



ONLINE TECH TALK

Enhanced threat detection for Amazon EKS with Amazon GuardDuty

Amit Megiddo (He/Him)

Principal Product Manager
AWS

Muhammad Wasiq (He/Him)

Principal Security Engineer
AWS

What is Amazon GuardDuty?



Amazon GuardDuty is a threat detection service that uses **machine learning**, anomaly detection, and **integrated threat intelligence** to identify and prioritize potential threats to your AWS environment.

Tens of thousands
of customers across
industries and
geographies

Used by over 90%
of the top-2000
AWS customers

Protects hundreds
of millions of
Amazon EC2
instances

Analyzes tens of
billions of events
per minute

GuardDuty overview



Single-click
organization-
wide activation



Continuous
monitoring of
AWS accounts
and resources



ML to detect
evasive attack
techniques

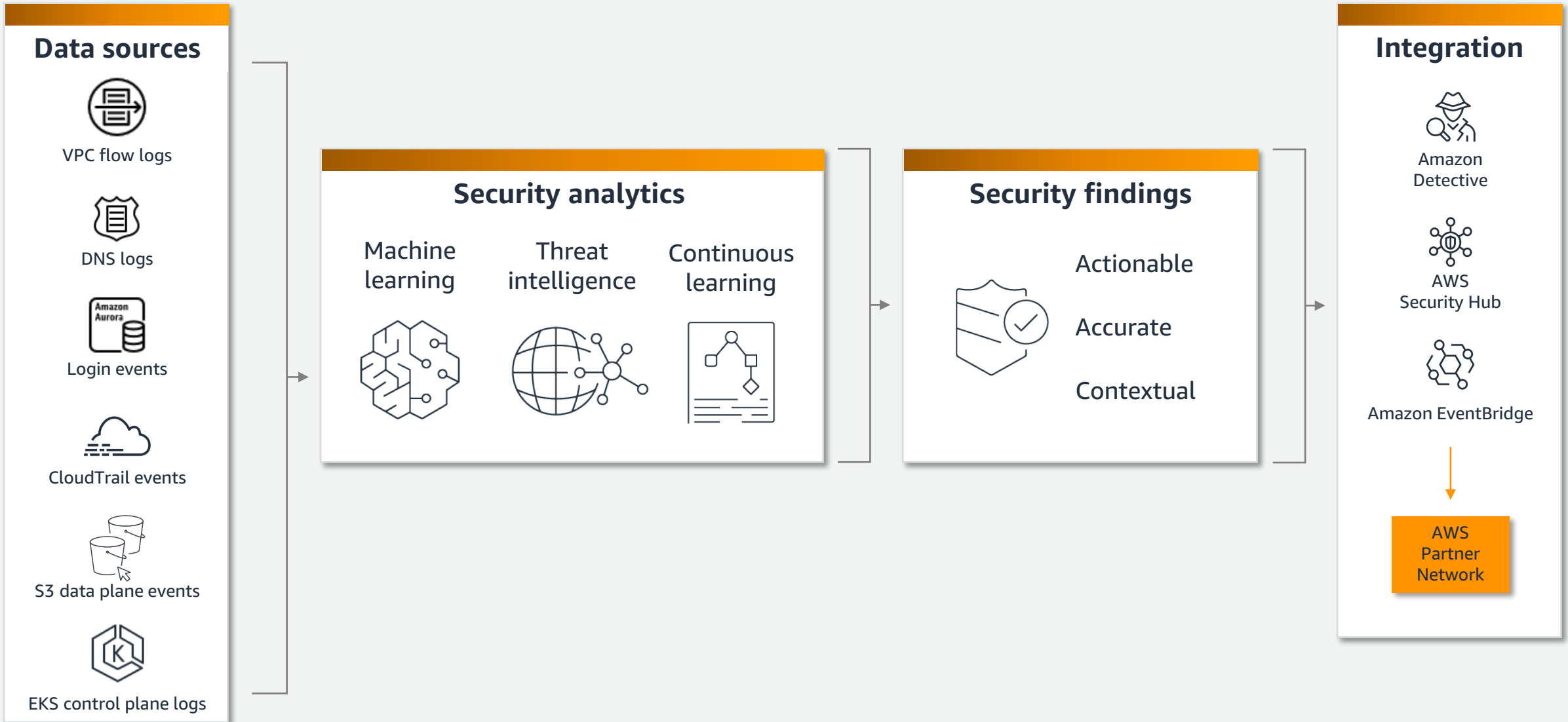


Threat
intelligence from
AWS and leading
third-parties



Enterprise-wide
consolidation &
management

How GuardDuty works



Introducing Amazon GuardDuty EKS Runtime Monitoring



Protect your Amazon EKS workloads with a new GuardDuty security agent that adds visibility into individual Kubernetes **container runtime activities**, such as file access, process execution, and network connections.

