

COS80001 - Cloud Engineering

Assignment 2: Deploying a Photo Album Web Application on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI)

Student Name: Arun Ragavendhar Arunachalam Palaniyappan

Student ID: 104837257

Tutorial Time: Friday – 04:30 PM to 06:30 PM

Tenancy Name: s104837257

Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	3
II. INFRASTRUCTURE SETUP	3
A. VCN and Subnet Configuration	3
B. Network Security Groups (NSGs)	6
C. Virtual Machine Instances	6
D. MySQL Database Setup	7
E. Security Lists	8
III. PHOTO ALBUM APPLICATION DEPLOYMENT	9
A. OCI Object Storage Bucket	9
B. Metadata Entry and Storage in MySQL DB	11
C. Web Application Setup	11
IV. TESTING AND VALIDATION	12
A. Ping Connectivity Between Web Server and Test Instance	12
B. Photo Album Website Access Test	12
C. phpMyAdmin Database Test	13
D. Object Storage Access Test	13
E. Website Restart and Reserved IP Persistence	13
V. CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS	13
VI. CONCLUSION	13
VII. REFERENCES	13
VIII. APPENDIX	14
A. Abbreviations	14
B. List of Figures	14

I. INTRODUCTION

This report explains how a photo album website was successfully deployed using Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI). This included setting up the entire cloud environment, securing the network, deploying a MySQL database, storing images in Object Storage, and running a PHP web app on a virtual machine. Tools used include VCN, subnets, routing, NSGs (Network Security Groups), Security Lists, Reserved Public IP, and phpMyAdmin.

Public URL of the Website: http://132.226.49.124/cos80001/photoalbum/album.php

IAM user has been created for tutor and private key - arunKeyPair

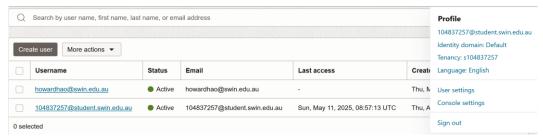


Figure 1: IAM user created for Tutor

II. INFRASTRUCTURE SETUP

The full infrastructure was built from scratch in OCI using a custom Virtual Cloud Network (VCN). The setup involved four subnets, two in each availability domain — public and private.

A. VCN and Subnet Configuration

A Virtual Cloud Network (VCN) named "ARagavendharVCN" was manually created in the us-ashburn-1 region with a CIDR block of 172.17.0.0/16. Within this VCN, four subnets were set up: Public Subnet 1 (172.17.1.0/24), Public Subnet 2 (172.17.2.0/24) for a web server /bastion host, Private Subnet 1 (172.17.3.0/24) intended for the MySQL database, and Private Subnet 2 (172.17.4.0/24) for the test instance. The two public subnets were connected to the internet using a public route table and an Internet Gateway, enabling internet access [1]. The private subnets were associated with a private route table with no internet connectivity.

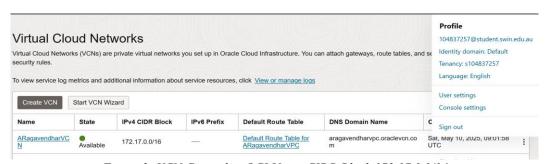


Figure 2: VCN Created in OCI Using CIDR Block 172.17.0.0/16

Create Subnet						Profile 104837257@student.swin.edu.au	
						Identity domain: Default Tenancy: s104837257	
Name	State	IPv4 CIDR Block	IPv6 Prefixes	Subnet Access	Created	Language: English	
Private Subnet 2	Available	172.17.4.0/24	_	Private (vMuY:US-ASHBURN-AD-2)	Sat, May	User settings	
Private Subnet 1	Available	172.17.3.0/24	_	Private (vMuY:US-ASHBURN-AD-1)	Sat, May	Console settings	
Public Subnet 2	Available	172.17.2.0/24	_	Public (vMuY:US-ASHBURN-AD-2)	Sat, May	Sign out	
Public Subnet 1	Available	172.17.1.0/24	_	Public (vMuY:US-ASHBURN-AD-1)	Sat, May	10, 2025, 09:54:15 UTC	
						Showing 4 items < 1 of 1 >	

Figure 3: The 4 subnets and their CIDRs and Availability Domains

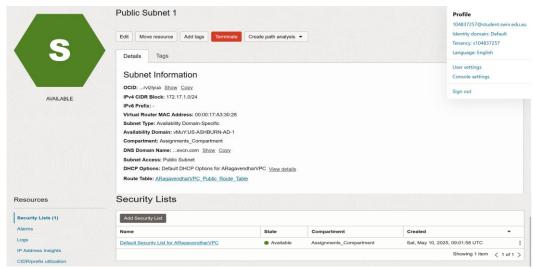


Figure 4: Public Subnet 1 configurations – associated route table and associated security list

