Amazon Web Services: Risk and Compliance

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(Please consult http://aws.amazon.com/security **for the latest version of this paper)**

This document intends to provide information to assist AWS customers with integrating AWS into their existing control framework supporting their IT environment. This document includes a basic approach to evaluating AWS controls and provides information to assist customers with integrating control environments. This document also addresses AWS-specific information around general cloud computing compliance issues.

This document provides the following:

Risk and Compliance Overview

Since AWS and its customers share control over the IT environment, both parties have responsibility for managing the IT environment. AWS' part in this shared responsibility includes providing its services on a highly secure and controlled platform and providing a wide array of security features customers can use. The customers' responsibility includes configuring their IT environments in a secure and controlled manner for their purposes. While customers don't communicate their use and configurations to AWS, AWS does communicate its security and control environment relevant to customers. AWS does this by doing the following:

- Obtaining industry certifications and independent third party attestations described in this document
- Publishing information about the AWS security and control practices in whitepapers and web site content
- Providing certificates, reports, and other documentation directly to AWS customers under NDA (as required)

Please see the AWS Security Whitepaper, located at www.aws.amazon.com/security, for a more detailed description of AWS security. The AWS Security Whitepaper covers AWS's general security controls and service-specific security.

Shared Responsibility Environment

Moving IT infrastructure to AWS services creates a model of shared responsibility between the customer and AWS. This shared model can help relieve customer's operational burden as AWS operates, manages and controls the components from the host operating system and virtualization layer down to the physical security of the facilities in which the service

operates. The customer assumes responsibility and management of the guest operating system (including updates and security patches), other associated application software as well as the configuration of the AWS provided security group firewall. Customers should carefully consider the services they choose as their responsibilities vary depending on the services used, the integration of those services into their IT environment, and applicable laws and regulations. It is possible for customers to enhance security and/or meet their more stringent compliance requirements by leveraging technology such as host based firewalls, host based intrusion detection/prevention, encryption and key management. The nature of this shared responsibility also provides the flexibility and customer control that permits the deployment of solutions that meet industry-specific certification requirements.

This customer/AWS shared responsibility model also extends to IT controls. Just as the responsibility to operate the IT environment is shared between AWS and its customers, so is the management, operation and verification of IT controls shared. AWS can help relieve customer burden of operating controls by managing those controls associated with the physical infrastructure deployed in the AWS environment that may previously have been managed by the customer. As every customer is deployed differently in AWS, customers can take advantage of shifting management of certain IT controls to AWS which results in a (new) distributed control environment. Customers can then use the AWS control and compliance documentation available to them (described in the "AWS Certifications and Third-party Attestations" section of this document) to perform their control evaluation and verification procedures as required.

The next section provides an approach on how AWS customers can evaluate and validate their distributed control environment effectively.

Strong Compliance Governance

As always, AWS customers are required to continue to maintain adequate governance over the entire IT control environment regardless of how IT is deployed. Leading practices include an understanding of required compliance objectives and requirements (from relevant sources), establishment of a control environment that meets those objectives and requirements, an understanding of the validation required based on the organization's risk tolerance, and verification of the operating effectiveness of their control environment. Deployment in the AWS cloud gives enterprises different options to apply various types of controls and various verification methods.

Strong customer compliance and governance might include the following basic approach:

1. Review information available from AWS together with other information to understand as much of the entire IT environment as possible, and then document all compliance requirements.
2. Design and implement control objectives to meet the enterprise compliance requirements.
3. Identify and document controls owned by outside parties.
4. Verify that all control objectives are met and all key controls are designed and operating effectively.

Approaching compliance governance in this manner will help companies gain a better understanding of their control environment and will help clearly delineate the verification activities to be performed.

Evaluating and Integrating AWS Controls

AWS provides a wide range of information regarding its IT control environment to customers through white papers, reports, certifications, accreditations, and other third-party attestations. This documentation assists customers in understanding the controls in place relevant to the AWS services they use and how those controls have been validated. This information also assists customers in their efforts to account for and to validate that controls in their extended IT environment are operating effectively.

