

CLOUD, SERVERLESS, AND SAAS STILL HAVE OWNERS

Ephemeral compute disappears. The identity, code revision, configuration, secret, route, provider service, evidence, and decision that created it do not.

PRACTITIONER POSITION

Modern architecture changes what must be inventoried; it does not eliminate ownership. Students should learn to follow durable identifiers across short-lived resources: account, subscription, project, repository, pipeline, image, function, revision, role, policy, secret, endpoint, log source, provider service, and change record. The useful question is not where the server lives. It is who can create, configure, invoke, observe, change, and retire the capability-and what proves those actions occurred.

THE FIELD PATTERN

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE IN PRACTICE

A fictional payment integration uses hosted checkout, an API gateway, functions, containers, queues, managed databases, cloud identity, CI/CD, secrets management, logging SaaS, and provider webhooks. The team says there are no servers to inventory. The architecture still has durable control and evidence planes.

SIGNALS DETECTED

WHAT SHOULD MAKE YOU STOP

- Serverless is treated as ownership-less.
- Inventories contain only running instances.
- Cloud and SaaS consoles are absent from access mapping.
- Provider responsibilities replace customer configuration evidence.

WHY IT MATTERS

THE COST OF LEAVING IT UNEXPLAINED

Inventory capabilities using durable resource and revision identities.

Map control, data, identity, management, evidence, and governance planes.

Connect deployments to source, approval, artifact, environment, configuration, and rollback.

Retain provider evidence beside customer controls and operating records.

QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS THAT EXPOSE THE WACK

- 01 Which durable identity survives the workload?
- 02 Who can change the capability?
- 03 Where does operational evidence persist?
- 04 Which provider duty is shared with customer configuration?

THE CLUSTER OF WACK

FIND / MAP / EXPLAIN / REDUCE / PROVE

ESCAPE THE WACK

01 / FIND

Inventory accounts, services, identities, code, pipelines, revisions, endpoints, secrets, and logs.

02 / MAP

Trace durable ownership across all architecture planes.

03 / EXPLAIN

Describe lifecycle and responsibility without relying on the word managed.

04 / REDUCE

Remove unused services, privileges, paths, and unmanaged copies.

05 / PROVE

Reconstruct a fictional deployment from source through running configuration and evidence.

THE FIELD LAW

THE LINE WORTH REMEMBERING

EPHEMERAL IS A RUNTIME CHARACTERISTIC, NOT AN EXEMPTION FROM INVENTORY OR OWNERSHIP.

Use the serverless capstone to map durable identifiers across six architecture planes.

TECHNICAL GROUNDING

START WITH THE SOURCE MATERIAL

These references ground the practitioner interpretation. They do not turn the metaphor or method into official PCI DSS terminology.

- WACK-SOURCE-0001 / PCI DSS v4.0.1 / PCI Security Standards Council / [Open source](#)

- WACK-SOURCE-0092 / PCI DSS Scoping and Segmentation Guidance for Modern Network Architectures / PCI Security Standards Council / [Open source](#)

- WACK-SOURCE-0106 / Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard / PCI Security Standards Council / [Open source](#)

AUTHORITY CLASSIFICATION / PCI_SSC_SOURCE / PRACTITIONER_POSITION / PRACTITIONER_METHOD / AI_ASSISTED

Practitioner reviewed by Scott Norton on 2026-09-15 against canonical digest

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