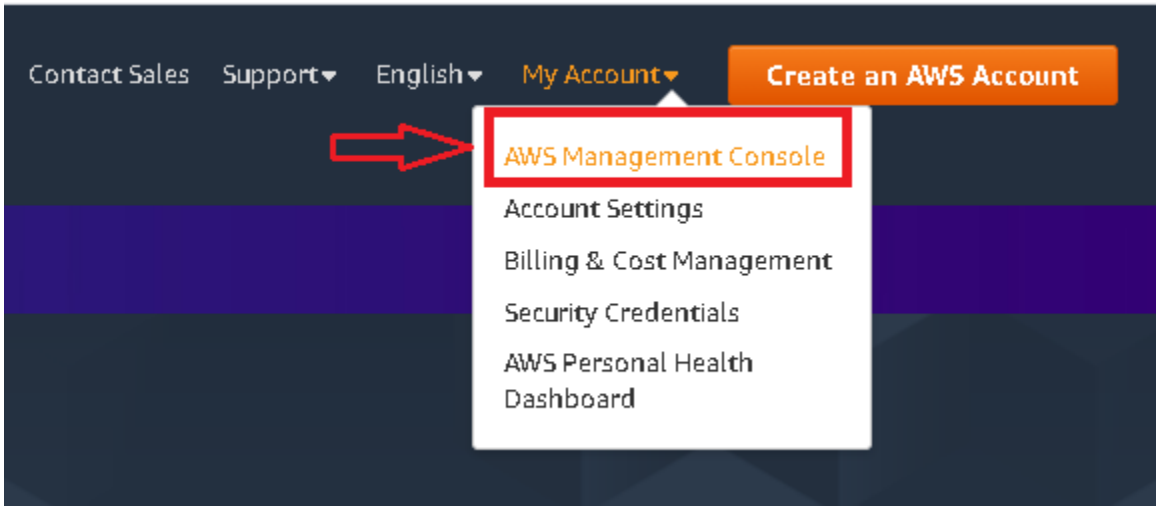
EC2 – User guide configuration for Parse Server for 2020/2021

This user guide assumes you have a valid AWS account : For your own information, when you will create an AWS account, the sign up procedure requires a valid bank card. AWS will charge your card with 1$, in 7 days you will get your money back.

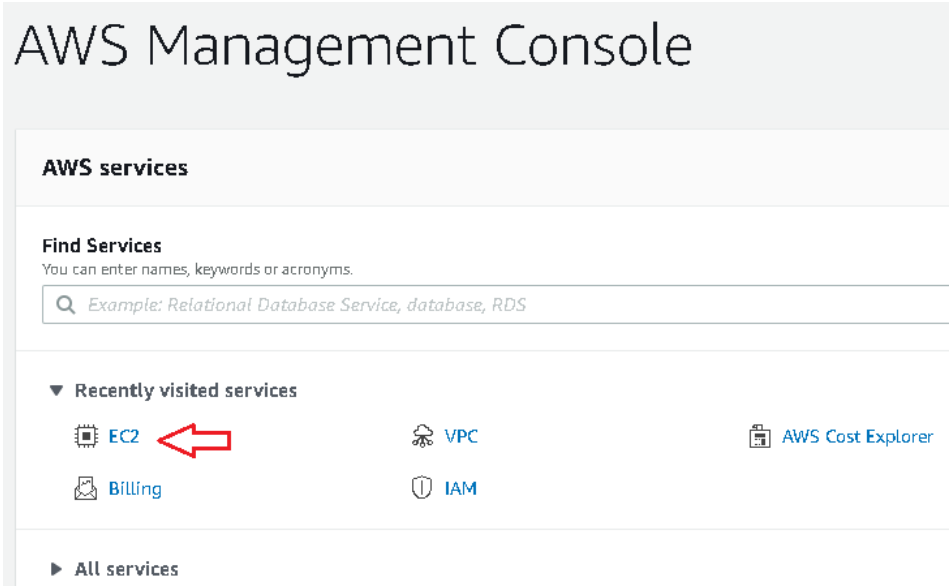
The configuration instructions from the Udemy course https://www.udemy.com/course/complete-android-n-developer-course/ are outdated, this is the main reason why this user guide will help you with the correct configurations for a Parse Server used for applications like Instagram or Uber.

All the steps bellow works correctly in the Chrome browser:

1. Login at https://aws.amazon.com/ from the link AWS Management Console:



2. Go to the EC2 link:



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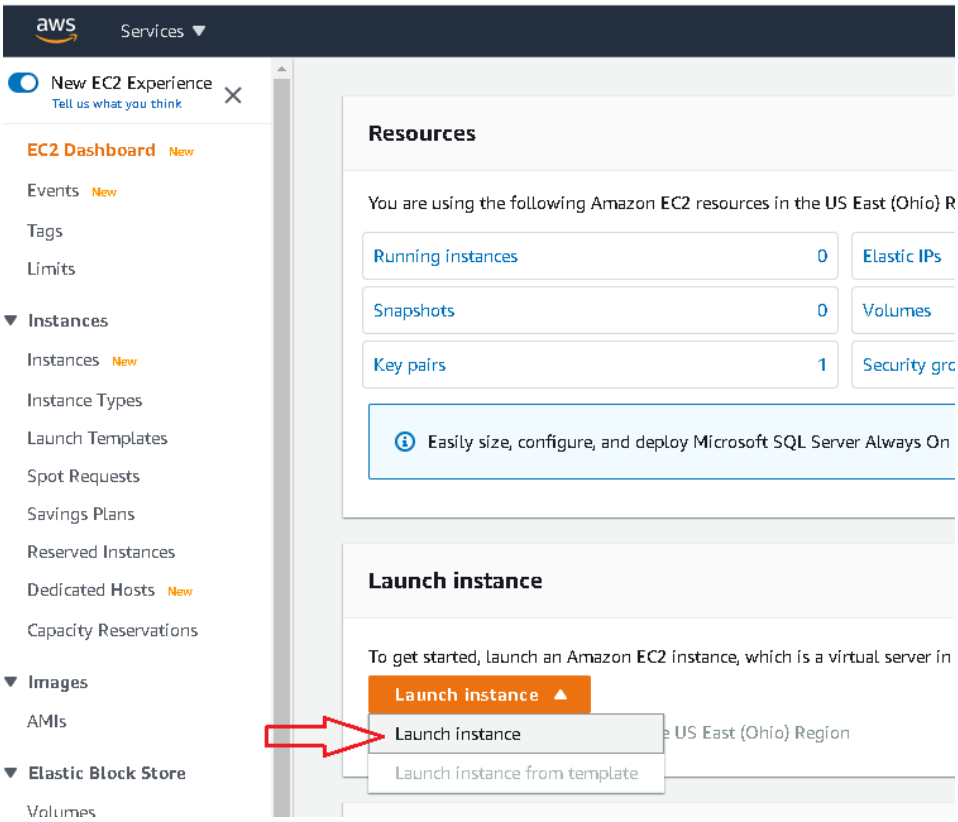
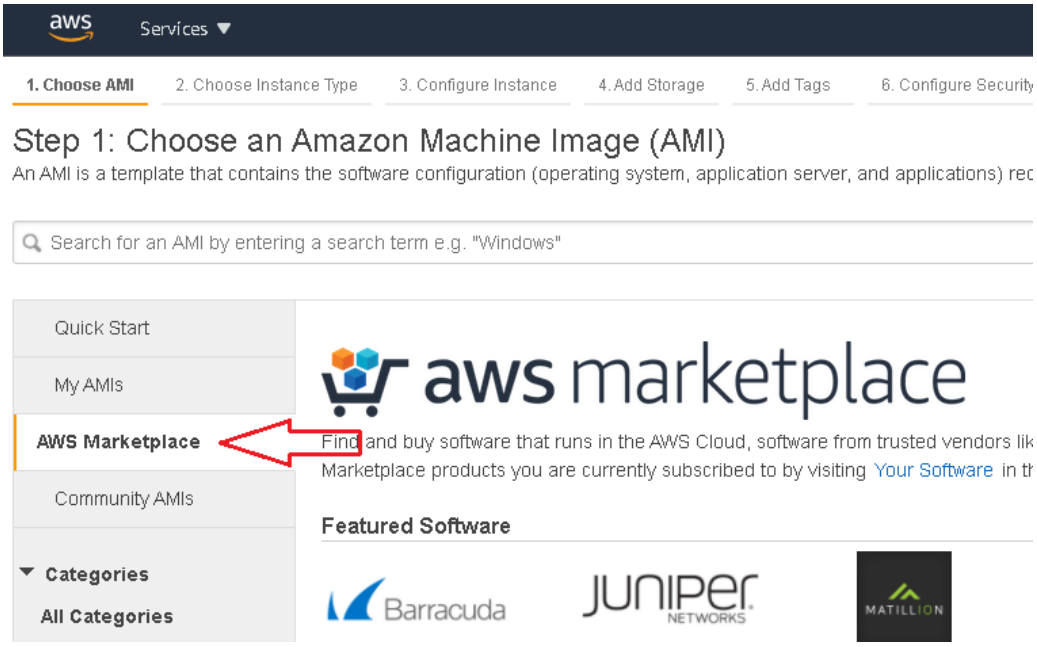
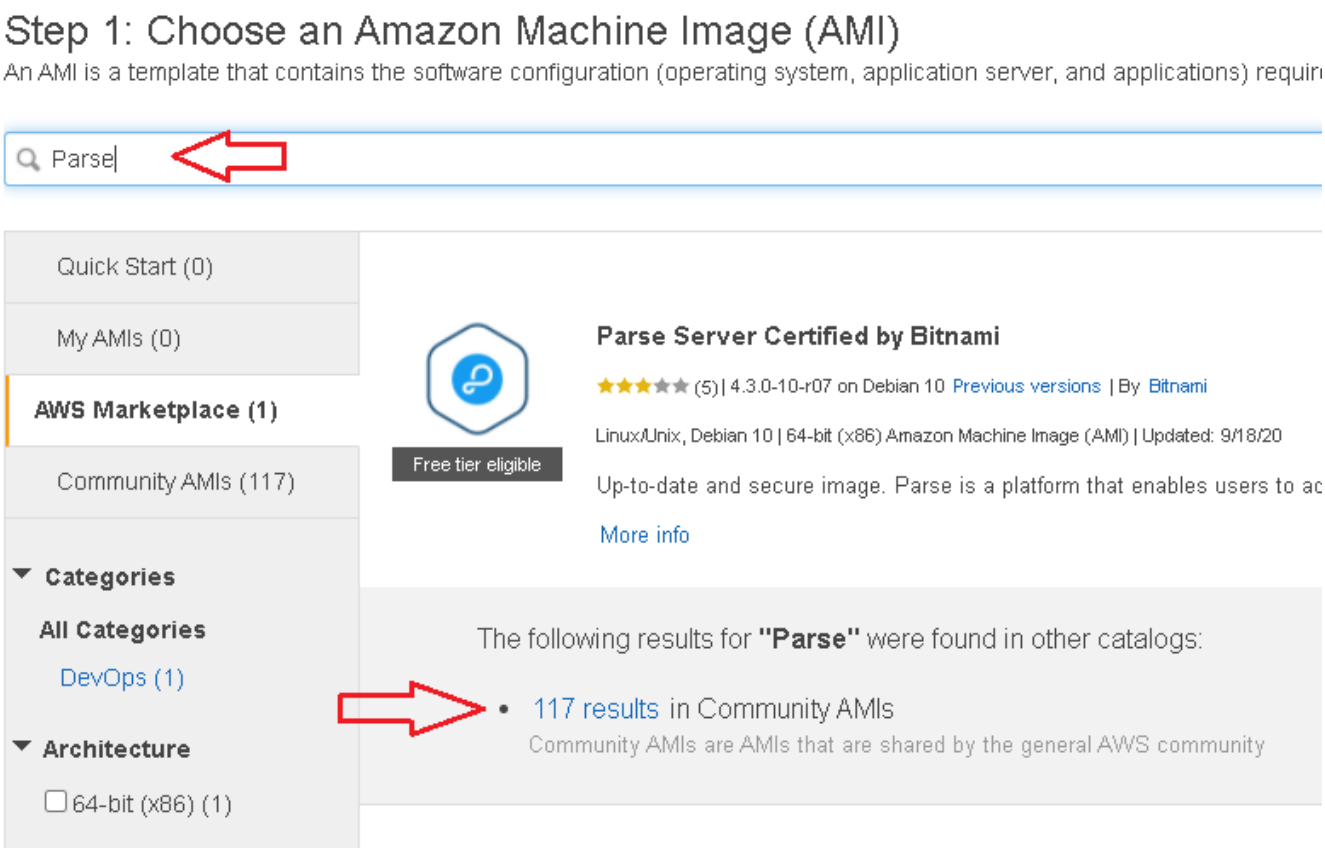
3. Click on Launch instance:



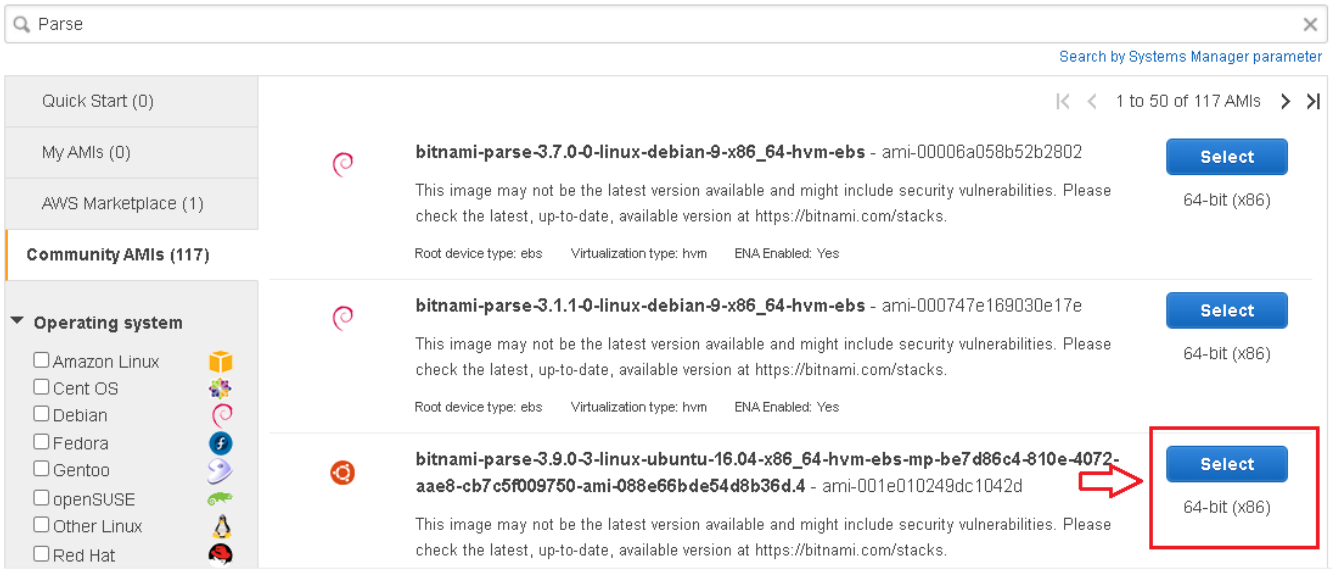
4. Click on the AWS Marketplace:



5. Type in Parse and if the first displayed result doesn't contain a Parse Server running on Linux/Unix, Ubuntu, then click on the results link like in the picture below:



6. Select the first Parse server running on an Ubuntu OS:



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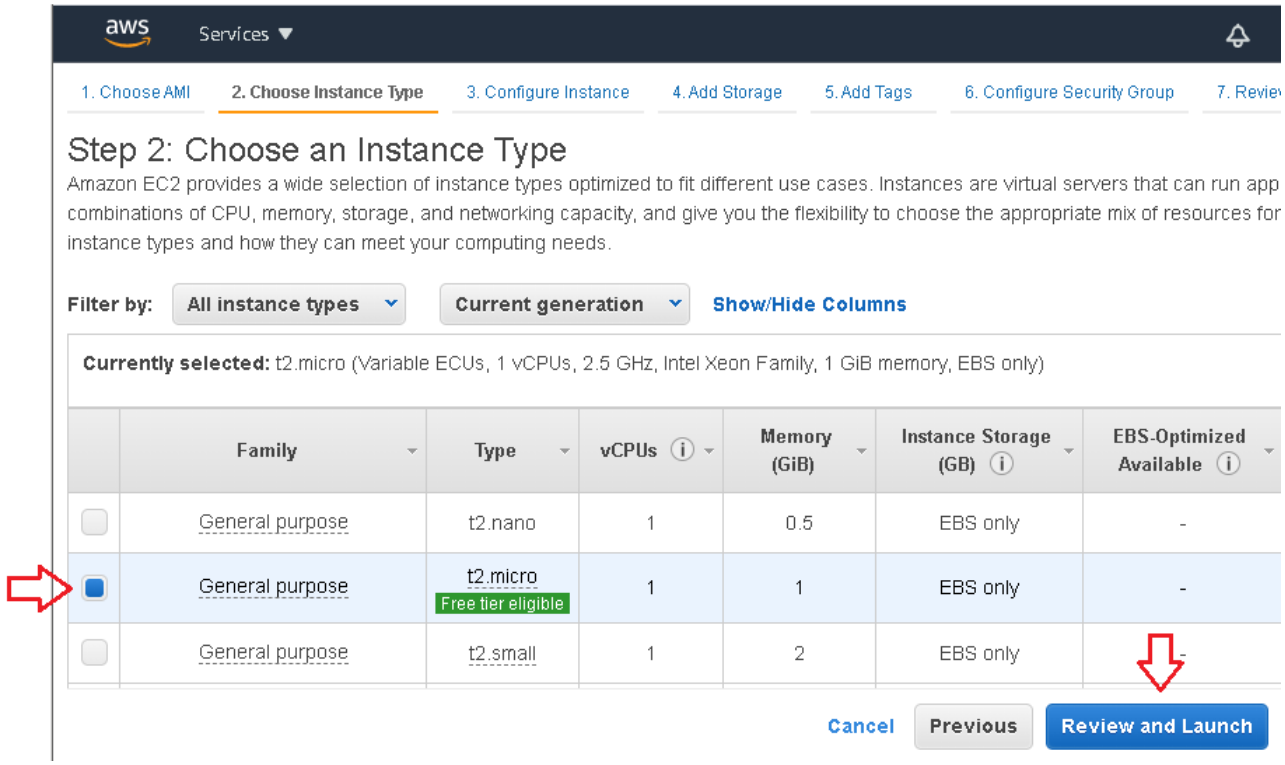
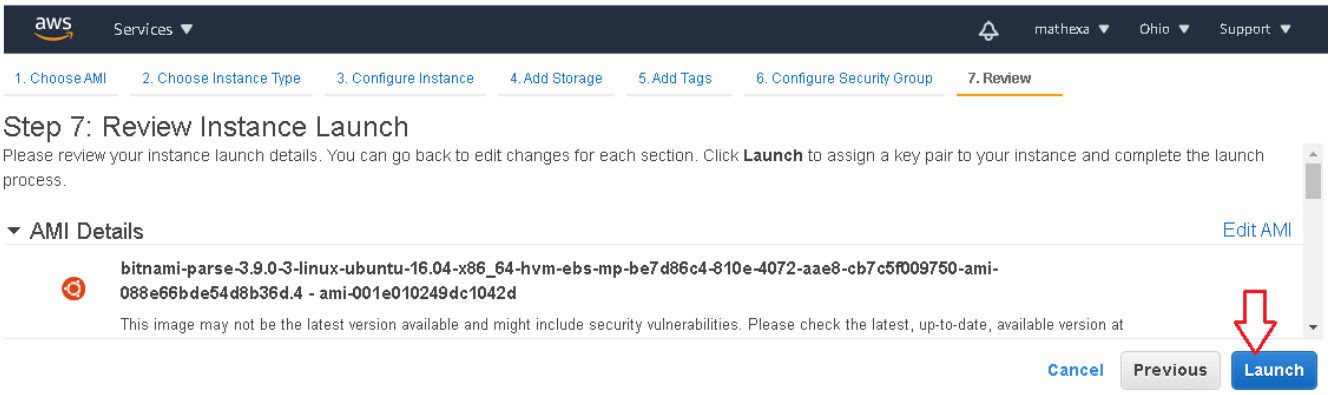
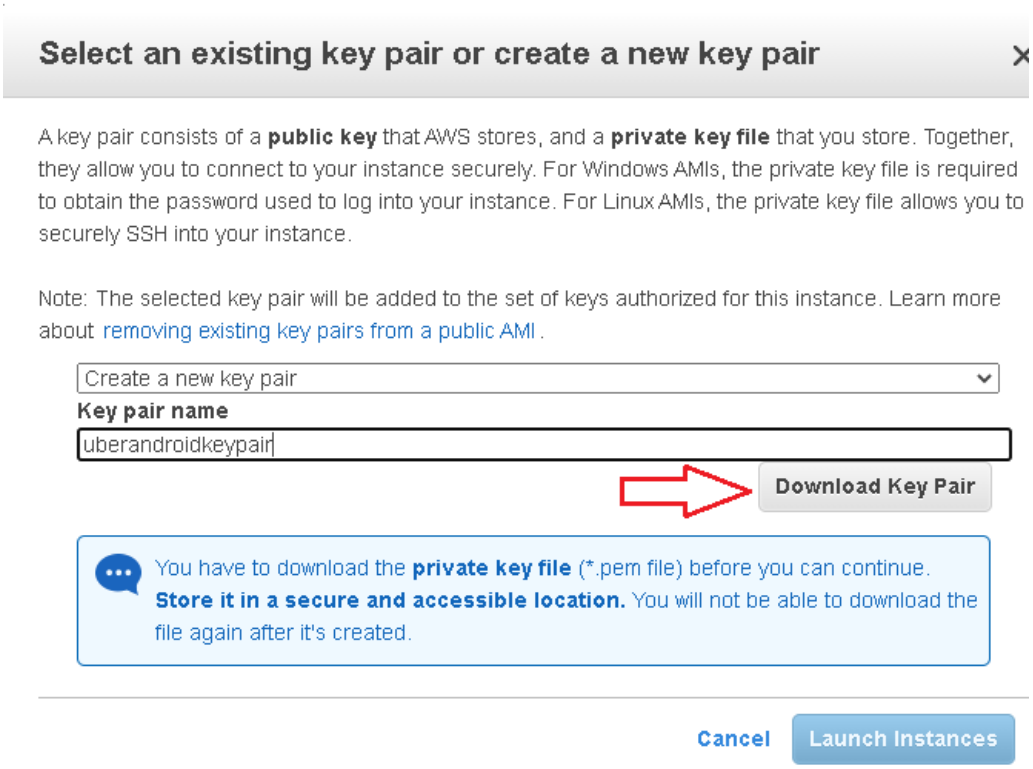
7.Check on Free Tier eligible type and then click on Review and Launch button:



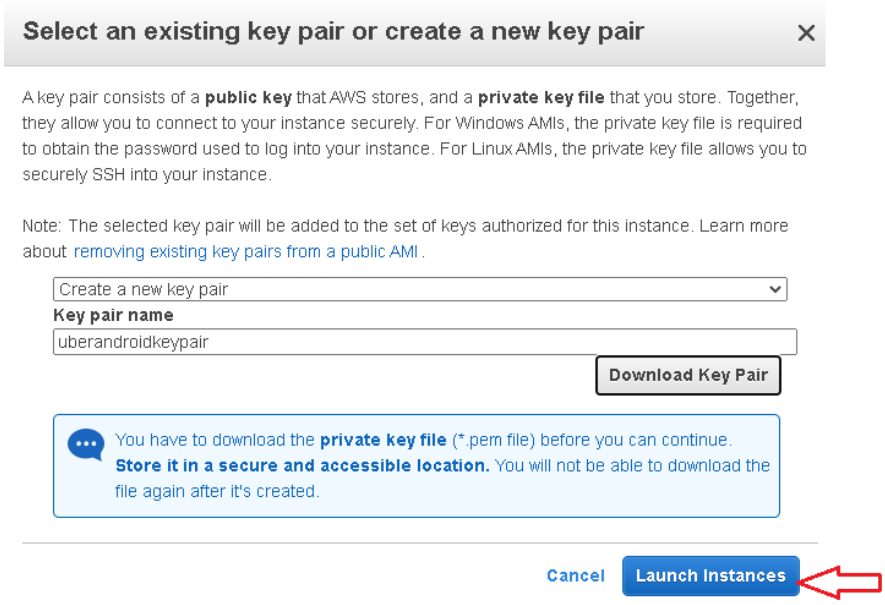
8. Click on Launch button:



9. Select Create a new key par and type in either “instagramandroid” or “uberandroidkeypair” depending what application you will have to create in Android Studio. Click on the Download Key Pair:



