re:Invent

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STG328

Solving large-scale data access challenges with Amazon S3

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Senior Principal Engineer Amazon Web Services



Nothing in this talk is hypothetical









- + example-bucket/
 - red/
 - yellow/
 - blue/



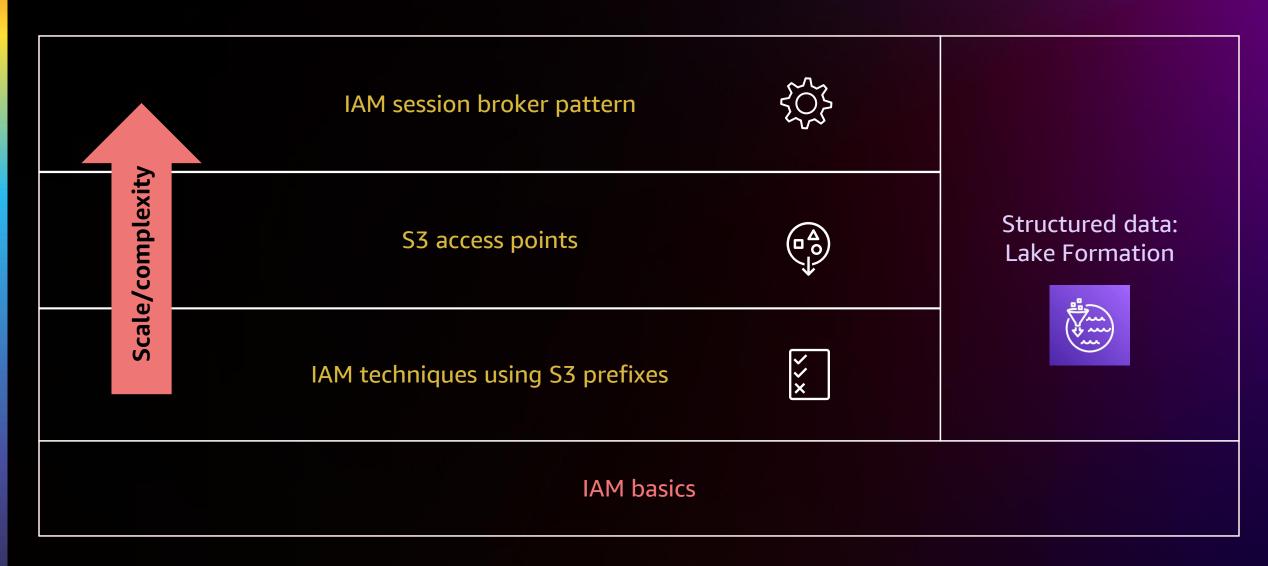


Agenda: Real talk about large-scale data access in Amazon S3

- The nuts and bolts of AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) authorization in S3
- Getting the best scale out of IAM using S3 prefix patterns
- Modeling dynamic access schemes with IAM sessions
- Fine-grained access controls that follow the shape of your structured data, with AWS Lake Formation



Data access concepts in this session





IAM session broker



S3 access points



IAM and S3 prefixes



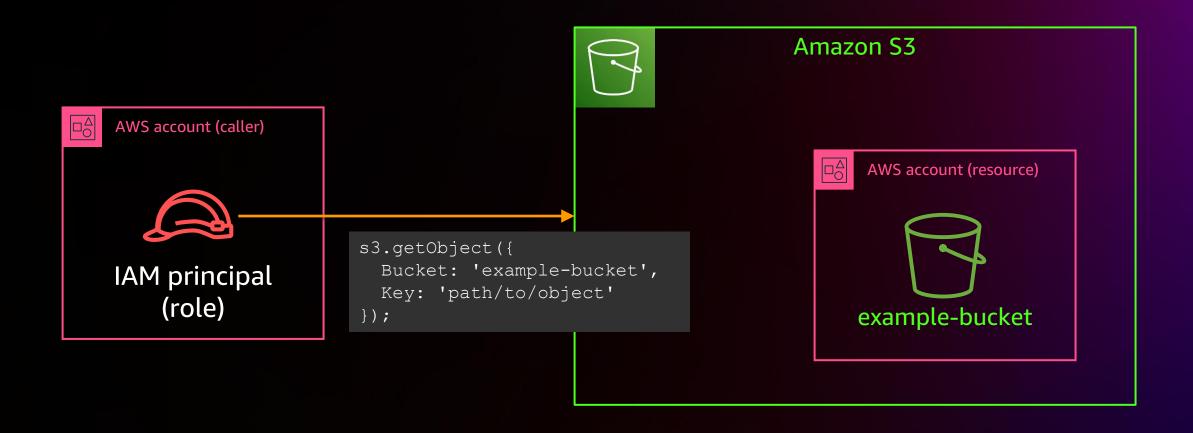
Lake Formation



IAM basics

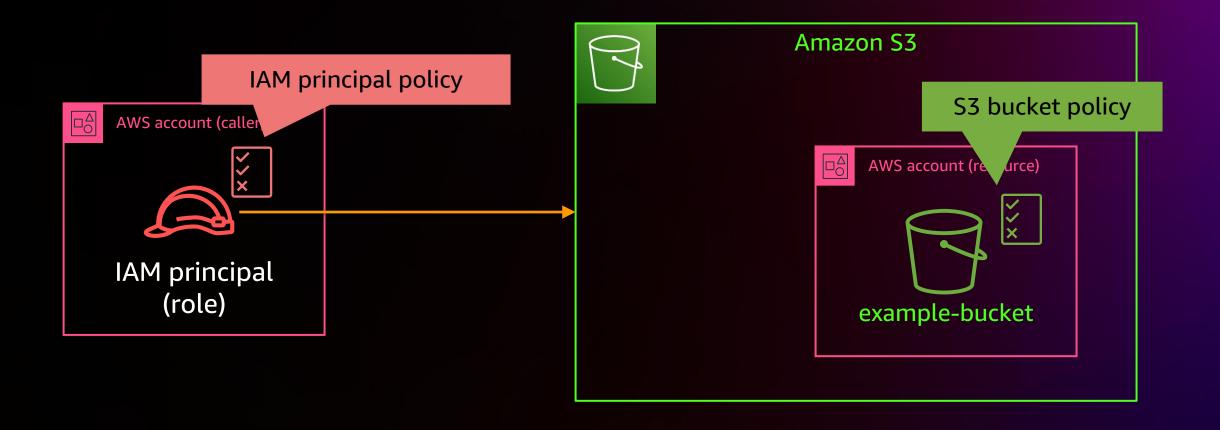


Background: An IAM authorization in S3





Background: An IAM authorization in S3





Object actions: Reading and writing data

```
{
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Action": [
        "s3:GetObject*",
        "s3:PutObject*",
        ... others
    ],
    "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/yellow/submarine.json"
}
Amazon Resource Name (ARN) for an S3 object resource
```

- + example-bucket/
 - + red/
 - alert.csv
 - firetruck.txt
 - + yellow/
 - dandelion.jpg
 - submarine.json
 - + blue/
 - moon.csv



Object actions: Reading and writing data

```
{
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Action": [
        "s3:GetObject*",
        "s3:PutObject*",
        ... others
    ],
    "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/yellow/*"
}
Amazon Resource Name (ARN) for an S3 object resource, with wildcards
```

- + example-bucket/
 - + red/
 - alert.csv
 - firetruck.txt
 - + yellow/
 - dandelion.jpg
 - submarine.json
 - + blue/
 - moon.csv



Object actions: Listing objects

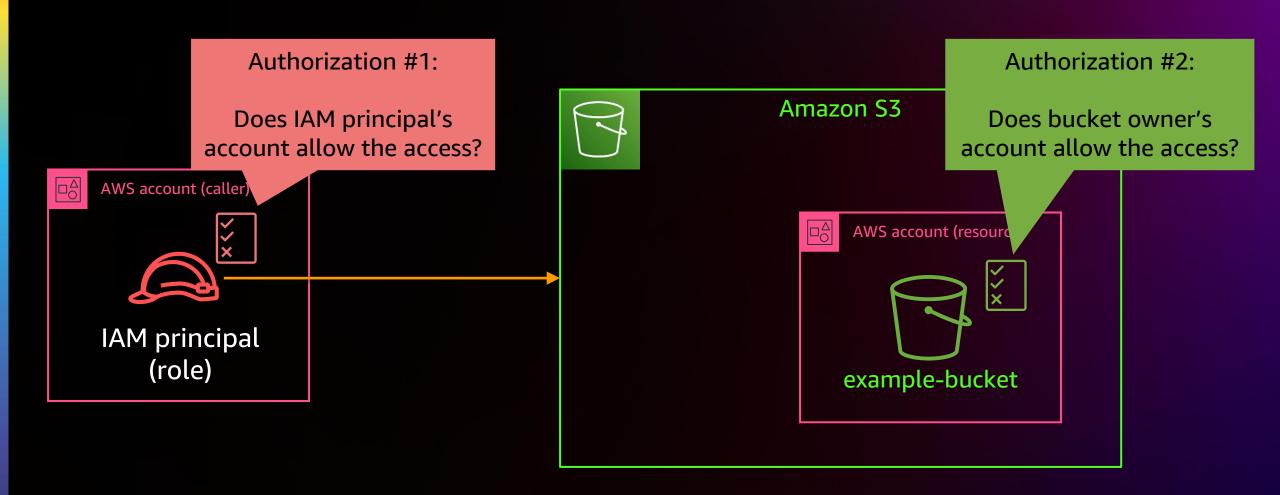
Amazon Resource Name (ARN) for an S3 bucket resource

```
{
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Action": "s3:ListBucket",
    "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket"
}
```

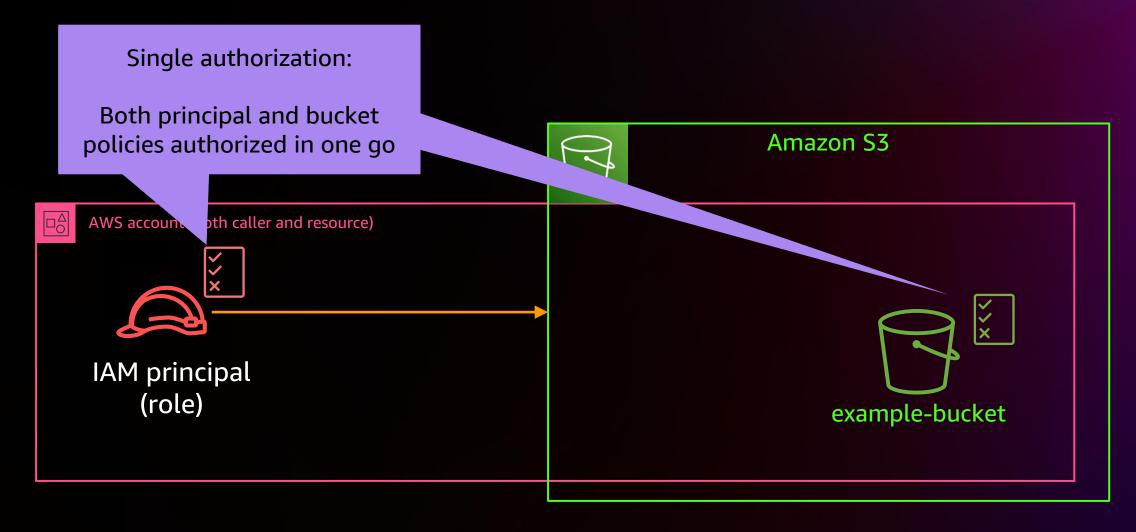
- + example-bucket/
 - + red/
 - alert.csv
 - firetruck.txt
 - + yellow/
 - dandelion.jpg
 - submarine.json
 - + blue/
 - moon.csv



