

Introduction

This document provides a detailed explanation of the automation architecture implemented for our capstone project. The system was designed to ensure the web scraping pipelines run automatically without requiring constant manual intervention. All automation is currently hosted on an AWS EC2 instance, which was created under my personal AWS Free Tier account.

To enable continuity beyond my account and ensure that future students can continue this work, I have created a public Amazon Machine Image (AMI) of the configured environment. This allows anyone with an AWS account to launch an identical EC2 instance without needing to repeat the initial setup. The following sections outline the steps required to use the AMI, connect to the instance, understand the configuration, and manage the automated workflows.

AMI Access

To avoid loss of work when my Free Tier expires, I created a public AMI from the configured EC2 instance. Future students can use this AMI to replicate the environment.

- **AMI ID:** ami-07a95230fff01681f
- **Region:** ap-southeast-2 (Asia Pacific – Sydney)
- **Direct Console Link:** [Launch this AMI](#)

Instructions:

1. Log in to your AWS account.
2. Open the link above (or search for the AMI ID in EC2 → AMIs).
3. Click **Launch Instance**.
4. Choose an instance type (e.g., t2.micro for testing).
5. Configure networking and storage, then launch the instance.

Connecting to the Instance

Once the instance is launched, connect via SSH using the .pem key pair you generated during setup.

1. Allow SSH access to your IP by adjusting security group settings in the AWS console. (Check your current IP at whatismyip.com).
2. Note the **Public IPv4 address** of your running instance.
3. Open PowerShell on your local machine and navigate to the directory where your .pem file is stored.
4. Connect using the following command:
5. `ssh -i your-key.pem ubuntu@<public-ip-address>`
6. When prompted with “Are you sure you want to continue connecting?”, type yes and press Enter.

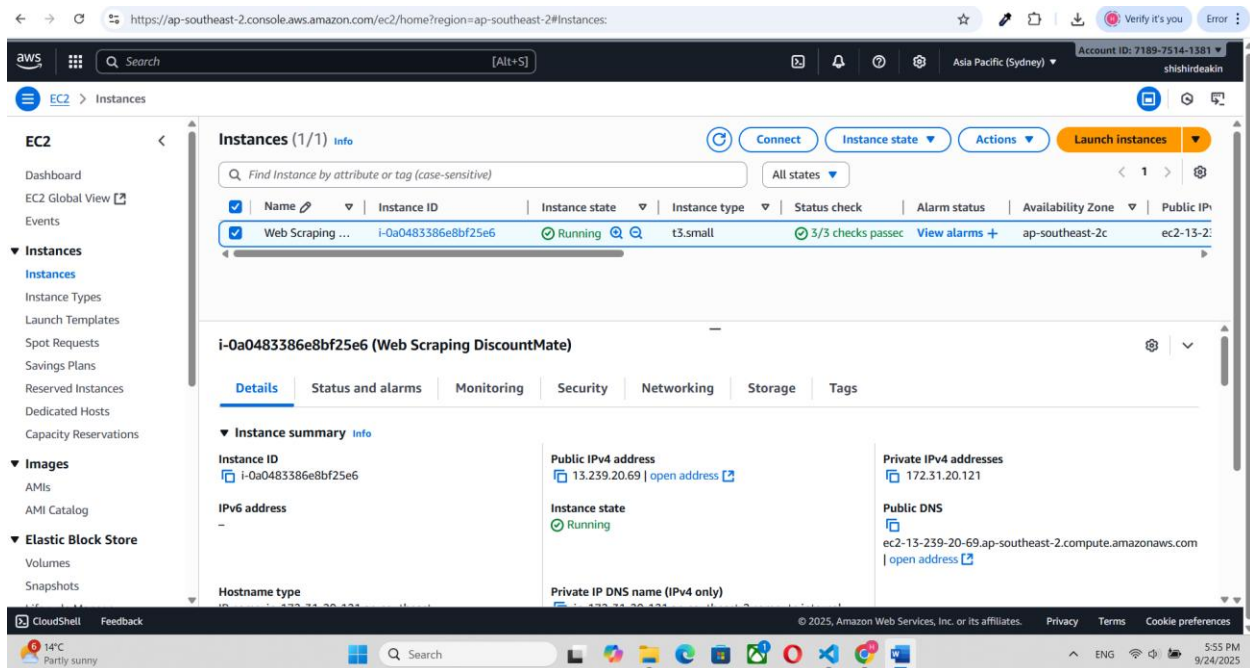
You will now be connected to the EC2 instance.

The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console interface for editing inbound rules on a security group. The breadcrumb navigation indicates the path: EC2 > Security Groups > sg-07afaf7276c0875e4 - launch-wizard-1 > Edit inbound rules. The page title is 'Edit inbound rules' with an 'Info' link. A subtitle states: 'Inbound rules control the incoming traffic that's allowed to reach the instance.'

