

AdvDevops Case Study

Introduction:

In this case study on Real-Time Log Processing, the focus is on utilizing AWS services, specifically Lambda, CloudWatch, and S3, to address a log management challenge. The main objective was to establish an AWS Lambda function that triggers whenever a new log entry is added to a designated CloudWatch Log Group. This Lambda function, written in Python, filters log events based on a specified keyword, such as 'ERROR', and subsequently stores these filtered logs in an S3 bucket for further analysis and storage. This setup ensures efficient log management while providing real-time alerting and storage solutions, leveraging the seamless integration of AWS services.

Concepts Used: AWS Lambda, CloudWatch, S3.

AWS Lambda

AWS Lambda is a serverless computing service that allows you to run code without provisioning or managing servers. It automatically scales your applications by running code in response to triggers such as changes in data, updates to databases, or HTTP requests. With Lambda, you can focus on writing your application logic without worrying about the underlying infrastructure. It's highly cost-effective since you only pay for the compute time you consume. Lambda functions can be written in various programming languages, including Python, Java, and Node.js.

CloudWatch Log Group

CloudWatch Logs is part of Amazon CloudWatch, which provides monitoring and observability for AWS resources and applications. A Log Group in CloudWatch is a collection of log streams that share the same settings, such as retention, monitoring, and access control. Log streams are sequences of log events that share the same source, for example, log entries from a specific application or service. By using log groups, you can organize and manage your logs more effectively, set retention policies, and configure alarms to notify you of specific events.

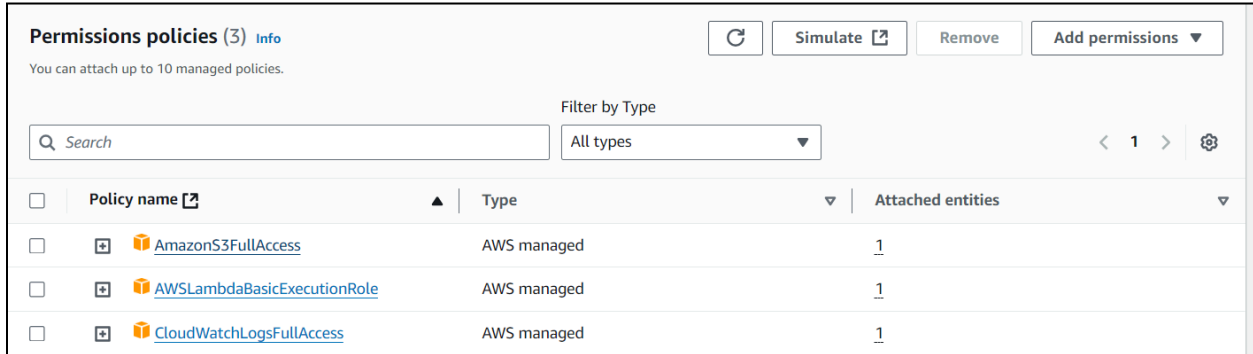
Amazon S3

Amazon S3 (Simple Storage Service) is a scalable object storage service designed for a wide range of use cases, including data storage, backup and restore, archiving, and big data analytics. S3 provides a secure and highly available environment to store any amount of data from anywhere. You organize your data in buckets, which can hold an unlimited number of objects. S3 supports features like versioning, lifecycle policies, and cross-region replication to ensure data durability and availability. It integrates seamlessly with other AWS services, making it a cornerstone for many cloud-native applications.

