DIT 637 Smart and Secure Systems TT05 Experiencing DevSecOps - A Mobile App with Amazon EC2

06/20/2024 Developed by Clark Ngo 07/03/2024 Reviewed by Sam Chung School of Technology & Computing (STC) @ City University of Seattle (CityU)

We use the same application that we started in TT 04.

References

- GitHub Actions https://docs.github.com/en/actions/learn-github-actions/understanding-github-actions#overview
- Open Worldwide Application Security Project (OWASP) Zed Attack Proxy (ZAP) https://github.com/marketplace/actions/zap-baseline-scan
- Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2)
 https://docs.aws.amazon.com/pdfs/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/ec2-ug.pdf#concepts

Key Concepts and Tools for Cloud-based Full Stack Continuous Integration & Deployment (CI/CD)

Frontend

To create the visual part of a mobile app that users interact with

• React Native: To efficiently build dynamic and responsive user interfaces for mobile apps

Backend

The backend of a web application is responsible for the server-side logic, handling database interactions, user authentication, and application logic. It processes incoming requests, applies business rules, accesses databases, and sends responses back to the client.

- **ExpressJS**: A minimal and flexible Node.js web application framework that provides robust features for web and mobile applications. It is used to build the server-side logic of web applications.
- Amazon EC2: Provides scalable computing capacity in the Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud. It
 is used for hosting and running backend servers.

Database

A database is an organized collection of data generally stored and accessed electronically from a computer system. It is essential for storing and managing large amounts of data efficiently. There are two types: SQL and NoSQL DB.

MongoDB Atlas: A cloud-based NoSQL database service for modern applications, providing a
fully managed and global cloud database with built-in automation for resource and workload
management.

Development Environment

Codespaces: To provide a cloud-based development environment using containerization that is easy to set up and use from anywhere, similar to Google Docs, but for coding.

Version Control and Collaboration

GitHub as Repo: To store and manage code with version control, making collaboration more manageable, just like using Google Drive for sharing documents.

Continuous Integration (CI) and Deployment (CD)

GitHub Actions: To automate the testing and deployment process. When code is pushed to the repository, GitHub Actions can automatically run tests and deploy the application to Amazon EC2, saving you time and effort. It can also run a security scanner like ZAP.

 Zed Attack Proxy (ZAP): An open-source web application security scanner maintained by OWASP. It is used to find security vulnerabilities in web applications during development and testing phases.

Example: Movie Search Application

To practice and demonstrate the capabilities of React Native and Express in creating real-world applications, like searching for movies on Netflix.

Why are we moving our backend server from GitHub Codespaces to Amazon EC2?

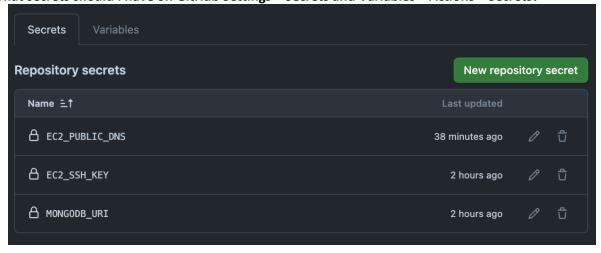
Moving our backend server from Codespaces to Amazon EC2 offers increased scalability, allowing us to handle higher traffic loads. It provides enhanced security features, better integration with AWS services, and cost-efficiency through flexible pricing models. EC2 also supports more powerful computing resources, giving us greater control over server configurations and performance optimizations, which is crucial for production environments.

Uploading three image files to your GitHub Repository generated from GitHub Classroom

- 1. The screenshot of your Amazon EC2 details with port 3000 allowed for access (0.0.0.0/0) as 'first_last_ec2_port_3000.png' by using your first and last name.
- 2. The screenshot of your browser with endpoint ec2_IPv4_url:3000/movies as 'first_last_ec2_movies.png' by using your first and last name.

FAQs

What secrets should I have on GitHub Settings > Secrets and Variables > Actions > Secrets?



What environment variables (.env) should I have for frontend? (Sample) Note: make sure there's no "/" at the end of the url.

