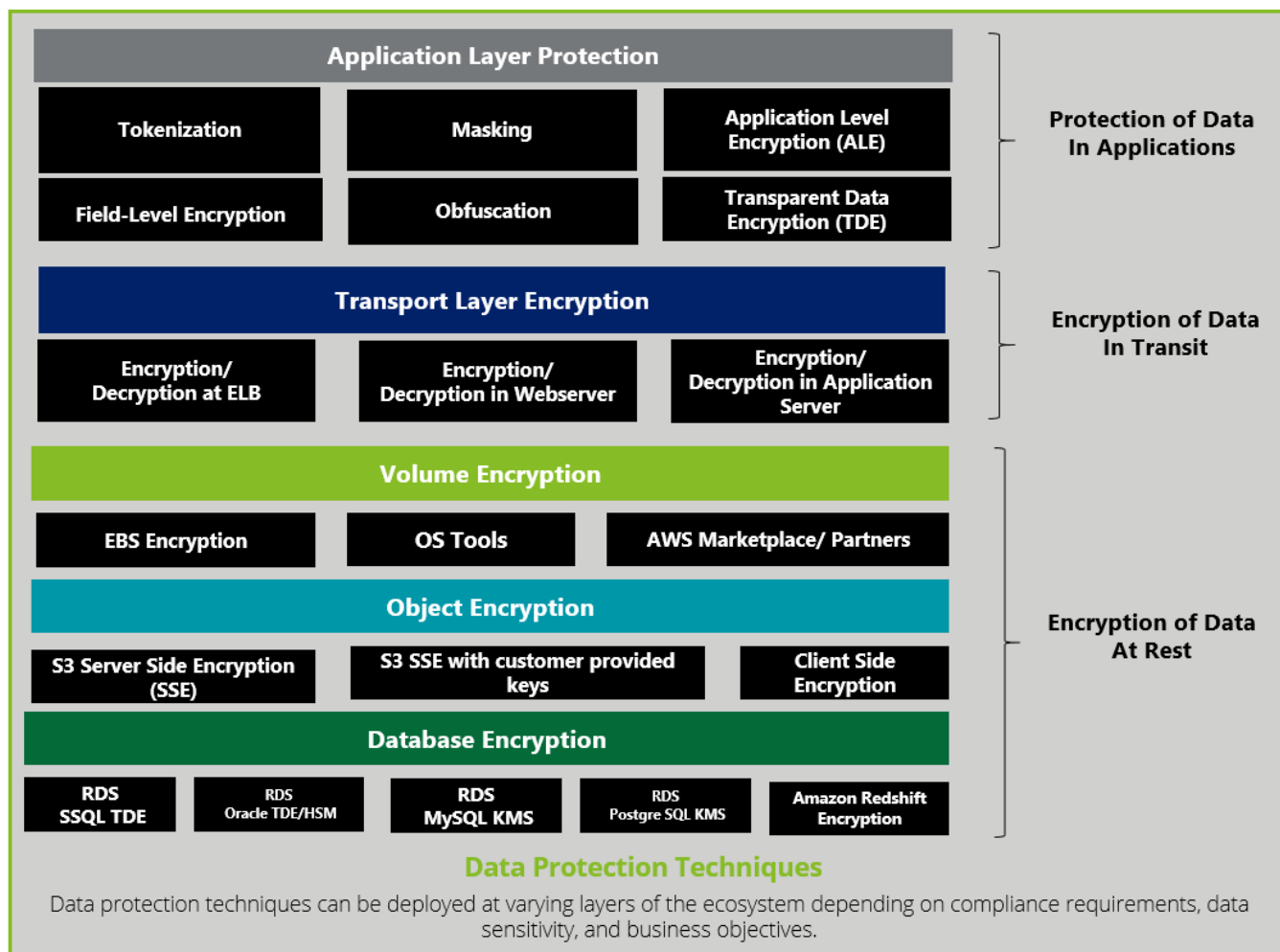
Securing your AWS environment

Protecting data should start with the basics. Tagging resources within the AWS environment enables an organization to efficiently identify resource owners as well as the criticality of the data being stored in the resource. Tagging is a cost effective, preventative measure that supports additional security controls by enabling automation.

