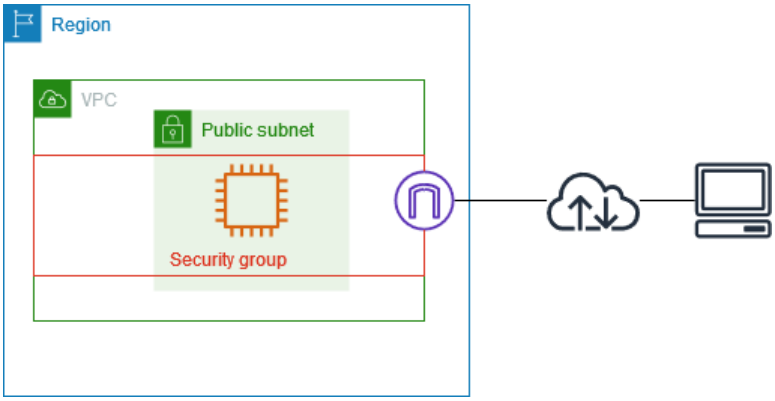
Control traffic to your AWS resources using security groups

PDF (/pdfs/vpc/latest/userguide/vpc-ug.pdf#vpc-security-groups) | RSS (amazon-vpc-release-notes.rss)

A *security group* controls the traffic that is allowed to reach and leave the resources that it is associated with. For example, after you associate a security group with an EC2 instance, it controls the inbound and outbound traffic for the instance.

When you create a VPC, it comes with a default security group. You can create additional security groups for a VPC, each with their own inbound and outbound rules. You can specify the source, port range, and protocol for each inbound rule. You can specify the destination, port range, and protocol for each outbound rule.

The following diagram shows a VPC with a subnet, an internet gateway, and a security group. The subnet contains an EC2 instance. The security group is assigned to the instance. The security group acts as a virtual firewall. The only traffic that reaches the instance is the traffic allowed by the security group rules. For example, if the security group contains a rule that allows ICMP traffic to the instance from your network, then you could ping the instance from your computer. If the security group does not contain a rule that allows SSH traffic, then you could not connect to your instance using SSH.



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Pricing

There is no additional charge for using security groups.

Security group basics