Traditionally, the design and operating effectiveness of control objectives and controls are validated by internal and/or external auditors via process walkthroughs and evidence evaluation. Direct observation/verification—by the customer or customer's external auditor—is generally performed to validate controls. In the case where service providers, such as AWS, are used, companies request and evaluate third-party attestations and certifications in order to gain reasonable assurance of the design and operating effectiveness of control objective and controls. As a result, although customer's key controls may be managed by AWS, the control environment can still be a unified framework where all controls are accounted for and are verified as operating effectively. Third-party attestations and certifications of AWS can not only provide a higher level of validation of the control environment, but may relieve customers of the requirement to perform certain validation work themselves for their IT environment in the AWS cloud.

AWS provides IT control information to customers in the following two ways:

1. **Specific control definition.** AWS customers are able to identify key controls managed by AWS. Key controls are critical to the customer's control environment and require an external attestation of the operating effectiveness of these key controls in order to comply with compliance requirements—such as the annual financial audit. For this purpose, AWS publishes a wide range of specific IT controls in its Service Organization Controls 1 (SOC 1) Type II report. The SOC 1 report, formerly the Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) No. 70, Service Organizations report and commonly referred to as the Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements No. 16 (SSAE 16) report, is a widely recognized auditing standard developed by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The SOC 1 audit is an in-depth audit of both the design and operating effectiveness of AWS' defined control objectives and control activities (which include control objectives and control activities over the part of the infrastructure AWS manages). "Type II" refers to the fact that each of the controls described in the report are not only evaluated for adequacy of design, but are also tested for operating effectiveness by the external auditor. Because of the independence and competence of AWS' external auditor, controls identified in the report should provide customers with a high level of confidence in AWS' control environment. AWS' controls can be considered designed and operating effectively for many compliance purpose, including Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) Section 404 financial statement audits. Leveraging SOC 1 Type II reports is also generally permitted by other external certifying bodies (e.g., ISO 27001 auditors may request a SOC 1 Type II report in order to complete their evaluations for customers).

Other specific control activities relate to AWS' Payment Card Industry (PCI) and Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) compliance. As discussed below, AWS is compliant with FISMA Moderate standards and with the PCI Data Security Standard. These PCI and FISMA standards are very prescriptive and require independent validation that AWS adheres to the published standard.

2. **General control standard compliance.** If an AWS customer requires a broad set of control objectives to be met, evaluation of AWS' industry certifications may be performed. With the AWS ISO 27001 certification, AWS complies with a broad, comprehensive security standard and follows best practices in maintaining a secure environment. With the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), AWS complies with a set of controls important to companies that handle credit card information. With AWS' compliance with the FISMA standards, AWS complies with a wide range of specific controls required by US government agencies. Compliance with these general standards provides customers with in-depth information on the comprehensive nature of the controls and security processes in place and can be considered when managing compliance.

AWS certifications and third party attestations are discussed in more detail later in this document.

AWS Risk and Compliance Program

AWS provides information about its risk and compliance program to enable customers to incorporate AWS controls into their governance framework. This information can assist customers in documenting a complete control and governance framework with AWS included as an important part of that framework.

Risk Management

AWS management has developed a strategic business plan which includes risk identification and the implementation of controls to mitigate or manage risks. AWS management re-evaluates the strategic business plan at least biannually. This process requires management to identify risks within its areas of responsibility and to implement appropriate measures designed to address those risks.

In addition, the AWS control environment is subject to various internal and external risk assessments. AWS' Compliance and Security teams have established an information security framework and policies based on the Control Objectives for Information and related Technology (COBIT) framework and have effectively integrated the ISO 27001 certifiable framework based on ISO 27002 controls and the PCI DSS. AWS maintains the security policy, provides security training to employees, and performs application security reviews. These reviews assess the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data, as well as conformance to the information security policy.

AWS Security regularly scans all Internet facing service endpoint IP addresses for vulnerabilities (these scans do not include customer instances). AWS Security notifies the appropriate parties to remediate any identified vulnerabilities. In addition, external vulnerability threat assessments are performed regularly by independent security firms. Findings and recommendations resulting from these assessments are categorized and delivered to AWS leadership. These scans are done in a manner for the health and viability of the underlying AWS infrastructure and are not meant to replace the customer's own vulnerability scans required to meet their specific compliance requirements. Customers can request permission to conduct scans of their cloud infrastructure as long as they are limited to the customer's instances and do not violate the AWS Acceptable Use Policy. Advance approval for these types of scans can be initiated by submitting a request via the AWS Vulnerability / Penetration Testing Request Form.

