How to connect to AWS EC2 instance using SSH using PuTTY

Prerequisites:

1. **EC2 Instance:**

   - Launch an EC2 instance in your AWS account.
   - Note the public IP address of your instance.

2. **Instance Private Key:**

   - During the instance creation, choose or create a key pair.
   - Download the private key file (`.pem`).

3. **PuTTY Software:**

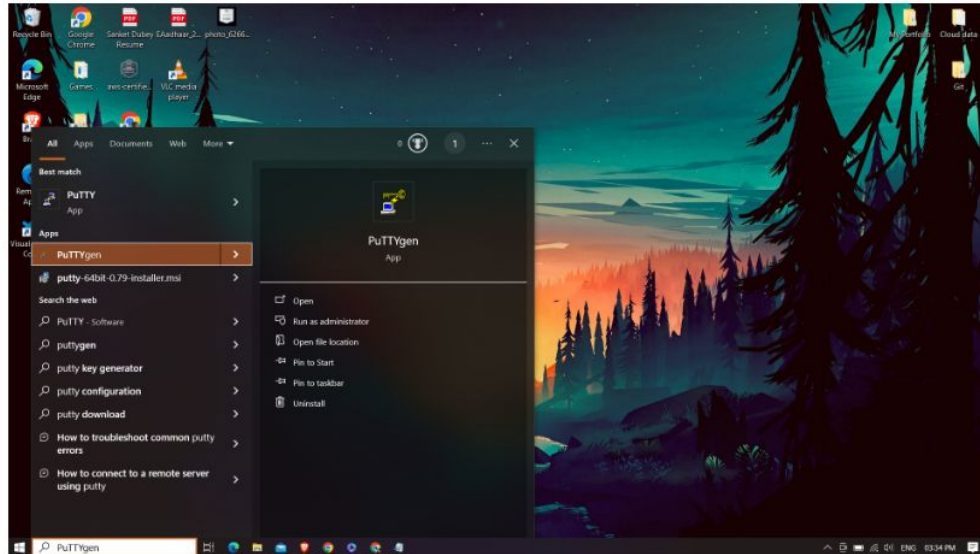   - Download and install PuTTY from the official website: **PuTTY Download**.

4. **PuTTYgen:**

   - PuTTYgen is included with PuTTY. No separate installation is needed.
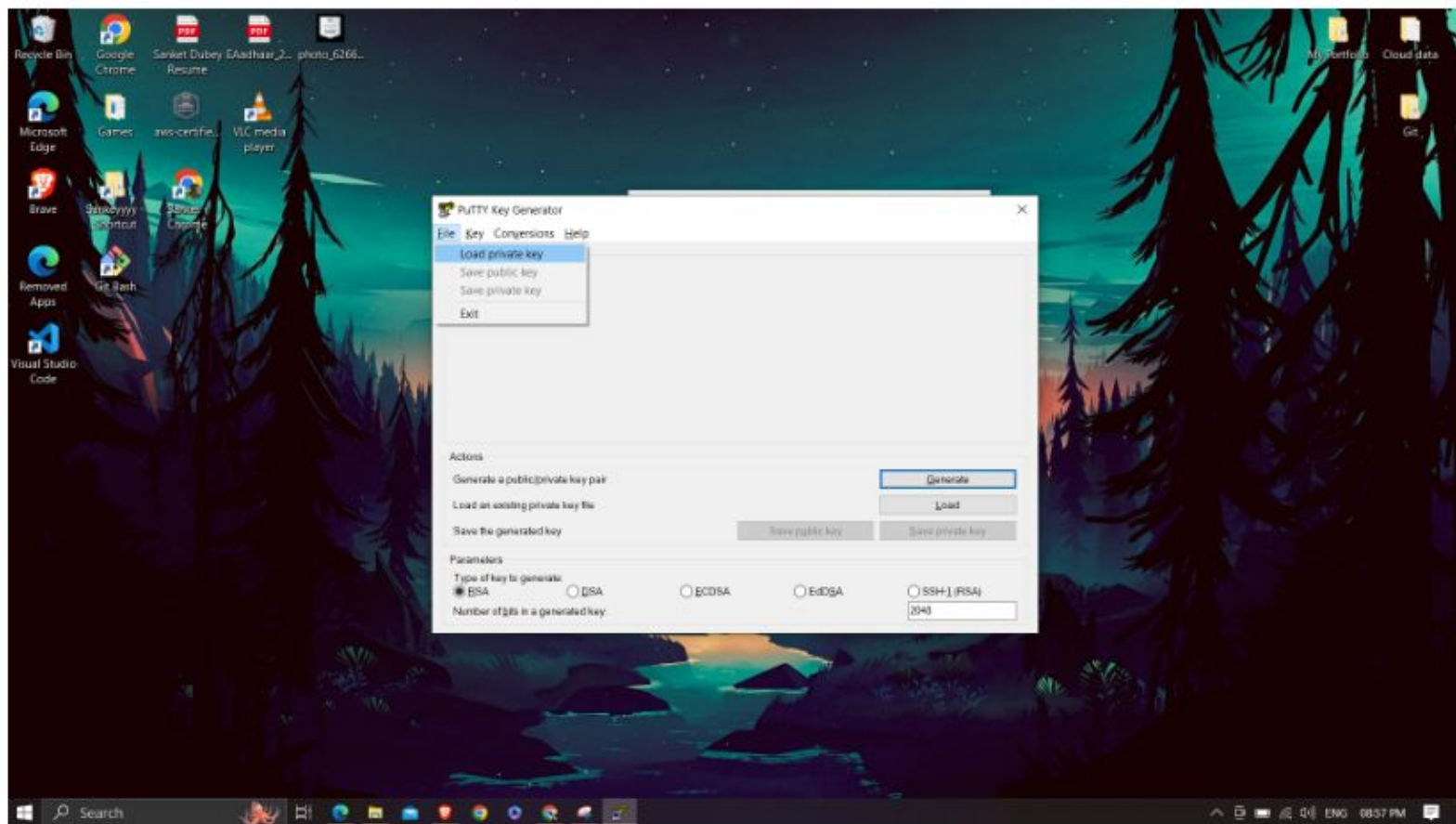
Steps:

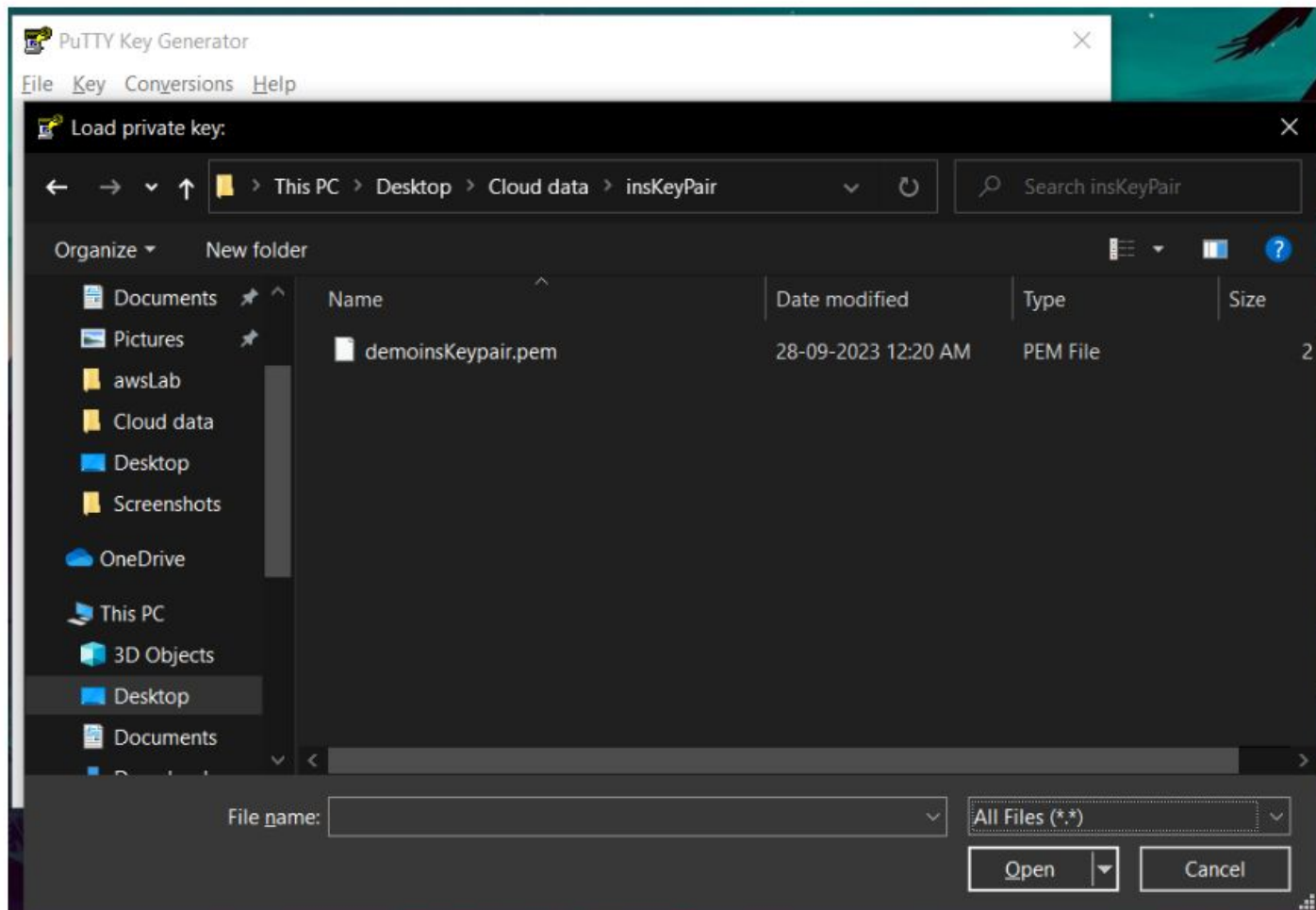1. **Convert PEM to PPK using PuTTYgen:**

