



SAMPLE ENGAGEMENT REPORTS

Sample Engagement Reports

Reading guide to the 33 reports · prepared for Tidepost, Inc.

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May 15, 2026 · Four AWS engagements before a SOC 2 Type 2

SAMPLE DELIVERABLE

This is a sample deliverable. Tidepost, Inc. is a fictional company: its people, products, users, accounts, investors, and figures are invented for this sample, and any resemblance to a real company, person, product, or publication is coincidental. AWS prices are list prices from the AWS Price List API retrieved on October 13, 2026, and from the public AWS Price List bulk API on October 18, 2026.

Contents

What these reports are	2
The client	3
The four engagements, in order	4
How the engagements hand off	5
What each engagement found and put in place	6
The 33 reports	7
AWS Security, Compliance & Governance Audit	7
AWS Multi-Account Foundation	8
AWS Well-Architected Framework Review	9
AWS Cost Analysis & Optimization	10
SOC 2: what these reports show, and what they do not	11
What is real and what is not	12

What these reports are

These are the 33 reports a client receives from four Vantalect engagements run back to back for one company, written so you can read them as a single story: the AWS Security, Compliance and Governance Audit, the Multi-Account Foundation added to it, the AWS Well-Architected Framework Review, and the AWS Cost Analysis and Optimization. They are samples. **Tidepost is fictional. Its people, products, users, accounts, investors, and figures are invented for this sample, and any resemblance to a real company, person, product, or publication is coincidental.** The domain is tidepost.example.

Tidepost is the fourth sample client, chosen to be different from the first three. StrataForge Robotics is a large enterprise with a mature FinOps team, Seatlark is a mid-market company in the middle of a migration, and Copperwick is a medicines company whose research estate sits beside validated systems. Tidepost is a startup that built fast on one AWS account, with no regard for cost, availability, or much security, and then needed all three fixed in the right order before an auditor started watching.

- **The method.** Each report delivers what its week promises on the engagement’s page at vantalect.com, in the same order, with the prescriptive change for every finding: what to change, where, how to verify it, and how to roll it back.

- **The prices.** Every resource is costed at AWS list prices from the AWS Price List API (October 13, 2026); the prices that table lacks, such as content moderation, transcription, and the embedding endpoint, come from the public AWS Price List bulk API (October 18, 2026). Tidepost has no private pricing agreement, so every figure is at list.
- **The numbers agree.** One generator builds the estate and runs all four engagements from fixed seeds. A change made by one engagement is never counted by another, a date in one report is the same date in every report, and the cost measurement is made on Tidepost's Cost and Usage Report, on the same changes the cost roadmap listed.

The client

Tidepost, Inc. runs a social-video news app from Denver, Colorado: people upload news, images, and video, every upload is moderated automatically on AWS, and an asynchronous AI pipeline ranks posts for each user's timeline from a large stream of web and mobile telemetry. It has 38 employees, 15 of them engineers, and 600,000 monthly active users. Its newsroom licensing line sells verified contributor clips to 18 newsrooms, whose vendor reviews ask for a SOC 2 report.

In December 2025 Tidepost signed a Series A term sheet, and the lead investor required a SOC 2 Type 2 report covering Security, Availability, and Confidentiality. Tidepost's CPA firm set the observation window, from April 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026. Everything ran in one AWS account the founders opened: production, staging, development, data science, and CI. Tidepost hired Vantalect for four engagements, signed together, to get the estate ready for that window and then to take the waste out of it.

The Tidepost people who appear in the reports. Charles Sieg ran all four engagements for Vantalect.

Person	Role	In these reports
Dev Raman	Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer	Sponsor (all four)
Noor Castellanos	Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer	Consulted
Kofi Brandvold	Head of Platform	Lead (all four)
Sasha Ilyin	Head of Security and Compliance	Compliance owner
Yuki Sorensen	Head of Machine Learning	Workload owner
Lior Haddad	Head of Data	Workload owner
Amara Delacroix	Head of Trust and Safety	Workload owner
Bea Okafor	Mobile Engineering Lead	Workload owner
Marcus Oyelaran	Backend Lead	Workload owner
Gwen Tallis	Vice President, Finance	Finance owner

The four engagements, in order

The order is set by what had to be in place before the observation window opened on April 1, and by what would have to be redone if it came later.

- 1. Security first.** Public buckets, a public database, root keys, and a path from the web tier to an administrator role could not wait for an account structure. The Audit's governance review also served as the Foundation's discovery.
- 2. The Multi-Account Foundation, added in the Audit's third week.** Guardrails, the organization trail, and delegated detection belong to an organization; built in one account first, the Hardening would have built them twice.
- 3. Well-Architected third.** Availability is in the report's scope, so Multi-AZ, backups, restore tests, and the incident process had to operate for the whole window. Its last change landed before the window opened.
- 4. Cost last.** Savings are measured change by change on the Cost and Usage Report. Measured earlier, the windows would have straddled the change of payer and the Well-Architected Review's added redundancy. Last, the baseline was settled.