AWS has many different storage types; Amazon Elastic Block Store (EBS), Amazon Relational Database Service (RDS), Amazon DynamoDB, and Amazon S3, to name a few. Each of these storage types has different options for encryption to facilitate the protection of data from unauthorized access and tampering (intentional or not).

Making use of AWS's native encryption capabilities is a core element of data protection and is an effective security control when supported with a strong, operationalized key management strategy.

AWS provides two main offerings for Key Management within the AWS ecosystem—AWS Key Management Service (KMS) and AWS Cloud HSM (HSM). These services can operate independent of one another or in concert depending on the requirements and use cases. CloudHSM provides the enterprise with a dedicated physical HSM appliance that is hosted in AWS and can be logically accessed and managed by the enterprise. While this does provide enhanced control over encryption key management, there is no direct integration between CloudHSM and other AWS services. AWS KMS, on the other hand, enables the enterprise to manage encryption keys that are generated and held as non-exportable in a multi-tenant AWS HSA (Hardened Security Appliance), and can then be used for direct encryption within many AWS services (e.g., AWS CloudTrail, Amazon EBS, Amazon RDS, Amazon S3).





Securing your AWS environment (continued)

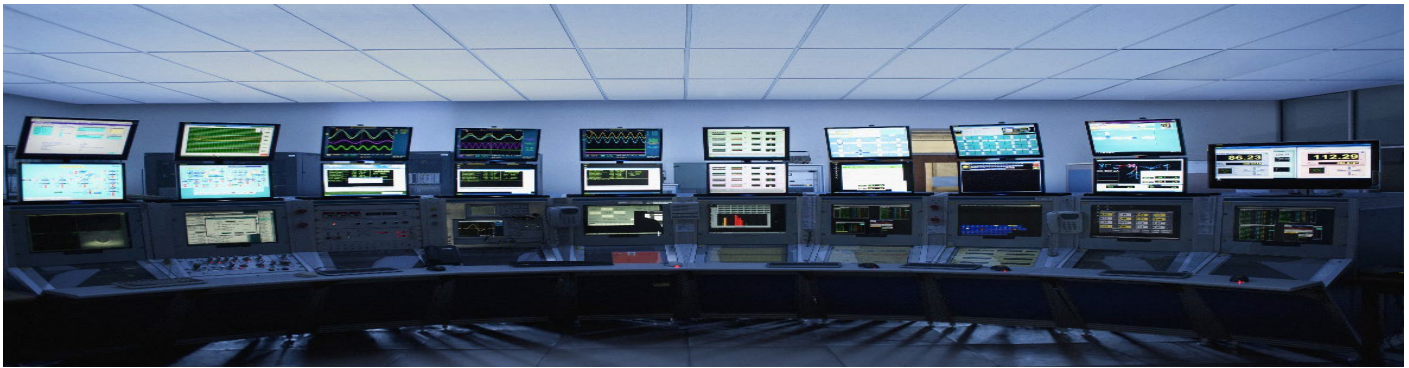
Unlike some other cloud service providers, AWS does not retain access to key material and does provide the option for bring your own key (BYOK). This is important to many enterprises, especially in light of the recent CLOUD Act legislation¹. Beyond native AWS capabilities, additional encryption methods using non- AWS services may be needed for highly sensitive workloads depending on factors including regulatory requirements and enterprise risk appetite.

AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) policies for secure configurations already provide a strong security framework for controlling data access to users and applications through the use of granular roles. Encryption provides a second layer of defense. Using a combination of IAM and key policies to determine access control to key operations—both administration and key usage—can make the environment more secure.

In addition to Cloud HSM and AWS KMS for encryption at rest, there is also the need to implement encryption in transit. The interactions between the enterprise and AWS environments can and should be conducted over secure channels through the use of secure APIs, encrypted VPN tunnels, or services such as AWS Direct Connect. The implementation of such methods facilitates the secure transmission of data while enabling the principles of public cloud.

