Introduction to VPS Hosting with Digital Ocean

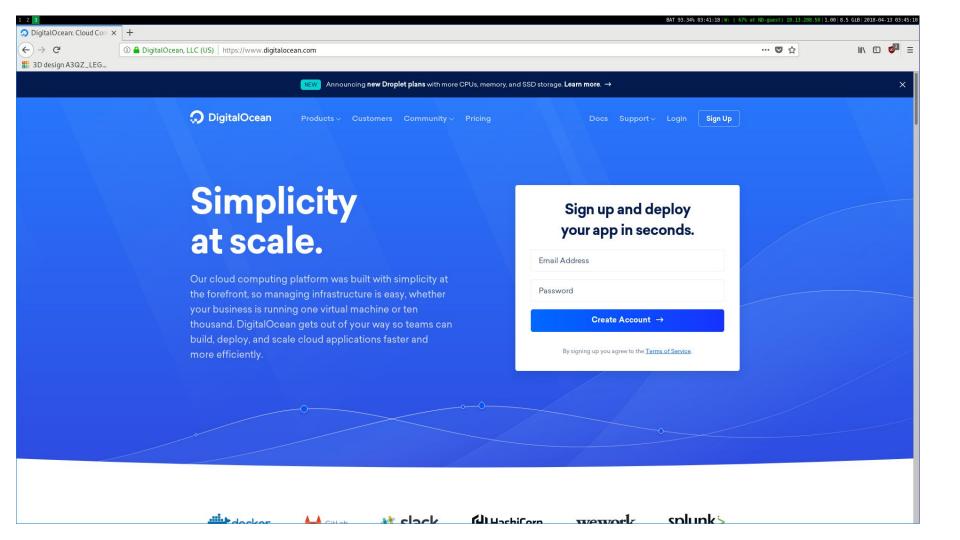
By John Jeffrey Joseph Michael "Jeffrey" Westhoff Effrey

Why?

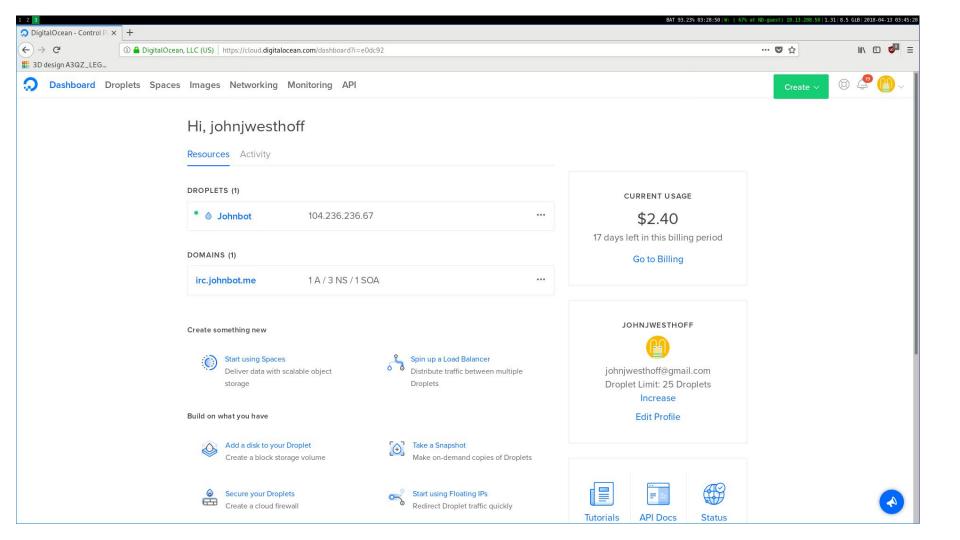
- Having a VPS allows you to run code on a machine that faces the public network
- This allows you to host projects that let anyone connect to them from anywhere
 - These projects can include services to others, such as a personal blog (johnwesthoff.com)
 - These projects can include personal projects, such as a datastructures or diggums project (gradcap.us)
 - These projects can even include personal services, such as your own cloud storage server
- You have full control over what is running, you are the admin, with computers like Appa the man won't let you rm -rf /* whenever you feel like it