The main content area is titled 'Inbound rules' and contains a table with the following columns: Security group rule ID, Type, Protocol, Port range, Source, and Description - optional. There are four rules listed, all for SSH access on port 22. Each rule has a 'Delete' button. A search bar is present for each rule's source field.

Security group rule ID	Type	Protocol	Port range	Source	Description - optional
sgr-09cfa403fa644f33b	SSH	TCP	22	Custom	
sgr-0fa8dd1bf0053a5af	SSH	TCP	22	Custom	
sgr-0d6dc59f754d9fb62	SSH	TCP	22	Custom	
sgr-0b1397b30c2747dd8	SSH	TCP	22	Custom	

At the bottom of the table, there is an 'Add rule' button. Below the table, there are three buttons: 'Cancel', 'Preview changes', and 'Save rules'.



Project Files and Scripts

Inside the EC2 instance:

- Running `ls` will display the available project directories.
- The main scraping logic is stored inside the **scraper-runner** directory.

Within this directory, the script **run_all_scrapers.sh** controls the automation. This script handles:

- Logging
- Exporting environment paths
- Activating the Python virtual environment
- Running the scraping jobs
- Automatically shutting down the instance after completion to save costs

If modifications are needed (e.g., adding scrapers, changing paths), open this script with:

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121: ~  
* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com  
* Management:   https://landscape.canonical.com  
* Support:      https://ubuntu.com/pro  
  
System information as of Wed Sep 24 08:00:34 UTC 2025  
  
System load: 0.0      Temperature: -273.1 C  
Usage of /: 73.6% of 8.65GB Processes: 117  
Memory usage: 14%    Users logged in: 0  
Swap usage: 0%       IPv4 address for ens5: 172.31.20.121  
  
* Ubuntu Pro delivers the most comprehensive open source security and  
  compliance features.  
  
https://ubuntu.com/aws/pro  
  
Expanded Security Maintenance for Applications is not enabled.  
  
17 updates can be applied immediately.  
To see these additional updates run: apt list --upgradable  
  
Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.  
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status  
  
Last login: Wed Sep 24 07:57:34 2025 from 43.227.109.80  
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121:~$ ls  
DiscountMate_new  aws  awscliv2.zip  requirements.txt  scrape-env  scraper-runner  snap  
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121:~$ |
```

Our scraping code lives here which we pulled from remote GitHub repo:

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121:~$ cd DiscountMate_new/Scrapping  
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121:~/DiscountMate_new/Scrapping$ ls  
'Aldi Scraping From a Catalogue and Item Classification (Attempt 1)'  
'Aldi Scraping from price-reductions Page'  
Australia_GroceriesScraper  
Drake  
Drakes_2025-09-02_16-08-45.csv  
Drakes_2025-09-09_16-08-46.csv  
Drakes_2025-09-11_07-34-50.csv  
Drakes_2025-09-11_07-34-50.json  
Drakes_2025-09-11_08-10-44.csv  
Drakes_2025-09-11_08-10-44.json  
Drakes_2025-09-11_08-35-07.csv  
Drakes_2025-09-11_08-35-08.json  
Drakes_2025-09-12_16-07-51.csv  
Drakes_2025-09-12_16-07-51.json  
Drakes_2025-09-12_23-47-34.csv  
Drakes_2025-09-12_23-47-34.json  
Drakes_2025-09-14_00-37-32.csv  
Drakes_2025-09-14_00-37-32.json  
Drakes_2025-09-17_16-08-53.csv  
Drakes_2025-09-17_16-08-53.json  
'Foodland Scraper'  
README.md  
__pycache__  
chrome-user-data-IGA  
costco_scrapeing_tool  
db-config.json  
scrape-env  
scraper_IGA_catalogue.py  
scraper_IGA_specials.py  
scraper_adelaidesfinest.py  
scraper_drake.py  
scraper_foodland.py  
test-read-data.py  
test-write-data.py  
utils.py  
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121:~/DiscountMate_new/Scrapping$ |
```

Now, if you go inside scraper-runner and type ls, you will see a shell script file called **run_all_scrapers.sh**

