

# Security Best Practices for Databricks on AWS

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## Table of Contents

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<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Databricks architecture</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Typical security configurations</b>	<b>6</b>
Most deployments	6
Highly secure deployments	7
<b>4. Databricks threat models</b>	<b>9</b>
Account takeover or compromise	9
Data exfiltration	11
Insider threats	12
Supply chain attacks	14
Potential compromise of Databricks	15
Ransomware attacks	16
Resource abuse such as crypto mining	18
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>19</b>
Appendix A – Security configuration reference	19
Manage identity and access using least privilege	19
1.1 Authenticate via single sign-on (SSO) at the account level	19
1.2 Leverage multi-factor authentication	19
1.3 Configure emergency access	20
1.4 Use SCIM to synchronize users and groups	20
1.5 Limit the number of admin users	20
1.6 Enforce segregation of duties between administrative accounts	20
1.7 Restrict workspace admins	21
1.8 Manage access according to the principle of least privilege	21
1.9 Use OAuth token authentication	21
1.10 Enforce token management	21
1.11 Restrict cluster creation rights	22
1.12 Use compute policies	22
1.13 Use service principals to run administrative tasks and production workloads	22
1.14 Use compute that supports user isolation	22
1.15 Store and use secrets securely	22
1.16 Use a restricted cross-account IAM role	23
<b>NEW:</b> 1.17 Simplify permission management for business users with Databricks One	23
Protect data in transit and at rest	23
2.1 Centralise data governance with Unity Catalog	23
2.2 Plan your data isolation model	23
2.3 Avoid storing production data in DBFS	24

2.4 Encrypt your S3 buckets & prevent public access	24
2.5 Apply bucket policies	24
2.6 Use S3 versioning	24
2.7 Backup your S3 data	25
2.8 Configure customer-managed keys for managed services	25
2.9 Configure customer-managed keys for storage	25
2.10 Use Delta Sharing	26
2.11 Configure a Delta Sharing recipient token lifetime	26
2.12 Additionally encrypt sensitive data at rest using Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)	26
2.13 Leverage data exfiltration prevention settings within the workspace	26
2.14 Use Clean Rooms to collaborate in a privacy-safe environment	26
Secure your network and protect endpoints	27
3.1 Use a customer-managed VPC	27
3.2 Configure IP access lists	27
3.3 Use AWS PrivateLink	27
3.4 Implement network exfiltration protections	28
3.5 Isolate sensitive workloads into different networks	28
3.6 Configure a firewall for serverless compute access	29
3.7 Restrict access to valuable codebases to only trusted networks	29
<b>NEW:</b> 3.8 Implement private connectivity from serverless compute to cloud resources	29
<b>NEW:</b> 3.9 Configure context-based ingress policies	29
Meet compliance and data privacy requirements	29
4.1 Restart compute on a regular schedule	29
4.2 Isolate sensitive workloads into different workspaces	30
4.3 Assign Unity Catalog securables to specific workspaces	30
4.4 Implement fine-grained access controls	30
4.5 Apply tags	30
4.6 Use lineage	31
4.7 Use AWS Nitro instances	31
4.8 Use Enhanced Security Monitoring or Compliance Security Profile	31
4.9 Control & monitor workspace access for Databricks personnel	32
4.10 Implement and test a Disaster Recovery strategy	32
<b>NEW:</b> 4.11 Implement attribute-based access control (ABAC)	32
<b>NEW:</b> 4.12 Use Data Classification functionality to redact sensitive values	32
Monitor system security	32
5.1 Monitor user behavior via System Tables	33
5.2 Monitor system activities via AWS CloudTrail & other logs	33
5.3 Enable verbose audit logging	33

5.4 Manage code versions with Git folders	34
5.5 Restrict usage to trusted code repositories	34
5.6 Provision infrastructure via infrastructure-as-code	34
5.7 Manage code via CI/CD	34
5.8 Control library installation	35
5.9 Use models and data from only trusted or reputable sources	35
5.10 Implement DevSecOps processes	35
5.11 Use Data Quality Monitoring	35
5.12 Use inference tables & Mosaic AI Gateway	35
5.13 Use tagging as part of your cost monitoring and charge-back strategy	36
5.14 Use budgets to monitor account spending	36
5.15 Use AWS service quotas	36
Appendix B – Additional Resources	36

# 1. Introduction

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Databricks has worked with thousands of customers to securely deploy the Databricks [Data Intelligence Platform](#) with the appropriate features to meet their security, privacy and regulatory requirements. While many organizations deploy security differently, there are patterns and features that are commonly used by most organizations.

**Please note:** unless you are a security specialist, there should be no need to read this entire document. You can implement our security best practices by following the **Define, Deploy, Monitor** approach outlined below:

- **Define:** Review the security checklists provided for most deployments and highly secure deployments below.
- **Deploy:** Our [Security Reference Architecture \(SRA\)](#) Terraform templates make it easy to deploy Databricks workspaces that follow these best practices! In the detailed security configuration reference section below we indicate which controls can be deployed with SRA via the checkbox below:  
☒ **Deploy with SRA**
- **Monitor:** Use the [Security Analysis Tool \(SAT\)](#) for ongoing monitoring of adherence to security best practices. In the detailed security configuration reference section below we indicate which controls can be monitored with SAT via the checkbox below:  
☒ **Monitor with SAT**

Importantly, the recommendations outlined below are based on the types of configurations we see from our customers, who have different levels of risk tolerance. Because of this, and because every deployment is unique, the recommendations below are non-exhaustive and following them cannot guarantee that your deployment will be secure. Please review in the context of your overall enterprise security framework to determine what is required to secure your deployment and your data.

## 2. Databricks architecture

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The Databricks [Data Intelligence Platform](#) architecture is split into two separate planes to simplify your permissions, avoid data duplication and reduce risk. The control plane is the management plane where Databricks runs the workspace application and manages notebooks, configuration and clusters. The compute plane handles your data processing. With serverless deployments, the compute plane exists in your Databricks account rather than your cloud service provider account.

If you're new to the Databricks platform, start with an overview of the architecture and a review of common security questions before you hop into specific recommendations. You'll see those at our [Security and Trust Center](#), specifically the [architecture overview](#).

### 3. Typical security configurations

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Below, you will find the typical security configurations used by most customers. For simplicity, we've separated these into "most deployments" and "highly-secure deployments." Most deployments are as they sound – configurations that Databricks expects to be present in most production or enterprise deployments such as Single Sign-On (SSO) protected by multi-factor authentication (MFA). Configurations for highly-secure deployments are more representative of what might be seen in environments with particularly sensitive data, intellectual property, or in regulated industries such as Healthcare, Life Sciences, or Financial Services, such as the use of Private Link connectivity and customer-managed keys.

This document will focus on data platform security best practices, regardless of the types of workloads that you are running. For a comprehensive overview of security best practices relating to AI workloads, please refer to the Databricks AI Security Framework (DASF).

#### Most deployments

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The following configurations are part of many production Databricks deployments. If you are a small data science team working with data that is not particularly sensitive, you may not feel the need to deploy all of these. If instead you are analyzing large volumes of sensitive data, we recommend that you review these configurations more closely.

