

**Serverless Quiz Application with AWS DynamoDB and
Lambda**

*A Course Project Report Submitted in partial fulfillment of the course
requirements for the award of grades in the subject of*

**CLOUD BASED AIML SPECIALITY
(22SDCS07A)**

by

**Chandra Chinmayee
(2210030380)**

Under the esteemed guidance of

Ms. P. Sree Lakshmi
Assistant Professor,
Department of Computer Science and Engineering



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

K L Deemed to be UNIVERSITY

*Aziznagar, Moinabad, Hyderabad,
Telangana, Pincode: 500075*

April 2025

K L Deemed to be UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



Certificate

This is Certified that the project entitled **“Serverless Quiz Application with AWS DynamoDB and Lambda”** which is an Experimental & Simulation work carried out by Chandra Chinmayee (2210030380), in partial fulfillment of the course requirements for the award of grades in the subject of **CLOUD BASED AIML SPECIALITY**, during the year **2024-2025**. The project has been approved as it satisfies the academic requirements.

Ms. P.Sree Lakshmi

Course Coordinator

Dr. Arpita Gupta

Head of the Department

Ms. P. Sree Lakshmi

Course Instructor

CONTENTS

	Page No.
1. Introduction	1
2. AWS Services Used as part of the project	2
3. Steps involved in solving project problem statement	5
4. Stepwise Screenshots with brief description	7
5. Learning Outcomes	18
6. Conclusion	19
7. Future Enhancements	20
8. References	21

1. INTRODUCTION

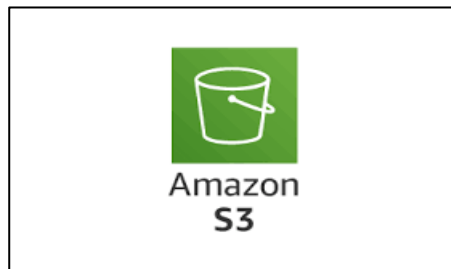
The Serverless Quiz Application is a modern, lightweight, and scalable web-based platform designed using a fully serverless architecture on Amazon Web Services (AWS). The primary goal of the application is to provide users with an interactive quiz experience without the need to manage traditional backend servers. The frontend is built using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, and is deployed using an Amazon S3 bucket configured for static website hosting. On the backend, AWS Lambda functions are used to implement core functionalities such as retrieving quiz questions and storing user responses [1]. These Lambda functions operate in a serverless environment, which means they only run when triggered and automatically scale based on demand, resulting in efficient resource utilization and reduced costs.

Amazon DynamoDB, a fully managed NoSQL database service, is used for persistent storage. It holds all the quiz questions, options, correct answers, and user submissions, enabling fast read and write operations. To enable communication between the frontend and backend, Amazon API Gateway is employed [3]. IAM roles are configured to grant specific permissions required by Lambda to interact with DynamoDB and log events to CloudWatch for monitoring and debugging. By combining these AWS services, the application achieves high availability, seamless scalability, and minimal operational overhead and S3 is used to host a static web application. This architecture showcases the power and simplicity of serverless computing on AWS, allowing developers to focus solely on application logic and user experience while AWS handles infrastructure, scaling, and security in the background.

2. AWS SERVICES USED AS PART OF THE PROJECT

1. Amazon S3(Simple Storage Service)

Amazon S3 is a scalable object storage service used for storing and retrieving any amount of data, commonly used for hosting static websites and serving frontend content.



- Hosting the frontend files (HTML, CSS, JS) of the quiz application.
- Serving the application directly from a public URL.
- Providing a static website hosting environment to users with high availability.

2. Amazon DynamoDB

Amazon DynamoDB is a fully managed NoSQL database service that delivers high performance with low latency at any scale. It supports key-value and document data structures and provides built-in security, backup and restore, and in-memory caching [2].



- Recording user quiz submissions and responses.
- Acting as the backend database for all quiz-related data operations.

3. AWS Lambda

AWS Lambda is a serverless compute service that runs code in response to events, eliminating the need for server management.



- Executing backend logic to fetch quiz questions and handle submissions.
- Processing quiz evaluations and calculating user scores.
- Connecting the API Gateway to the database using event-driven execution.

4. Amazon API Gateway

Amazon API Gateway is a fully managed service that allows developers to create and publish secure APIs at scale. It acts as an interface for accessing backend services like AWS Lambda.



- Provides HTTP endpoints to trigger Lambda functions.
- Acts as a communication layer between the frontend and backend logic.

5. AWS IAM (Identity and Access Management)

AWS IAM is a service that helps you securely manage access to AWS services and resources. It lets you create roles, users, and policies to control who can do what in your AWS environment.



- Assigns permissions to Lambda functions so they can read from and write to DynamoDB securely.
- Ensures secure and controlled access to other AWS services such.
- Prevents unauthorized access and enhances the security posture of the serverless application.
- Attaches policies to enable specific actions.

3. STEPS INVOLVED IN SOLVING PROJECT PROBLEM STATEMENT

Understanding the Requirements

- Analyze the problem statement and define the core objectives of building a quiz application.
- Identify the appropriate AWS services such as Lambda, DynamoDB, API Gateway, IAM, and S3 for a serverless approach [6].

Designing the Architecture

- Design a serverless architecture that ensures scalability, flexibility, and cost-efficiency.
- Define data flow between the frontend, API Gateway, Lambda functions, and DynamoDB.
- Define scalability, security, and high availability requirements.

Setting Up AWS Environment

- Create IAM roles with policies like AmazonDynamoDBFullAccess and AWSLambdaBasicExecutionRole for secure access and logging.
- Set up DynamoDB tables to store quiz questions, options, and user responses.
- Set up an S3 bucket to host the frontend code (HTML, CSS, JS).

Developing & Configuring the Application

- Write Lambda functions to handle backend logic for fetching quiz questions and submitting user responses.
- Use Python in Lambda to process API requests and interact with DynamoDB.
- Configure API Gateway to expose endpoints to the frontend for invoking Lambda functions.

Deploying & Monitoring

- Deploy the frontend application to the S3 bucket as a static website.

- Deploy Lambda functions and test API Gateway integrations using the generated invoke URLs [7].

Testing & Optimization

- Test the quiz flow (question rendering, answer selection, submission, and score display).

Maintenance & Scaling

- Configure automatic scaling in DynamoDB (on-demand mode) to handle varying loads.
- Maintain application reliability and performance through monitoring and regular updates.

4. STEPWISE SCREENSHOTS WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Step 1: Accessing AWS Management Console

- Open AWS Management Console.
- Log in with your Free Tier account.