   - Open PuTTYgen.

- Click on "File" and then "Load Private Key."

- Browse and select your `.pem` private key file.

- Click on "Save Private Key" to save the key in PPK format.

PuTTY Key Generator   ✕

File   Key   Conversions   Help

Key

Public key for pasting into OpenSSH authorized_keys file:

```
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAAABAQCl5fP/zNoR/hHJ0VTJ5hQ
+HBM548ddcVRAW1GaRSaitBFZFYaZIy52FUBbvHLqFj9oNlzKAov3e4eQktA2jm+VJh3iohe7h4eUosk
+hxfUcV6QAifyPdEQhzZaE1wYTJLir8VxON85Vf1ezDbLq3pEdCxpjRZGKL4pVeNax7+A1B0ijn7F9y
+53Xb17qH5RbwF2R2TUUgzssNS92a4vXr+4yB8gHJeo6wWvqHtJcMhB/STBZmHw+mPfAzcPmXEH4hlueR14y
+0jw972dnWIn02Bw8elSUYAE5r2uwUFAjN9dL+fDR1JLGr6xQ3Ng6f4fgJkoFMiyw3tLJJcUsX6ER7 imported-openssh-key
```

Key fingerprint:	ssh-rsa 2048 SHA256:z/vypjmMw/ozNr50jtD/Ko4WO15JQ6ms9gEoXp9h/xw
Key comment:	imported-openssh-key
Key passphrase:	
Confirm passphrase:	

Actions

Generate a public/private key pair	Generate
Load an existing private key file	Load
Save the generated key	Save public key Save private key