AWS Control Environment

AWS manages a comprehensive control environment that includes policies, processes and control activities that leverage various aspects of Amazon's overall control environment. This control environment is in place for the secure delivery of AWS' service offerings. The collective control environment encompasses the people, processes, and technology necessary to establish and maintain an environment that supports the operating effectiveness of AWS' control framework. AWS has integrated applicable cloud-specific controls identified by leading cloud computing industry bodies into the AWS control framework. AWS continues to monitor these industry groups for ideas on which leading practices can be implemented to better assist customers with managing their control environment.

The control environment at Amazon begins at the highest level of the Company. Executive and senior leadership play important roles in establishing the Company's tone and core values. Every employee is provided with the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and completes periodic training. Compliance audits are performed so that employees understand and follow the established policies.

The AWS organizational structure provides a framework for planning, executing and controlling business operations. The organizational structure assigns roles and responsibilities to provide for adequate staffing, efficiency of operations, and the segregation of duties. Management has also established authority and appropriate lines of reporting for key personnel. Included as part of the Company's hiring verification processes are education, previous employment, and, in

some cases, background checks as permitted by law and regulation. The Company follows a structured on-boarding process to familiarize new employees with Amazon tools, processes, systems, policies and procedures.

Information Security

AWS has implemented a formal information security program designed to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of customers' systems and data. AWS publishes a security whitepaper that is available on the public website that addresses how AWS can help customers secure their data.

AWS Certifications and Third-party Attestations

AWS engages with external certifying bodies and independent auditors to provide customers with considerable information regarding the policies, processes, and controls established and operated by AWS.

SOC 1/SSAE 16/ISAE 3402

Amazon Web Services now publishes a Service Organization Controls 1 (SOC 1), Type II report. The audit for this report is conducted in accordance with the Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements No. 16 (SSAE 16) and the International Standards for Assurance Engagements No. 3402 (ISAE 3402) professional standards. This dual-standard report is intended to meet a broad range of financial auditing requirements for U.S. and international auditing bodies. The SOC 1 report audit attests that AWS' control objectives are appropriately designed and that the individual controls defined to safeguard customer data are operating effectively. This audit is the replacement of the Statement on Auditing Standards No. 70 (SAS 70) Type II Audit report.

The AWS SOC 1 control objectives are provided here. The report itself identifies the control activities that support each of these objectives.

Security Organization	Controls provide reasonable assurance that information security policies have been implemented and communicated throughout the organization.
Amazon User Access	Controls provide reasonable assurance that procedures have been established so that Amazon user accounts are added, modified and deleted in a timely manner and are reviewed on a periodic basis.
Logical Security	Controls provide reasonable assurance that unauthorized internal and external access to data is appropriately restricted and access to customer data is appropriately segregated from other customers.
Secure Data Handling	Controls provide reasonable assurance that data handling between the customer's point of initiation to an AWS storage location is secured and mapped accurately.
Physical Security and Environmental Safeguards	Controls provide reasonable assurance that physical access to Amazon's operations building and the data centers is restricted to authorized personnel and that procedures exist to minimize the effect of a malfunction or physical disaster to the computer and data center facilities.
Change Management	Controls provide reasonable assurance that changes (including emergency / non-routine and configuration) to existing IT resources are logged, authorized, tested, approved and documented.

Data Integrity, Availability and Redundancy	Controls provide reasonable assurance that data integrity is maintained through all phases including transmission, storage and processing.
Incident Handling	Controls provide reasonable assurance that system incidents are recorded, analyzed, and resolved.

The new SOC 1 reports are designed to focus solely on controls at a service organization that are likely to be relevant to an audit of a user entity's financial statements. As AWS' customer base is broad, and the use of the AWS infrastructure is equally as broad, the applicability of controls to customer financial statements varies by customer. Therefore, the AWS SOC 1 report is designed to cover specific key controls likely to be required during a financial audit, as well as covering a broad range of IT general controls to accommodate a wide range of usage and audit scenarios. This allows customers to leverage the AWS infrastructure to store and process critical data, including that which is integral to the financial reporting process. AWS periodically reassesses the selection of these controls to consider customer feedback and usage of this important audit report.

