

COS20019 Cloud Computing Architecture

Developing a highly available Photo Album website

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Abstract— Web server application has become immensely widespread with the enormous accesses at the same time to an individual host, and that remain effecting of overload to the computing infrastructure. AWS Auto Scaling group have been recognized as a solution to resolve and handle the load for the server instance by providing multiple pre-configuration instances using launch instance with Amazon Machine Image (AMI) and accessed through Elastic Load Balancer (ELB) to control the traffic between each instance. This resulted a balance, healthy infrastructure and this report is to illustrate the configuration of a highly available Photo Album website.

Keywords—AWS, auto scaling, security, cloud, load balancer.

I. INTRODUCTION

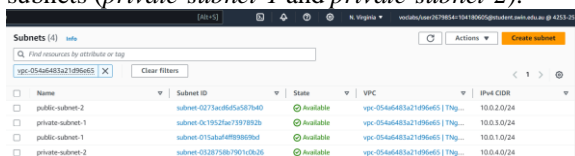
The photo album website involves instance creation, hosting, and pre-configuration AMI of “Dev Server” in VPC with variety AWS services, including RDS, S3, and Lambda. The function of the website server allows public user can access and upload photos to web server album through HTTP protocol to ELB. The website integration with the S3 bucket, RDS database, and Lambda function, the source code provided, and AWS SDK installed make all the photos uploaded resized automatically by thumbnail then upload it to album databases.

II. WEBSITE INFRASTRUCTURE

A. Website Infrastructure configuration

1) Virtual Private Cloud (VPC):

- VPC configuration with 2 Availability Zones (AZs) (*us-east-1a* and *us-east-1b*) with 2 public subnets (*public-subnet-1* and *public-subnet-2*) and 2 private subnets (*private-subnet-1* and *private-subnet-2*).



Name	Subnet ID	State	VPC	IPv4 CIDR
public-subnet-2	subnet-0273a8d5a587b40	Available	vpc-054a6483a21d96e65 7tg...	10.0.2.0/24
private-subnet-1	subnet-0c1952fae7397892b	Available	vpc-054a6483a21d96e65 7tg...	10.0.3.0/24
public-subnet-1	subnet-015abaf49888868d	Available	vpc-054a6483a21d96e65 7tg...	10.0.1.0/24
private-subnet-2	subnet-032879b679010b26	Available	vpc-054a6483a21d96e65 7tg...	10.0.4.0/24

Figure 1: VPC Subnet CIDR

- Route table for public subnets are routing to internet gateway and private subnets are to the NAT gateway (located in *public-subnet-1*).

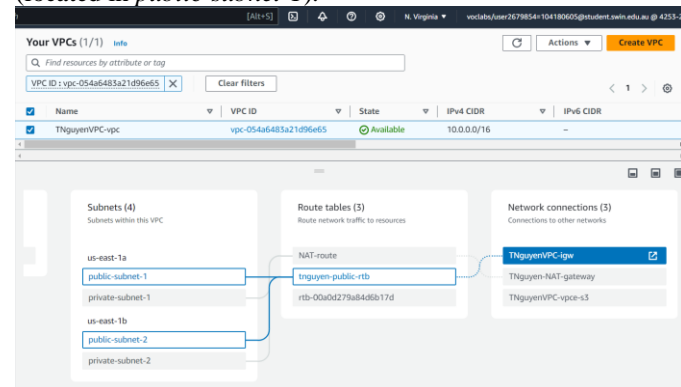
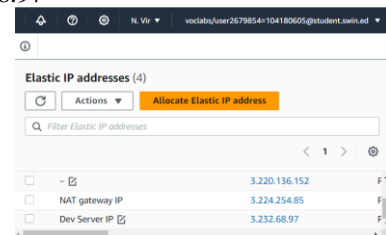


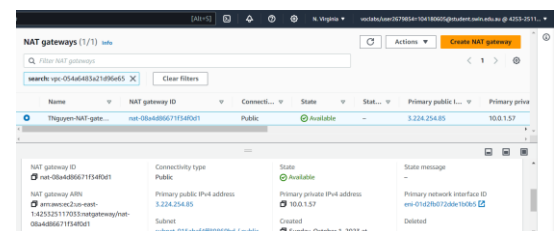
Figure 2: VPC Resource Map

- Elastic public IP address for NAT gateway is 3.224.254.85 and for Dev Server Instance is 3.232.68.97



Filter Elastic IP addresses	Actions	Allocate Elastic IP address
<input type="checkbox"/> - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.220.136.152	F
<input type="checkbox"/> NAT gateway IP	3.224.254.85	F
<input type="checkbox"/> Dev Server IP	3.232.68.97	F

Figure 3: Elastic IP



Name	NAT gateway ID	Connecti...	State	Primary public L...	Primary priv...
Thnguyen-NAT-gate...	nat-0ba486d77f340d01	Public	Available	3.224.254.85	10.0.1.57

Figure 4: Nat Gateway in public subnet 1

2) Security Group: The VPC architecture contains 4 security groups in total. Each security group has difference purpose of inbound and outbound role to block the access from other source.