Step-by-Step Explanation

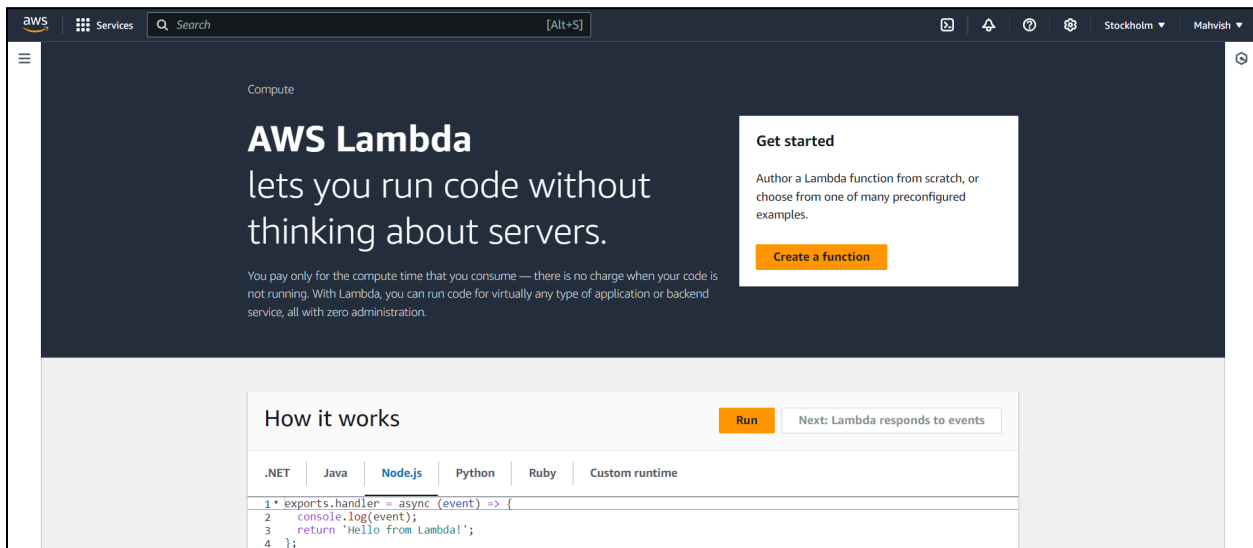
Step 1: Create a new IAM role and add these policies

The first step in setting up the real-time log processing system was to create a new IAM user with the necessary permissions. This user is essential for securely managing access to AWS services required for the project. By creating a dedicated IAM user, we can assign specific roles and permissions, ensuring that the Lambda function, CloudWatch Logs, and S3 bucket have the appropriate access and we don't face any permission related issues later on.



Permissions policies (3) Info			
You can attach up to 10 managed policies.			
<input type="text" value="Search"/>		Filter by Type	
		All types	< 1 > ⚙
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy name ↗	Type	Attached entities
<input type="checkbox"/>	AmazonS3FullAccess	AWS managed	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	AWSLambdaBasicExecutionRole	AWS managed	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	CloudWatchLogsFullAccess	AWS managed	1

Step 2: Go to AWS Lambda console and create a new function.



aws Services [Alt+S]

Compute

AWS Lambda

lets you run code without thinking about servers.

You pay only for the compute time that you consume — there is no charge when your code is not running. With Lambda, you can run code for virtually any type of application or backend service, all with zero administration.

Get started

Author a Lambda function from scratch, or choose from one of many preconfigured examples.

[Create a function](#)

How it works

[Run](#) [Next: Lambda responds to events](#)

[.NET](#) [Java](#) [Node.js](#) [Python](#) [Ruby](#) [Custom runtime](#)

```
1 * exports.handler = async (event) => {
2   console.log(event);
3   return 'Hello from Lambda!';
4 }
```

Step 3: Give your function a name and choose python as your runtime language

The screenshot shows the 'Create function' page in the AWS Lambda console. The 'Author from scratch' option is selected. The 'Function name' field contains 'logProcessor'. The 'Runtime' dropdown is set to 'Python 3.11'. The 'Architecture' dropdown is set to 'arm64'. The right sidebar shows a tutorial for 'Create a simple web app'.

Create function [Info](#)

Choose one of the following options to create your function.

- ☒ **Author from scratch**
Start with a simple Hello World example.
- ☐ **Use a blueprint**
Build a Lambda application from sample code and configuration presets for common use cases.
- ☐ **Container image**
Select a container image to deploy for your function.
- ☐ **Browse serverless app repository**
Deploy a sample Lambda application from the AWS Serverless Application Repository.