AWS' commitment to the SOC 1 report is on-going, and AWS will continue the process of periodic audits. The SOC 1 report scope covers Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2), Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3), Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (VPC), Amazon Elastic Block Store (EBS), Amazon Relational Database Service (RDS) and the infrastructure upon which they run for all regions worldwide.

FISMA Moderate

AWS enables U.S. government agency customers to achieve and sustain compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). FISMA requires federal agencies to develop, document, and implement an information security system for its data and infrastructure based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-53, Revision 3 standard. FISMA Moderate Authorization and Accreditation requires AWS to implement and operate an extensive set of security processes and controls. This includes documenting the management, operational, and technical processes used to secure the physical and virtual infrastructure and the third-party audit of the established processes and controls. AWS has completed the control implementation and successfully passed the independent security testing and evaluation required to operate at the FISMA-Moderate level. AWS provides this control and audit documentation to government agencies that can use it to certify their systems at the FISMA-moderate level. AWS has also been certified and accredited to operate at the FISMA-Low level.

PCI DSS Level 1

AWS satisfies the requirements under PCI DSS for shared hosting providers. AWS also has been successfully validated against standards applicable to a Level 1 service provider under PCI DSS Version 2.0. Merchants and other PCI service providers can use the AWS PCI-compliant technology infrastructure for storing, processing, and transmitting credit card information in the cloud, as long as those customers create PCI compliance for their part of the shared environment. This compliance validation includes Amazon EC2, Amazon S3, Amazon EBS, Amazon VPC, Amazon RDS, Amazon Elastic Load Balancing (ELB), and the infrastructure upon which they run for all regions worldwide. AWS provides additional information and frequently asked questions about its PCI compliance on its web site and works with customers directly on preparing for and deploying a PCI-compliant cardholder environment on AWS infrastructure.

ISO 27001

AWS has achieved ISO 27001 certification of our Information Security Management System (ISMS) covering AWS infrastructure, data centers, and services including Amazon EC2, Amazon S3 and Amazon VPC. ISO 27001/27002 is a widely-adopted global security standard that sets out requirements and best practices for a systematic approach to managing company and customer information that's based on periodic risk assessments appropriate to ever-changing threat scenarios. In order to achieve the certification, a company must show it has a systematic and ongoing approach to

managing information security risks that affect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of company and customer information. This certification reinforces Amazon's commitment to providing significant information regarding our security controls and practices. AWS's ISO 27001 certification includes all AWS data centers in all regions worldwide and AWS has established a formal program to maintain the certification. AWS provides additional information and frequently asked questions about its ISO 27001 certification on their web site.

International Traffic in Arms Regulations

The AWS GovCloud (US) region offered by AWS supports US International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) compliance. As a part of managing a comprehensive ITAR compliance program, companies subject to ITAR export regulations must control unintended exports by restricting access to protected data to US persons and restricting physical location of that data to US land. AWS GovCloud (US) provides an environment physically located in the US and where access by AWS Personnel is limited to US persons and, thereby allows qualified companies to transmit, process, and store protected articles and data under ITAR. The AWS GovCloud (US) environment has been audited by an independent third party to validate the proper controls are in place to support customer export compliance programs for this requirement.

FIPS 140-2

The Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) Publication 140-2 is a US government security standard that specifies the security requirements for cryptographic modules protecting sensitive information. To support customers with FIPS 140-2 requirements, the Amazon Virtual Private Cloud VPN endpoints and SSL-terminating load balancers in AWS GovCloud (US) operate using FIPS 140-2 validated hardware. AWS works with AWS GovCloud (US) customers to provide the information they need to help manage compliance when using the AWS GovCloud (US) environment.

Key Compliance Issues and AWS

This section addresses generic cloud computing compliance issues specifically for AWS. These common compliance issues listed may be of interest when evaluating and operating in a cloud computing environment and may assist in AWS customers' control management efforts.

