

Project: Deploying a Scalable AWS Architecture with Infrastructure as Code (100 points)

Objective

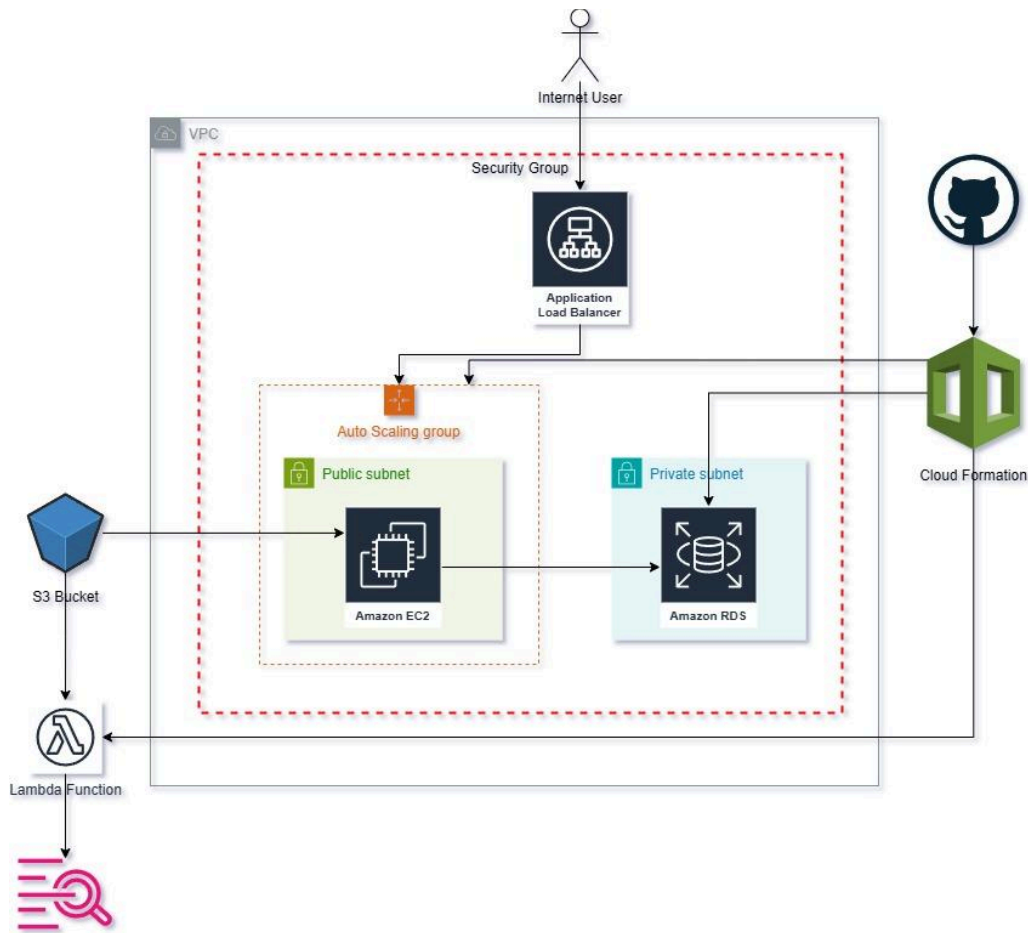
Students will **design, implement, and test** a cloud-based architecture on AWS using EC2, VPC, a database, S3, Lambda, and CloudFormation. They will interact with AWS services through the **AWS console, CLI, and Python Boto3**, use **Terraform** for Infrastructure as Code (IaC), and push their project scripts to **GitHub**.

Project Requirements

1. Design an AWS Architecture

Students must design and **draw an architecture diagram** for their cloud application, which should include:

- **AWS VPC** with at least two subnets (public and private).
- **AWS EC2** instances behind an **Application Load Balancer (ALB)**.
- **Relational database** (RDS or MySQL/PostgreSQL on EC2).
- **S3 bucket** for storing files (e.g., logs, backups, static content).
- **AWS Lambda** to log S3 file uploads to **CloudWatch Logs**.
- **Autoscaling** for the web server layer.
- **AWS CloudFormation** to deploy infrastructure.
- **Security Group** configurations to control network access.
- **GitHub integration** for version control.



The provided architecture diagram depicts a secure and scalable cloud environment on AWS with Infrastructure as Code via AWS CloudFormation, version controlled via GitHub. At the center of this architecture is a Virtual Private Cloud (VPC), which provides a logically isolated network environment. In the VPC, two subnets are configured: a public subnet hosting internet-facing components like EC2 instances and an Application Load Balancer (ALB) and a private subnet hosting the Amazon RDS database securely.

The Application Load Balancer is where incoming traffic from internet users comes in. It is protected by a security group that filters traffic and allows only necessary ports such as HTTP (port 80) or HTTPS (port 443). The ALB directs incoming requests to EC2 instances running in an Auto Scaling Group within the public subnet. This auto-scaling setup offers high availability and handles varying levels of traffic by dynamically scaling the EC2 instances.

These EC2 instances run a web application (e.g., an application showing the weather) and are configured to talk securely to the RDS database in the private subnet. This

separation keeps sensitive data in the database from being accessed by the public internet. Beyond this setup, the static files such as backups, logs, or media content are placed in an S3 bucket. A Lambda function is configured to trigger automatically on any file upload to the S3 bucket, logging the event details to CloudWatch Logs for auditing and monitoring.

Overall, the infrastructure is version controlled and automated. CloudFormation templates do provisioning and deployment of AWS resources, while GitHub contains project source code, templates, and documentation. The architecture is secure, operationally efficient, and scalable and aligns with cloud-native best practices.