Continuously monitor all Amazon EKS clusters across your organization with a few steps in the GuardDuty console.

Over two dozen new threat detections leveraging high fidelity system-level events, tailored for known container attack techniques, and providing container-level context.

Detect threats at each layer of Kubernetes deployment on Amazon EKS

VPC Flow Logs and DNS logs continue to be monitored: defense in depth



Leveraging GuardDuty threat intelligence to detect potentially compromised Amazon EKS containers

Partner feeds:
CrowdStrike and
Proofpoint

Amazon Security
research: top
nation-state and
crime group actors

Customer-
provided and
third-party
integration

Cryptocurrency
pools

Domain reputation
machine learning
models

Easily achieve organization-wide coverage

The screenshot displays the AWS GuardDuty console interface for EKS Protection. The main page is titled "EKS Protection" and includes a breadcrumb trail: "GuardDuty > Settings > EKS Protection". Below the title, there is a link to "Learn more about EKS protection." and a tab for "EKS clusters runtime coverage".

The main content area is divided into three sections:

- Delegated administrator:** Configuration for the delegated administrator (this account). It shows "EKS Audit Log Monitoring" as "Enabled" and "EKS Runtime Monitoring" as "Not enabled (Free trial: 30 days remain)".
- Active member accounts:** Configuration for active member accounts in the organization. It shows "EKS Audit Log Monitoring" as "200/200 enabled" and "EKS Runtime Monitoring" as "Not enabled (Free trial eligible)".
- New accounts default configuration:** This default configuration will apply to new accounts when they join the organization. It shows "EKS Audit Log Monitoring" as "Enabled" and "EKS Runtime Monitoring" as "Not enabled".

A "Configuration" modal is overlaid on the right side, showing the "EKS Protection" status set to "Enable" (selected over "Disable"). Under "Advanced options", the following settings are checked:

- EKS Audit Log Monitoring:** Description placeholder
- EKS Runtime Monitoring:** Description placeholder... process and analyze events from agent
- Manage agents automatically:** Deploy and update agents automatically

At the bottom right of the modal, there are "Back" and "Save" buttons.

... and identify potential coverage gaps

EKS Protection [Info](#)
[Learn more](#) about EKS Protection.

Enablement | **EKS clusters runtime coverage**

Coverage status

Healthy clusters/All clusters
75 / 200 (37.5%)

Clusters list (200) [Info](#) Export

< 1 2 3 >

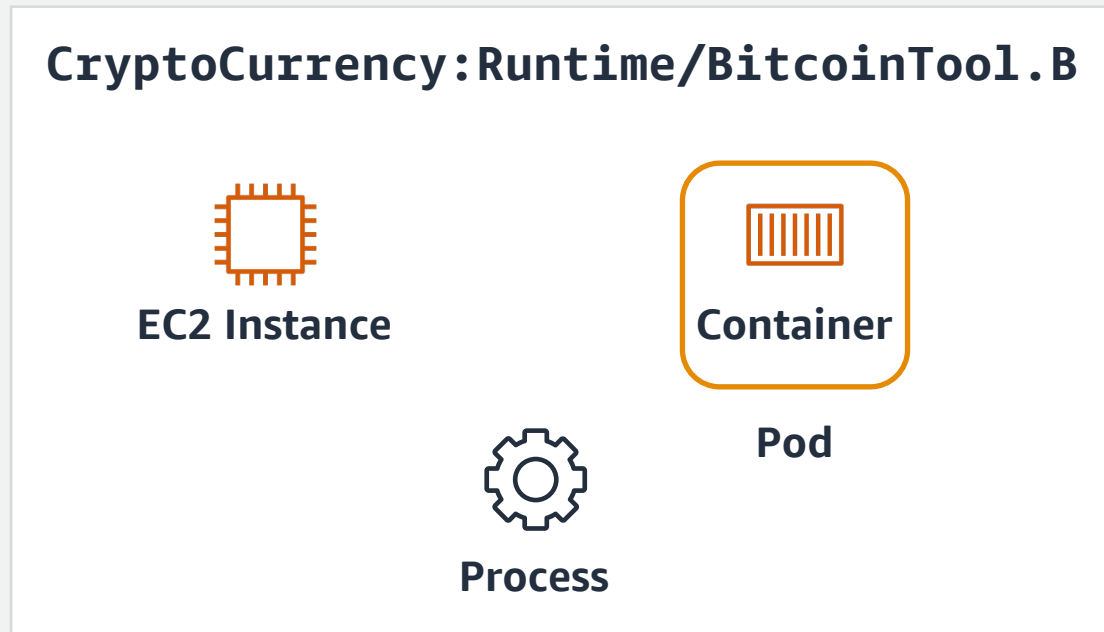
Cluster name	Account ID	Coverage status	AddOn version	Issue	Updated at
clusterName1	123456789012	Unhealthy	1.24	VPCE creation failed	3 minutes ago
clusterName2	123456789012	Unhealthy	1.24	AddOn creation failed	4 minutes ago
clusterName3	489475619918	Unhealthy	1.24	AddOn deletion failed	6 minutes ago
clusterName4	489475619918	Unhealthy	1.24	EKS Runtime Monitoring not enabled	1 hour ago
clusterName5	489475619918	Unhealthy	1.24	AddOn status unhealthy	1 day ago
clusterName6	587282981939	Healthy	1.23	-	1 day ago



