Advancing Cloud Technology Security: Leveraging High-Level Coding Languages like Python and SQL for Strengthening Security Systems and Automating Top Control Processes

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ABSTRACT

In today’s dynamic business environment, staying ahead of competitors requires the integration of cutting-edge technologies into organizational processes. Cloud Computing, a transformative technological advancement, offers a promising avenue for achieving operational efficiency and innovation. This paper explores the integration of Cloud Computing with two powerful coding languages, Python and SQL, to enhance cloud security and automate control processes. Cloud Computing’s adoption has revolutionized resource management through virtualization and diverse computing models. However, it also introduces security challenges like data breaches and unauthorized access. Python and SQL emerge as essential tools for addressing these challenges and automating various control processes. Python’s versatility empowers organizations to establish...
sophisticated security protocols and automate tasks such as intrusion detection, anomaly detection, real-time monitoring, and computer vision. On the other hand, SQL's role involves automating control processes like resource provisioning, scaling, backup, recovery, access control, and database management.

Integrating Python and SQL offers a holistic approach to cloud security enhancement. However, challenges such as skill set requirements, code quality, integration, maintenance, scalability, monitoring, and data privacy must be addressed. Fortunately, solutions like Snowpark, dbt, Hex, and Dataiku provide platforms that unify various programming languages, fostering collaboration and streamlining tasks. This convergence of Cloud Computing with Python and SQL presents numerous benefits. Automation enhances efficiency, reduces human error, and ensures consistent control process execution. This synergy allows organizations to achieve scalability, cost savings, improved security, and comprehensive monitoring and reporting.

As institutions increasingly depend on Cloud Computing to drive innovation and competitiveness, the importance of fortifying these systems against evolving threats cannot be overstated. Integrating Python and SQL represents a pivotal juncture in achieving this goal. By harnessing their combined power, organizations can create robust security mechanisms, streamline operations, and promote cross-functional collaboration. As the digital landscape evolves, embracing this approach is crucial for sustaining success in a rapidly changing environment.

Keywords: Cloud computing, python; SQL; virtualization; computing models; process redesign; cybersecurity; data integrity; risk management; data privacy; compliance; performance; functionality; debt, hex; Dataiku.

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's rapidly evolving business landscape, sustaining competitive advantage requires a bold technique to integrate cutting-edge technologies into organizational processes. This drive for innovation has led businesses to explore and adopt advanced technologies to enhance their operations and maintain their competitive edge [1,2]. One prominent avenue of technological advancement that has gained significant traction is Cloud Computing. This paradigm shift incorporates virtualization and diverse computing models to deliver an array of services, ushering in transformative changes across the IT industry via the power of the Internet (Haris & Khan, 2018). As highlighted by Olaniyi et al. [3], integrating emerging technologies into an organization's process redesign has proven to be an effective and beneficial strategy for securing a competitive advantage. Cloud Computing has evolved and grown as a technology of enormous possibility, allowing organizations to streamline operations, optimize resource utilization, and foster innovation [4].

The versatility of Cloud Computing stems from its capacity to provide users with seamless access to a wide range of computing resources through trusted service providers [5]. This encompassing suite includes servers, applications, storage solutions, and other services, collectively empowering organizations to scale their operations as needed [2]. Therefore, central to the efficacy of Cloud Computing is its capability to distribute data across multiple locations within a distributed cloud architecture. This advancement marks a departure from the conventional centralized systems of the past [6]. This evolution in data distribution and accessibility has redefined how businesses interact with their digital assets, offering newfound efficiency and flexibility [2]. However, while Cloud Computing presents numerous benefits, it also introduces various security challenges that organizations must contend with [6].

The discussion at hand delves into the potential risks associated with Cloud Computing and aims to assess the viability of the research and model accentuated by Mackita et al. [2] as a practical solution for managing these risks within the cloud environment. As institutions increasingly depend on Cloud Computing to pilot their operations, the issue of security becomes paramount [2]. Cloud systems are susceptible to various vulnerabilities, including data breaches, unauthorized access, and service disruptions [2]. To address these concerns, a growing emphasis is on leveraging high-level coding languages, such as Python and SQL, to bolster the security infrastructure and automate critical control processes. Hence, organizations can develop sophisticated security mechanisms that fortify their cloud-based systems by harnessing the power of high-level coding languages.