Basic information

Function name
Enter a name that describes the purpose of your function.

Function name must be 1 to 64 characters, must be unique to the Region, and can't include spaces. Valid characters are a-z, A-Z, 0-9, hyphens (-), and underscores (_).

Runtime [Info](#)
Choose the language to use to write your function. Note that the console code editor supports only Node.js, Python, and Ruby.
 [Refresh](#)

Architecture [Info](#)

Info **Tutorials**

Learn how to implement common use cases in AWS Lambda.

Create a simple web app

In this tutorial you will learn how to:

- Build a simple web app, consisting of a Lambda function with a function URL that outputs a webpage
- Invoke your function through its function URL

[Learn more](#)

[Start tutorial](#)

Step 4: Add the IAM role created earlier to your lambda function.

The screenshot shows the 'Permissions' page in the AWS Lambda console. The 'Change default execution role' section is expanded. The 'Execution role' section has 'Use an existing role' selected. The 'Existing role' dropdown is set to 'LambdaLogProcessorRole'. The right sidebar shows a tutorial for 'Create a simple web app'.

Permissions [Info](#)

By default, Lambda will create an execution role with permissions to upload logs to Amazon CloudWatch Logs. You can customize this default role later when adding triggers.

Change default execution role

Execution role
Choose a role that defines the permissions of your function. To create a custom role, go to the [IAM console](#).

- ☐ Create a new role with basic Lambda permissions
- ☒ Use an existing role
- ☐ Create a new role from AWS policy templates

Existing role
Choose an existing role that you've created to be used with this Lambda function. The role must have permission to upload logs to Amazon CloudWatch Logs.
 [Refresh](#)
[View the LambdaLogProcessorRole role](#) on the IAM console.

Additional Configurations
Use additional configurations to set up code signing, function URL, tags, and Amazon VPC access for your function.

[Cancel](#) [Create function](#)

Info **Tutorials**

Learn how to implement common use cases in AWS Lambda.

Create a simple web app

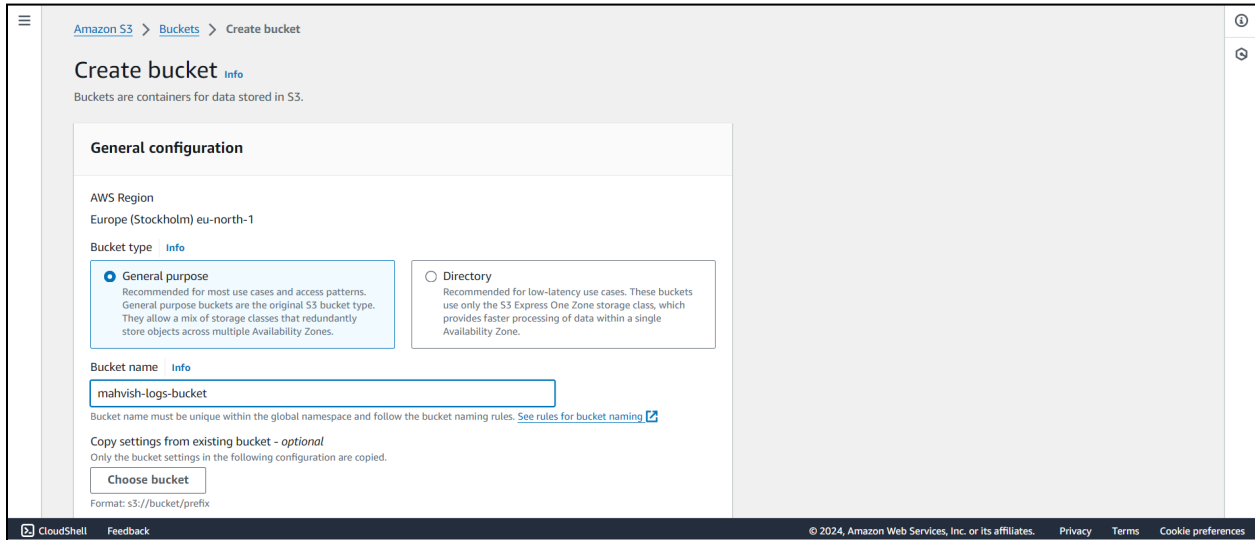
In this tutorial you will learn how to:

- Build a simple web app, consisting of a Lambda function with a function URL that outputs a webpage
- Invoke your function through its function URL

[Learn more](#)

[Start tutorial](#)

Step 5: Create an S3 bucket. Keep the default settings.

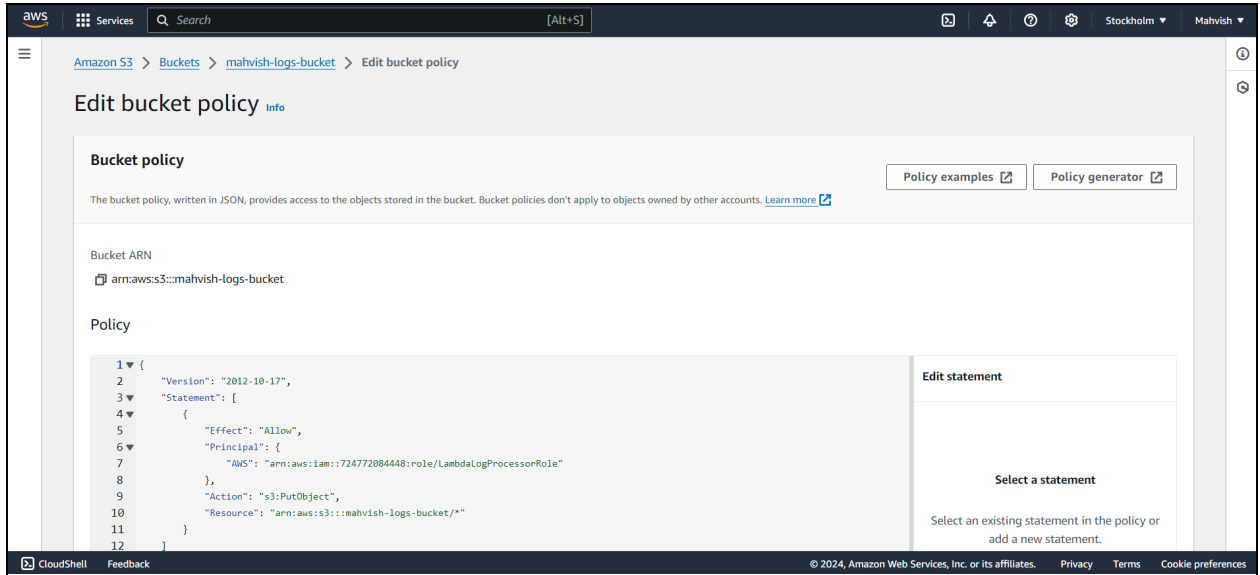


Step 6: Go to the permissions tab and add the bucket policy

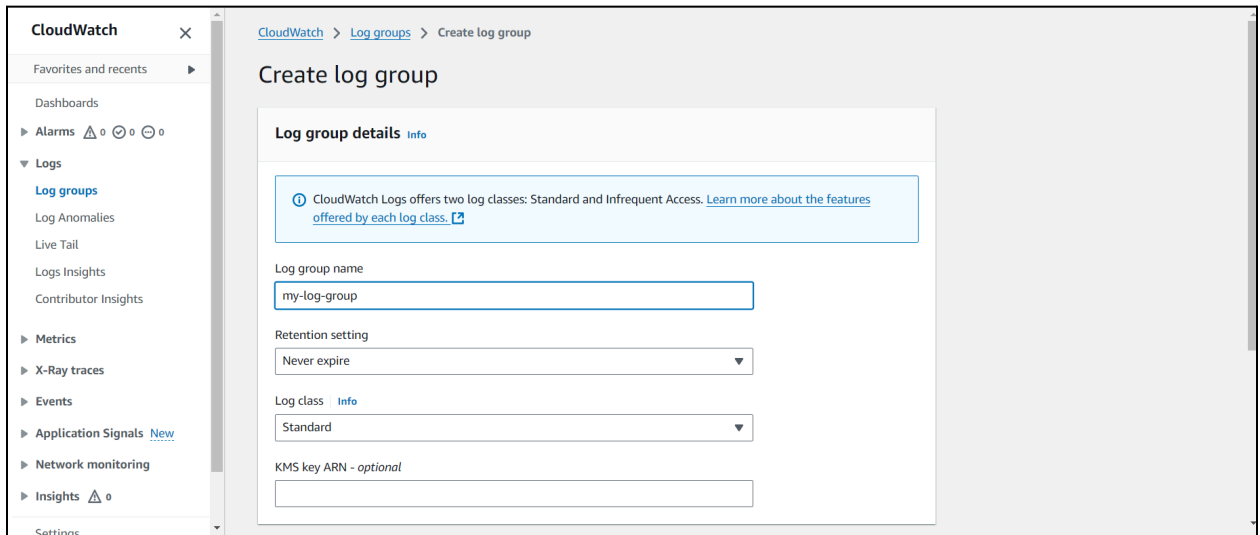
```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Principal": {