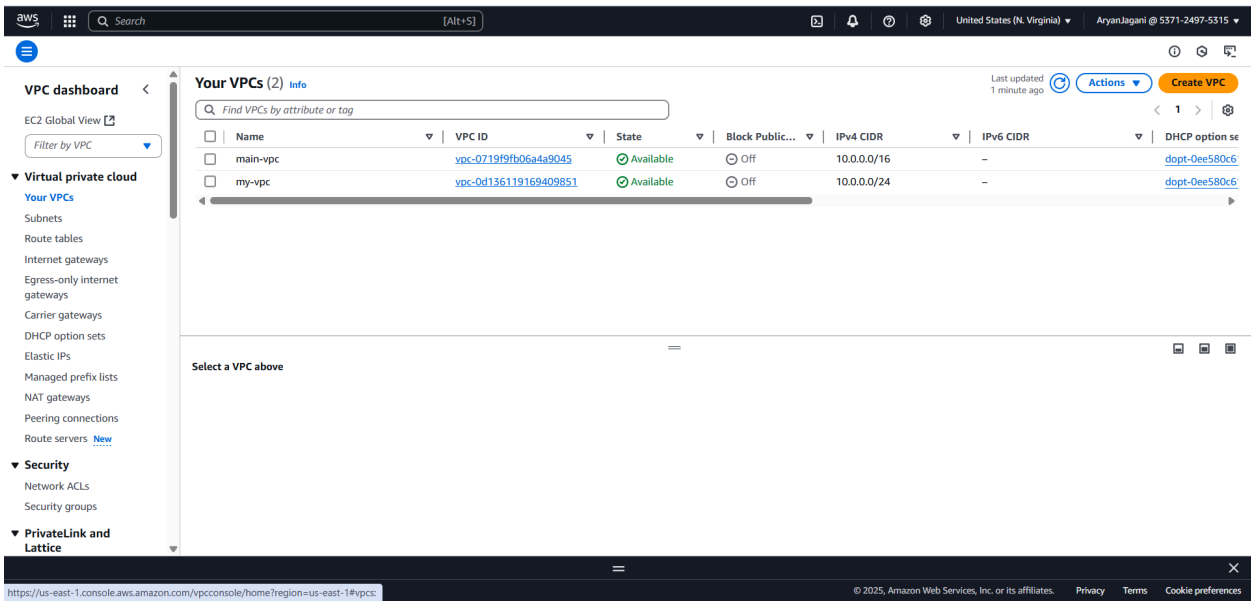
2. Implementation

A. Infrastructure Deployment

main.tf

- **Use Terraform** to create networking components (VPC, subnets, security groups).

Vpc-



Subnet-

Subnets (2) Info

Find subnets by attribute or tag

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Subnet ID	State	VPC	Block Public...	IPv4 CIDR	IPv6 CIDR
<input type="checkbox"/>	public-subnet	subnet-01d10ed374167a279	Available	vpc-0719f9fb06a4a9045 main...	Off	10.0.1.0/24	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	private-subnet	subnet-0477a2c09218dbabb	Available	vpc-0719f9fb06a4a9045 main...	Off	10.0.2.0/24	-

Select a subnet

Security group-

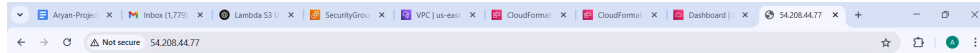
Security Groups (2) Info

Find security groups by attribute or tag

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Security group ID	Security group name	VPC ID	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	sg-054add3d9feca1081	default	vpc-04136119169409851	default VPC security group
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	sg-095eff10b4cc5311d	default	vpc-0719f9fb06a4a9045	default VPC security group

Select a security group

- **Use CloudFormation** to deploy EC2 instances, RDS, and Lambda functions.
 - 1) EC2-



Hello from EC2 via CloudFormation

```
ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-108:~$ curl https://aws.amazon.com/linux/amazon-linux-2023
Hello from EC2 via CloudFormation

[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-108 ~]$ sudo systemctl status httpd
● httpd.service - The Apache HTTP Server
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/httpd.service; enabled; preset: disabled)
   Active: active (running) since Fri 2025-05-16 00:36:48 UTC; 5min ago
     Docs: man:httpd.service(8)
   Main PID: 3311 (httpd)
   Status: "Total requests: 0; Idle/Busy workers 100/0;Requests/sec: 0; Bytes served/sec:  0 B/sec"
    Tasks: 177 (limit: 1111)
   Memory: 13.0M
      CPU: 272ms
   CGroup: /system.slice/httpd.service
           └─3311 /usr/sbin/httpd -DFOREGROUND
             └─3456 /usr/sbin/httpd -DFOREGROUND
               └─3458 /usr/sbin/httpd -DFOREGROUND
                 └─3459 /usr/sbin/httpd -DFOREGROUND
                   └─3460 /usr/sbin/httpd -DFOREGROUND

May 16 00:36:48 ip-10-0-0-108.ec2.internal systemd[1]: Starting httpd.service - The Apache HTTP Server...
May 16 00:36:48 ip-10-0-0-108.ec2.internal systemd[1]: Started httpd.service - The Apache HTTP Server.
May 16 00:36:48 ip-10-0-0-108.ec2.internal httpd[3311]: Server configured, listening on: port 80
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-108 ~]$ curl localhost
<h1>Hello from EC2 via CloudFormation</h1>
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-108 ~]$
```

2) RDS

AWS CloudFormation - Stacks (2)

Stacks: Stack details, Drifts, StackSets, Exports

Infrastructure Composer: IaC generator

Hooks overview: Hooks

▼ Registry: Public extensions, Activated extensions, Publisher

Spotlight

Feedback

Stacks (2)

Filter status: Active

View nested: 1

Stacks:

- rdscf: 2025-05-15 21:01:14 UTC-0400, CREATE_COMPLETE
- ec2cf: 2025-05-15 20:36:03 UTC-0400, CREATE_COMPLETE

rdscf

Stack info | Events | Resources | Outputs | Parameters | Template | Change sets | Git sync

