Launch a Static Website on Amazon S3

How to create a custom domain and host a static website on AWS using Amazon Route 53 and Amazon S3.

Step 1: Access Route 53 Dashboard and register a domain
After logging into your AWS account, use the search bar to access the Route 53 dashboard. Click on 'Registered Domains,' enter your desired domain name, and check its availability. I chose '.click' for my project due to its affordability.

Step 2: Customize Domain Renewal and edit contact info
Choose whether you want the domain to automatically renew. You can opt to uncheck the auto-renewal option, which will result in the domain expiring after one year. Next, provide your contact information and accept the terms and conditions for domain registration.

It may take some time for your domain to be active. Mine took ~15min. While waiting, check your email for verification and confirmation messages from Amazon Route 53.

Step 3: Create an S3 Bucket
Go to the Amazon S3 page and create a new bucket. Use your domain name as the bucket name and select the region closest to you to reduce latency.

Next, configure bucket permissions. Scroll down and uncheck "Block all public access" to ensure that the bucket is publicly accessible on the internet. Acknowledge the current settings and create the bucket.

Step 4: Enable Static Website Hosting
After creating the bucket, go to its properties and enable static website hosting. Set the index document to 'index.html' and save the changes.
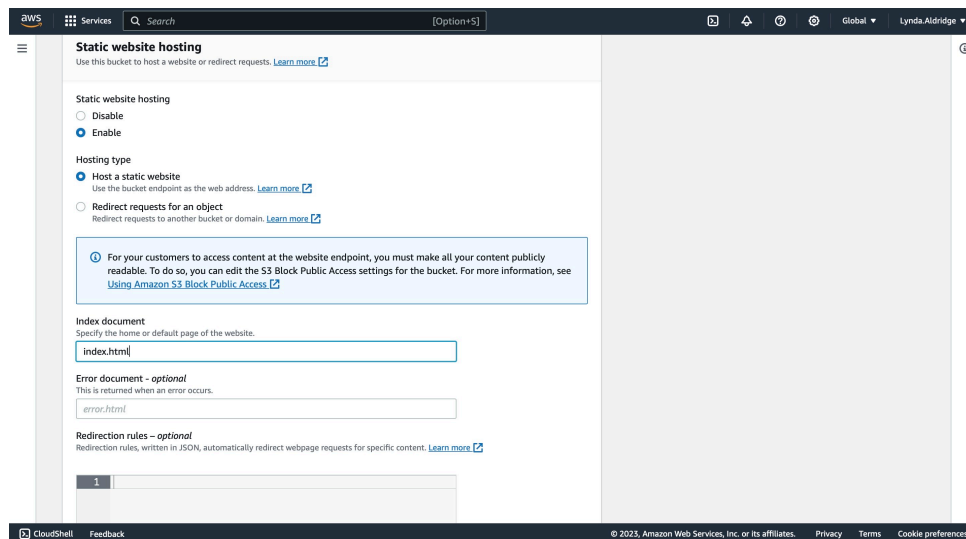

You will receive an endpoint URL at the bottom of the page for your static website.

Step 5: Edit Bucket Policy
Modify the bucket policy by adding JSON code, ensuring that you. Include your bucket name.

Step 6: Upload HTML Page
Within the bucket, navigate to 'Objects' and proceed to upload a basic HTML page. Verify that the file is saved in plain text format and correctly named 'index.html.' I encountered challenges during this step when my file was saved as 'index.html.txt.' To prevent a 404 error, ensure it is saved with the name 'index.html.'
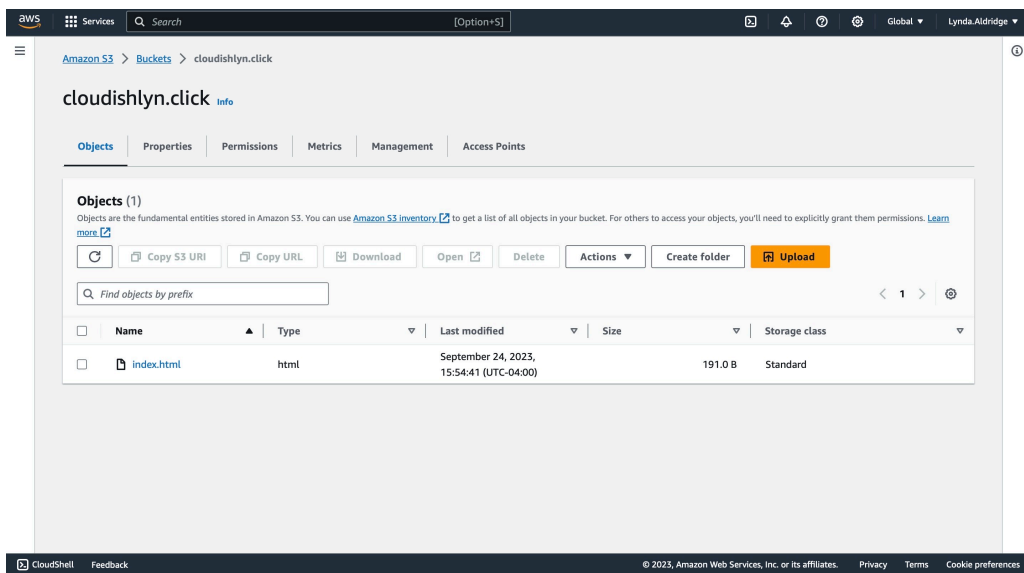
Step 7: Access Your Website

You can now access your static website by clicking on the bucket endpoint URL. If you want it accessible through a custom URL, such as your domain name, go back to Route 53 and access the hosted zone.
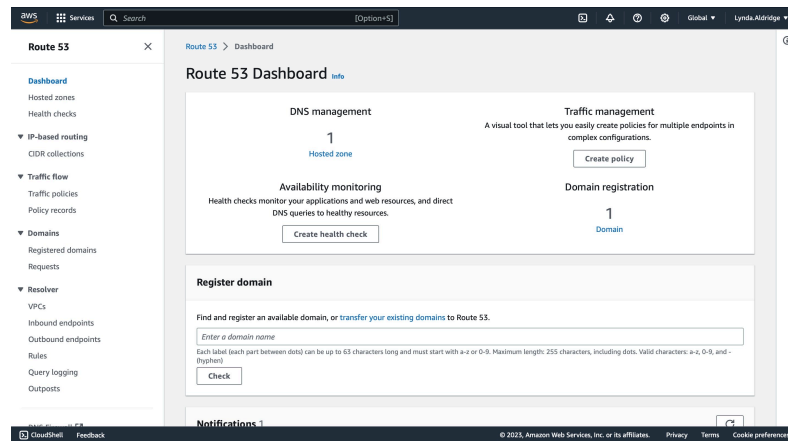
Here, you'll be able to click on your domain name to add an additional record.
Select "Alias to S3 website endpoint" as the record type, and choose the region where your bucket is hosted. Next, select the endpoint from the dropdown. You can toggle off "Evaluate Health Target"; create the record. Your website is now accessible through the custom URL you've created.

Welcome to my website

Now hosted on Amazon S3!