Ref	Cloud Computing Issue Topic	AWS Information
1	Control ownership. Who owns which controls for cloud-deployed infrastructure?	For the portion deployed into AWS, AWS controls the physical components of that technology. The customer owns and controls everything else, including control over connection points and transmissions. To help customers better understand what controls we have in place and how effectively they are operating, we publish a SOC 1 Type II report with controls defined around EC2, S3 and VPC, as well as detailed physical security and environmental controls. These controls are defined at a high level of specificity that should meet most customer needs. AWS customers that have signed a non-disclosure agreement with AWS may request a copy of the SOC 1 Type II report.
2	Auditing IT. How can auditing of the cloud provider be accomplished?	Auditing for most layers and controls above the physical controls remains the responsibility of the customer. The definition of AWS-defined logical and physical controls is documented in the SOC 1 Type II report (SSAE 16), and the report is available for review by audit and compliance teams. AWS ISO 27001 and other certifications are also available for auditors to review.
3	Sarbanes-Oxley compliance. How is SOX compliance achieved if in-scope systems are deployed in the cloud provider environment?	If a customer processes financial information in the AWS cloud, the customer's auditors may determine that some AWS systems come into scope for Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) requirements. The customer's auditors must make their own determination regarding SOX applicability. Because most of the logical access controls are managed by customer, the customer is best positioned to determine if its control activities meet relevant standards. If the SOX auditors request specifics regarding AWS' physical controls, they can reference AWS' SOC 1 Type II report which details the controls that AWS provides.
4	HIPAA compliance. Is it possible to meet HIPAA certification requirements while deployed in the cloud provider environment?	HIPAA requirements apply to and are controlled by the AWS customer. The AWS platform allows for the deployment of solutions that meet industry-specific certification requirements such as HIPAA. Customers have built healthcare applications compliant with HIPAA's Security and Privacy Rules on AWS. AWS provides additional information about HIPAA compliance on its web site, including a whitepaper on this topic.

5	GLBA compliance. Is it possible to meet GLBA certification requirements while deployed in the cloud provider environment?	Most GLBA requirements are controlled by the AWS customer. AWS provides means for customers to protect data, manage permissions, and build GLBA-compliant applications on AWS infrastructure. If the customer requires specific assurance that physical security controls are operating effectively, they can reference our SOC 1 Type II report as relevant.
6	Federal regulation compliance. Is it possible for a US Government agency to be compliant with security and privacy regulations while deployed in the cloud provider environment?	US Federal agencies can be compliant under a number of compliance standards, including the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) of 2002, the Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) Publication 140-2, and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). Compliance with other laws and statues may also be accommodated depending on the requirements set forth in the applicable legislation. Many of the challenges with compliance in this area do not apply to AWS.
7	Data location. Where does customer data reside?	AWS customers designate in which physical region their data and their servers will be located. Data replication for S3 data objects is done within the regional cluster in which the data is stored and is not replicated to other data center clusters in other regions. AWS has controls over the location of data so that the data stays in the location specified by the customer. AWS currently offers six regions: US East (Northern Virginia), US West (Northern California), GovCloud (US) (Oregon), EU (Ireland), Asia Pacific (Singapore), and Asia Pacific (Tokyo).
8	E-Discovery. Does the cloud provider meet the customer's needs to meet electronic discovery procedures and requirements?	AWS provides infrastructure, and customers manage everything else, including the operating system, the network configuration, and the installed applications. Customers are responsible for responding appropriately to legal procedures involving the identification, collection, processing, analysis, and production of electronic documents they store or process using AWS. Upon request, AWS may work with customers who require AWS' assistance in legal proceedings.
9	Data center tours. Are data center tours by customers allowed by the cloud provider?	No. Due to the fact that our datacenters host multiple customers, AWS does not allow datacenter tours by customers, as this exposes a wide range of customers to physical access of a third party. To meet this customer need, an independent and competent auditor validates the presence and operation of controls as part of our SOC 1 Type II report (SSAE 16). This broadly accepted third-party validation provides customers with the independent perspective of the effectiveness of controls in place. AWS customers that have signed a non-disclosure agreement with AWS may request a copy of the SOC 1 Type II report.
10	Third party access. Are third parties allowed access to the cloud provider data centers?	AWS strictly controls access to data centers, even for internal employees. Third parties are not provided access to AWS data centers except when explicitly approved by the appropriate AWS datacenter manager per AWS' access policy. See the SOC 1 Type II report for specific controls related to physical access, datacenter access authorization, and other related controls.

