

100 Days of AWS — Day 15-Introduction to AWS Config

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Welcome to Day 15 of 100 Days of AWS. The topic for today is Introduction to AWS Config

What Is AWS Config?

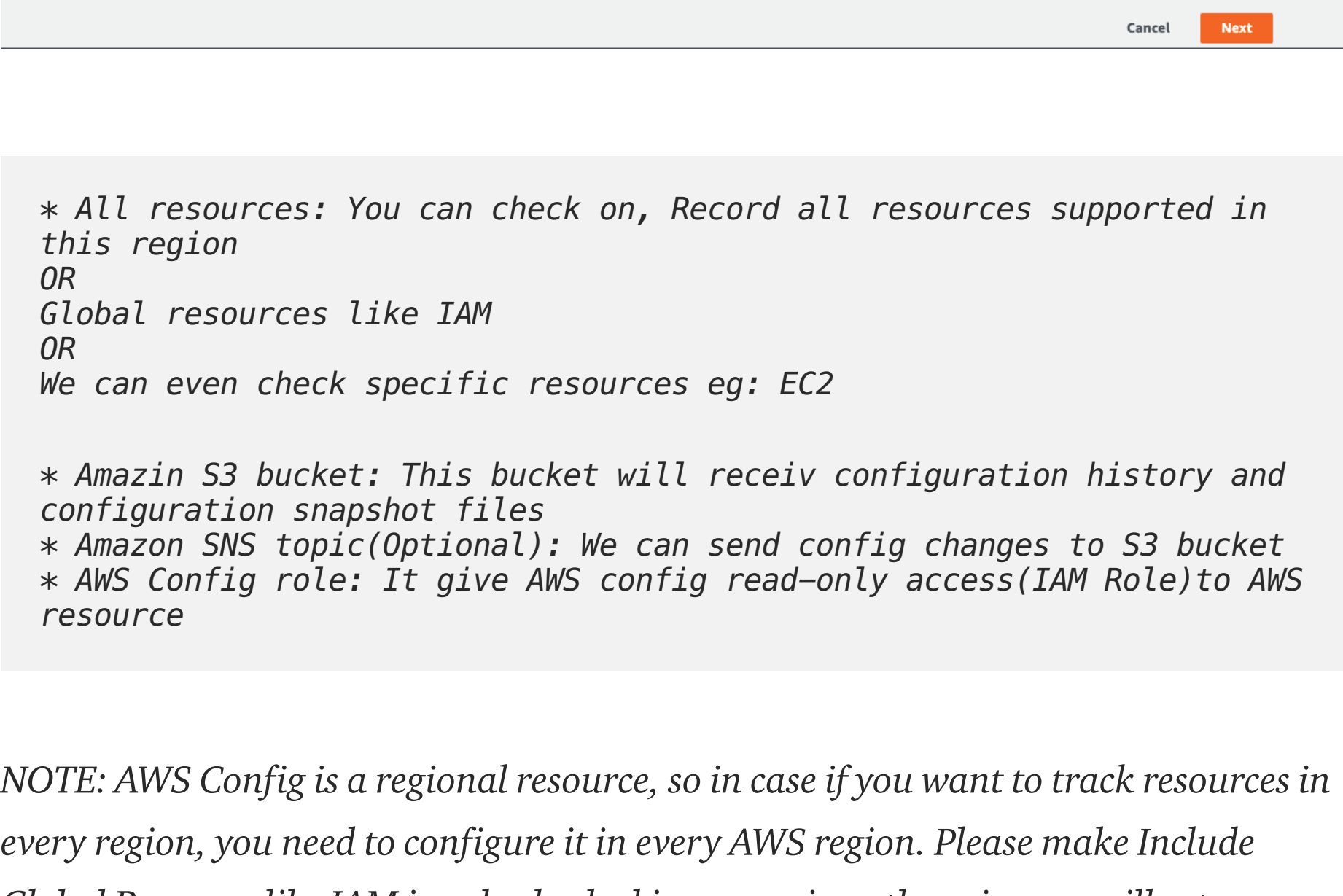
AWS Config is the service that enables you to assess, audit and evaluate the configurations of your AWS resources automatically. It enables you to automate the evaluation of recorded configuration against desired configuration using features called AWS config rules. For example your requirement is all S3 bucket created is encrypted. You can deploy AWS config manage rule that automatically evaluates your S3 bucket resource the moment its created or modified. AWS provides some rich set of rules that evaluates some of the common scenarios and those are called manage rules but you also have ability to create your own custom rules using AWS lambda.

Features

- Track state of all resources(OS level too — Windows/Linux)
- Meet your compliance need(PCI-DSS, HIPAA)
- Validate against AWS Config Rule

Setting up AWS Config

- Go to AWS Config <https://us-west-2.console.aws.amazon.com/config> → Click on get started



* All resources: You can check on, Record all resources supported in this region OR Global resources like IAM OR we can even check specific resources eg: EC2