        "AWS": "arn:aws:iam::724772084448:role/LambdaLogProcessorRole"
      },
      "Action": "s3:PutObject",
      "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::mahvish-logs-bucket/*"
    }
  ]
}
```

Here, 724772084448 is my account id for AWS and LambdaLogProcessorRole is the IAM role created in step 1.

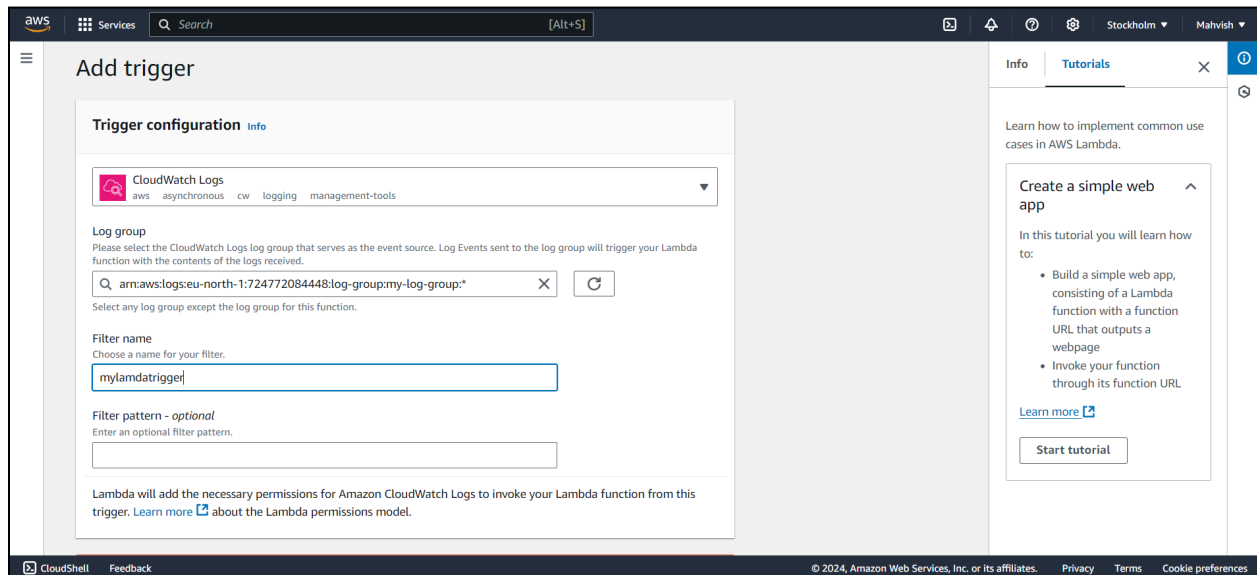
"Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::mahvish-logs-bucket/" : this specifies the name of my S3 bucket