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Python, for instance, offers a robust ecosystem of libraries and tools that enable the nurturing of intricate security protocols. On the other hand, SQL provides a structured approach to database management, enabling organizations to implement stringent access controls and optimize data handling within the cloud environment. The convergence of these coding languages with Cloud Computing technology promises to strengthen security measures while automating essential control processes [7]. Therefore, the fusion of Cloud Computing technology and advanced coding languages represents a pivotal juncture in the ongoing quest to enhance cybersecurity and streamline operational workflows [8]. As organizations increasingly rely on cloud-based systems to drive innovation and competitiveness, the imperative to fortify these systems against evolving threats cannot be overstated [8].

2. STRENGTHENING CLOUD SECURITY SYSTEMS WITH PYTHON

Python, a versatile and widely adopted programming language, can enhance cloud security through various techniques such as intrusion detection, anomaly detection, and real-time monitoring [9]. This literature review explores how Python-based tools and libraries can be utilized to fortify cloud security systems, providing practical solutions for network traffic analysis and log monitoring [9]. Ateiwi et al. [10] conducted an empirical study on the impact of virtualization on cloud computing energy consumption, emphasizing the importance of efficient resource allocation to reduce vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities can be addressed by leveraging Python's intrusion and anomaly detection capabilities [10]. Haris and Khan (2018) provided insights into the need for systematic reviews in cloud computing and identifying potential security risks (Haris & Khan, 2018).

Strengthening cloud security systems is crucial for safeguarding data and applications' confidentiality, integrity, and availability [9]. Python is a potent instrument for bolstering security measures and fortifying the overall security stance of your cloud environment [9]. Python can be used for various purposes, including managing user access and permissions, enforcing access policies through cloud service provider APIs, implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA), and integrating encryption mechanisms for data at rest and in transit (Beyeler, 2015). Python can also aid in setting up robust logging and monitoring systems, automating vulnerability assessments and penetration testing, and automating routine security tasks like patching and policy enforcement. Secure API endpoints, container security, threat intelligence integration, compliance checks, and configuration management can be achieved using Python scripts, enhancing cloud security comprehensively [9].


Python-driven tools can be utilized to analyze network traffic and logs for identifying potential security breaches. Singh [14] presented a study on virtualization in cloud computing, shedding light on the significance of monitoring and management in maintaining a secure environment [14]. Moreover, network security in virtualized environments was emphasized by Hansraj, Tiwari, and Chaudhary [5], highlighting the need for security mechanisms at the virtualization level [5]. Also, Python's application extends beyond technical solutions, encompassing risk management and strategic alignment in cloud security. Mackita et al. [2] developed a risk management framework for IT systems adopting cloud computing, emphasizing Python's role in risk assessment [2]. O'Sullivan [15] discussed significant risks associated with cloud storage, emphasizing the need for comprehensive risk management strategies [15].
Strategic alignment between organizational goals and IT processes was discussed by Hanafi et al. [16], emphasizing the importance of proper alignment for effective security implementation [16]. Pearson, Saunders, and Galletta [17] provided insights into strategically managing and using information systems, stressing the need to align with organizational objectives [17].

3. AUTOMATING CONTROL PROCESSES ON CLOUD COMPUTING WITH SQL

Cloud computing has revolutionized how institutions handle computing resources by offering on-demand access to various services, such as virtual servers, databases, and storage [18]. The efficient management of these resources, also known as control processes, is essential to ensure optimal utilization, scalability, security, and overall performance within a cloud computing environment [18]. This literature review delves into the significance of automating control processes on cloud computing using SQL (Structured et al.), exploring various dimensions of the topic based on the provided references [18].

According to Singh [14], cloud computing is harnessing computing resources over the Internet on a pay-as-you-go basis. Cloud service providers like Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Platform (GCP) offer platforms where users can provision and manage resources seamlessly. The possibility of scaling resources based on demand, combined with the pay-as-you-go model, has made cloud computing an attractive choice for businesses seeking to streamline their operations and reduce costs Morrow [11]. The control processes in cloud computing encompass various tasks involving efficient management and maintenance of cloud resources [19,11]. These tasks include provisioning virtual machines, adjusting resource allocation, configuring networking settings, managing security, and more. Automating these processes using SQL scripts enhances efficiency, minimizes human error, and promotes consistency in task execution.