- ☐ [Authenticate via single sign-on \(SSO\) at the account level](#)
- ☐ [Leverage multi-factor authentication](#)
- ☐ [Use SCIM to synchronize users and groups](#)
- ☐ [Limit the number of admin users](#)
- ☐ [Enforce segregation of duties between administrative accounts](#)
- ☐ [Restrict workspace admins](#)
- ☐ [Manage access according to the principle of least privilege](#)
- ☐ [Use OAuth token authentication](#)
- ☐ [Enforce token management](#)
- ☐ [Use service principals to run administrative tasks and production workloads](#)
- ☐ [Use compute that supports user isolation](#)
- ☐ [Store and use secrets securely](#)

- ☐ [Centralise data governance with Unity Catalog](#)
- ☐ [Plan your data isolation model](#)
- ☐ [Avoid storing production data in DBFS](#)
- ☐ [Encrypt your S3 buckets & prevent public access](#)
- ☐ [Backup your S3 data](#)
- ☐ [Configure a Delta Sharing recipient token lifetime](#)
- ☐ [Use a customer-managed VPC](#)
- ☐ [Configure IP access lists](#)
- ☐ [Implement network exfiltration protections](#)
- ☐ [Configure a firewall for serverless compute access](#)
- ☐ [Implement private connectivity from serverless compute to cloud resources](#)
- ☐ [Restart compute on a regular schedule](#)
- ☐ [Isolate sensitive workloads into different workspaces](#)

## Highly secure deployments

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In addition to the configurations typical to most deployments, the following configurations are often used in highly-secure Databricks deployments. While these are common configurations, not all highly secure environments use all of these settings. We recommend incorporating appropriate items into your existing security practices, where informed by the threat models in the following section and your company's risk tolerance.

- ☐ [Use a restricted cross-account IAM role](#)
- ☐ [Apply bucket policies](#)
- ☐ [Configure customer-managed keys for managed services](#)
- ☐ [Configure customer-managed keys for storage](#)
- ☐ [Leverage data exfiltration prevention settings within the workspace](#)
- ☐ [Use AWS PrivateLink](#)
- ☐ [Isolate sensitive workloads into different networks](#)
- ☐ [Configure context-based ingress policies](#)
- ☐ [Assign Unity Catalog securables to specific workspaces](#)
- ☐ [Implement fine-grained access controls](#)
- ☐ [Use Enhanced Security Monitoring or Compliance Security Profile](#)
- ☐ [Control & monitor workspace access for Databricks personnel](#)
- ☐ [Implement and test a Disaster Recovery strategy](#)
- ☐ [Implement attribute-based access control \(ABAC\)](#)
- ☐ [Monitor user behavior via System Tables](#)
- ☐ [Monitor system activities via AWS CloudTrail & other logs](#)
- ☐ [Enable verbose audit logging](#)

What security practices should I apply to Databricks on AWS?

Databricks Platform Security Doc

- ☐ [Restrict usage to trusted code repositories](#)
- ☐ [Control library installation](#)
- ☐ [Use models and data from only trusted or reputable sources](#)
- ☐ [Use inference tables & Mosaic AI Gateway](#)



## 4. Databricks threat models

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Customers who are particularly security conscious may want to understand the threat models that might apply to platforms like Databricks and the controls they can leverage to mitigate specific risks. If you are looking to ensure that you're following best practices and don't have specific security concerns you are looking to protect against, you can skip this section and focus on the checklists provided above. The most common threat categories that come up in customer conversations are:

1. [Account takeover or compromise](#)
2. [Data exfiltration](#)
3. [Insider threats](#)
4. [Supply chain attacks](#)
5. [Potential compromise of Databricks](#)
6. [Ransomware attacks](#)
7. [Resource abuse such as crypto mining](#)

This section addresses common questions about these risks, discusses probabilities, and provides mitigation strategies.

## Account takeover or compromise

### Risk description

Databricks is a general-purpose compute platform that customers can set up to access critical data sources. If credentials belonging to a user at one of our customers were compromised by phishing, brute force, or other methods, an attacker might get access to all of the data accessible from the environment.

### Probability

Without proper protections, account takeover can be an effective strategy for an attacker. Fortunately, it is easy to apply strategies that dramatically reduce the risk.

Protect	Detect	Respond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">1.1 Authenticate via single sign-on (SSO) at the account level</a> for all user access</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.2 Leverage multi-factor authentication</a> for all user access</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.3 Configure emergency access</a> for all user access</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.4 Use SCIM to synchronize users and groups</a> and correctly deprovision users when they leave your organization</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.5 Limit the number of admin users</a> to reduce over-permissioning normal users</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.6 Enforce segregation of duties between administrative accounts</a> to ensure that administrative accounts are not used for day-to-day work</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.9 Use OAuth token authentication</a> to ensure that short-lived tokens are used for access</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.10 Enforce token management</a> to disable personal access tokens or set a maximum lifetime for them</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.15 Store and use secrets securely</a> to protect user and system credentials</li> <li>• <a href="#">3.2 Configure IP access lists</a> for your account, workspaces and Delta shares to restrict access to trusted public networks</li> <li>• <a href="#">3.3 Use AWS PrivateLink</a> to restrict access to trusted private</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">5.1 Monitor user behavior via System Tables</a> to identify failed authentication, authorization and access attempts. Please refer to this <a href="#">blog</a> for some examples</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.10 Implement DevSecOps processes</a> to identify credentials in your code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">1.4 Use SCIM to synchronize users and groups</a> to disable / remove potentially compromised users</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.9 Use OAuth token authentication</a> to delete OAuth secrets, deactivate and remove service principals</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.10 Enforce token management</a> to revoke tokens and/or disable token authentication</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.3 Enable verbose audit logging</a> so that the actions of potentially compromised accounts can be investigated</li> </ul>

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<div>networks</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>3.4</b> <a href="#">Implement network exfiltration protections</a> to protect against data exfiltration following a successful account takeover attack</li><li>• <b>3.9</b> <a href="#">Configure context-based ingress policies</a> reduce network access for specific applications or users</li></ul>		
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## Data exfiltration

### Risk description

If a malicious user or an attacker is able to log into a customer's environment, they may be able to exfiltrate sensitive data and then store it, sell it, or ransom it.

### Probability

While the probability of this type of attack is generally low because it presumes either a malicious insider or compromised account, it is not uncommon for these types of attackers to attempt to exfiltrate and then leverage data.

Protect	Detect	Respond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">1.7 Restrict workspace admins</a> restrict the number of users with administrative permissions</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.13 Use service principals to run administrative tasks and production workloads</a> so that wherever possible users do not need direct access to sensitive data</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.2 Plan your data isolation model</a> so that sensitive data is protected by the appropriate level of isolation</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.3 Avoid storing production data in DBFS</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2.4 Encrypt your S3 buckets &amp; prevent public access</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2.5 Apply bucket policies</a> to restrict access to trusted networks</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.11 Configure a Delta Sharing recipient token lifetime</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2.12 Additionally encrypt sensitive data at rest using Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2.13 Leverage data exfiltration prevention settings within the workspace</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2.14 Use Clean Rooms to collaborate in a privacy-safe environment</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">3.2 Configure IP access lists</a> to protect your Delta Shares</li> <li>• <a href="#">3.3 Use AWS PrivateLink</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">3.4 Implement network exfiltration protections</a> to restrict outbound access to trusted destinations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">5.1 Monitor user behavior via System Tables</a> to identify repeated failed authorisation requests, high numbers of reads and writes and changes to account and workspace settings that protect against exfiltration. Please refer to this <a href="#">blog</a> for some examples</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.2 Monitor system activities via AWS CloudTrail &amp; other logs</a> to identify failed &amp; suspicious assume role, data access and network access attempts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">1.4 Use SCIM to synchronize users and groups</a> to disable / remove accounts that are under investigation</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.3 Enable verbose audit logging</a> so that the actions relating to potential data exfiltration attempts can be investigated</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">3.5 Isolate sensitive workloads into different networks</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">3.6 Configure a firewall for serverless compute access</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">3.8 Implement private connectivity from serverless compute to cloud resources</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">4.2 Isolate sensitive workloads into different workspaces</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">4.3 Assign Unity Catalog securables to specific workspaces</a> to restrict access to securables that may contain sensitive data</li> <li>• <a href="#">4.4 Implement fine-grained access controls</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">4.11 Implement attribute-based access control (ABAC)</a> to restrict access to only appropriate user groups</li> <li>• <a href="#">4.12 Use Data Classification functionality to redact sensitive values</a> to identify sensitive data</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.5 Restrict usage to trusted code repositories</a> so that code cannot be easily exfiltrated from the environment</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.9 Use models and data from only trusted or reputable sources</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">5.12 Use inference tables &amp; Mosaic AI Gateway</a></li> </ul>		
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## Insider threats

### Risk description

High-performing engineers and data professionals will generally find the best or fastest way to complete their tasks, but sometimes that may do so in ways that create security impacts to their organizations. One user may think their job would be much easier if they didn't have to deal with security controls, or another might copy some data to a public storage account or other cloud resource to simplify sharing of data. We can provide education for these users, but companies should also consider providing guardrails.