Correct:

API_URL=http://34.215.57.88:3000

Wrong:

API_URL=http://34.25.57.88:3000/

How to run my frontend code?

Inside the frontend-reactnative folder

- npm install
- npx expo login
- npm expo start --tunnel
- Scan the QR code or manually open your Expo Go app

I can't access my Amazon EC2 endpoint in my browser?

- Security inbound rules should allow port 3000 with 0.0.0.0/0
- When accessing the IP, it should not have https. It should only have http.

1) User Case

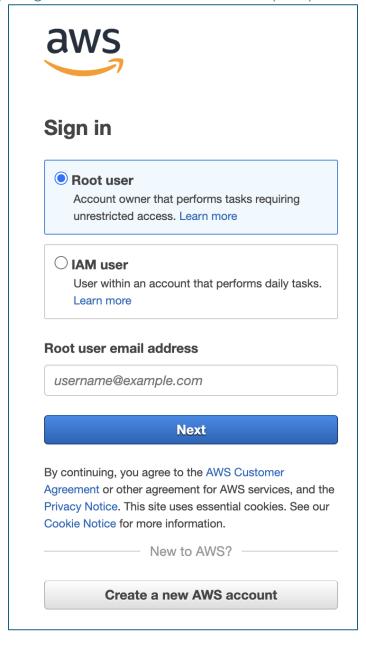
As a movie enthusiast using a **mobile device**, I want to search and browse a list of movies with details such as title, genre, and year, so that I can easily find information about movies I am interested in **while on the go**.

Note: the user story didn't change. The question then is why we need MongoDB Atlas, ExpressJS, GitHub Actions, and Amazon EC2.

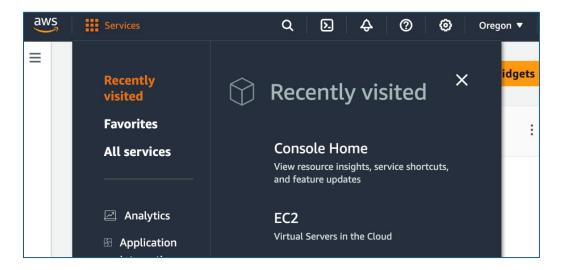
2) Deploying your backend application to the cloud

Deploying to Amazon EC2

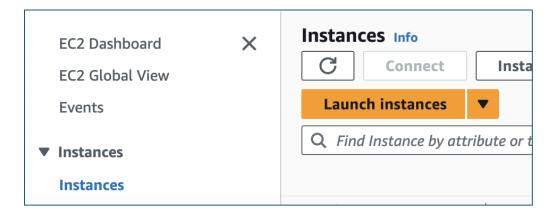
1. Create an AWS account or sign-in if you have one already by accessing Cloud Computing Services - Amazon Web Services (AWS)



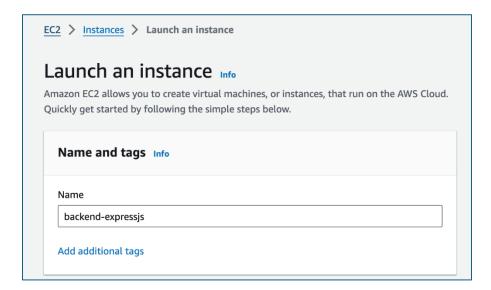
2. Click Services and find EC2. Alternatively, click the search icon to find EC2.



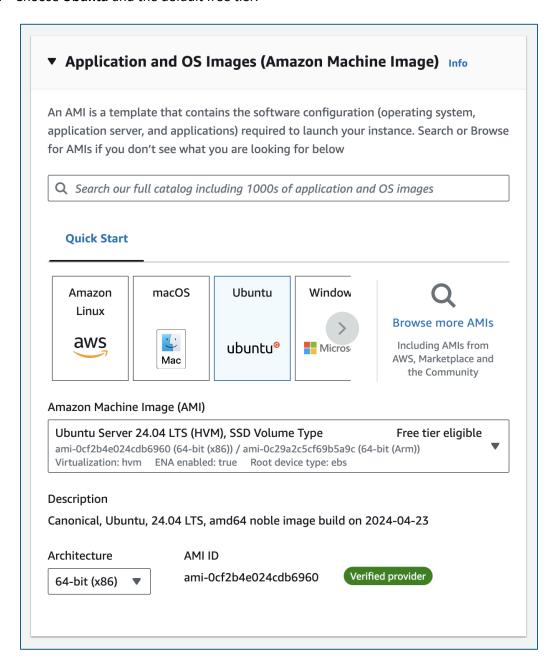
3. Click Instances, then Launch instances.