Events (8)

Timestamp	Logical ID	Status	Detailed status	Status reason
2025-05-15 21:05:00 UTC-0400	rdscf	CREATE_COMPLETE	-	-
2025-05-15 21:04:59 UTC-0400	MyDBInstance	CREATE_COMPLETE	-	-
2025-05-15 21:01:21 UTC-0400	MyDBInstance	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	-	Resource creation Initiated
2025-05-15 21:01:20 UTC-0400	MyDBInstance	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	-	-
2025-05-15 21:01:20 UTC-0400	DBSubnetGroup	CREATE_COMPLETE	-	-
2025-05-15 21:01:17 UTC-0400	DBSubnetGroup	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	-	Resource creation Initiated
2025-05-15 21:01:16 UTC-0400	DBSubnetGroup	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	-	-
2025-05-15 21:01:14 UTC-0400	rdscf	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	-	User Initiated

AWS Aurora and RDS - Databases

Aurora and RDS: Dashboard, Databases, Query editor, Performance insights, Snapshots, Exports in Amazon S3, Automated backups, Reserved instances, Proxies

Subnet groups, Parameter groups, Option groups, Custom engine versions, Zero-ETL integrations, New

Events, Event subscriptions

Recommendations: Certificate update

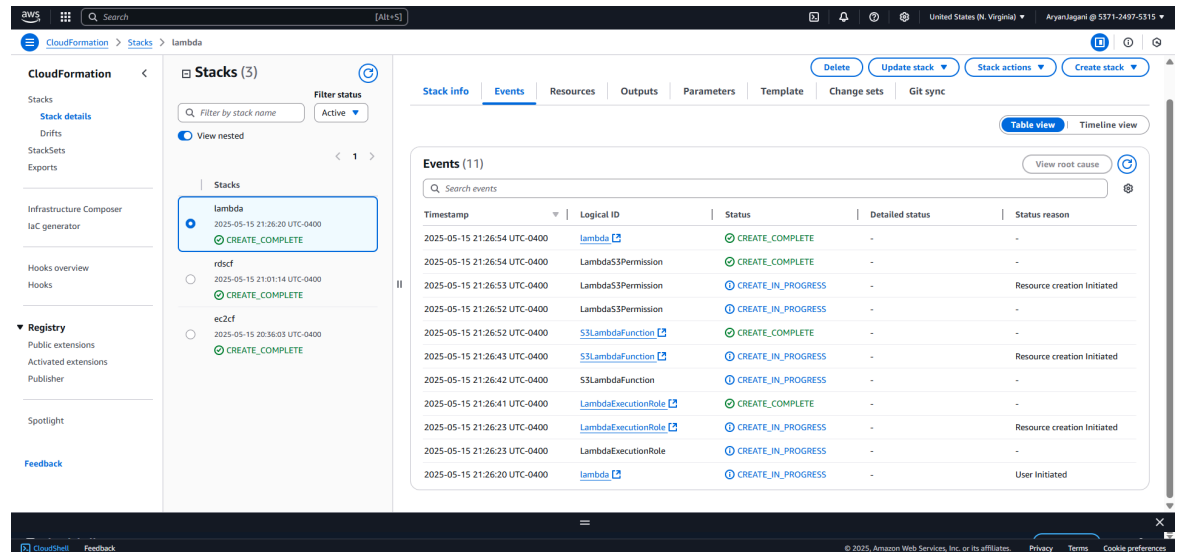
Databases (1)

Filter by databases

Group resources: Modify, Actions, Create database

DB Identifier	Status	Role	Engine	Region	Size	Recommendations	CPU	Current activity	Mal
mydb	Available	Instance	MySQL Co...	us-east-1b	db.t3.micro		0.00%	0 Connections	non

3) lambda



- Deploy a web application on EC2 (can be a simple HTML page).

1. EC2 Instance Setup

- **Instance Type:** t2.micro (Free Tier)
- **AMI:** Amazon Linux 2023
- **Public IP:** 44.200.34.241
- **Key Pair:** my_key.pem
- **Subnet:** Public (project-subnet-public1-us-east-1a)
- **Security Group:**
 - SSH (port 22) — 0.0.0.0/0
 - HTTP (port 80) — 0.0.0.0/0