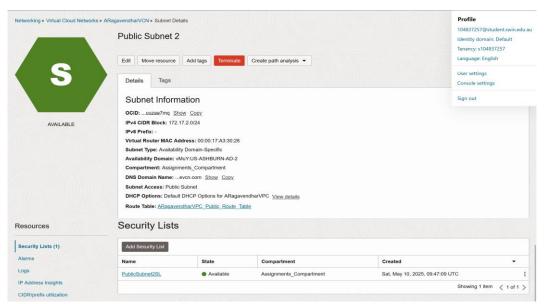


Figure 5: Public Subnet 2 configurations – associated route table and associated security list

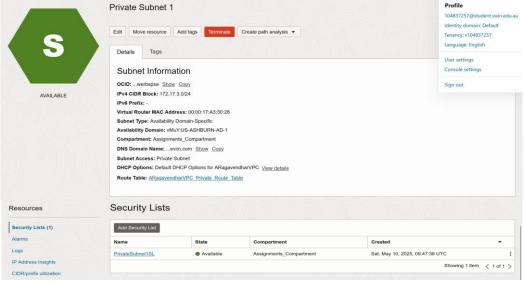


Figure 6: Private Subnet 1 configurations – associated route table and associated security list

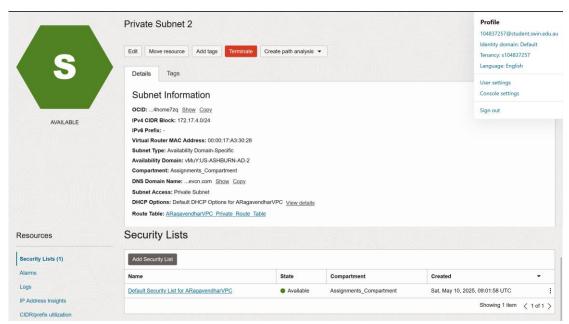


Figure 7: Private Subnet 2 configurations – associated route table and associated security list



Figure 8: The public route table attached to the internet gateway



Figure 9: The private route table with no internet access

B. Network Security Groups (NSGs)

Two Network Security Groups (NSGs) were configured for the VCN setup. The first, Web-tierNSG, permits HTTP (port 80) and SSH (port 22) traffic from any source, allows ICMP traffic from Private Subnet 2, and enables MySQL traffic from Private Subnet 1. The second, Test-InstanceNSG, allows all incoming traffic and ICMP egress specifically to the public subnet 2 [1].

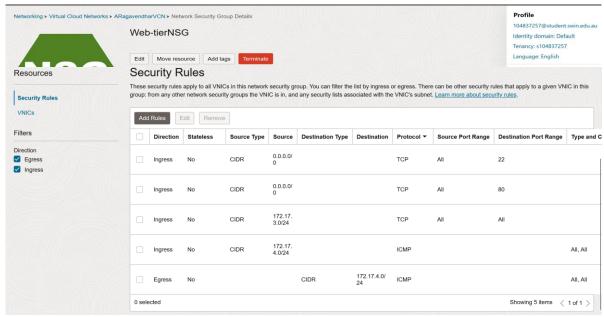


Figure 10: Web-tierNSG with Ingress (4 rules) and Egress (1 rule) Settings

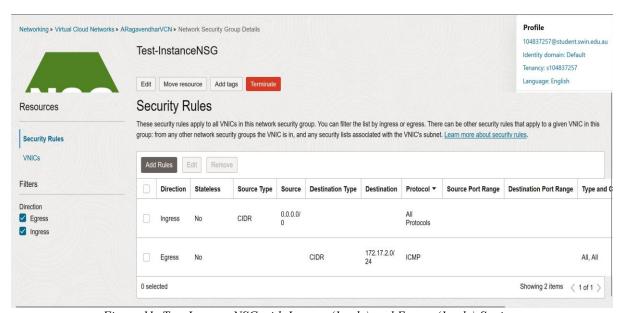


Figure 11: Test-InstanceNSG with Ingress (1 rule) and Egress (1 rule) Settings

C. Virtual Machine Instances

Two virtual machines were deployed within the VCN. The first was a Web Server/Bastion Host, launched in Public Subnet 2 using Oracle Linux 8 with the VM.Standard.E2.1 shape. It had Apache, PHP, and phpMyAdmin installed via a provided bash script. The second was a Test Instance, created in Private Subnet 2 without any public IP, ensuring it remained inaccessible from the internet. ICMP ping tests were successfully performed from the web server (acting as a bastion host) to the test instance to confirm internal connectivity [1]. Additionally, a Reserved Public IP was manually attached to the web server by first unassigning its default ephemeral IP and then assigning the reserved IP to ensure persistent external access [4].

