

DeployZen

Document Information:

Name:DeployZen - Fast, easy, Automate Deployment

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Team Members:

M.Bharghav Sai

G.L.Sudhitha	-	23P31A4225
G.N.R.L.Jayanthi	-	23P31A4227
I.Amrutha Varshini	-	23P31A4229
koonisetti Mahesh	-	23P31A0528
J.DYNS.Gowrish	-	23P31A0537

Abstract

DeployZen is a cloud-based platform that simplifies static website deployment for students and developers. It allows users to upload a ZIP file or connect a GitHub repository, and automatically handles hosting on AWS S3 using Lambda, DynamoDB, and a Flask backend. The frontend, built with HTML, CSS, and basic Tailwind, provides a simple user interface. Features include secure authentication via AWS Cognito and a public project showcase through ZenHub. DeployZen removes the complexity of cloud setup, making static site deployment fast, easy, and beginner-friendly.

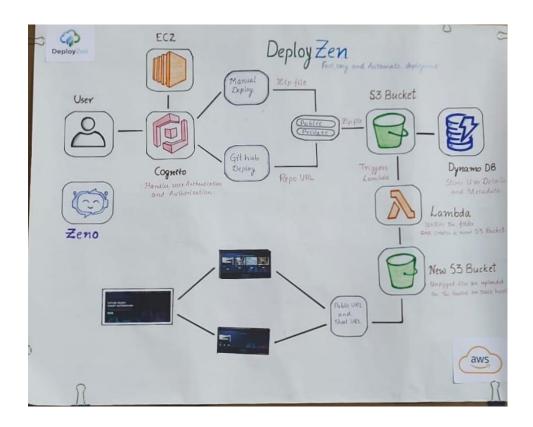
Problem Overview

We chose to build DeployZen to solve the common difficulties faced by beginners and students when deploying static websites to the cloud. Although platforms like AWS offer powerful hosting options, the manual setup—such as configuring S3 buckets, setting permissions, and managing public URLs—can be complex and time-consuming. Our goal was to create a simple, automated solution that makes static site deployment quick, accessible, and beginner-friendly.

Objectives

- Enable quick and seamless static website deployment
- Provide both ZIP file and GitHub repo upload options
- Automate deployment using AWS Lambda
- Store project metadata in DynamoDB
- Secure user access with AWS Cognito
- Display deployed websites on a public "ZenHub" page

Architecture



Services Used And Workflow

1. Amazon Cognito - User Login & Registration

We used Cognito for handling user sign-up and login. It manages:

Secure user authentication

Email verification through token-based confirmation

Session and token management.

2. Amazon EC2 - Hosting the Flask Application

Our Flask-based web application is hosted on an EC2 instance. It handles:

Frontend rendering with HTML templates

Backend logic and routing

API endpoints for GitHub/manual deployment, updates, and redirection

EC2 gives full control over the hosting environment.

3. Amazon S3 - File Storage & Static Site Hosting

S3 is used in two stages:

To temporarily store uploaded .zip files from users

To host unzipped website files as static websites

The hosted website becomes publicly accessible via a full URL.

4. AWS Lambda - Unzipping & Hosting Logic

When a .zip file is uploaded to S3, a Lambda function is triggered:

It extracts the zip contents

Creates a new S3 bucket (per deployment)

Uploads the unzipped files

Enables static hosting on the new bucket

Updates the full URL in DynamoDB

This makes the process automatic and scalable without manual hosting steps.

5. Amazon DynamoDB – Deployment Metadata Storage

DynamoDB is used to store all the important metadata:

Unique short Id

Original filename

short URL and the final full URL

This allows us to track and manage user deployments efficiently.

6. GitHub - Public Repository Deployment Source

For users who choose GitHub deployment, we:

Extract the username and repo name from the URL

Download the .zip from main branch

Upload it to S3 for further processing

This enables fast deployment of existing GitHub projects.