Getting Started

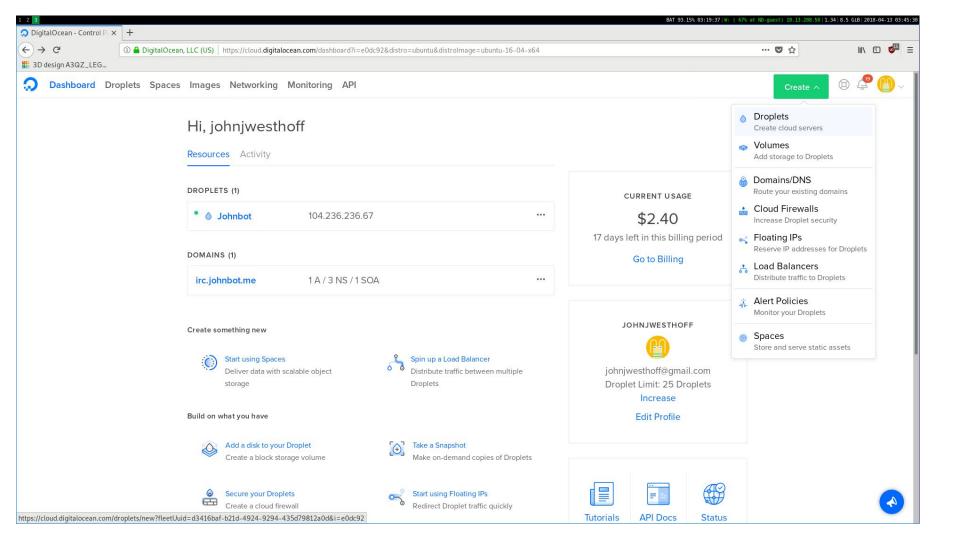
First, navigate to digitalocean.com



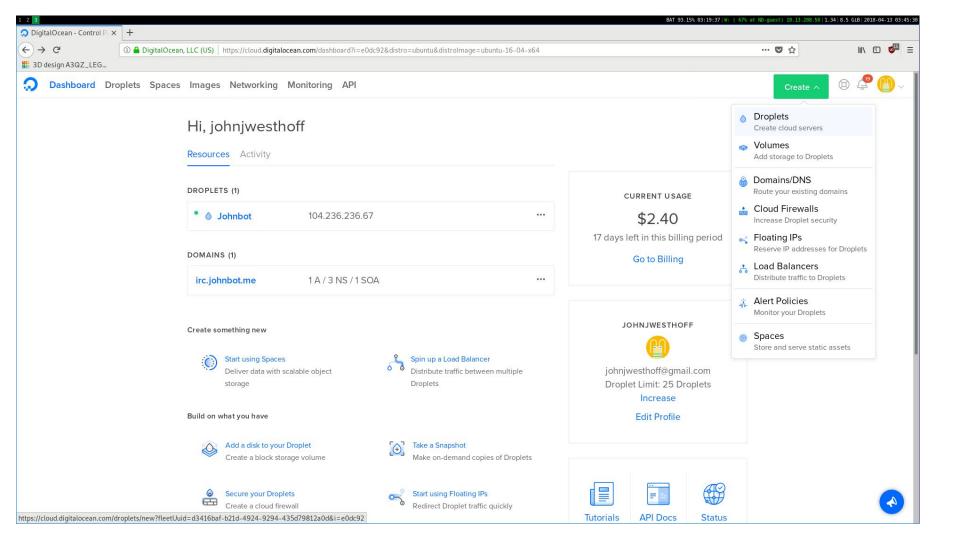
Next, sign in or make an account