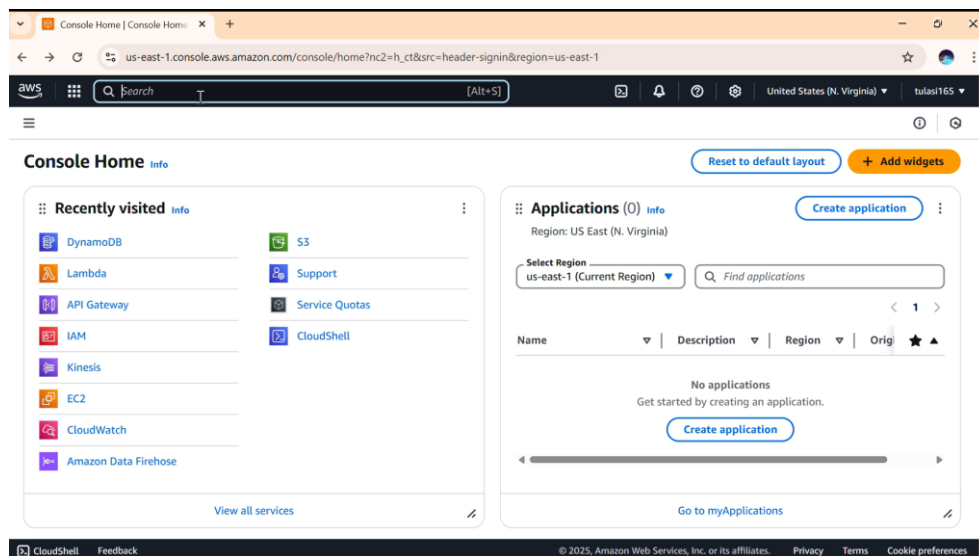


Fig. 4.1: Accessing AWS Management Console

Step 2: Open IAM Service

- Type IAM in search bar .
- Select IAM.

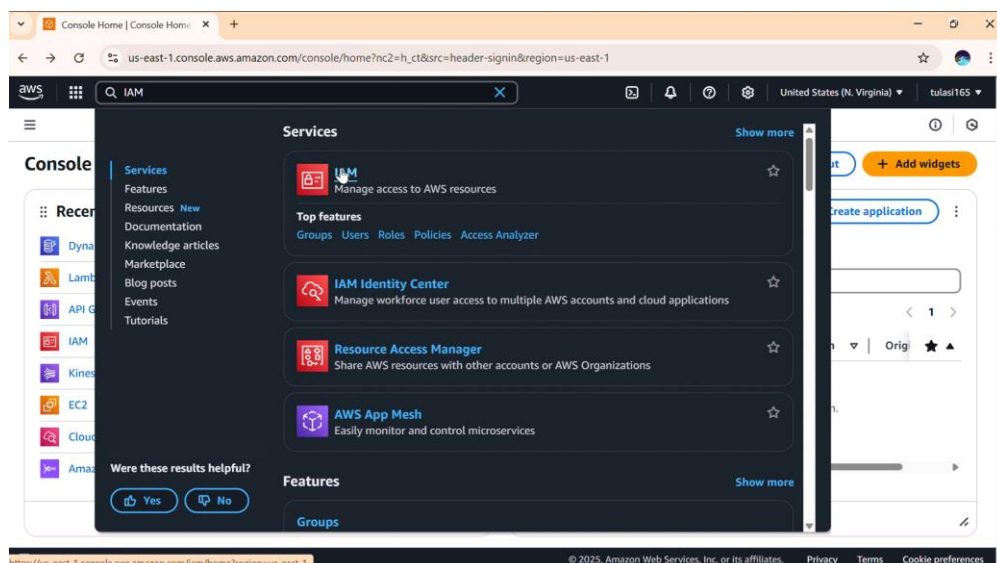


Fig. 4.2: Open IAM Service

Step 3: Creating a role.

- Go to Roles.
- Click on Create role

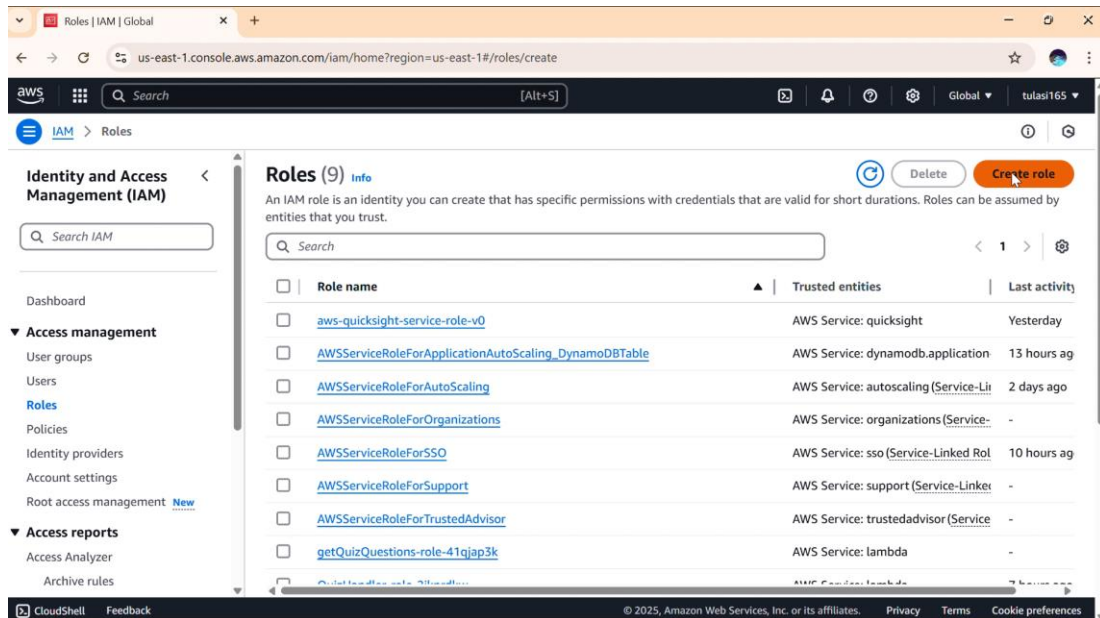


Fig. 4.3: Creating Role

Step 4: Selecting entity.

- Choose Trusted entity type as AWS Service.
- Choose Lambda as the Use case and click Next.