10. Click on Launch Instances:



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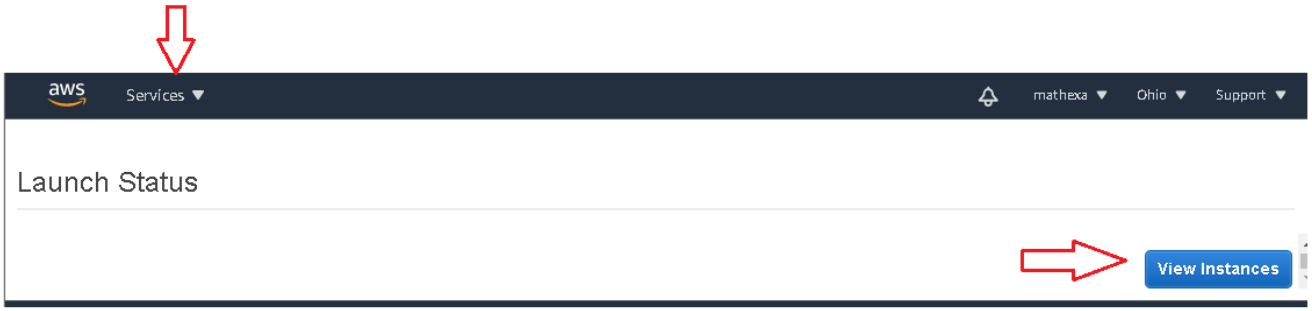
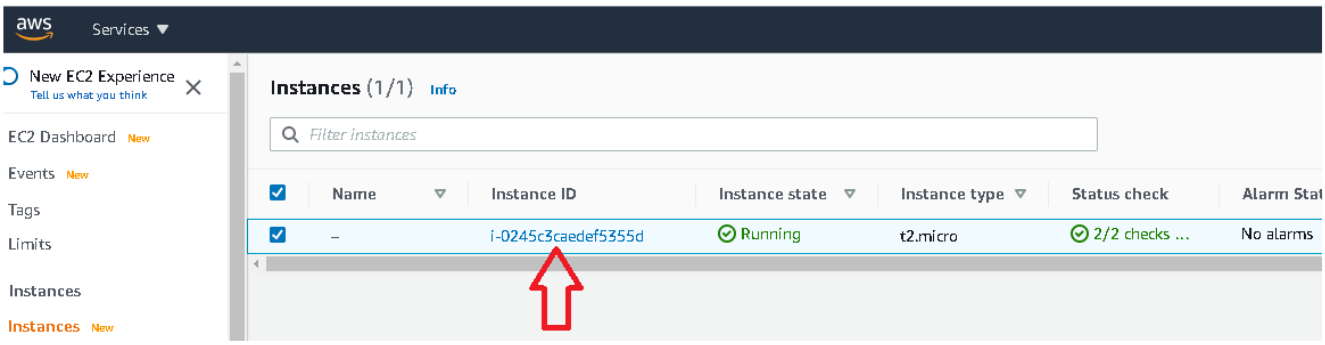
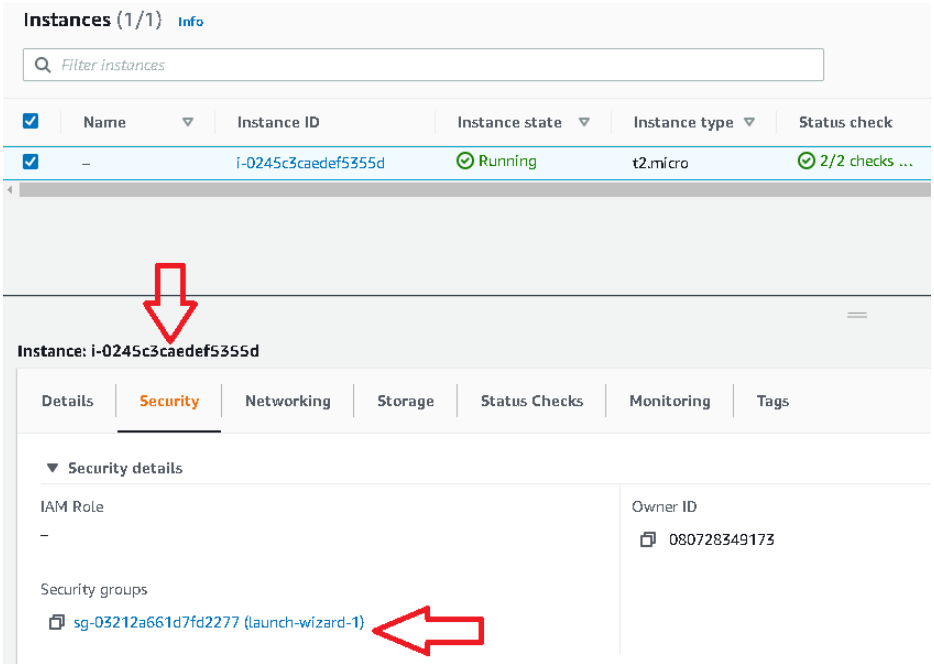
11. Now you will need to access EC2 console either by clicking on Services->EC2 link or by clicking on View Instances button below:



12. Click on the Instance ID like in the picture below:



13. Inside of the instance window go to the Security tab below and then click on the Security groups link:



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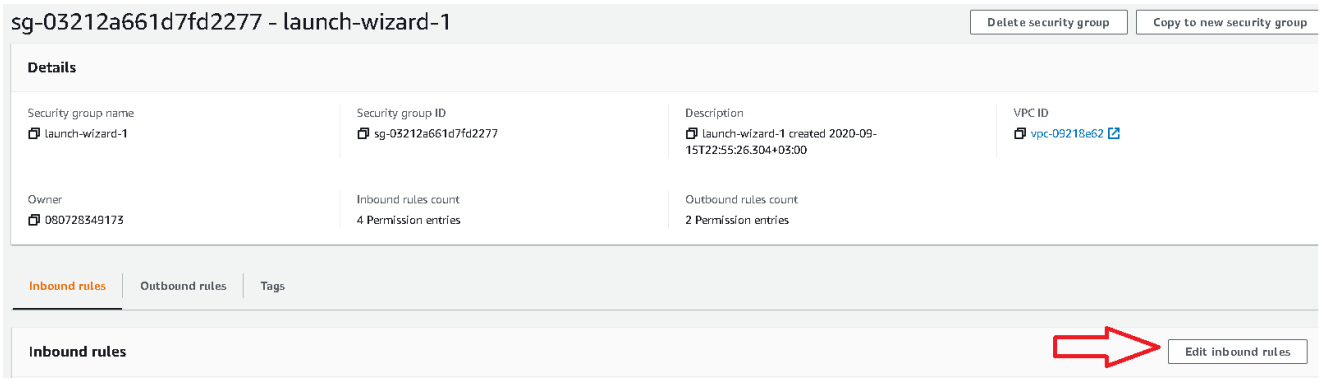
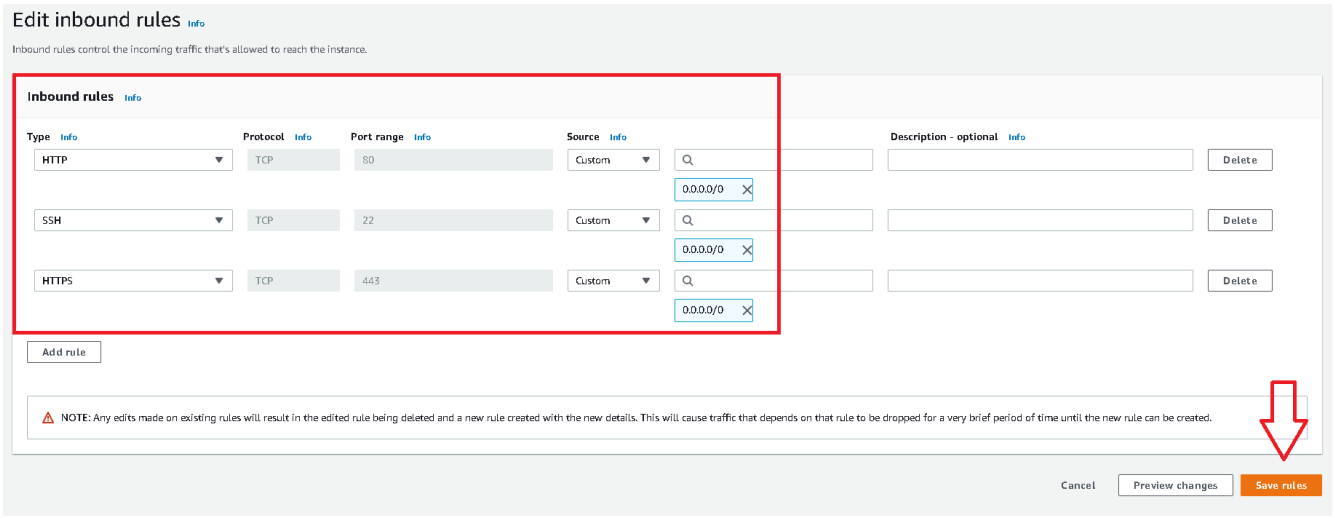
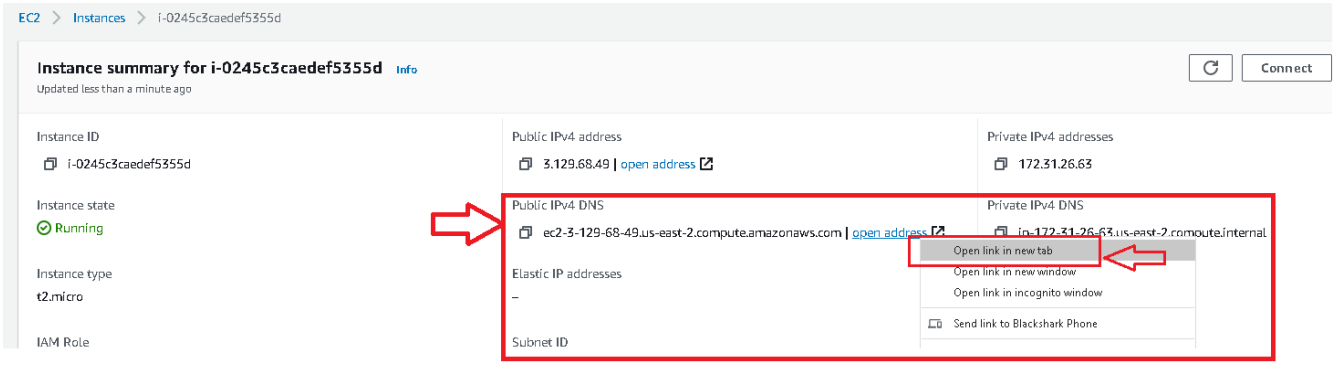
14. Inside of the Security Groups ID from the Inbound rules tab select the Edit Inbound rules link:



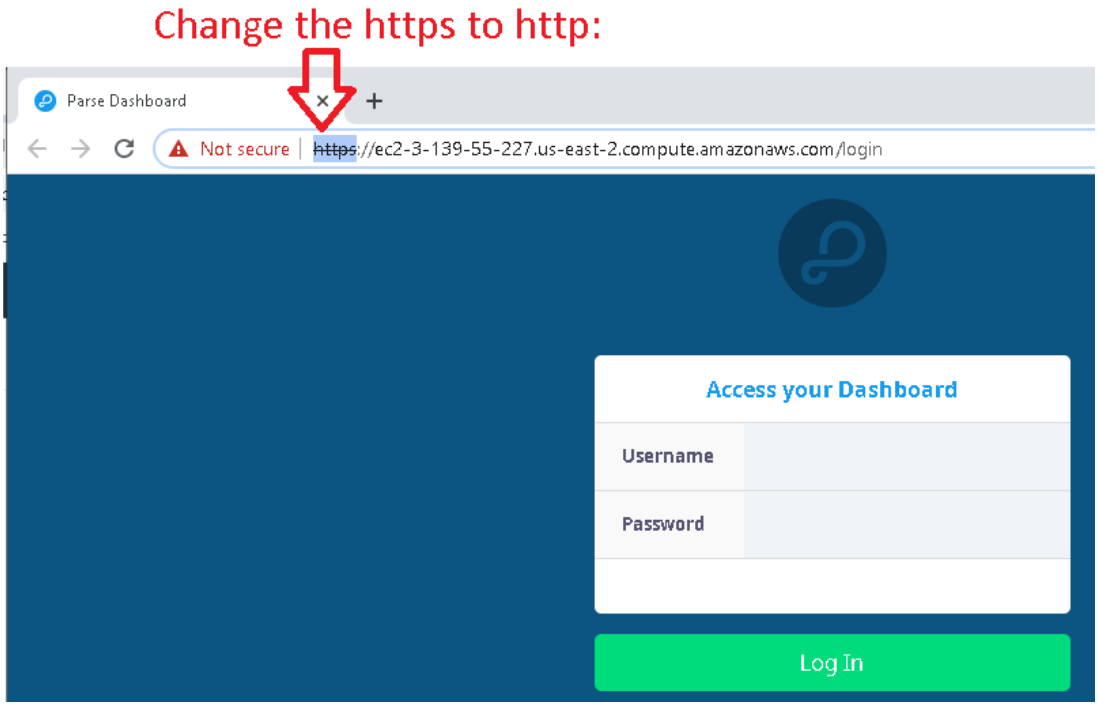
15. You need to add 3 types of TCP protocols: one for HTTP → Source Custom → 0.0.0.0/0, second for SSH → Source Custom → 0.0.0.0/0 and another one for HTTPS → Source Custom → 0.0.0.0/0 . Then click on the Save rules button like in the image below. If you do not add these 2 protocol types, you will not be able to access the Parse Server and the SSH console from the Chrome browser.



16. Go back to the main instance window and open the Public IPv4 DNS link into a new browser tab:



17. The opened link will display a login console from the Parse Server. If you opened the link with Chrome browser, you will need to change the link from the https to http otherwise the Parse application will not be opened: double click on opened link and then change from https to http:

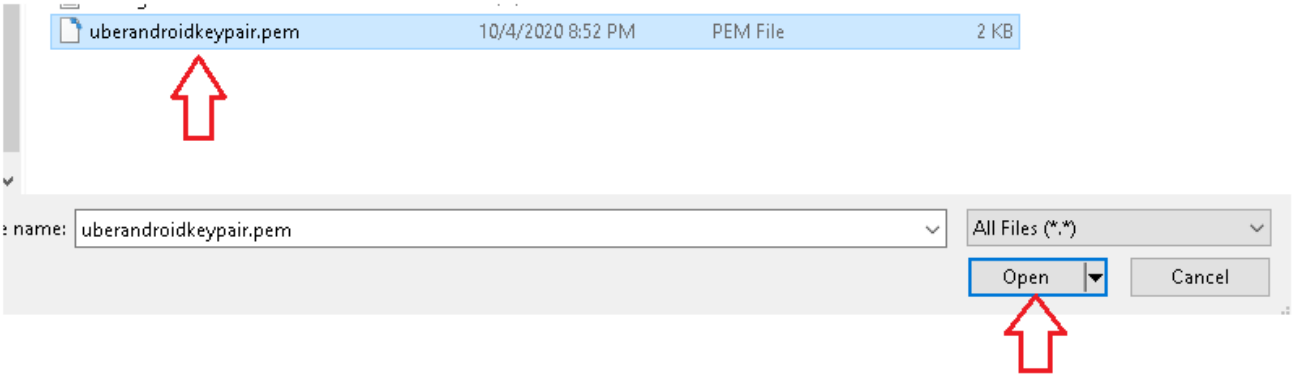


Next you will have to get the user and the password to login into the dashboard of the Parse Server.

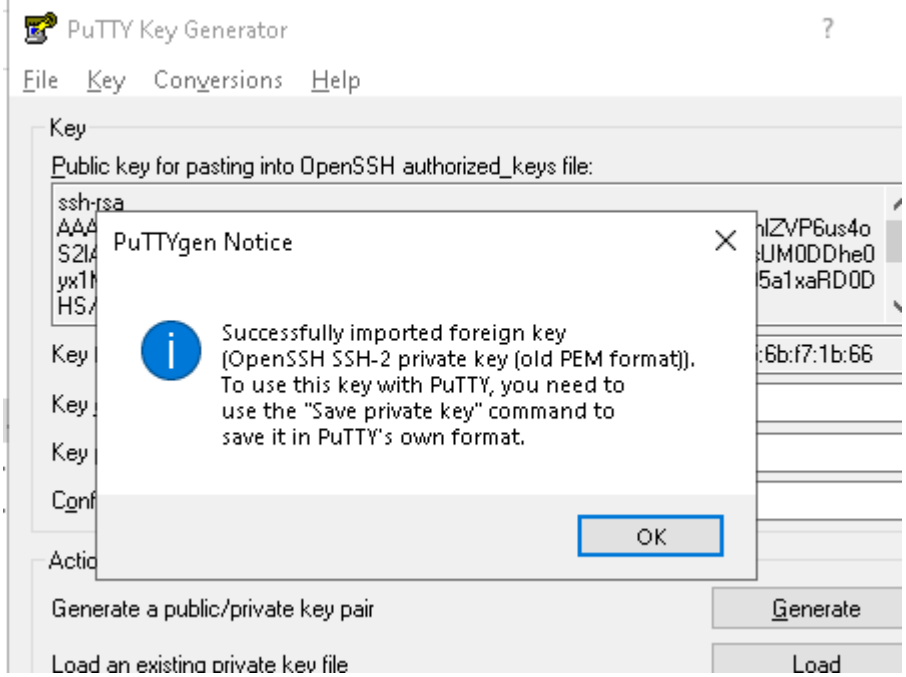
18. The user and the password of the Parse Server are located into our Ubuntu instance, next we will have to connect by SSH to it. The fastest and the most secured way is to use a SSH client. In the next steps I will show you a complete description procedure for Windows machines to connect using a SSH client to your Ubuntu instance:

18.1 Install first the Putty client on your Windows machine from https://www.putty.org/ (please search on internet for an alternative SSH client based on your OS machine). The next step is to open the PuTTYgen tool to make a key conversion of your uberandroidkeypair.pem file downloaded at the step 9 to a new ppk format. From the PUTTYgen check to have selected the RSA type of key and then press on Load button to locate your .pem file:

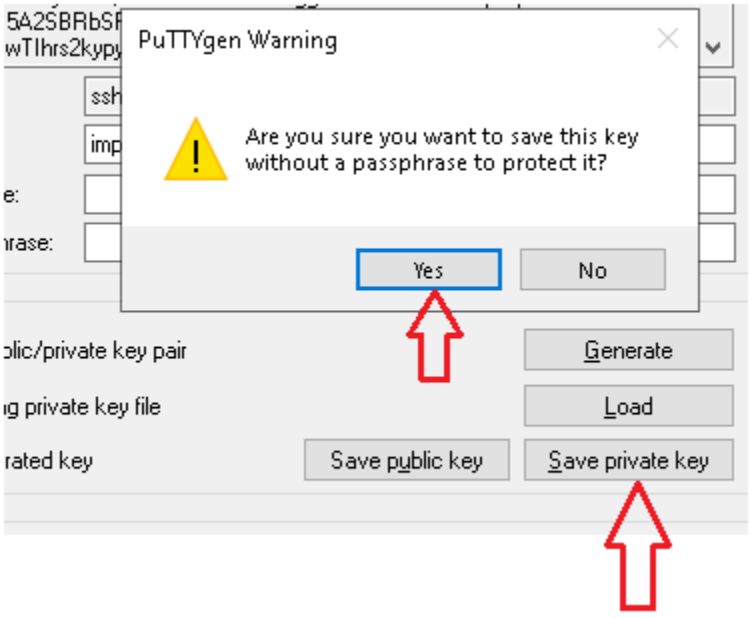
18.2 Select the .pem file and then press Open like in the below image:



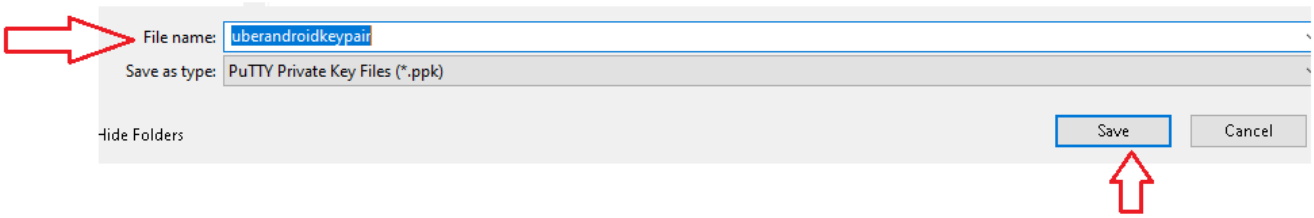
18.3 The PuTTYgen tool displays that the import was successfully:



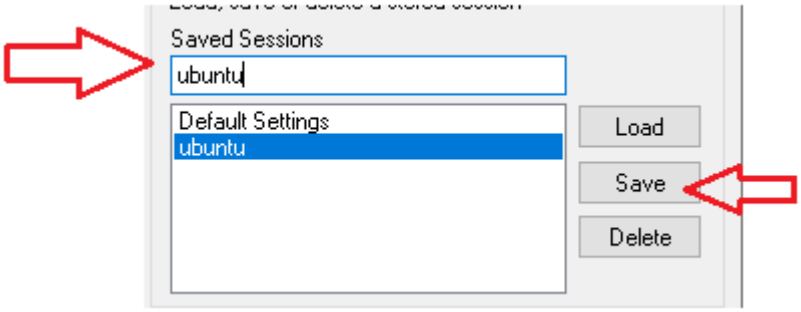
18.4 Save the key by pressing Save private key and then press Yes like in the picture below:



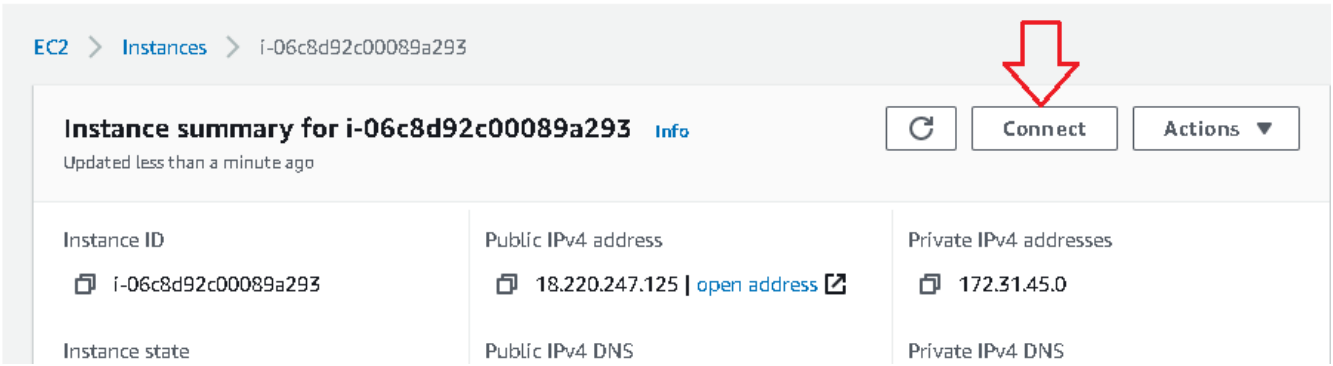
18.5 Type in the same file name and then save it:



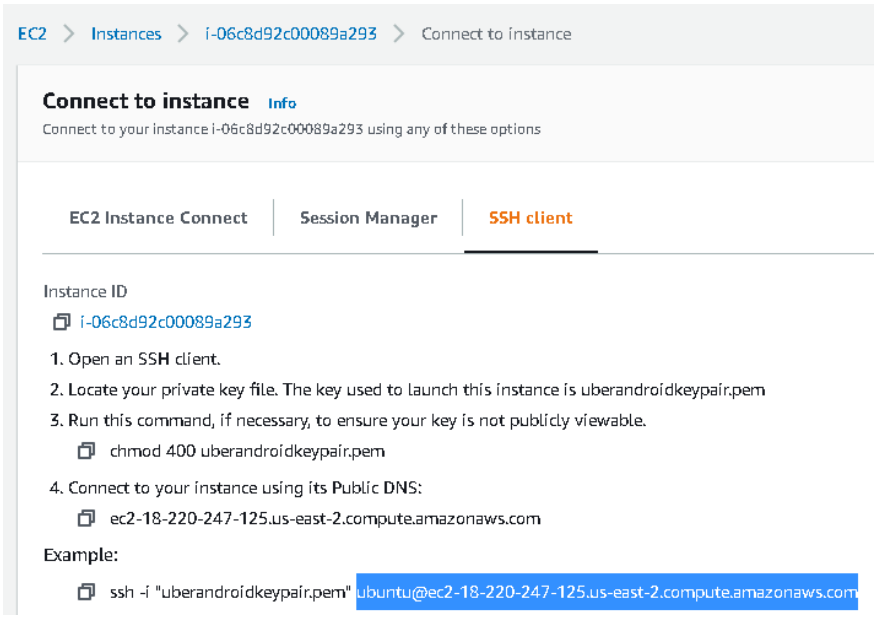
18.6 Open the Putty tool and create a new session in case you want to use in the future SSH connections through Putty client:



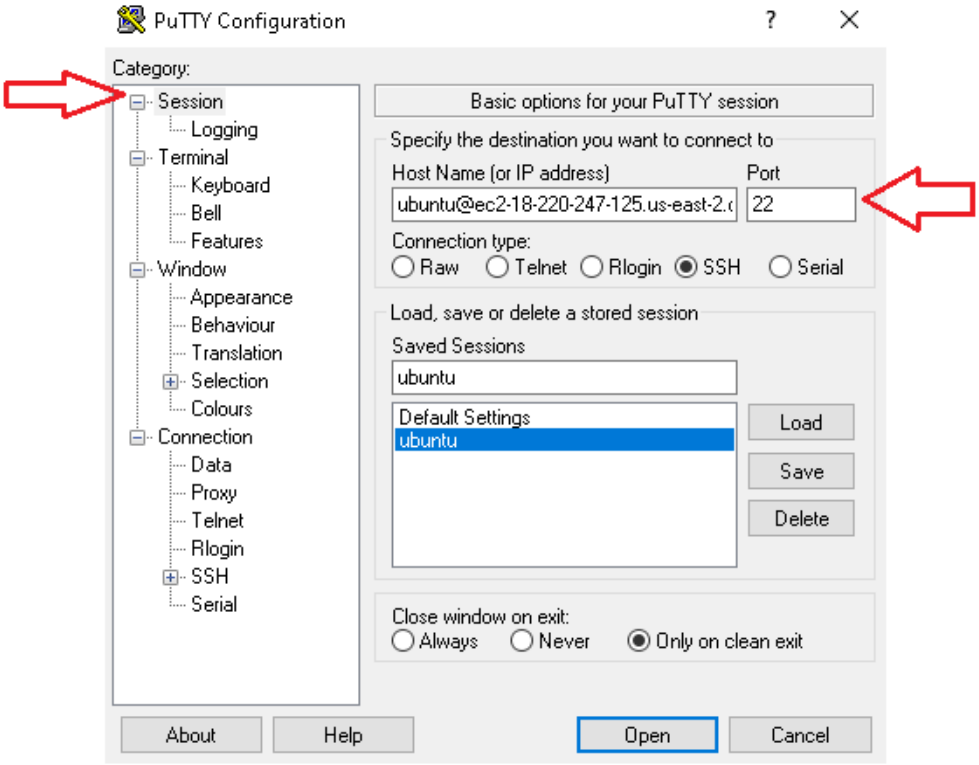
18.7 You need to copy your Public DNS instance name from the main instance window:



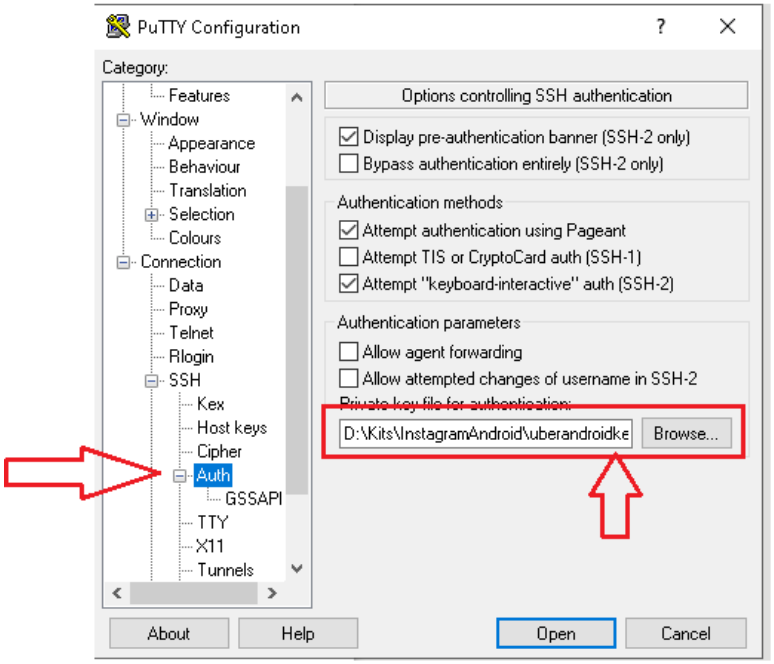
18.8 Go to SSH client tab and from below copy the connection string that starts with ubuntu@ like in the picture below:



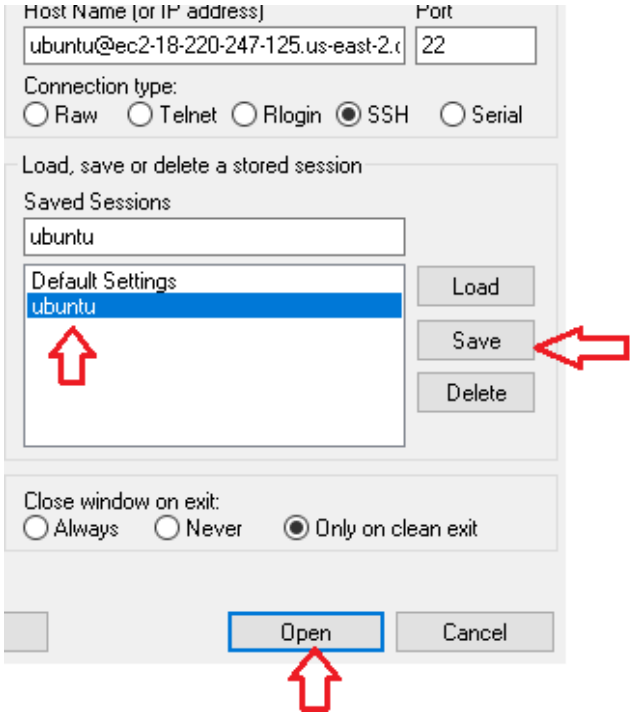
18.9 Back to Putty, select the new created session, be sure you are in the Category → Logging tab, then in the Host Name field past the name of your Public DNS instance name copied before:



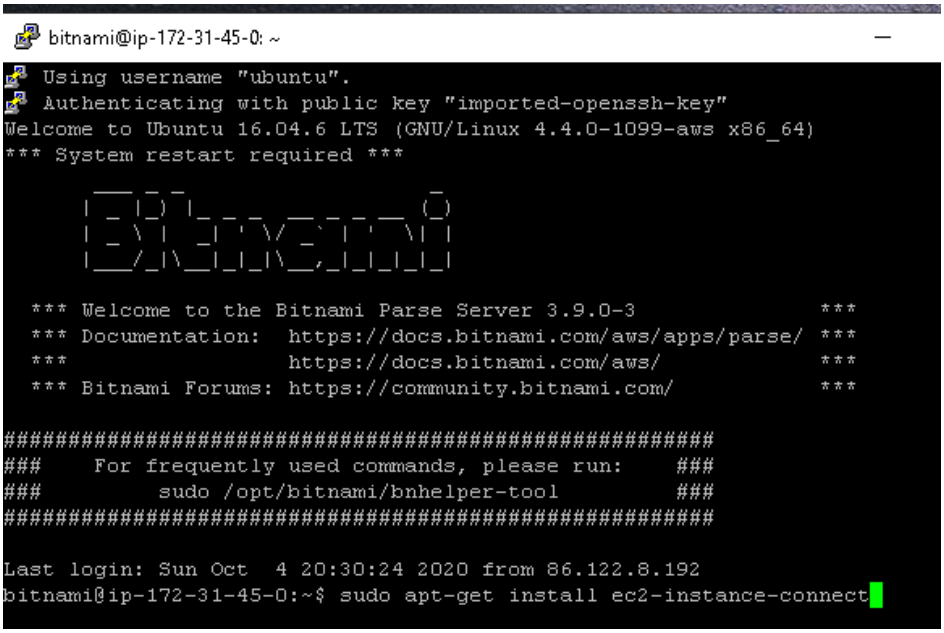
18.10 From Putty →Category→Connection→SSH→Auth→in the Private key file for authentication open your saved .ppk file like in the picture below:



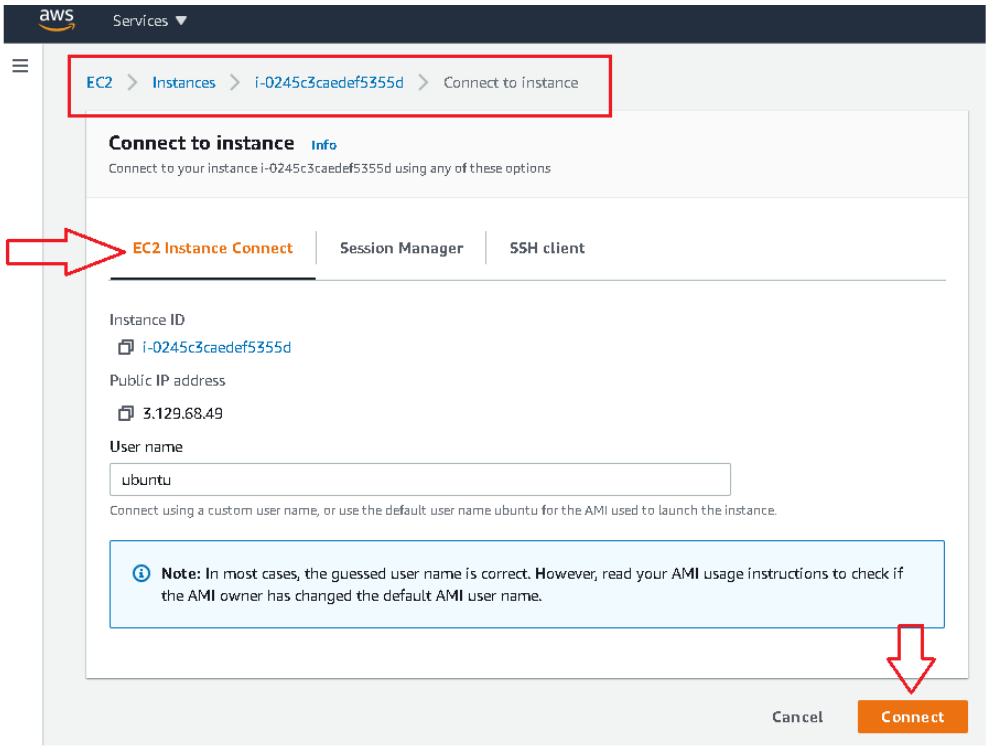
18.11 Again in the Session category, press Save button to save all the connection settings to the saved session. Ultimately press open button to open the connection:



18.12 Once the connection is established, type in the following command "`sudo apt-get install ec2-instance-connect`" to install an ec2-instance-connect in order to connect to your instance with "EC2 Instance Connect (browser-based SSH connection):



19. Now you have two options to connect to your Ubuntu instance: using the SSH client Putty or using EC2 Instance Connect directly from Chrome browser. I will recommend to connect from browser since is the faster way to do it each time you need to check or to install something into your Ubuntu instance: As I mentioned at the step 18.7 from the main instance window click on connect then select EC2 Instance Connect and below press on the Connect button:



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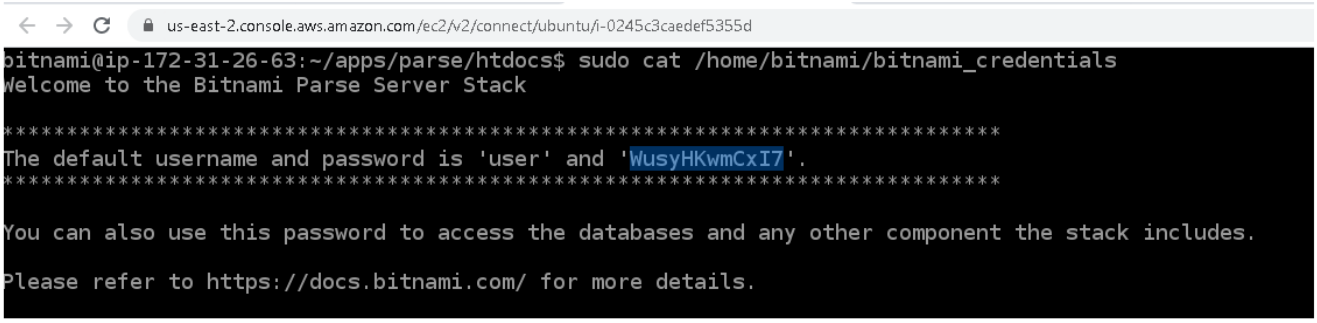
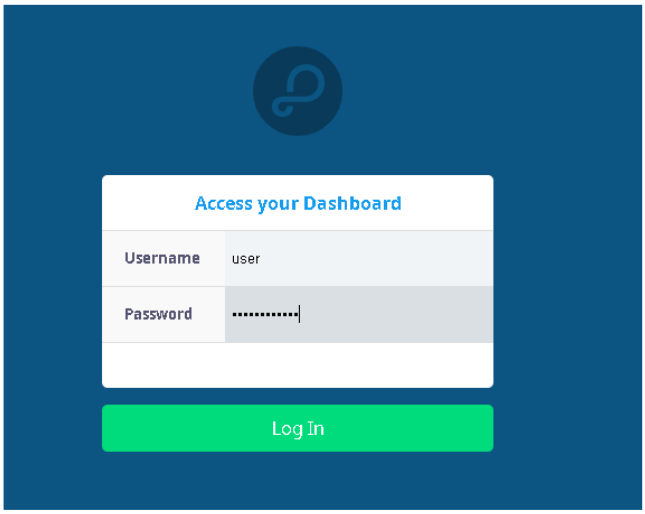
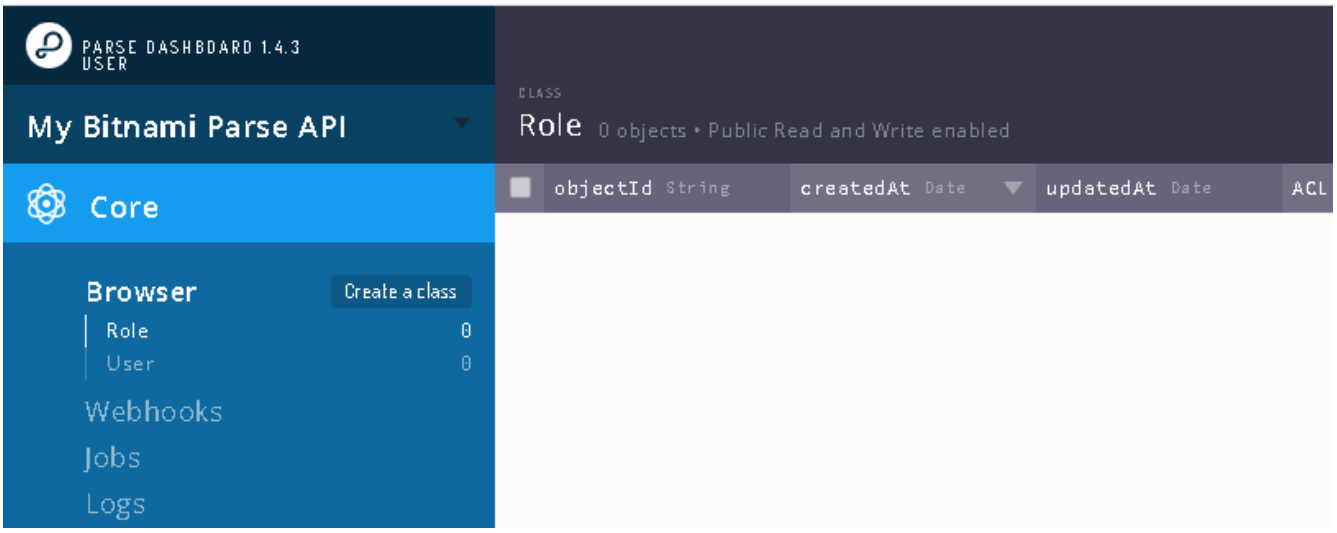
20. Once the connection is performed inside of the Chrome browser, type in the following command: sudo cat /home/bitnami/bitnami_credentials in order to find out the user and the password needed to access your Parse Server dashboard. When the information is displayed, copy the password because the username is just “user”:

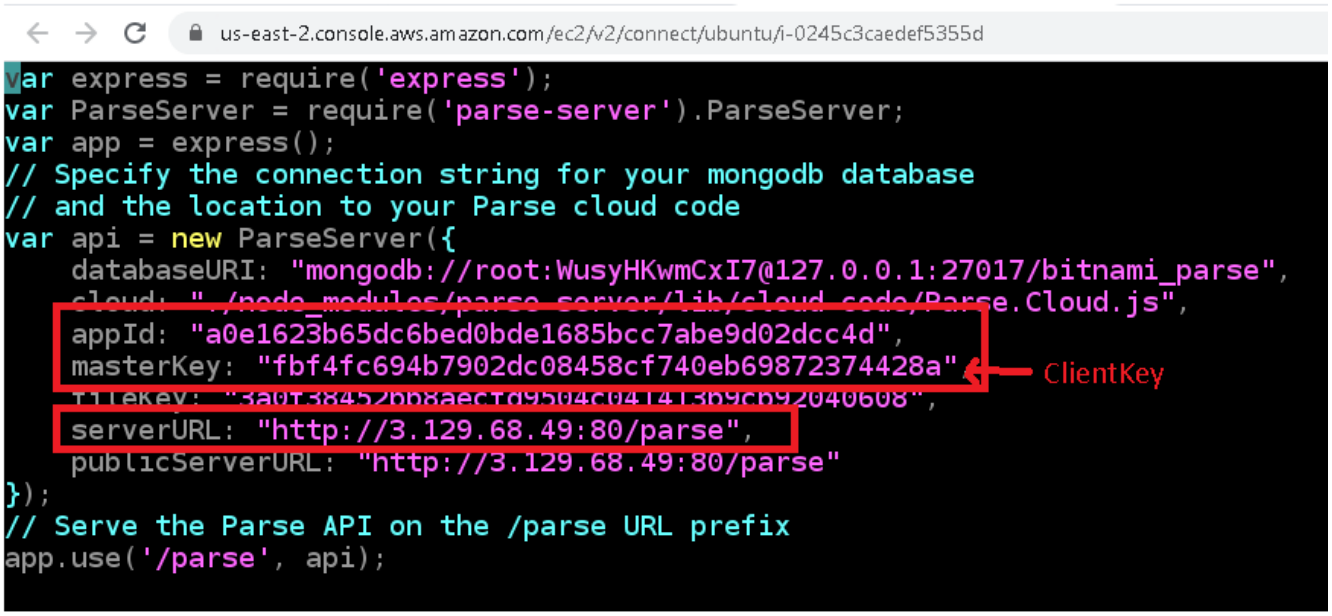


21. Go to the Chroome tab where your Parse Server remained opened and type in the user and the password you got from the previous step. Now you can access the Parse Server like in the original Udemy course:

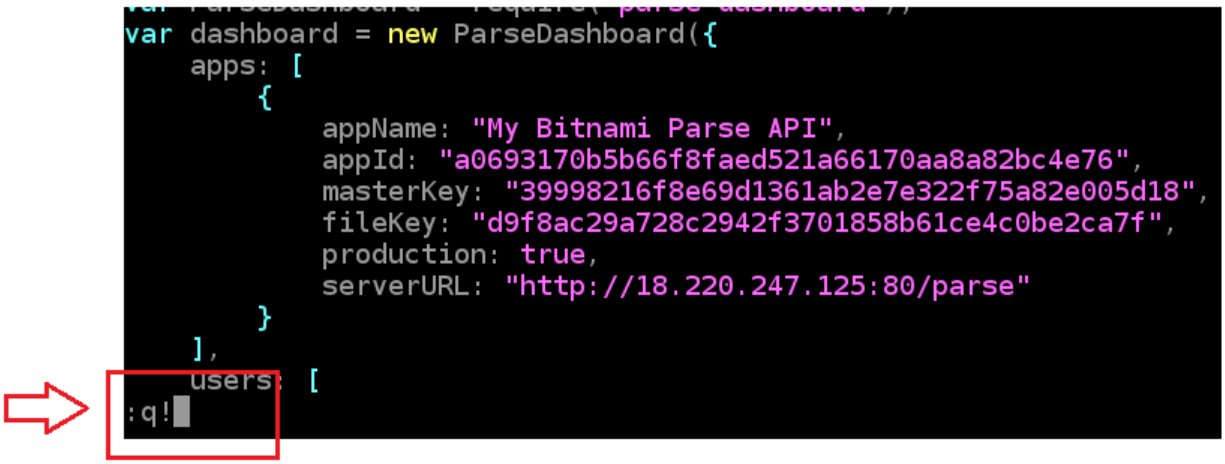




22. By typing the command cd apps/parse/htdocs/ and then vi server.js in your browser terminal opened at the steps 19 and 20, you will see your appID, client key and your server address like in the Udemy course:



23. To exit the vi editor you will have to type from the keyboard this command **:q!**



To continue with the projects based on Parse Server, you can download my Android Studio 4.x projects from this link
https://github.com/mathexa/Complete-Android-N-Udemy-course-for-Android-Studio-4