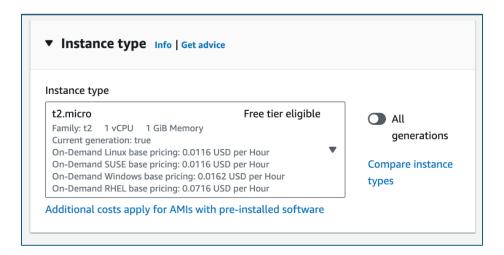
4. Add the name **backend-expressjs** for the instance name.



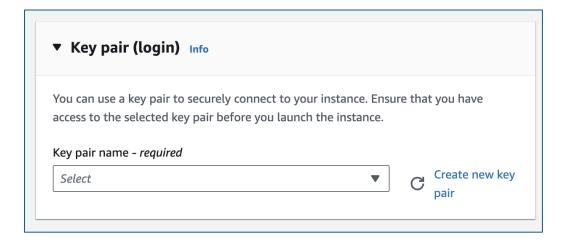
5. Choose **Ubuntu** and the default free tier.



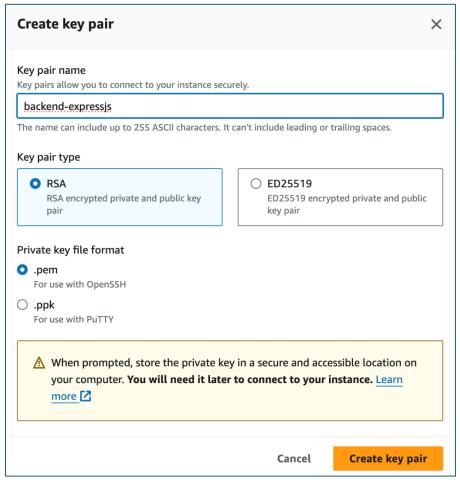
6. Choose **t2.micro** instance type.



7. Create a new key pair.



8. Use **backend-expressjs** as the key pair name.

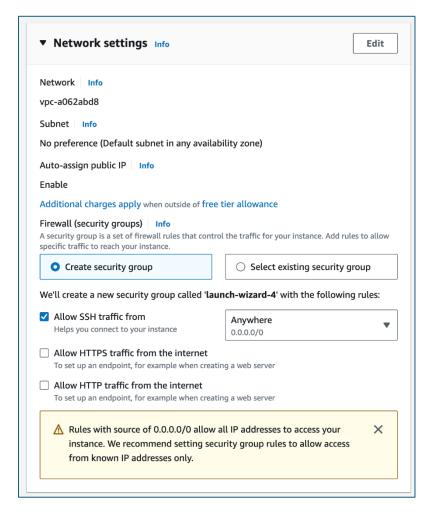


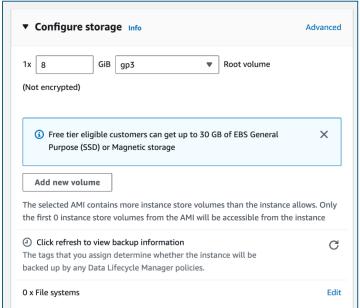
Privacy Enhanced Mail (PEM)

9. Optional: copy your pem file contents to your clipboard and paste in a notepad for now. Alternatively, you can open it with any text editor.