2. Apache Web Server Installation

sudo yum update -y

sudo yum install -y httpd

sudo systemctl start httpd

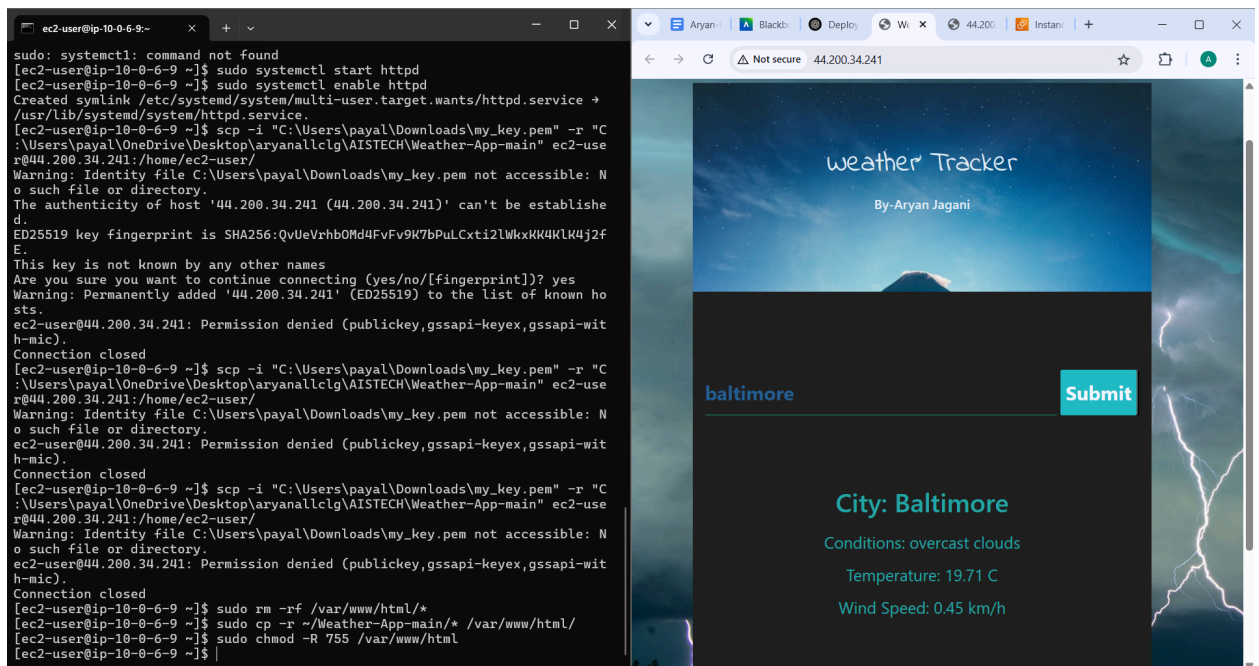
sudo systemctl enable httpd

3. SCP Upload Command (from Git Bash)

```
scp -i "/c/Users/payal/Downloads/my_key.pem" -r  
"/c/Users/payal/OneDrive/Desktop/aryanallclg/AISTECH/Weather-App-main"  
ec2-user@44.200.34.241:/home/ec2-user/
```

4. Deploying to Apache Root

```
sudo rm -rf /var/www/html/*  
  
sudo cp -r ~/Weather-App-main/* /var/www/html/  
  
sudo chmod -R 755 /var/www/html
```



- **Configure the database for the web application.**

1. MySQL Client Installation (on EC2)

```
sudo dnf install -y mariadb105
```


2. RDS Connection from EC2

```
mysql -h weatherapp-db.co3soywkaicy.us-east-1.rds.amazonaws.com -u admin -p
```

3. Database and Table Creation

```
CREATE DATABASE weatherapp;  
USE weatherapp;
```

```
CREATE TABLE weather_reports (  
  id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,  
  city VARCHAR(100),  
  temperature FLOAT,  
  `condition` VARCHAR(50),  
  report_time DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP  
);
```

```
INSERT INTO weather_reports (city, temperature, `condition`)  
VALUES ('Baltimore', 23.5, 'Sunny');
```

```
SELECT * FROM weather_reports;
```

```

MySQL [weatherapp]> CREATE TABLE weather_reports (
  ->   id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
  ->   city VARCHAR(100),
  ->   temperature FLOAT,
  ->   condition VARCHAR(50),
  ->   report_time DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
  -> );