A cross-account access: Two authorizations

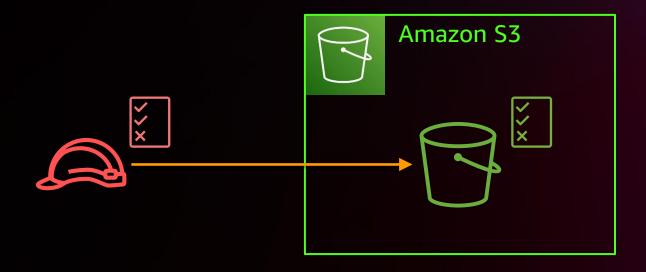


A same-account access: One authorization





Recap: IAM basics

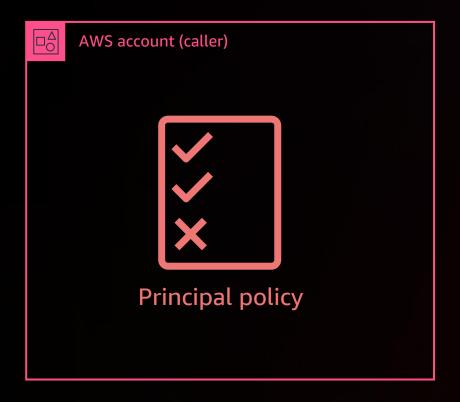


IAM principal policy

S3 bucket policy



Recap: IAM basics

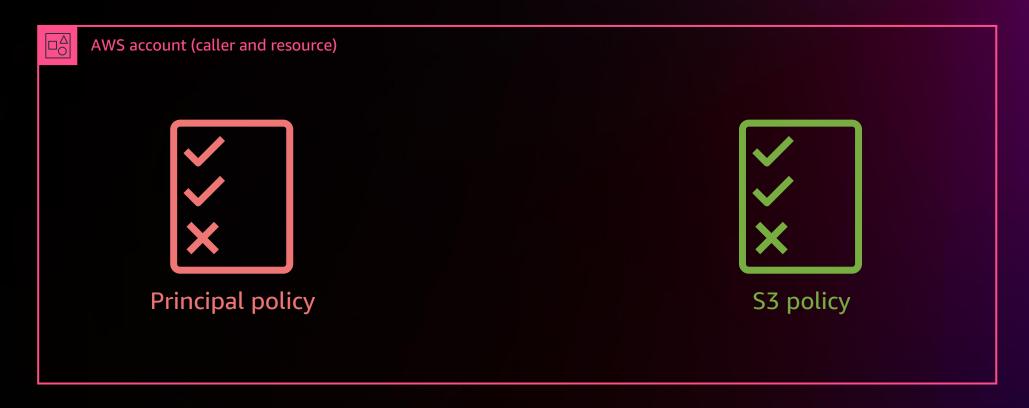




Two accounts: Two separate authorizations (AND)



Recap: IAM basics



One account: One authorization



IAM session broker



S3 access points



IAM and S3 prefixes

Lake Formation

IAM basics



Prefix-based access for object read/write

```
s3.getObject({
                  Bucket: 'example-bucket',
                  Key: 'blue/ocean.jpg'
Policy granting object access for blue/ prefix
"Effect": "Allow",
"Action": [
  "s3:GetObject*",
  "s3:PutObject*"
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/blue/*"
```

- + example-bucket/
 - red/
 - yellow/
 - blue/



Prefix-based access for listing objects

```
s3.listObjectsV2({
                 Bucket: 'example-bucket'
               });
Policy granting general list permission
"Effect": "Allow",
"Action": "s3:ListBucket",
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket"
```

```
Output: All bucket contents
[
    'blue/bird.jpg',
    'blue/moon.txt',
    ...
    'red/alert.jpg',
    'red/fire.txt',
    ...
]
```

Prefix-based access for listing objects

```
s3.listObjectsV2({
                 Bucket: 'example-bucket',
                 Prefix: 'blue/'
Policy granting list permission for
prefixes starting with blue/
"Effect": "Allow",
"Action": "s3:ListBucket",
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket",
"Condition": {
  "StringLike": {
    "s3:prefix": "blue/*"
```

```
Output: Contents under blue/*

[
  'blue/bird.jpg',
  'blue/moon.txt',
  ...
]

- yellow/
- blue/
```

Prefix-based access for listing objects

```
s3.listObjectsV2({

Bucket: 'example-bucket'
});
```

```
// Policy granting list permission for
// prefixes starting with blue/
{
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Action": "s3:ListBucket",
    "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket",
    "Condition": {
        "StringLike": {
            "s3:prefix": "blue/*"
        }
    }
}
```



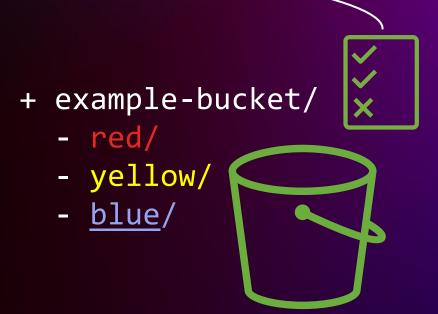
+ example-bucket/

- red/
- yellow/
- blue/



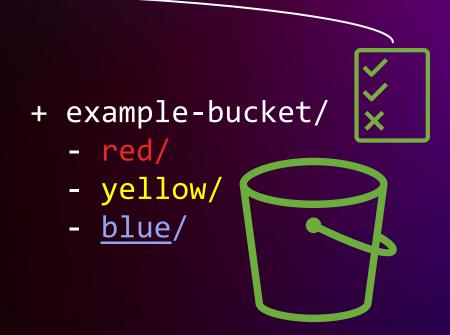
Counting up policy space

```
Bucket policy with read permissions
for blue/ prefix
"Effect": "Allow",
"Principal": "*",
"Action": "s3:GetObject*",
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/blue/*"
"Condition": {
 "ArnEquals": {
    "aws:PrincipalArn":
      "arn:aws:iam::111122223333:role/Blue"
[251 characters]
```



Counting up policy space

```
Bucket policy with read and list permissions
// for blue/ prefix
 "Effect": "Allow",
 "Principal": "*",
 "Action": "s3:GetObject*",
 "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/blue/*"
 "Condition": {
   "ArnEquals": {
     "aws:PrincipalArn":
        "arn:aws:iam::111122223333:role/Blue"
 "Effect": "Allow",
 "Principal": "*",
 "Action": "s3:ListBucket",
 "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket",
 "Condition": {
   "ArnEquals": {
     "aws:PrincipalArn":
        "arn:aws:iam::111122223333:role/Blue"
   "StringLike": {
     "s3:prefix": "blue/*"
// [554 characters]
```



Doing the math

- Estimate ~300 characters for a read policy statement
- Estimate ~300 characters for a list policy statement
- Bucket policy max: 20KB

- → ~30 prefixes with distinct access patterns fit in a bucket policy
- (About twice that if there are no list permissions)

Primary constraint: Number of prefixes → policy sizes







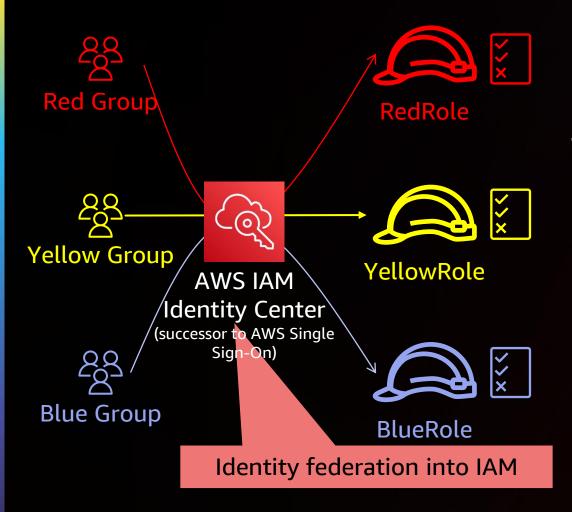




- red/
- yellow/
- blue/







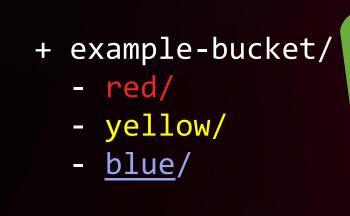
- + example-bucket/
 - red/
 - yellow/
 - blue/







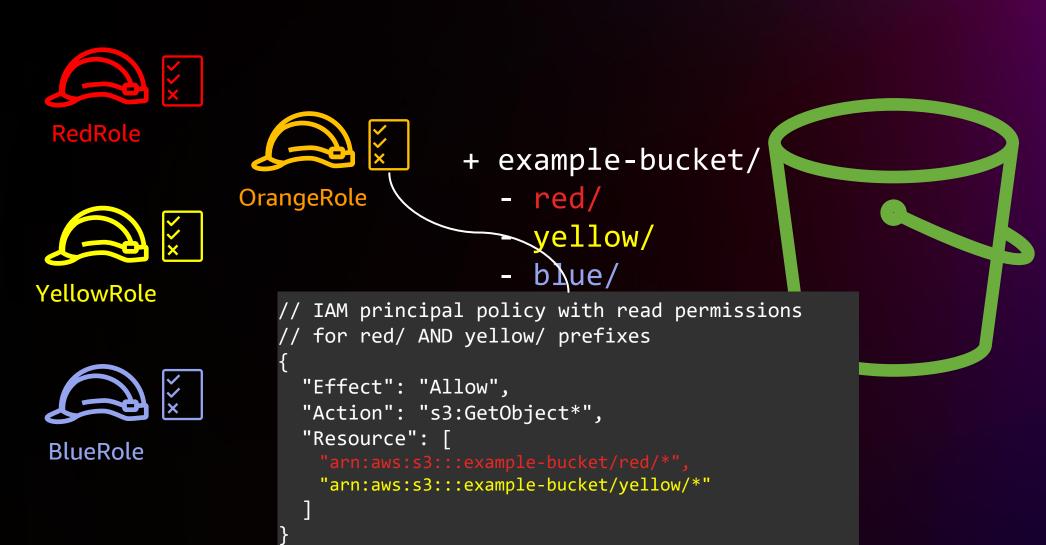




```
BlueRole

// IAM princ!
// for blue/
{
    "Effect":
    "Action":
    "Resource"
```

```
// IAM principal policy with read permissions
// for blue/ prefix
{
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Action": "s3:GetObject*",
    "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/blue/*"
}
```

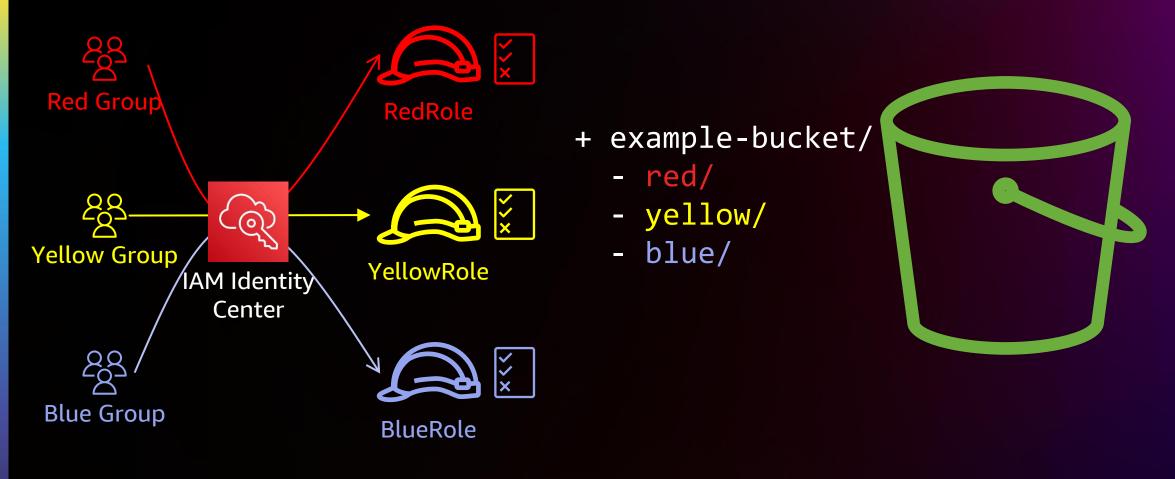




Doing the math

- This approach requires callers and bucket in same account, or a small number of accounts
- Each distinct combination of permissions needs an IAM role
 - IAM roles per account: 1,000 (5,000 max)
 - This works well for strictly role-based access schemes
- Primary constraint: Number of unique permissions use cases → IAM role count