Step 7: Create a cloudswatch log group for saving the logs created by our lambda function



Step 8: Now, go back to the lambda function and add the cloudwatch group in triggers



Select the log group created in the previous step

Step 9: Add the code for lambda function

Function code:

```
import boto3
import json
import time

s3_client = boto3.client('s3')

def lambda_handler(event, context):
    try:
        print("Event Received: ", json.dumps(event, indent=2))
        log_events = event['logEvents'] # Extract log events
        print(f"Received {len(log_events)} log events")

        # Filter logs containing 'ERROR'
        filtered_logs = [log for log in log_events if 'ERROR' in log['message']]
        print(f"Filtered {len(filtered_logs)} error log events")

        if filtered_logs:
            # Generate a unique key for each log upload to avoid overwriting
            timestamp = int(time.time())
            s3_client.put_object(
```

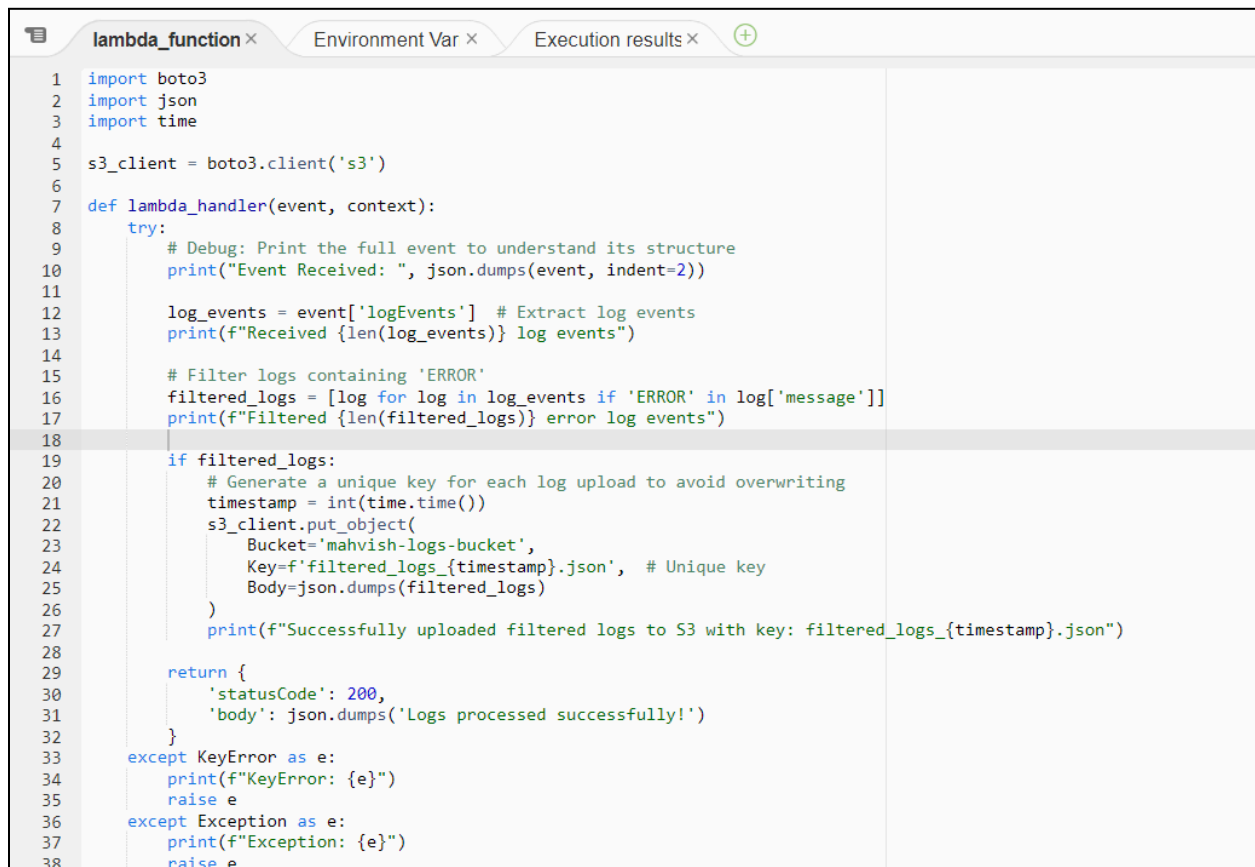
```

        Bucket='mahvish-logs-bucket',
        Key=f'filtered_logs_{timestamp}.json', # Unique key
        Body=json.dumps(filtered_logs)
    )
    print(f"Successfully uploaded filtered logs to S3 with key:
filtered_logs_{timestamp}.json")

    return {
        'statusCode': 200,
        'body': json.dumps('Logs processed successfully!')
    }
except KeyError as e:
    print(f"KeyError: {e}")
    raise e
except Exception as e:
    print(f"Exception: {e}")
    raise e