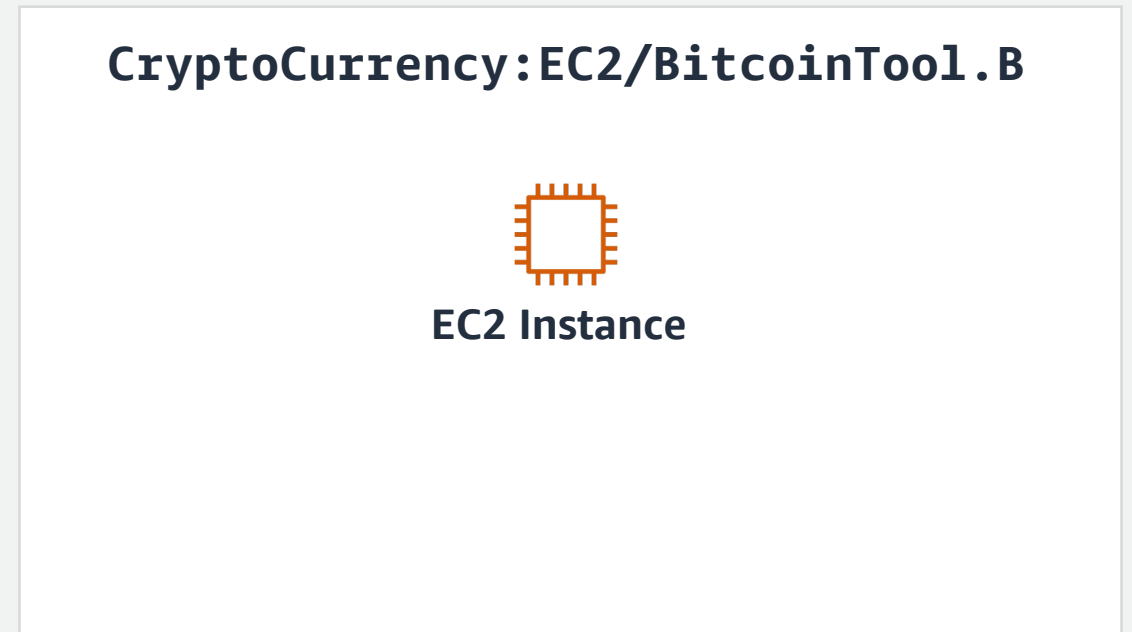
Rich container and process context

Customers demand container-level details in detections

EKS Runtime Monitoring finding



VPC Flow Logs finding



Rich container and process context

Container details

- Container ID
- Container image
- Container name

Kubernetes pod details

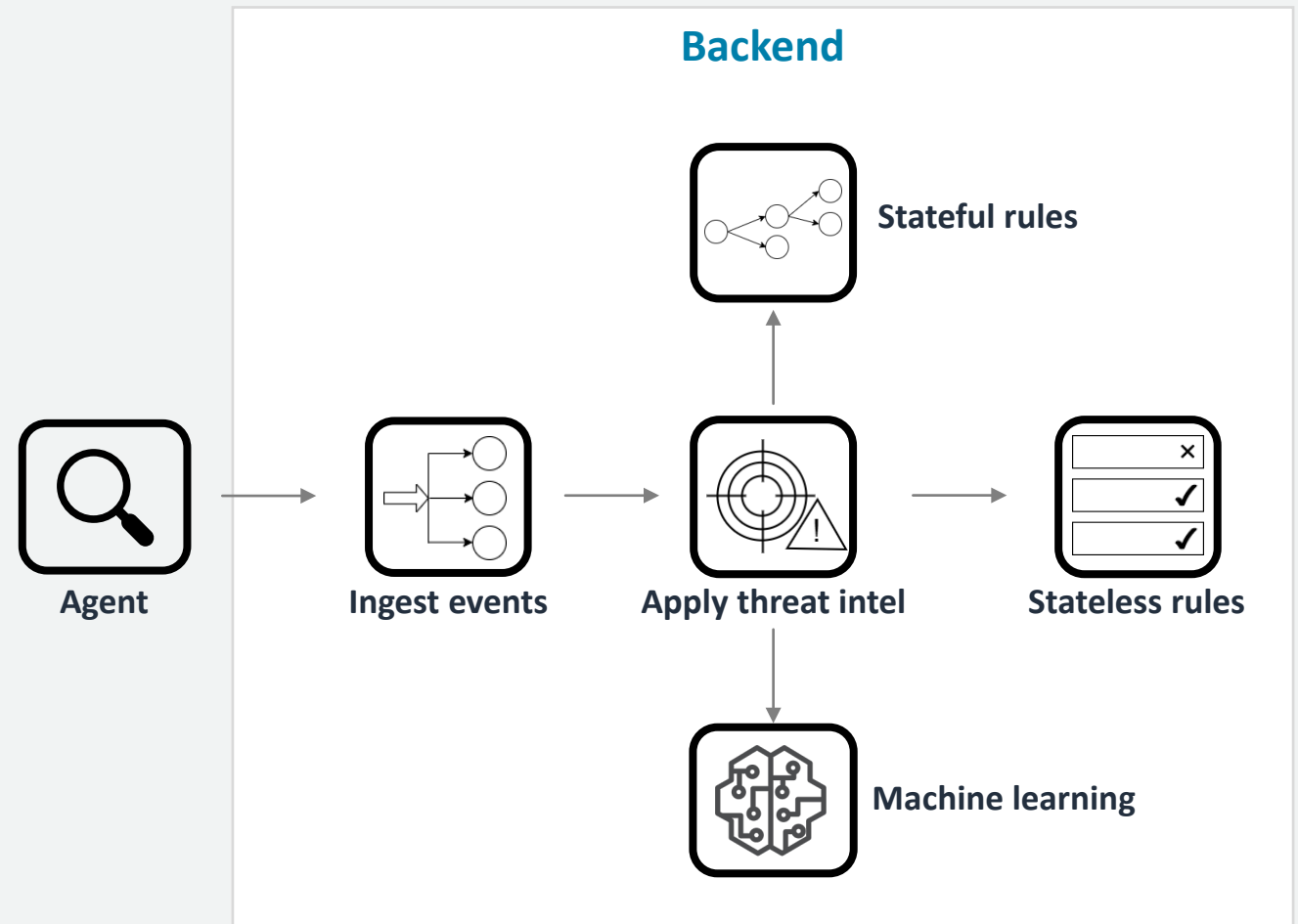
- Pod ID
- Pod name
- Pod namespace

Process details

- Process ID
- Executable path
- Parent PID
- Executable SHA-256 hash
- User ID
- Effective user ID
- Process lineage (all ancestors of the process)

High-level architecture

- Agent collects and sends events
- GuardDuty backend processes events



Runtime protection: Threat intel-based detections

IP-based

- `CryptoCurrency:Runtime/BitcoinTool.B`
- `Backdoor:Runtime/C&CActivity.B`
- `UnauthorizedAccess:Runtime/TorRelay`
- `UnauthorizedAccess:Runtime/TorClient`
- `Trojan:Runtime/BlackholeTraffic`
- `Trojan:Runtime/DropPoint`

Domain name-based

- `CryptoCurrency:Runtime/BitcoinTool.B!Dns`
- `Backdoor:Runtime/C&CActivity.B!Dns`
- `Trojan:Runtime/BlackholeTraffic!Dns`
- `Trojan:Runtime/DropPoint!Dns`
- `Trojan:Runtime/DGADomainRequest.C!DNS`