7. Amazon Lex – Chatbot Integration

We built a rule-based chatbot using Lex that:

Helps users understand the platform

Guides them step-by-step in choosing deployment methods

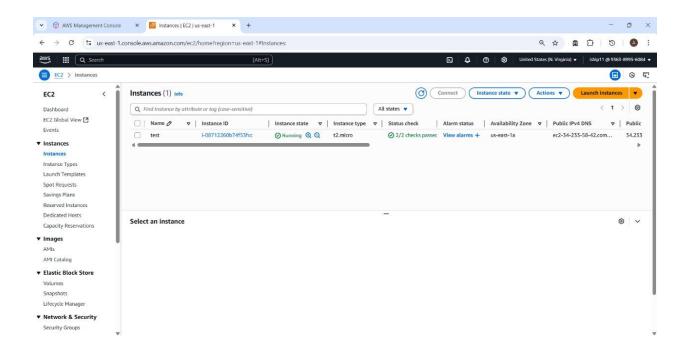
Answers basic FAQs

It improves user experience and makes the platform beginner-friendly.

Project Execution

Step1: EC2 Instance Setup & Flask App Hosting

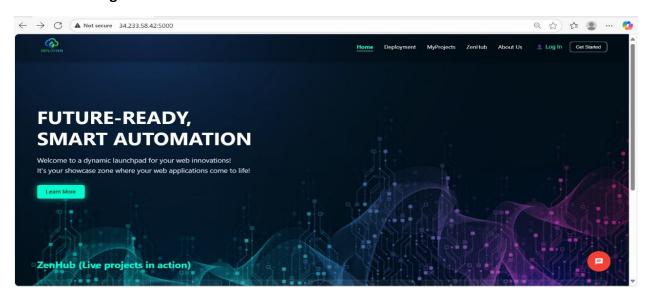
We launched an EC2 instance and installed necessary packages (Python, pip, Flask). The Flask app handles routing, file uploads, redirections, and UI rendering



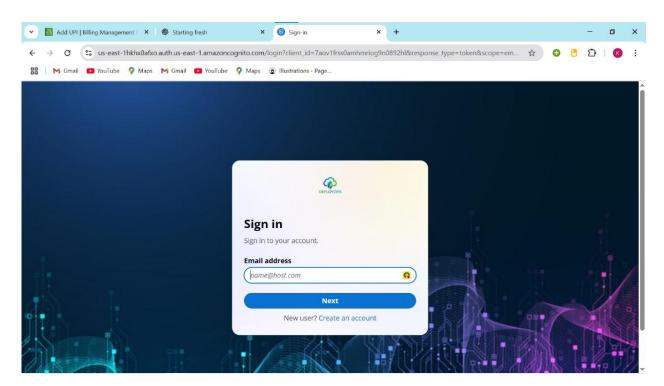
Step 2: Frontend Template Design

We created HTML templates for home page, deployment pages (manual, GitHub), showcase, update, etc. basic TailwindCSS was used for styling.

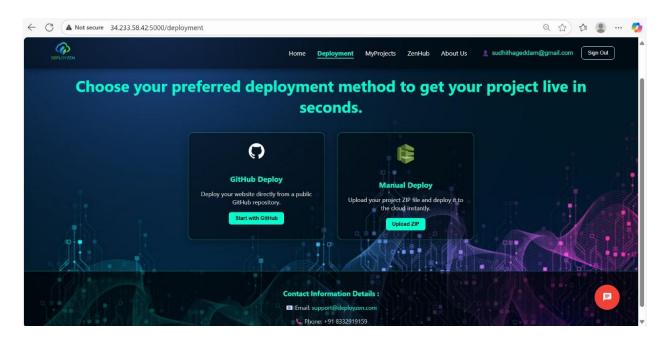
➤ Home Page:



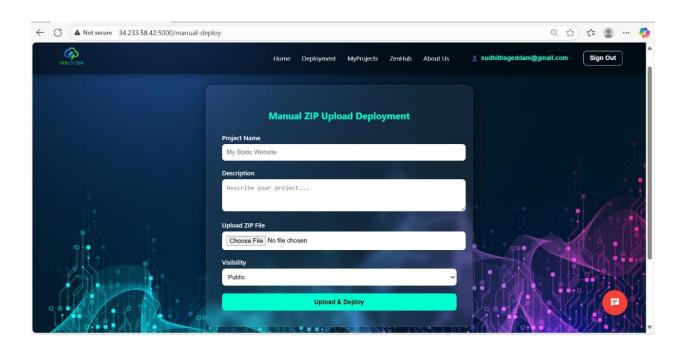
➤ User Sign/Sinup:



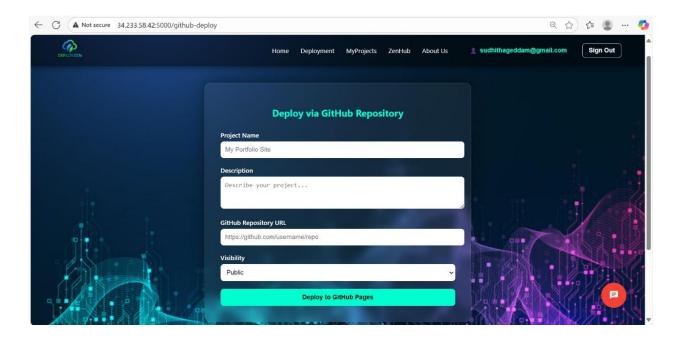
> Deployment page:



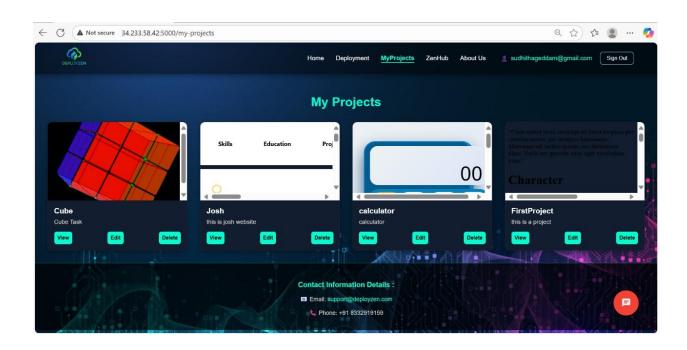
> Manual deploy:



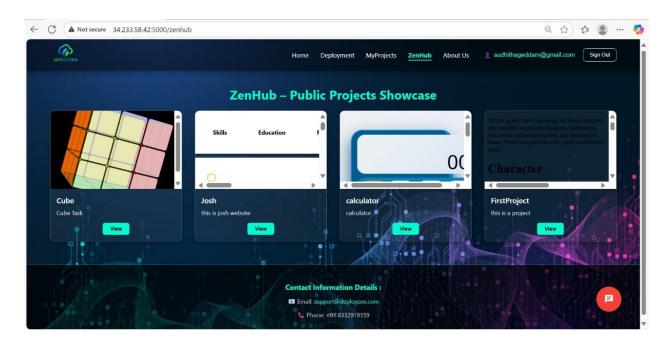
➤ Github Rep Deploy:



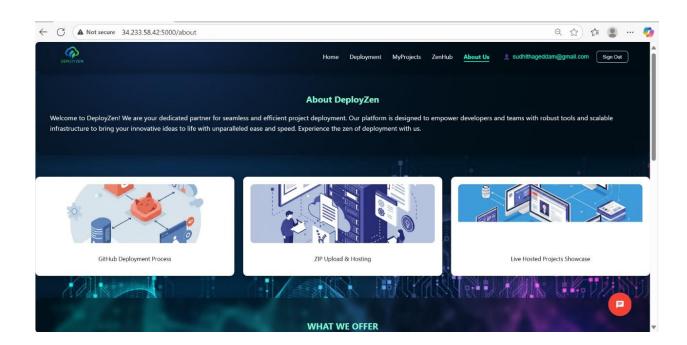
> My Project Section:



ZenHub Page:



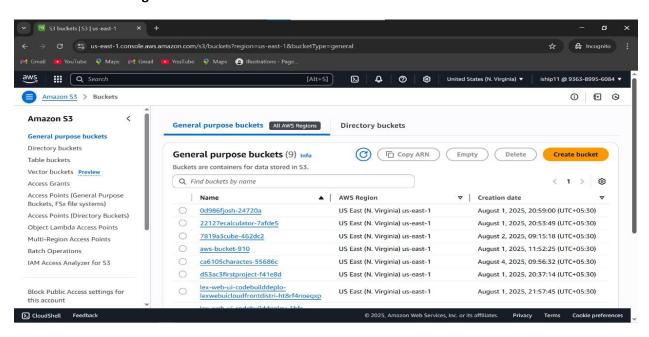
➤ About Us Page:

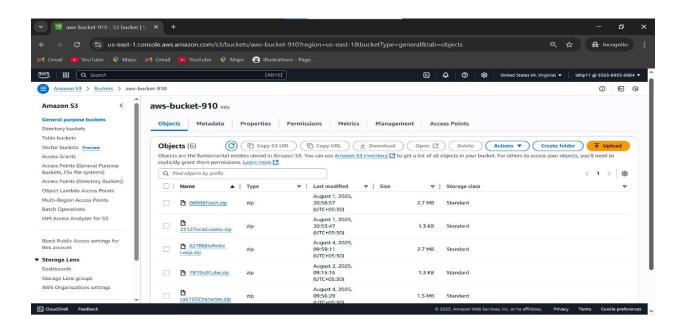


Step 3: S3 & DynamoDB Integration:

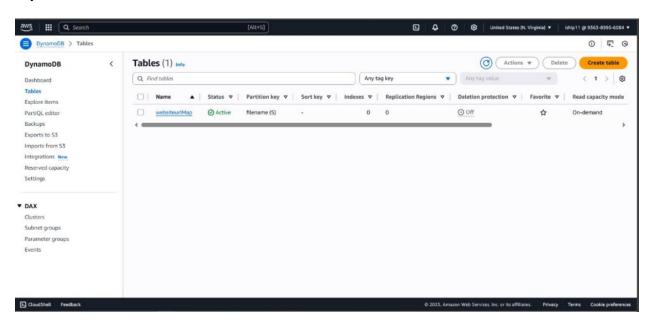
The uploaded ZIP files (from manual or GitHub deployment) are stored in Amazon S3. We used DynamoDB to save metadata like filename, short URL, and status.

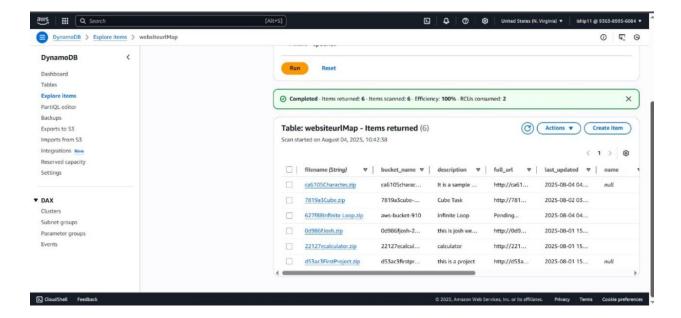
AWS Console showing files in S3 bucket





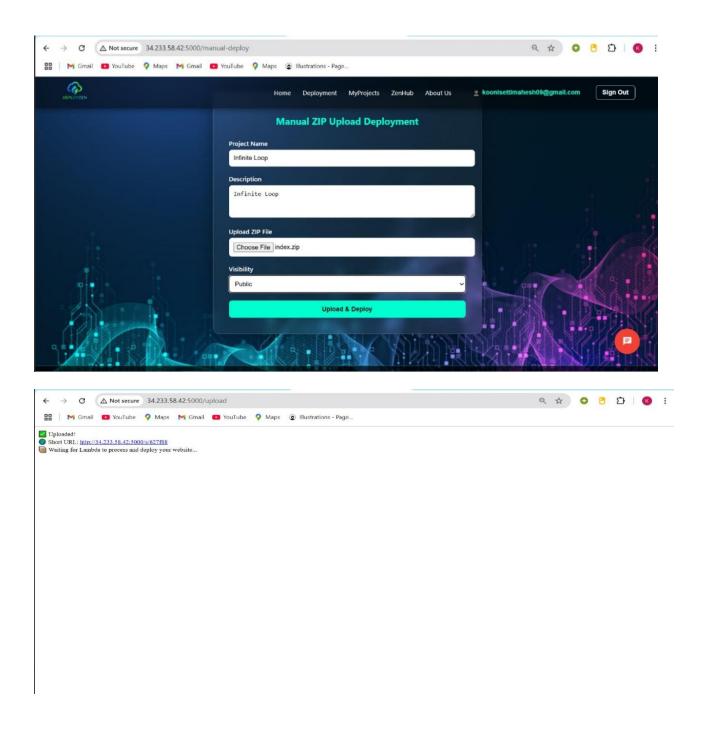
DynamoDB table with items.