11	Privileged actions. Are privileged actions monitored and controlled?	Controls in place limit access to systems and data and provide that access to systems or data is restricted and monitored. In addition, customer data is and server instances are logically isolated from other customers by default. Privileged user access control is reviewed by an independent auditor during the AWS SOC 1, ISO 27001, PCI, ITAR, and FISMA audits.
12	Insider access. Does the cloud provider address the threat of inappropriate insider access to customer data and applications?	AWS provides specific SOC 1 controls to address the threat of inappropriate insider access, and the public certification and compliance initiatives covered in this document address insider access. All certifications and third-party attestations evaluate logical access preventative and detective controls. In addition, periodic risk assessments focus on how insider access is controlled and monitored.
13	Multi-tenancy. Is customer segregation implemented securely?	The AWS environment is a virtualized, multi-tenant environment. AWS has implemented security management processes, PCI controls, and other security controls designed to isolate each customer from other customers. AWS systems are designed to prevent customers from accessing physical hosts or instances not assigned to them by filtering through the virtualization software. This architecture has been validated by an independent PCI Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) and was found to be in compliance with all requirements of PCI DSS version 2.0 published in October 2010. Note that AWS also has single-tenancy options. Dedicated Instances are Amazon EC2 instances launched within your Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (Amazon VPC) that run hardware dedicated to a single customer. Dedicated Instances let you take full advantage of the benefits of Amazon VPC and the AWS cloud while isolating your Amazon EC2 compute instances at the hardware level.
14	Hypervisor vulnerabilities. Has the cloud provider addressed known hypervisor vulnerabilities?	Amazon EC2 currently utilizes a highly customized version of the Xen hypervisor. The hypervisor is regularly assessed for new and existing vulnerabilities and attack vectors by internal and external penetration teams, and is well suited for maintaining strong isolation between guest virtual machines. The AWS Xen hypervisor security is regularly evaluated by independent auditors during assessments and audits. See the AWS security whitepaper for more information on the Xen hypervisor and instance isolation.
15	Vulnerability management. Are systems patched appropriately?	AWS is responsible for patching systems supporting the delivery of service to customers, such as the hypervisor and networking services. This is done as required per AWS policy and in accordance with ISO 27001, NIST, and PCI requirements. Customers control their own guest operating systems, software and applications and are therefore responsible for patching their own systems.

16	Encryption. Do the provided services support encryption?	Yes. AWS allows customers to use their own encryption mechanisms for nearly all the services, including S3, EBS, SimpleDB, and EC2. VPC sessions are also encrypted. Amazon S3 also offers Server Side Encryption as an option for customers. Customers may also use third-party encryption technologies. Please see the AWS Security white paper for more information.
17	Data ownership. What are the cloud provider's rights over customer data?	AWS customers retain control and ownership of their data. AWS errs on the side of protecting customer privacy and is vigilant in determining which law enforcement requests we must comply with. AWS does not hesitate to challenge orders from law enforcement if we think the orders lack a solid basis.
18	Data isolation. Does the cloud provider adequately isolate customer data?	All data stored by AWS on behalf of customers has strong tenant isolation security and control capabilities. Amazon S3 provides advanced data access controls. Please see the AWS security whitepaper for more information about specific data services' security.
19	Composite services. Does the cloud provider layer its service with other providers' cloud services?	AWS does not leverage any third-party cloud providers to deliver AWS services to customers.
20	Physical and environmental controls. Are these controls operated by the cloud provider specified?	Yes. These are specifically outlined in the SOC 1 Type II report. In addition, other certifications AWS supports such as ISO 27001 and FISMA require best practice physical and environmental controls.
21	Client-side protection. Does the cloud provider allow customers to secure and manage access from clients, such as PC and mobile devices?	Yes. AWS allows customers to manage client and mobile applications to their own requirements.
22	Server security. Does the cloud provider allow customers to secure their virtual servers?	Yes. AWS allows customers to implement their own security architecture. See the AWS security whitepaper for more details on server and network security.
23	Identity and Access Management. Does the service include IAM capabilities?	AWS has a suite of identity and access management offerings, allowing customers to manage user identities, assign security credentials, organize users in groups, and manage user permissions in a centralized way. Please see the AWS web site for more information.