The four engagements in 2026. The three standard engagements took the bundle’s 15% tier; the Foundation add-on is priced net. No gate moved with the discount.

Engagement	Dates	Readout	Closing	Hours	List fee	Fee	Reports
AWS Security, Compliance & Governance Audit	Jan 5 to Feb 13	Jan 16	Feb 12	108 of 110	\$35,000	\$29,750	9
AWS Multi-Account Foundation	Jan 20 to Feb 13	Jan 16	Feb 13	68 of 70	\$25,000	\$25,000	7
AWS Well-Architected Framework Review	Feb 23 to Apr 3	Mar 6	Mar 31	108 of 110	\$35,000	\$29,750	9
AWS Cost Analysis & Optimization	Apr 6 to May 15	Apr 17	May 15	106 of 110	\$35,000	\$29,750	8
Total					\$130,000	\$114,250	33

How the engagements hand off

Each engagement left the next one something it needed, and every change is counted or closed by exactly one engagement. The forgotten GPU instance is the security engagement’s; the ranking endpoint’s move off GPUs and the database upgrade are the Well-Architected Review’s; staging, the notebooks, and the embedding endpoint are the cost engagement’s.

What each engagement handed to the next, and the reports where it shows.

From	To	What is handed over	Where it shows
Security Audit	Foundation	The governance review as the add-on's discovery: the account map, the path, the policy set, the risk register	Security 2, Foundation 2 and 3
Foundation	Security Hardening	The organization trail, delegated GuardDuty and Security Hub in tp-audit, and IAM Identity Center	Security 6 and 7
Security	Well-Architected	The security pillar's evidence, and the accepted critical closed by the March 22 database cutover	Well-Architected 2 and 4
Foundation	Well-Architected	tp-backup and the backup policy; the vended tp-staging account	Well-Architected 4
Foundation	Cost	The Cost and Usage Report export in tp-management from January 28, the pre-join Cost Explorer extract, and the tag policy	Cost 1
Well-Architected	Cost	Five High-Risk Issues accepted in writing with the cost engagement's dates, the CDK that staging's rebuild uses, and the cost allocation tags	Well-Architected 6, Cost 2
Security	Cost	Audit logs kept 400 days in tp-log-archive, so the log change shortens only application logs	Cost 6
Cost	Well-Architected	The changes that let Tidepost save its own May 14 milestone with no High-Risk Issues	Cost 8

What each engagement found and put in place

- **Security.** 47 findings verified, 10 of them critical: 9 closed and 1 accepted in writing until the March 22 database cutover. The same 50-check scan went from 24% passing to 90%. The gate was met.
- **Multi-Account Foundation.** A new organization of 9 accounts, with the founders' account joined as production. Of 12 scan checks in scope, 1 passed at week one; at the end 11 passed and 1 was waived in writing. The gate was met.

- **Well-Architected.** 57 questions; 25 High-Risk Issues and 21 Medium-Risk Issues at the first milestone. At the second, 20 were closed and 5 accepted in writing with the cost engagement's dates. The gate was met, and Tidepost's own May 14 milestone shows zero High-Risk Issues.
- **Cost.** 37 findings priced as 40 changes, \$1,054,404 a year identified (50.0% of the April run rate). The 31 changes in place measured \$725,391 a year on the Cost and Usage Report, 34.4% of the bill, and five more (\$200,550 at their estimates) have owners and dates. The gate of \$105,000 was met; the computation is in the measurement report. Guardrails that keep the waste from growing with users are worth about \$140,000 to \$230,000 a year at the December run rate; that is cost avoidance, not counted.

The 33 reports

AWS Security, Compliance & Governance Audit

The AWS Security, Compliance & Governance Audit reports, in the order Tidepost received them.

Report	Date	Phase	What it delivers	Pages
Week-One Scan, Including the Foundation Checks	Jan 9	Week 1 of 6: Scan	The read-only scan of the founders' account as found, with MAF-01 to MAF-13 run beside it, and the inventory that replaces the Foundation's own.	21
Audit Appendix: Evidence by Finding	Jan 15	Week 2 of 6: Audit (appendix)	The evidence behind each finding: what was read, how, and what it showed.	25
Findings Register, Governance Review, Target Organization, and the SOC 2 Technical Map	Jan 15	Week 2 of 6: Audit	Forty-seven verified findings ranked, the governance review that is the Foundation's discovery, the target organization, and the first SOC 2 technical map.	35
Audit Sponsor Readout	Jan 16	Week 2 of 6: Sponsor readout	The ten criticals agreed, the one accepted in writing until the March 22 cutover, the Foundation plan, and the next four weeks.	10
Criticals Closed and Workload Guardrails	Jan 23	Week 3 of 6: Criticals and guardrails	Every critical closed or accepted, change by change, and the workload guardrails that keep them closed.	25

