

**Multi-Cloud Security Public Working Group  
ZTA/ATO Focus Groups Meeting Summary  
April 4, 2024, 3:00 to 4:00 PM EST**

Hello all!

Thank you to everyone who attended today's meeting! We really appreciate the group's work on the zero-trust model for the last several months! That spreadsheet will be very useful once we start analyzing inputs from the community.

Following our discussion in our monthly call yesterday, we need to accelerate our ability to gather those inputs. Therefore, we're shifting gears a bit to build a more fundamental understanding of multi-cloud security and authorization challenges and solutions (which has not yet been established). We expect that developing a firmer foundation of multi-cloud security and authorization will provide a base for our analysis of zero trust, moving it along much more quickly in the long run.

For simplicity, we'll start by thinking about a single authorization boundary with the following distinctions to direct our work:

- Multi-cloud: multiple cloud service providers (CSPs) with similar deployment models in a single authorization boundary
  - Example: a records management system with records stored in one hyperscaler and the control plane in another hyperscaler
- Hybrid cloud: multiple cloud infrastructures with diverse deployment models (public, private, community, etc.) in a single authorization boundary
  - Example: a records management system with the records stored in a private cloud and the application running in a hyperscaler (public cloud).

In both models, the CSPs or cloud infrastructures remain unique entities but are bound together by technology that enables data and application portability.

While we can have one system follow both models simultaneously, we are going to focus on MULTI-CLOUD only.

We need to work on answering the following:

- **What are the fundamental security challenges for a multi-cloud system?**
  - Examples: Normalizing logs from multiple CSPs, implementing least privilege across different permission schemas (thank you for these, Abdul!)
- **What are the fundamental challenges in authorizing a multi-cloud system?**
  - Examples: inconsistent control inheritance across providers (thank you, Brian!), different levels of control over similar mechanisms in different providers (e.g. how much control over storage configs you have in each provider)

**ACTION:** For our next call in four weeks, please:

- Come with a list of answers to the above two questions in no particular format

- Think through how we should normalize and present these challenges to the community
- Think through how we can collect additional challenges from the community in a timely manner

From there, we'll begin consolidating these identified challenges and looking for any gaps in what we've collected.

The next ZTA/ATO focus group meeting will be on 5/2/2024 at 3 PM EST.