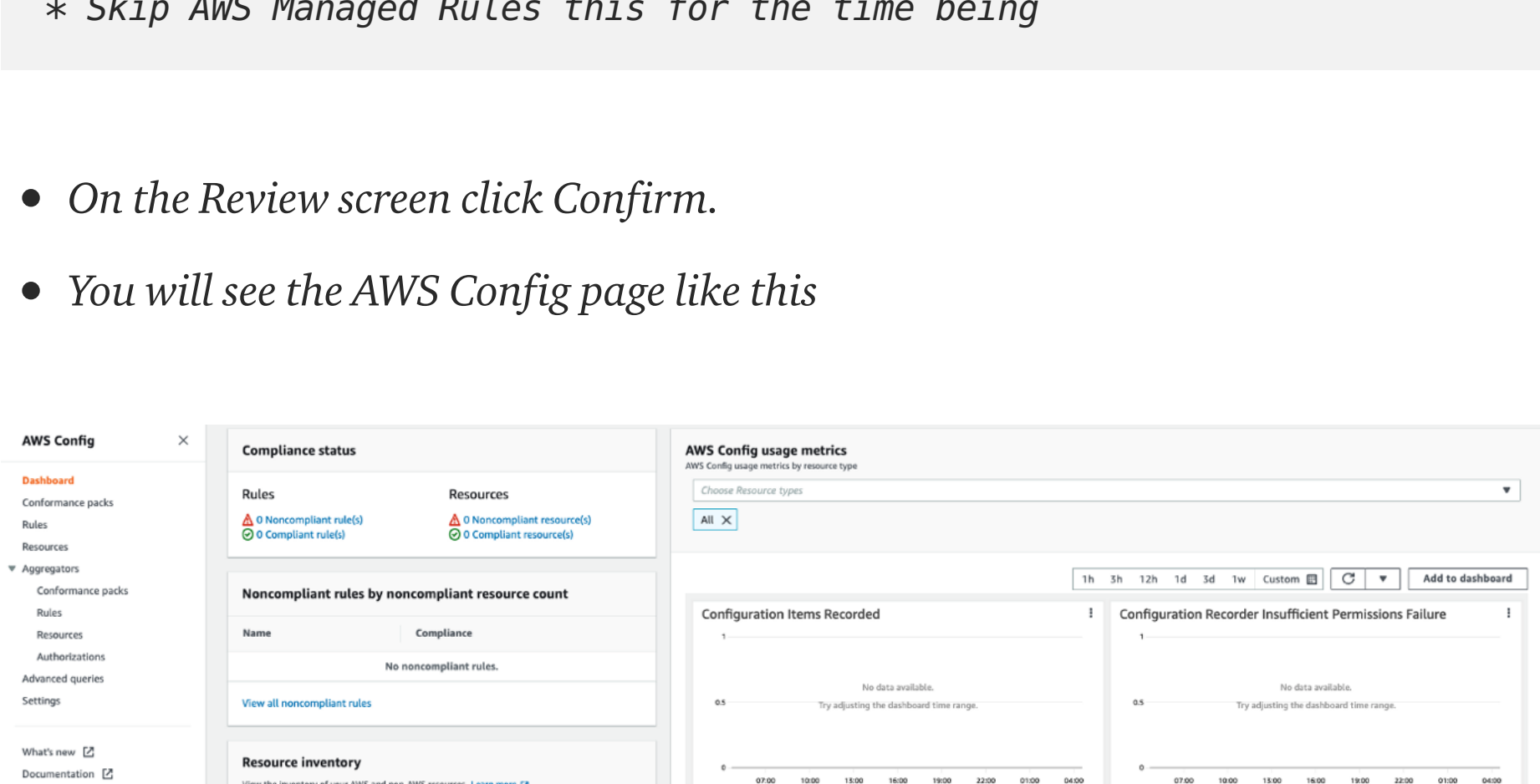
* Amazon S3 bucket: This bucket will receive configuration history and configuration snapshot files

* Amazon SNS topic(Optional): We can send config changes to S3 bucket

* AWS Config role: It give AWS config read-only access(IAM Role) to AWS resource

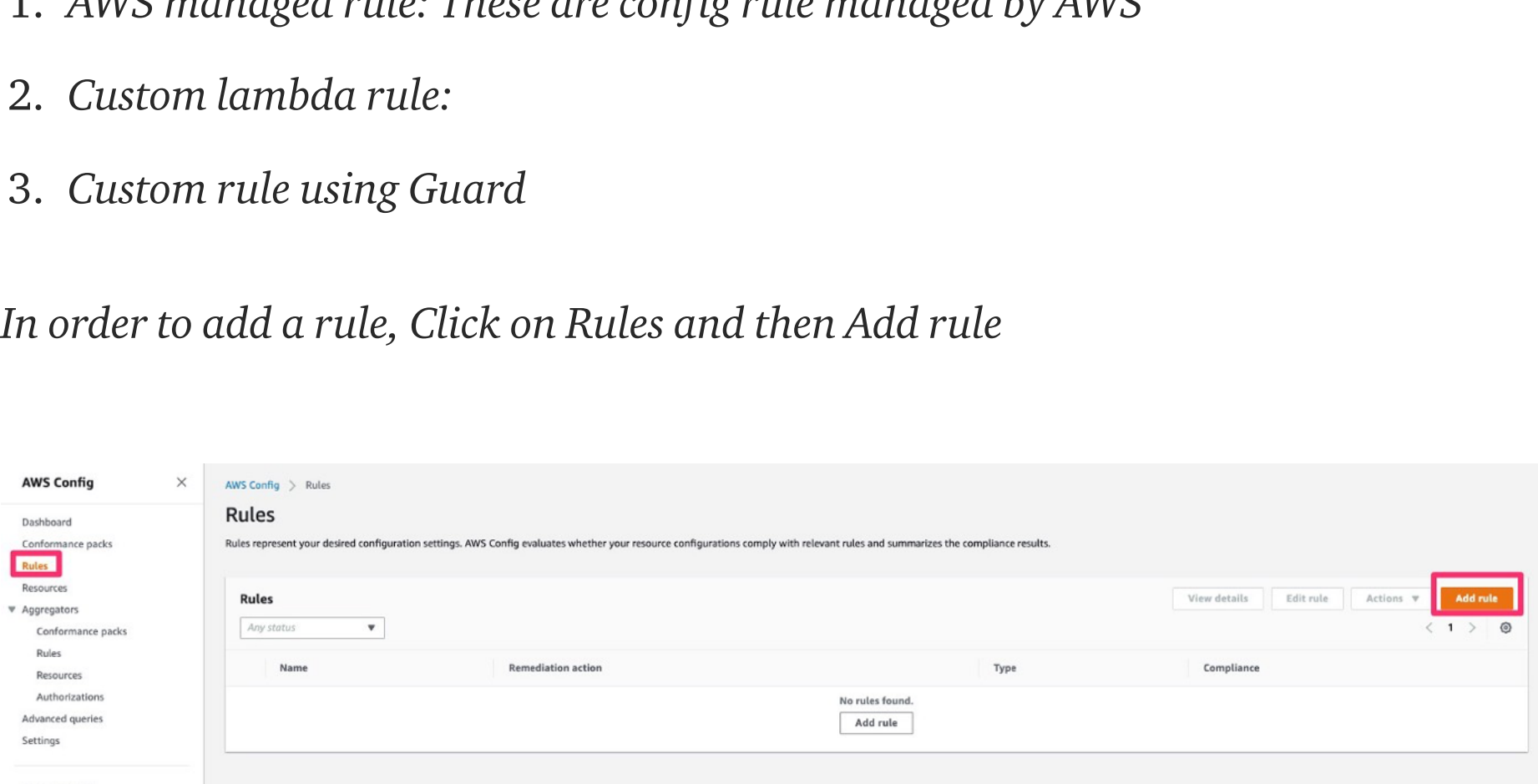
NOTE: AWS Config is a regional resource, so in case if you want to track resources in every region, you need to configure it in every AWS region. Please make Include Global Resource like IAM is only checked in one region otherwise you will get duplicate resources that is recorded and tracked within AWS config.