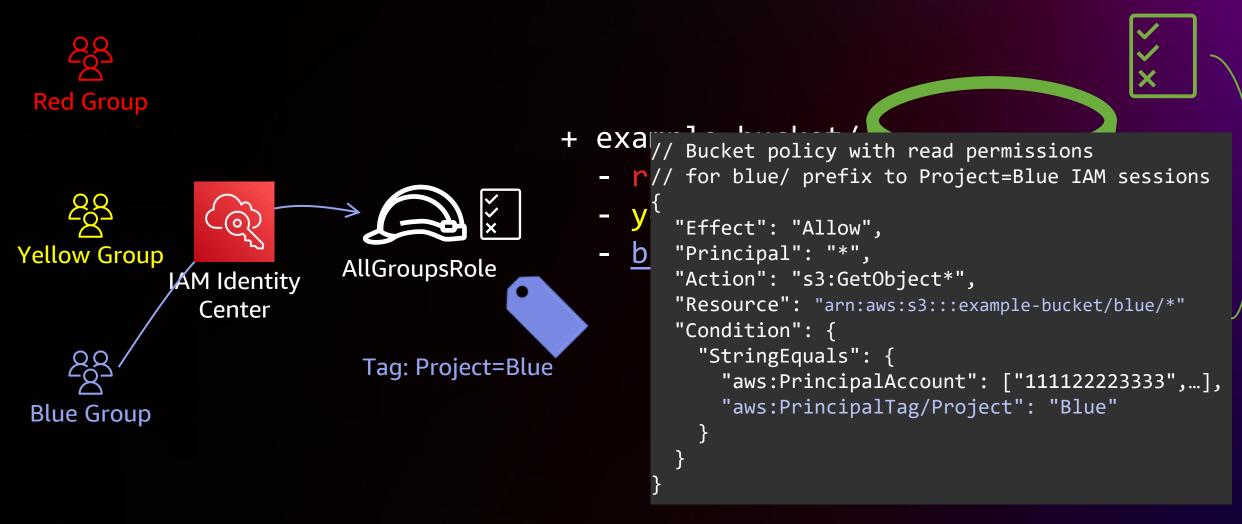


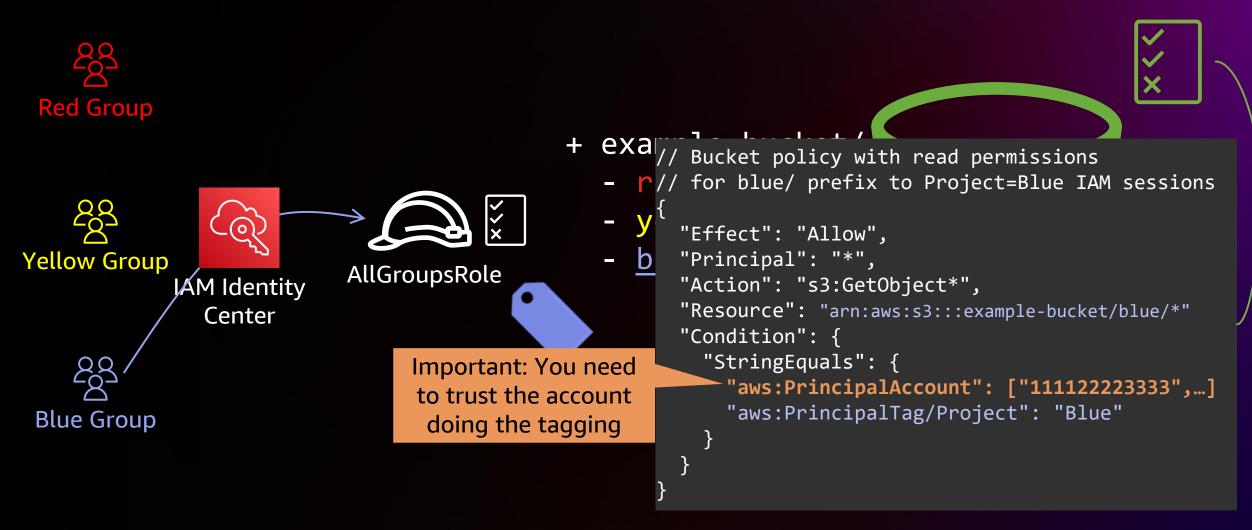


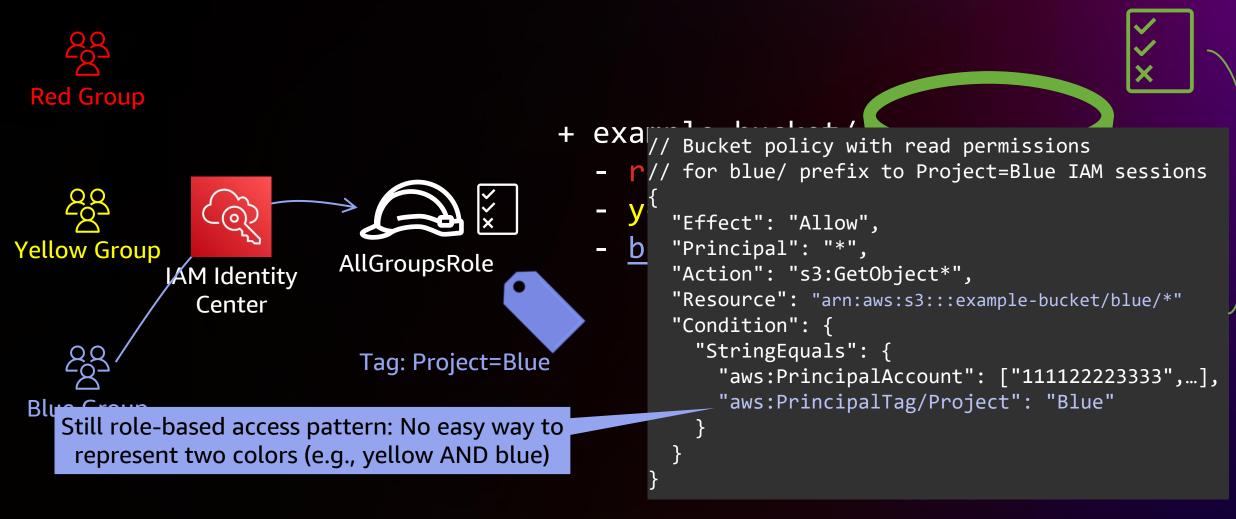
- red/
- yellow/
- blue/

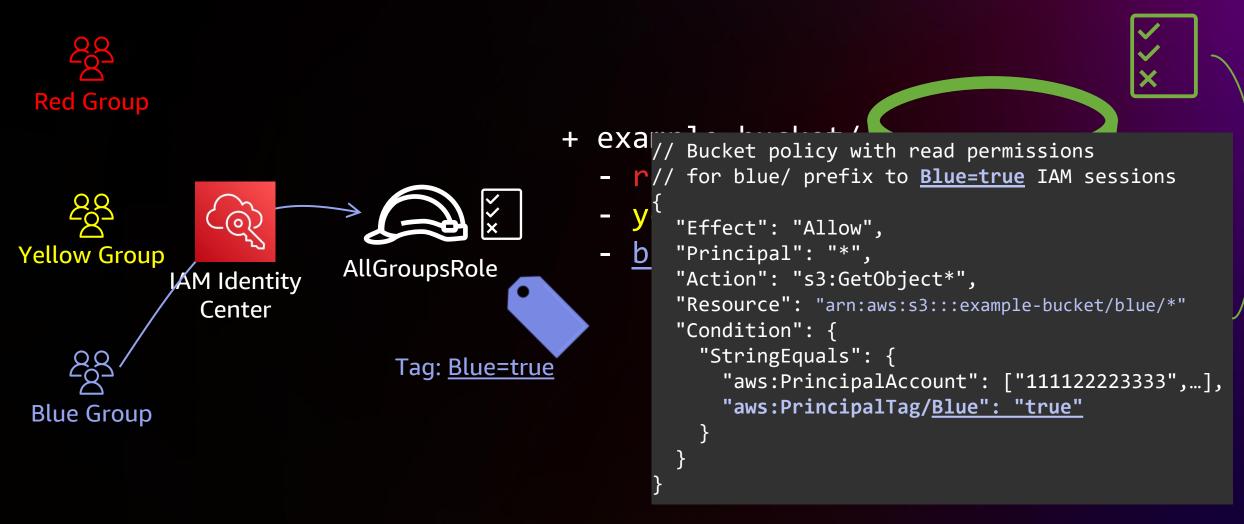












Comparing tagging schemes

```
Bucket policy with read permissions
for blue/ prefix to Project=Blue IAM sessions
"Effect": "Allow",
"Principal": "*",
"Action": "s3:GetObject*",
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/blue/*"
"Condition": {
  "StringEquals": {
    "aws:PrincipalAccount": ["111122223333",...],
    "aws:PrincipalTag/Project": "Blue"
```

Can have as many values for this as you want . . . but only one at a time

```
// Bucket policy with read permissions
// for blue/ prefix to Blue=true IAM sessions
  "Effect": "Allow",
  "Principal": "*",
  "Action": "s3:GetObject*",
  "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/blue/*"
  "Condition": {
    "StringEquals": {
      "aws:PrincipalAccount": ["111122223333",...],
      "aws:PrincipalTag/Blue": "true"
```



Project=Blue



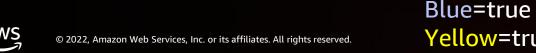
Comparing tagging schemes

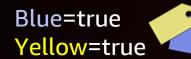
```
Bucket policy with read permissions
for blue/ prefix to Project=Blue IAM sessions
"Effect": "Allow",
"Principal": "*",
"Action": "s3:GetObject*",
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/blue/*"
"Condition": {
  "StringEquals": {
    "aws:PrincipalAccount": ["111122223333",...],
    "aws:PrincipalTag/Project": "Blue"
```

```
Bucket policy with read permissions
for blue/ prefix to Blue=true IAM sessions
"Effect": "Allow",
"Principal": "*",
"Action": "s3:GetObject*",
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/blue/*"
"Condition": {
  "StringEquals": {
    "aws:PrincipalAccount": ["111122223333",...],
    "aws:PrincipalTag/Blue": "true"
```



Allows for multiple values on a single session . . . up to a limit (50)





Doing the math

- Bucket policy grows with number of prefixes
 - Bucket policy max = 20 KB → Best for <30 prefixes in bucket</p>
- Each IAM session can have up to 50 tags

Primary constraints:

- Number of prefixes
 bucket policy size
- Number of groups for a single session → IAM session tags