- DevServerSG: Because of Dev Server containing infrastructure of the web server (to create AMIs for launch instance) so the inbound rule is set to SSH only, so it is not able to access by HTTP or HTTPS protocol. The outbound rule is also set to SSH.

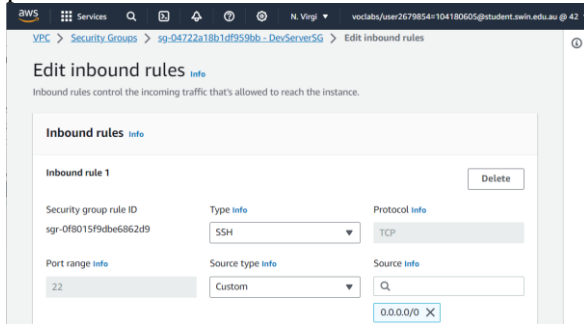


Figure 5: Inbound rule of DevServerSG

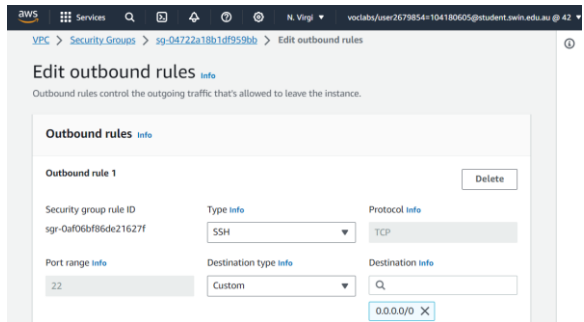


Figure 6: Outbound rule of DevServerSG

- WebServerSG: Web Server only allow traffic forwarded through HTTP protocol from Elastic Load Balancer, so the inbound rule is set to HTTP protocol from source “ELBSG” security group. Outbound rule for this is all traffic because the infrastructure containing multiple protocol (HTTP, file packets...) to multiple destination.

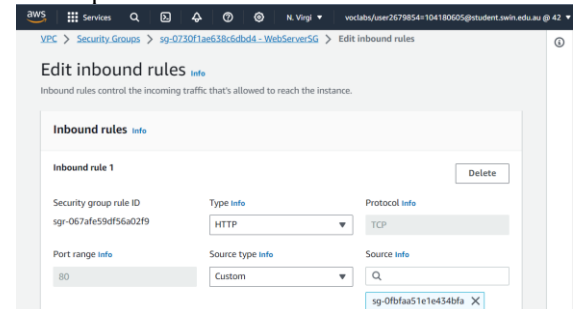


Figure 7: Inbound rule of WebServerSG

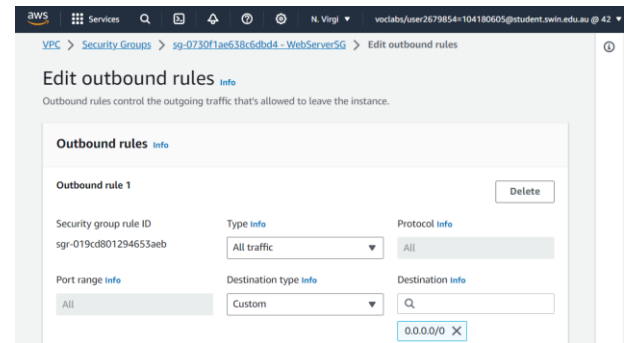


Figure 8: Outbound rule of WebServerSG

- DBServerSG: The Database Server RDS only receives MySQL query from Web Server, so the inbound rule is set to MYSQL/Aurora from the source “WebServerSG” security group. The outbound rule is set to all traffic.

