

AWS EC2 Windows Instance setup:

1. Create an account with Amazon AWS.
2. Once logged in, proceed to EC2.
3. Once on the EC2 Management Console, to left will be the EC2 Dashboard navigation menu. Go to Instances.
4. Hit Launch Instance.
5. From the list of Amazon Machine Images (AMI), select Microsoft Window Server 2016 Base- 64-bit
6. Once on the next step, the default Instance Type will be automatically selected, however, you can always select the one that better suites your needs.
7. On Configure Instance Details, all default values are fine. Change them should there need a reason to. Move on to Add Storage.
8. All default settings on Add Storage are fine. Should there be a reason to change these, please do so. Move on to Add Tags
9. Tags are not an essential part of setup. They are more for organizational purposes. You may skip this section, or if you would like to know a bit more about their role, see documentation below:
https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/Using_Tags.html?icmpid=docs_ec2_console
10. Configure security group with the following rules:
 1. RDP (Remote Desktop)
 - Protocol: TCP
 - Port: 3389
 - Source: (your ip)
 - * Source can be anywhere, but it is recommended that it come from your ip.
 2. HTTP
 - Protocol: TCP
 - Port: 80
 - Source: Anywhere
 3. HTTPS
 - Protocol: TCP
 - Port: 80
 - Source: Anywhere
 4. SSH
 - Protocol: TCP
 - Port: 22
 - Source: Anywhere

*If you have previously created a security group, you may also use those as well.
11. Hit Launch and Review. Review all information then hit Launch.
12. Before your instance can be launched, a key pair needs to be selected/created. The public key is stored at AWS, the private key is stored in a .PEM file, which needs to be downloaded, and must be stored in a secure location. In Windows AMIs, the private key is required to obtain the login credentials into your instance via Remote Desktop. For Linux AMIs, the private key is used to SSH into your instance.
13. Hit Launch. If there are no issues, your instance will be generated and initiated.

Connecting to AWS EC2 Windows Instance

1. Log in to your AWS account.
2. Go to EC2
3. Go to Instances, on the left hand menu.
4. Select instance you want to connect to
5. Hit Connect, up at the top.
6. Download the RDP client provided by AWS.
7. Retrieve the password stored within the .PEM file associated with the chosen instance. To Retrieve the password, locate and upload the .PEM file and hit Decrypt Password.
8. Run the RDP client and enter the decrypted password, then hit OK.
9. Hit YES on the connect anyway? Prompt.

IMPORTANT!

It is vital that you not disconnect from, or shutdown when logging out. Doing so, may cause instance to stop running. It is recommended that you hit the 'X' at the top to exit the client. Upon doing so, you will be alerted that remote computer will continue to run. Hit YES.