Moreover, automation, a central aspect of this discussion, involves the creation of scripts or workflows that execute tasks automatically [17]. Automation improves efficiency and accuracy by reducing manual intervention for SQL, a powerful domain-specific language for managing relational databases. It is crucial in automating control processes on cloud computing platforms [17]. It enables the execution of tasks such as querying data, inserting records, updating records, and deleting records from databases (Reed, 2023). Automating control processes on cloud computing with SQL offers several practical applications, as detailed by the literature [15]. Database management, one of the critical areas, involves creating, modifying, and deleting databases. This could include creating schemas, tables, and initial data using SQL scripts [20]. Additionally, SQL automation enables scaling based on demand, where resources are adjusted automatically to meet workload requirements [5]. Backup and recovery tasks can be automated through SQL scripts, ensuring data protection [2].

Automating security and access control tasks is also a critical area of concern. SQL scripts can automate the management of user access privileges, ensuring that only authorized individuals can access specific resources [21]. Configuration management is facilitated by automating the deployment and setup of software components and settings within virtual machines or containers [12]. Automating monitoring and reporting tasks using SQL queries is another notable application. SQL scripts can retrieve performance and health data of various cloud resources, enabling the generation of reports or alerts when predefined thresholds are exceeded [22].

4. INTEGRATION AND SYNERGY OF PYTHON AND SQL FOR CREATING COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY SOLUTIONS FOR CLOUD COMPUTING

Cloud computing has led to a significant revolution in enterprises' approach to handling and leveraging their computational assets. This is achieved through internet-based, readily available services spanning various functionalities [23]. However, securing these resources becomes paramount as businesses increasingly adopt cloud computing. Automation, especially with languages like Python and SQL, effectively ensures comprehensive security solutions within cloud environments. This essay explores the integration and synergy of Python and SQL for creating robust security solutions in cloud computing, highlighting their applications, benefits, and impacts [23].
Cloud computing enables the provisioning and management of various resources, including virtual machines, databases, and storage, through third-party providers like AWS, Azure, and GCP. Effective control processes are crucial for efficiently managing and maintaining these resources [23]. Control processes involve provisioning virtual machines, scaling resources, configuring networking settings, managing security, and more. Automation offers a means to streamline these control processes and enhance their effectiveness by reducing human error and ensuring consistency [23]. Python and SQL play integral roles in automating control processes for cloud security. Python is a versatile programming language renowned for its simplicity and readability, while SQL is widely used for managing and manipulating relational databases. When these languages are integrated into cloud security automation, several key applications emerge:

- **Database Management**: Python can create automation scripts that utilize SQL queries to set up and manage database schemas, tables, and initial data. This streamlines the database creation and maintenance process while adhering to best practices for data organization and security [24].
- **Scaling**: Python scripts coupled with SQL queries can monitor resource utilization in real time. When thresholds are exceeded, these scripts can trigger SQL-based actions, such as provisioning additional virtual machines or adjusting storage capacity. This dynamic resource allocation optimizes cloud performance while minimizing costs [24].
- **Backup and Recovery**: Python-driven automation can schedule regular SQL-based backups of databases and application data. In the event of data loss or system failure, these backups serve as crucial recovery points, ensuring minimal downtime and data loss [24].
- **Monitoring and Reporting**: Python can automate SQL queries that retrieve performance and health data from various cloud resources. This information can generate reports, identify performance trends, and trigger alerts if predefined thresholds are breached [24].
- **Security and Access Control**: Python scripts can interact with SQL queries to automate the management of user access privileges. Only authorized individuals can access specific resources, bolstering security measures [24].

**Benefits and Impacts of the Integration and Synergy of Python and SQL for cloud security automation** offer several benefits and impacts:

- **Enhanced Efficiency**: Automation reduces manual intervention, resulting in faster task execution, improved resource utilization, and enhanced overall efficiency.
- **Reduced Human Error**: Automated processes are less prone to human errors, contributing to increased reliability and data integrity.
- **Consistency**: Automation ensures that control processes are consistently executed according to predefined standards, reducing discrepancies and variations in resource management.
- **Time and Cost Savings**: Automation reduces the time required for manual tasks, allowing IT teams to focus on more strategic activities. Additionally, efficient resource allocation based on real-time data minimizes unnecessary costs.
- **Scalability**: Automated solutions can quickly scale to accommodate changes in resource demand, optimizing cloud usage and providing a seamless experience to end-users.
- **Improved Security**: Automated security measures, facilitated by Python and SQL, ensure that access privileges, configurations, and backups are managed effectively, reducing security vulnerabilities.