Beyond encryption, a variety of AWS tools can assist with securing your cloud environment and enabling data protection. For example, AWS Secrets Manager allows for automatic secret rotation with database credentials, API keys and OAuth tokens. Access to secrets is also controlled by IAM policies. As a native solution, Secrets Manager is easily integrated with Amazon RDS thus keeping your secrets within the AWS environment and keeping a strong hold on access to your data

¹ "S.2383 - CLOUD Act". United States Congress. February 6, 2018.



Vigilance and staying ready

Protecting enterprise data requires threat intelligence and visibility into the organization's AWS environments. This enables the organization to not only extensively monitor resources in their environment but also to be alerted by unusual and suspicious actions.

In concert with the available encryption and IAM capabilities, AWS provides native mechanisms for monitoring API calls, Amazon S3 bucket access requests, and encryption key usage, among other auditable events through services such as AWS CloudTrail, Amazon CloudWatch, and AWS Config. These log sources combined with threat detection and malicious behavior monitoring capabilities such as Amazon GuardDuty, enable a cost-effective way to have baseline visibility into what data is being accessed and by whom. More advanced analytics are also available through third-party security incident and event management (SIEM) offerings.

The information captured by an SIEM is an integral part of threat intelligence and assists in detecting malicious activity as well as environment misconfigurations that could lead to data compromise. The too common scenario of sensitive information being stored in a public Amazon S3 bucket is a good example of why monitoring should be in place in order to detect configuration errors before they become data leaks.

In order to increase the efficiency of alerting, enterprises may leverage Amazon Macie. Macie uses machine learning to discover and classify business-critical data and analyze access patterns and user behavior. While an SIEM might alert on malicious activity anywhere in the account, Macie can hone in on alerting for business critical data by understanding and classifying the organization's data.

Macie's capabilities are expansive and can help facilitate a highly effective Data Protection solution. Such capabilities include using natural language processing to understand the data being stored. Also, using Macie in conjunction with GuardDuty enables a notification if customer data with a high-risk factor such as account credentials are leaving protected zones. Macie can also selectively alert by using machine learning to understand what activities constitute a baseline and only alerting on activities that deviate from that standard.

In addition to leveraging existing native AWS services, based on identified risks, enterprises may also implement a Cloud Access Security Broker (CASB). CASB solutions provide a variety of capabilities supporting data protection including data loss prevention (DLP), automated data classification, and machine learning supporting behavior analytics. These abilities assist the enterprise in thwarting malicious insiders, advanced threats, as well as accidental misuse of data through the monitoring of data as it traverses between the enterprise and public cloud.

No off days: Staying resilient

Data protection isn't just about keeping others from accessing your data, it's also about making sure that you can access it when you need to. Having a resilient solution design that can enable the recovery of data is a core element in public cloud data protection.

Resilient design elements can run the spectrum from foundational elements of backups like snapshots to more advanced techniques like automated VPC isolation scripts to limit the impact of a ransomware infection.

AWS tools such as AWS Lambda provide for custom functions to dictate specific actions. For example, AWS services can be configured so that when an Amazon S3 bucket is made public, the audit event captured in CloudTrail is flagged by a CloudWatch alert, which then triggers Lambda functions to both update the bucket policy as well as notify stakeholders through the Amazon Simple Notification Service (SNS) and Amazon Simple Email Service (SES) to make stakeholders aware. Given the examples of the data exposure from misconfigurations described in the introduction, such automation could demonstrate to be highly valuable.

