Secure Access to the AWS Management Console

The AWS Management Console is a vital part of your organization’s day-to-day operations. It's where you find and configure various AWS services such as Amazon Virtual Private Clouds (Amazon VPCs), Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2), and Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3); view Resource Groups; access the Tag Editor; and administer your AWS account. Its features make it an extremely important component of your overall AWS infrastructure, the “keys to your kingdom.”

Organizations with multiple AWS Accounts and cross-account roles can find this challenge to be amplified. Access to your AWS Management Console can be simplified using Active Directory credentials. With employees coming, going, taking leave, and shifting roles, you need to be able to grant and revoke access at any time.

Under the AWS Shared Responsibility Model, AWS manages security of the cloud, while security in the cloud is the responsibility of the customer. Customers retain control of Identity and Access Management (IAM) as part of the security they choose to implement to protect their own content, platform, applications, systems, and networks, no differently than they would for applications in an on-site data center. As you’ll see in the diagram below, Okta fills a significant slot in the security of your cloud or hybrid environment.

In today’s tech-centric business world, security can’t be ignored. But security solutions aren’t all created equal. You need a managed service that is specifically built to run on the cloud—one that’s easy to administer and doesn’t create friction for users.

The Okta Solution

Redefine Security with Modern Identity

Okta acts as an identity broker between your DevOps & System Administrators and your AWS Management Console. There is no need to recreate users as IAM users on AWS or duplicate user identity information. Okta uses SAML to authenticate against the AWS Management Console. When you assign a user within Okta, it asks what role you want to give them when they get to the management console.
You then create roles such as read-only administrator, and make it available through Okta. Those roles can be configured as single account or cross-account to control access simply and granularly.

Okta makes it easy to secure the AWS Management Console, along with other frequently used applications that DevOps uses. Audit reports can be generated so you can see who accessed your system and when. Okta’s MFA solution keeps your data safe without being disruptive to a typical DevOps flow. Okta’s MFA includes a robust set of second factors, such as push-based notifications and Security Keys (FIDO U2F). By integrating with applications, you can centrally enforce and manage MFA to over 500 SAML and RADIUS enabled applications in the Okta Network.

Okta integrates with an authoritative system, such as your HR software, so you can automate the provisioning and de-provisioning of employees and contracted workers. Okta provides authentication support via command line terminal access so AWS Command Line Interface (CLI) can be used securely.

Okta provides a seamless security experience, so you can spend less time gaining access to the AWS Management Console, and more time using it.

Okta and AWS

Okta was born and built on Amazon Web Services (AWS). It leverages several AWS services such as Amazon Elastic Cloud Compute (Amazon EC2), AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS), and Amazon CloudFront. It is architected over multiple regions and Availability Zones (AZs), making it reliable and highly available. AWS takes care of the security of the cloud. Okta is responsible for security in the cloud. That leaves you free to focus on building awesome products.

Find the right Okta + AWS Identity & Access Management solution for your organization. Read all four of our solution briefs:

1. Employees & Applications
   Efficiently provide and revoke secure application access to your employees

2. Developers & Services
   Secure access to your AWS Management Console, with multiple AWS accounts

3. Partners & Portals
   Grant business partners and suppliers secure access to only the data they need

4. Customers & Products
   Allow customers to securely and easily access your website or applications

Get started and learn more about Okta on AWS:  https://www.okta.com/partners/aws/

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