Startup Security Stack Checklist

Secure your AWS-based startup — all under \$100/month

✓ Core Identity & Access Manageme	nt (IAM)	
Task	Description	Status
Enable MFA on root account	Prevents unauthorized access	
Remove unused IAM users/roles	Reduces attack surface	
Enforce least privilege	Grant only required permissions	
Rotate access keys regularly	Limit risk from leaked credentials	
Use IAM roles (not users) for apps	Safer than embedding keys	
✓ Network & Infrastructure		
Task	Description	Status
Close public ports (e.g. SSH)	Avoid 0.0.0.0/0 in security grou	ips 🗆
Use private subnets for sensitive service	es Isolate critical infrastructure	
Enable default encryption on S3	Enforce encryption-at-rest	
Block public S3 access account-wide	Prevents unintentional leaks	
✓ Logging & Visibility		
Task	Description	Status
Enable AWS CloudTrail (mgmt events)	Logs all API activity	
Review logs monthly	Spot anomalies or misconfig	gurations
Store logs in separate, write-only S3 bu	cket Prevent tampering	

Misconfiguration Detection	1			
Task	Tool	Status	s	
Run AWS misconfig scan	PathShield (Free or Pro) □			
Benchmark with CIS	Prowler or CloudQuery			
Review IAM relationships	Use IAM graph to	ools \square		
✓ Container Security				
Task		Tool	Status	
Scan Docker/ECS images	Trivy			
Review Dockerfile base images	s Use minima	al, official images		
Monitor containers at runtime	Falco			
✓ CI/CD Security				
Task		Tool	Stat	us
Integrate Trivy in GitHub Action	is Auto	o-scan on PRs		
Run IaC scan on Terraform/CF	N tfsec	c, checkov		
Block deployments with critical	vulns Use	CI rules or manua	I gates □	
Compliance & Maintenance)			
Task		Tool/Practice	Status	
Check for SOC 2 / CIS alignme	ent PathShie	eld / Prowler		
Appoint a security champion	Internal t	eam contact		
Hold monthly security review	Audit find	lings & update infra	a 🗆	

Stay on Budget

Tool	Monthly Cost
AWS native tools	\$0
PathShield Free Tier	\$0
Trivy	\$0
Falco	\$0
PathShield + docs	~\$0–99
	AWS native tools PathShield Free Tier Trivy Falco

✓ Total Monthly Budget: \$0–\$99