### Probability

Given the large number of ways that security protocols can be avoided, there is significant variability in the likelihood and impact of risks in this category. That said, most security professionals identify this as a significant potential risk to organizations.

Protect	Detect	Respond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">1.4 Use SCIM to synchronize users and groups</a> helping to ensure that users have the correct level of access</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.5 Limit the number of admin users</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">1.6 Enforce segregation of duties between administrative accounts</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">1.7 Restrict workspace admins</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">1.8 Manage access according to the principle of least privilege</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">1.11 Restrict cluster creation rights</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">1.13 Use service principals to run administrative tasks and production workloads</a> so that wherever possible users do not need direct access to sensitive data</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.14 Use compute that supports user isolation</a> so that users &amp; workloads are isolated, even on shared compute</li> <li>• <a href="#">1.15 Store and use secrets securely</a> to protect user and system credentials</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.2 Plan your data isolation model</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2.6 Use S3 versioning</a> so that incorrectly overwritten or deleted data can be recovered</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.7 Backup your S3 data</a> so that full datasets can be recovered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">4.8 Use Enhanced Security Monitoring or Compliance Security Profile</a> to identify and alert on suspicious activity that might indicate an attempt to break out of the environment. Please refer to this <a href="#">blog</a> for some examples</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.1 Monitor user behavior via System Tables</a> to identify destructive activities (high number of deletes within a session) and privilege escalation attempts (high number of permission changes within a session). Please refer to this <a href="#">blog</a> for some examples</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.2 Monitor system activities via AWS CloudTrail &amp; other logs</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">1.4 Use SCIM to synchronize users and groups</a> and disable / remove the accounts of potential insider threats</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.6 Use S3 versioning</a> to restore incorrectly overwritten, deleted or corrupted data</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.7 Backup your S3 data</a> and restore full datasets where necessary</li> <li>• <a href="#">4.10 Implement and test a Disaster Recovery strategy</a> to recover your data if needed</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.3 Enable verbose audit logging</a> so that the actions of potential accidental or malicious insiders can be investigated</li> </ul>

<p>when necessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">2.11 Configure a Delta Sharing recipient token lifetime</a></li><li>• <a href="#">2.12 Additionally encrypt sensitive data at rest using Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">2.13 Leverage data exfiltration prevention settings within the workspace</a></li><li>• <a href="#">3.4 Implement network exfiltration protections</a> as the safeguards they provide against accidental insider exposure are similar to those provided against a malicious attacker</li><li>• <a href="#">3.5 Isolate sensitive workloads into different networks</a></li><li>• <a href="#">3.7 Restrict access to valuable codebases to only trusted networks</a></li><li>• <a href="#">4.2 Isolate sensitive workloads into different workspaces</a></li><li>• <a href="#">4.3 Assign Unity Catalog securables to specific workspaces</a></li><li>• <a href="#">4.4 Implement fine-grained access controls</a></li><li>• <a href="#">4.11 Implement attribute-based access control (ABAC)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">5.4 Manage code versions with Git folders</a> so that code is backed up outside of the platform</li><li>• <a href="#">5.5 Restrict usage to trusted code repositories</a></li><li>• <a href="#">5.7 Manage code via CI/CD</a> so that only approved code can be run in production environments</li><li>• <a href="#">5.12 Use inference tables &amp; Mosaic AI Gateway</a></li></ul>	<p>to identify failed &amp; suspicious data access and network access attempts</p>	
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## Supply chain attacks

### Risk description

Historically, supply chain attacks have relied upon injecting malicious code into software libraries. That code is then executed without the knowledge of the unsuspecting target. More recently, however, we have started to see the emergence of AI model and data supply chain attacks, whereby the model, its weights or the data itself is maliciously altered.

### Probability

Without proper protections, supply chain attacks could be an effective strategy for an attacker. Fortunately, it is easy to apply protection strategies that dramatically reduce this risk.

Protect	Detect	Respond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">3.4 Implement network exfiltration protections</a> as the safeguards they provide against supply chain attacks are similar to those provided against a malicious attacker</li> <li>• <a href="#">3.5 Isolate sensitive workloads into different networks</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">3.6 Configure a firewall for serverless compute access</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">4.2 Isolate sensitive workloads into different workspaces</a> so that users have more freedom to experiment with libraries in sandbox environments, but only trusted libraries are used in production</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.4 Manage code versions with Git folders</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">5.5 Restrict usage to trusted code repositories</a> so that untrusted code cannot be easily brought into the environment</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.6 Provision infrastructure via infrastructure-as-code</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">5.7 Manage code via CI/CD</a> so that only scanned and approved code can be run in production environments</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.8 Control library installation</a> so that only scanned and approved libraries can be used for sensitive workloads, R: to disallow access to libraries with known vulnerabilities</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.9 Use models and data from only trusted or reputable sources</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">4.8 Use Enhanced Security Monitoring or Compliance Security Profile</a> to identify and alert on suspicious activity that might indicate an attempt to break out of the environment. Please refer to this <a href="#">blog</a> for some examples</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.1 Monitor user behavior via System Tables</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">5.2 Monitor system activities via AWS CloudTrail &amp; other logs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">5.10 Implement DevSecOps processes</a> to automatically scan code, libraries, dependencies, models and model weights</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.12 Use inference tables &amp; Mosaic AI Gateway</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">5.3 Enable verbose audit logging</a> to identify library installs via notebook commands</li> </ul>



What security practices should I apply to Databricks on AWS?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>5.10</b> <a href="#">Implement DevSecOps processes</a></li><li>• <b>5.11</b> <a href="#">Use Data Quality Monitoring</a> to identify changes to the quality and consistency of important datasets which may indicate data supply chain attacks such as data poisoning and label flipping</li><li>• <b>5.12</b> <a href="#">Use inference tables &amp; Mosaic AI Gateway</a></li></ul>		
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## Potential compromise of Databricks

### Risk description

Security-minded customers sometimes voice a concern that Databricks itself might be compromised, which could result in the compromise of their environment.

### Probability

Databricks invests considerable resources into securing its [Data Intelligence Platform](#) and has a robust security program designed to minimize the risk of such an incident – see our [Security and Trust Center](#) for an overview of the program and relevant security controls. However, the risk for any company is never completely eliminated.

Protect	Detect	Respond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">1.16 Use a restricted cross-account IAM role</a> to limit the risk of IAM role compromise</li><li>• <a href="#">2.8 Configure customer-managed keys for managed services</a></li><li>• <a href="#">2.9 Configure customer-managed keys for storage</a></li><li>• <a href="#">4.9 Control &amp; monitor workspace access for Databricks personnel</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">5.1 Monitor user behavior via System Tables</a> to monitor the activities of Databricks employees that you grant access to your environment. Please refer to this <a href="#">blog</a> for some examples</li><li>• <a href="#">5.2 Monitor system activities via AWS CloudTrail &amp; other logs</a> to identify abnormal provisioning activity – suspicious or failed assume role attempts – suspicious or failed data access attempts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">2.8 Configure customer-managed keys for managed services</a></li><li>• <a href="#">2.9 Configure customer-managed keys for storage</a></li><li>• <a href="#">4.9 Control &amp; monitor workspace access for Databricks personnel</a></li><li>• <a href="#">5.3 Enable verbose audit logging</a> to monitor the activities of Databricks employees that you grant access your environment.</li></ul>

## Ransomware attacks

### Risk description

Ransomware is a type of malware designed to deny an individual or organization access to their data, usually for the purposes of extortion. Encryption is often used as the vehicle for this attack. In recent years, there have been several high profile ransomware attacks that have brought large organizations to their knees.