clark@clarks-air ~ % cat backend-expressjs.pem | pbcopy

10. Keep defaults for now.

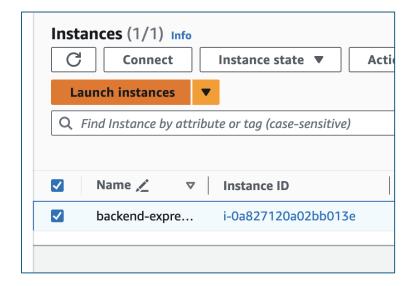




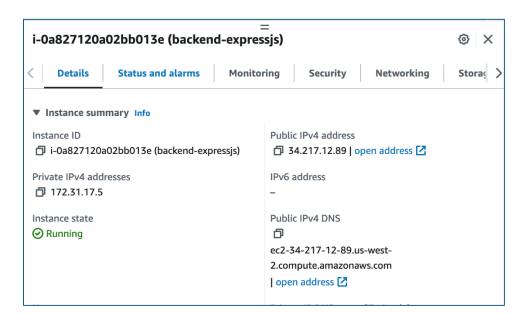
11. Click Instances to go back to the overview of our created instance.



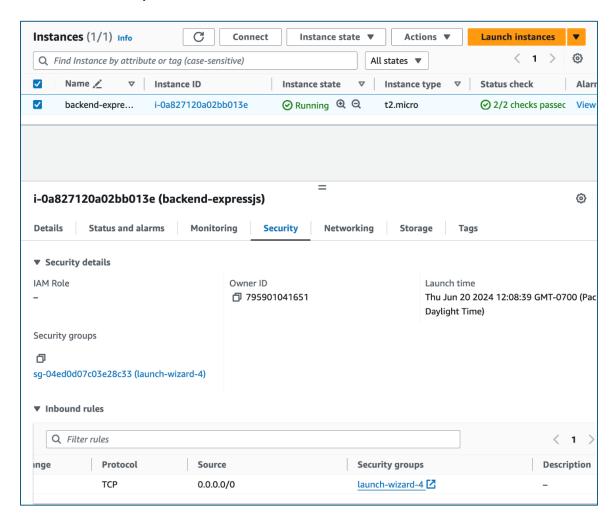
12. Click the row with the name 'backend-expressjs' and tick the checkbox.



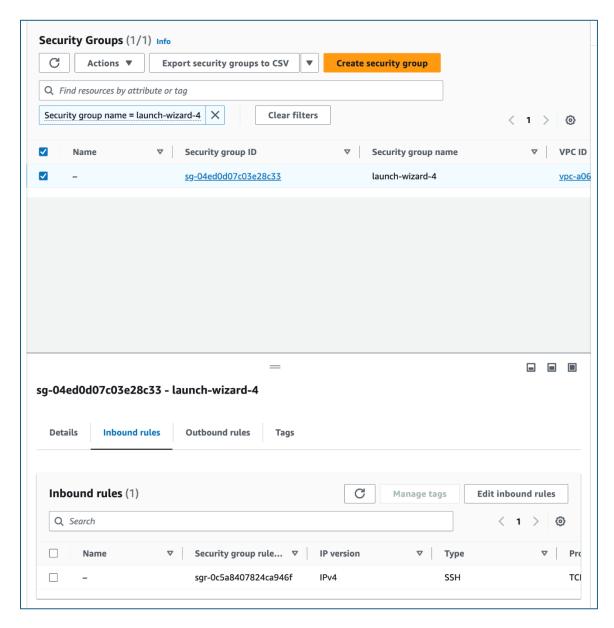
- 13. Take note of the following:
 - a. Public IPv4 address: we will use later as the backend url aka endpoint.
 - b. Public IPv4 DNS: we will use this later to connect or auto deploy to the EC2 machine.
 - i. Optional: you can try to access this server from your terminal with:
 - ii. ssh -i backend-expressjs.pem ubuntu@<your-public-ipv4-dns>



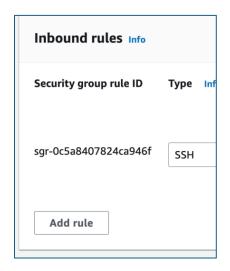
14. Click the Security tab.