- Don't forget to subscribe an endpoint to an SNS topic <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/sns/latest/dg/sns-create-subscribe-endpoint-to-topic.html>
- After clicking all the details, select Next at the bottom of the screen.



* Skip AWS Managed Rules this for the time being

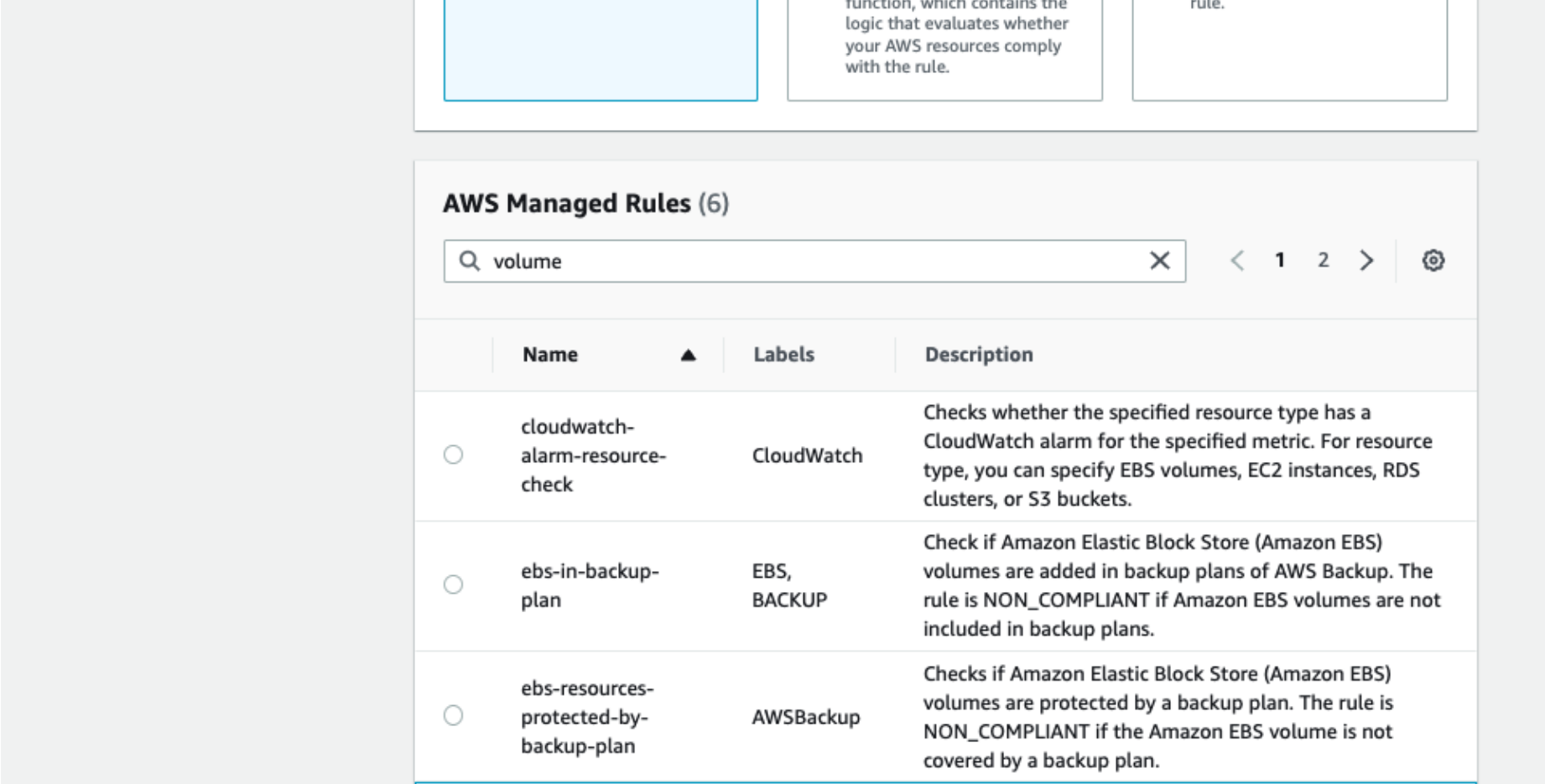
- On the Review screen click Confirm.
- You will see the AWS Config page like this