Report	Date	Phase	What it delivers	Pages
Identity: People in Identity Center, Workloads on Roles	Jan 30	Week 4 of 6: Identity	Administrators off long-lived keys, people on IAM Identity Center, CI on OIDC federation, and workloads on roles.	13
Detection and Response from the Audit Account	Feb 6	Week 5 of 6: Detection and response	GuardDuty, Security Hub, and Inspector delegated to tp-audit, the alert routing, and the first response runbooks.	17
Week-Six Re-Scan	Feb 12	Week 6 of 6: Re-scan	The same scan run the same way, check by check, and the gate.	17
Runbooks, the Evidence Index, and Handover	Feb 12	Week 6 of 6: Hand over	The runbooks, the evidence index for the auditor, the SOC 2 technical map as of the handover, and what remains.	27

AWS Multi-Account Foundation

The AWS Multi-Account Foundation reports, in the order Tidepost received them.

Report	Date	Phase	What it delivers	Pages
The Policy Set as Code	Jan 15	Week 2 of the Audit: Design (appendix)	Every SCP, RCP, declarative policy, tag policy, backup policy, and Control Tower control, as code, with what each blocks.	20
Foundation Plan Readout	Jan 16	Before week 1: Plan readout	The greenfield path, the account map, the change windows, the in-scope checks, and the risk register, presented in the Audit readout.	14
Landing Zone and Core Accounts	Jan 23	Week 1 of 4: Landing zone	Control Tower in the new management account, the Security OU with tp-log-archive and tp-audit, and IAM Identity Center.	13
The Founders' Account Joined and Enrolled	Jan 30	Week 2 of 4: The join	The pre-flight, the January 28 join of the founders' account as tp-prod, its enrollment, and the billing transfer.	11
Guardrails, Vending, and Shared Services	Feb 6	Week 3 of 4: Guardrails and vending	Policies proven in Policy Staging and attached OU by OU, the vended tp-sandbox-ml, and central backup.	16
Foundation Re-Scan	Feb 13	Week 4 of 4: Re-scan	MAF-01 to MAF-13 run again: eleven passing and one waived in writing, and the gate.	15
Operations Runbooks and Handover	Feb 13	Week 4 of 4: Hand over	Vending, moving an account, changing a policy, break glass, and suspending an account, and the operator role deleted.	14

AWS Well-Architected Framework Review

The AWS Well-Architected Framework Review reports, in the order Tidepost received them.

Report	Date	Phase	What it delivers	Pages
Workload Definition, Current-State Architecture, and Evidence	Feb 27	Week 1 of 6: Workload and evidence	The Brief as a workload in Tidepost's AWS Well-Architected Tool, its architecture as found, and the evidence gathered.	13
Review Appendix: Answers by Question as Recorded in the Tool	Mar 5	Week 2 of 6: Review (appendix)	Each question's selected and missing best practices, as recorded in the AWS Well-Architected Tool.	24
Six-Pillar Review: Every Question, Its Evidence, and the HRI and MRI Register	Mar 5	Week 2 of 6: Review	Fifty-seven questions answered with evidence, 25 high-risk and 21 medium-risk issues, and the improvement plan.	23
Review Sponsor Readout and Milestone One	Mar 6	Week 2 of 6: Sponsor readout	The agreed HRI register, milestone one, the five HRIs accepted with the cost engagement's dates, and the next four weeks.	10
Reliability: Three Zones, Backups, Restore, and Recovery	Mar 13	Week 3 of 6: Reliability	Three zones, AWS Backup to tp-backup, the restore test, the zone drill, and the disaster recovery plan.	11
Operational Excellence: Code, Deployments, Observability, and Incidents	Mar 20	Week 4 of 6: Operations	Console-built resources imported into the CDK, canary deployments, SLOs with tracing and alarms, and the incident process.	9
Performance, Cost, and Sustainability: What Closed Here and What Moves to the Cost Engagement	Mar 27	Week 5 of 6: Performance, cost, and sustainability	The ranking endpoint moved off GPUs, the cost practices in place, and the five HRIs that wait on the cost engagement.	10
Week-Six Milestone, Pillar by Pillar	Mar 31	Week 6 of 6: Milestone two	Milestone two against milestone one, pillar by pillar, and the gate.	14
Runbooks, the Milestone Cadence, and Handover	Mar 31	Week 6 of 6: Hand over	The runbooks, the milestone cadence, the SOC 2 technical map as of March 31, and what remains.	13

AWS Cost Analysis & Optimization

The AWS Cost Analysis & Optimization reports, in the order Tidepost received them.