IAM session broker



S3 access points



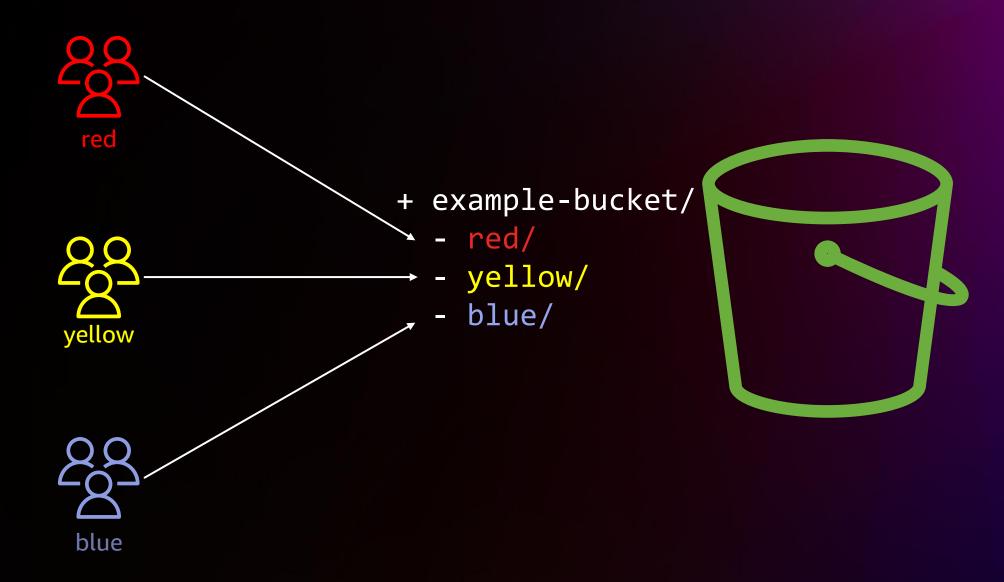
IAM and S3 prefixes

Lake Formation

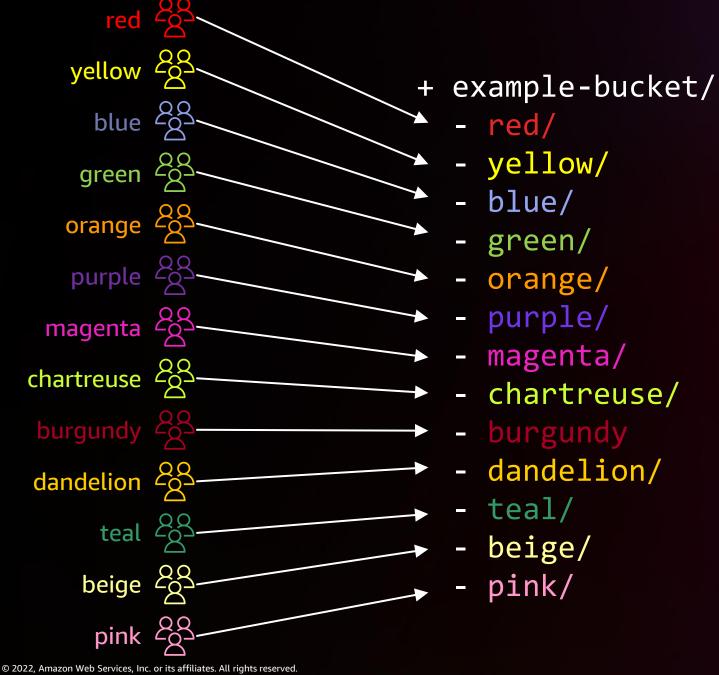


IAM basics





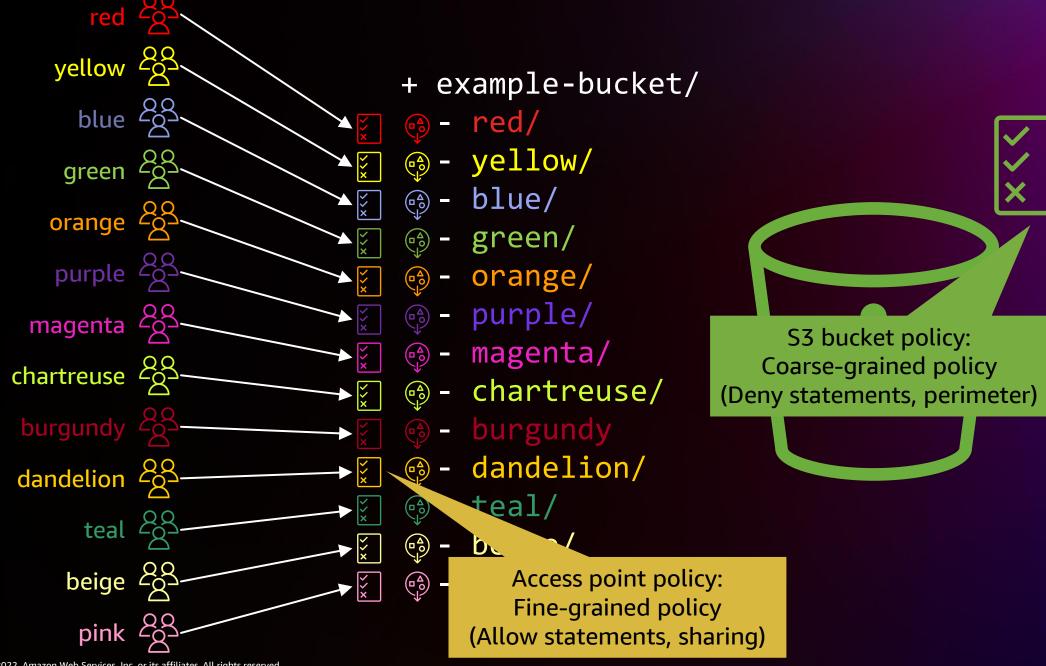












Typical request to an S3 bucket (without access point)

```
$ aws s3api get-object \
  --bucket example-bucket
  --key blue/ocean-data.csv
```

... makes a request to ...

GET https://example-bucket.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/blue/ocean-data.csv



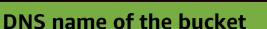


DNS name of the access point

blue-access-point-1111222223333.s3-accesspoint.us-east-2.amazonaws.com

example-bucket





example-bucket.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com



DNS name of the access point

blue-access-point-1111222223333.s3-accesspoint.us-east-2.amazonaws.com

example-bucket



blue-access-point

DNS name of the access point, using bucket alias

blue-access-point-razthp3ehn-s3alias.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com

DNS name of the bucket

example-bucket.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com



DNS name of the access point

blue-access-point-1111222223333.s3-accesspoint.us-east-2.amazonaws.com

example-bucket



blue-access-point

DNS name of the access point, using bucket alias

blue-access-point-razthp3ehn-s3alias.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com

Use access point alias like a bucket name

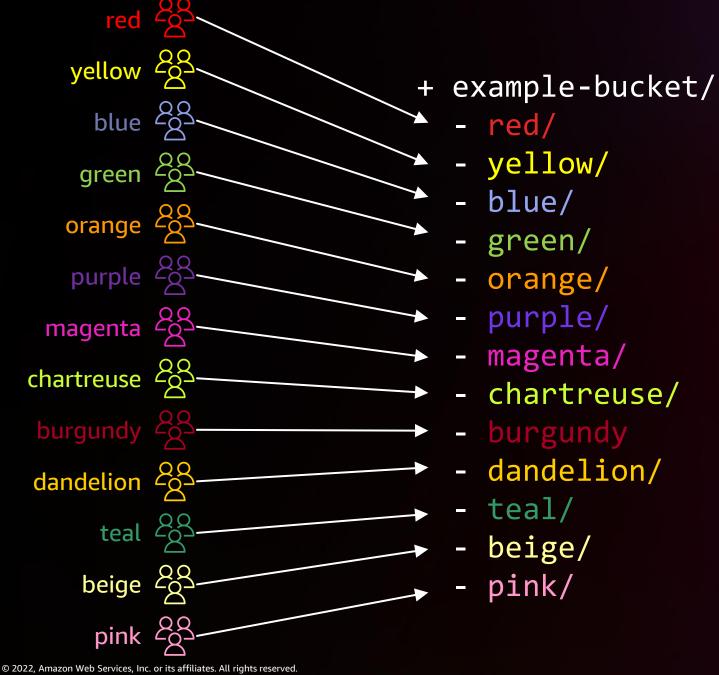
DNS name of the bucket

example-bucket.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com



```
example-bucket
                                            blue-access-point
 Requesting data via an S3 access point
$ aws s3api get-object \
  --bucket blue-access-point-razthp3ehn-s3alias
  --key blue/ocean-data.csv
# ... makes a request to ...
GET https://blue-access-point-razthp3ehn-s3alias.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/
blue/ocean-data.csv
```









+ example-bucket/ - red/

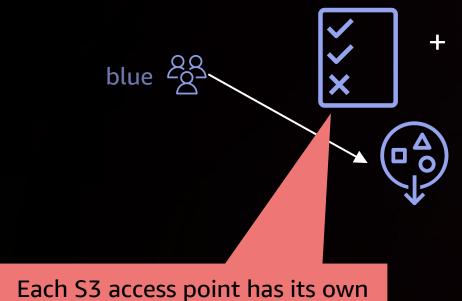


- yellow/
- blue/
- green/
- orange/
- purple/
- magenta/
- chartreuse/
- burgundy
- dandelion/
- teal/
- beige/
- pink/





blue 22



policy, in addition to the S3

bucket policy

- + example-bucket/
 - red/
 - yellow/
 - blue/
 - green/
 - orange/
 - purple/
 - magenta/
 - chartreuse/
 - burgundy
 - dandelion/
 - teal/
 - beige/
 - pink/



Using S3 access point and bucket policies together

Access point policy:

Grants access to account 444455556666

```
"Effect": "Allow",
   "Principal": {
       "AWS": "444455556666"
    },
      "Action": "s3:GetObject",
      "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:us-east-
2:111122223333:accesspoint/blue-access-
point/object/blue/*"
}
```

S3 bucket policy:

Grants access via access points in this account

```
"Effect": "Allow",
"Principal": "*",
"Action": "s3:GetObject",
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/*",
"Condition": {
  "StringEquals": {
    "s3:DataAccessPointAccount":
                           "111122223333",
    "aws:PrincipalOrgId": "o-a1b2c3"
```



Using S3 access point and bucket policies together

Access point policy:

Grants access to account 444455556666

```
"Effect": "Allow",
  "Principal": {
    "AWS": "444455556666"
  "Action": "s3:GetObject",
  "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:us-east-
2:111122223333:accesspoint/blue-access-
point/object/blue/*"
```

ARN for an object when accessed via an access point

S3 bucket policy:

Grants access via access points in this account

```
"Effect": "Allow",
"Principal": "*",
"Action": "s3:GetObject",
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/*",
"Condition": {
  "StringEquals": {
    "s3:DataAccessPointAccount":
                           "111122223333",
    "aws:PrincipalOrgId": "o-a1b2c3"
```



Using S3 access point and bucket policies together

Access point policy:

Grants access to account 444455556666

```
"Effect": "Allow",
   "Principal": {
       "AWS": "444455556666"
    },
      "Action": "s3:GetObject",
      "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:us-east-
2:111122223333:accesspoint/blue-access-
point/object/blue/*"
}
```

ARN for an object when accessed via an access point



S3 bucket policy:

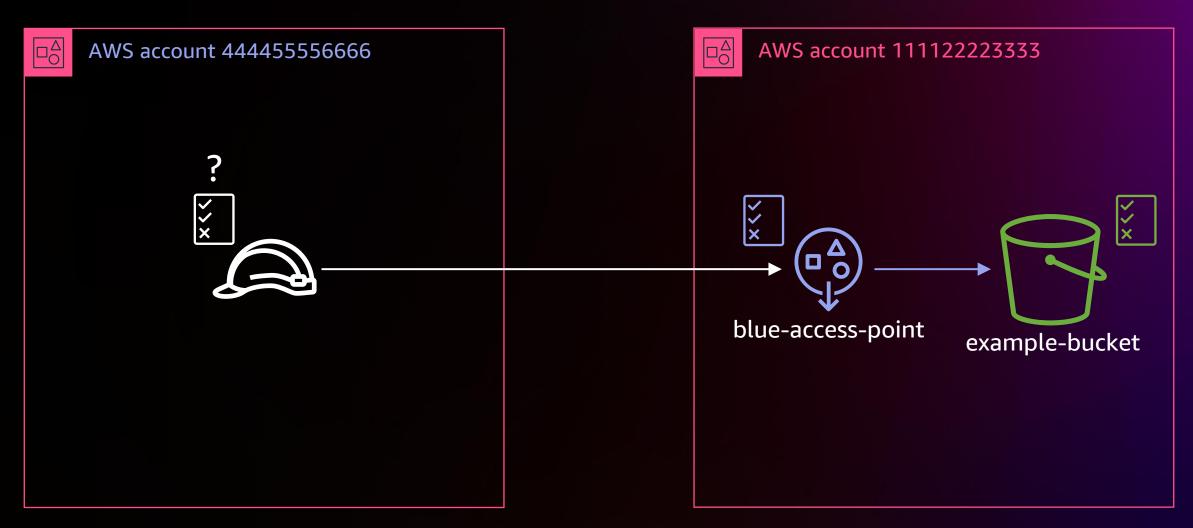
Grants access via access points in this account

```
"Effect": "Allow",
"Principal": "*",
"Action": "s3:GetObject",
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/*",
"Condition": {
  "StringEquals": {
    "s3:DataAccessPointAccount":
                            "111122223333",
    "aws:PrincipalOrgId": "o-a1b2c3"
                Will allow any access from
              this AWS Organization that is
```

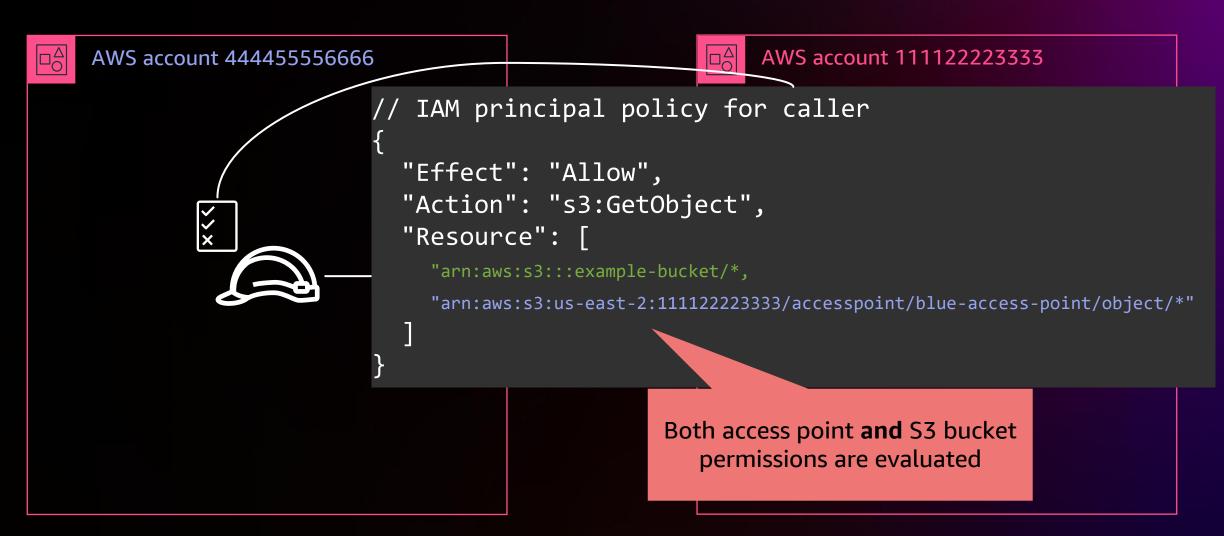
allowed by an access point



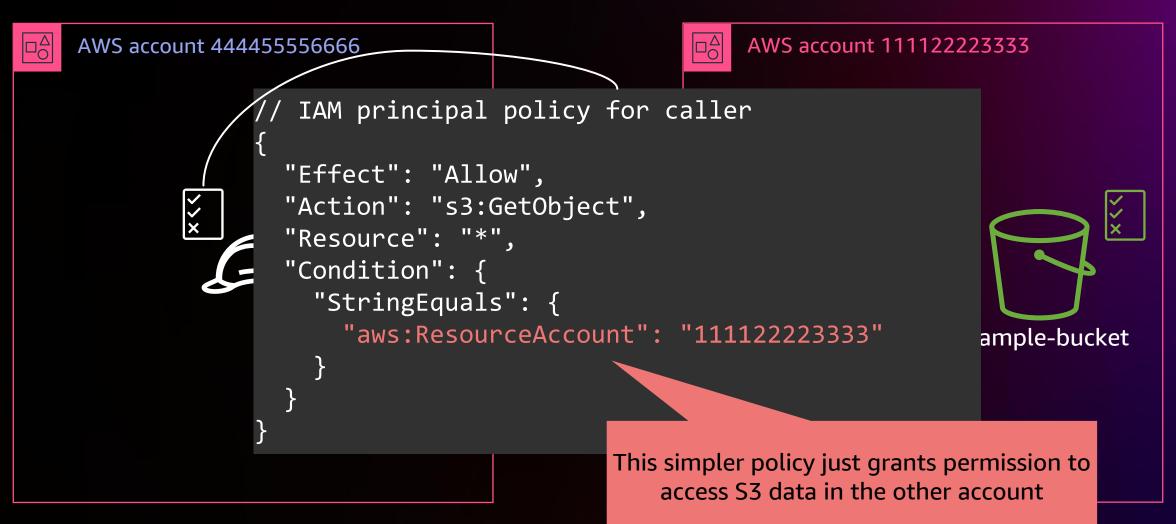
Using S3 access points: IAM principal policy

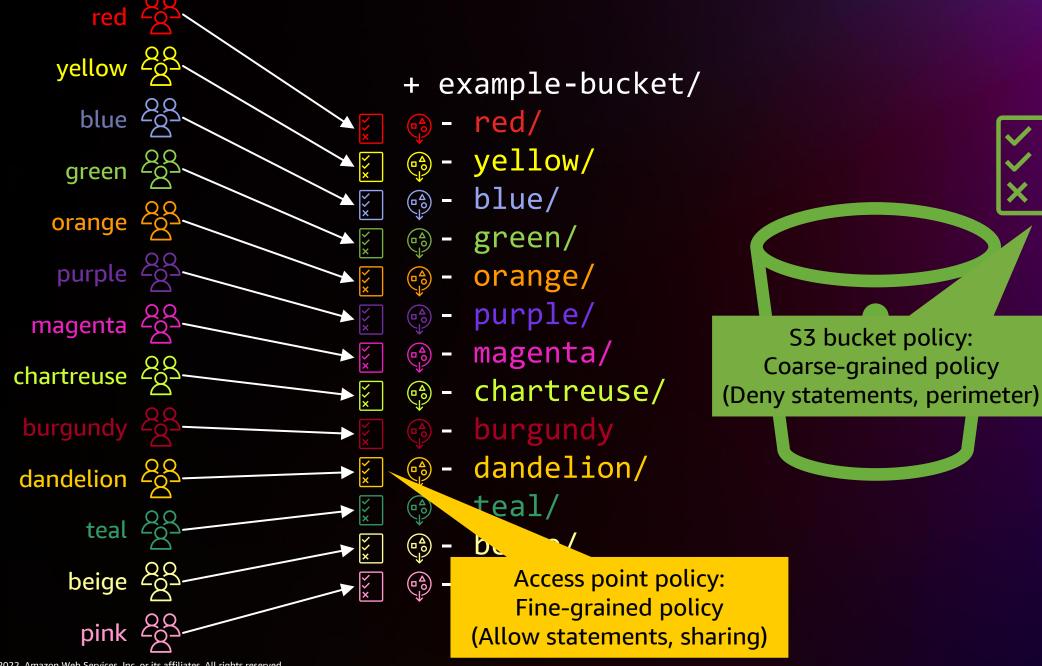


Using S3 access points: IAM principal policy



Using S3 access points: IAM principal policy





Do S3 access points fit your use case?

Best-fit use cases:

- Large number of static access patterns (up to 10,000 by default)
- Delegation-with-guardrails: Separate policies of access points and S3 buckets

Considerations:

- Discovery mechanism: How to find the right access point?
- Rate of change required for access patterns



Do S3 access points fit your use case?

Best-fit use cases:

- Large number of static access patterns (up to 10,000 by default)
- Delegation-with-guardrails: Separate policies of access points and S3 buckets

Considerations:

- Discovery mechanism: How to find the right access point?
- Rate of change required for access patterns

... What to do if they're dynamic?