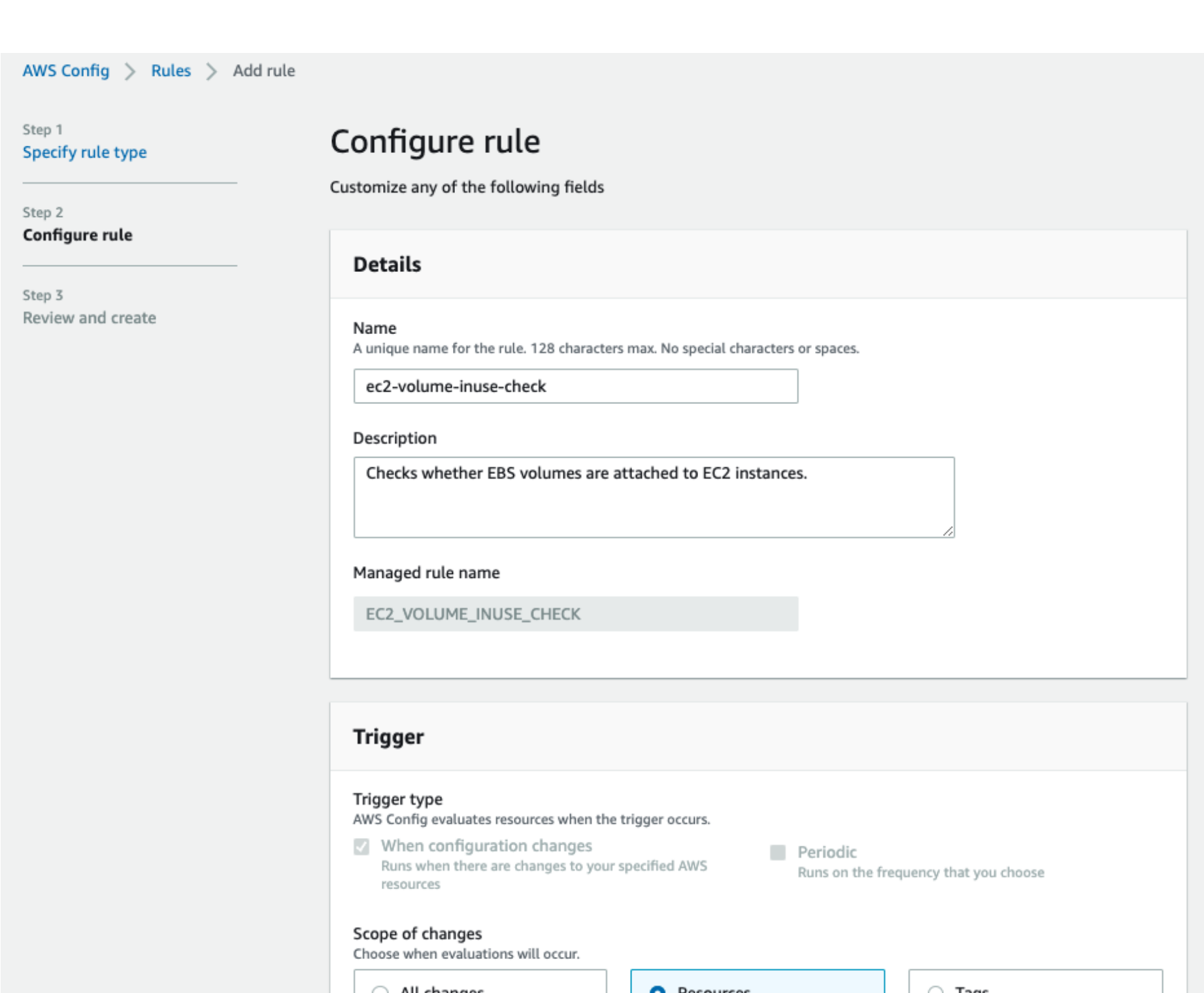
- In the last section we have skipped the Rules. Rules allow you to setup a rules that will then check a specific rule evaluation against your AWS resources to make sure it's at a desired configuration state. AWS config has two types of rules

- AWS managed rule: These are config rule managed by AWS
- Custom lambda rule:
- Custom rule using Guard