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121:~/DiscountMate_new$ cd ..  
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121:~$ ls  
DiscountMate_new  aws  awscliv2.zip  requirements.txt  scrape-env  scraper-runner  snap  
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121:~$ cd scraper-runner  
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121:~/scraper-runner$ ls  
logs  run_all_scrapers.sh  venv  
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121:~/scraper-runner$
```

Type nano **run_all_scrapers.sh** and it will open the script that we use to run our all scrapers.

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121: ~/ / X + v
GNU nano 7.2 run_all_scrapers.sh
#!/bin/bash

LOG_FILE="/home/ubuntu/scrapper-runner/logs/cron_log.txt"
echo "==== Cron started at $(date) =====>" "$LOG_FILE"

# Set PATH in case cron doesn't have it
export PATH="/usr/bin:/bin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/home/ubuntu/.local/bin"

# Activate virtual environment if needed
source /home/ubuntu/scrapper-runner/venv/bin/activate

# Sample scraper commands (update to actual)
cd /home/ubuntu/DiscountMate_new/Scrapping || {
    echo "Failed to cd into /home/ubuntu/DiscountMate_new/Scrapping" >> "$LOG_FILE"
    exit 1
}

echo "Inside scraper directory, starting Drake scraping" >> "$LOG_FILE"

# Run the actual scraping (modify this as per your actual scripts)
python3 -u scraper_drake.py >> "$LOG_FILE" 2>&1 || echo "Drakes scraping failed" >> "$LOG_FILE"

echo "✅ Drakes Scraper Completed" >> "$LOG_FILE"

# Run IGA Scraper
echo "== Starting IGA Scraper ==" >> "$LOG_FILE"
[ Read 47 lines ]
^G Help      ^O Write Out  ^W Where Is   ^K Cut        ^T Execute    ^C Location   M-U Undo      M-A Set Mark
^X Exit      ^R Read File  ^_ Replace    ^U Paste      ^J Justify    ^_ Go To Line M-E Redo      M-6 Copy
```

If you need to add other scrapers or export path or anything, this is the place.

In this file, we configure logs, export path, set up the scraping virtual environment, give path and command to run scraping, and include command at last to auto stop the EC2 instance after the scraping is completed so that we can save costs.

If you go inside logs directory inside scraper_runner, you will see log files.

Our logs are in the cron_log.txt file. Type cat cron_log.txt and you will see the logs.

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121: ~/ / X + v
✓ category confectionery-snacks Page 24: 48 products scraped.
Fetching page 25...
✓ category confectionery-snacks Page 25: 48 products scraped.
Fetching page 26...
✓ category confectionery-snacks Page 26: 48 products scraped.
Fetching page 27...
✓ category confectionery-snacks Page 27: 48 products scraped.
Fetching page 28...
✓ category confectionery-snacks Page 28: 23 products scraped.
Fetching page 29...
No more products found on category confectionery-snacks page 29. Ending scrape.
Fetching page 1...
✓ category baby Page 1: 51 products scraped.
Fetching page 2...
✓ category baby Page 2: 48 products scraped.
Fetching page 3...
✓ category baby Page 3: 48 products scraped.
Fetching page 4...
✓ category baby Page 4: 48 products scraped.
Fetching page 5...
✓ category baby Page 5: 48 products scraped.
Fetching page 6...
✓ category baby Page 6: 14 products scraped.
Fetching page 7...
No more products found on category baby page 7. Ending scrape.
Fetching page 1...
✓ category health-beauty Page 1: 50 products scraped.
Fetching page 2...
✓ category health-beauty Page 2: 48 products scraped.
Fetching page 3...
```

This will help you debug whether the scraper ran successfully and if they encountered any error.

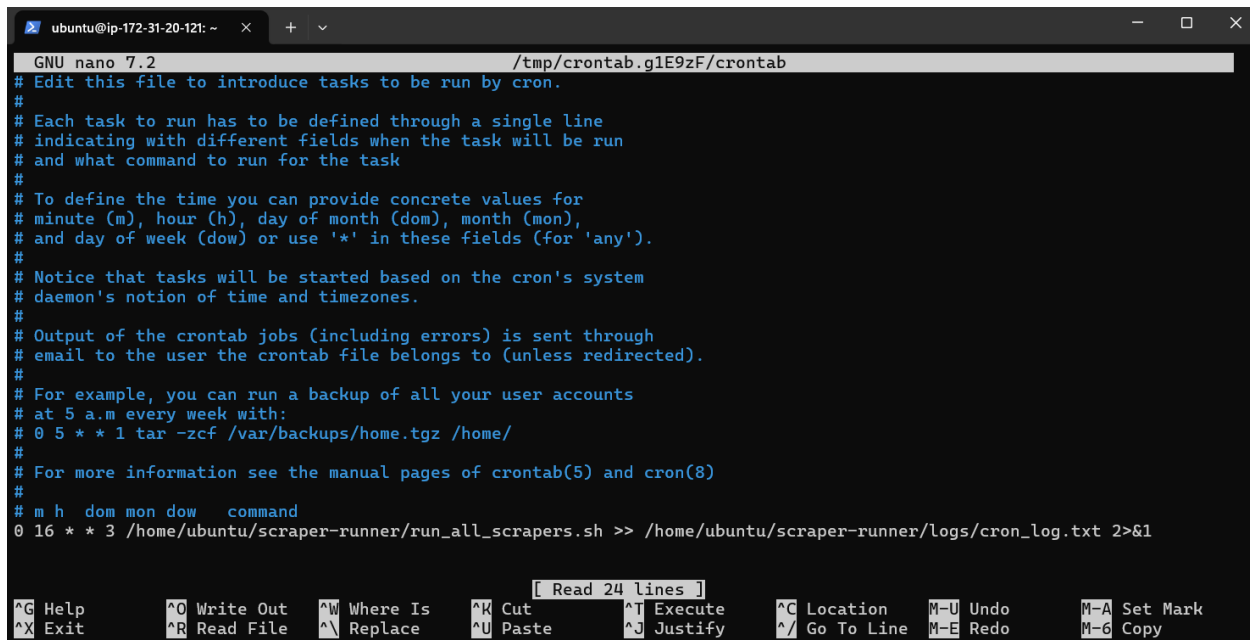
Cron Job Automation

The EC2 instance is configured with a cron job that automatically runs `run_all_scrapers.sh` at the scheduled time and writes logs to `cron_log.txt`.

To view or edit the cron job:

crontab -e

You will see the cron job set up to automatically run the `run_all_scrapers.sh` file and send logs to `cron_log.txt`

A screenshot of a terminal window on an Ubuntu EC2 instance. The window title is 'ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121: ~'. The terminal shows the GNU nano 7.2 editor editing the file '/tmp/crontab.g1E9zF/crontab'. The file content includes instructions on how to define cron tasks and a single cron job entry: '0 16 * * 3 /home/ubuntu/scraper-runner/run_all_scrapers.sh >> /home/ubuntu/scraper-runner/logs/cron_log.txt 2>&1'. The bottom of the terminal shows a status bar with various keyboard shortcuts like '^G Help', '^O Write Out', etc., and a message '[Read 24 lines]'.

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-20-121: ~  
GNU nano 7.2 /tmp/crontab.g1E9zF/crontab  
# Edit this file to introduce tasks to be run by cron.  
#  
# Each task to run has to be defined through a single line  
# indicating with different fields when the task will be run  
# and what command to run for the task  
#  
# To define the time you can provide concrete values for  
# minute (m), hour (h), day of month (dom), month (mon),  
# and day of week (dow) or use '*' in these fields (for 'any').  
#  
# Notice that tasks will be started based on the cron's system  
# daemon's notion of time and timezones.  
#  
# Output of the crontab jobs (including errors) is sent through  
# email to the user the crontab file belongs to (unless redirected).  
#  
# For example, you can run a backup of all your user accounts  
# at 5 a.m every week with:  
# 0 5 * * 1 tar -zcf /var/backups/home.tgz /home/  
#  
# For more information see the manual pages of crontab(5) and cron(8)  
#  
# m h dom mon dow  command  
0 16 * * 3 /home/ubuntu/scraper-runner/run_all_scrapers.sh >> /home/ubuntu/scraper-runner/logs/cron_log.txt 2>&1  
[ Read 24 lines ]  
^G Help  ^O Write Out  ^W Where Is  ^K Cut  ^T Execute  ^C Location  M-U Undo  M-A Set Mark  
^X Exit  ^R Read File  ^\ Replace  ^U Paste  ^J Justify  ^_ Go To Line  M-E Redo  M-6 Copy
```