24	Scheduled maintenance outages. Does the provider specify when systems will be brought down for maintenance?	AWS does not require systems to be brought offline to perform regular maintenance and system patching. AWS's own maintenance and system patching generally do not impact customers. Maintenance of instances themselves is controlled by the customer.
25	Capability to scale. Does the provider allow customers to scale beyond the original agreement?	The AWS cloud is distributed, highly secure and resilient, giving customers massive scale potential. Customers may scale up or down, paying for only what they use.
26	Service availability. Does the provider commit to a high level of availability?	AWS does commit to high levels of availability in its service level agreements (SLA). For example, Amazon EC2 commits to annual uptime percentage of at least 99.95% during the service year. Amazon S3 commits to monthly uptime percentage of at least 99.99%. Service credits are provided in the case these availability metrics are not met. On April 21, 2011, EC2 suffered a customer-impacting service disruption in the US East Region. Details about the service disruption are described in "Summary of the Amazon EC2 and Amazon RDS Service Disruption in the US East Region" (http://aws.amazon.com/message/65648/).
27	Distributed Denial Of Service (DDoS) attacks. How does the provider protect their service against DDoS attacks?	The AWS network provides significant protection against traditional network security issues and the customer can implement further protection. See the AWS Security Whitepaper for more information on this topic, including a discussion of DDoS attacks.
28	Data portability. Can the data stored with a service provider be exported by customer request?	AWS allows customers to move data as needed on and off AWS storage. AWS Import/Export service for S3 accelerates moving large amounts of data into and out of AWS using portable storage devices for transport.
29	Service provider business continuity. Does the service provider operate a business continuity program?	AWS does operate a business continuity program. Detailed information is provided in the AWS Security Whitepaper.

30	Customer business continuity. Does the service provider allow customers to implement a business continuity plan?	AWS provides customers with the capability to implement a robust continuity plan, including the utilization of frequent server instance back-ups, data redundancy replication, and multi-region/availability zone deployment architectures.
31	Data durability. Does the service specify data durability?	Amazon S3 provides a highly durable storage infrastructure. Objects are redundantly stored on multiple devices across multiple facilities in an Amazon S3 Region. Once stored, Amazon S3 maintains the durability of objects by quickly detecting and repairing any lost redundancy. Amazon S3 also regularly verifies the integrity of data stored using checksums. If corruption is detected, it is repaired using redundant data. Data stored in S3 is designed to provide 99.999999999% durability and 99.99% availability of objects over a given year. In addition, the service is designed to sustain the concurrent loss of data in two facilities.
32	Backups. Does the service provide backups to tapes?	AWS allows customers to perform their own backups to tapes using their own tape backup service provider. However, a tape backup is not a service provided by AWS. Amazon S3 service is designed to drive the likelihood of data loss to near zero percent and the durability equivalent of multi-site copies of data objects is achieved through data storage redundancy. For information on data durability and redundancy, please refer to the AWS web site.
33	Price increases. Will the service provider raise prices unexpectedly?	AWS has a history of frequently reducing prices as the cost to provide these services reduces over time. AWS has reduced prices consistently over the past several years.
34	Sustainability. Does the service provider company have long term sustainability potential?	AWS is a leading cloud provider and is a long-term business strategy of Amazon.com. AWS has very high long term sustainability potential.

AWS Contact

Customers can contact the AWS Compliance or Security team through their business development representative. The representative will route customers to the proper team depending on nature of the inquiry. Alternatively, general questions can be mailed to: aws-security@amazon.com

APPENDIX – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Authentication: Authentication is the process of determining whether someone or something is, in fact, who or what it is declared to be.

Availability Zone: Amazon EC2 locations are composed of regions and Availability Zones. Availability Zones are distinct locations that are engineered to be insulated from failures in other Availability Zones and provide inexpensive, low latency network connectivity to other Availability Zones in the same region.

DSS: The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (DSS) is a worldwide information security standard assembled and managed by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council.

EBS: Amazon Elastic Block Store (EBS) provides block level storage volumes for use with Amazon EC2 instances. Amazon EBS volumes are off-instance storage that persists independently from the life of an instance.

FISMA: The Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002. The act requires each federal agency to develop, document, and implement an agency-wide program to provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency, including those provided or managed by another agency, contractor, or other source.

FIPS 140-2: The Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) Publication 140-2 is a US government security standard that specifies the security requirements for cryptographic modules protecting sensitive information.

GLBA: The Gramm–Leach–Bliley Act (GLB or GLBA), also known as the Financial Services Modernization Act of 1999, sets forth requirements for financial institutions with regard to, among other things, the disclosure of nonpublic customer information and the protection of threats in security and data integrity.

