

## Reference:

[Documentation](#)

## Category:

Security,  
Identity, and  
Compliance



AWS Security Token  
Service (AWS STS)

### What?

- AWS Security Token Service (AWS STS) enables you to request temporary, limited-privilege credentials for AWS IAM users or for federated users.
- Temporary security credentials are short-term and are not stored with the user but are generated dynamically and provided when requested. They can be configured to last for a few minutes or for several hours.

### Why?

- If you use AWS STS, you do not have to distribute or embed long-term AWS security credentials with an application.
- You can provide access to your AWS resources to users without having to define an AWS identity for them.

### When?

- Temporary credentials are useful in scenarios that involve identity federation, delegation, cross-account access, and IAM roles. Temporary credentials are the basis for roles and identity federation.
- The temporary credentials have a limited lifetime, so you do not have to rotate them or explicitly revoke them when they're no longer needed.

### Where?

- By default, AWS STS is available as a global service, and all AWS STS requests go to a single endpoint that maps to the US East (N. Virginia).
- You can use Regional AWS STS endpoints instead of the global endpoint to reduce latency, build in redundancy, and increase session token validity.
- No matter which Region your credentials come from, they work globally.

### Who?

- You can use temporary security credentials to make requests for AWS resources using the AWS CLI or AWS API (using the AWS SDKs).
- When (or even before) the temporary security credentials expire, the user can request new credentials, as long as the user requesting them still has permissions to do so.

### How?

- The AWS STS API operations create a new session with temporary security credentials that include an access key pair (consists of an access key ID and a secret key) and a session token. Users (or an application that the user runs) can use these credentials to access your resources.

### How much?

- There is no additional cost to use AWS STS.

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