15. Click the security group checkbox, edit inbound rules.

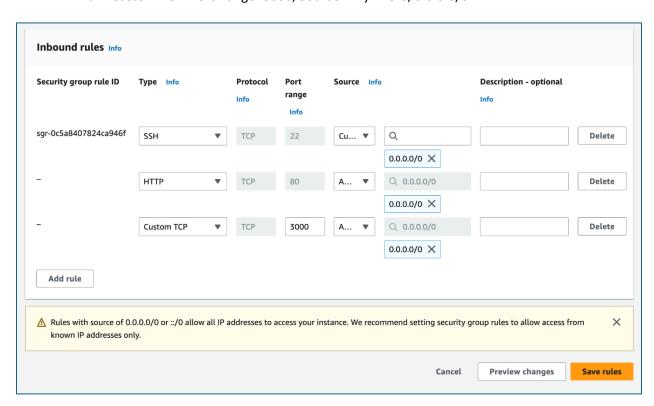


16. Click Add Rule.

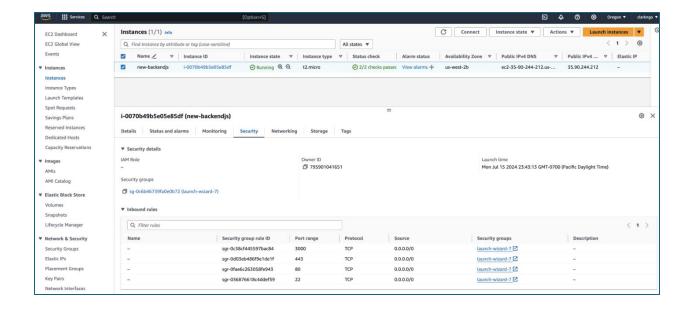


17. Add the following:

a. Type: HTTP, Port Range: 80, Source: Anywhere, 0.0.0.0/0b. Custom TCP: Port Range: 3000, Source: Anywhere, 0.0.0.0/0



18. Head back to your EC2 Instance Details and take a screenshot of your Amazon EC2 details with port 3000 allowed for access (0.0.0.0/0) as 'first_last_ec2_port_3000.png' by using your first and last name.



3) Update frontend React Native codebase to connect to the Amazon EC2 backend server.

- 1. Comment out the GitHub Codespaces URL (leave it there for references).
- 2. Copy the EC2 Public IPv4 Address in API_URL

```
frontend-reactnative > ♣ .env

1  # we can choose which backend server to communicate with: GitHub Codespaces or Amazon EC2

2  3  ## update this with your own backend-expressjs forwarded address

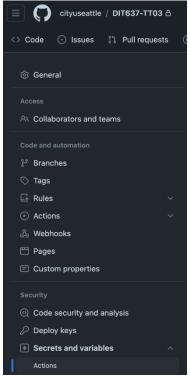
4  # API_URL=https://probable-fishstick-77q6jrvvpxrfwr7r-3000.app.github.dev

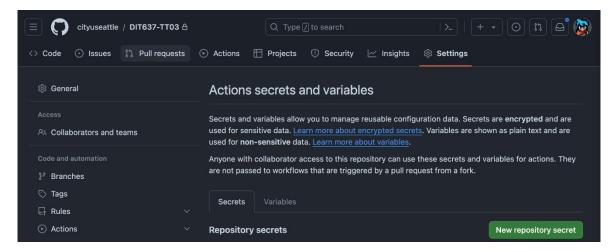
5  ## update this with your own EC2 Public IPv4 address with port 3000

API_URL=http://34.215.57.88:3000
```