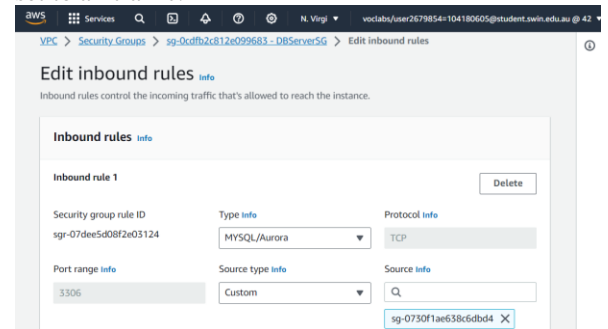


Figure 9: Inbound rule of DBServerSG

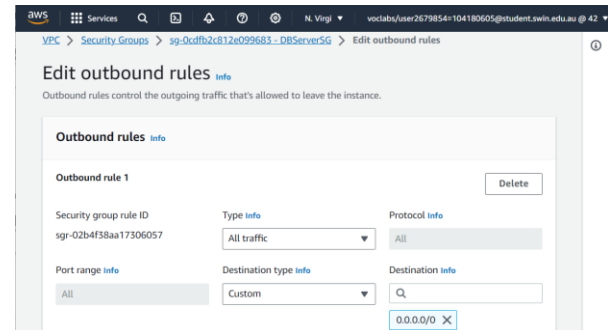


Figure 10: Outbound rule of DBServerSG

- ELBSG: Load balancer receives traffic from public internet user through HTTP protocol so the inbound rule for this security group is set to HTTP protocol. The outbound rule is set to all traffic.

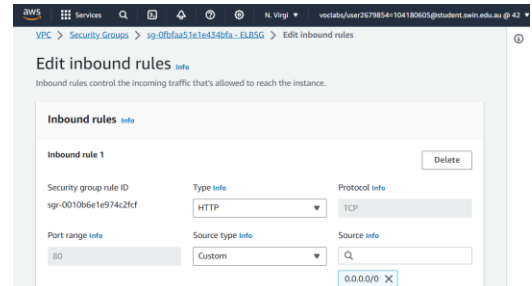


Figure 11: Inbound rule of ELBSG

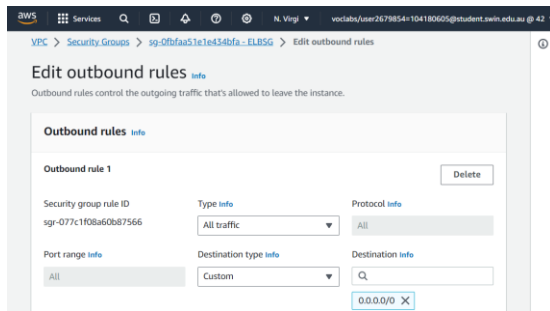


Figure 12: Outbound rule of ELBSG

3) Network Access Control List (NACL):

- The implementation of Network Access Control List used to enhance the security by implementing a permission layer attaching with the private subnet that containing Web Server Instance.
- The Network ACL named as “PrivateSubnetsNACL” associate with two private subnets in the VPC, *private-subnet-1* and *private-subnet-2*.

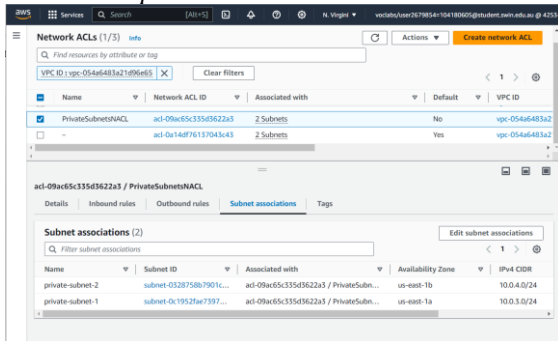


Figure 13: NACL Association

- Network ACL rules for “PrivateSubnetsNACL” which allow for all protocol access but ICMP from the Dev Server in *public-subnet-2* (10.0.2.0/24) so both inbound and outbound have to config to deny access for ICMP from 10.0.2.0/24 and allow access for all traffic.

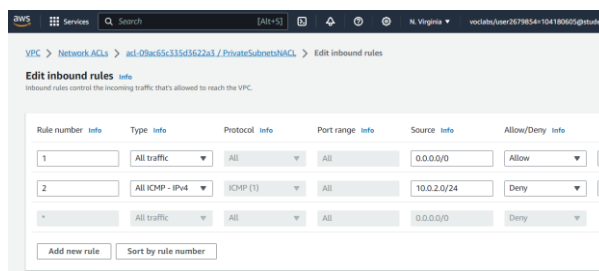


Figure 14: NACL Inbound

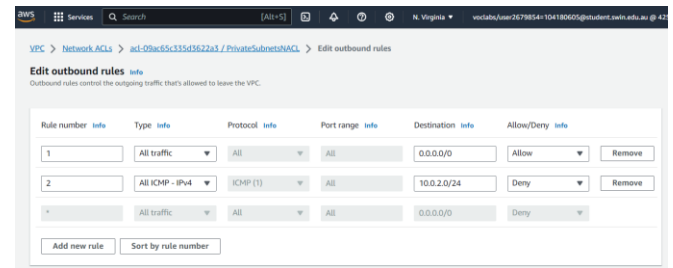


Figure 15: NACL Outbound

4) IAM Role:

- The IAM Lab Role in management console with required permission are existed already with the name of “LabRole” or “Labinstanceroles”. These lab roles assign with EC2 Instances, Launch template and Lambda. Following the least privilege principle, instances which assigned with LabRole user set permitted to grant access of putting object in S3 and call the CreateThumbnaill function of Lambda.