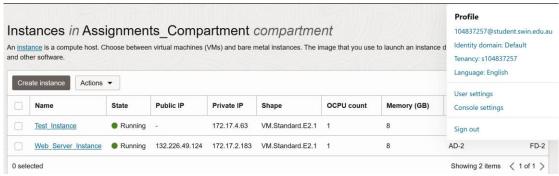


Figure 12: Web Server Instance and Test Instance



Figure 13: Reserved Public IP Setup for Web Server

```
user@cloudshell:~ (us-ashburn-1)$ cd .ssh
user@cloudshell:.ssh (us-ashburn-1)$ ssh -i arunKeyPair opc@132.226.49.124
Activate the web console with: systemctl enable --now cockpit.socket
Last login: Sun May 11 13:34:42 2025 from 129.213.201.220
[opc@web-server-instance ~]$ ping 172.17.4.63
PING 172.17.4.63 (172.17.4.63) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 172.17.4.63: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.443 ms
64 bytes from 172.17.4.63: icmp seg=2 ttl=64 time=0.393 ms
64 bytes from 172.17.4.63: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=0.461 ms
64 bytes from 172.17.4.63: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=0.405 ms
64 bytes from 172.17.4.63: icmp_seq=5 ttl=64 time=0.420 ms
64 bytes from 172.17.4.63: icmp_seq=6 ttl=64 time=0.366 ms
64 bytes from 172.17.4.63: icmp seq=7 ttl=64 time=0.398 ms
64 bytes from 172.17.4.63: icmp seq=8 ttl=64 time=0.448 ms
64 bytes from 172.17.4.63: icmp seq=9 ttl=64 time=0.451 ms
--- 172.17.4.63 ping statistics
9 packets transmitted, 9 received, 0% packet loss, time 8193ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.366/0.420/0.461/0.037 ms
[opc@web-server-instance ~]$ |
```

Figure 14: Successful Ping from Web Server Instance to Test Instance

D. MySQL Database Setup

A MySQL Database version 8.0.41 was launched using the MySQL2 shape with 50GB storage. Public access was disabled. phpMyAdmin was used to connect and manage the database [2]. A new database *photoalbum* was created with a table called *photosDB*, with the below columns.

- photo_title (VARCHAR)
- description (VARCHAR)
- creation date (DATE)
- keywords (VARCHAR)
- object_reference (VARCHAR)

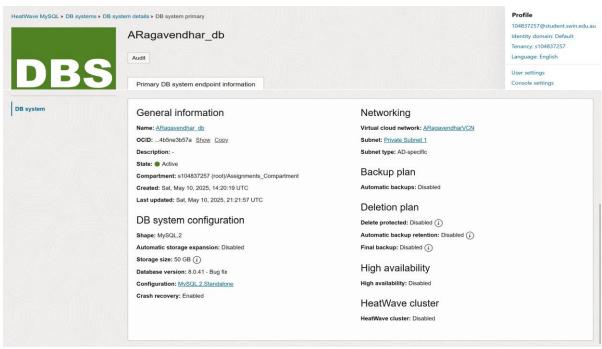


Figure 15: OCI MySQL Database Instance Configuration Settings



Figure 16: OCI MySQL Database Endpoints

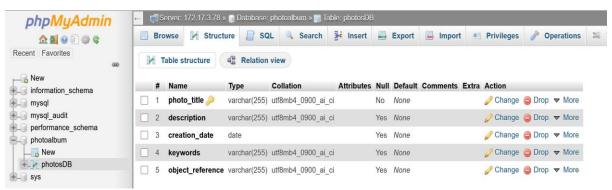


Figure 17: phpMyAdmin Showing Table Schema

E. Security Lists

Dedicated security lists were implemented to manage traffic flow to each subnet, following the principle of least privilege. The PublicSubnet2SL allowed SSH and HTTP access from any source, permitted ICMP traffic to the Test Instance subnet, and allowed traffic originating from the MySQL database subnet. The PrivateSubnet1SL, on the other hand, was configured to allow only traffic from the web server in the public subnet 2 specifically to the MySQL server, ensuring only strictly relevant communications were allowed [1,2].