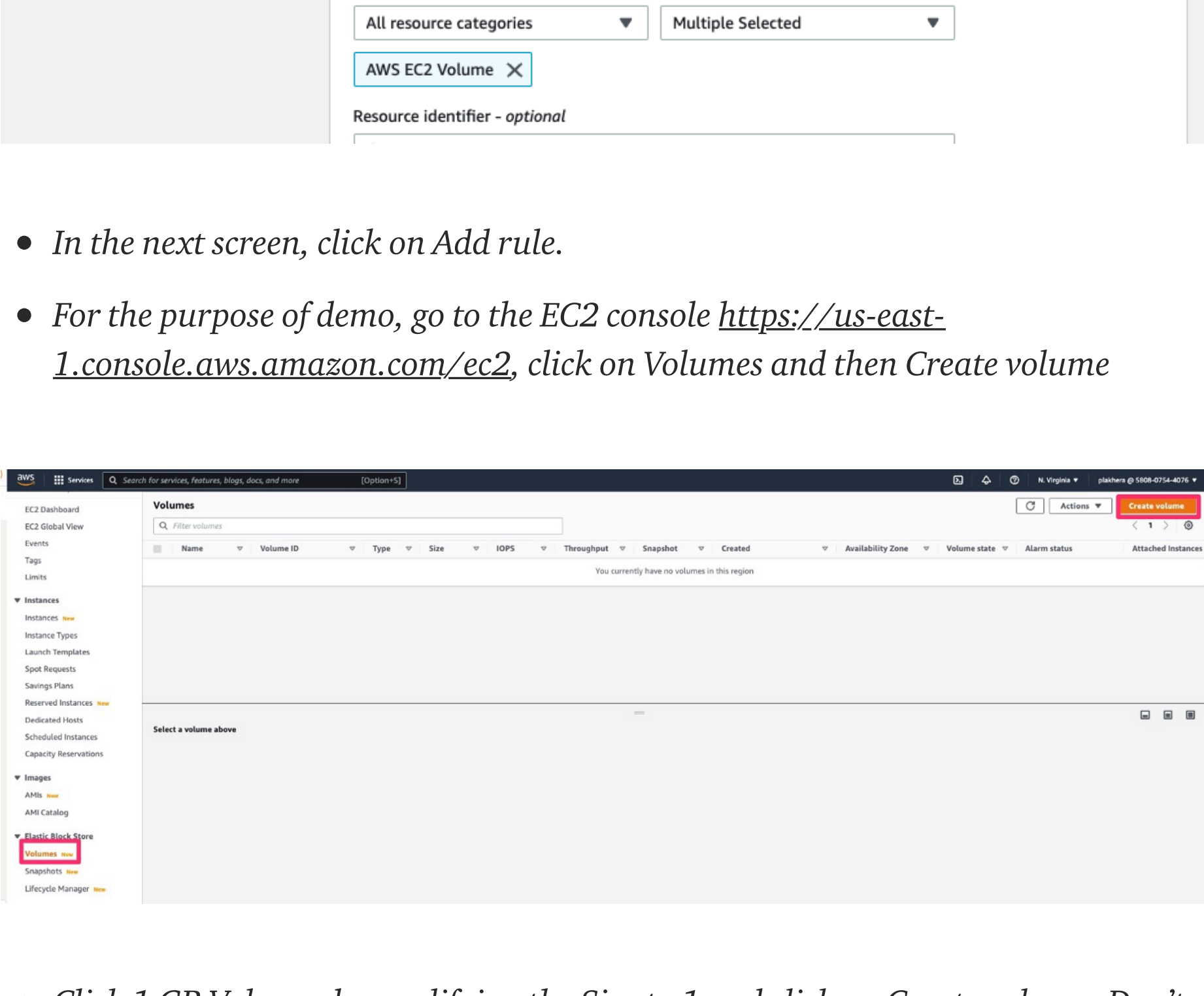
In order to add a rule, Click on Rules and then Add rule



- In the search bar search for volume and then select ec2-volume-in-use-check. This will check if EBS volumes are attached to EC2 instance. This is useful in cases to save cost and cleanup all the EC2 volume which is not attached to any EC2 instance(Just to be on the safer side in case of production environment, it's always a good idea to take the snapshot before cleaning up any volumes).

