

Participant Information Sheet

1. Title of Study:

AWS is not a datacentre: a guide for security operations in Amazon Web Services

2. Version 2; 30 Sep 2020

3. Invitation Paragraph

You are being invited to participate in an evaluation part of the research study. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask us if you would like more information or if there is anything that you do not understand. Please also feel free to discuss this with your friends, relatives and GP if you wish. We would like to stress that you do not have to accept this invitation and should only agree to take part if you want to.

Thank you for reading this.

4. What is the purpose of the study?

This research is aimed to study the difference between security techniques organisations can apply in traditional datacentres and Amazon Web Services (AWS). Some conventional security practises may be inadequate for AWS cloud infrastructure. Inappropriate usage of security techniques may lead to data breaches. The objectives of the study are:

- to demonstrate differences of implementation of security requirements between AWS and traditional datacentres
- identify universal secure cloud infrastructure design principles
- provide guidelines for building secure infrastructure in AWS for information security specialists, switching from traditional datacentres to AWS

5. Why have I been chosen to take part?

The evaluation is an essential step of the research needed to ensure the quality of the implemented recommendations which will be available in the public domain. You have been chosen because of the relevant security engineering experience. I believe that your experience will allow you to evaluate the guideline for security operations in AWS prepared by the result of the research.

6. Do I have to take part?

No. Participation in the study is entirely voluntary. Participants are free to take part and withdraw from participation at any time without an explanation and consequences.

7. What will happen if I take part?

I, Dmitrijs Mohoviks, as a student researcher at the University of Liverpool, will organise an online interview with you. In the interview, using semi-structured conversation, we will evaluate the guideline for security operations in AWS prepared by the result of the research. The interview should take about 30 – 60 minutes. With your permission, the interview will be audio-recorded and transcribed. The transcription will be anonymised. Audio records of the interview will be stored in password-protected systems provided by the University of Liverpool for verification purpose only, but no longer than until the project is finally graded. Anonymised results of the interviews will be analysed by the researcher (me) and summarised in the research paper.

8. How will my data be used?

The University processes personal data as part of its research and teaching activities in accordance with the lawful basis of 'public task', and in accordance with the University's purpose of "advancing education, learning and research for the public benefit".

Under UK data protection legislation, the University acts as the Data Controller for personal data collected as part of the University's research. The Dissertation Advisor, Prof. Kathleen Kelm, acts as the Data Processor for this study, and any queries relating to the handling of your personal data can be sent to Prof. Kathleen Kelm at kathleen.kelm@online.liverpool.ac.uk.

Further information on how your data will be used can be found in the table below.

How will my data be collected?	With your permission, the interview will be audio-recorded and transcribed. You will be notified when recording is started.
How will my data be stored?	Recording, transcription and consent form will be stored using password-protected systems provided by the University. Only anonymised transcription without personal details of the interviewee will be used in further analysis.

How long will my data be stored for?	Collected data will be stored for the verification purpose until the project is finally graded, and the grade is approved by the University.
What measures are in place to protect the security and confidentiality of my data?	All records will be stored in secure, password-protected systems provided by the University of Liverpool.
Will my data be anonymised?	Yes. The transcript will be anonymised. Personal information and information which can point to the participant will be removed from the transcript.
How will my data be used?	Anonymised results of the interviews will be analysed for the dissertation research purpose.
Who will have access to my data?	Student researcher and Dissertation Advisor
Will my data be archived for use in other research projects in the future?	No
How will my data be destroyed?	Electronic files will be deleted from the systems.

9. Expenses and / or payments

No payments will be made for participation in the interview. Participants will not have any expenses.

10. Are there any risks in taking part?

No risks or adverse effects expected for participants, but in the case of unforeseen events, you can withdraw from involvement at any time without consequences.

11. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There is no direct benefit to research participants. Participants may get a better understanding of security operations in AWS, but only if they will review the resulting guideline, which will also be publicly available.

12. What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of the research will be concluded in the dissertation paper and will be stored in the library of the University of Liverpool. Research participants will not be identifiable from the paper.

13. What will happen if I want to stop taking part?

Participants are free to withdraw from participation at any time without an explanation and consequences. You can request your recordings to be removed from the collected data. Anonymised transcripts, however, could not be associated with the research participant and consequently can not be removed.

14. What if I am unhappy or if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy, or if there is a problem, please feel free to let us know by contacting the Dissertation Adviser, Prof. Kathleen Kelm at kathleen.kelm@online.liverpool.ac.uk and we will try to help. If you remain unhappy or have a complaint which you feel you cannot come to us with then you should contact the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Office at ethics@liv.ac.uk. When contacting the Research Ethics and Integrity Office, please provide details of the name or description of the study (so that it can be identified), the researcher(s) involved, and the details of the complaint you wish to make.

The University strives to maintain the highest standards of rigour in the processing of your data. However, if you have any concerns about the way in which the University processes your personal data, it is important that you are aware of your right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office by calling (+44) 0303 123 1113.

15. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

You should contact the Dissertation Adviser of the study, Prof. Kathleen Kelm, at kathleen.kelm@online.liverpool.ac.uk.

The student researcher of the study, Dmitrijs Mohoviks, can be contacted at dmitrijs.mohoviks@online.liverpool.ac.uk.