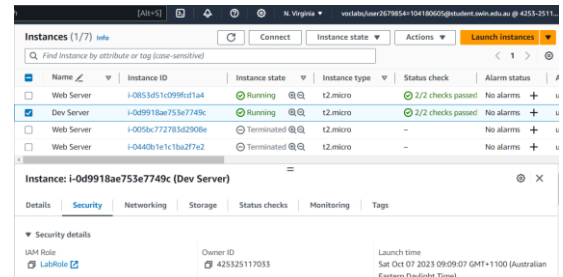


Figure 16: IAM LabRole for Dev Server

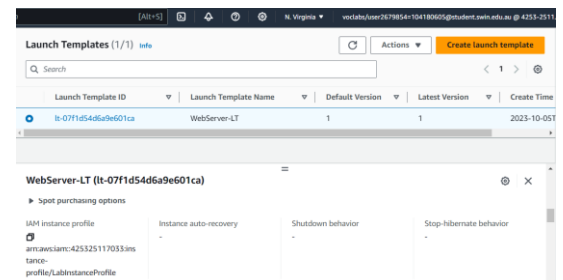


Figure 17: IAM Role for Launch template

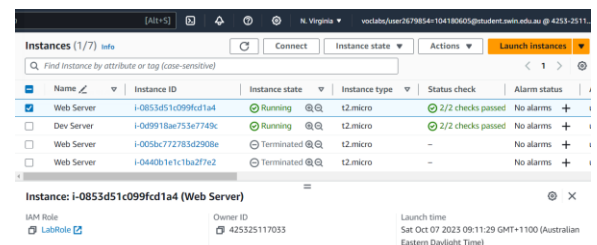


Figure 18: IAM Lab Role for Auto Scaling Instances

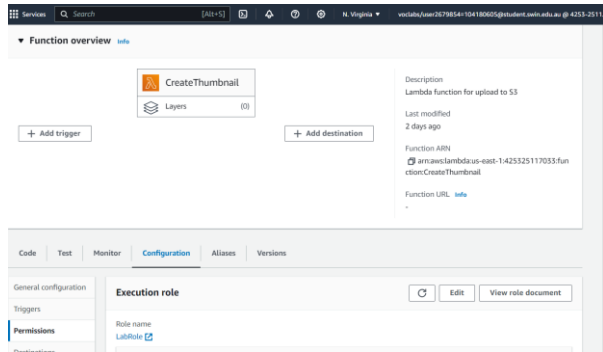


Figure 19: IAM LabRole for Lambda Create Thumbnail

5) Auto Scaling group (ASG): Auto Scaling group is a method of using launch template containing configuration from Amazon Machine Image (AMI) of an instance to launch instances automatically within the EC2 target group.

- The Dev Server serves as a developing platform and a base that contains necessary components to generate AMI for launch template such as PHP package, PHPmyAdmin, AWS SDK. The Dev server is associated with Elastic IP address 3.232.68.97 and *public-subnet-2* (10.0.2.0/24).

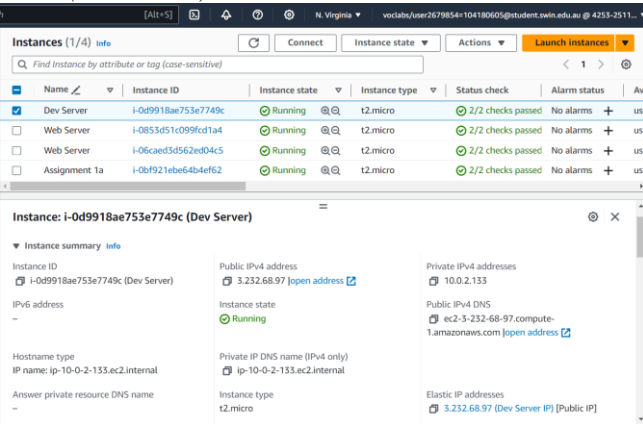


Figure 20: Dev Server Instance

/var/www/html/				
Name	Size	Changed	Rights	Owner
..		18/09/2023 03:46:25	rxwxrwsr-x	ec2-user
aws		06/10/2023 08:17:44	rxwxrwsr-x	ec2-user
cos20019		18/09/2023 05:09:48	rxwxrwsr-x	ec2-user
photoalbum		06/10/2023 04:26:10	rxwxrwsr-x	ec2-user
phpmyadmin		18/09/2023 04:37:19	rxwxrwsr-x	ec2-user
phpinfo.php	1 KB	18/09/2023 03:46:33	rw-r--r--	root