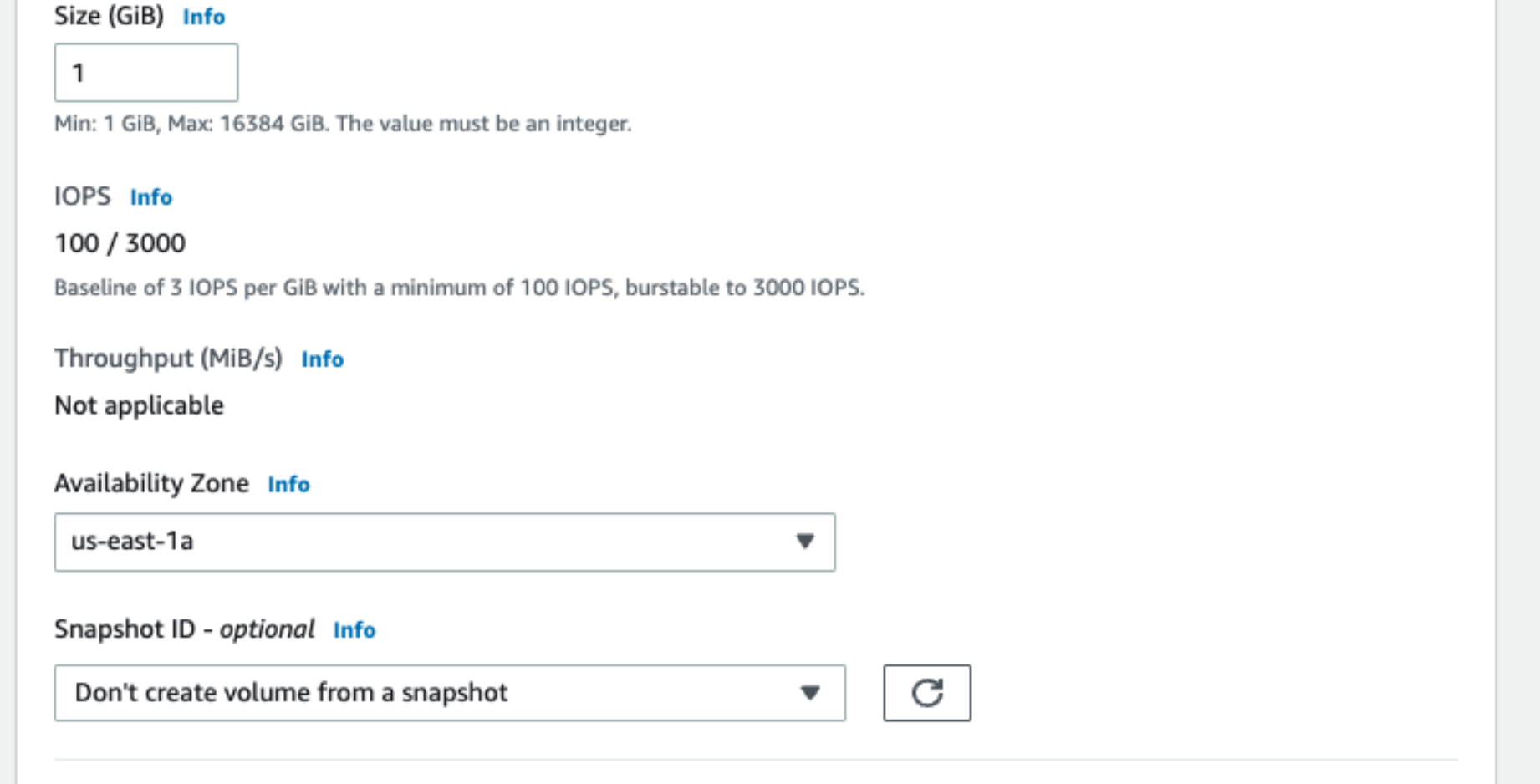


- Keep all the settings as default and click on Next at the bottom of the screen.

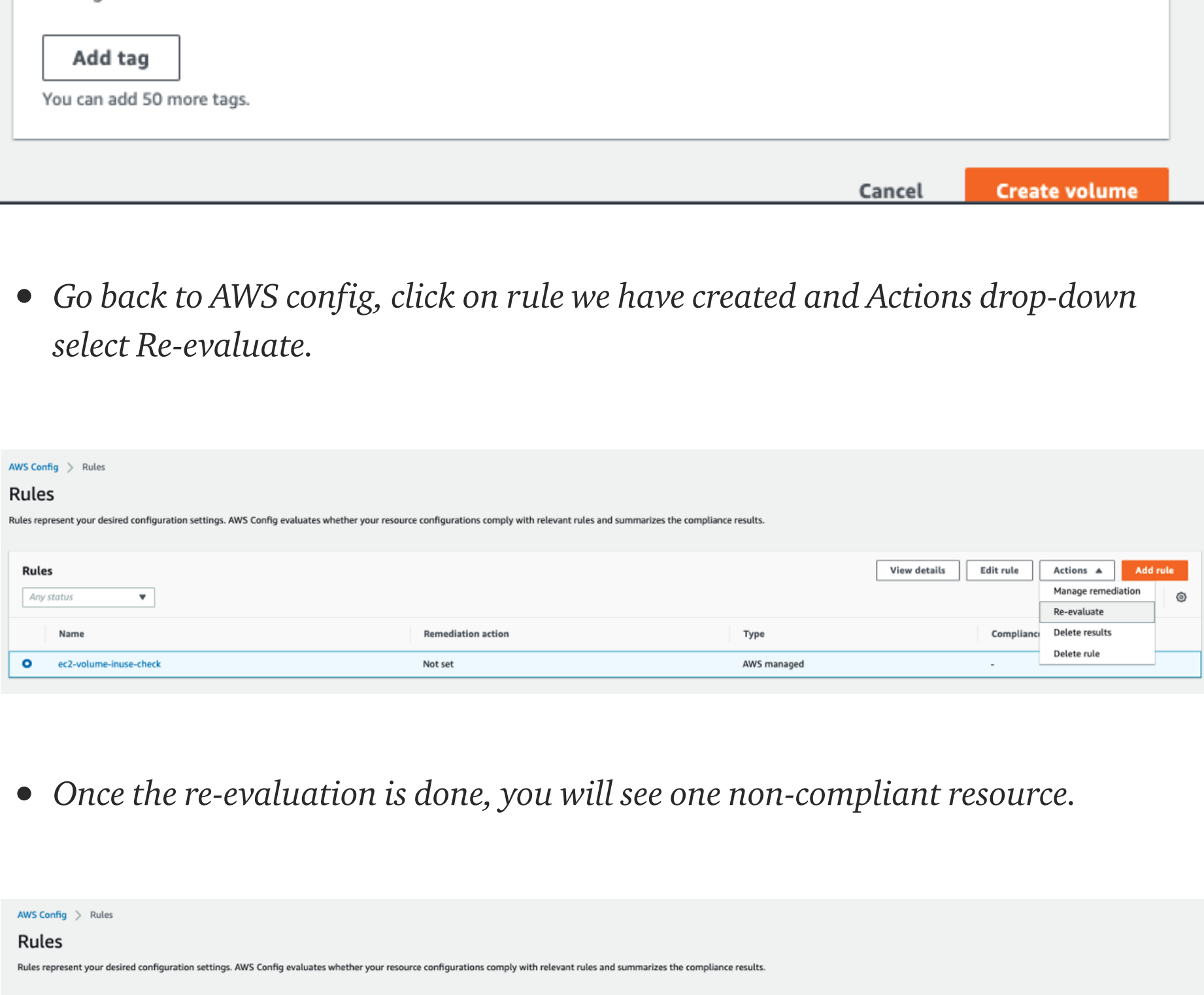


- In the next screen, click on Add rule.