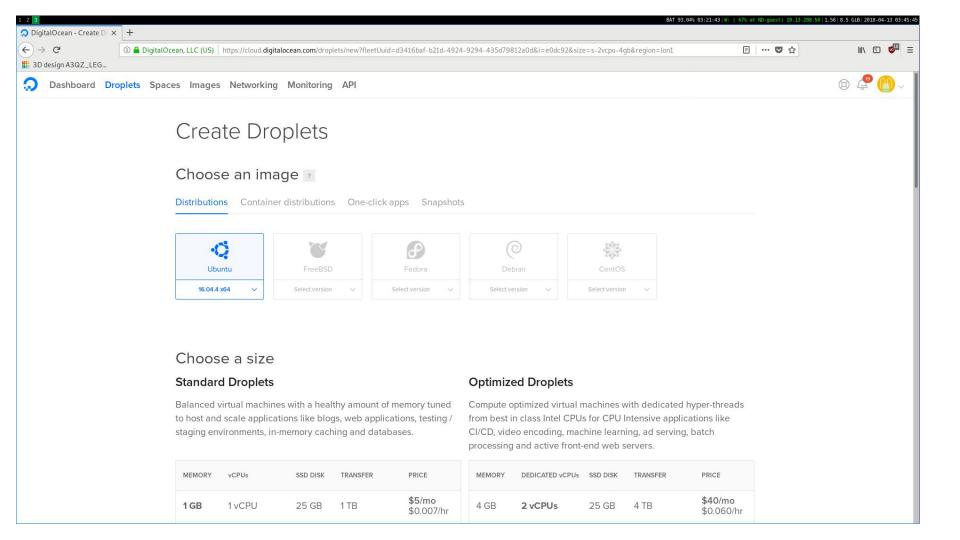
Click Create



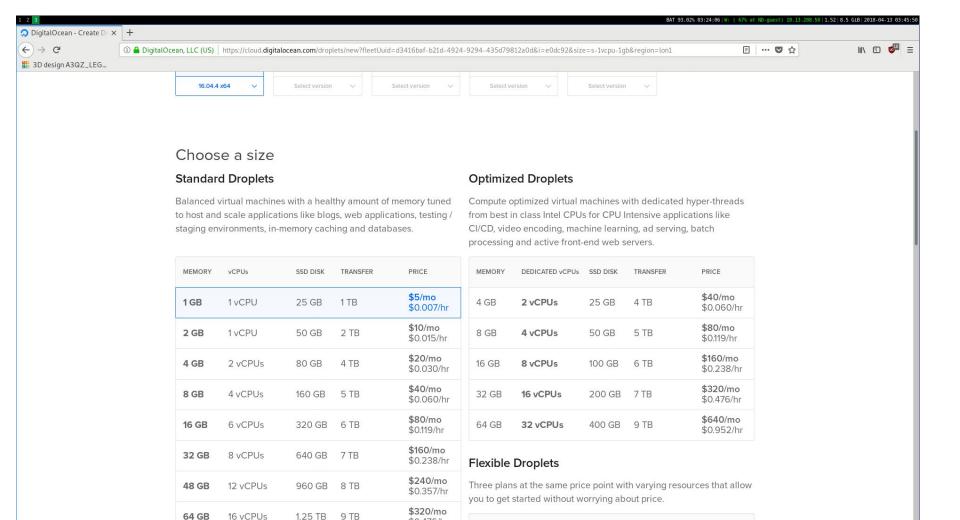
Choose Droplet, which is what DO calls their Virtual Private Servers