Figure 21: Components of Dev Server

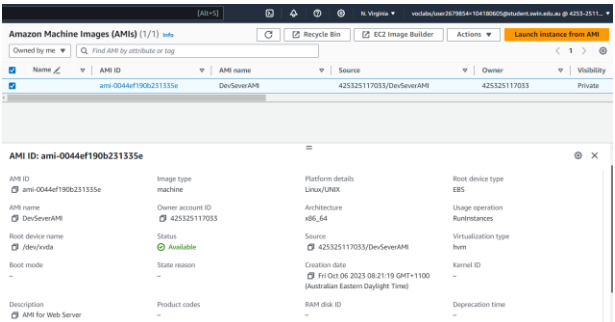


Figure 22: AMI with Dev Server template

- Launch template containing AMI from Dev Server with instance type t2.micro.

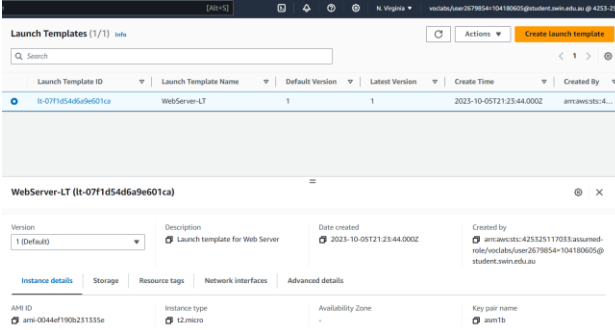


Figure 23: Launch template configuration.

- The configuration of the ASG requires a launch template to generate instances automatically and maintain at least 2 instances and a maximum of 3 instances. It ensures that the web server scalability can be controlled. The instance created automatically within the private subnet and uses the 'WebServer-LT' as a template.

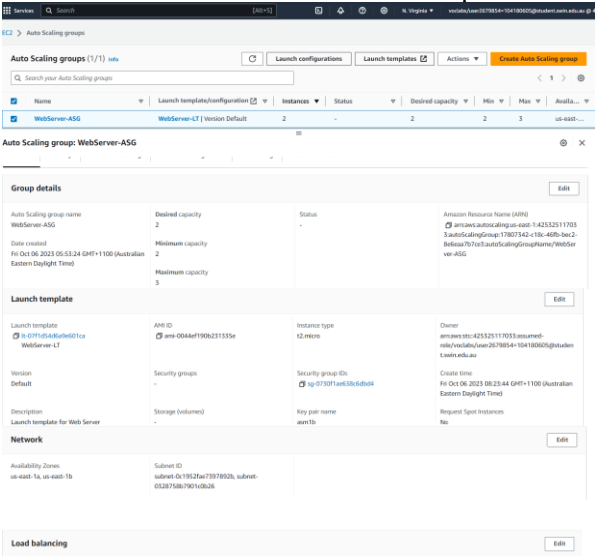


Figure 24.1: ASG configuration

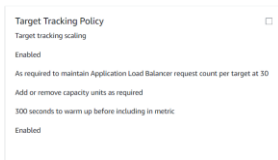


Figure 24.1: Target Tracking Policy

- To achieve the resource utilization, target tracking policy created to track down the number of requests received from ELB target group maintain at 30 requests. The auto scaling would decide to scale up or down base on the request load to maintain the desired state. (Figure 24.2)

6) Elastic Load Balancer (ELB):

- Elastic Load Balancer located at public subnet (10.0.1.0/24 and 10.0.2.0/24) to balance, control and forward the HTTP protocol traffics flow into target group (Figure 22) that containing auto generated instances associate with two private subnet (10.0.3.0/24 and 10.0.4.0/24)

