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Host a Website on Amazon S3



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Introducing Today's Project!

What is Amazon S3

Amazon S3 (Simple Storage Service) is a cloud storage service offered by AWS which stores your files as objects. It is a highly durable cloud storage option which gives usnique access to your files. It can also be used to host a static website.

How I used Amazon S3 in this project

Today, I used Amazon S3 to host a static website very quickly without having to know much technicalities.

One thing I didn't expect in this project was...

One thing I did not expect in this project was how a few clicks can help host a website. That was really awesome.

This project took me...

It took about 30 minutes to complete this project, this was because I encountered a few errors and had to troubleshoot.

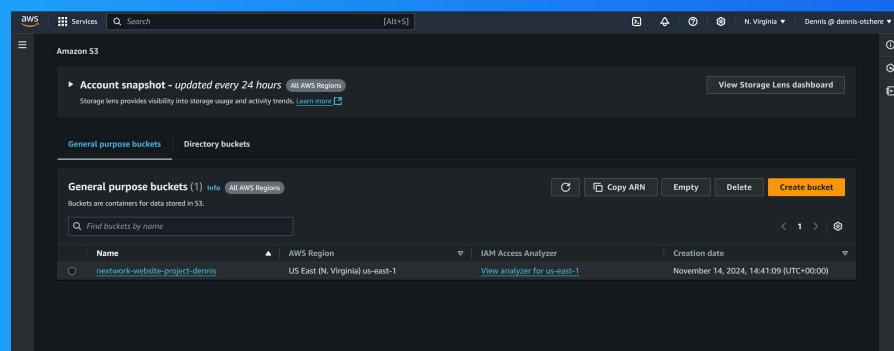


How I Set Up an S3 Bucket

Creating an S3 bucket took me just about 10 seconds and I think network speed has a part to play in this.

I used the US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1 region, there was no particular reason. It was just the default region when I logged into my console home.

S3 bucket names are globally unique! This means that there is no other bucket that exists globally with the same name as the one you have chosen.





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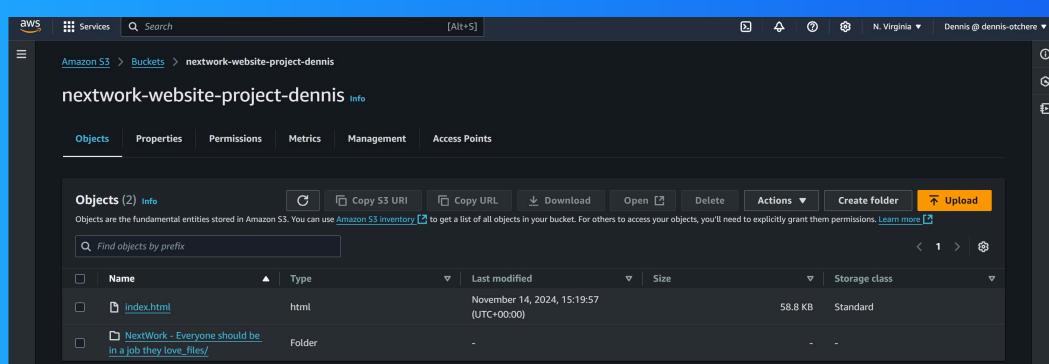
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Upload Website Files to S3

index.html and image assets

I uploaded two files to my S3 bucket, they were the index.htm (file) and the "NextWork - Everyone should be in a job they love_files" (folder)

Both files are necessary for this project as they work together to display the webpage without any issue. The index.html file is the main file that points to resources included in the folder.





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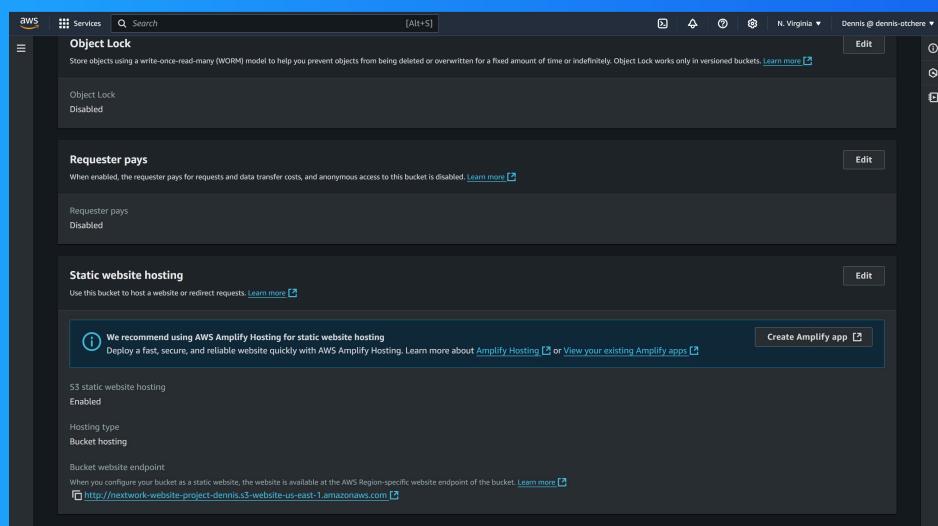
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Static Website Hosting on S3

Website hosting means making your web content/files to be publicly accessible by anyone using a specific link (url address). A website can be hosted by a web server, which is a special computer designed to handle this kind of task.

To enable website hosting with my S3 bucket, I selected the properties tab firstly. Then skimming through the options I edited the "static website hosting" to enabled. Then I confirmed the changes by saving it.

An Access Control List (ACL) is a rule that you can use to manage access to objects that you will store in your bucket. I enabled ACL for this bucket.





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Bucket Endpoints

Once static website is enabled, S3 produces a bucket endpoint URL, which is an address to your website. Anyone with this address will be able to view your web site/page.

When I first visited the bucket endpoint URL, I saw a "403 Forbidden" error. The reason is that the "Block public access" setting in the permissions tab was enabled. Meaning the bucket is publicly available, but the objects inside it are not.

403 Forbidden

- Code: AccessDenied
- Message: Access Denied
- RequestId: NBQXQV9ZG23CN5YH
- HostId: u5ySyz7mfghwjmOYuGHQPBEkcgzwD1s0zr4NYcgqub3AgvvxMhCeQGCMQQaYKy88bN2EFs9AI=



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Success!

To resolve this connection error, I viewed a post in the "I have a question" channel which provided me with the guide to resolve the issue. I failed to download the right index.html file and that was the issue.

The image shows a dark-themed landing page for NextWork. At the top center is the NextWork logo, which consists of a stylized 'NW' icon followed by the word 'NEXTWORK'. Below the logo is a large, bold, white and blue headline: 'EVERYONE SHOULD BE IN A JOB THEY LOVE'. To the right of the text is a blue heart outline. Below the headline is a horizontal row of twelve small circular profile pictures, each containing a different animal or object. To the right of the last profile picture is a dark grey circle with the text 'You?' in white. Underneath the profile row, there is a line of text: 'Building the best online learning experience to switch careers and upskill.' followed by 'Starting with AWS certifications.' At the bottom of the page is a white input field with the placeholder 'Enter your email' and a blue button next to it labeled 'Join waitlist'.



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