



How does Kion work with AWS native services? When does it make sense for me to consider using Kion in addition to – or instead of – AWS native services?

We often hear these questions from cloud professionals evaluating Kion. Let's dive into how Kion complements – and leverages – several key AWS services.

Before we get into it, two important points:

- ❶ If you're operating in a multi-cloud environment, AWS services do not help you manage Azure or Google Cloud environments. The Kion solution delivers governance and management across all three major cloud providers.
- ❷ Kion can manage multiple AWS organizations or partitions using a common set of policies, controls, reports, and guardrails. For customers using multiple management accounts that span workloads across AWS Commercial and GovCloud partitions – or even the secret and top-secret regions – Kion helps standardize and centralize your cloud operations.



Kion and AWS Organizations

AWS Organizations is a service designed to help combine management and policy across several AWS accounts.

Kion leverages AWS Organizations to apply Service Control Policies (SCPs) and create new accounts programmatically.

The Kion Value Add

- ✓ Kion supplements AWS Organizations to manage spend, compliance, and policy across Organizations – in the commercial partition and GovCloud.
- ✓ Kion's independent organizational structure allows customers to align cloud accounts to their business units and departments while allowing AWS Organizations to still group accounts via data classification or more technical views.
- ✓ Kion leverages AWS Organizations to create new commercial or GovCloud accounts programmatically via UI or API, allowing customers to scale in the cloud easily and safely.
- ✓ Kion leverages AWS Organizations to apply native SCPs directly to accounts to help customers standardize policy management and configuration across multiple organizations.
- ✓ Where AWS Organizations does not exist, Kion can supplement the capability using the built-in organizational chart and IAM DENY policies to act as SCPs in Amazon Dedicated Cloud (ADC) regions.
- ✓ Kion leverages AWS Organizations but it does not rely on Organizations, making Kion a great fit for organizations who don't plan to adopt the native service.



Kion and AWS CloudFormation

AWS CloudFormation simplifies provisioning of AWS resources through templates for quick and reliable setup of services or applications.

Kion cloud rules are collections of cloud-specific resources that can be applied hierarchically to cloud accounts and inherited from parent to child projects within Kion's organization chart view of your cloud landscape. AWS CloudFormation is one of the resources that can be bundled within a Kion cloud rule for ease of use.

The Kion Value Add

- ✓ Kion consistently applies AWS CloudFormation templates across AWS accounts based on where the accounts live within your organizational hierarchy. This concept is very similar to how AWS Organization can apply certain SCPs to certain accounts based on where they live in the hierarchy. This also utilizes native CloudFormation without the need to use StackSets.
- ✓ Kion simplifies the update of AWS CloudFormation stacks across accounts. Kion becomes a source control whereby updating the template or the parameters will kick off an UPDATE_STACK everywhere things are applied.
- ✓ Kion ensures the CloudFormation stacks are deployed in the target accounts. If an overprivileged user deletes the stack, Kion will redeploy it.
- ✓ Kion's library of templates to baseline and protect accounts aligns with popular compliance frameworks like NIST, CIS, and PCI and also includes templates for operations such as shutting down ec2 instances off-hours to save money.



Kion and AWS Landing Zones/ AWS Control Tower

AWS Landing Zones provides a framework of core accounts to provide shared services, logging, and security to new accounts automatically.

AWS Control Tower automates the setup of a baseline environment, or landing zone.

These AWS services are good starting points; Kion can use these starting points to scale up and across an organization.

The Kion Value Add

- ✓ Kion standardizes governance and controls across multiple Organizations or partitions.
- ✓ Kion leverages Control Tower for account baselining using AWS Best Practices, while also providing an "easy" button for ongoing policy deployment and infrastructure deployment.
- ✓ Kion provides SSO capabilities across multiple identity providers and clouds.
- ✓ Kion's financial enforcement capabilities ensure users remain within budget.



Kion and AWS Billing and Cost Management

AWS Billing and Cost Management is used to pay AWS bills, monitor usage, and budget costs.