4) Configuring environment variables for GitHub Actions

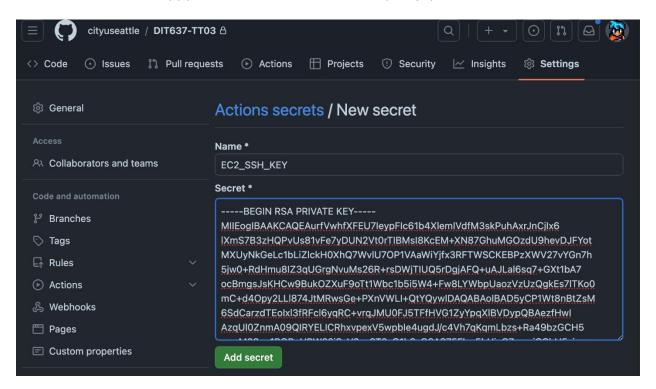
- 1. Create a Secret for MongoDB Atlas Connection
 - a. Go Settings > Secrets and Variables > Actions > Secrets > New repository secret.
 - i. Name: MONGODB_URI
 - ii. Value: (add the MongoDB connection string)



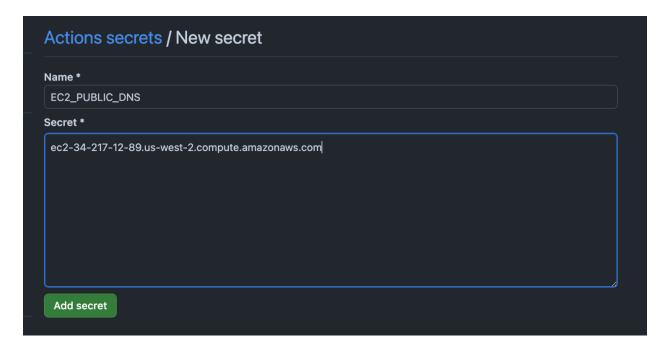


Actions secrets / Update secret MONGODB_URI Value mongodb+srv://clarkngo:<password>@cluster0.rhkmsrr.mongodb.net/? retryWrites=true&w=majority&appName=Cluster0 Update secret

- 2. Create a Secret for EC2 SSH connection.
 - a. Name: EC2_SSH_KEY
 - b. Value: Copy paste the contents of backend-expressjs.pem file

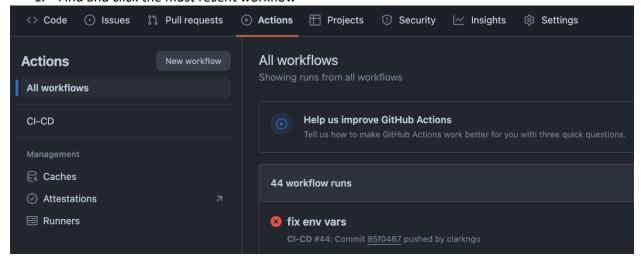


- 3. Create a Secret for EC2 Public DNS
 - a. Name: EC2 PUBLIC DNS
 - b. Value: Copy paste the Public IPv4 DNS in the Instance Details of your EC2

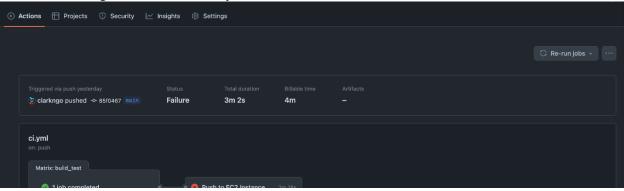


5) Running test and deploy backend-expressjs to your EC2

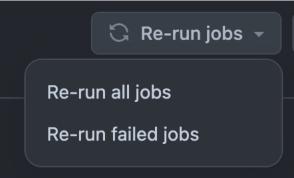
1. Find and click the most recent workflow