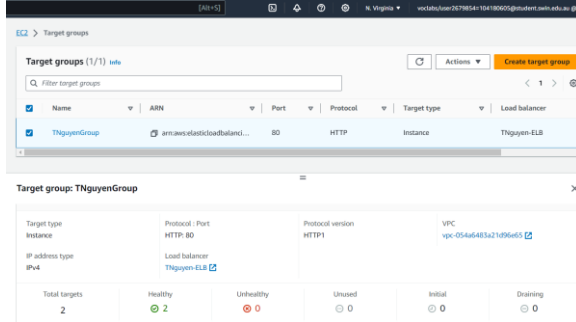


Figure 25: Target group

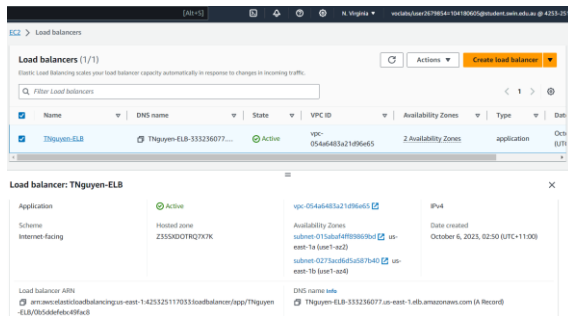


Figure 26.1: Load Balancer Detail

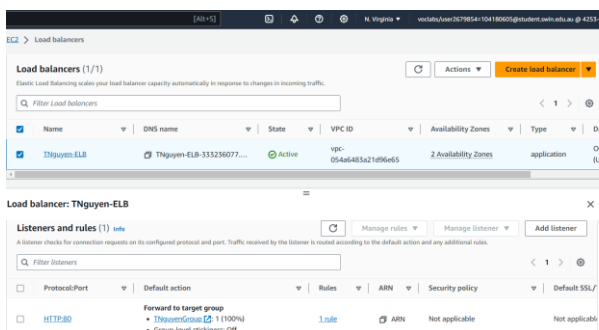


Figure 26.2: Load Balancer Listener

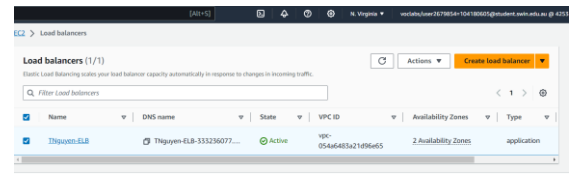


Figure 26.3: Load Balancer Network mapping

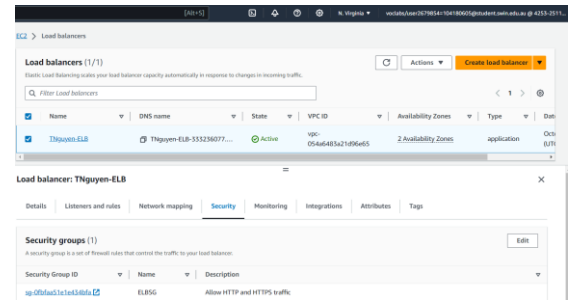


Figure 26.4: Load Balancer Security group

7) Simple Storage Service (S3):

- The configuration of S3 bucket is almost the same as procedure in assignment 1b, except for bucket policy. The permission and policy are changed to ensure the appropriate accessibility of storing objects in S3 bucket. This bucket policy permission allows get object from S3 to necessary access and restrict unauthorized HTTP access from making AWS requests [1].

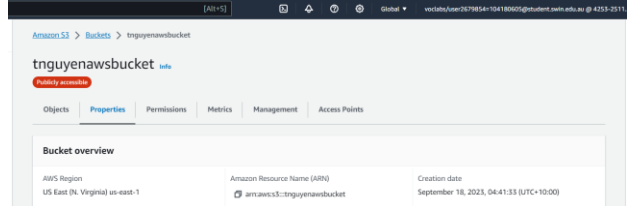


Figure 27: S3 bucket properties

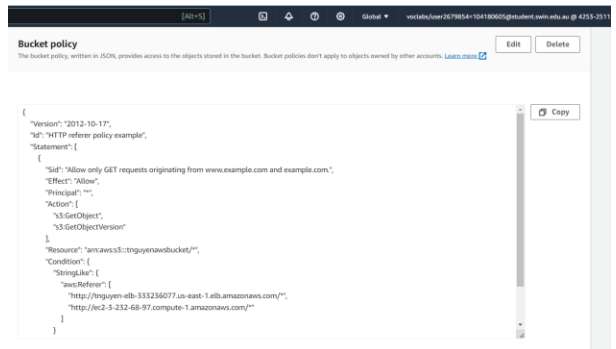


Figure 28: S3 bucket policy



Figure 29: Object inaccessible directly

8) Lambda function:

- Lambda function created with named "CreateThumbnail" using runtime Python 3.1, architecture type arm64 and execution role as "LabRole" following least-privilege principle.