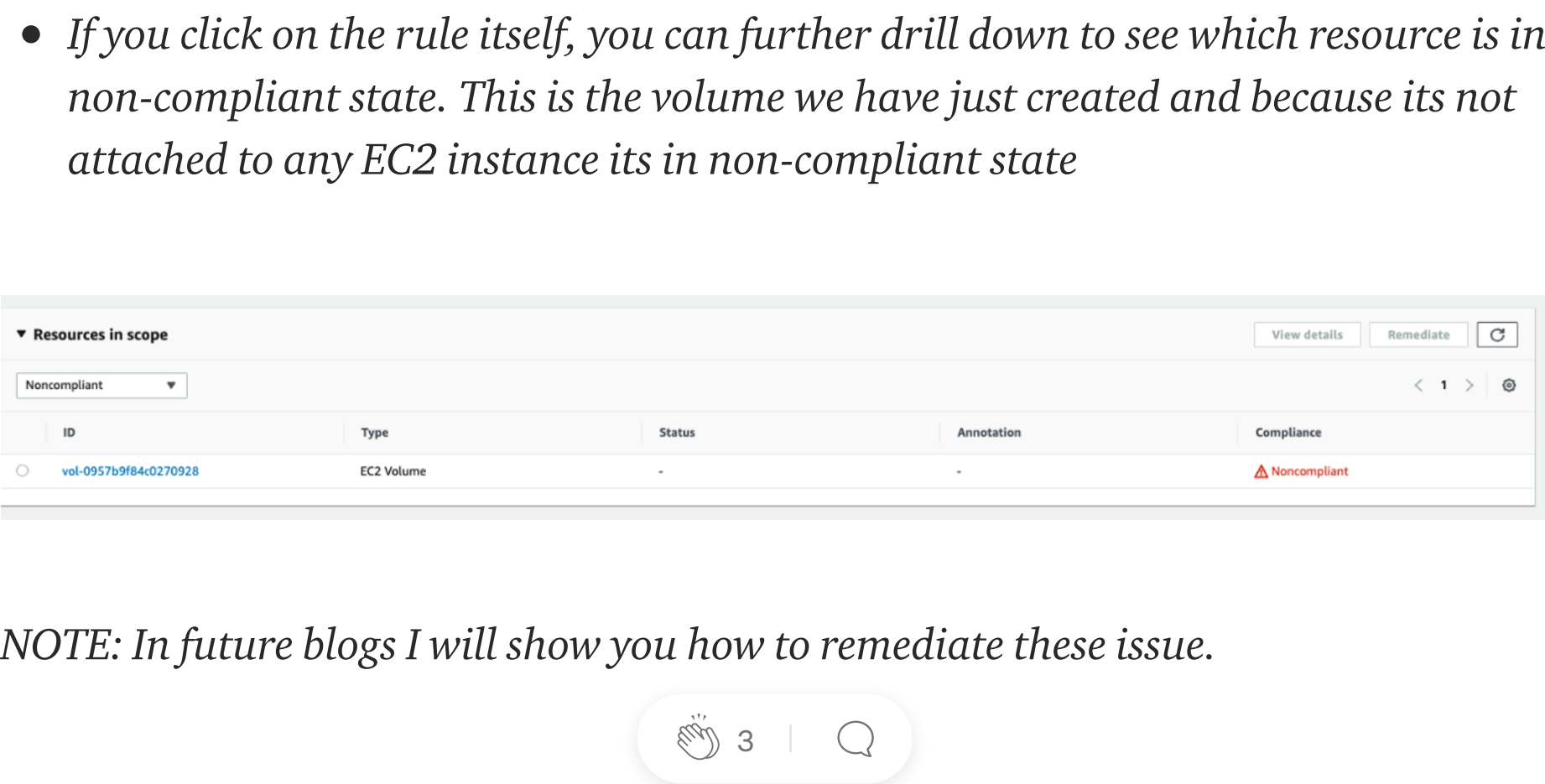
- For the purpose of demo, go to the EC2 console <https://us-east-1.console.aws.amazon.com/ec2>, click on Volumes and then Create volume