Parameters

Type of key to generate:
◉ RSA   ○ DSA   ○ ECDSA   ○ EdDSA   ○ SSH-1 (RSA)
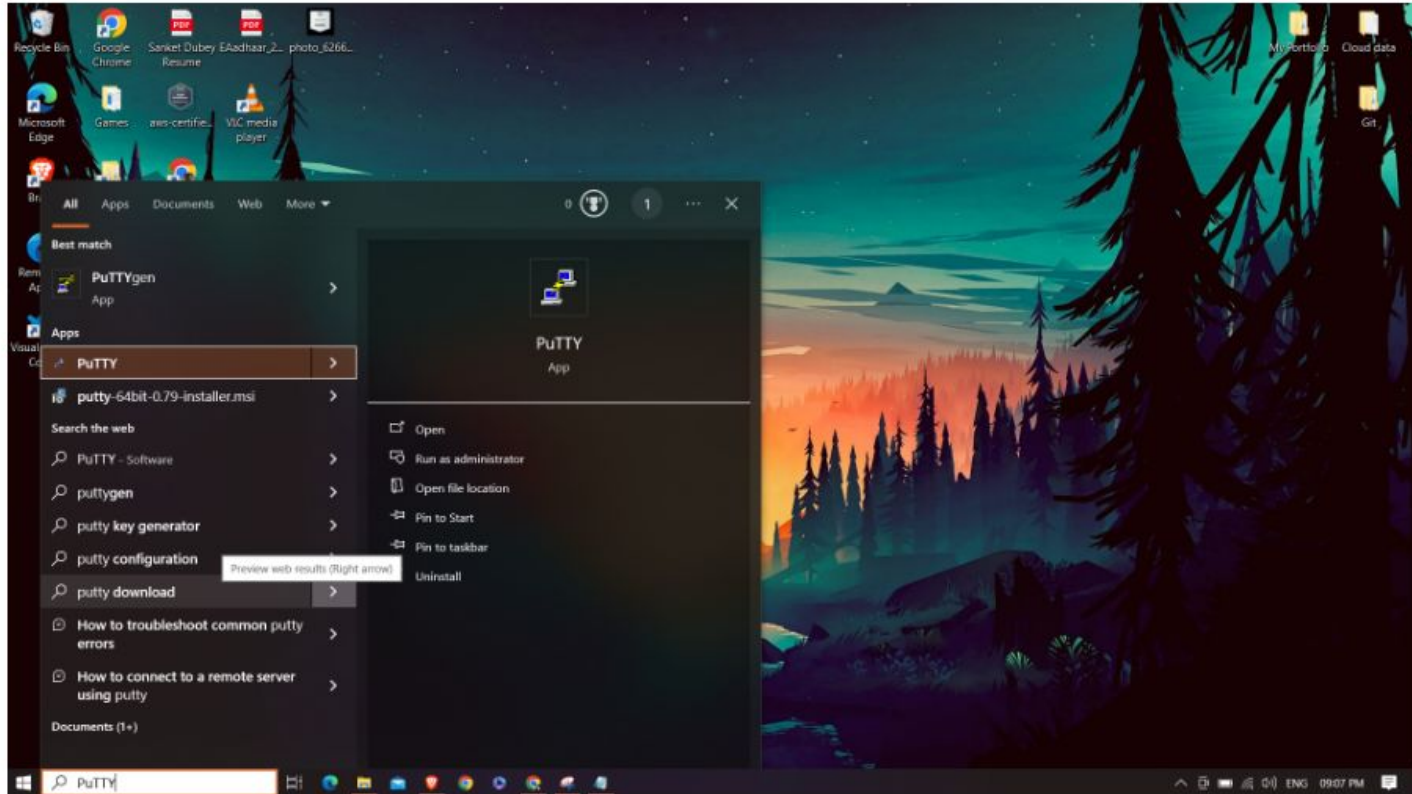