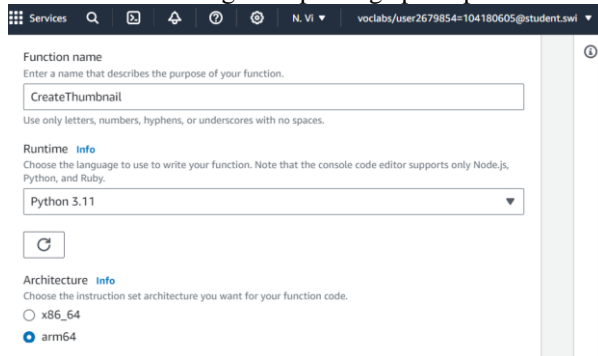


Figure 30.1: Lambda function creation

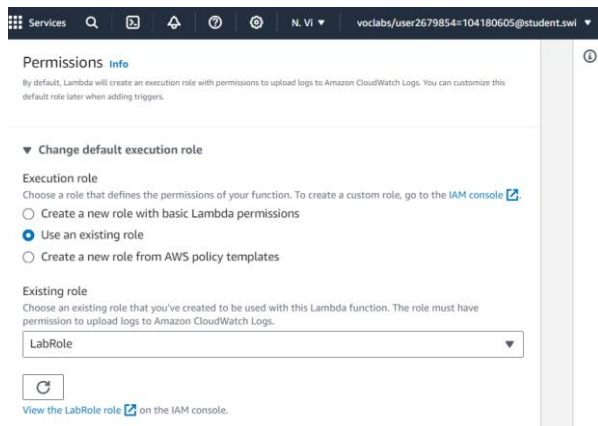


Figure 30.2: Lambda function permission

- The source code package "lambda-deployment-package.zip" deploys successfully to resize, download, and upload the photo on S3 bucket.

9) Relational Database Service (RDS): The RDS configuration remains the same as in the previous assignment.

- Engine option: MySQL 8.0.33
- Templates: Free tier
- DB instance identifier: tnguyen-asm1b-db (use database from previous assignment)
- Db subnet group: dbsubnetgroup
- Availability Zone: us-east-1a

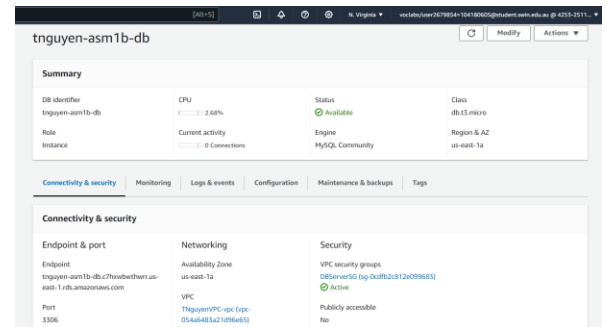


Figure 31: RDS connectivity

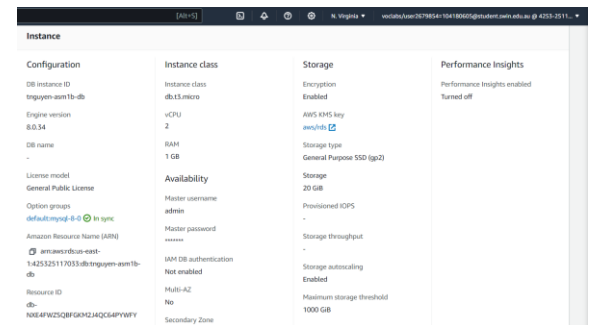


Figure 32: RDS configuration

B. Website Infrastructure configuration

1) Website accessibility:

- Website photo album server allow user can view the photo album access through ELB DNS:

<http://tnguyen-elb-1239027334.us-east-1.elb.amazonaws.com/photoalbum/album.php>

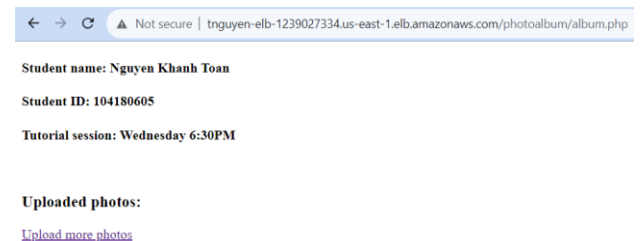


Figure 33: Photo album website

- Website photo uploader server access through ELB DNS: <http://tnguyen-elb-1239027334.us-east-1.elb.amazonaws.com/photoalbum/photouploader.php>

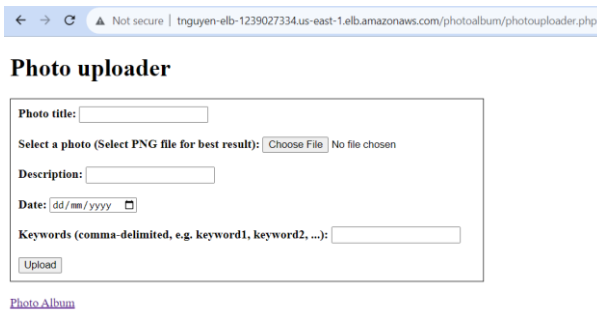


Figure 34: Photo uploader website

2) Photo display:

- After uploading photos and meta-data in the photo uploader website, all of the contents added to the database and can be displayed on the photo album website.

