

Placement Empowerment Program

Cloud Computing and DevOps Centre

Host a Static Website on a Cloud VM
Install Apache/Nginx on your cloud VM and host a simple HTML website.

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Introduction

Hosting a static website on a cloud virtual machine is a fundamental step in understanding web server setup and deployment. This task demonstrates how to install a web server (Apache or Nginx), transfer HTML files, and serve a static website over the internet.

Objectives

1. Learn how to install and configure a web server (Apache or Nginx) on a cloud VM.
2. Transfer static website files to the VM using SCP.
3. Serve the static website from the cloud VM and access it via a web browser.

Steps

1. Connect to the Cloud VM:

- Use the SSH command to access your cloud VM:

```
ssh <user>@<IP_address>
```

- Replace <user> with the default username for your cloud provider (e.g., ec2-user for AWS or azureuser for Azure) and <IP_address> with the VM's public IP address.

2. Install Apache or Nginx:

- Update the package list:

```
sudo apt update
```

- Install Apache:

```
sudo apt install apache2 -y
```

OR Install Nginx:

```
sudo apt install nginx -y
```

3. Transfer HTML Files to the VM:

- Use SCP (Secure Copy Protocol) to transfer HTML files from your local machine to the server:

```
scp index.html <user>@<IP_address>:/var/www/html/
```

4. Configure the Web Server:

- Start the web server:

```
sudo systemctl start apache2
```

OR

sudo systemctl start nginx

- **Verify that the web server is running:**

sudo systemctl status apache2

OR

sudo systemctl status nginx

5. Access the Website:

- **Open a web browser and navigate to the public IP address of your VM:
http://<IP_address>.**
- **You should see your static HTML website displayed.**

Key Learnings

- **Basics of web server installation and configuration.**
- **Transferring files securely using SCP.**
- **Hosting and accessing a static website on a cloud-based virtual machine.**

References

- **AWS EC2 Apache Setup Guide**