Choose your operating system, such as Ubuntu

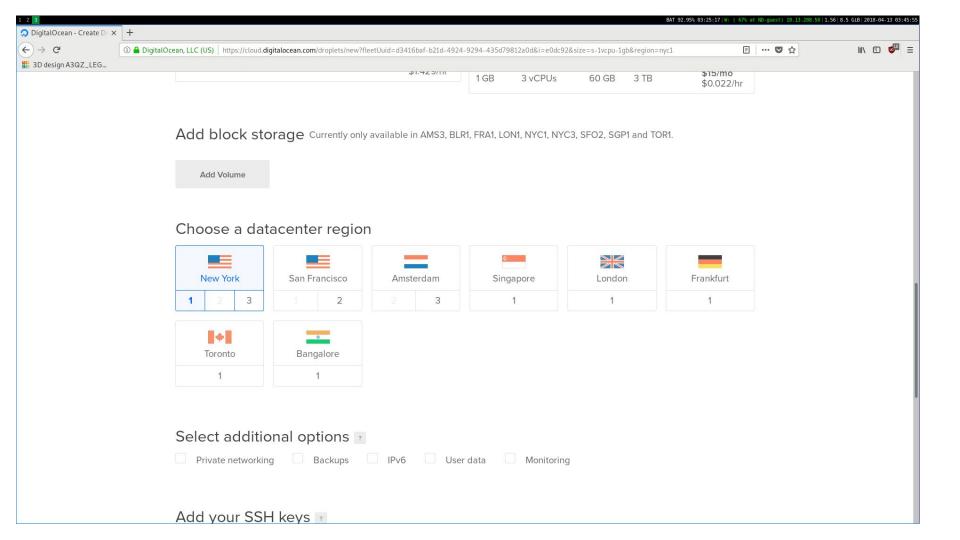


Choose a size, smaller is cheaper, and probably good enough

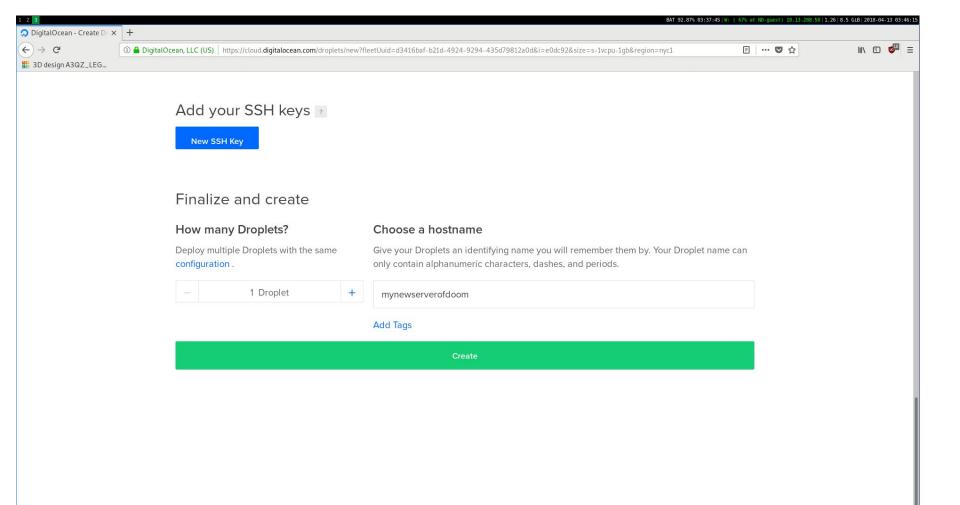


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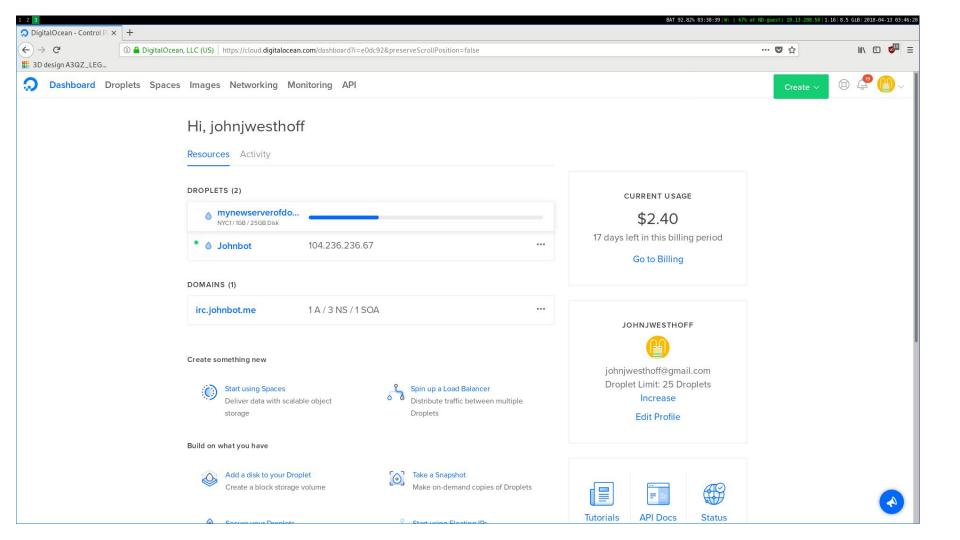
Choose a location - the closer to you the better