### Probability

The vast majority of data is stored within customers' own storage accounts, which would present a far more appealing target for ransomware attacks. Therefore, while we provide a brief summary here, the most important security controls are those that customers configure for their own storage.

Protect	Detect	Respond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">2.1 Centralise data governance with Unity Catalog</a> to ensure that only time-bound, down-scoped tokens are used to access data</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.4 Encrypt your S3 buckets &amp; prevent public access</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2.6 Use S3 versioning</a> so that incorrectly overwritten, deleted or corrupted data can be recovered</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.7 Backup your S3 data</a> so that full datasets can be recovered when necessary</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.9 Configure customer-managed keys for storage</a> so that you have more control and visibility over the encryption keys used to protect your data</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.10 Use Delta Sharing</a> to ensure that only read-only, time-bound, down-scoped tokens are used to access data</li> <li>• <a href="#">3.6 Configure a firewall for serverless compute access</a> to protect your resources from untrusted networks</li> <li>• <a href="#">3.7 Restrict access to valuable codebases to only trusted networks</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">3.8 Implement private connectivity from serverless compute to cloud resources</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">5.1 Monitor user behavior via System Tables</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">5.2 Monitor system activities via AWS CloudTrail &amp; other logs</a> to identify suspicious or failed IAM, data or CMK access attempts and attempts to modify S3 bucket configurations</li> <li>• <a href="#">5.10 Implement DevSecOps processes</a> to identify credentials in your code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">2.6 Use S3 versioning</a> and restore full datasets where necessary</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.7 Backup your S3 data</a> and restore full datasets where necessary</li> <li>• <a href="#">2.9 Configure customer-managed keys for storage</a> and put a process in place to rotate and revoke keys where necessary, R: and put a process in place to rotate and revoke keys where necessary</li> <li>• <a href="#">4.10 Implement and test a Disaster Recovery strategy</a> to recover your data if required</li> </ul>

What security practices should I apply to Databricks on AWS?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5.4 <a href="#">Manage code versions with Git folders</a></li><li>• 5.6 <a href="#">Provision infrastructure via infrastructure-as-code</a> so that manual changes to production environments are not allowed</li><li>• 5.7 <a href="#">Manage code via CI/CD</a></li><li>• 5.8 <a href="#">Control library installation</a></li></ul>		
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## Resource abuse such as crypto mining

### Risk description

Databricks can deploy large amounts of compute power. As such, it could be a valuable target for crypto mining if a customer's user account were compromised.

### Probability

This has not been a prominent activity in practice, but customers will sometimes bring up this concern.

Protect	Detect	Respond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1.11</b> <a href="#">Restrict cluster creation rights</a></li> <li>• <b>1.12</b> <a href="#">Use compute policies</a> to restrict the maximum size and types of compute</li> <li>• <b>1.16</b> <a href="#">Use a restricted cross-account IAM role</a> to limit the risk of IAM role compromise</li> <li>• <b>5.8</b> <a href="#">Control library installation</a> to reduce the risk of supply chain attacks that are designed to result in resource abuse</li> <li>• <b>5.15</b> <a href="#">Use AWS service quotas</a> to limit the resources that can be deployed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5.1</b> <a href="#">Monitor user behavior via System Tables</a> to monitor billable usage</li> <li>• <b>5.2</b> <a href="#">Monitor system activities via AWS CloudTrail &amp; other logs</a> to identify abnormal provisioning activity</li> <li>• <b>5.10</b> <a href="#">Implement DevSecOps processes</a></li> <li>• <b>5.13</b> <a href="#">Use tagging as part of your cost monitoring and charge-back strategy</a></li> <li>• <b>5.14</b> <a href="#">Use budgets to monitor account spending</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1.4</b> <a href="#">Use SCIM to synchronize users and groups</a> to disable / remove accounts that are under investigation</li> <li>• <b>5.3</b> <a href="#">Enable verbose audit logging</a> so that the actions relating to resource abuse attempts can be investigated</li> </ul>

# Appendices

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## Appendix A – Security configuration reference

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The security configurations referenced throughout this document are described in more detail below. For ease of reference, these security configurations have been grouped into the following overarching security, compliance, and privacy principles:

- [Manage identity and access using least privilege](#)
- [Protect data in transit and at rest](#)
- [Secure your network and protect endpoints](#)
- [Meet compliance and data privacy requirements](#)
- [Monitor system security](#)

### *Manage identity and access using least privilege*

---

The practice of identity and access management (IAM) helps you ensure that the right people can access the right resources. IAM addresses the following aspects of authentication and authorization: account management including provisioning, identity governance, authentication, access control (authorization), and identity federation.

#### 1.1 Authenticate via single sign-on (SSO) at the account level

---

Databricks supports [single sign-on \(SSO\)](#) between your identity provider (IdP) and your Databricks account via SAML 2.0 or OpenID Connect (OIDC). Although SSO can be configured at both the account, and workspace level, Databricks recommends using a single account-level SSO configuration with [unified login](#) enabled for all workspaces.

##### **Monitor with SAT**

Databricks recommends enabling [Unified Login](#) to simplify SSO enablement for all existing and new workspaces.

#### 1.2 Leverage multi-factor authentication

---

Most identity providers (IdPs) either directly provide or integrate with multi-factor authentication (MFA) solutions. Most Databricks customers require an MFA prompt during user login, either at log in to Databricks or through a VPN requirement. For the highest security environments, Databricks also advocates where possible for the use of physical authentication tokens such as FIDO2 keys. These keys augment traditional multi-factor authentication by requiring interaction with a physical token that cannot be compromised.

For customers who do not have single-sign on enabled, customers can configure [MFA](#)

[enforcement](#) through the account console.

### 1.3 Configure emergency access

---

To prevent lockout, account admins can configure [emergency access](#) for up to 20 users to log in to Databricks via multi-factor authentication using security keys. Databricks recommends that users configure a strong password and at least one FIDO2 hardware security key to sign in using emergency access.

### 1.4 Use SCIM to synchronize users and groups

---

SCIM (System for Cross-domain Identity Management) allows you to [sync users and groups between your identity provider \(IdP\) and Databricks](#). There are three major benefits of this approach:

1. When you remove a user, the user is automatically removed from Databricks.
2. Users can also be disabled temporarily via SCIM. Customers have used this capability for scenarios where customers believe that an account may be compromised and need to investigate.
3. Groups are automatically synchronized.
4. Groups can be marked as externally managed, making them (and membership of them) immutable within Databricks.

Databricks recommends that you use account-level SCIM provisioning to manage all users in your account.

✔ **Monitor with SAT**

### 1.5 Limit the number of admin users

---

As in most systems, administrators within Databricks have elevated privileges that should only be extended to a trusted few within an organization. Where possible, use automation via [Service Principals](#) to perform administrative tasks, preferably via [infrastructure-as-code](#). This recommendation applies to all [Databricks admin roles](#).

✔ **Monitor with SAT**

### 1.6 Enforce segregation of duties between administrative accounts

---

It is a general best practice across all of security that an administrator should not use their privileged accounts to perform day-to-day tasks. Databricks recommends that customers should maintain a segregation of duties between user accounts, ensuring that:

- The same user does not share multiple highly privileged roles (such as account and metastore admin)
- Databricks administrators who are also normal users of the Databricks platform use a separate user account for administrative versus day-to-day tasks

Where possible, use automation via [Service Principals](#) to perform all administrative tasks, preferably via [infrastructure-as-code](#). This recommendation applies to all [Databricks admin roles](#).

## ☑ Monitor with SAT

### 1.7 Restrict workspace admins

---

By default, workspace admins can change the job owner or run as setting and generate on-behalf-of tokens for any service principal in their workspace. Databricks recommends configuring the [restrict workspace admins](#) setting to prevent this.