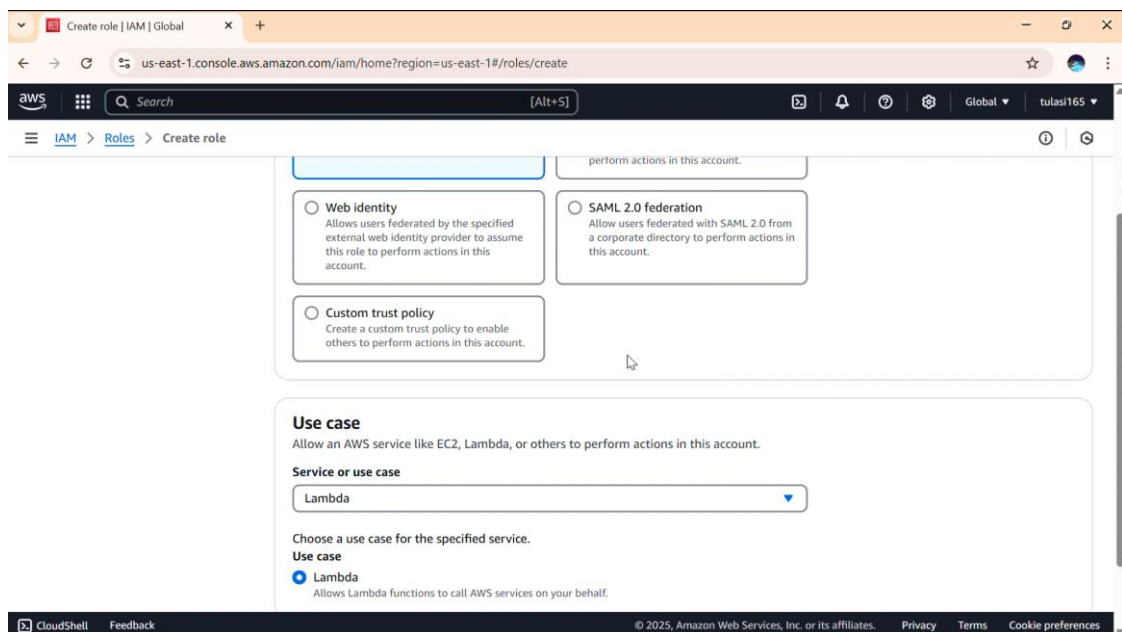


Fig. 4.4: Selecting entity

Step 5: Adding permissions to Lambda.

- Attach AmazonDynamoDBFullAccess (for DynamoDB operations)
- Attach AWSLambdaBasicExecutionRole (for logging in CloudWatch)
- Click on Next.

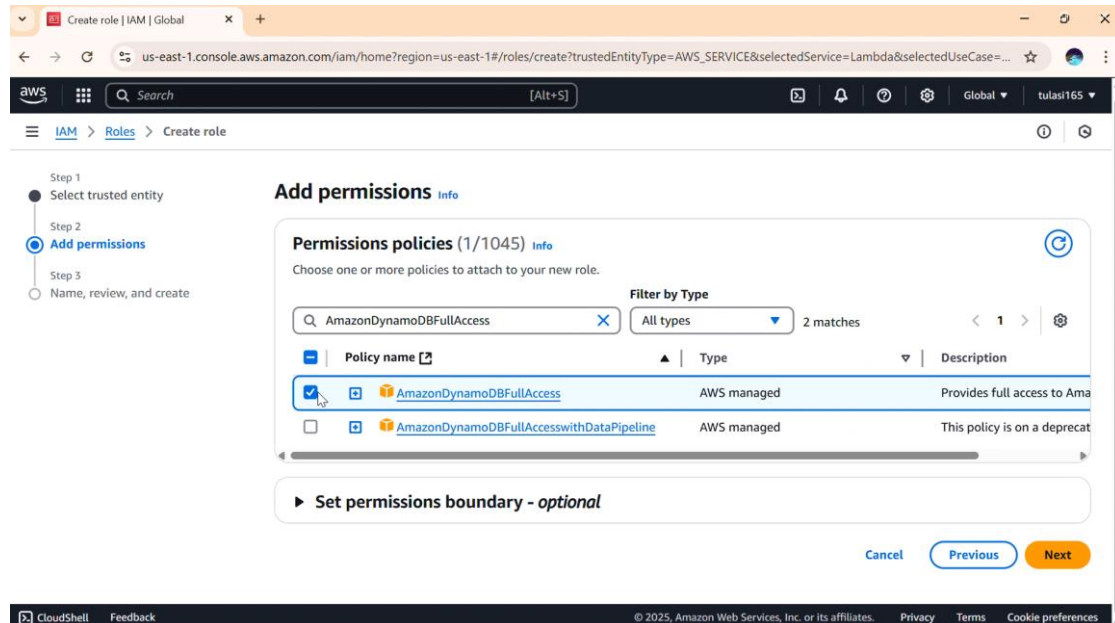


Fig. 4.5.1: Attach AmazonDynamoDBFullAccess

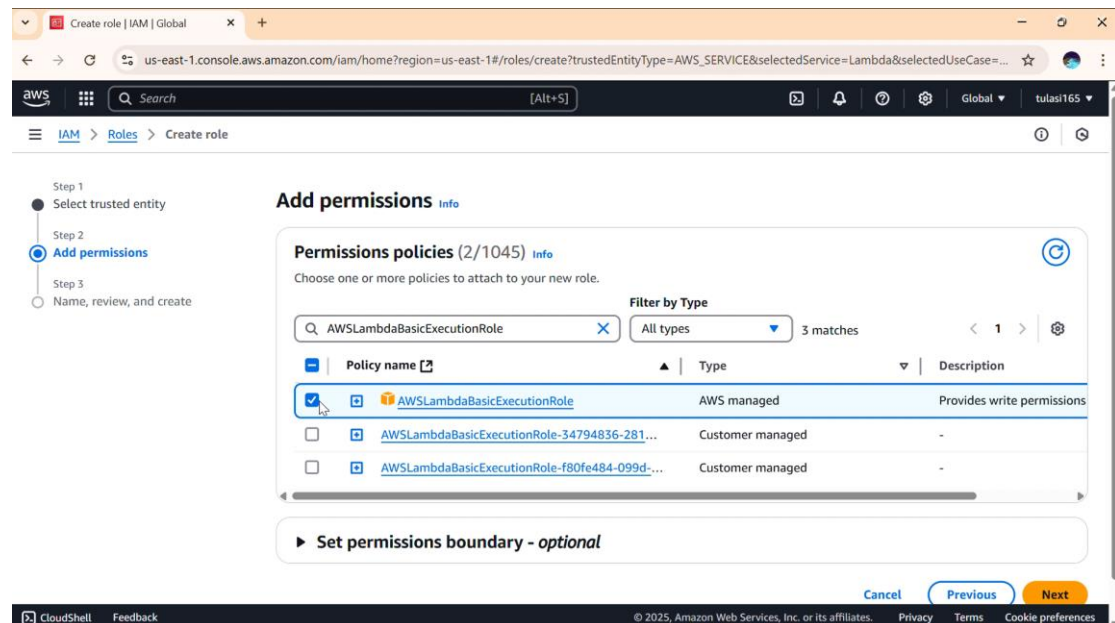


Fig. 4.5.2: Attach AWSLambdaBasicExecutionRole

Step 6: Filling Role Details.

- Name the role as LambdaQuizRole.
- Click Create Role.