IAM session broker



S3 access points



IAM and S3 prefixes

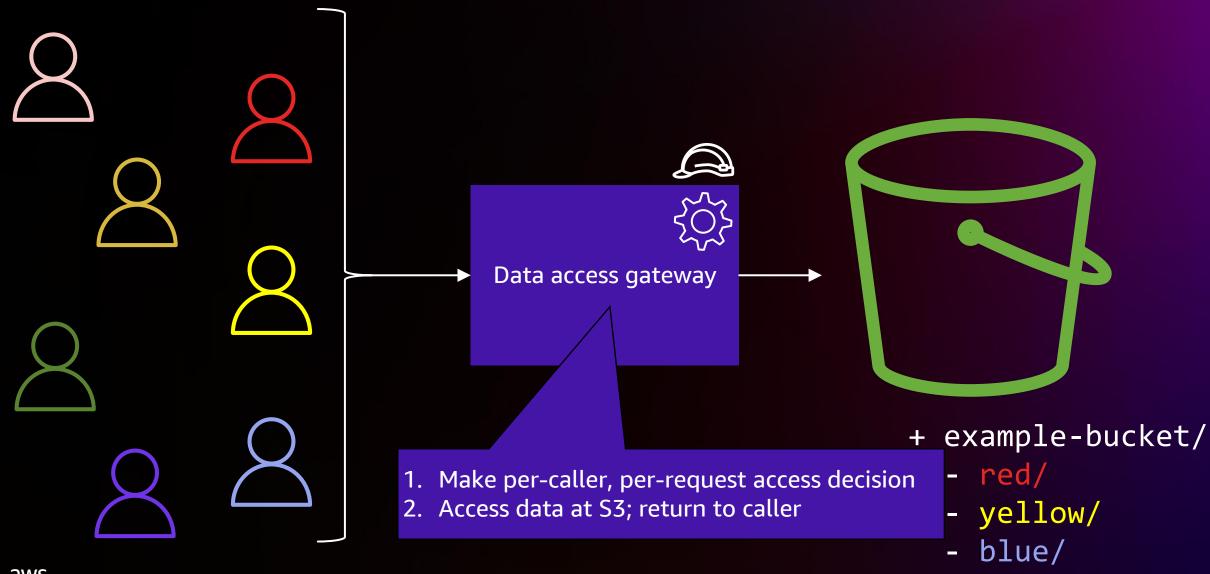
Lake Formation



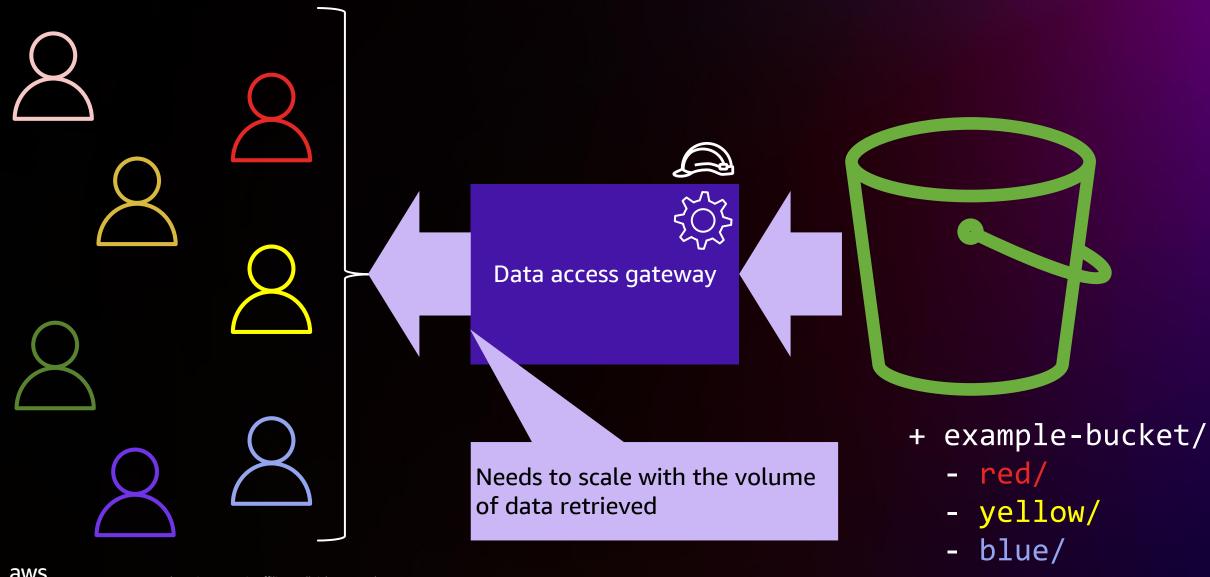
IAM basics



One solution: Build a gateway



One solution: Build a gateway





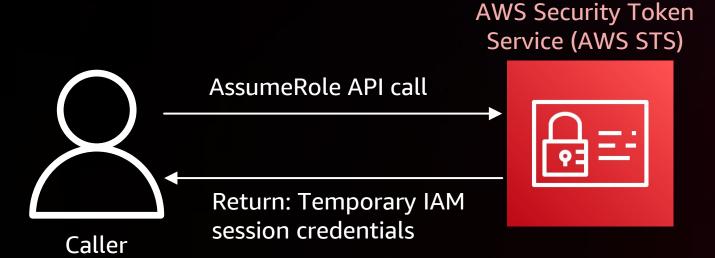






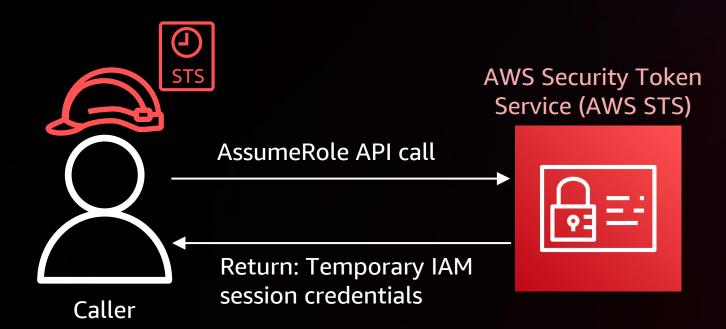
















```
// IAM principal policy (static)
{
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Action": "s3:GetObject",
    "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/*"
}
```



General read access to all objects in the bucket



BucketAccessRole

Resulting session has intersection of permissions from the IAM principal policy and the session policy





AWS STS

AssumeRole API call

```
Assuming IAM role with dynamic session scope policy
sts.assumeRole({
 RoleArn: 'arn:aws:iam::111122223333:Role/BucketAccessRole',
 RoleSessionName: 'DynamicSession-OneFolder',
 Policy: `{
    "Version": "2012-10-17",
    "Statement": [{
                                          Read access to folder/
     "Effect": "Allow",
     "Action": "s3:GetObject",
```

"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::example-bucket/folder/*"

More specific, dynamic policy:

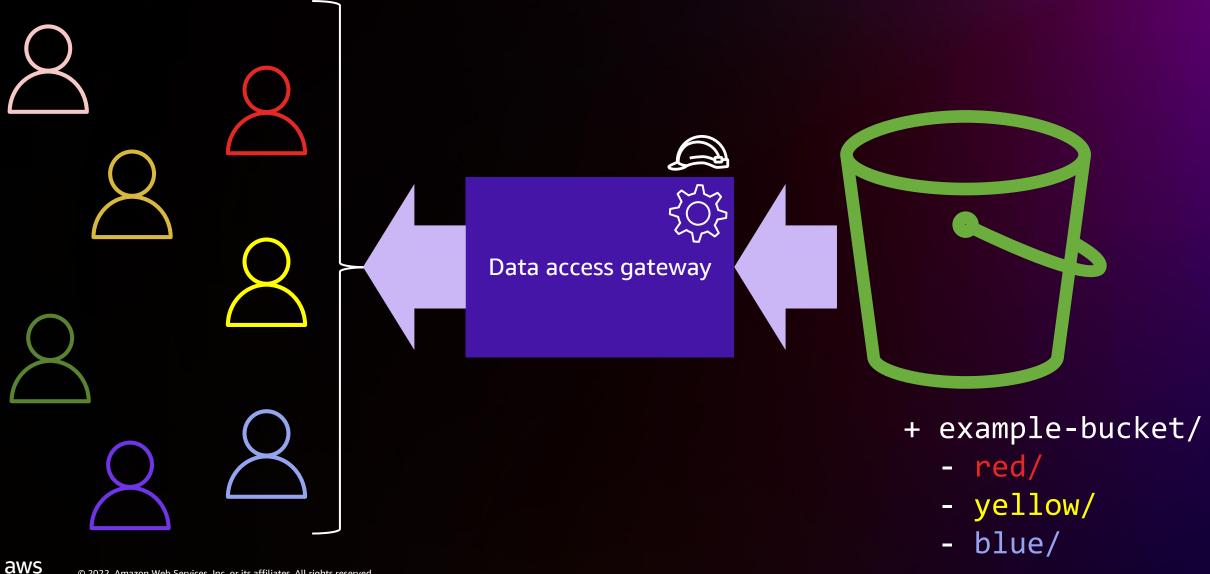




BucketAccessRole



Instead of building a gateway...





Dynamic permissions at scale: Session broker

Data access session requests:

- In: Desired data location and access levels; user identity and other claims





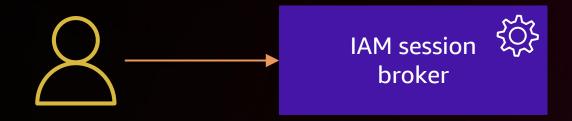


- + example-bucket/
 - red/
 - yellow/
 - blue/



1. Authenticate caller

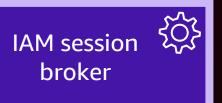
- 2. Make access decision: Should the caller be able to access the S3 location requested (e.g., s3://example-bucket/folder/)?
- 3. If yes, call STS AssumeRole API to create a session from a central IAM role with a superset access policy. Specify a session policy that grants access to the requested location.
- 4. Return STS credentials to caller, who will use them to sign requests to S3





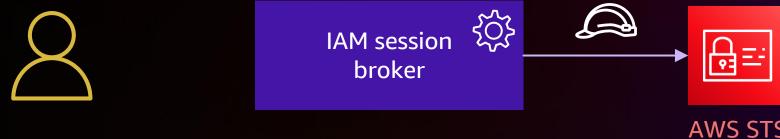
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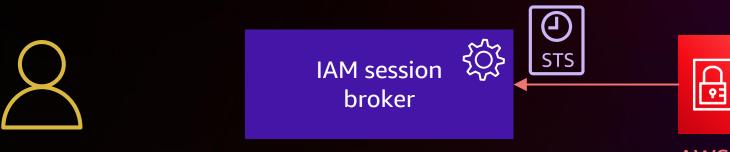




- Authenticate caller
- 2. Make access decision: Should the caller be able to access the S3 location requested (e.g., s3://example-bucket/folder/)?
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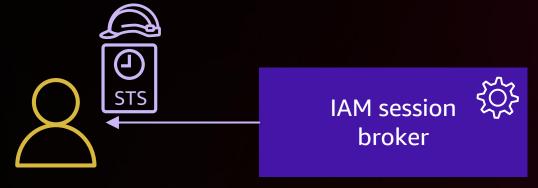


- Authenticate caller
- 2. Make access decision: Should the caller be able to access the S3 location requested (e.g., s3://example-bucket/folder/)?
- 3. If yes, call STS AssumeRole API to create a session from a central IAM role with a superset access policy. Specify a session policy that grants access to the requested location.
- 4. Return STS credentials to caller, who will use them to sign requests to S3





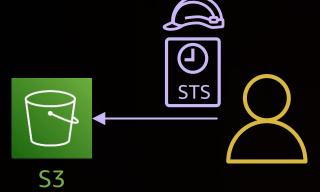
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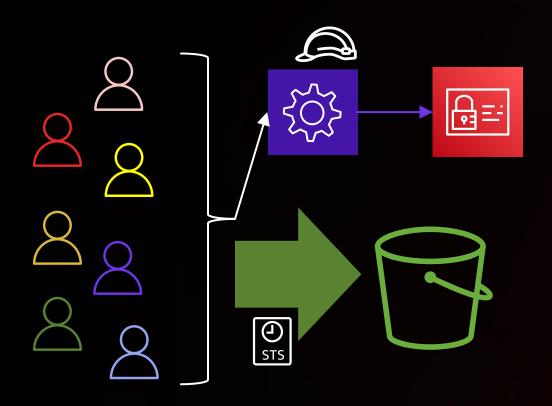
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Why the session broker pattern scales well



- Credential-vending is built on AWS STS, a high-volume, regional data plane
- Uses S3 for what it does best: Scale and data throughput
- Number of static IAM resources (IAM roles, policy) is minimal
- Session broker component scales with sessions, not data or even object requests

IAM session broker



S3 access points



IAM and S3 prefixes

Lake Formation



IAM basics



In S3, an object is an object



- + example-bucket/
 - red/
 - + yellow/
 part-00000-abcde.snappy.parquet
 part-00001-abcde.snappy.parquet
 part-00002-abcde.snappy.parquet
 - blue/

Structured data in S3



```
$ aws s3 cp s3://example-bucket/listings/part3.csv -
id,seller_name,latitude,longitude,price
```

3000,Alice,40.32,-73.59,150 3001,Bob,54.22,-75.18,110 3002,Carol,37.28,-78.20,115

•••

id	seller_name	latitude	longitude	price
3000	Alice	40.32	-73.59	150
3001	Bob	54.22	-75.18	110
3002	Carol	37.28	-78.20	115



Structured data in S3

id	seller_name	latitude	longitude	price
3000	Alice	40.32	-73.59	150
3001	Bob	54.22	-75.18	110
3002	Carol	37.28	-78.20	115

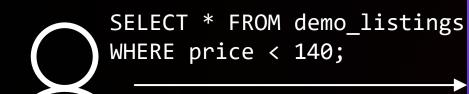


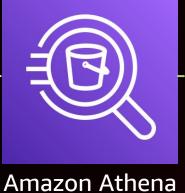
Data in S3, metadata in AWS Glue Data Catalog

id	seller_name	latitude	longitude	price
3000	Alice	40.32	-73.59	150
3001	Bob	54.22	-75.18	110
3002	Carol	37.28	-78.20	115



AWS Glue Data Catalog







•••



Data in S3, metadata in AWS Glue Data Catalog

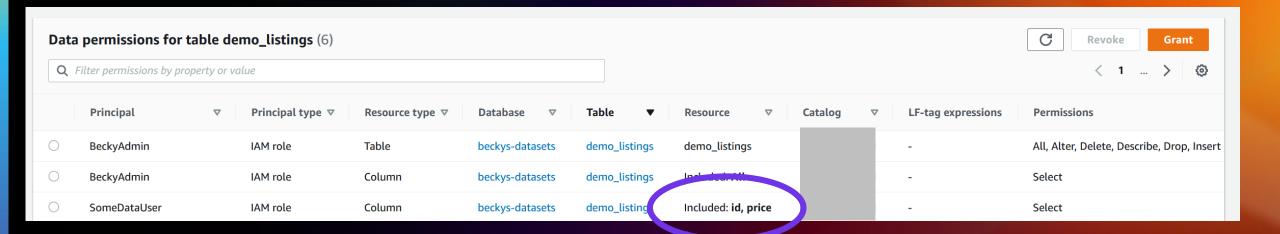
id	seller_name	latitude	longitude	price	
3000	Alice	40.32	-73.59	150	
3001	Bob	54.22	-75.18	110	
3002	Carol	37.28	70.20	115	