This is the part on the EC2 instance. But, to make sure this cron runs successfully on this instance, we need to make sure that the EC2 instance is up and running at least 15 minutes before the above scheduled cron job.

EventBridge Integration

Since the cron job requires the EC2 instance to be running beforehand, Amazon EventBridge is used to automatically **start the EC2 instance 15 minutes before the scheduled cron job**.

Setup Summary:

1. Create an IAM role with permissions for EC2 start/describe actions.
2. Attach a policy with the following JSON:

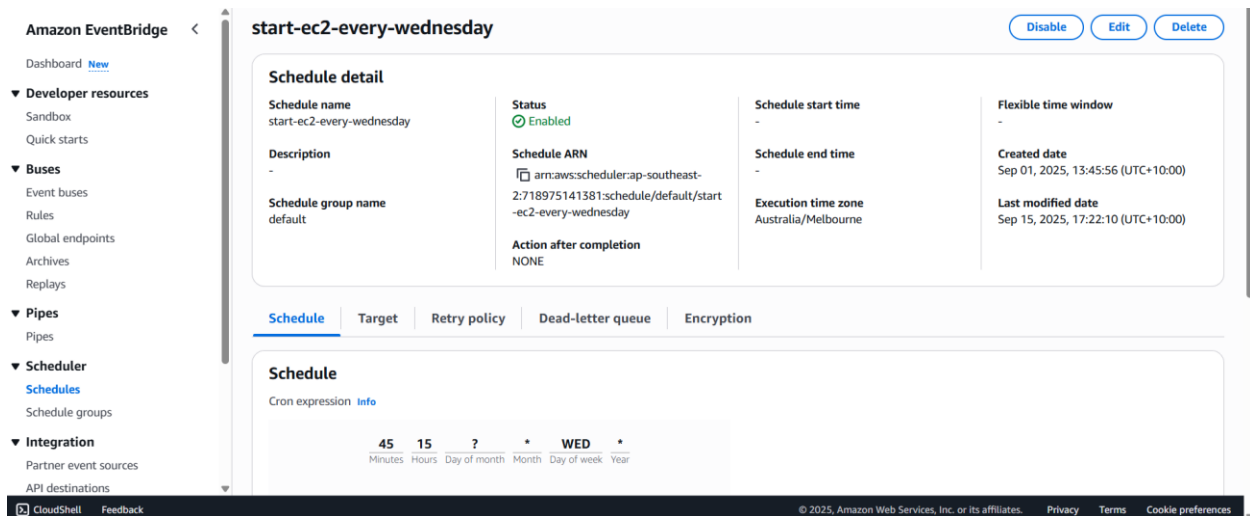
```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Action": [
        "ec2:StartInstances",
        "ec2:DescribeInstances"
      ],
      "Resource": "arn:aws:ec2:ap-southeast-2:718975141381:instance/i-0a0483386e8bf25e6"
    }
  ]
}
```