- `Trojan:Runtime/DriveBySourceTraffic!DNS`
- `Trojan:Runtime/PhishingDomainRequest!DNS`
- `Impact:Runtime/AbusedDomainRequest.Reputation`
- `Impact:Runtime/BitcoinDomainRequest.Reputation`
- `Impact:Runtime/MaliciousDomainRequest.Reputation`
- `Impact:Runtime/SuspiciousDomainRequest.Reputation`

Runtime protection: Suspicious process behavior

Container runtime drift

- `Execution:Runtime/NewBinaryExecuted`
- `Execution:Runtime/NewScriptExecuted`
- `Execution:Runtime/NewLibraryLoaded`

Container escapes

- `PrivilegeEscalation:Runtime/ContainerMountsHostDirectory`
- `PrivilegeEscalation:Runtime/DockerSocketAccessed`
- `PrivilegeEscalation:Runtime/RuncContainerEscape`
- `PrivilegeEscalation:Runtime/CGroupsReleaseAgentModified`

Runtime protection: Suspicious process behavior

Execution

- Execution:Runtime/ReverseShell

Impact

- Impact:Runtime/CryptominerExecuted

Defense evasion

- DefenseEvasion:Runtime/FilelessExecution
- PrivilegeEscalation:Runtime/UserfaultfdUsage

Demo





ONLINE TECH TALK

Thank You!

Amit Megiddo (He/Him)

Principal Product Manager
AWS

Muhammad Wasiq (He/Him)

Principal Security Engineer
AWS