Kion uses AWS Billing and Cost Management as a source of truth upon which to base additional features.

The Kion Value Add

- ✓ Kion makes it easy for finance teams to gain visibility into cloud spending across multiple accounts, organizations, and cloud providers through an easy-to-use interface.
- ✓ Kion consolidates billing data across partitions and organizations.
- ✓ Kion supplements the AWS-reported billing data provided every 12 hours with near-real-time cost estimates for top AWS services for an up-to-date view of current spend.
- ✓ Kion triggers budget enforcement actions when different levels of thresholds are reached, slowing or freezing spend on accounts, deploying scripts and infrastructure, or even kicking off workflows into other systems to enforce budgets.
- ✓ Kion maps cloud spend back to internal financial concepts like cost centers, contracts, or billing codes to align organizational funding sources to the cloud costs.



Kion and AWS Security & Compliance Tools

AWS Security & Compliance tools offer customers a robust mechanism for managing the security posture of their cloud.

Kion extends the native security tooling to provide continuous compliance to accounts from prevention and detection to reporting and remediation.

The Kion Value Add

- ✓ Kion's compliance engine leverages open-source technologies to allow organizations to utilize over 10,000 out-of-the-box compliance checks or write their own custom policies to comply with popular compliance standards such as NIST, CIS, PCI, or their own custom compliance frameworks.
- ✓ Kion's compliance reporting can aggregate findings from other security tools, such as Tenable.sc, to provide a holistic compliance view to account owners and stakeholders of the entire compliance posture from the cloud service configurations to the infrastructure running within.
- ✓ Kion can send findings to other solutions such as AWS Security Hub or Splunk to both ingest or export findings across existing tooling.
- ✓ Kion can ensure compliance across multiple cloud providers – both in security reporting, but also ensuring that new accounts are provisioned and secured by default.



Kion and AWS IAM Identity Center

AWS IAM Identity Center offers a single sign-on solution across an AWS Organization for centralized login and identity.

Kion has extensive IAM Role management capabilities, ensuring that organizations can leverage federated identity providers to login across their entire AWS footprint as well as other cloud service providers. Kion has integrations across all popular identity management tools such as Okta, OneLogin, Ping, Auth0, Azure AD, and more. Kion can leverage Open ID, SAML, or LDAP. Kion can also work alongside IAM Identity Center and does not *require* the user of the internal IAM roles (called Cloud Access Roles in Kion).

The Kion Value Add

- ✓ Due to Kion's standardized organizational chart, Kion can ensure proper roles and access are automatically granted to the appropriate accounts based on where they live within the organizational hierarchy. This ensures that key roles, such as security or CloudOps engineers, can access every account they need without any customized pipelines or code.
- ✓ Kion's mechanism for combining IAM Policies with preventative controls in Kion's cloud rules helps build a least privilege IAM Role without users having to craft specific IAM policies to do so.
- ✓ Kion can leverage native web-access, short or long-term access keys, and a CLI utility to ensure that any mechanism for federating users is covered, secured, and audited right out of the box.
- ✓ Kion can also programmatically create non-human IAM roles (such as Service Roles, Roles with custom trust policies, and more) to ensure that all IAM roles are restricted from certain actions or regions without the reliance upon AWS Organizations and SCPs.



Summary

Kion complements and leverages several key AWS services and, if you're using multiple management accounts across AWS Commercial and GovCloud partitions – or even the secret and top-secret regions – Kion helps standardize and centralize your cloud operations.

By automating many aspects of account setup and provisioning, financial management, and compliance in one platform, Kion helps your team save time and minimize the risk of errors. Proactive budget and compliance guardrails give you the confidence that your cloud operations remain cost-efficient and secure. Near-real-time spend reporting gives visibility into spend across your organization.

Lastly, if you're operating in a multi-cloud environment, Kion delivers governance and management across Azure and Google Cloud.

Learn more about how we can complement your AWS environment – [contact Kion](#).