## ☑ Monitor with SAT

### 1.8 Manage access according to the principle of least privilege

---

Within Databricks there are different [access control systems](#) for different securable objects. Databricks recommends assigning ACLs according to the principle of least privilege, and assigning them to groups rather than directly to users. For Unity Catalog securables, manage access at the lowest level in the [inheritance model](#). [This proposal](#) for persona-based access control should help you to get started.

## ☑ Monitor with SAT

### 1.9 Use OAuth token authentication

---

Where possible customers should use OAuth [user-to-machine \(U2M\)](#) and [machine-to-machine \(M2M\)](#) authentication. OAuth reduces risk because U2M requires users to authenticate as they would via the UI and for M2M the credential in memory will typically be a short-lived access token. While most code will need a way to read the secret in order to request a new access token, the secret can be stored securely (for example in a service like AWS Secrets Manager) and pulled down only when a new access token is requested. Customers can also use [OAuth token federation](#) to federate access from their Identity Provider.

## ☑ Deploy with SRA

### 1.10 Enforce token management

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Customers can use the [Token Management](#) API or UI controls to enable or disable personal access tokens (PATs) for REST API authentication, limit the users who are allowed to use PATs, set the maximum lifetime for new tokens, and manage existing tokens. Where possible, we would encourage highly secure customers to use [OAuth token authentication](#). Where this is not possible, we would recommend that they provision a short maximum token lifetime for new tokens within a workspace. Customers can use the account console, CLI, and SDK to monitor and revoke personal access tokens. See [Monitor and revoke personal access tokens](#) for more information.

## ☑ Monitor with SAT

### 1.11 Restrict cluster creation rights

---

Using either [compute policies](#) or the [cluster creation entitlement](#), admins can define which users or groups within the organization are able to create clusters.

[Compute permissions](#) allow you to specify which users can perform which actions on a given cluster. Note that using the correct cluster isolation level is a consideration here too, and [shared access mode clusters](#), [SQL warehouses](#), and [serverless compute](#) should be preferred where possible.



☑ **Monitor with SAT**

## 1.12 Use compute policies

---

Databricks admins can control many aspects of the clusters that are spun up, including size of clusters, available instance types, runtime versions, and Spark configuration settings using [compute policies](#). Admins can configure multiple compute policies, allowing certain groups of users to create small clusters, some groups of users to create large clusters, and other groups to only use existing clusters.

☑ **Deploy with SRA**

☑ **Monitor with SAT**

## 1.13 Use service principals to run administrative tasks and production workloads

---

It is against security best practices to tie production workloads to individual user accounts, and so we recommend configuring [Service Principals](#) within Databricks. Service Principals separate administrator and user actions from the workload and prevent workloads from being impacted if a user leaves an organization. Within Databricks, you can configure [jobs](#) as well as [automation tools](#) to run as a service principal.

☑ **Deploy with SRA**

☑ **Monitor with SAT**

## 1.14 Use compute that supports user isolation

---

Customers should use standard or [dedicated access mode](#) clusters, SQL warehouses, or serverless compute at all times, with a preference towards shared access mode, SQL warehouses, and serverless. These compute types apply isolation boundaries between users and workloads. If no isolation shared clusters must be used, then customers should [enable admin protection](#) so that admin credentials are protected in an environment that is shared with other users.

☑ **Deploy with SRA**

☑ **Monitor with SAT**

## 1.15 Store and use secrets securely

---

Integrating with heterogeneous systems requires managing a potentially large set of credentials and safely distributing them across an organization. Instead of directly entering your credentials into a notebook, use Databricks secrets to store your credentials and reference them in notebooks and jobs. [Databricks secret management](#) allows users to use and share credentials within Databricks securely. For seamlessly integrating external services, without the need to manage secrets, you can configure [service credentials](#) in Unity Catalog.

☑ **Monitor with SAT**

The [Security Analysis Tool](#) can now automatically scan for unobfuscated secrets!

## 1.16 Use a restricted cross-account IAM role

---

For non-serverless workloads Databricks uses a [cross-account IAM role](#) so that the Databricks account can take actions inside of your AWS account. Customers often ask if it is possible to restrict permissions provided in the default role. The first step when restricting permissions is to check that you have the right starting point. By default, [our documentation](#) shows an IAM Policy with a simplified set of permissions. However, it is recommended that security-conscious customers [manage their own VPC](#), reducing the number of permissions required by the cross-account IAM role. For explanation of the permissions required and what purpose they serve, please refer to this [guide](#).

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

## NEW: 1.17 Simplify permission management for business users with Databricks One

---

To simplify permission management for business users, Databricks recommends following the principle of least privilege by using [Databricks One](#). With Databricks One, business users can view and interact with AI/BI Dashboards, ask questions of AI/BI Genie, and access custom Databricks Apps without the need for additional fine-grained permission management.

## Protect data in transit and at rest

---

Classify your data into sensitivity and criticality levels and use mechanisms such as encryption, tokenization, and access control where appropriate.

## 2.1 Centralise data governance with Unity Catalog

---

[Unity Catalog](#) offers a unified governance layer for data and AI within the [Databricks Data Intelligence Platform](#). With Unity Catalog, organizations can seamlessly govern their structured and unstructured data, machine learning models, notebooks, dashboards, and files on any cloud or platform. This unified approach to governance accelerates data and AI initiatives while simplifying regulatory compliance.

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

✓ **Monitor with SAT**

## 2.2 Plan your data isolation model

---

[Unity Catalog](#) gives you the ability to choose between centralized and distributed governance models, as well as apply varying levels of isolation between datasets. Databricks recommends that you plan your [data isolation mode](#) upfront, following the [best practice recommendations](#) provided.

## 2.3 Avoid storing production data in DBFS

---

By default, DBFS is a filesystem that is accessible to all users of the given workspace and can be accessed via API. This is not necessarily a major data exfiltration concern as you can limit access to accessing data via the DBFS API or the Databricks CLI using IP access lists or private network access. However, as use of Databricks grows and more users join a workspace, those users would have access to any data stored in DBFS, creating the potential for undesired information sharing. Databricks recommends that customers do not store production data in DBFS, and Databricks staff can share a bucket policy for AWS that helps to prevent this.

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

### ✔ **Monitor with SAT**

DBFS can be [disabled for all existing and new workspaces](#).

## 2.4 Encrypt your S3 buckets & prevent public access

---

S3 buckets are used for two roles within a Databricks deployment: the root S3 bucket that you provide when you configure Databricks initially and additional buckets where you store your data. For these buckets, it is your responsibility to verify that the buckets are encrypted (either [by default](#) or [for each bucket individually](#)) and that [public access is not allowed](#). As you are responsible for these S3 buckets, you must ensure that these buckets are configured correctly.

### ✔ **Deploy with SRA**

## 2.5 Apply bucket policies

---

Use [S3 bucket policies](#) where necessary to apply [network access restrictions](#), a [firewall for serverless compute access](#), and any other protections such as denying unencrypted traffic.

### ✔ **Deploy with SRA**

If you are using external links to retrieve large data sets via the SQL Statement Execution API, Databricks recommends that you configure network restrictions on your storage accounts. See Security best practices for more information.

## 2.6 Use S3 versioning

---

Use [S3 object versioning](#) to retain [older versions of your data](#), allowing you to recover them from accidental deletion or overwrite. Because of how Databricks stores data in DBFS, S3 bucket versioning is not recommended for the bucket you configure for DBFS.

## 2.7 Backup your S3 data

---

Create regular [backups](#) of your S3 data, allowing you to recover it from accidental deletion or corruption.

## 2.8 Configure customer-managed keys for managed services

---

Configure a [customer-managed key](#) (CMK) for scoped data stored within the Databricks control plane and serverless compute plane, such as:

- Notebooks
- SQL queries
- SQL query history
- Secrets
- Personal access tokens (PAT) or other credentials
- Vector search indexes and metadata

Databricks requires direct access to this key through an AWS IAM role for ongoing operations. You can revoke access to the key to prevent Databricks from accessing encrypted data within the control or compute planes (or in our backups). This is like a “nuclear option” where the workspace ceases to function, but it provides an emergency control for extreme situations. For more information on using a [customer-managed key](#) (CMK) with Databricks, please refer to [Customer-managed keys for encryption](#).