3. Assign this IAM role to the EventBridge schedule.
4. Create a schedule that triggers 15 minutes before the cron job.
5. Configure EventBridge to target the EC2 instance and execute **StartInstances**.

- In addition, a separate IAM role with **AmazonEC2FullAccess** policy is attached to the EC2 instance, enabling it to stop itself once the scrapers finish execution.

The detailed steps with screenshot are provided below:

You can see I have this EventBridge rule currently on AWS that aligns with our cron job above.

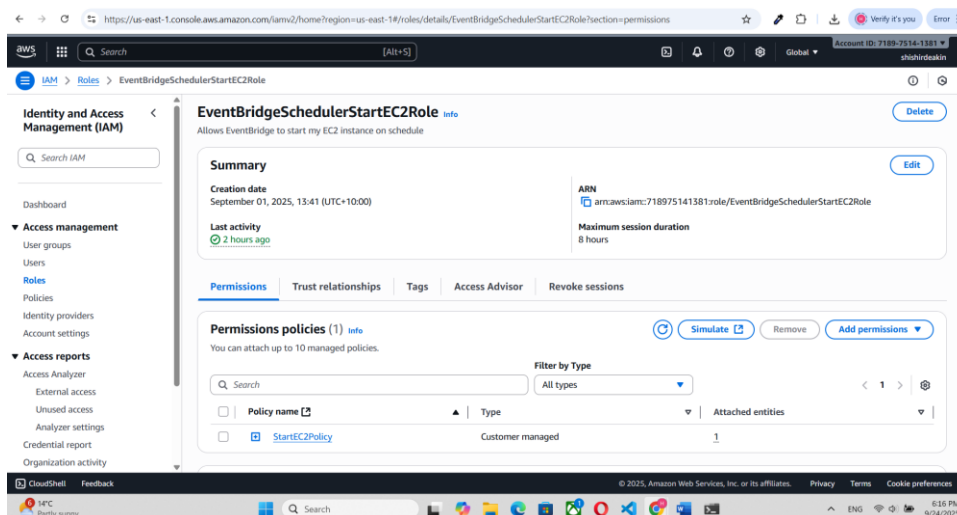


So, you need to create a similar EventBridge rule on your AWS account.

But note that the EventBridge should have permission to auto start the EC2 instance. So, you should first create the required IAM roles and attach this so that it has permission to start instance.

So, go to your IAM console. And create role.

You need to create role like below



And attach Policy to it

Go to Policy and create policy with the following JSON:

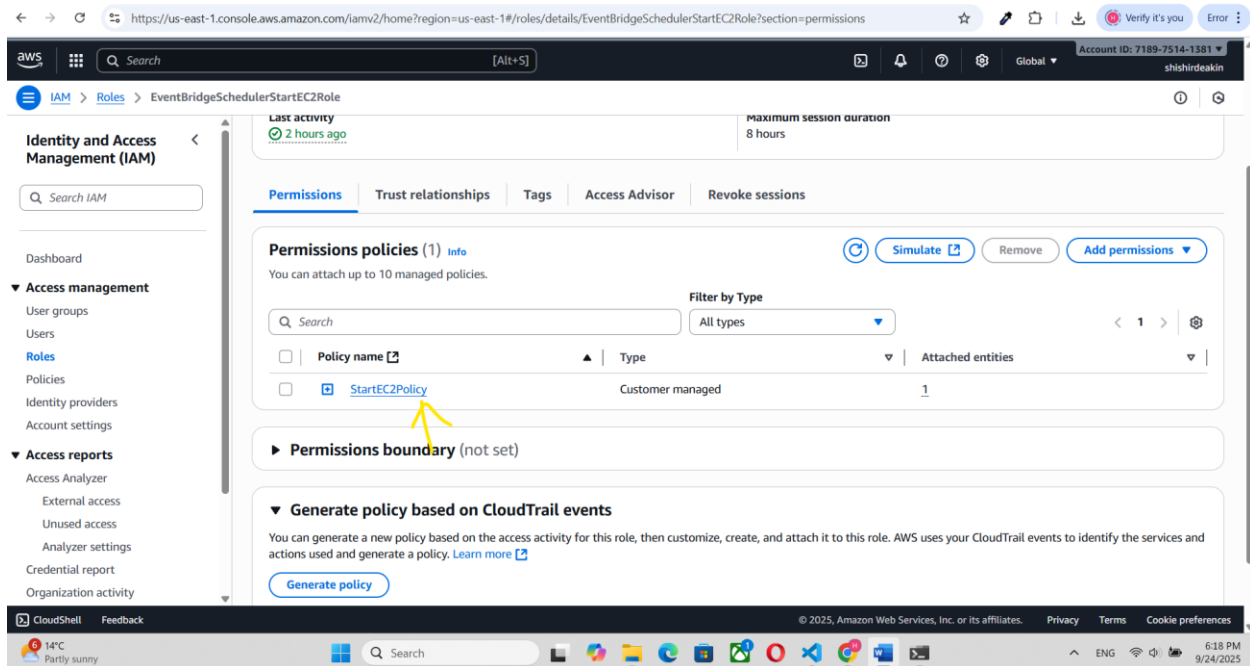
```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Action": [
        "ec2:StartInstances",
        "ec2:DescribeInstances"
      ],
      "Resource": "arn:aws:ec2:ap-southeast-2:718975141381:instance/i-0a0483386e8bf25e6"
    }
  ]
}
```