HIPAA: The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 requires the establishment of national standards for electronic health care transactions and national identifiers for providers, health insurance plans, and employers. The Administration Simplification provisions also address the security and privacy of health data. The standards are meant to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the nation's health care system by encouraging the widespread use of electronic data interchange in the U.S. health care system.

Hypervisor: A hypervisor, also called Virtual Machine Monitor (VMM), is software/hardware platform virtualization software that allows multiple operating systems to run on a host computer concurrently.

IAM: AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) enables a customer to create multiple Users and manage the permissions for each of these Users within their AWS Account.

ITAR: International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) is a set of United States government regulations that control the export and import of defense-related articles and services on the United States Munitions List (USML). Government agencies and contractors must comply with ITAR and restrict access to protected data.

ISAE 3402: The International Standards for Assurance Engagements No. 3402 (ISAE 3402) is the international standard on assurance engagements. It was put forth by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), a

standard-setting board within the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). ISAE 3402 is now the new globally recognized standard for assurance reporting on service organizations.

ISO 27001: ISO/IEC 27001 is an Information Security Management System (ISMS) standard published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). ISO 27001 formally specifies a management system that is intended to bring information security under explicit management control. Being a formal specification means that it mandates specific requirements. Organizations that claim to have adopted ISO/IEC 27001 can therefore be audited and certified compliant with the standard.

NIST: National Institute of Standards and Technology. This agency sets detailed security standards as needed by industry or government programs. Compliance with FISMA requires agencies to adhere to NIST standards.

Object: The fundamental entities stored in Amazon S3. Objects consist of object data and metadata. The data portion is opaque to Amazon S3. The metadata is a set of name-value pairs that describe the object. These include some default metadata such as the date last modified and standard HTTP metadata such as Content-Type. The developer can also specify custom metadata at the time the Object is stored.

PCI: Refers to the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council, an independent council originally formed by American Express, Discover Financial Services, JCB, MasterCard Worldwide and Visa International, with the goal of managing the ongoing evolution of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard.

QSA: The Payment Card Industry (PCI) Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) designation is conferred by the PCI Security Standards Council to those individuals that meet specific qualification requirements and are authorized to perform PCI compliance assessments.

SAS 70: Statement on Auditing Standards No. 70: Service Organizations is an auditing statement issued by the Auditing Standards Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). SAS 70 provides guidance to service auditors when assessing the internal controls of a service organization (such as AWS) and issuing a service auditor's report. SAS 70 also provides guidance to auditors of financial statements of an entity that uses one or more service organizations. The SAS 70 report has been replaced by the Service Organization Controls 1 report.

Service: Software or computing ability provided across a network (e.g., EC2, S3, VPC, etc.).

Service Level Agreement (SLA): A service level agreement is a part of a service contract where the level of service is formally defined. The SLA is used to refer to the contracted delivery time (of the service) or performance.

SOC 1: Service Organization Controls 1 (SOC 1) Type II report, formerly the Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) No. 70, Service Organizations report (commonly referred to as the SSAE 16 report), is a widely recognized auditing standard developed by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The international standard is referenced as the International Standards for Assurance Engagements No. 3402 (ISAE 3402).

SSAE 16: The Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements No. 16 (SSAE 16) is an attestation standard published by the Auditing Standards Board (ASB) of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The standard addresses engagements undertaken by a service auditor for reporting on controls at organizations that provide services to user entities, for which a service organization's controls are likely to be relevant to a user entities internal control over financial reporting (ICFR). SSAE 16 effectively replaces Statement on Auditing Standards No. 70 (SAS 70) for service auditor's reporting periods ending on or after June 15, 2011.

Virtual Instance: Once an AMI has been launched, the resulting running system is referred to as an instance. All instances based on the same AMI start out identical and any information on them is lost when the instances are terminated or fail.

January 2011 version

- Minor edits to content based on updated certification scope
- Minor grammatical edits

December 2011 version

- Change to Certifications and Third-party Attestation section to reflect SOC 1/SSAE 16, FISMA Moderate, International Traffic in Arms Regulations, and FIPS 140-2
- Addition of S3 Server Side Encryption
- Added additional cloud computing issue topics

May 2011 version

Initial release

Notices