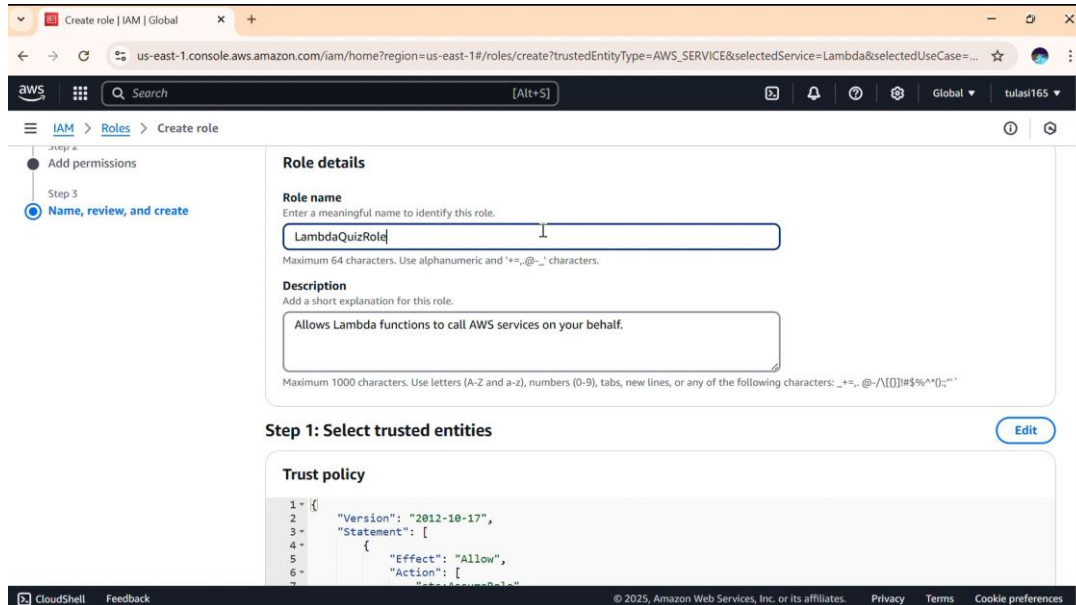


Fig. 4.6: Filling Role Details

Step 7: Opening DynamoDB.

- Open AWS Console.
- Choose DynamoDB

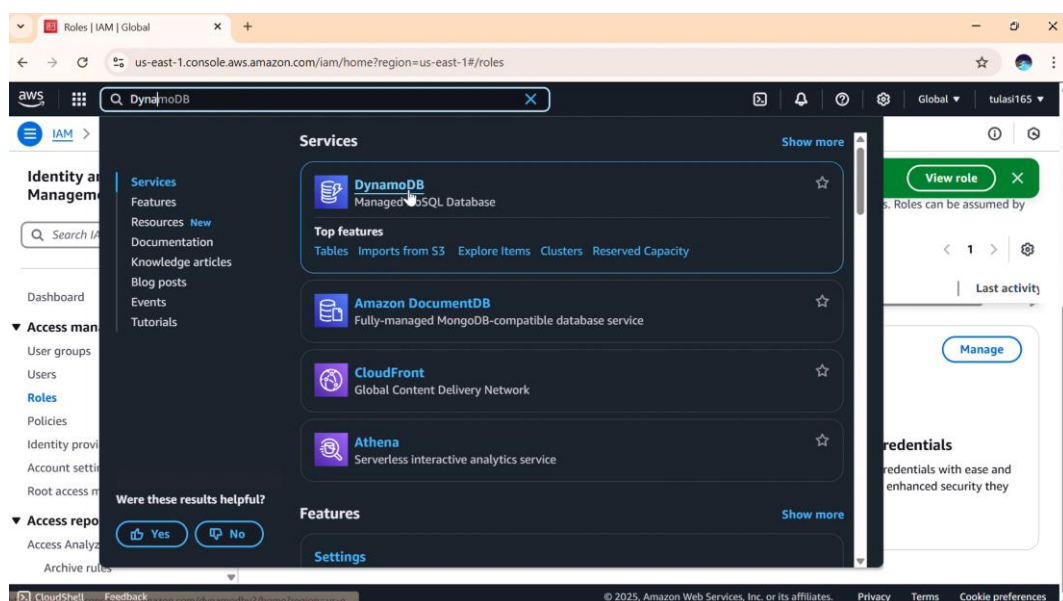


Fig. 4.7: Opening DynamoDB

Step 8: Creating a table for storing quiz questions.

- Click on Create Table.
- Set: Table Name: QuizQuestions
Primary Key: id (Type: String)

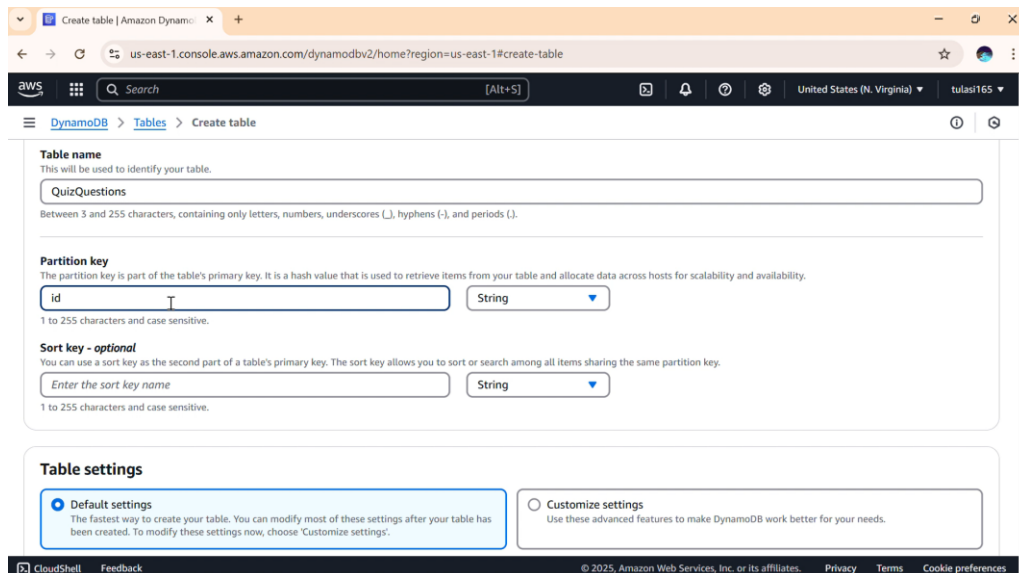


Fig. 4.8: Creating a table for storing quiz questions

Step 9: Creating an Item in Table.