SELECT * FROM demo_listing
WHERE price < 140;

```
$ aws glue get-table --table-name demo_listings \
                     --database-name my-database
  "Name": "demo listings",
  "StorageDescriptor": {
    "Columns":
      { "Name": "id", "Type": "bigint" },
        "Name": "seller_name", "Type": "string" },
    "Location": "s3://example-bucket/listings/"
```

Permissions are often tied to schema



"SomeDataUser" can read only "id" and "price" columns



Permissions are often tied to schema

```
// Query by "Admin" IAM role
SELECT * FROM demo_listings
LIMIT 3;
```

```
// Query by "SomeDataUser" IAM role
SELECT * FROM demo_listings
LIMIT 3;
```

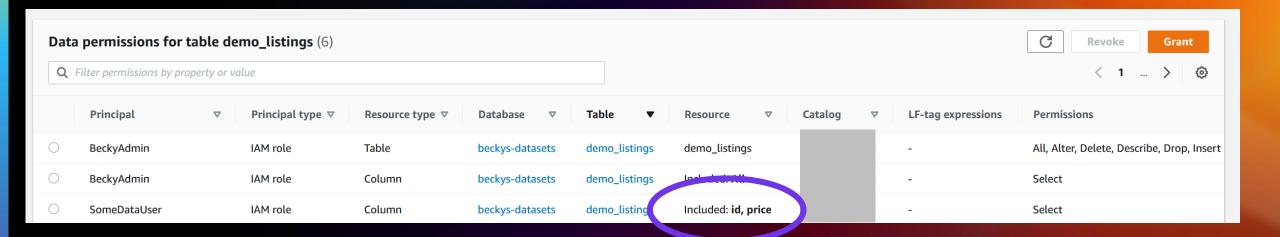
id	seller_name	latitude	longitude	price
3000	Alice	40.32	-73.59	150
3001	Bob	54.22	-75.18	110
3002	Carol	37.28	-78.20	115

id	price
3000	150
3001	110
3002	115

Schema-based permission requires filtering

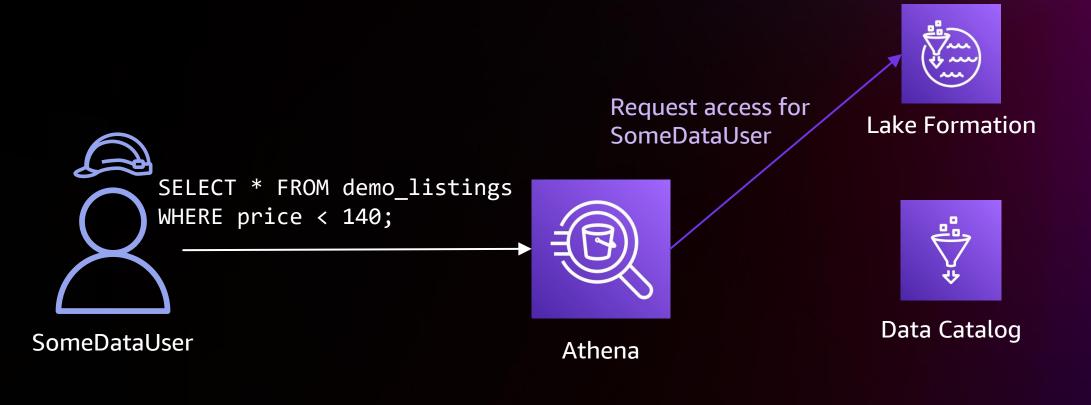


Schema-based permission requires filtering



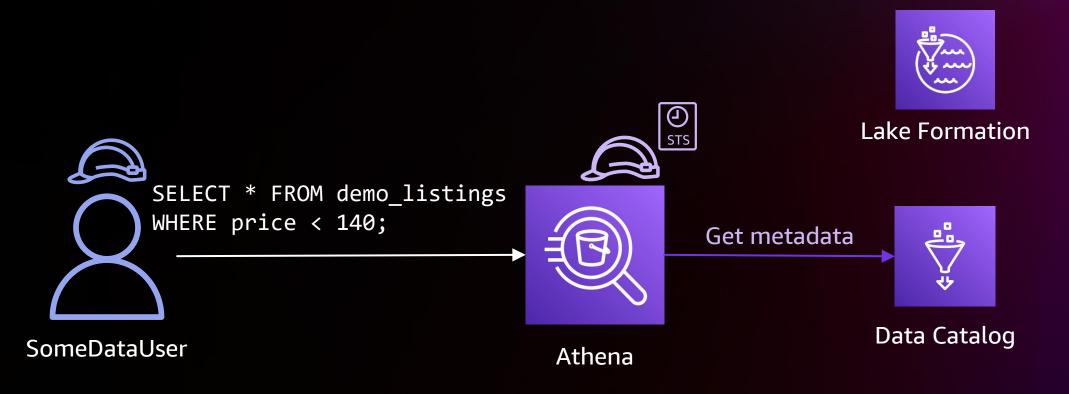
"SomeDataUser" can read only "id" and "price" columns