### 5. PYTHON VS. SQL COMPARISON

Python and SQL stand out as widely used languages in data [25]. Their primary distinction is that Python is a high-level programming language for creating applications and conducting data analysis [25]. In contrast, SQL is a high-performance language utilized for interacting with databases [25]. Furthermore, these languages vary in terms of user-friendliness, integrations, and overall performance, as shown in Table 1.
6. POTENTIAL CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS OF ADOPTING PYTHON AND SQL FOR CLOUD SECURITY ENHANCEMENT

Adopting Python and SQL for cloud security enhancement can provide several benefits, such as automation, customization, and improved monitoring [26]. However, some challenges and considerations need to be addressed to guarantee the efficacy and security of the approach [26]. Here are some potential challenges and considerations:

6.1 Skill Set and Training

Not all IT and security teams may be proficient in Python and SQL, which could lead to errors and vulnerabilities if the code is not correctly written and tested [26]. Hence, providing training and resources to upskill the team can mitigate this challenge. Additionally, considering third-party libraries and frameworks for security can reduce the need for deep programming knowledge [26].

6.2 Code Quality and Security

Writing secure code requires a deep understanding of potential vulnerabilities, such as SQL injection, code injection, and insecure coding practices [26]. Thus, regular code reviews, static analysis tools, and adhering to secure coding practices can help identify and rectify security flaws [26].

6.3 Integration and Compatibility

Ensuring that Python and SQL scripts integrate smoothly with existing cloud infrastructure, tools, and services can be complex [26]. Therefore, testing and validating the scripts in a controlled environment before deploying them in production is crucial [26]. Also, considering the use of cloud-native security services and APIs can aid in seamless integration [26].
6.4 Maintenance and Updates

As cloud environments and security threats evolve, Python and SQL scripts may need frequent updates to remain effective [26]. Hence, establishing a process for regular maintenance, including version control and automated testing, can help keep scripts up-to-date and resilient to emerging threats.

6.5 Scalability

Ensuring that the scripts can handle a growing workload and increased demand is essential for maintaining consistent security measures [26]. Hence, designing scripts with scalability in mind and utilizing cloud-native scaling capabilities can help manage increased demand.

6.6 Monitoring and Logging

Properly monitoring and logging Python and SQL activities can be complex and challenging, primarily in a cloud atmosphere [26]. Accordingly, integrating monitoring tools and services that provide real-time alerts and logs for script activities can enhance visibility and early detection of security incidents [26].

6.7 Data Privacy and Compliance

Handling sensitive data in Python and SQL scripts requires adherence to data privacy regulations and compliance standards [26]. Therefore, implementing data encryption, access controls, and auditing mechanisms can help maintain data privacy and comply with relevant regulations [26].

6.8 Challenges with siloed data architecture

SQL and Python are prominent languages within the contemporary data ecosystem, serving essential roles in data transformations, analysis, and machine learning [26]. SQL has become the traditional language for querying and reshaping database data. At the same time, Python has become the favored programming code and language for machine learning and data science tasks. When multiple languages are used, data engineers and data scientists often integrate various tools to complete a single analysis [26]. Even individuals proficient in both languages encounter obstacles due to the need to establish and manage separate computational environments for each [26]. Consequently, this lack of seamless interoperability has led to a significant isolation phenomenon [26]. Users of one language cannot effectively collaborate with those who use the other, whether it pertains to analysis or workflows [26]. The constant expansion and refinement of the data field intensifies these difficulties. Projections from Statista predict that data production will exceed 180 zettabytes by 2025, while the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics anticipates a 36% rise in data scientist positions between 2021 and 2031 [26]. Given the surge in both data-driven insights and the need for them, the challenges stemming from data isolation have become notably burdensome [26].