The screenshot shows the AWS IAM console interface. The left sidebar contains navigation links for Identity and Access Management (IAM), including Dashboard, Access management (Users, Roles, Policies, Identity providers, Account settings), and Access reports (Access Analyzer, External access, Unused access, Analyzer settings, Credential report, Organization activity). The main content area displays the details of a custom policy named 'StartEC2Policy'. The policy is customer managed, created on September 01, 2025, at 13:33 UTC+10:00, and edited at 14:25 UTC+10:00. The ARN is 'arn:aws:iam:718975141381:policy/StartEC2Policy'. The 'Permissions' tab is selected, showing a message: 'This policy defines some actions, resources, or conditions that do not provide permissions. To grant access, policies must have an action that has an applicable resource or condition. For details, choose Show remaining. Learn more'. Below this, the 'Permissions defined in this policy' section shows the JSON policy document. The JSON is as follows:

```
1 {
2   "Version": "2012-10-17",
3   "Statement": [
4     {
5       "Effect": "Allow",
6       "Action": [
7         "ec2:StartInstances",
8         "ec2:DescribeInstances"
9       ],
10      "Resource": "arn:aws:ec2:ap-southeast-2:718975141381:instance/i-0a0483386e8bf25e6"
11    }
12  ]
13 }
```

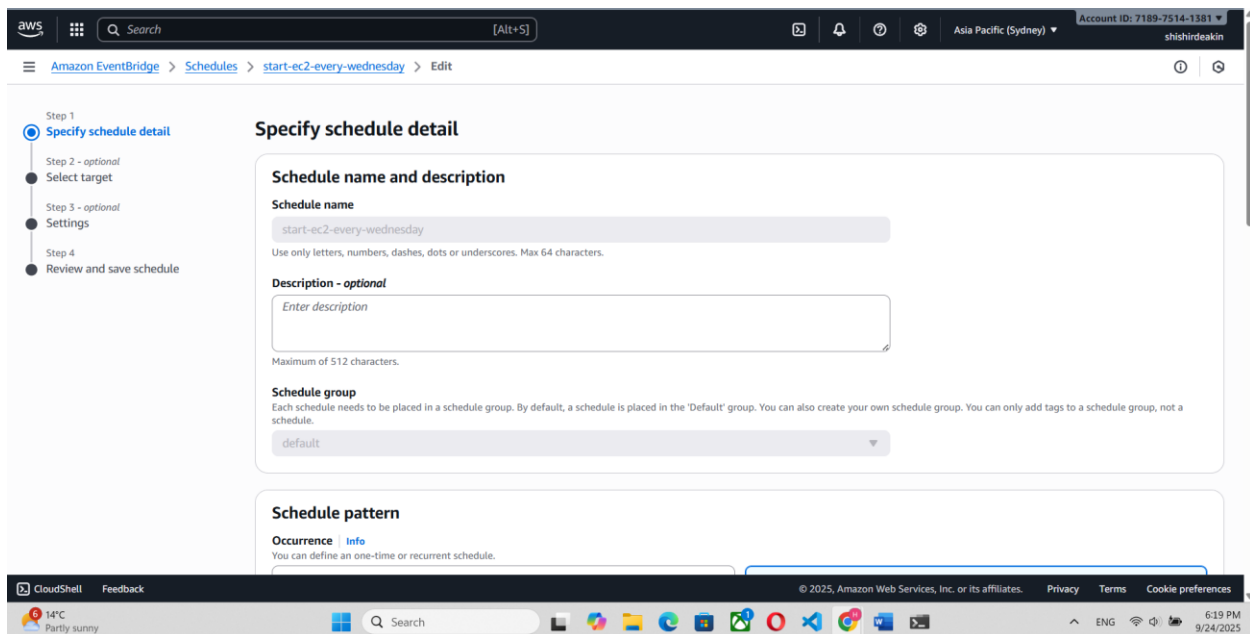
The bottom of the screenshot shows the Windows taskbar with the date and time as 6:17 PM on 9/24/2025.