2. At the right side, click Re-run jobs.

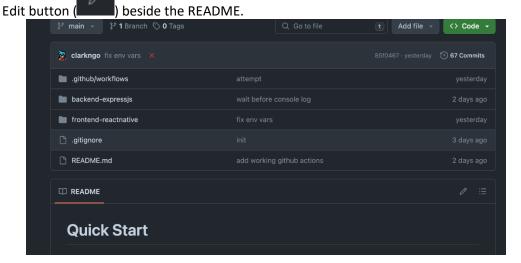


3. Click Re-run all jobs.

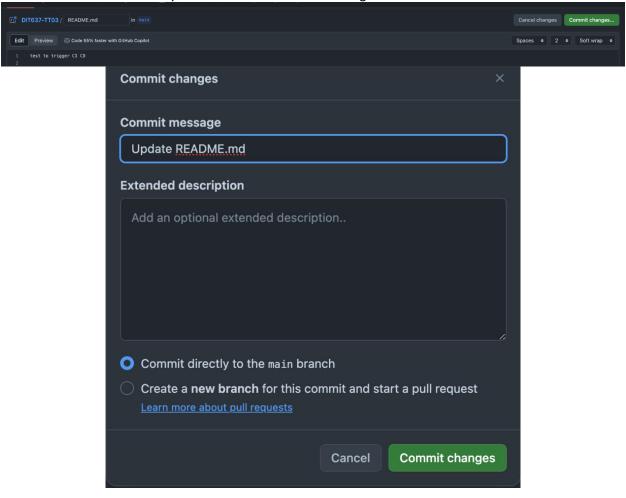


6) Test the CI/CD

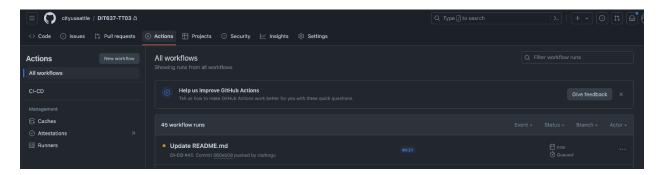
1. Edit the README.md to quickly test if GitHub Actions (CI/CD) will pick up our changes. Hit the



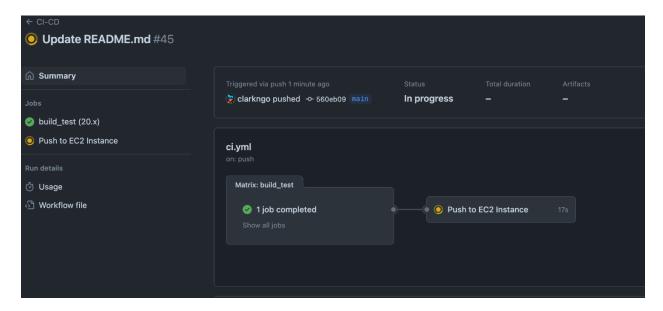
2. Feel free to edit or add any word. Then click Commit changes.



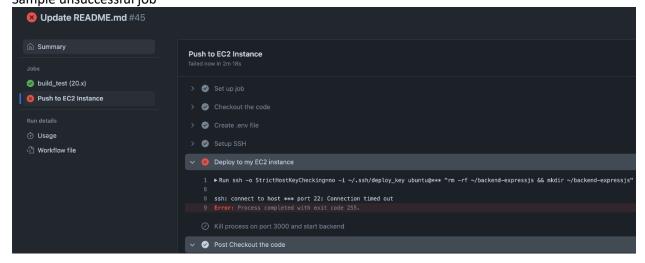
3. Go to your Actions tab and should see a running workflow



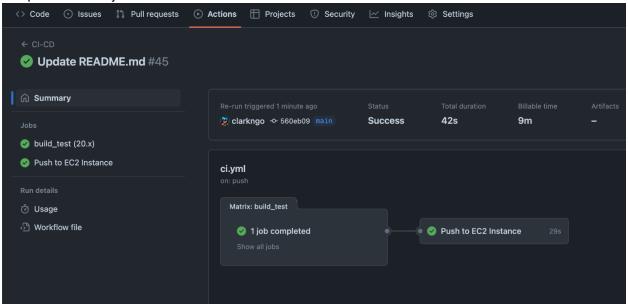
4. You can click the specific workflow to see more details.



5. You can click a specific job to see its details Sample unsuccessful job

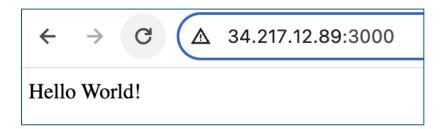


Sample successful job



7) Test your backend server in EC2.

- 1. Copy and paste your Public IPv4 Address and add the port range :3000 at the end.
 - a. Note: it should be **http** and not https when you copy and paste the url.