Number of bits in a generated key: 2048
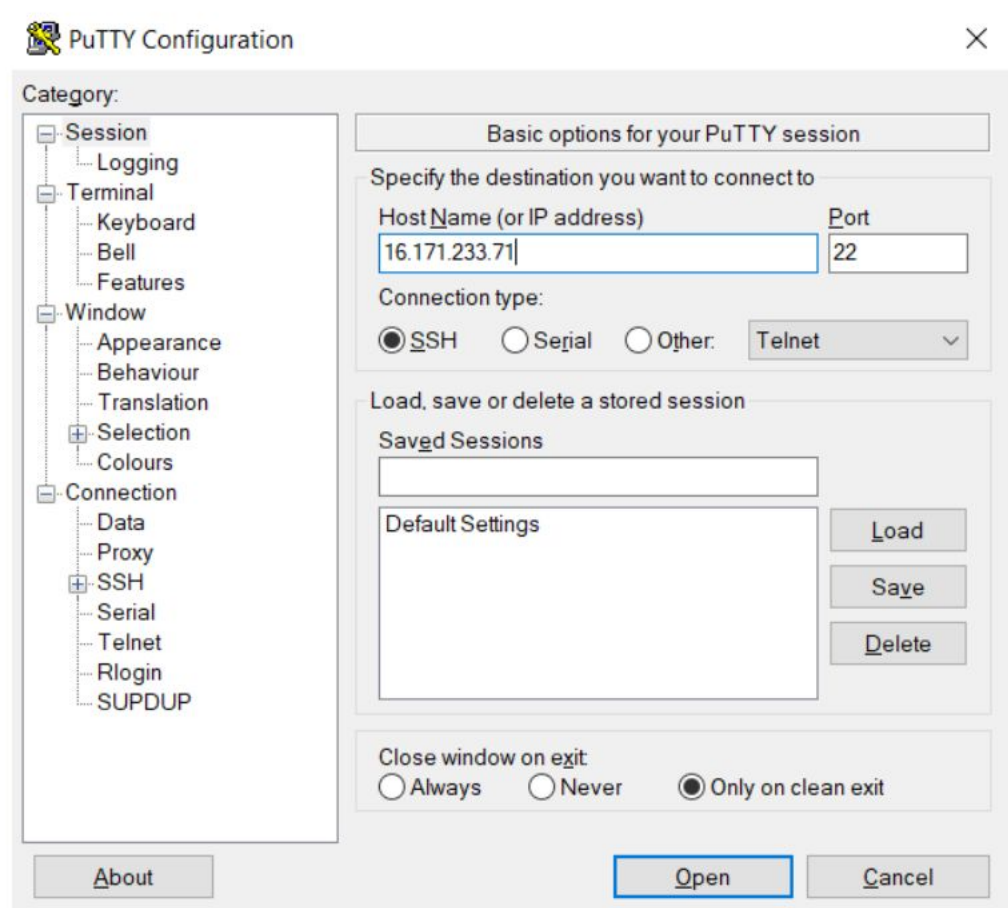
2. **Open PuTTY:**
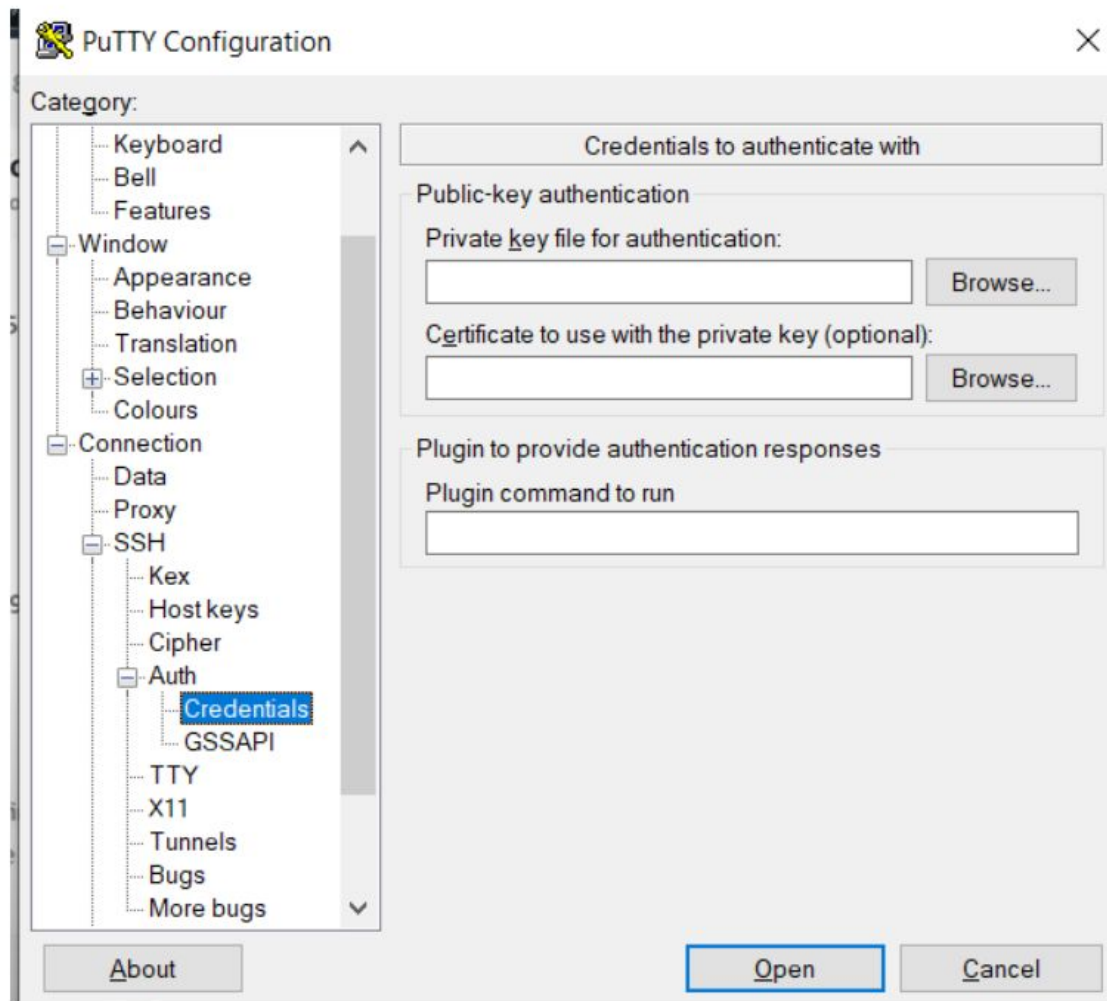