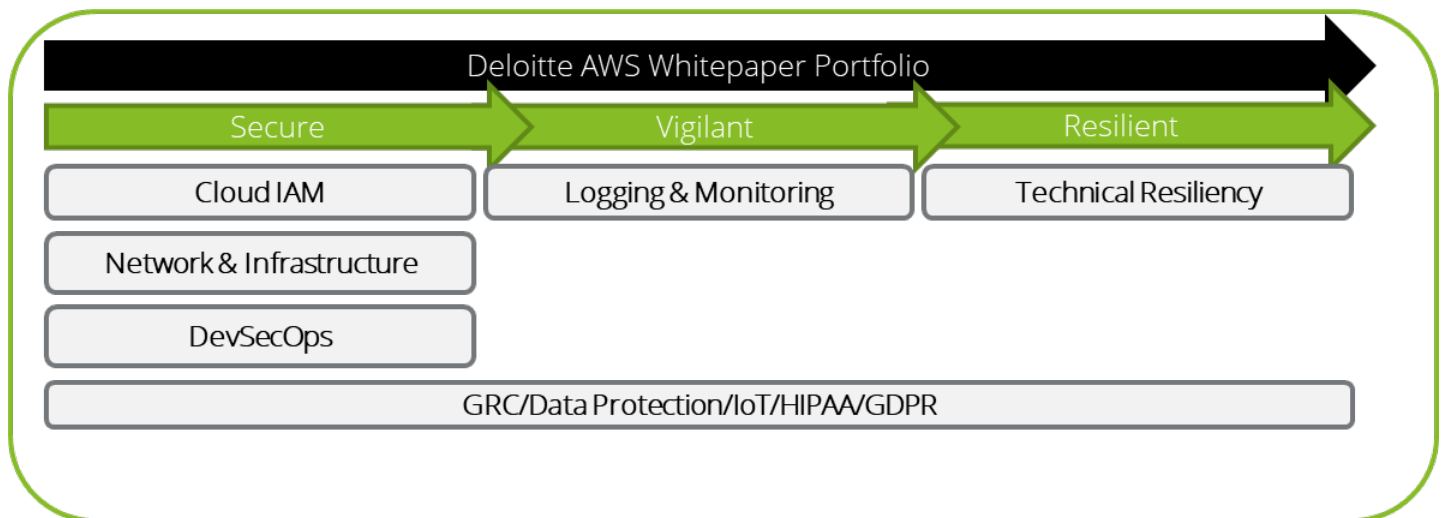
Another way to leverage automation is to monitor for AWS Config rule non-compliance and IAM policy over permissiveness so that the appropriate configurations and permissions can be automatically set to avoid data loss while maintaining application performance.

In Conclusion

The concept of the hard enterprise network perimeter has faded and agile defense is the new paradigm. Data protection is a core element of agile defense and the cornerstone to enabling security of data and assets in AWS and should be implemented thoroughly to facilitate protection of data in transit, at rest, and in use. AWS provides a host of native services that enable an effective data protection approach leveraging such tools to secure data from end-to-end. Combining industry experience and data protection domain knowledge with an understanding of AWS native capabilities, Deloitte can help enterprises leverage a mix of features to find the solution to help secure their data.

The strength of the Deloitte / AWS relationship

Leveraging the **Secure.Vigilant.Resilient.** framework and coupling with AWS security capabilities, Deloitte created a portfolio of whitepapers that cover the core cyber risk domains and capture the top AWS security topics across industries.



Secure enabled controls are risk-prioritized and are implemented to support regulatory requirements and protect assets against known and potential threats.

Vigilant supports the establishment of monitoring and intelligence that enables the enterprise to identify and respond to unsanctioned activities – both unintentional and malicious.

Resilient enables a level of preparedness to reduce the impact of an incident and support the recovery of operations.

Take action today! Request a briefing



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Our relationship brings together Deloitte's extensive industry experience in cyber and enterprise risk management with **the security-enabled cloud infrastructure of AWS**. In 2006, AWS began offering IT infrastructure services to businesses in the form of web services—now commonly known as cloud computing. Today AWS provides a highly **reliable, secure, scalable, low-cost** infrastructure that powers hundreds of thousands of businesses in 190 countries around the world, with **over a million active** customers spread across many industries and geographies.

Deloitte can help organizations adopt AWS securely and establish a security-first cloud strategy. Deloitte is a leading information technology and advisory company. Deloitte is an **APN Premier Consulting Partner** and an **AWS Security Competency Partner (Launch Partner)** and was one of the first eight organizations globally to achieve the **Security Competency** as a launch partner. Deloitte's vast experience in Cyber Risk, combined with its extensive experience with AWS and Cloud technologies, enable us to provide **end-to-end** security solutions.

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