- 2. Copy and paste your Public IPv4 Address and add the port range :3000 with /movies at the end.
 - a. Note: This might take a while because of large data
- 3. Take a screenshot of your browser with endpoint ec2_IPv4_url:3000/movies as 'first_last_ec2_movies.png' by using your first and last name.

```
⚠ Not Secure 34.217.12.89:3000/movies
 Pretty-print<mark></mark>✓
   {
  "_id": "573a1390f29313caabcd42e8",
  "plot": "A group of bandits stage a brazen train hold-up, only to find
  "genres": [
      "Short",
      ""doctern"
      "runtime": 11,
"cast": [
"A.C. Abadie",
"Gilbert M. 'Broncho Billy' Anderson",
"George Barnes",
"Justus D. Barnes"
"Justus v. barnes" |
],

"poster": "https://m.media—
amazon.com/images/M/MV5BMTU3NjE5NzYtYTYyNS00MDVmLWIwYjgtMmYwYWIxZDYyNzU2XkE
"title": "The Great Train Robbery",
"fullplot": "Among the earliest existing films in American cinema — not
tell — it depicts a group of cowboy outlaws who hold up a train and rob the
Several scenes have color included — all hand tinted.",
"languages": [
"English"
].
        ],
"released": "1903-12-01T00:00:00.000Z",
"directors": [
             "Edwin S. Porter"
        ],
"rated": "TV-G",
        "awards": {
    "wins": 1,
            "nominations": 0,
"text": "1 win."
        },
"lastupdated": "2015-08-13 00:27:59.177000000",
        "year": 1903,
"imdb": {
            "rating": 7.4,
"votes": 9847,
"id": 439
        },
"countries": [
   "USA"
        ],
"type": "movie",
        "tomatoes": {
  "viewer": {
    "rating": 3.7,
    "numReviews": 2559,
                  "meter": 75
            },
"fresh": 6,
"critic": {
    "rating": 7.6,
    "numReviews": 6,
    "meter": 100
            },
"rotten": 0,
"lastUpdated": "2015-08-08T19:16:10.000Z"
```

8) Test your mobile app.

Recap on how to setup or start the frontend. In your codespaces:

- 1. cd frontend-reactnative
- 2. npm install
- 3. npx expo login
- 4. npx expo start --tunnel
- 5. Open via QR Code or manually in your Expo Go app in your phone.

We should see no changes and should have the same functionality.

Movie List	
Sear	ch movies
Year: ´ Genre	s: Crime, Drama, Mystery Lon Chaney, Leatrice Joy, John Bowers, Hardee
Year: ' Genre	r Pan 1924 s: Adventure, Fantasy, Family George Ali, Esther Ralston, Cyril Chadwick, Mary Briar
Year: ´ Genre Cast: I	Thief of Bagdad 1924 s: Adventure, Family, Fantasy Douglas Fairbanks, Snitz Edwards, Charles Belcher, ne Johnston
Year: 7 Genre	windermere's Fan 1925 s: Comedy Ronald Colman, May McAvoy, Bert Lytell, Irene Rich
	1929 s: Biography, Drama, History George Arliss, Doris Lloyd, David Torrence, Joan
Year: ´ Genre Cast:	Divorcee 1930 s: Romance, Drama Norma Shearer, Chester Morris, Conrad Nagel, Robert Jomery
Year: ' Genre	of Jazz 1930 s: Animation, Music Paul Whiteman, John Boles, Laura La Plante, Jeanette

9) Stopping or Terminating your Cloud Instance

Once you are done, feel free to stop the instance or terminate (permanently delete the server) it.

Note: AWS will generate a new Public IPv4 Address and Public IPv4 DNS when you stop/terminate the instance and start again. You will need to

- 1. Update your EC2_PUBLIC_DNS in GitHub Actions Secret
- Update your EC2_SSH_KEY (if you have to generate a new key pair) in your GitHub Actions Secret
- 3. Update your API URL with Public IPv4 Address in your .env file in your frontend-reactnative project.