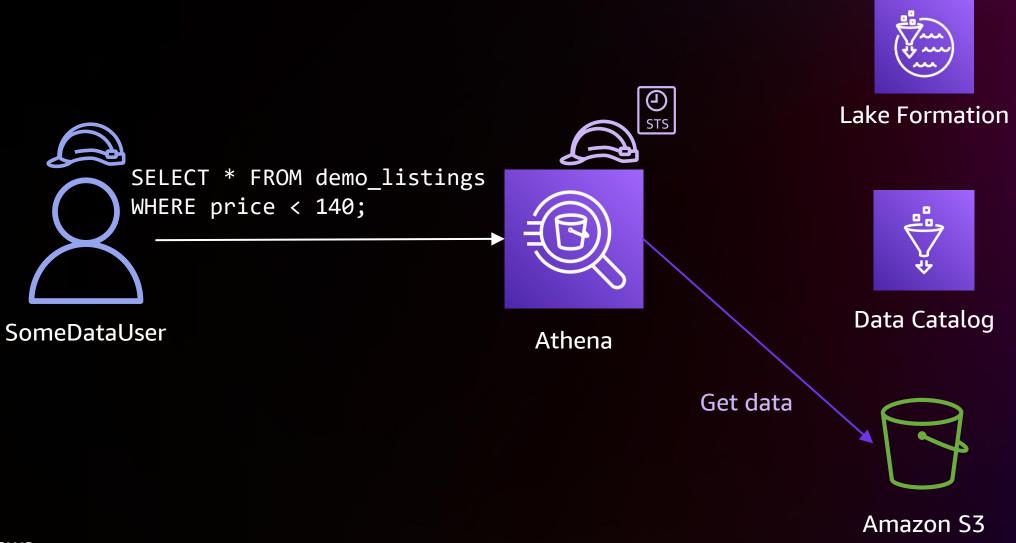




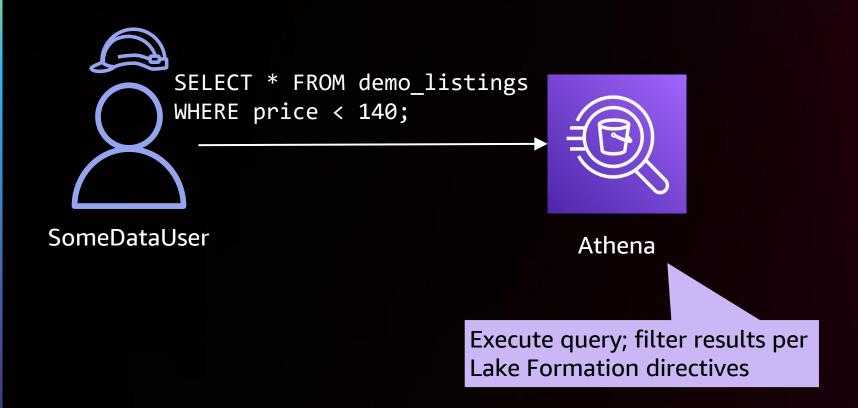














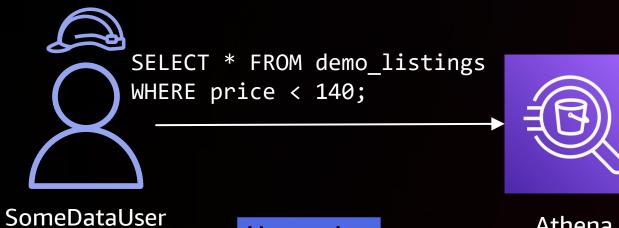


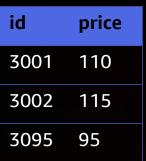
Data Catalog



Amazon S3

Athena









Data Catalog

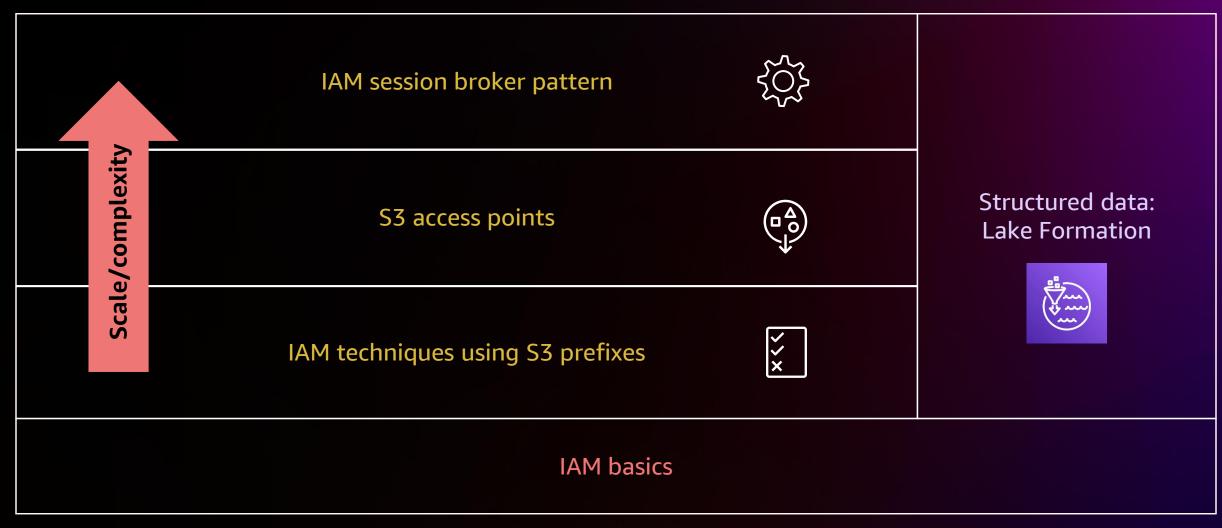


Amazon S3

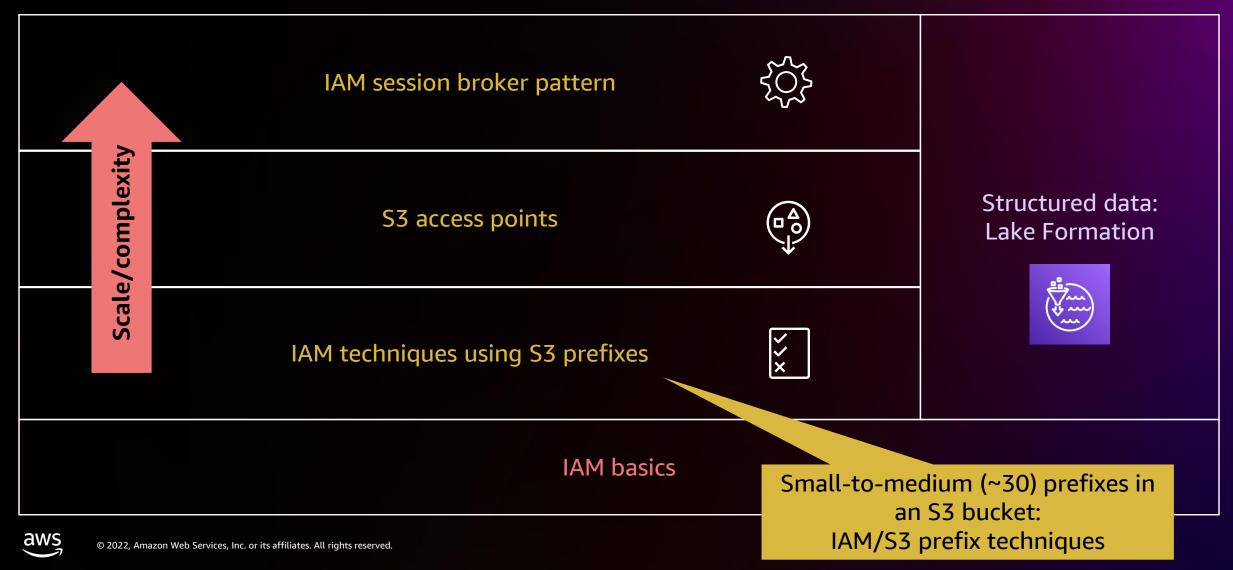


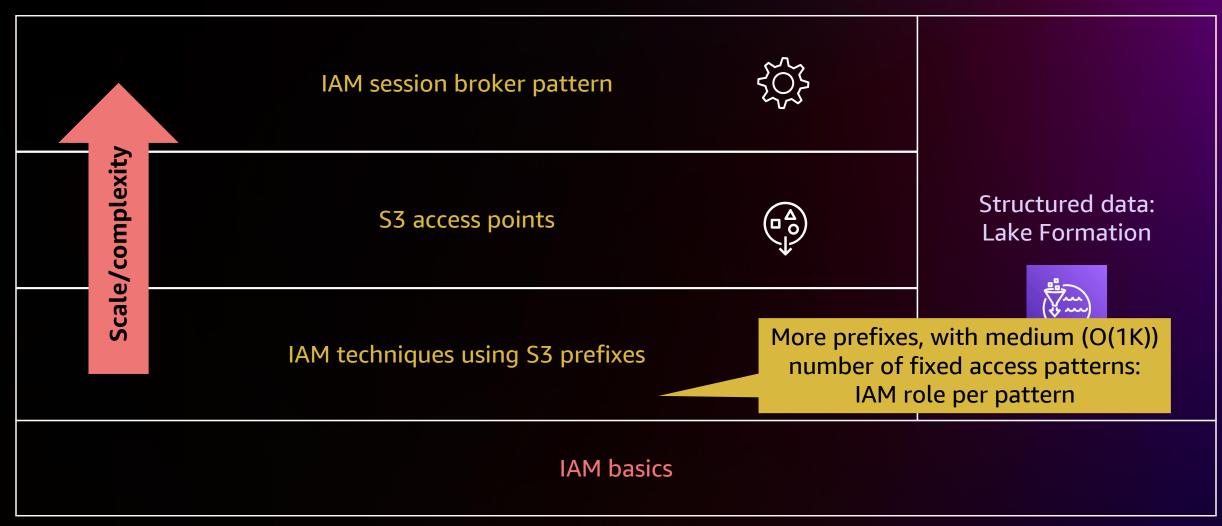
How to choose?



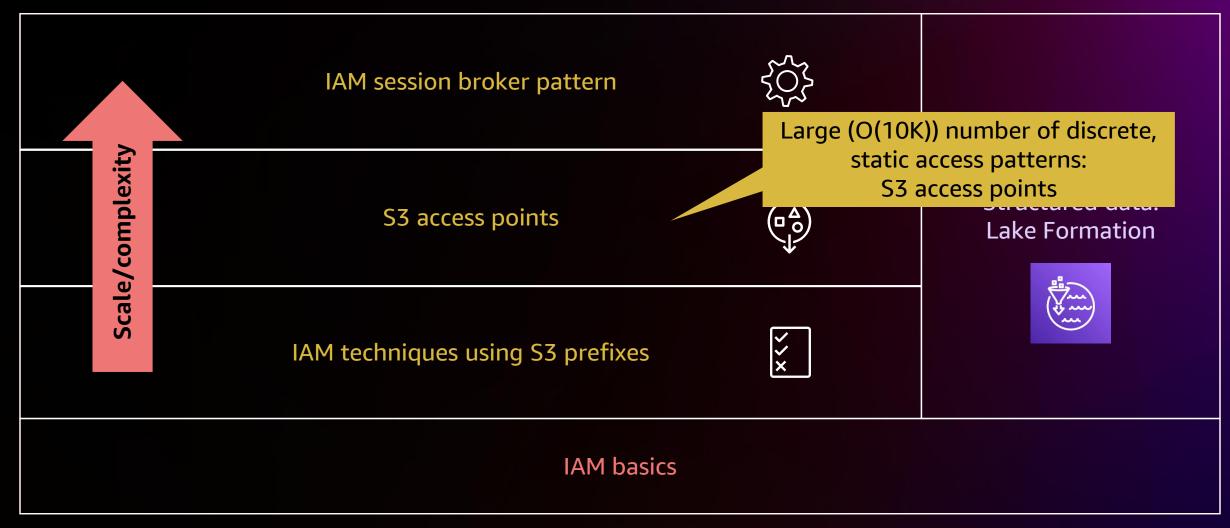




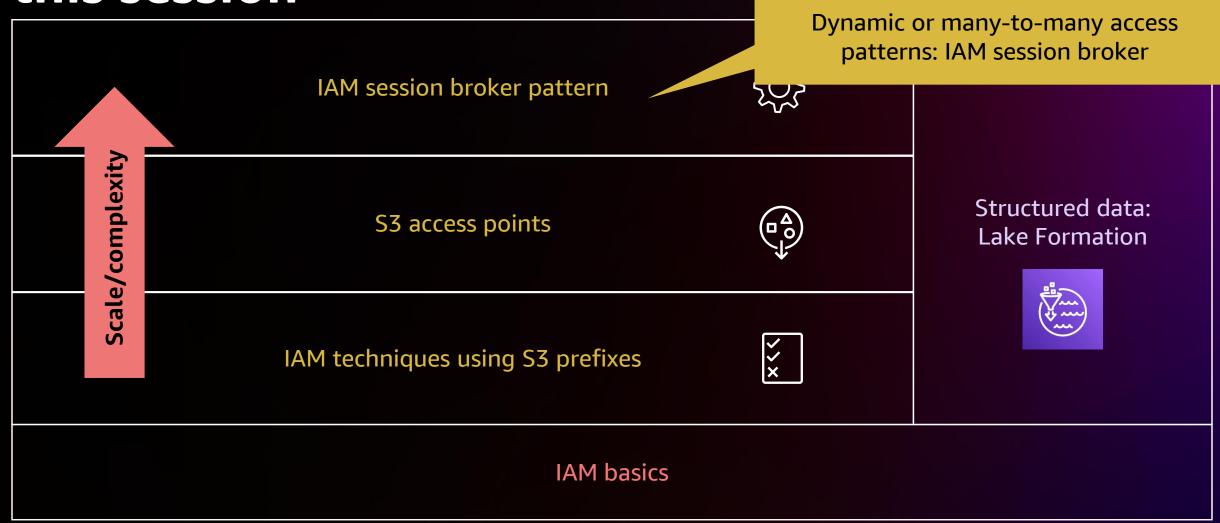




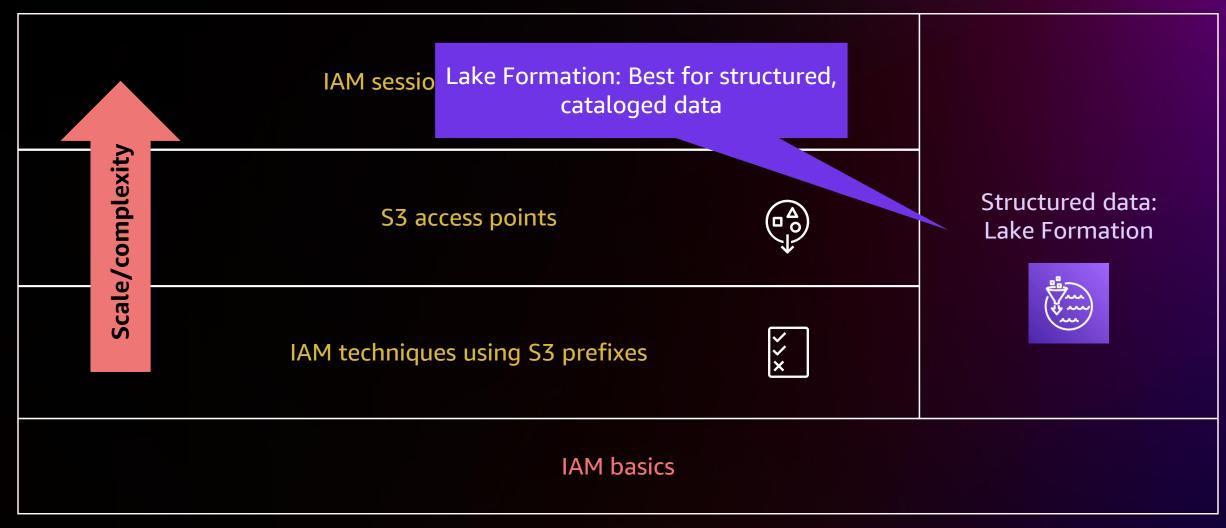




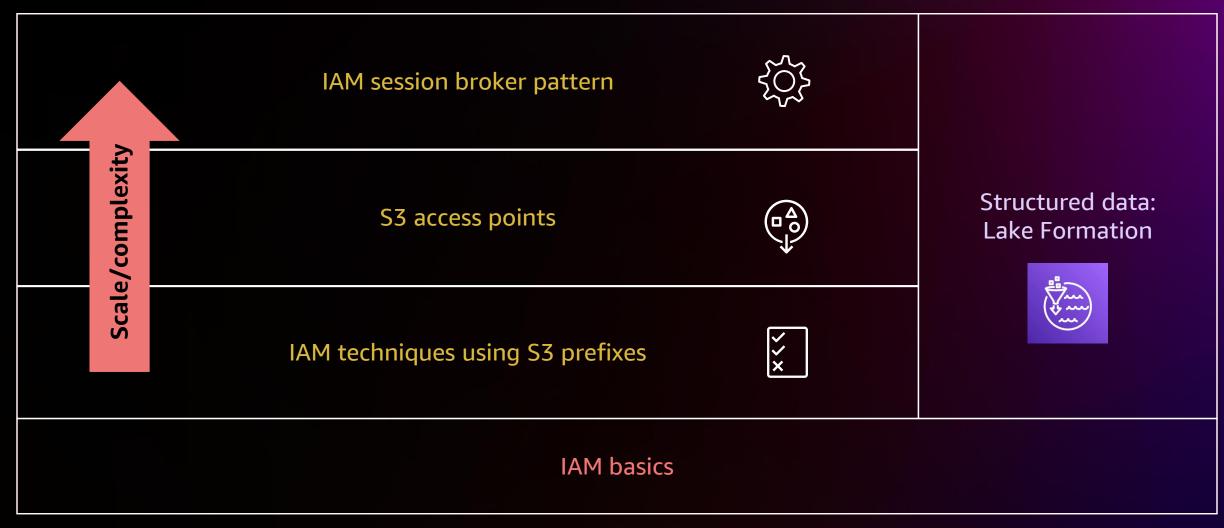














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