
Lab Exercise 7– Terraform Variables with Command Line Arguments

Objective:

Learn how to pass values to Terraform variables using command line arguments.

Prerequisites:

- ☐ Terraform installed on your machine.
- ☐ Basic knowledge of Terraform variables.

Steps:

1. Create a Terraform Directory:

```
mkdir terraform-cli-variables  
cd terraform-cli-variables
```

2. Create Terraform Configuration Files:

- ☐ Create a file named main.tf:

```
# instance.tf
```

```
resource "aws_instance" "example" {  
  ami      = var.ami  
  instance_type = var.instance_type  
}
```

- ☐ Create a file named variables.tf:

variables.tf

```
variable "ami" {  
  description = "AMI ID"  
  default     = "ami-08718895af4dfa033"  
}  
  
variable "instance_type" {  
  description = "EC2 Instance Type"  
  default     = "t2.micro"  
}
```

3. Use Command Line Arguments:

- ❑ Open a terminal and navigate to your Terraform project directory.
- ❑ Run the terraform init command:

terraform init

```
PS E:\collagefiles\sem 6\system provisioning lab> terraform init  
Initializing the backend...  
Initializing provider plugins...  
- Reusing previous version of hashicorp/aws from the dependency lock file  
- Using previously-installed hashicorp/aws v5.30.0  
  
Terraform has been successfully initialized!  
  
You may now begin working with Terraform. Try running "terraform plan" to see  
any changes that are required for your infrastructure. All Terraform commands  
should now work.  
  
If you ever set or change modules or backend configuration for Terraform,  
rerun this command to reinitialize your working directory. If you forget, other  
commands will detect it and remind you to do so if necessary.  
PS E:\collagefiles\sem 6\system provisioning lab> █
```

- ❑ Run the terraform apply command with command line arguments to set variable values:

```
terraform plan -var="ami=ami-0522ab6e1ddcc7055" -var="instance_type=t3.micro"
```

```
PS E:\collagefiles\sem 6\system provisioning lab> terraform plan -var="ami=ami-0522ab6e1ddcc7055" -var="instance_type=t3.micro"

Terraform used the selected providers to generate the following execution plan. Resource actions are indicated with the following symbols:
+ create

Terraform will perform the following actions:

# aws_instance.example will be created
+ resource "aws_instance" "example" {
  + ami                    = "ami-0522ab6e1ddcc7055"
  + arn                   = (known after apply)
  + associate_public_ip_address = (known after apply)
  + availability_zone      = (known after apply)
  + cpu_core_count        = (known after apply)
  + cpu_threads_per_core   = (known after apply)
  + disable_api_stop       = (known after apply)
  + disable_api_termination = (known after apply)
  + ebs_optimized          = (known after apply)
  + get_password_data      = false
  + host_id                = (known after apply)
}
```

- ☐ Adjust the values based on your preferences.

4. Test and Verify:

- ☐ Observe how the command line arguments dynamically set the variable values during the apply process.
- ☐ Access the AWS Management Console or use the AWS CLI to verify the creation of resources in the specified region.

5. Clean Up:

After testing, you can clean up resources:

```
terraform destroy
```

```
+ metadata_options (known after apply)
+ network_interface (known after apply)
+ private_dns_name_options (known after apply)
+ root_block_device (known after apply)
}

Plan: 1 to add, 0 to change, 0 to destroy.

Note: You didn't use the -out option to save this plan, so Terraform can't guarantee to take exactly these actions if you run "terraform apply" now.
PS E:\collagefiles\sem 6\system provisioning lab> terraform destroy

No changes. No objects need to be destroyed.

Either you have not created any objects yet or the existing objects were already deleted outside of Terraform.

Destroy complete! Resources: 0 destroyed.
PS E:\collagefiles\sem 6\system provisioning lab>
```

Confirm the destruction by typing yes.

6. Conclusion:

This lab exercise demonstrates how to use command line arguments to set variable values dynamically during the terraform apply process. It allows you to customize your Terraform deployments without modifying the configuration files directly. Experiment with different variable values and observe how command line arguments impact the infrastructure provisioning process.