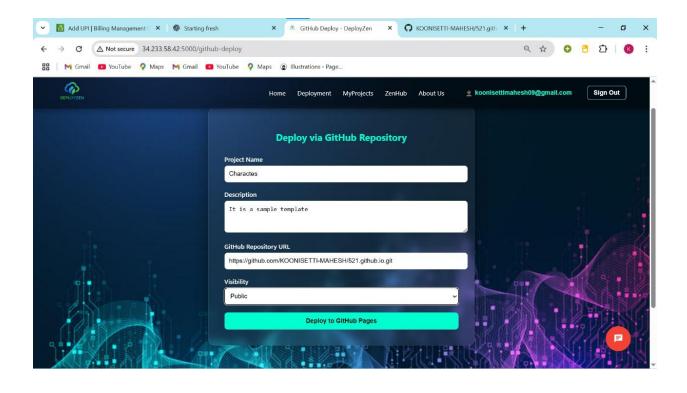
Step 4: Manual Deployment Flow

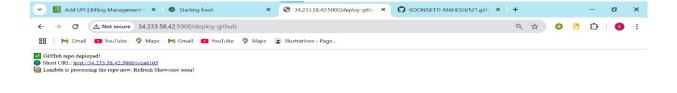
Users upload a ZIP file, which is stored in S3 and saved in DynamoDB. A short URL is generated and a Lambda function is triggered for deployment.



Step 5: GitHub Deployment Flow

Users paste a GitHub repo URL. The backend fetches the ZIP from GitHub, uploads it to S3, and saves metadata. Lambda handles the rest.

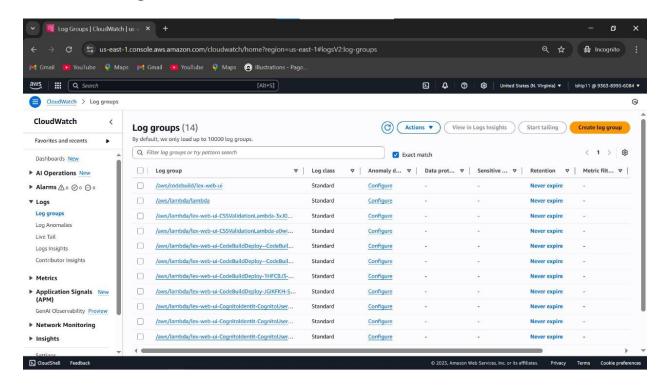




Step 6: Lambda Function for Hosting

Lambda gets triggered when a file is uploaded to the S3 bucket. It unzips the file, creates a new bucket, uploads files, and enables static website hosting.

CloudWatch logs of Lambda execution.



Step 7: IAM Roles and Policies – Secure Service Access

Lambda Execution Role

Roles:

- Grants Lambda access to:
- Read/write from S3
- Perform operations on DynamoDB
- Log to CloudWatch

Attached Policies:

- AmazonS3FullAccess
- AmazonDynamoDBFullAccess
- CloudWatchLogsFullAccess (or a custom least-privilege policy)

> EC2 Instance Role

Roles:

- Assigned to the EC2 instance running the Flask backend, enabling it to:
 - Upload and manage user files in Amazon S3
 - Send logs and monitoring data to CloudWatch

Attached Policies:

- AmazonS3FullAccess
- CloudWatchAgentServerPolicy

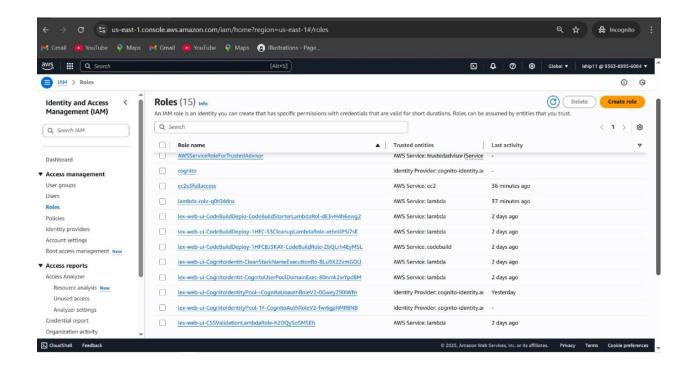
> Amazon Cognito Roles

Roles:

- Generated automatically during Cognito identity pool configuration:
 - Authenticated Role: Grants signed-in users controlled access to AWS resources
 - Unauthenticated Role (optional): For guest users with restricted access

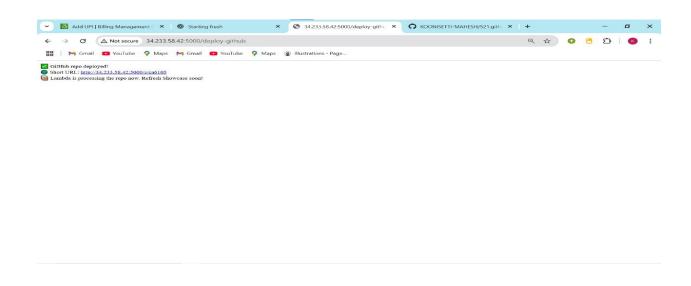
Attached Policies:

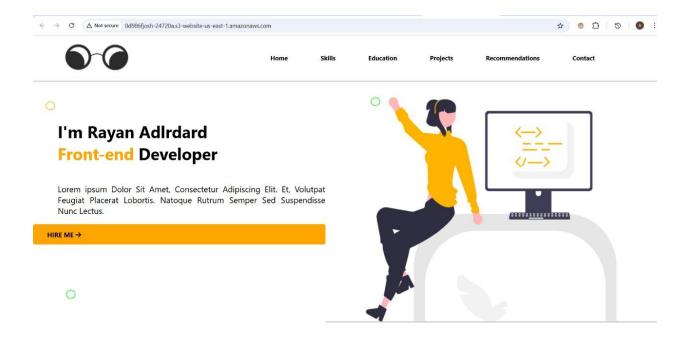
 Custom fine-grained policies, e.g., to allow invoking specific Lambda functions or accessing certain APIs



Step 8: URL Shortening & Redirection

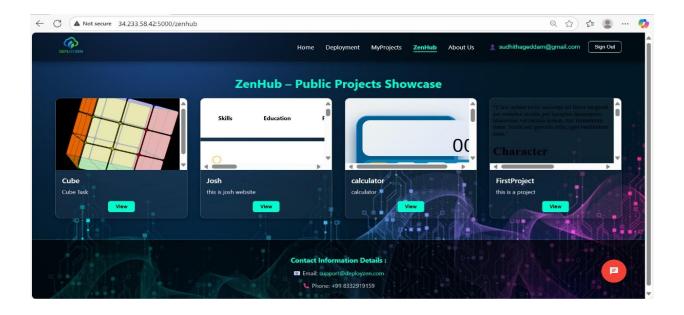
Each deployment gets a unique short ID (using UUID). The Flask app redirects users from this short URL to the actual hosted site URL.





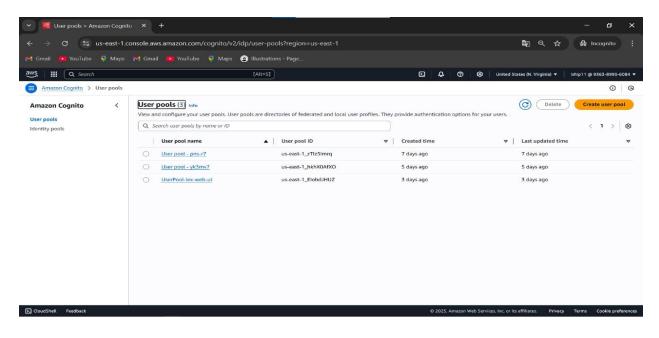
Step 9: Showcase & Update Flow

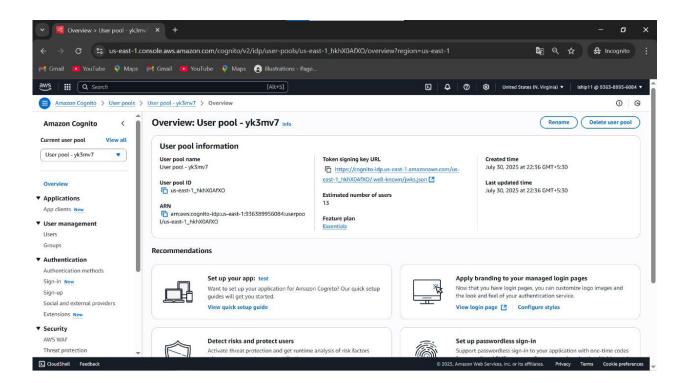
If a project is marked public, it's shown in the ZenHub (Showcase). Showcase page.