Then you have to attach this policy to the EventBridge role you created like below:



Once that is done, come to Amazon EventBridge Schedule and create Schedule

Specify schedule name and details



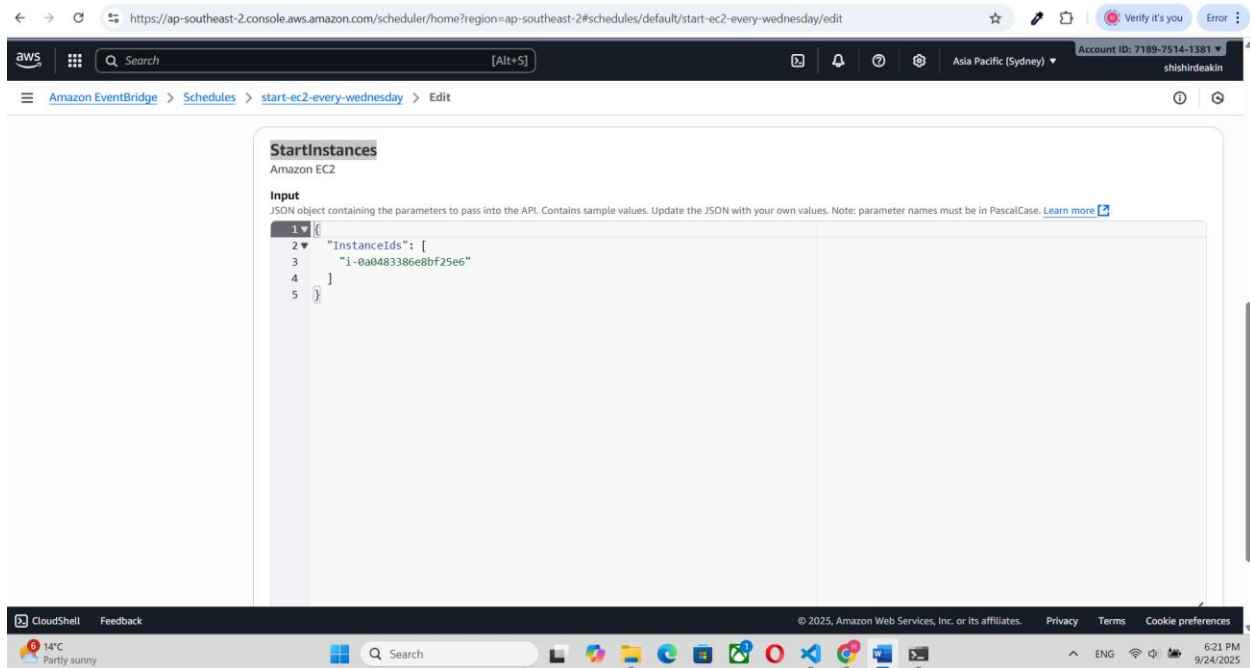
Create cron pattern like below:

The screenshot shows the AWS EventBridge console for editing a schedule named 'start-ec2-every-wednesday'. The 'Schedule pattern' section is active, showing a 'Recurring schedule' selected. The 'Time zone' is set to '(UTC+10:00) Australia/Melbourne'. The 'Schedule type' is 'Cron-based schedule'. The 'Cron expression' is defined as 'cron (45 15 ? * WED *)', which translates to 'Minutes: 45, Hours: 15, Day of month: ?, Month: *, Day of week: WED, Year: *'. Below this, 'Next 10 trigger dates' are listed, starting from 'Wed, 01 Oct 2025 15:45:00 (UTC+10:00)'. The browser address bar shows the URL: 'https://ap-southeast-2.console.aws.amazon.com/scheduler/home?region=ap-southeast-2#schedules/default/start-ec2-every-wednesday/edit'.