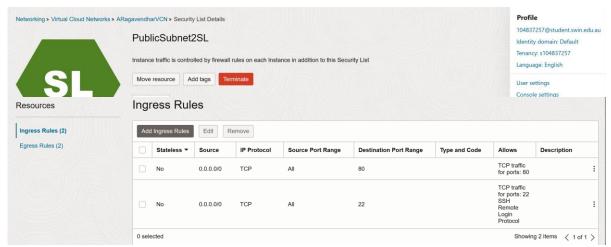


Figure 18: Ingress Rules for PublicSubnet2SL

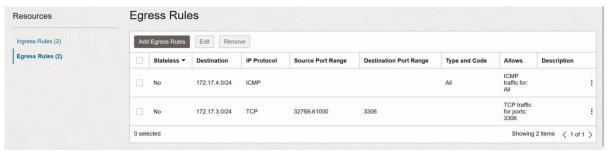


Figure 19: Egress Rules for PublicSubnet2SL

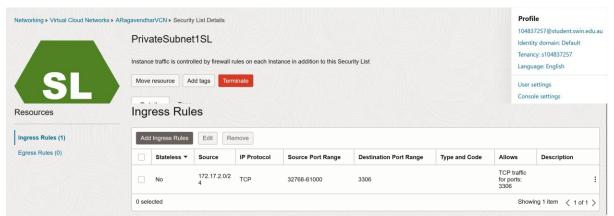


Figure 20: Ingress Rules for PrivateSubnet1SL

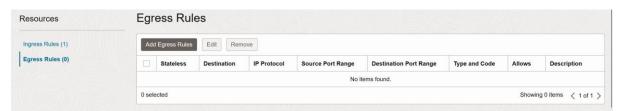


Figure 21: Egress Rules for PrivateSubnet1SL

III. PHOTO ALBUM APPLICATION DEPLOYMENT

A. OCI Object Storage Bucket

A bucket called *ARagavendhar_bucket* was created. Public access was enabled at the bucket level, not on individual objects. This was done by setting bucket visibility to public access from the management console.

Photos were uploaded using the console and the default URL links were opened and checked to verify objects creation [3].

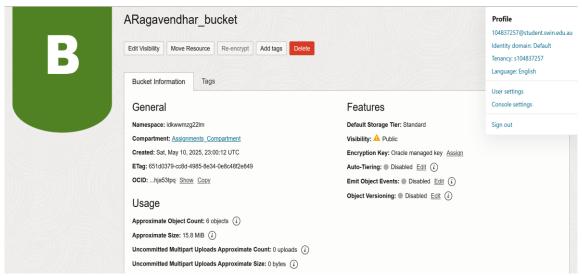


Figure 22: OCI Object Storage Bucket Settings – Public Visibility selected from console

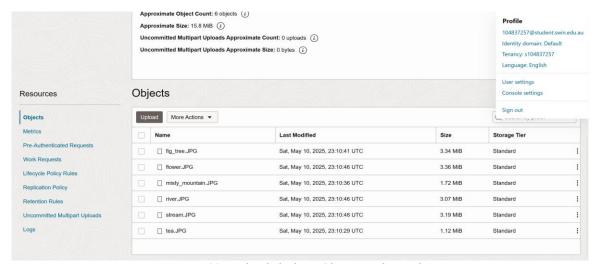


Figure 23: Uploaded Photo Objects in the Bucket

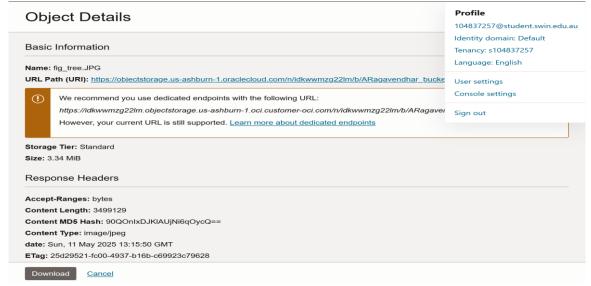


Figure 24: public access URL of fig tree object from the bucket

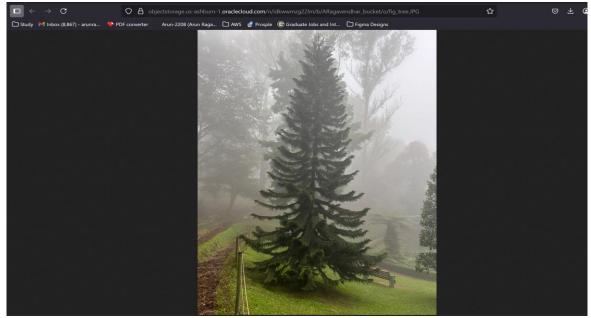


Figure 25: Public Access Confirmation via Object URL

B. Metadata Entry and Storage in MySQL DB

The metadata for each image was entered into the photosDB table in the database using phpMyAdmin. Each record included the object's individual default URL in the object_reference column.