6.9 Solutions that Unify Tools and Infrastructure for SQL And Python

The complexities are resolved by utilizing applications that facilitate the execution of various programming languages within a single platform [26]. With support for languages like SQL, Python, Java, and Scala, Snowpark offers the flexibility for developers to seamlessly switch between languages without the need to move data or establish separate clusters [26]. The significance of tools that harmonize programming languages lies in fostering collaborative growth. Previously, data engineers, scientists, and analysts were confined to working in isolation due to language barriers [26]. However, they can collaborate effectively with a unified platform, progressing from raw data to valuable insights [26]. Collaborative knowledge-sharing leads to more agile data engineering and machine learning projects, yielding superior long-term outcomes [26].

Applications such as dbt, Hex, and Dataiku help reduce silos: dbt: dbt functions as a data transformation workflow that adheres to software engineering best practices such as modularity, portability, CI/CD, and documentation [26]. Initially centered around SQL-based transformations but expanded its capabilities in 2022 to include Python as a secondary language, leveraging cutting-edge applications [26]. This enhancement catered to the growing demand for seamless integration between languages within the same project [26].

Hex: Hex stands as a contemporary analytics and data science platform, streamlining connections to data, analysis within collaborative SQL and Python-driven notebooks, and the
sharing of work as interactive data applications and narratives [26]. Its approach focuses on pushing computation to the data platform to achieve near-limitless processing scalability without necessitating the loading of all data into notebooks [26]. Hex seamlessly integrates with Snowpark, offering users an innovative interface for harnessing Snowflake data [26].

Dataiku: Dataiku is the platform for integrating AI into daily operations, enabling collaboration between data experts and domain specialists [26]. The collaboration between Dataiku and Snowflake provides a user-friendly visual interface where coders and non-coders can access Snowflake data and collaborate on constructing production-ready data pipelines and data science projects through Snowpark [26].

### 6.10 Connecting MYSQL With Python in a Cloud Computing Environment

Connecting MySQL with Python in a cloud computing environment involves vital steps. In this example, connecting to a MySQL database hosted on a cloud platform using Python using a platform like Amazon Web Services (AWS) and running a MySQL instance there [27]. Here is how to can establish the connection.

**Install Required Libraries:** Make sure you have the necessary libraries installed. You can use the mysql-connector-python library to connect to MySQL from Python. Install it using pip:

Copy code

```bash
pip install mysql-connector-python
```

**Access Credentials:**
Obtain the necessary credentials to access your MySQL database in the cloud. This typically includes the host address, port number, database name, username, and password.

**Code Example:**
Here’s a basic Python script that demonstrates how to access and operate a MySQL database in the cloud and perform a simple query:

```python
import mysql.connector

db_config = {
    "host": "your-database-host",
    "user": "your-username",
    "password": "your-password",
    "database": "your-database-name"
}

try:
    # Establish the connection
    connection = mysql.connector.connect(**db_config)
    if connection.is_connected():
        print("Connected to MySQL database")

    # Execute a query
    cursor = connection.cursor()
    query = "SELECT * FROM your_table_name"
    cursor.execute(query)
    result = cursor.fetchall()

    # Process the query result
    for row in result:
        print(row)
except mysql.connector.Error as e:
    print("Error: ", e)
finally:
    if connection.is_connected():
        cursor.close()
        connection.close()
        print("Connection closed")
```

Remember to replace "your-database-host," "your-username," "your-password," "your-database-name," and "your_table_name" with your actual information.

**Security Considerations:** When dealing with sensitive information like database credentials, following the best security methods is paramount. Consider using environment variables or a configuration file to store credentials securely rather than hardcoding them in the script [27-30].

**Network and Firewall Settings:** Depending on the cloud provider, organizations might need to adjust network and firewall settings to allow their Python application to access the MySQL database; hence, this could involve setting up security groups, firewall rules or configuring networking settings in the cloud platform’s dashboard [31-35].
7. CONCLUSION

The fusion of Cloud Computing technology with advanced coding languages like Python and SQL has ushered in a new era of enhanced cybersecurity and streamlined operational workflows [26]. Cloud Computing allows organizations to scale their operations while presenting security challenges necessitating innovative solutions [6]. By integrating Python and SQL, organizations can address these challenges effectively, ensuring comprehensive security measures and efficient control processes within the cloud environment [26]. Python, with its solid structure of libraries and tools, empowers organizations to create sophisticated security protocols [7]. Conversely, SQL provides a structured approach to database management, enabling stringent access controls and optimized data handling [9]. Together, these languages enable the automation of critical security control processes, ensuring data privacy, access management, and compliance with regulations [26].