- Click Actions.
- Select Create Item

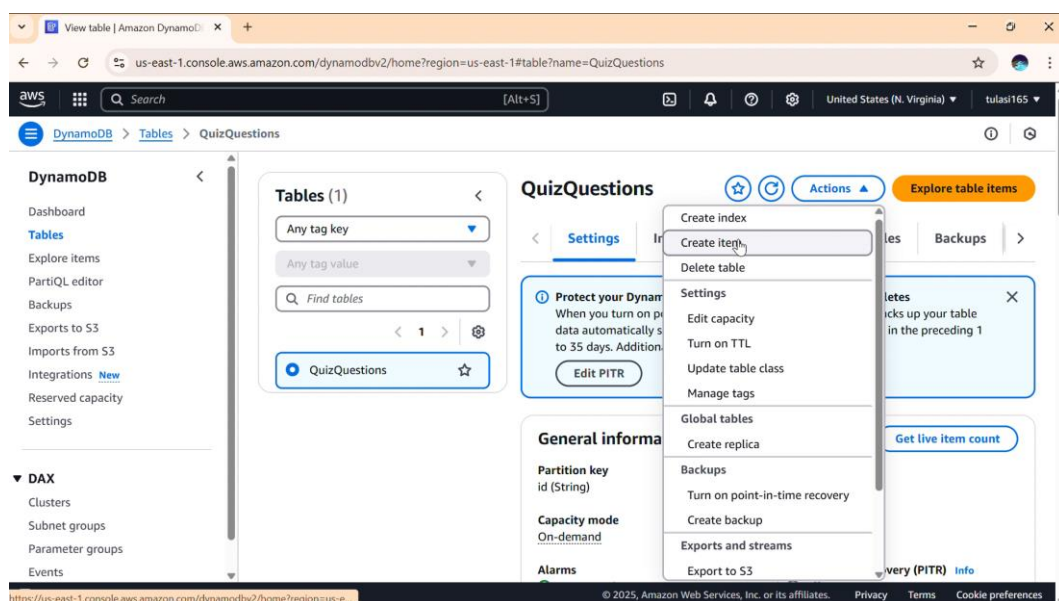


Fig. 4.9: Creating an Item in Table

Step 10: Inserting 10 questions.

- Choose JSON view and add any number of questions in the following format:

```
{"id": "1",  
  "question": "What is the default region for AWS CLI?",  
  "options": ["us-east-1", "us-west-2", "ap-south-1", "eu-west-1"],  
  "answer": "us-east-1"}
```

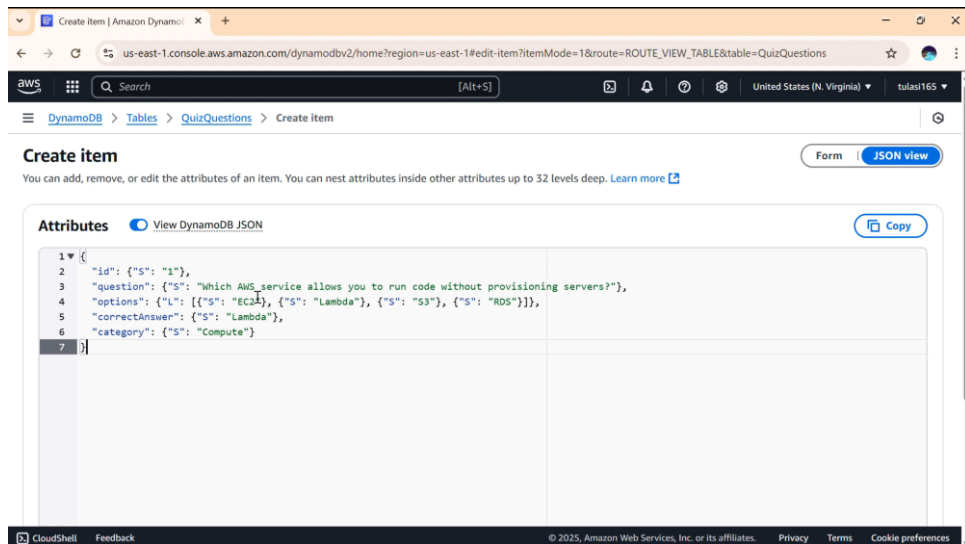


Fig. 4.10: Inserting 10 questions

Step 11: In Search bar search and select Lambda.

- Select Lambda .
- Click on Create Function.

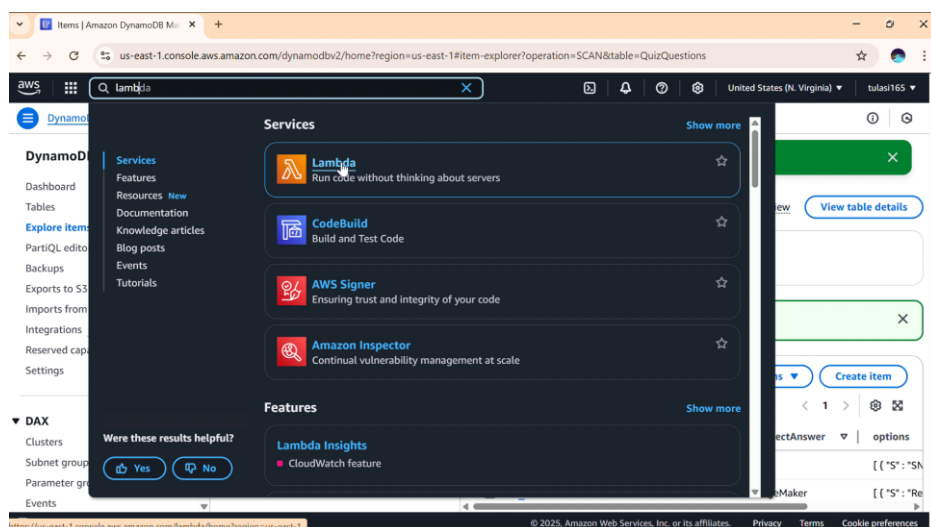


Fig. 4.11: In Search bar searching and selecting Lambda

Step 12: Filling Basic Information about the function.

- Set Function name, Runtime and Execution Role.
- Click on Create Function.