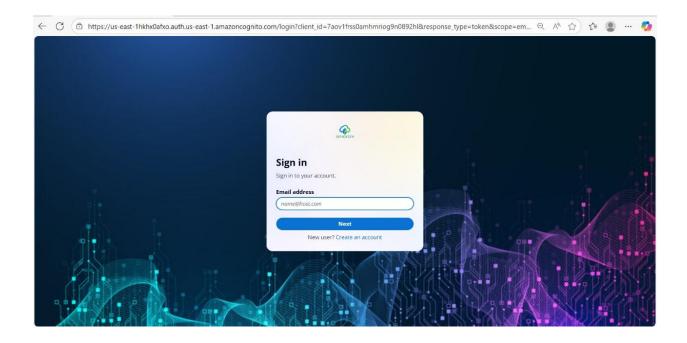


Step 10: User Login with Amazon Cognito

We used Cognito for login/signup and email verification. It securely handles user sessions and token management.

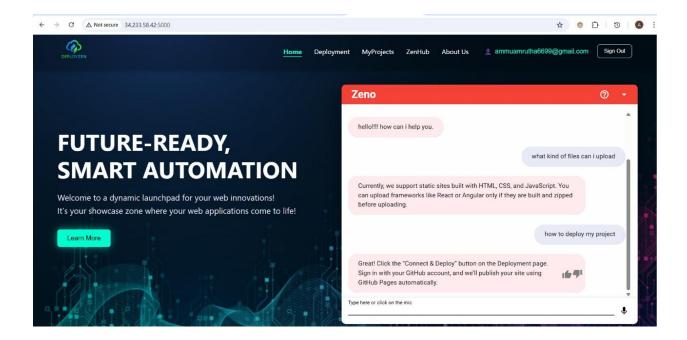






Step 11: Chatbot Integration

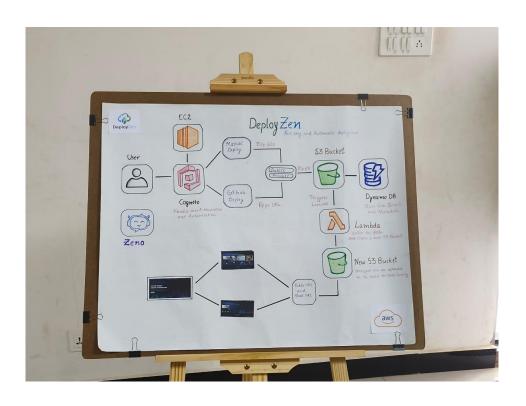
Amazon Lex chatbot was added to assist users with deployment queries, acting like a smart assistant.



Tech Stack

Technology	Purpose	
Amazon EC2	Hosting the Flask backend application.	
Amazon S3	Storing uploaded ZIP files and hosting extracted static websites.	
AWS Lambda	Automatically triggered to unzip files and deploy content.	
Amazon DynamoDB	Used to store metadata like short IDs, URLs, and filenames.	
Amazon Cognito	Managing user authentication, signup, and login securely.	
Amazon Lex	Providing chatbot support for guiding users through deployment.	
Flask (Python)	Backend framework to manage routes, logic, and AWS integration.	
Tailwind CSS	Used for building a clean and responsive frontend UI. HTML For structuring the web pages.	
UUID (Python)	Generating unique short IDs for URL shortening.	

PICTURES





Conclusion

DeployZen simplifies the process of deploying static websites by offering an easy-to-use interface and automation behind the scenes. By integrating multiple AWS services like EC2, S3, Lambda, Cognito, and DynamoDB, the project achieves seamless deployment using both manual ZIP uploads and GitHub repositories.

The addition of a chatbot makes the platform user-friendly, especially for beginners with minimal technical knowledge. This project not only deepened our understanding of cloud services but also gave us hands-on experience with real-world architecture, automation, and user interaction.

In the future, this platform can be enhanced further by adding analytics, user-based dashboards, and support for more file types or frameworks. Overall, DeployZen represents a powerful and scalable solution for effortless static web hosting.