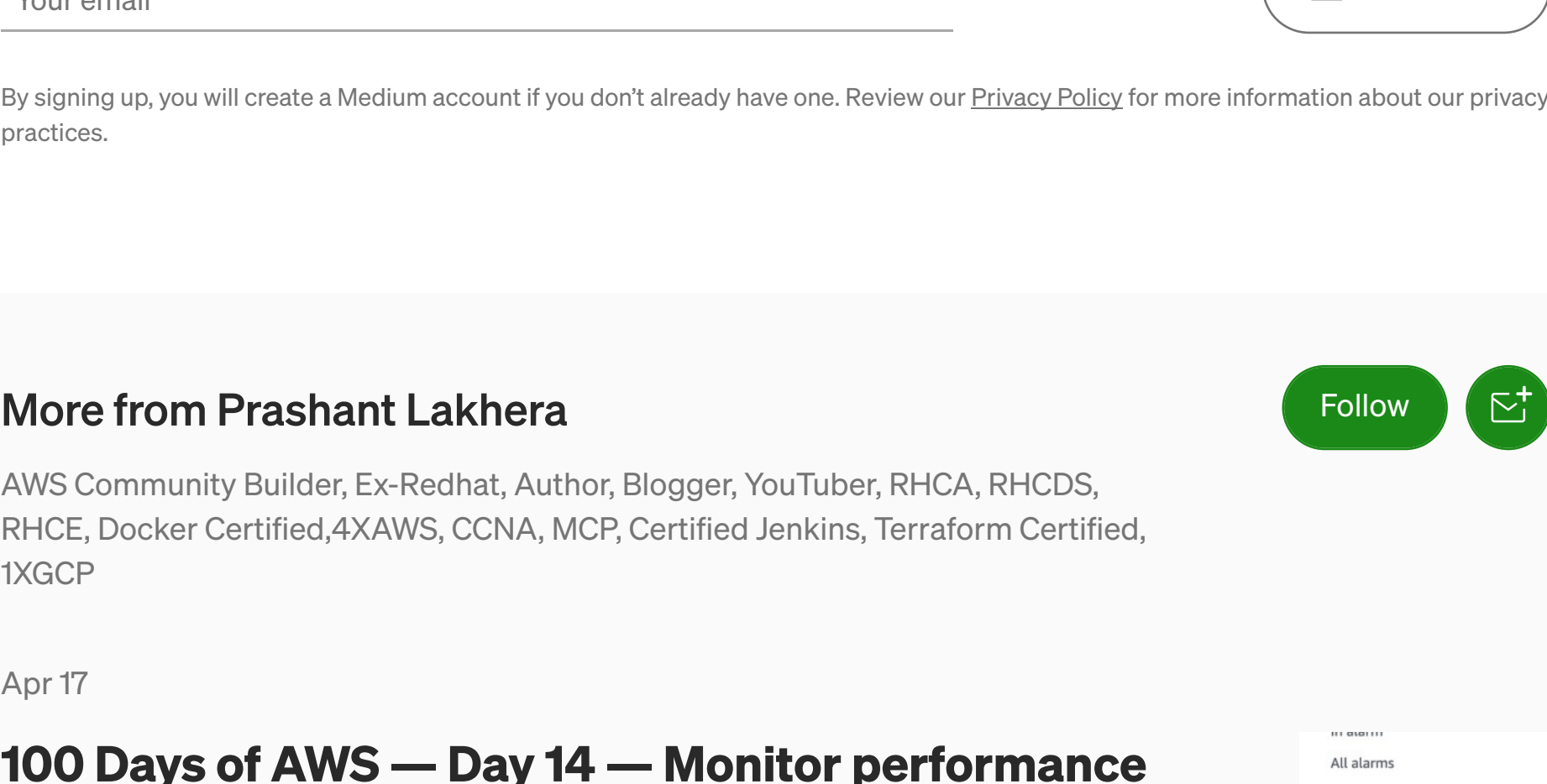
- Click 1 GB Volume, by modifying the Size to 1 and click on Create volume. Don't attach this volume to any instance.



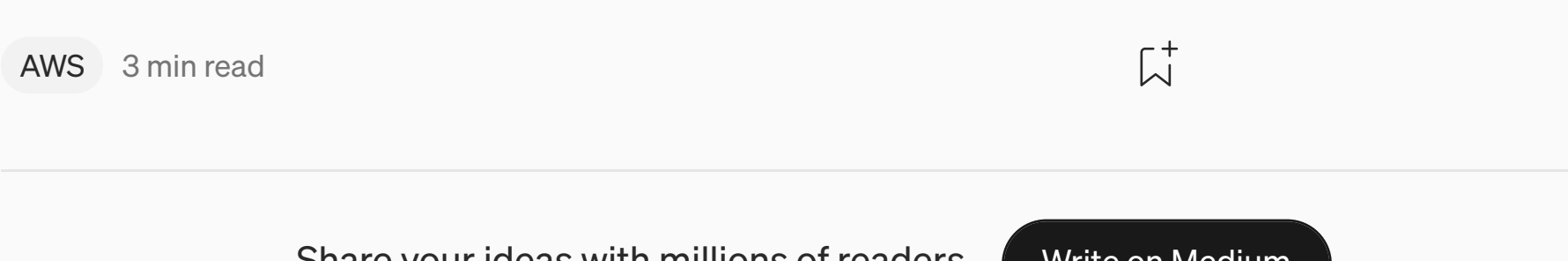
- Go back to AWS config, click on rule we have created and Actions drop-down select Re-evaluate.



- Once the re-evaluation is done, you will see one non-compliant resource.



NOTE: In future blogs I will show you how to remediate this issue.



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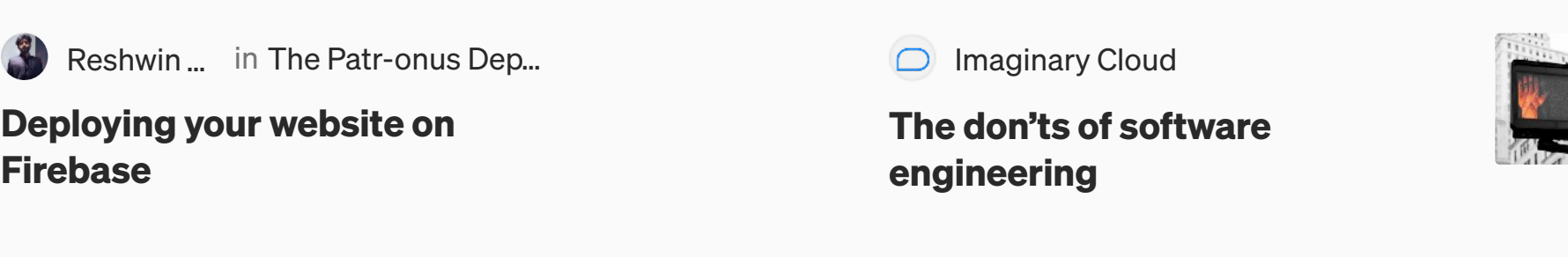
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Apr 17

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