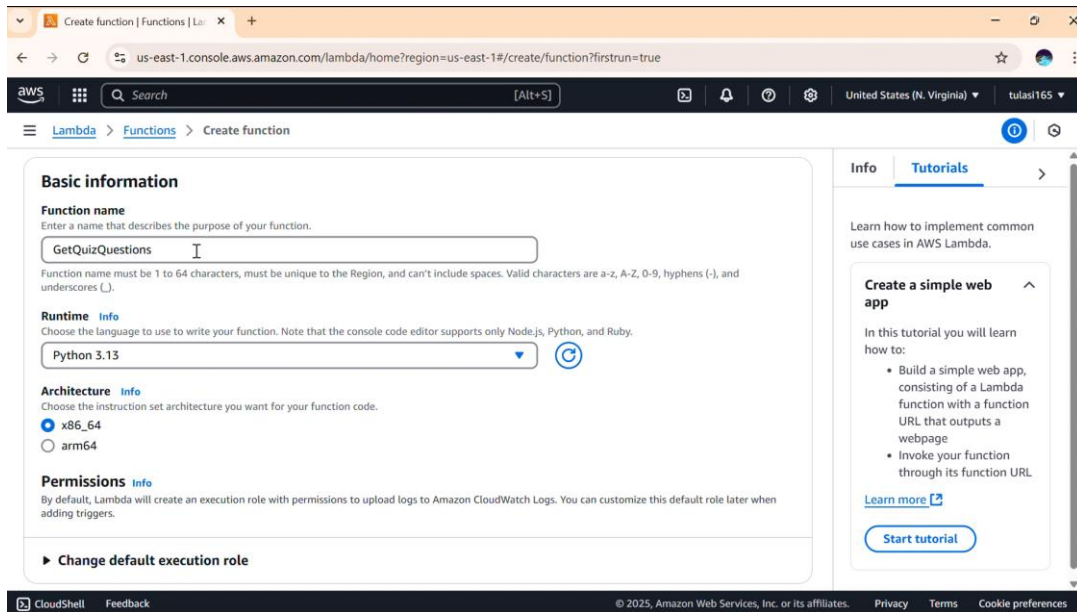


Fig. 4.12: Filling Basic Information about the function.

Step 13: Writing Lambda code to Fetch Questions.

- Write the code in Lambda Function.
- Click on Deploy.

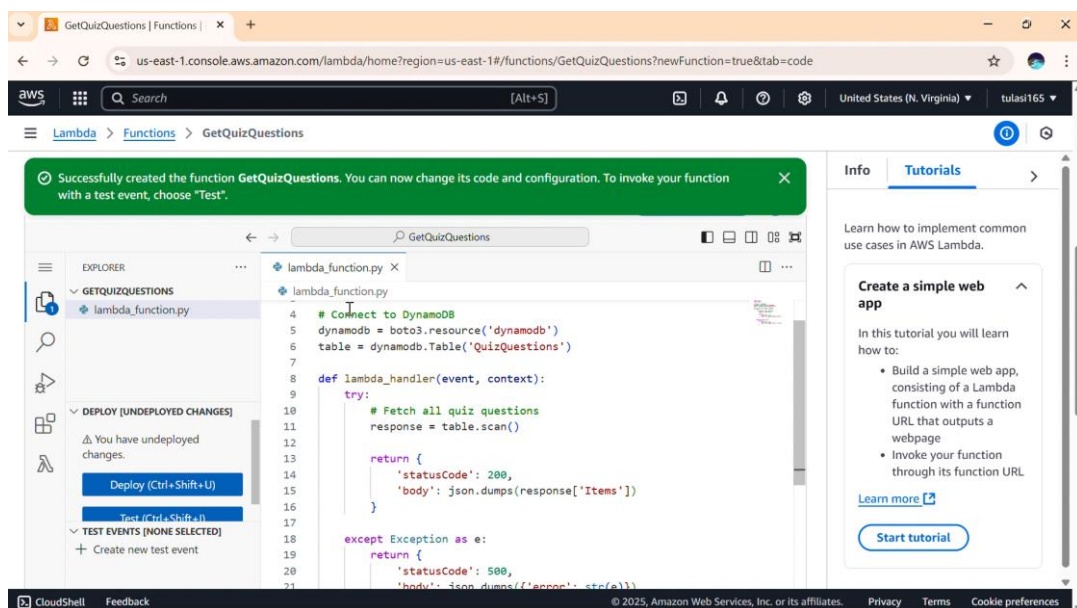


Fig. 4.13: Writing Lambda code to Fetch Questions

Step 14: Create an API for GetQuizQuestion Lambda function.

- Click Create API then HTTP API. Next click Build.
- Set Name as Quiz API, in Integration add Lambda Function, then choose GetQuizQuestions function and click Next. Click Create.
- Configure routes.

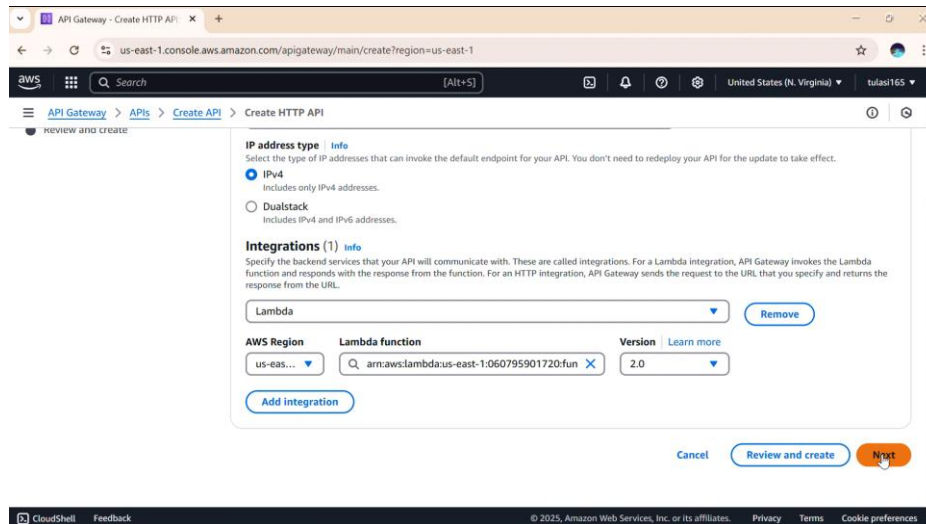


Fig. 4.14: Creating an API for GetQuizQuestion Lambda function

Step 15: Create a new table in DynamoDB for storing user responses.

- Create a new table in DynamoDB with name QuizResponses with userId as Partition Key and quizId as the Sort key and click Create Table.

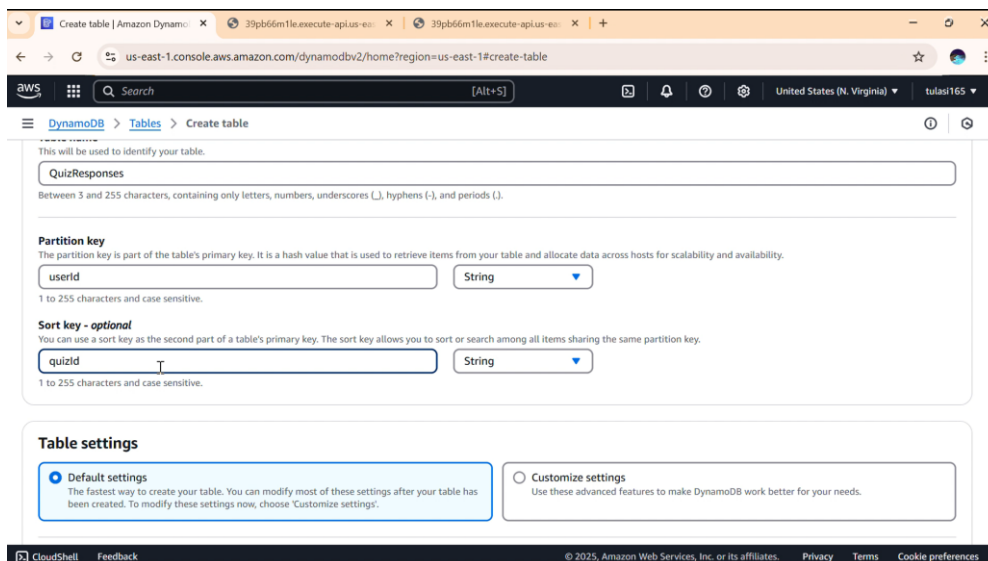


Fig. 4.15: Creating a new table in DynamoDB for storing user responses.

