Streamlining AWS SSO and Command Line Interface (CLI) Access with the Okta Identity Cloud

AWS and Okta are both market leaders in their respective industries of public cloud infrastructure and identity and access management. And it’s no surprise that a vast number of organizations leverage Okta for single sign-on to secure access to AWS resources. But for organizations that manage sophisticated AWS deployments involving multiple accounts and permission sets around who can access what, this can become extremely time consuming to manage at scale.

The integration between Okta and AWS Single Sign-On (SSO) provides deep support for mutual Okta and AWS customers. With this integration in place, joint customers can vastly simplify provisioning access into AWS accounts, freeing up developer and IT admin time while increasing security for both IT admins AND end users.

Secure and simplify infrastructure access with strong identity management

With Okta and AWS SSO, users can sign in with Okta single sign-on to the AWS SSO user portal to get access to all of their AWS accounts and resources in once central place. AWS SSO centralizes the administration of users and permission sets across all AWS accounts, so admins can more easily manage who gets access to what in AWS. With Okta Lifecycle Management, users and groups defined in Okta are automatically synchronized with AWS SSO. AWS SSO admins can then assign permissions sets for those users and groups to authorize access for AWS services (e.g. Amazon EC2, Amazon S3) for specific AWS accounts. Changes made in Okta (for example, when someone leaves the org or changes roles) are automatically reflected downstream, through AWS SSO, to change access permissions instantly. AWS maintains full audit trails for compliance teams to investigate who accessed what. And with Okta MFA support for AWS Command Line Interface (CLI), DevOps teams can establish true zero trust security for dev environments.

Together, the Okta + AWS SSO integration lets you:

- Confidently provide your remote and on-premises workforce with the secure, easy access to all of their AWS accounts and resources in a single place
- Reduce repetitive permissions management tasks for IT so they can quickly add projects, resources, and teams, and assign appropriate access
- Simplify login for developers, and give them increased command-line control and hardened security via Okta’s MFA
How Okta + AWS SSO work together to provide one-click access to AWS

Okta and AWS SSO simplify the process of managing user permissions for accessing AWS resources permissions across all of your AWS accounts. Here’s how it works:

Starting in Okta, simply assign the AWS SSO application to users and groups who need access to AWS. With Okta Lifecycle Management, these users will automatically be provisioned in AWS SSO. Using the Group Push feature, existing Okta groups and their memberships can be pushed to AWS SSO. Then, in AWS SSO, you can create role-oriented permission sets, which determines a user’s permissions to access a particular AWS account. The final step is to assign users to AWS accounts and permissions sets. Now when a user signs into the AWS SSO user portal from Okta, they will only gain access (through the AWS management console) to the specific AWS accounts and resources that they are authorized to.

With the integration, IT can streamline the onboarding and offboarding process. As employees switch roles or migrate across projects, and as projects add resources or change permissions, managers can simply make a switch inside their HR system of record and have the changes reflected in AWS, with group assignment changes resulting in updated access controls for AWS users, so team members retain appropriate access at all times.

No more manually configuring provisioning inside each account; no more long-lived and risky static credentials. When you add a new AWS account, you can simply assign the appropriate users, groups, and permissions, or you can define new permissions, assign groups to them, and assign them to the new AWS account.

Frictionless developer experience with AWS Command Line Interface (CLI)

Okta’s secure federated access, backed by strong MFA, supports the agile CI/CD environment that keeps
devolution teams productive inside AWS. Many
developers use the AWS Command Line Interface (CLI)
to manage their AWS services and automate commands via scripting. With the Okta and AWS SSO integration, developers can now sign-in to AWS CLI using their Okta credentials and Okta MFA. To enable this experience, CLI users can simply link their AWS CLI profile with their AWS SSO account. This gives developers a secure and seamless Okta login experience, quickly getting them into focus on building apps.

With Okta + AWS, enterprises can...

- Increase productivity for all users, supplying a seamless and secure login experience into all appropriate cloud infrastructure assets
- Decrease IT workloads by simplifying and centralizing permissions and lifecycle management, automating functions that were formerly manual
- Enable secure, zero trust security, backed by MFA, to keep enterprise identities, assets, and infrastructure secure and enable productive, agile work environments

For more information on this integration, go to okta.com/partners/aws

If you have questions, please contact our sales team at okta.com/contact-sales

About Okta

Okta is the leading independent provider of identity for the enterprise. The Okta Identity Cloud enables organizations to securely connect the right people to the right technologies at the right time. With over 6,500 pre-built integrations to applications and infrastructure providers, Okta customers can easily and securely use the best technologies for their business. Nearly 8,000 organizations, including 20th Century Fox, JetBlue, Nordstrom, Slack, Teach for America and Twilio, trust Okta to help protect the identities of their workforces and customers. For more information, go to okta.com.