- Open PuTTY on your local machine.
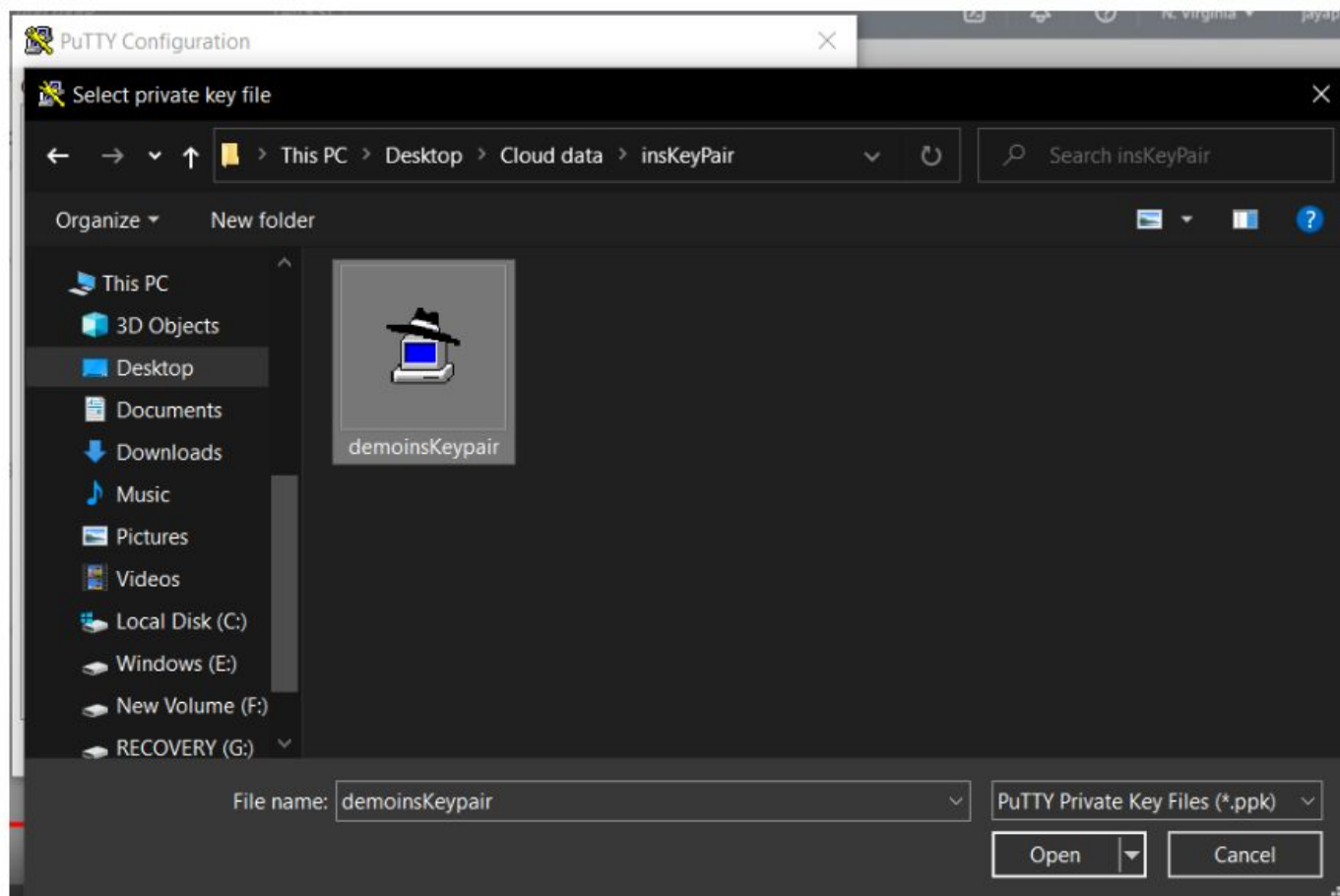
In the PuTTY Configuration window:

- qEnter your instance's public IP address in the "Host Name (or IP address)" field.

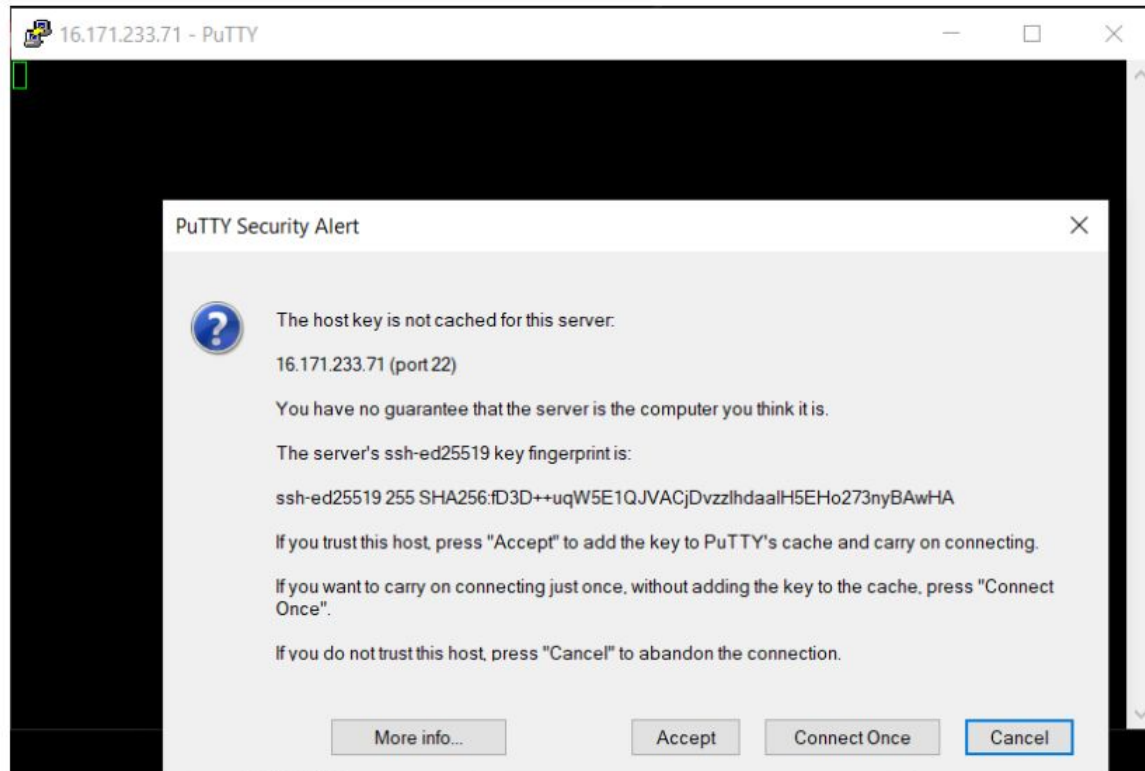- Under "Connection," expand "SSH" then click on "Auth" and click on "Credential"

- Click on "Browse" and select the PPK file you saved using PuTTYgen.

4. Accept the Session:

- Click on "Save" to save your configuration.

- Click on "Open" to start the SSH connection.

5. Login to the Instance:

- If you are connecting to an Ubuntu instance, log in as the "ubuntu" user:

- login as: ubuntu

16.171.233.71 - PuTTY —

```
login as: ubuntu
```

- If your instance is using Amazon Linux, log in as the "ec2-user" or as per your OS:

- login as: ec2-user

6. **You're In!**

- Once logged in, you should now have command-line access to your AWS EC2 instance.

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-26-186: ~

login as: ubuntu
Authenticating with public key "imported-openssh-key"
Welcome to Ubuntu 22.04.2 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.19.0-1025-aws x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:     https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:        https://ubuntu.com/advantage

  System information as of Sun Oct  8 15:59:01 UTC 2023

  System load:  0.0              Processes:             103
  Usage of /:   22.9% of 7.57GB  Users logged in:       0
  Memory usage: 22%              IPv4 address for ens5: 172.31.26.186
  Swap usage:   0%


Expanded Security Maintenance for Applications is not enabled.

0 updates can be applied immediately.

Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status


The list of available updates is more than a week old.
To check for new updates run: sudo apt update

Last login: Sun Oct  8 15:56:53 2023 from 182.48.224.171
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo_root" for details.

ubuntu@ip-172-31-26-186:~$
```