Step 16: Create a new lambda function to save quiz responses.

- Open AWS Lambda and create a new function. Name it SubmitQuestions.
- Update the Lambda function to save quiz responses. Click Deploy.
- Set Permissions.
- Go to API Gateway and select API QuizAPI and create a route with POST method.

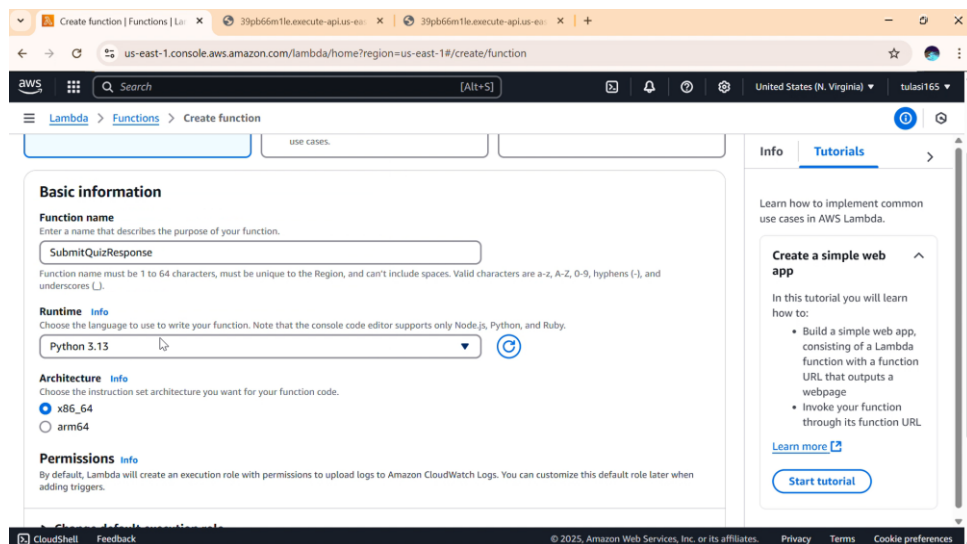


Fig. 4.16: Creating a new lambda function to save quiz responses.

Step 17: Create a new lambda function to return score from DynamoDB.

- Change the lambda function which returns the score from DynamoDB.
- Give IAM Permissions, go to API Gateway and create an API with Get method.

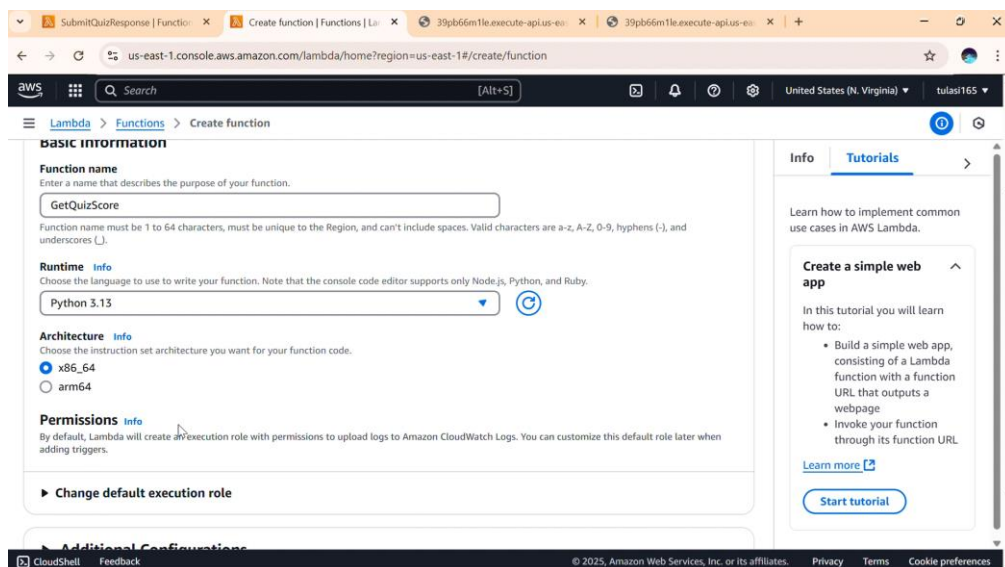
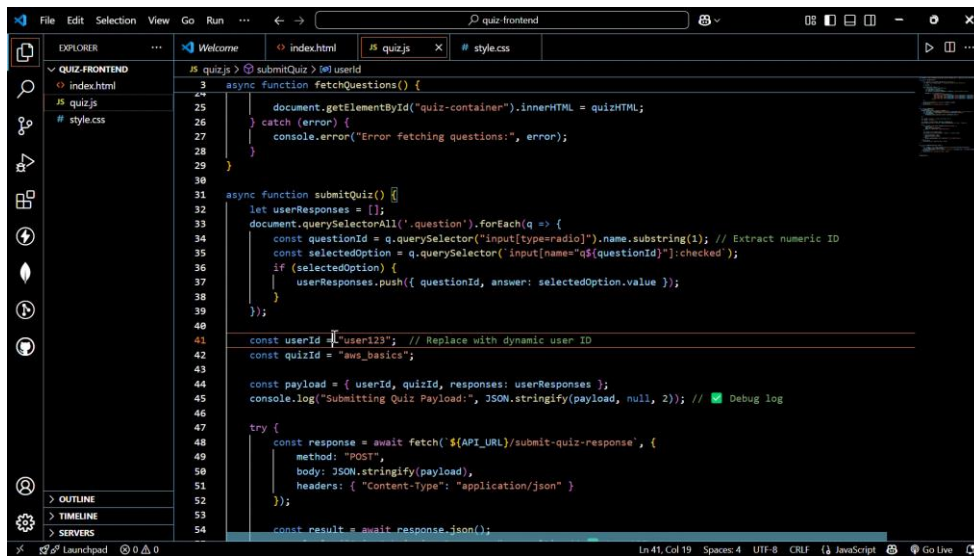


Fig. 4.17: Creating a new lambda function to return score from DynamoDB

Step 18: Develop frontend for the serverless quiz application.