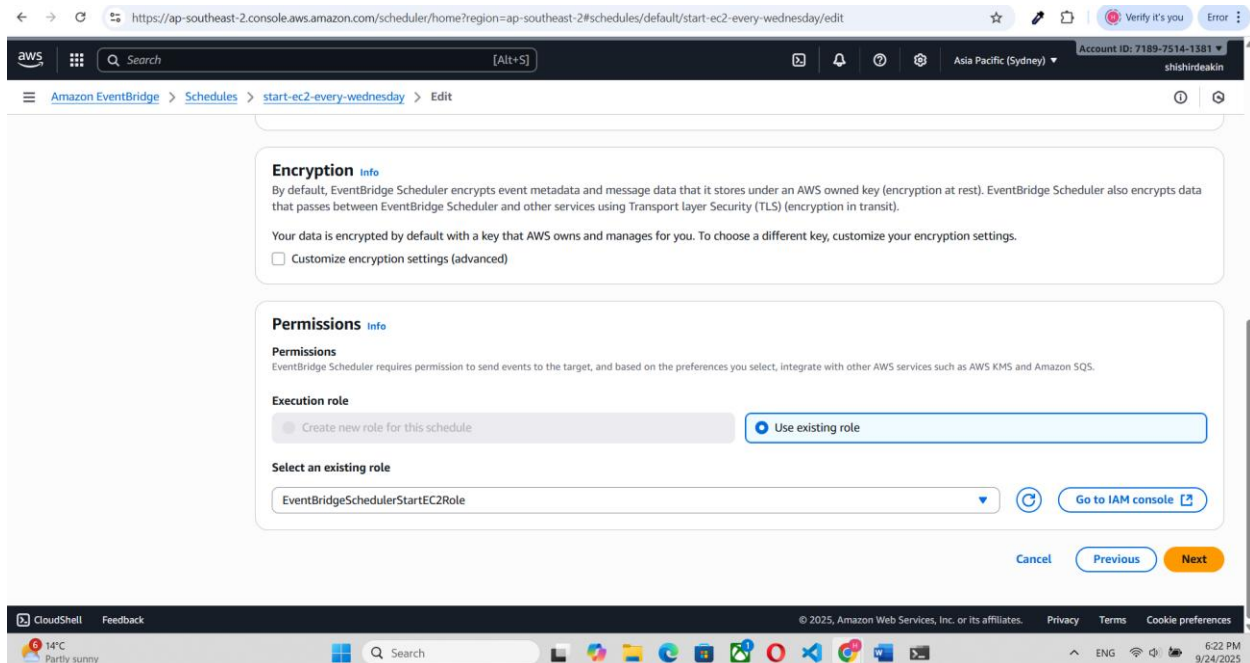
In Target, find Amazon EC2 and find **StartInstances**

The screenshot shows the 'Target detail' section of the AWS EventBridge console. The 'Select target' step is active, showing a list of targets under the 'Amazon EC2' service. The 'Target API' is set to 'All APIs'. The list of targets includes: 'AcceptAddressTransfer', 'AcceptReservedInstanc...', 'AcceptTransitGateway...', 'AcceptTransitGateway...', 'AcceptVpcEndpointCo...', 'AcceptVpcPeeringConn...', 'AdvertiseByoipCidr', and 'AllocateAddress'. The browser address bar shows the URL: 'https://ap-southeast-2.console.aws.amazon.com/scheduler/home?region=ap-southeast-2#schedules/default/start-ec2-every-wednesday/edit'.

Then provide your instance-id like below:



Next, in the Permissions, select Use existing role and select the permission you created above.



Finally, save the schedule.

Now, you have to create another IAM role that allows EC2 instance to stop it by itself once the scraping is complete.

In this role, attach AmazonEC2FullAccess policy.

The screenshot shows the AWS IAM console for the role **EC2SelfStopRole**. The left sidebar contains the navigation menu with sections like Identity and Access Management (IAM), Access management, and Access reports. The main content area is titled **EC2SelfStopRole** and includes a summary section with details such as Creation date (September 01, 2025, 12:13 (UTC+10:00)), ARN (arn:aws:iam::718975141381:role/EC2SelfStopRole), and Instance profile ARN (arn:aws:iam::718975141381:instance-profile/EC2SelfStopRole). Below the summary, there are tabs for Permissions, Trust relationships, Tags, Access Advisor, and Revoke sessions. The **Permissions** tab is active, showing **Permissions policies (1)** with a table listing the attached policy: **AmazonEC2FullAccess**, which is AWS managed and attached to 1 entity.

The screenshot shows the AWS IAM console for the role **EC2SelfStopRole**, specifically the **Trust relationships** tab. The left sidebar is the same as the previous screenshot. The main content area shows the **Summary** section with the same details as before. Below the summary, the **Trust relationships** tab is active, displaying **Trusted entities** with a JSON policy document. The policy document is as follows:

```
1 {
2   "Version": "2012-10-17",
3   "Statement": [
4     {
5       "Effect": "Allow",
6       "Principal": {
7         "Service": "ec2.amazonaws.com"
8       },
9       "Action": "sts:AssumeRole"
10    }
11  ]
12 }
```

Conclusion

With the AMI, cron job, and EventBridge integration in place, this automation framework ensures the scrapers run reliably on a weekly basis with minimal manual intervention. All results are stored in MongoDB collections for further processing. Future students can continue building on this foundation by extending the scraping logic or improving automation while reusing the existing infrastructure.