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

✓ **Monitor with SAT**

## 2.9 Configure customer-managed keys for storage

---

Configure a [customer-managed key](#) for scoped data stored within the compute and data planes, such as:

- The [EBS volumes](#) attached in the classic compute plane
- The root S3 bucket associated with a Databricks workspace
- The S3 buckets managed or accessed by Unity Catalog

Databricks requires direct access to this key via an AWS IAM role for ongoing operations, but a customer-managed key helps meet compliance requirements and allows you to revoke access if required. For more information on using a [customer-managed key](#) (CMK) with Databricks, please refer to [Customer-managed keys for encryption](#).

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

✓ **Monitor with SAT**

Serverless compute resources do not use customer-managed keys for EBS storage encryption on compute nodes. Disks for serverless compute resources are short-lived and tied to the lifecycle of the serverless workload. When compute resources are stopped or scaled down, the VMs and their storage are destroyed.

## 2.10 Use Delta Sharing

---

[Delta Sharing](#) is a built-in, out-of-the-box secure protocol for sharing data across data, analytics, and AI. Customers can share live data across platforms, clouds, and regions with strong security and governance. Follow the [Security Best Practices for Delta Sharing](#) when sharing sensitive data.

✓ **Monitor with SAT**

## 2.11 Configure a Delta Sharing recipient token lifetime

---

When [enabling Delta Sharing for a metastore](#), always ensure that recipient tokens are set to expire within a timescale (seconds, minutes, hours, or days) that is proportional to the sensitivity of the data that might be shared.

✓ **Monitor with SAT**

## 2.12 Additionally encrypt sensitive data at rest using Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

---

Databricks supports Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) encryption to additionally encrypt columns of sensitive data at rest. Customers can use the [aes\\_encrypt](#) and [aes\\_decrypt](#) functions to convert between plaintext and ciphertext, using [secrets](#) to securely store the cryptographic keys. Additionally encrypting sensitive data at rest adds another layer of protection in the event that the underlying storage account and its encryption keys or cryptography become compromised.

## 2.13 Leverage data exfiltration prevention settings within the workspace

---

Databricks workspace admins can leverage a [variety of settings](#) that provide protection. Most admin controls are simple enable/disable buttons. Some of the most important ones are:

- Notebook results download
  - Notebook exporting
  - SQL results download
  - MLflow run artifact download
  - Results table clipboard features
  - FileStore Endpoint
- ✓ **Deploy with SRA**
  - ✓ **Monitor with SAT**

## 2.14 Use Clean Rooms to collaborate in a privacy-safe environment

---

[Databricks Clean Rooms](#) allow you to easily collaborate with your customers and partners in a secure environment in a privacy-safe way. Clean Rooms can enable collaboration whilst protecting against unauthorized access or inadvertent data leakage.

For more information please refer to [What is Databricks Clean Rooms?](#)

## Secure your network and protect endpoints

---

Secure your network and monitor and protect the network integrity of internal and external endpoints through security appliances or cloud services like firewalls.

### 3.1 Use a customer-managed VPC

---

For non-serverless workloads, Databricks requires the use of VPC in the customer's AWS account. Databricks recommends the use of a [customer-managed VPC](#) so that the [cross-account permissions required are reduced](#) and customers can integrate the Databricks VPC into their existing network architecture. This way, customers can deploy Databricks into a VPC that allows them to route traffic through their own network enforcement points ([such as a firewall](#)) and control access to data using [VPC endpoints](#).

- ✓ **Deploy with SRA**
- ✓ **Monitor with SAT**

For serverless workloads, the compute plane network is managed and secured by

Databricks. One less security configuration for you to manage!

### 3.2 Configure IP access lists

[IP access lists](#) restrict the IP addresses that can be used to access Databricks by checking if the user or API client is coming from a trusted IP address range such as a VPN or office network. Established user sessions do not work if the user moves to a bad IP address, such as when disconnecting from the VPN. Databricks recommends that customers configure IP access lists for their Databricks [account](#), [workspaces](#) and [Delta Sharing recipients](#).

- ✓ **Deploy with SRA**
- ✓ **Monitor with SAT**

### 3.3 Use AWS PrivateLink

AWS [PrivateLink](#) allows customers to set up end-to-end private networking for their Databricks [Data Intelligence Platform](#).

PrivateLink can be configured between Databricks users and the control plane, between the control plane and the compute plane, and between the compute plane and AWS services.

For front-end PrivateLink connections, customers can [restrict access](#) to a given workspace to either all VPC endpoints that are registered in your Databricks account, or to just an explicit set. The latter can be useful when very strict isolation between users of different Databricks workspaces is required.

Configuring back-end PrivateLink ensures that your compute can only be authenticated over that dedicated and private channel.

For [customer-managed VPCs](#), Databricks recommends using [gateway endpoints](#) to access S3 buckets within the same region. Please see [configure regional endpoints](#) for more information. For serverless workloads, customers can create [network connectivity configurations](#) that use PrivateLink to connect to customer resources via [AWS VPC endpoint services](#) that are managed by them. Customers can also configure direct connectivity via PrivateLink to [managed-AWS resources like S3](#). For more information on using AWS [PrivateLink](#) with Databricks, please refer to [Enable AWS PrivateLink](#) and [Serverless compute plane networking](#).

- ✓ **Deploy with SRA**
- ✓ **Monitor with SAT**

For serverless workloads, networking between the control and compute planes is managed by Databricks using either AWS PrivateLink or the AWS network secured with mutual TLS authentication and firewall policies that limit access to only valid IPs. One less security control for you to worry about!

### 3.4 Implement network exfiltration protections

---

By default, compute plane hosts within your AWS environment have unrestricted outbound network access via specific ports. If you use a [customer-managed VPC](#), you can restrict outbound traffic using a firewall. Databricks has published a [blog post](#) that describes how to do this using AWS Network Firewall, but it can be generalized to other network security tools [using details provided in the Databricks documentation](#). Importantly, the TLS connections between the control plane and compute plane cannot be broken, so it's not possible to use a technology like SSL or TLS inspection. The custom TLS certificate that would be needed cannot be pre-loaded on the Databricks AMI that is built for all customers.

Customers can also limit the resources that are accessible from the compute plane network via [VPC endpoint policies](#). Databricks can share examples of this as part of our [Data Exfiltration Protections for Databricks on AWS technical guide](#) and featured in our Security Reference Architecture (SRA) – Terraform Templates.

For serverless workloads, customers can configure [egress controls](#) to manage outbound network connections from your serverless compute resources. Serverless egress controls are configured via [Network Policies](#), an account level configuration that can be assigned to one or many Databricks workspaces.

When network access is set to [Restricted](#), serverless workloads only have access to:

- Destinations configured via Unity Catalog Locations or Connections (allowed by default)
- FQDNs or Storage locations defined in the policy
- Workspace APIs of the same workspace as the workload (cross-workspace access is denied)

✔ **Deploy with SRA**

### 3.5 Isolate sensitive workloads into different networks

---

Customers can share a [customer-managed VPC](#) with multiple workspaces, but for sensitive workloads this is not recommended. Customers should isolate these workloads into their [own workspace](#) with their own [customer-managed VPC](#). For serverless compute, customers can use [network connectivity configurations \(NCCs\)](#) to manage logically related networks. Customers should create NCCs based on their desired logical separation of serverless data planes, while bearing the [documented limits](#) in mind.

✔ **Deploy with SRA**

### 3.6 Configure a firewall for serverless compute access

---

For serverless workloads, customers can create [network connectivity configurations](#) that use a [specific set of stable IPs](#) to connect to their resources. Customers can then protect these resources by allowlisting only these stable IPs.