- Write code for frontend.
- Create index.html, style.css and quiz.js.
- Upload these codes in S3 and copy the public URL.
- Paste the URL in a new tab, the quiz application is available.



```
1  submitQuiz > 90 userId
2  async function fetchQuestions() {
3
4      document.getElementById("quiz-container").innerHTML = quizHTML;
5  } catch (error) {
6      console.error("Error fetching questions:", error);
7  }
8  }
9
10 async function submitQuiz() {
11     let userResponses = [];
12     document.querySelectorAll('.question').forEach(q => {
13         const questionId = q.querySelector("input[type=radio]").name.substring(1); // Extract numeric ID
14         const selectedOption = q.querySelector('input[name="q5{questionId}"]:checked');
15         if (selectedOption) {
16             userResponses.push({ questionId, answer: selectedOption.value });
17         }
18     });
19
20     const userId = "user123"; // Replace with dynamic user ID
21     const quizId = "aws_basics";
22
23     const payload = { userId, quizId, responses: userResponses };
24     console.log("Submitting Quiz Payload:", JSON.stringify(payload, null, 2)); // Debug log
25
26     try {
27         const response = await fetch(`${API_URL}/submit-quiz-response`, {
28             method: "POST",
29             body: JSON.stringify(payload),
30             headers: { "Content-Type": "application/json" }
31         });
32         const result = await response.json();
33     } catch (error) {
34         console.error("Error submitting quiz response:", error);
35     }
36 }
```

Fig. 4.18: Developing frontend

Step 19: Output

- Choose the answers for the questions.
- Click on Submit.

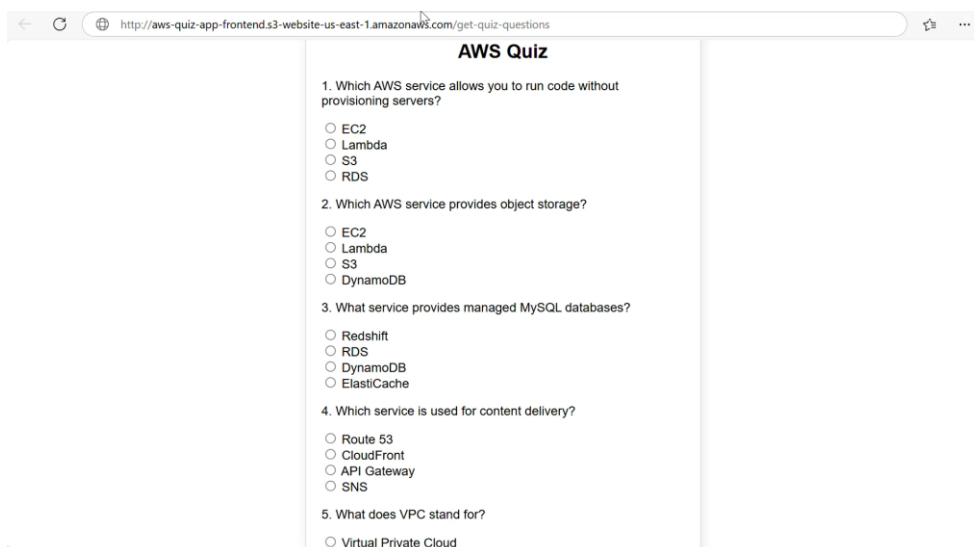


Fig. 4.19.1: Serverless Quiz Application

← ↻ http://aws-quiz-app-frontend.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/get-quiz-score?userId=user123&quizId=aws_basic ☆ ⋮

- ☐ ECS
- ☐ EKS
- ☐ Fargate
- ☒ Lambda

8. Which service is used for monitoring?

- ☐ CloudTrail
- ☒ CloudWatch
- ☐ Config
- ☐ Trusted Advisor

9. What service provides NoSQL database?

- ☐ RDS
- ☐ Redshift
- ☒ DynamoDB
- ☐ ElastiCache

10. Which service helps with load balancing?

- ☐ Route 53
- ☐ API Gateway
- ☒ ALB
- ☐ Direct Connect


Your Score: 9/10 

Fig. 4.19.2: Viewing Score

5. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Understanding of Serverless Architecture

Gained hands-on experience with building and deploying a serverless application, eliminating the need to manage underlying infrastructure.

Proficiency with AWS Services

Learned to effectively use core AWS services such as Lambda, DynamoDB, API Gateway, IAM, and S3 for building scalable and secure applications [5].

Database Management with DynamoDB

Understood how to design and manage NoSQL databases, store structured data like quiz questions and user responses, and perform efficient read/write operations.

Function-as-a-Service Development with AWS Lambda

Gained knowledge of writing backend logic using AWS Lambda, handling stateless request processing, and integrating with other AWS components.

API Development and Integration

Learned to expose backend services securely using Amazon API Gateway and integrate APIs with frontend applications.

Frontend Deployment on AWS S3

Experienced deploying a static website on Amazon S3 and connecting it with backend APIs for a full-stack solution [4].

Security and Role Management using IAM

Developed an understanding of configuring IAM roles and policies to securely control access to AWS services.

6. CONCLUSION

The Serverless Quiz Application project demonstrates the power and efficiency of cloud-native architecture by leveraging AWS services like Lambda, DynamoDB, S3 and API Gateway to build a fully functional, scalable, and cost-effective quiz platform. This architecture eliminates the need for server management, ensuring high availability and seamless performance under varying loads. The application effectively stores and retrieves quiz data from DynamoDB, processes user inputs through Lambda functions, and offers a smooth, responsive interface. Overall, the project showcases how serverless computing can simplify backend logic while providing a reliable and maintainable solution for dynamic web applications.

7. FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

Future enhancements for the Serverless Quiz Application can significantly improve user experience, engagement, and scalability. Converting the app into a Progressive Web App (PWA) would enable offline access, while incorporating multilingual support and gamification elements like badges and rewards would make the application more inclusive and engaging. Advanced analytics dashboards and voice-enabled quiz features could further elevate the platform, offering insightful user metrics and improved accessibility.

8. REFERENCES

- [1] Amazon Web Services (AWS). "Getting started with AWS Lambda."
<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/getting-started.html>
- [2] Amazon Web Services (AWS). "What is Amazon DynamoDB?"
<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/amazondynamodb/latest/developerguide/Introduction.html>
- [3] Amazon Web Services (AWS). "Using API Gateway and AWS Lambda for Serverless Applications."
<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/apigateway/latest/developerguide/welcome.html>
- [4] Amazon Web Services (AWS). "Hosting a Static Website on Amazon S3."
<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonS3/latest/userguide/WebsiteHosting.html>
- [5] Amazon Web Services (AWS). "Getting Started with AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM)."
<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/getting-started.html>
- [6] Amazon Web Services (AWS). "Tutorial: Build a Serverless Web Application."
<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/building-serverless-apps.html>
- [7] Amazon Web Services (AWS). "Tutorial: Creating API as an Amazon S3 Proxy in API Gateway."
<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/apigateway/latest/developerguide/getting-started.html>