Report	Date	Phase	What it delivers	Pages
Spend Baseline: Nine Accounts, One New Payer	Apr 10	Week 1 of 6: Baseline	Twelve months of spend across the January 28 change of payer, the April run rate by service and account, and what earlier engagements changed.	20
The Analysis: Waste Register, Rightsizing, Commitments, Savings Roadmap	Apr 16	Week 2 of 6: Find and rank	Thirty-seven findings priced as 40 changes from the AWS price list, ranked, each with a prescriptive change.	39
Analysis Sponsor Readout	Apr 17	Week 2 of 6: Sponsor readout	The baseline, the savings ranked, the decisions made at the readout, and the next four weeks.	14
Quick Wins	Apr 24	Week 3 of 6: Quick wins	Notebooks, schedules, log levels, gateway endpoints, gp3, and expirations, change by change.	19
Rightsizing, Moderation, and Commitments	May 1	Week 4 of 6: Rightsizing and commitments	The embedding endpoint, moderation, Karpenter, the API on Graviton, and the Savings Plan.	21
Data Lifecycle, Telemetry, and Guardrails	May 8	Week 5 of 6: Architecture and guardrails	Telemetry to Parquet, renditions to Glacier Instant Retrieval, logs kept 30 days, five guardrails built and two inherited, and the avoidance range.	27
Measured on the Cost and Usage Report	May 15	Week 6 of 6: Measure	Every change measured on Tidepost's Cost and Usage Report, annualized, and the gate.	17
Roadmap, Deferred Changes, and Handover	May 15	Week 6 of 6: Hand over	The five deferred changes with owners and dates, the monthly cost review, the guardrail register, and the client's May 14 milestone.	11

SOC 2: what these reports show, and what they do not

The boundary

Vantalect is not the auditor and does not issue, predict, or influence a SOC 2 report. SOC 2 reports are issued by licensed CPA firms. This map lists controls that are in place on AWS, the date each began operating, and where the evidence is; the auditor tests them.

The reports show readiness the only honest way: dated technical evidence of controls on AWS, mapped to the criteria the auditor will test, with everything outside AWS named as Tidepost's. The SOC 2 technical map, first issued in the security audit and updated by the later handovers, lists 35 controls: 33 were operating before the window opened on April 1, the latest from March 27, and 2 began after it:

- **C1.2: Retention schedule for user content, written with counsel**, operating from May 20, 2026, owned by Amara Delacroix.
- **C1.2: Deletion pipeline for removed posts' media, across originals, renditions, and backups**, operating from May 20, 2026, owned by Marcus Oyelaran.

The map says so plainly, and the auditor decides what it means for the report. Tidepost's CPA firm ran its own readiness assessment from February 17 to March 6; it is the firm's, not Vantalect's. No Vantalect engagement touches the following, and each is Tidepost's:

- CC1: The control environment and board oversight (Noor Castellanos).
- CC1.4: Background checks and the HR side of hiring; removing a leaver's AWS access is mapped under CC6.2 and CC6.3 (Noor Castellanos).
- CC2: Communication and information (Noor Castellanos).
- CC3: The risk assessment program (Sasha Ilyin).
- CC4: Monitoring activities: Tidepost's own evaluation of whether its controls work. The Security Hub and Config conformance results under CC7.1 and CC7.2 are evidence it can use for CC4.1 (Sasha Ilyin).
- CC5: Control activities: the written policies (Sasha Ilyin).
- CC9: Vendor management (Sasha Ilyin).
- System description: The system description the auditor reads first (Sasha Ilyin).

Amazon Web Services is a carved-out subservice organization. AWS operates the data centers, the hardware, and the virtualization under every account, and those controls are carved out of Tidepost's system description. AWS's own SOC 2 report covers them; it is in AWS Artifact, and Tidepost's CPA firm reads it alongside Tidepost's evidence. The controls in this map are the complementary subservice organization controls: what Tidepost runs on AWS so that AWS's controls are enough.

What is real and what is not

A sample, not a case study

Tidepost is fictional. Its people, products, users, accounts, investors, and figures are invented for this sample, and any resemblance to a real company, person, product, or publication is coincidental. No client data appears anywhere in these reports. Vantalect never cites a client's findings, with or without the client's name.

- **Real:** AWS list prices as retrieved on October 13, 2026 and October 18, 2026; AWS service behavior, limits, and APIs as documented that week; the SOC 2 Trust Services Criteria the map cites; and the engagements' weeks, deliverables, meetings, fees, and gates as published at vantalect.com.
- **Simulated:** the company, its people, the estate, every utilization metric, every finding, every decision an owner made, and every measured result, generated from fixed seeds so they never change between builds.
- **Not implied:** that any real organization has these findings, that a different estate would show the same results, or anything about a SOC 2 report's outcome. Each engagement's gate is stated in its own reports, and none promises a result beyond it.

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