ERROR 1064 (42000): You have an error in your SQL syntax; check the manual t
hat corresponds to your MySQL server version for the right syntax to use nea
r 'condition VARCHAR(50),
  report_time DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
)' at line 5
MySQL [weatherapp]> CREATE TABLE weather_reports ( id INT AUTO_INCREMENT P
RIMARY KEY, city VARCHAR(100), temperature FLOAT, condition VARCHAR(50
);
ERROR 1064 (42000): You have an error in your SQL syntax; check the manual t
hat corresponds to your MySQL server version for the right syntax to use nea
r 'condition VARCHAR(50)' at line 1
MySQL [weatherapp]> CREATE TABLE weather_reports (
  ->   id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
  ->   city VARCHAR(100),
  ->   temperature FLOAT,
  ->   `condition` VARCHAR(50),
  ->   report_time DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
  -> );
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.056 sec)

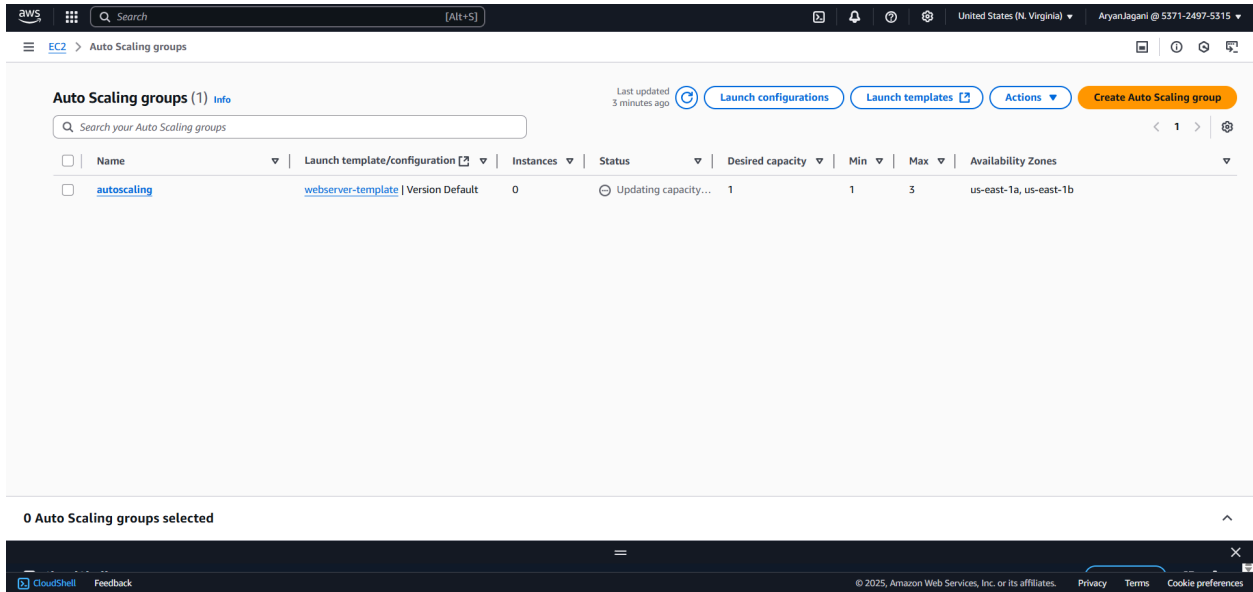
MySQL [weatherapp]> INSERT INTO weather_reports (city, temperature, `conditi
on`)
  -> VALUES ('Baltimore', 23.5, 'Sunny');
Query OK, 1 row affected (0.007 sec)

MySQL [weatherapp]> SELECT * FROM weather_reports;
+----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| id | city      | temperature | condition | report_time      |
+----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1  | Baltimore | 23.5       | Sunny    | 2025-05-15 04:31:26 |
+----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
1 row in set (0.002 sec)

MySQL [weatherapp]>

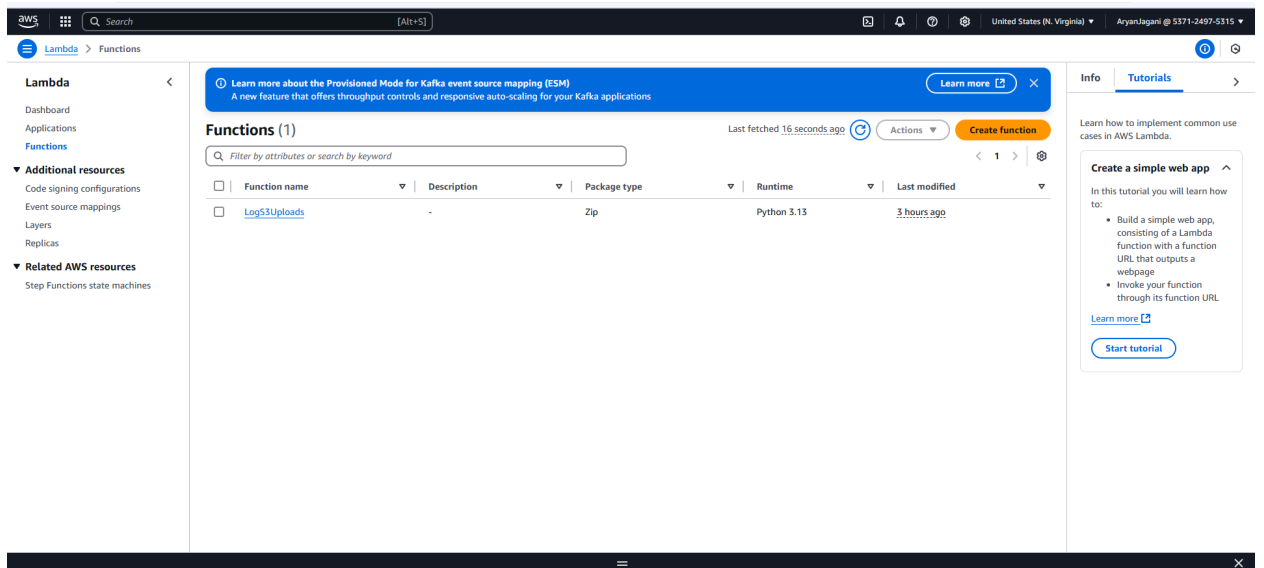
```