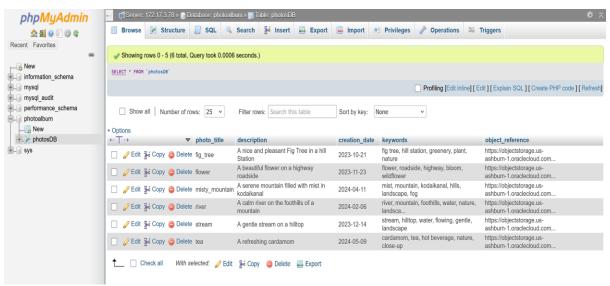


Figure 26: phpMyAdmin Showing Metadata Records in photosDB table

C. Web Application Setup

The provided photo album code was deployed in /var/www/html/cos80001/photoalbum/. The constants.php file was updated to reflect OCI database settings and column names. The application became accessible. Upon testing, the webpage successfully rendered uploaded images alongside metadata in a tabular form.

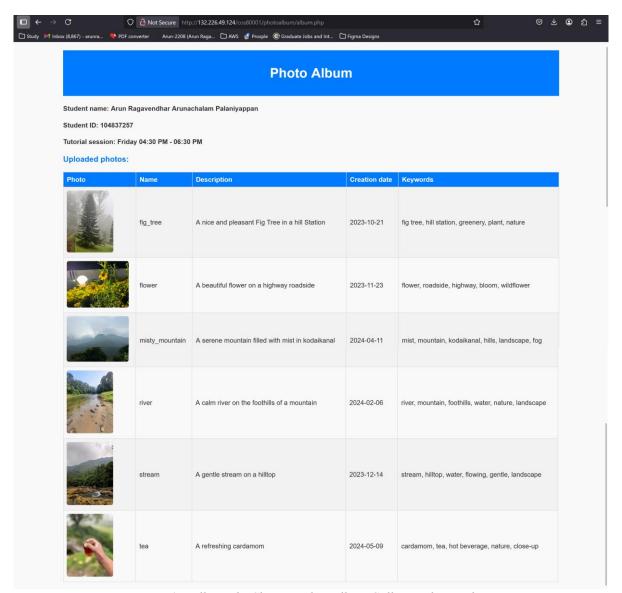


Figure 27: album.php Showing Photoalbum Gallery with Metadata

IV. TESTING AND VALIDATION

To verify that the deployed infrastructure and application met all functional and security requirements, a series of tests were conducted. The main objectives of validation were to ensure correct connectivity across subnets, proper public access to the website and object storage, and full application functionality.

A. Ping Connectivity Between Web Server and Test Instance

The web server (bastion host) in Public Subnet 2 was used to SSH into and run a successful ping command to the test instance located in Private Subnet 2. This confirmed internal connectivity between subnets and validated both the Network Security Group (NSG) and Security List (SL) configurations.

B. Photo Album Website Access Test

Multiple test images stored in the OCI Object Storage bucket were correctly displayed, with associated metadata loaded from the MySQL database. This confirmed the correct setup of the PHP application, successful database connection, and proper configuration of public bucket visibility.

URL: http://132.226.49.124/cos80001/photoalbum/album.php

C. phpMyAdmin Database Test

phpMyAdmin was used to view and manage the photosDB table. Manual insertions and updates were successful. Metadata was verified against live records shown on the album webpage, confirming database integrity and accessibility via the PHP backend.

D. Object Storage Access Test

All uploaded images were accessible through their public URLs directly from the Object Storage bucket, confirming the correct public visibility configuration at the bucket level and adherence to assignment guidelines.

E. Website Restart and Reserved IP Persistence

The web server was stopped and restarted multiple times to verify that the Reserved Public IP remained attached. The URL remained unchanged, confirming a persistent and stable endpoint as required.

V. CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

One challenge faced during deployment was the interaction between Network Security Groups (NSGs) and default Security Lists. Initially, the default Security Lists were still active and conflicted with the custom NSGs. This prevented NSG rules from being enforced properly. After removing all rules from the default Security Lists, the NSGs began working as expected. Another issue was with setting up the Reserved Public IP. The default setup assigned a temporary public IP that changed on each reboot. To resolve this, the default public IP was manually unassigned, and a Reserved Public IP was created and attached to the web server instance. This ensured a stable and persistent IP address that met the assignment requirements.

There were also difficulties accessing phpMyAdmin. Even though Apache and PHP were installed correctly, the php-mysql module was missing, causing the phpMyAdmin interface to fail. This was fixed by running 'sudo dnf install php-mysqlnd' and restarting the Apache server with 'sudo systemctl restart httpd'.Lastly, for Object Storage access, rather than applying permissions to each image or generating Pre-Authenticated Requests (PARs), the bucket's visibility was configured at the bucket level to allow public access. This enabled all uploaded photos to be accessed directly via their default public URLs, fulfilling the assignment's access requirements without additional configuration.

VI. CONCLUSION

A photo album website was successfully deployed using Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI). The deployment met all assignment objectives: a secure Virtual Cloud Network (VCN) was configured with properly structured public and private subnets; controlled internet access was established via an Internet Gateway; the provided PHP application was modified to store photo metadata in a MySQL database and retrieve images from an Object Storage bucket; the application was deployed and tested on a virtual machine running Apache; and an additional layer of security was implemented using a Network Security Group. Each service was integrated following OCI best practices, and the system functioned securely and reliably, demonstrating a clear understanding of cloud-based web deployment.

VII. REFERENCES

- [1] Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Documentation. (2024). Virtual Cloud Network (VCN). https://docs.oracle.com/en-us/iaas/Content/Network/Tasks/managingVCNs.htm
- [2] Oracle Cloud Infrastructure. (2024). Managing MySQL Databases on OCI. https://docs.oracle.com/en-us/iaas/mysql-database/doc/index.html
- [3] Oracle Cloud Infrastructure. (2024). Object Storage Overview. https://docs.oracle.com/en-us/iaas/Content/Object/Concepts/objectstorageoverview.htm
- [4] Oracle Cloud Infrastructure. (2024). Reserved Public IP Addresses.

VIII. APPENDIX

A. Abbreviations

OCI: Oracle Cloud Infrastructure VCN: Virtual Cloud Network

CIDR: Classless Inter-Domain Routing

NSG: Network Security Group

SL: Security List VM: Virtual Machine PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor

DD. Databasa

DB: Database

URL: Uniform Resource Locator

ICMP: Internet Control Message Protocol HTTP: HyperText Transfer Protocol

SSH: Secure Shell

PAR: Pre-Authenticated Request

B. List of Figures

Figure 1: IAM user created for Tutor

Figure 2: VCN Created in OCI Using CIDR Block 172.17.0.0/16 Figure 3: The 4 subnets and their CIDRs and Availability Domains

Figure 4: Public Subnet 1 configurations – associated route table and security list Figure 5: Public Subnet 2 configurations – associated route table and security list

Figure 6: Private Subnet 1 configurations – associated route table and security list Figure 7: Private Subnet 2 configurations – associated route table and security list

Figure 8: The public route table attached to the internet gateway

Figure 9: The private route table with no internet access

Figure 10: Web-tierNSG with Ingress (4 rules) and Egress (1 rule) Settings

Figure 11: Test-InstanceNSG with Ingress (1 rule) and Egress (1 rule) Settings Figure 12: Web Server Instance and Test Instance

Figure 13: Reserved Public IP Setup for Web Server

Figure 14: Successful Ping from Web_Server_Instance to Test_Instance

Figure 15: OCI MySQL Database Instance Configuration Settings

Figure 16: OCI MySQL Database Endpoints

Figure 17: phpMyAdmin Showing Table Schema

Figure 18: Ingress Rules for PublicSubnet2SL

Figure 19: Egress Rules for PublicSubnet2SL

Figure 20: Ingress Rules for PrivateSubnet1SL

Figure 21: Egress Rules for PrivateSubnet1SL

Figure 22: OCI Object Storage Bucket Settings – Public Visibility selected from console

Figure 23: Uploaded Photo Objects in the Bucket

Figure 24: Public access URL of fig tree object from the bucket

Figure 25: Public Access Confirmation via Object URL

Figure 26: phpMyAdmin Showing Metadata Records in photosDB table

Figure 27: album.php Showing Photoalbum Gallery with Metadata