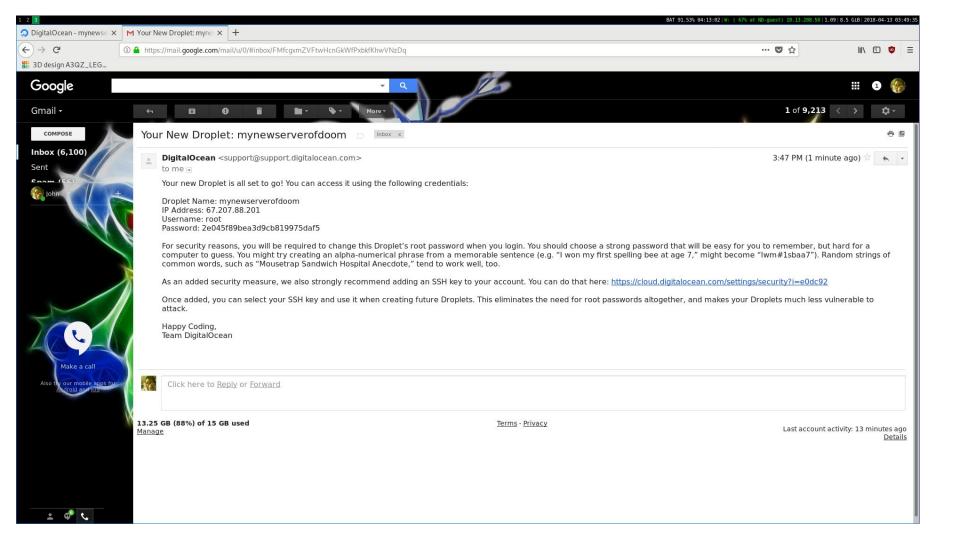
Choose a hostname



Wait for it to finish firing up your droplet

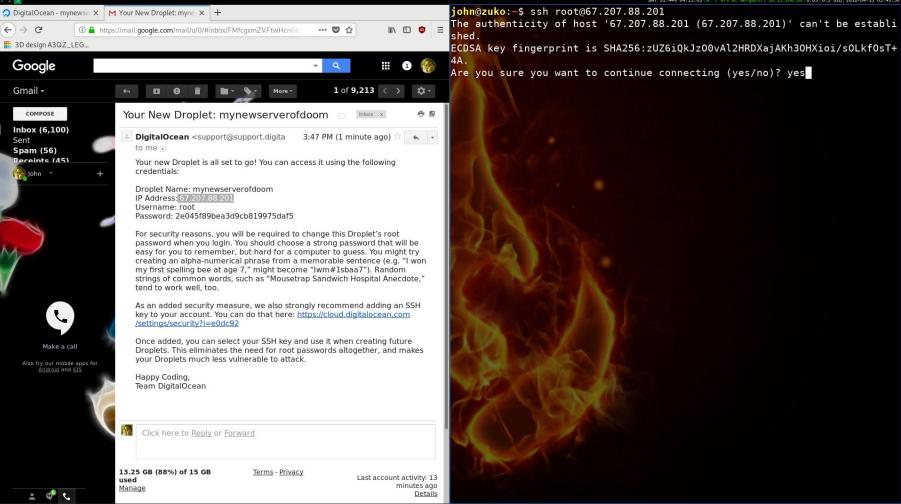


Once it is done, you'll get an email

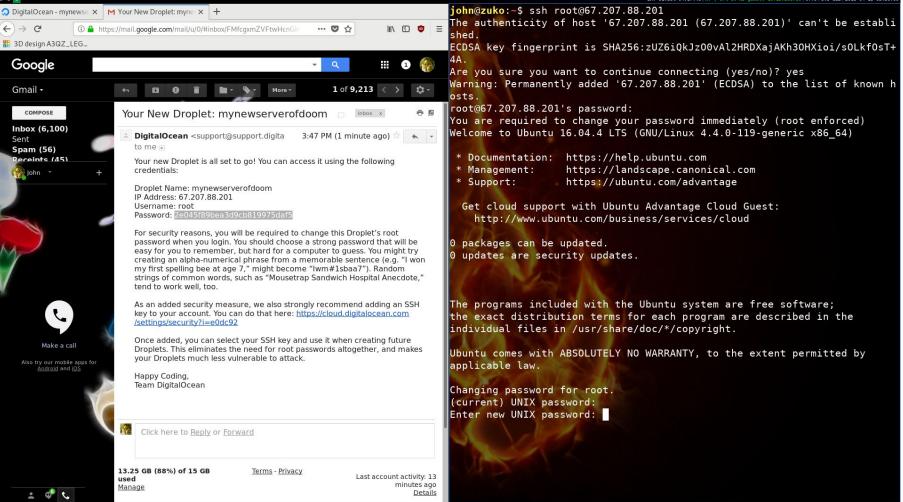


That email contains your information for logging in, it is IMPORTANT, and keep it secret