✔ **Deploy with SRA**



### 3.7 Restrict access to valuable codebases to only trusted networks

---

Databricks recommends that customers restrict access to valuable codebases to only trusted networks. In order to use these code repositories within Databricks, customers can apply either [public](#) or [private](#) networking controls.

### NEW: 3.8 Implement private connectivity from serverless compute to cloud resources

---

While Databricks Serverless with Unity Catalog provides built-in data exfiltration protection, [PrivateLink](#) adds an extra layer of network defense. By placing your resources in a private subnet and controlling access through VPC endpoint services and dedicated VPC endpoints, you reduce the risk of unauthorized data movement.

### NEW: 3.9 Configure context-based ingress policies

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[Context-based ingress control](#) works alongside [IP access lists](#) and [front-end PrivateLink connectivity](#) to enable account admins to set allow and deny rules that combine who is calling, from where they are calling, and what they can reach in Databricks. This ensures that only trusted combinations of identity, request type, and network source can reach your workspace. Context-based ingress control is configured at the account level. A single policy can govern multiple workspaces, ensuring consistent enforcement across your organization.

## Meet compliance and data privacy requirements

---

You might have internal (or external) requirements that require you to control the data storage locations and processing. These requirements vary based on systems design objectives, industry regulatory concerns, national law, tax implications, and culture. Be mindful that you might need to obfuscate or redact personally identifiable information (PII) to meet your regulatory requirements. Where possible, automate your compliance efforts.

### 4.1 Restart compute on a regular schedule

---

Databricks compute clusters are ephemeral. Upon launch they will automatically use the latest available base image and container image. Users cannot choose an older version that may have security vulnerabilities, with the exception of out-of-support container images which are hidden from the UI but can be manually configured or may have been configured on a cluster before the release was hidden.

Customers are responsible for making sure that clusters are restarted periodically. Databricks does not live-patch systems--when a cluster is restarted and newer system images or containers are available, the system will automatically use the latest available images and containers.

#### ☑ Monitor with SAT

[Automatic cluster restart](#) is automatically enabled where the compliance security profile is enabled. One less security control for you to manage!

Serverless compute is limited to a maximum of 7 days of total uptime before being



recycled seamlessly in the background. One less security control for you to think about!

## 4.2 Isolate sensitive workloads into different workspaces

---

While Databricks has numerous capabilities for isolating different workloads within a workspace, such as [access control lists](#) and [Unity Catalog privileges and securable objects](#), the strongest isolation control is to move sensitive workloads to a different workspace. This sometimes happens when a customer has very different teams (for example, a security team and a marketing team) who must both analyze very different data.

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

## 4.3 Assign Unity Catalog securables to specific workspaces

---

If you use workspaces to isolate users and data, you may want to limit access to Unity Catalog securables to specific workspaces in your account. These assignments (also known as bindings) can be used to restrict access to [catalogs](#), [storage credentials](#) and [external locations](#) that may access or contain sensitive data to specific workspaces.

Bindings can also be used to provide read-only access, which can be useful in certain scenarios (for example by giving a data scientist read-only access to production datasets for Exploratory Data Analysis).

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

✓ **Monitor with SAT**

## 4.4 Implement fine-grained access controls

---

For sensitive datasets, implement fine-grained access controls via [row filters and column masks](#).

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

## 4.5 Apply tags

---

[Apply tags](#) to sensitive datasets so that they can be easily discovered, identified and handled appropriately. Tags can be used to improve search and support [fine-grained access controls](#) including [Attribute-based access controls \(ABAC\)](#) which is in Beta.

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

## 4.6 Use lineage

---

Use [lineage](#) within Unity Catalog to track the movement of sensitive data, improving data governance and allowing you to more accurately meet regulatory data subject requests.

## 4.7 Use AWS Nitro instances

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AWS Nitro instances can provide two major security benefits:

1. AWS Nitro instances use NVMe disks that automatically encrypt data at rest.

2. Many AWS Nitro instances also automatically encrypt data in transit between hosts. You can configure instance types included in the [Encryption in Transit](#) section of the AWS Nitro documentation.

Databricks cannot authoritatively provide detail on capabilities in AWS, and the information above is provided on a best-effort basis as a convenience to Databricks customers.

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

Usage of AWS nitro instances with encryption in transit is automatically enforced for workspaces which have the compliance security profile enabled. One less security control for you to manage.

#### 4.8 Use Enhanced Security Monitoring or Compliance Security Profile

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[Enhanced Security Monitoring \(ESM\) and Compliance Security Profile \(CSP\)](#) provides the most secure baseline for Databricks deployments.

[Enhanced Security Monitoring](#) provides:

1. An AMI with enhanced [CIS Level 1](#) hardening
2. Behavior-based malware monitoring and file integrity monitoring ([Capsule8](#))
3. Malware and anti-virus detection ([ClamAV](#))
4. [Qualys](#) vulnerability reports from a representative host OS

The [Compliance Security Profile](#) includes all the benefits above, and layers on additional security controls required to meet compliance requirements:

1. FIPS 140-2 Level 1 validated encryption modules (where possible)
2. [AWS Nitro VM](#) enforcement for data at rest and in transit encryption
3. [Automatic cluster updates](#)
4. [HIPAA](#), [PCI-DSS](#), [FedRAMP Moderate](#) and [IRAP](#) compliant features and controls

✓ **Deploy with SRA**

✓ **Monitor with SAT**

#### 4.9 Control & monitor workspace access for Databricks personnel

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Databricks personnel cannot access customer workspaces or the production multi-tenant environments without customer consent. If you raise a support request, you can grant Databricks personnel temporary access to your workspaces in order to investigate an outage or security event, or to support your deployment. Databricks recommends that customers configure [workspace access for Databricks personnel](#) to be Not enabled by default, and only grant access as needed on a time-bound basis. Databricks also recommends that customers monitor such access via their [system tables](#).

#### 4.10 Implement and test a Disaster Recovery strategy

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While Databricks doesn't offer disaster recovery (DR) services, customers can implement their own DR procedures for their data stored in S3, using either [cloud native backup services](#) or [Delta cloning](#).

Customers can also implement [cross-region resiliency for mission critical workloads via Delta Live Tables](#). Where customers need to be able to failover entirely to a separate DR site, they can use Databricks capabilities to create a cold (on standby) workspace in another region. Please refer to our [disaster recovery guide](#) for more information.

## NEW: 4.11 Implement attribute-based access control (ABAC)

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[ABAC](#) is a data governance model that provides flexible, scalable, and centralized access control across Databricks. ABAC complements Unity Catalog's existing privilege model by allowing policies to be defined based on governed tags, which are applied to data assets. This simplifies governance and strengthens security.

## NEW: 4.12 Use Data Classification functionality to redact sensitive values

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Databricks [Data Classification](#) uses an AI agent to automatically classify and tag tables in your catalog. This allows you to discover sensitive data and apply governance controls over the results, using tools such as Unity Catalog attribute-based access control (ABAC). For a list of supported tags, see [Supported classification tags](#).

Databricks Data Classification uses default storage to store classification results. You are not billed for the storage. Databricks Data Classification uses a large language model (LLM) to assist with classification.

## Monitor system security

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Use automated tools to monitor your application and infrastructure. To scan your infrastructure for vulnerabilities and detect security incidents, use automated scanning in your continuous integration and continuous deployment (CI/CD) pipelines.

### 5.1 Monitor user behavior via System Tables

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[System tables](#) serve as a centralized operational data store, backed by Delta Lake and governed by [Unity Catalog](#). System tables can be used for a variety of different purposes, from cost monitoring to [audit logging](#). Databricks recommends that customers configure system tables and set up automated monitoring and alerting to meet their needs. There are two recommended resources to get started. The blog post [Improve Lakehouse Security Monitoring using System Tables in Databricks Unity Catalog](#) and the [Workspace Detection App](#) that offers security queries and notebooks to perform detection and incident response on audit logs from your Databricks account. Customers that are using [Enhanced Security Monitoring or the Compliance Security Profile](#) can [monitor and alert](#) on suspicious activity detected by the behavior-based malware and file integrity monitoring agents

☑ **Deploy with SRA**

☑ **Monitor with SAT**

## 5.2 Monitor system activities via AWS CloudTrail & other logs

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It is a security adage that you cannot trust the system to tell you when it is compromised, you must be able to observe the system from the outside. [System tables audit logs](#) are an extremely valuable feature for monitoring what users do, but many customers want an outside resource to help monitor that Databricks itself doesn't do something wrong.