- **Implement autoscaling** to manage web server load.



B. AWS Lambda for Logging S3 Uploads

- Create an AWS Lambda function that logs S3 file uploads to CloudWatch Logs.
- Use the following Python script for the Lambda function:



```
import json
import boto3
import logging
```

```

# Set up logging
logger = logging.getLogger()
logger.setLevel(logging.INFO)

def lambda_handler(event, context):
    try:
        # Extract bucket name and object key from the event
        bucket_name = event['Records'][0]['s3']['bucket']['name']
        object_key = event['Records'][0]['s3']['object']['key']

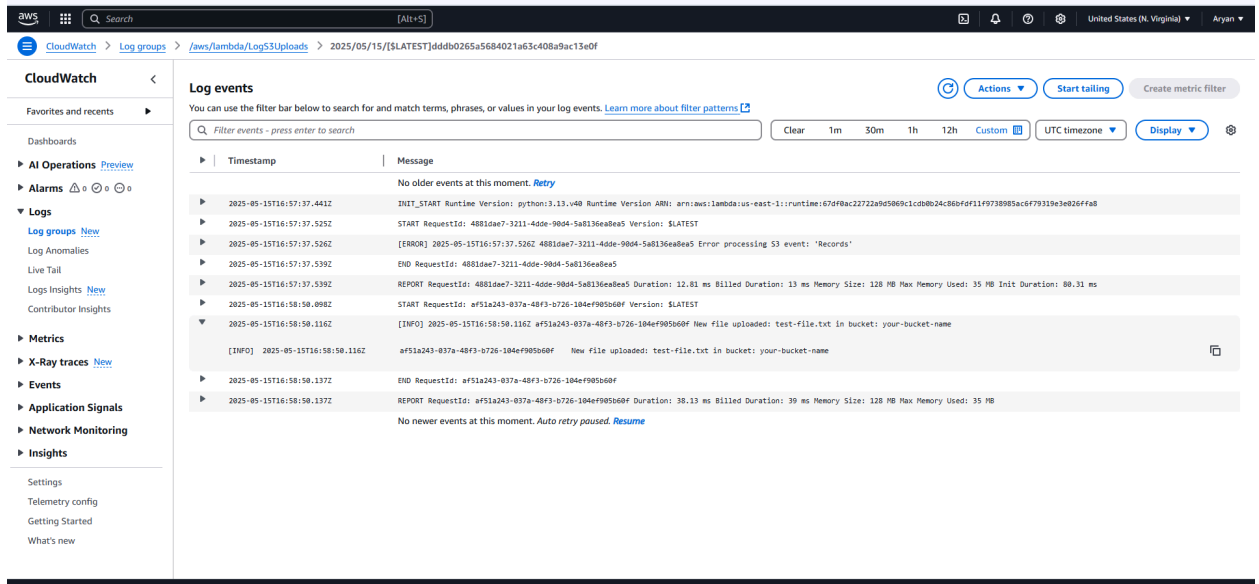
        # Log the upload event
        log_message = f"New file uploaded: {object_key} in bucket: {bucket_name}"
        logger.info(log_message)

        return {
            "statusCode": 200,
            "body": json.dumps(log_message)
        }

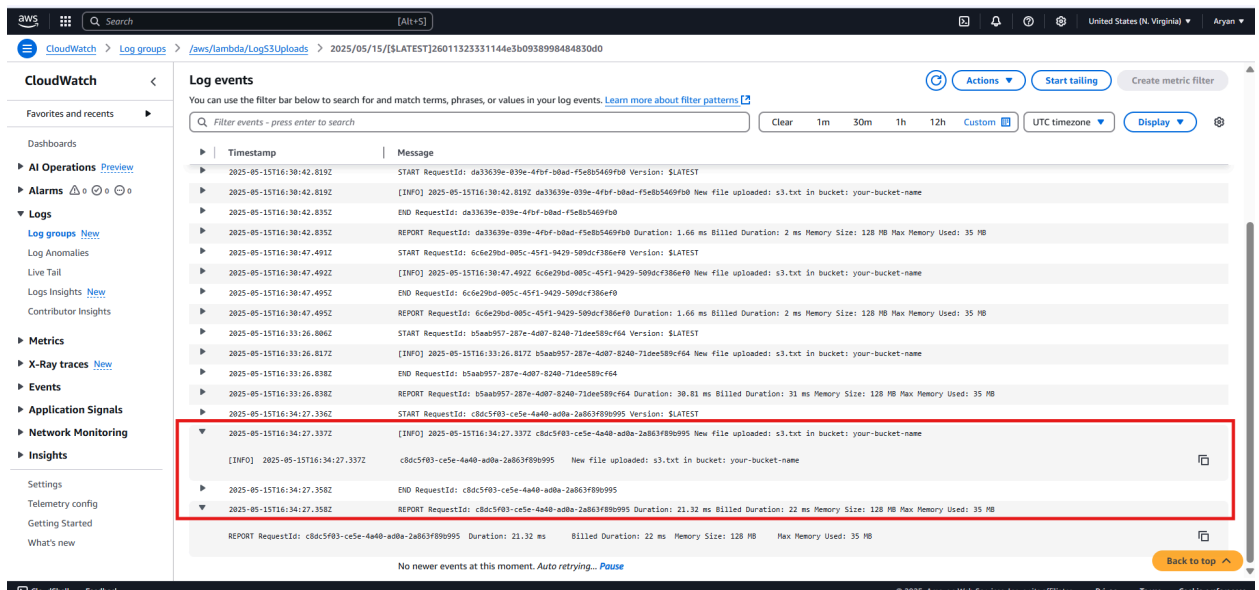
    except Exception as e:
        logger.error(f"Error processing S3 event: {str(e)}")
        return {
            "statusCode": 500,
            "body": json.dumps(f"Error: {str(e)}")
        }

```

- **Set up an S3 event trigger** so the function executes whenever a new file is uploaded.



- **Verify logs in CloudWatch** to ensure it captures the uploaded file's name and bucket details.



C. Interaction with AWS

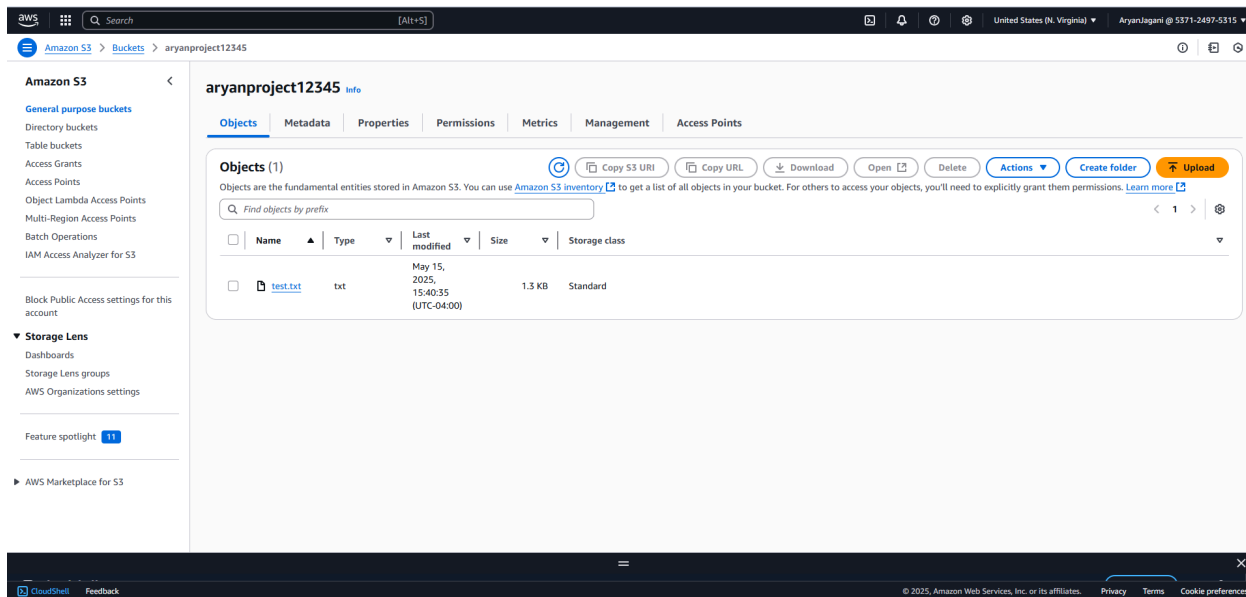
- **Use AWS Console** to verify infrastructure deployment.
- **Use AWS CLI** to interact with EC2, S3, and Lambda.
- **Write Python scripts** using **Boto3** to:

- Create an S3 bucket and upload a file.

```
partc > s3.py
1 import boto3
2
3 s3 = boto3.client('s3')
4
5 # create bucket
6 bucket_name = "aryanproject12345"
7 s3.create_bucket(Bucket=bucket_name)
8 print(f"Bucket created: {bucket_name}")
9
10 # upload a file
11 s3.upload_file("C:\\Users\\payal\\Downloads\\Placing a web server in a private s.txt",
12               bucket_name, 's.txt')
13 print(f"File uploaded.")
```

Terminal output:

```
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project> python s3.py
C:\Python313\python.exe can't open file 'C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\s3.py': [Error 2] no such file or directory
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project> cd partc
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\partc> python s3.py
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\partc\s3.py", line 7, in <module>
    s3.create_bucket(Bucket=bucket_name)
  File "C:\Python313\lib\site-packages\boto3\client.py", line 569, in _api_call
    return self._make_api_call(operation_name, kwargs)
  File "C:\Python313\lib\site-packages\boto3\client.py", line 1023, in _make_api_call
    raise error_class(parsed_response, operation_name)
boto3.exceptions.ClientError: An error occurred (InvalidBucketName) when calling the CreateBucket operation: The specified bucket is not valid.
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\partc> python s3.py
Bucket created: aryanproject12345
File uploaded.
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\partc>
```



- Retrieve EC2 instance metadata.

Created instance using boto 3

The screenshot shows a Visual Studio Code editor with a project named 'project'. The Explorer sidebar on the left shows the file structure: 'part b' and 'part c'. Under 'part c', there are files 'ec2.py' and 's3.py', and a folder 'scalable-aws-iac'. The main editor window shows the 'ec2.py' file with the following code:

```
partc > ec2.py
4
5 # Your actual values
6 subnet_id = 'subnet-00eb5c83dd1839619'
7 security_group_id = 'sg-0378e3586d69394e3'
8 key_name = 'my_key' # Only the name, not the .pem extension
9
10 # Launch the EC2 instance
11 instance = ec2.create_instances(
12     ImageId='ami-0953476d60561c955', # Amazon Linux 2 AMI (us-east-1)
13     MinCount=1,
14     MaxCount=1,
15     InstanceType='t2.micro'
```

The terminal window at the bottom shows the execution of the script:

```
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project> python ec2.py
C:\Python313\python.exe: can't open file 'C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\ec2.py': [Errno 2] No such file or directory
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project> cd partc
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\partc> python ec2.py
Waiting for instance to launch...
[✓] EC2 Instance Launched Successfully!
[ID] Instance ID: i-076006c0d6a3377f9
[Public IP] Public IP: None
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\partc>
```

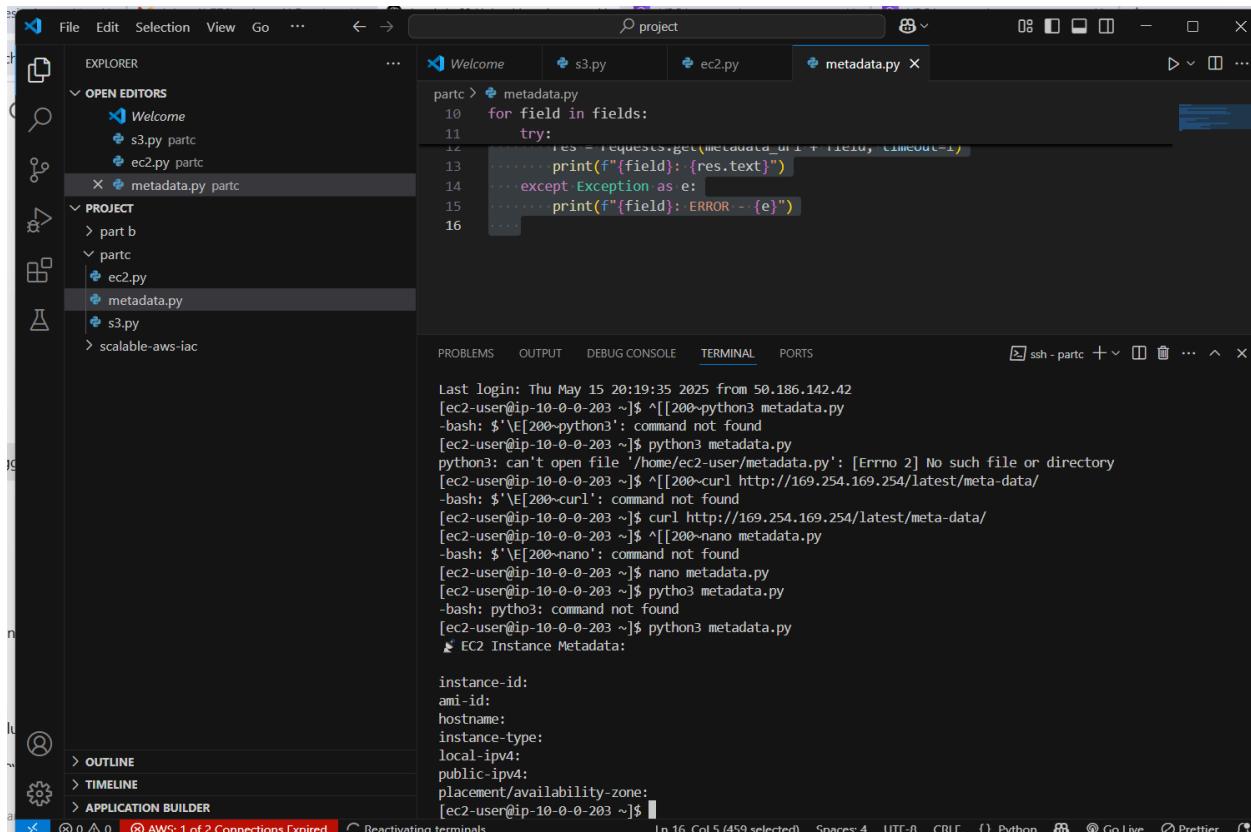
The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console for the 'us-east-1' region. The 'Instances' page is active, displaying a table of EC2 instances. The table has columns for Name, Instance ID, Instance state, Instance type, Status check, Alarm status, Availability Zone, Public IPv4 DNS, Public IPv4, and Elastic IP. The table contains one instance with the following details:

Name	Instance ID	Instance state	Instance type	Status check	Alarm status	Availability Zone	Public IPv4 DNS	Public IPv4	Elastic IP
Boto3Instance	i-076006c0d6a3377f9	Running	t2.micro	Initializing	View alarms	us-east-1d	-	-	-

Below the table, there is a section titled 'Select an instance' with a search bar and a list of instances.

Retrieved details from instance

It was an empty instance so we don't have anything



- List running EC2 instances.

The screenshot shows a VS Code editor with a project named 'project'. The Explorer pane on the left shows the file structure: 'partc' contains 's3.py', 'ec2.py', 'metadata.py', and 'list_running_instances.py'. The main editor window shows the 'list_running_instances.py' file with the following code:

```
1 import boto3
2
3 ec2 = boto3.client('ec2')
4
5 response = ec2.describe_instances(
6     Filters=[{'Name': 'instance-state-name', 'Values': ['running']}]
7 )
8
9 print("● Running EC2 Instances:\n")
10 for reservation in response['Reservations']:
11     for instance in reservation['Instances']:
12         print(f"ID: {instance['InstanceId']}")
```

The terminal pane at the bottom shows the command prompt output:

```
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project> python list_running_instances.py
C:\Python313\python.exe: can't open file 'C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\list_running_instances.py': [Errno 2] No such file or directory
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project> cd
cd partc
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\partc> python list_running_instances.py
● Running EC2 Instances:
ID: i-076006c0d6a3377f9
Type: t2.micro
State: running
Public IP: None
Private IP: 10.0.0.233
AZ: us-east-1d
-----
ID: i-0341da6ff4e89bc1f
Type: t2.micro
State: running
Public IP: 54.209.150.53
Private IP: 10.0.0.203
AZ: us-east-1d
-----
PS C:\Users\payal\OneDrive\Desktop\aryan umbc\is698_cloudcomputing\project\partc>
```

- Invoke the AWS Lambda function manually.

→ Lambda function was previously deployed and tested for S3 event logging. It has since been deleted after verification and is not available for manual invocation at this time.

3. GitHub Integration

- **Create a GitHub repository** for the project.
 - The repository should include:
 - **Terraform scripts**
 - **CloudFormation templates**
 - **Python Boto3 scripts**
 - **README file** with project setup instructions
 - **Architecture Diagram**
 - **Regular commits** must be made to track progress.
 - **Students must submit their GitHub repository link** as part of the project submission.
-

Challenges Faced and Solutions Implemented

Throughout the project, several technical challenges were encountered and addressed effectively. One major challenge was managing dependencies during VPC deletion and redeployment. To resolve this, the resources were carefully decommissioned in a specific order using Terraform and CloudFormation, ensuring dependencies were respected. Another issue involved EC2 instances failing to connect to the RDS database. This was resolved by properly configuring the security groups to allow inbound MySQL traffic on port 3306 from the EC2 security group, and confirming both resources resided within the same VPC.

There were also permission issues with the Lambda function, which initially could not log S3 uploads to CloudWatch. This was fixed by attaching a custom IAM execution role to the function with permissions for `logs:PutLogEvents` and `s3:GetObject`. File upload problems using SCP were also encountered, typically due to path errors or incorrect permissions. These were resolved by using the full path in quotes and verifying the correct key and EC2 IP address.

CloudFormation template validation errors, including null values and syntax mistakes, were resolved using the AWS CLI validator and code editor extensions. Terraform occasionally caused resource duplication or state conflicts, which were handled by inspecting and correcting the state file using commands like `terraform state list` and `terraform taint`. Finally, some Boto3 scripts failed due to incorrect region or profile settings, which were fixed by ensuring proper AWS CLI configuration and explicitly setting the required parameters in the script.

Future Improvements for Better Scalability and Automation

To enhance scalability and automation, several improvements can be made. First, a CI/CD pipeline using GitHub Actions and AWS CodeDeploy can automate application builds, tests, and deployments to EC2 instances, streamlining updates. Introducing API Gateway to expose Lambda functions over HTTP would

allow external access in a secure and managed way. Additionally, integrating AWS Step Functions can help automate complex workflows like validating uploaded files before logging them.

Monitoring and reliability can be improved by enabling automated RDS backups and setting up CloudWatch alarms for EC2 performance metrics. Adding Amazon CloudFront as a CDN in front of the S3 bucket would ensure faster and more reliable delivery of static assets across regions. To make the infrastructure code more reusable, the Terraform and CloudFormation templates can be refactored to use parameterized variables for different environments such as development, testing, and production.

Furthermore, implementing S3 lifecycle policies can automate the archival or deletion of old files, helping control storage costs. Lastly, performance enhancements on the database side—such as enabling query caching and connection pooling—can further optimize backend performance as the application scales.

- **GitHub repository link-**
 - <https://github.com/AryanJ09/IS698>
 -
-