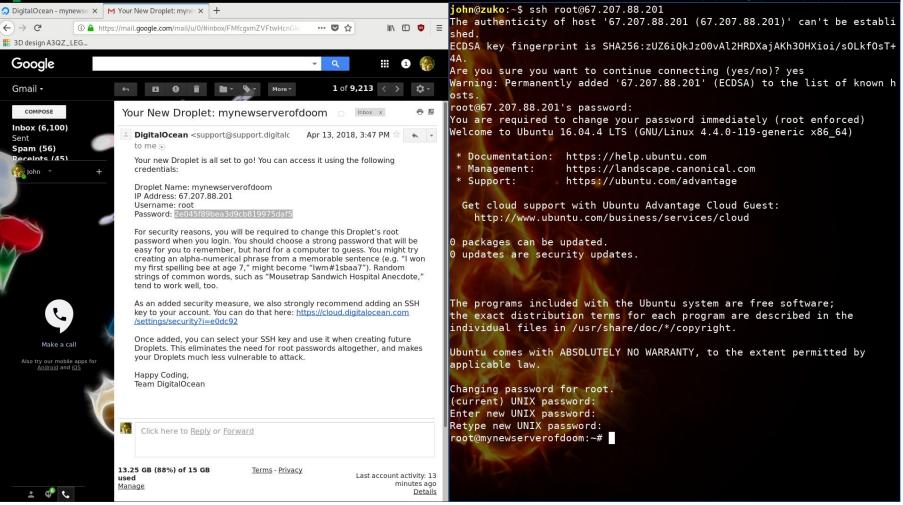
Log in by opening a terminal, and running ssh root@THEIPADDRESSFROMTHEEMAIL, and saying yes



It will ask for a password, type in the password from the email. It will then have you change that password by first asking for the password again



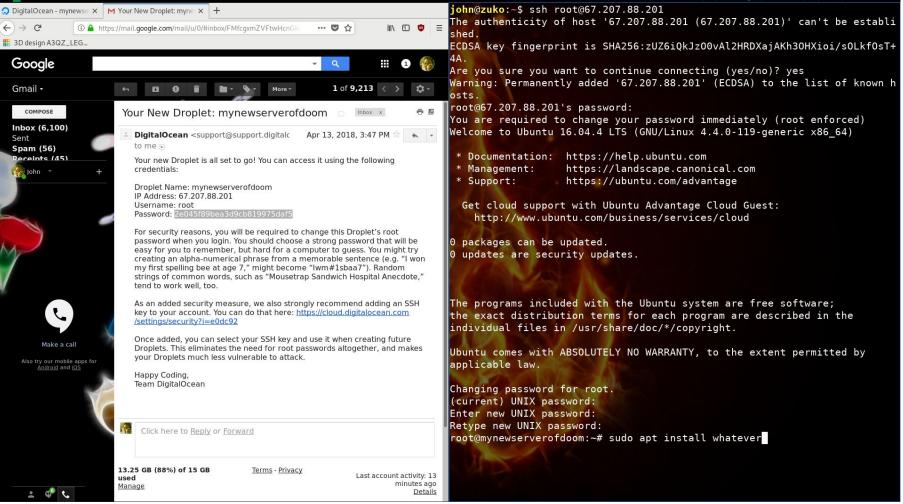
Enter a new password after that, and make it a good one



CHOOSE A GOOD PASSWORD

I used the password "breezy" once and my server was hacked and joined a botnet

Do whatever you want



Tips

Freeeeeeeee

- GitHub will give you a lot of goodies for being a student, including \$100 of DigitalOcean credit https://education.github.com/pack
- You can also find other free digital ocean credits randomly from the internet, pbui says nerdy podcasts often have them

It's a Unix System (I know this)

- It's just running whatever OS you chose, so you can run any of the stuff you want, like apt install, or whatever
- You can sftp files to it, or wget them from somewhere else
- You can install git and clone your code

Keys are probably a good idea

- Bug someone in lug into telling you how to set up SSH keys
- Bug someone in lug into telling you how to configure SSH to have aliases so you can run `ssh vps` instead of ssh root@19.34.43.43
- Probably stop using the root account
- Probably disable password login, lest you join the ranks of the mighty botnet

There are other options, too

- GitHub will also give you some free Azure stuff
- AWS has a "free for a year or something" tier, but they always ended up charging me anyway, and then I got my account banned, then they apologized and withdrew the charges
- Vultr is another VPS provider, and they offer lower pricing options
 - I use both Vultr and DO, I think both are fine options
- Google has an always free tier