Cloud provider audit logs such as CloudTrail, S3 access logs and VPC flow logs provide a great mechanism for observing the actions of Databricks (and users) in the compute and data planes. They provide visibility into:

- Instance creation, to help identify bitcoin mining and also as a control for billing
- Outbound network connections, to help identify data exfiltration\*
- API calls made within the AWS account, to help identify account/key compromise
- Assumption of cross account roles, to help identify account/key compromise
- Access to data using Unity Catalog as a secure data broker

Most customers have favorite tools in place to analyze cloud provider log data, but you can also analyze this in Databricks. Please refer to the blog post [building ETL pipelines for the cybersecurity lakehouse with Delta Live Tables](#) for out-of-the-box pipelines that can be used to process and monitor CloudTrail as well as other network and security logs via the [Databricks Data Intelligence Platform](#).

\*If you have deployed a network level protection such as a firewall, then monitoring your firewall traffic logs is likely to be the best way to achieve this.

## 5.3 Enable verbose audit logging

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In some highly regulated domains it is a requirement to track every command that a user has run against the system. On Databricks this can be achieved via [verbose audit logging](#). Once configured, audit logs will be recorded in [system tables](#) whenever a query or command is run within your workspace.

- ☑ **Deploy with SRA**
- ☑ **Monitor with SAT**

## 5.4 Manage code versions with Git folders

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Databricks recommends that customers use [Git folders](#) to manage and protect their source code, as per widely accepted software development best practices.

- ☑ **Monitor with SAT**

## 5.5 Restrict usage to trusted code repositories

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A workspace admin can [restrict which remote repositories users can clone from and commit and push to](#). This helps prevent exfiltration of your code and infiltration of untrusted code.

## 5.6 Provision infrastructure via infrastructure-as-code

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Using [infrastructure-as-code \(IaC\)](#) to provision infrastructure provides a number of benefits, including but not limited to:

- Reduced likelihood of configuration errors due to human error
- Reduced likelihood of configuration drift where secure baseline templates are developed
- Automatic reversal of configuration drift the next time the IaC tool runs
- Reduced likelihood of outages due to infrastructure being accidentally modified or deleted
- Faster recovery times in the event of an environment needing to be recreated from scratch, such as in a disaster recovery / business continuity scenario
- Reduced number of administrative users
- Reduced number of administrative users who also have day-to-day permissions

Databricks recommends that customers use infrastructure-as-code to provision both their cloud and Databricks infrastructure, preferably via [service principals](#) whose credentials are only made available when needed to highly trusted individuals.

### ✔ Deploy with SRA

Our Security Reference Architecture (SRA) Terraform templates make it easy to deploy Databricks workspaces that follow these Security Best Practices!

## 5.7 Manage code via CI/CD

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Mature organizations build and deploy production workloads [using CI/CD](#), allowing them to better manage user permissions to production environments, integrate code scanning, perform linting, and more. When there is highly sensitive data analyzed, a CI/CD process can also allow scanning for known scenarios such as hard coded secrets.

## 5.8 Control library installation

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By default, Databricks allows customers to install Python, R, or scala libraries from standard public repositories, such as pypi, CRAN, or Maven. Customers who are concerned about supply-chain attacks can maintain [allow lists for trusted libraries](#) within Unity Catalog. For some deployments, customers can also host their [own artifact repositories](#) and configure Databricks to use these instead. For serverless workloads such as model serving, you can [pre package dependencies that are built from your own repositories](#).

### ✔ Monitor with SAT

## 5.9 Use models and data from only trusted or reputable sources

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Model and data supply chain attacks are growing more common, and therefore where possible organizations should only use models, weights and datasets from trusted or reputable sources such as [Databricks foundation models](#) and the [Databricks Marketplace](#). Where models or weights from untrusted sources must be used, customers should ensure that they are reviewed, [scanned for malicious or vulnerable content](#) and thoroughly tested before use. Where data from untrusted sources must be used, customers should ensure that extensive Exploratory Data Analysis has been performed.

## 5.10 Implement DevSecOps processes

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Your data and AI code is probably the most important code base you have within your company and as such should be subject to at least the same level of scrutiny and assurance you apply elsewhere. Customers can perform static and dynamic analysis for both their [code](#) and their [models](#).

## 5.11 Use Data Quality Monitoring

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In order to be successful with data and AI, you need to be able to have confidence in the quality of the data you're analyzing and the predictions your models are making. Databricks recommends using [Data Quality Monitoring](#) for mission critical workloads, allowing you to automatically monitor and alert on potential quality, integrity or drift issues in your data or any downstream models. Data Quality Monitoring can also:

- Help to protect against data supply chain attacks, such as data poisoning and label flipping
- Detect data quality issues
- Monitor fairness and bias for classification models

## 5.12 Use inference tables & Mosaic AI Gateway

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[Inference tables](#) automatically capture incoming requests and outgoing responses to model serving endpoints and logs them to a [Unity Catalog table](#). Inference tables can help to identify model inference attacks such as prompt injection, model inversion and jailbreak attempts. [Mosaic AI Gateway](#) is a centralized service that brings governance, monitoring, and guardrails to your AI deployments. As well as consolidated payload logging via [inference tables](#), customers can configure [AI Guardrails](#) such as safety filtering and PII detection for both inputs and outputs.

## 5.13 Use tagging as part of your cost monitoring and charge-back strategy

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To track Databricks usage through AWS resource billing you can [configure tagging](#) on compute or pools. Tags can be combined with the [billable usage system table](#) and [budgets](#) for a 360 view of spend and subsequent chargeback. To assist with serverless billing attribution, workspace admins can create and assign budget policies to users, groups, and service principals. [Budget policies](#) enforce custom tags on all serverless usage incurred by the policy assignee. This allows for granular billing attribution of serverless usage in notebooks, jobs, and pipelines.

- ✓ **Deploy with SRA**
- ✓ **Monitor with SAT**

## 5.14 Use budgets to monitor account spending

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[Budgets](#) enable you to monitor usage across your account. You can set up budgets to either track account-wide spending, or apply filters to track the spending of specific teams, projects, or workspaces. Be sure to use [budget policies](#) to attribute your account's serverless usage.

### 5.15 Use AWS service quotas

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While a very coarse control, [AWS service quotas](#) provide an overarching control to prevent excessive resource consumption.

## Appendix B – Additional Resources

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Many different capabilities have been discussed in this document, with documentation links where possible. Here are some additional resources to help you learn more:

1. Review the [Security and Trust Center](#) to understand is how security built into every layer of the Databricks [Data Intelligence Platform](#), the [platform architecture](#), the [security features available](#) and the [shared responsibility model](#) we operate under
2. [Download](#) and review the [Databricks AI Security Framework \(DASF\)](#) to understand how to mitigate AI security threats based on real-world attack scenarios
3. [Download](#) our [due diligence package](#) and request our Enterprise Security Guide and additional compliance reports from your Databricks account team
4. Request the AWS Serverless Isolation technical guide and serverless pen test results from your Databricks account team.
5. [Set up the Security Analysis Tool](#) against all workspaces, so that you can review your deployment configurations against our best practices on a continuous basis. ([Learn more](#))
6. The foundation of good security is a robust architecture. Check out our [Well Architected Framework](#)
7. Another of the pillars of good security is strong data governance, so make sure you take a look at our [Unity Catalog Best Practices](#)
8. For more content from our security teams, please review our [Platform & Security Blogs](#)
9. If you're more of a visual person, check out our [Security Best Practices YouTube series](#)