Python's versatility extends to intrusion detection, anomaly detection, real-time monitoring, and computer vision, all of which contribute to strengthening security measures [10,9]. SQL's role in automating control processes encompasses resource provisioning, scaling, backup, recovery, and access control [18]. The integration and synergy of Python and SQL offer a holistic approach to cloud security enhancement, ensuring comprehensive coverage across various security dimensions [23]. Despite the numerous benefits, adopting Python and SQL for cloud security enhancement presents challenges [36-40]. Ensuring proper skill sets, code quality, integration, maintenance, scalability, monitoring, and data privacy are essential to mitigate potential risks [26]. Fortunately, solutions that unify tools and infrastructure, such as Snowpark, dbt, Hex, and Dataiku, alleviate the challenges associated with data isolation and facilitate seamless collaboration between data experts and domain specialists [26].

In a rapidly evolving business ecosystem, where the adoption of Cloud Computing is transforming business operations, harnessing the combined power of Python and SQL has become a critical strategy for organizations aiming to fortify their cloud-based systems against evolving security threats [26]. As organizations continue to leverage cloud-based technologies for innovation and competitiveness, the imperative to prioritize cybersecurity and automation through these advanced coding languages cannot be overstated [26].

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Here are some potential research directions that can be explored further:
• **Comparative Analysis of Cloud Security Tools:** Conduct a comparative analysis of existing cloud security tools that leverage Python and SQL for automation and control processes. Access the potency and vulnerability of different tools regarding features, ease of integration, performance, and compatibility with various cloud providers.

• **Skill Set Requirements and Training:** Investigate the skill set requirements for IT and security teams to implement Python and SQL for cloud security enhancement effectively. Develop training programs and resources to bridge the skills gap and empower professionals to utilize these languages for security tasks.

• **Code Quality and Security Best Practices:** Research and propose best practices for writing secure Python and SQL code for cloud security automation. Explore techniques to prevent common vulnerabilities like SQL injection, code injection, and data leaks.

• **Automated Security Monitoring and Incident Response:** Explore Python and SQL for developing automated security monitoring and incident response systems within cloud environments. Investigate how these languages can detect and respond to security breaches in real time.

• **Scalability of Python and SQL Solutions:** Investigate the scalability of Python and SQL solutions for cloud security enhancement. Examine how these solutions perform as cloud workloads increase and assess their ability to handle dynamic resource allocation and scaling.

• **Privacy and Compliance Considerations:** Research the challenges and solutions to ensuring data privacy and compliance with regulations when implementing Python and SQL for cloud security. Investigate how encryption, access controls, and auditing mechanisms can be effectively integrated.

• **Integration of Cloud-Native Security Services:** Study the integration of cloud-native security services and APIs with Python and SQL scripts. Explore how these services can enhance the security posture of cloud environments and streamline the integration process.

• **Impact of Language Integration on Collaboration:** Assess the impact of integrating Python and SQL on cross-functional collaboration between data engineers, data scientists, and IT professionals. Investigate whether language integration improves collaboration and reduces data silos.

• **Performance Analysis:** Conduct performance analyses of Python and SQL scripts in cloud security scenarios. Compare the performance of Python-based solutions with SQL-based solutions for various control processes and security tasks.

• **Case Studies and Real-World Implementations:** Provide detailed case studies of organizations successfully implementing Python and SQL for cloud security enhancement. Analyze their experiences, challenges faced, benefits achieved, and lessons learned.

• **Automated Compliance Management:** Explore the automation of compliance management using Python and SQL. Investigate how these languages can be employed to ensure cloud systems adhere to industry standards and regulatory requirements.

• **Future Trends and Emerging Technologies:** Discuss emerging trends in cloud security and explore how Python and SQL could be integrated with emerging technologies and software such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and blockchain to improve cloud security better.

**COMPETING INTERESTS**

Author has declared that he/she has no known competing financial interests OR non-financial interests OR personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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