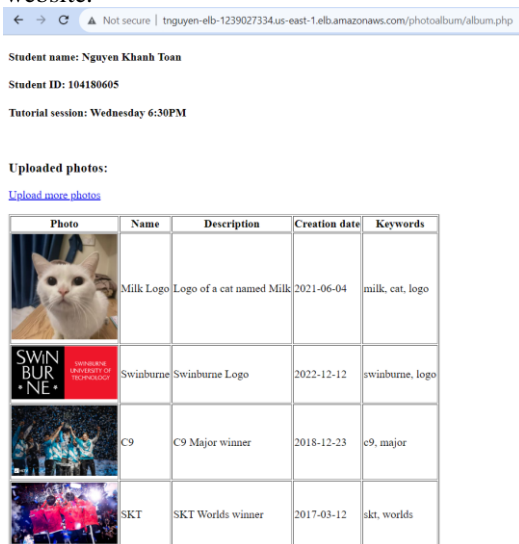


Figure 35: Photo album display

3) Photos and meta-data upload

- The meta-data from the photo uploader page uploaded to the assignment2_db in RDS Services.

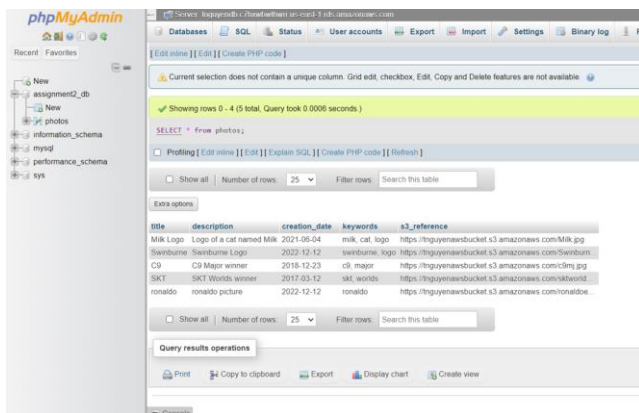


Figure 36: Meta-data in database

- The photos uploading from the photo uploader stored in S3 bucket.

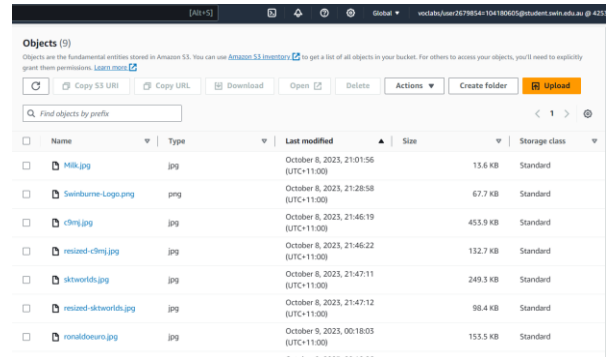


Figure 37: Photos in S3 bucket

4) Lambda function resize:

- After uploading in photo uploader website, it invokes the Lambda function to resize the photo as well as changing its name to "resized- [photo name]"

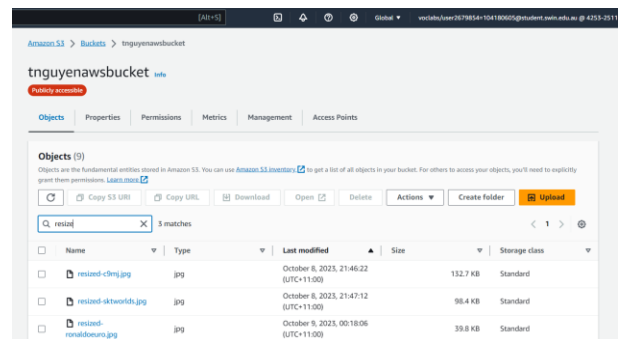


Figure 38: Resized photos stored in S3 bucket.

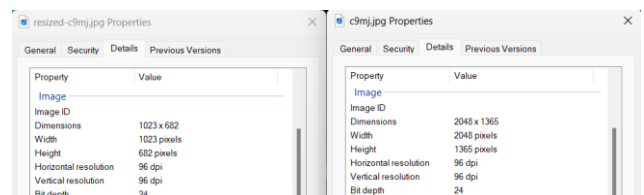


Figure 39: Comparison of original and resized photos.

References:

- [1] Amazon Web Service, "Bucket policy examples - amazon simple storage service," docs.aws.amazon.com, 2023. Accessed: Jul. 16, 2023. Available: <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonS3/latest/userguide/example-bucket-policies.html#example-bucket-policies-HTTPHTTPS>