```

Note: In the above code, add the name of the S3 bucket created earlier.



The screenshot shows the AWS Lambda console interface. The 'lambda_function' tab is selected, displaying the following Python code:

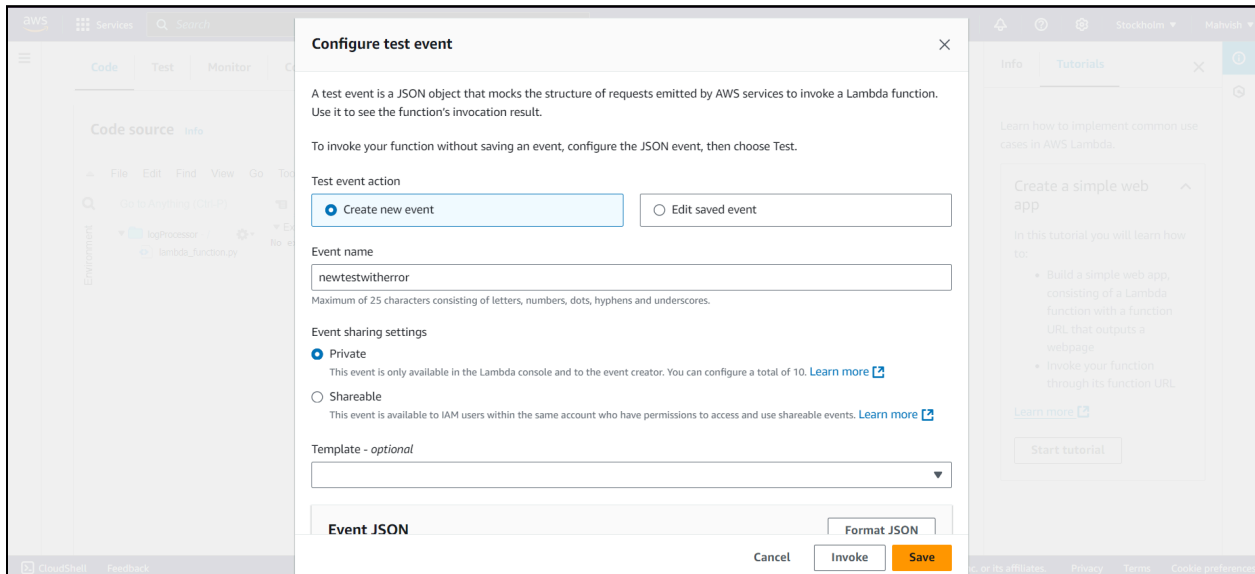
```

1  import boto3
2  import json
3  import time
4
5  s3_client = boto3.client('s3')
6
7  def lambda_handler(event, context):
8      try:
9          # Debug: Print the full event to understand its structure
10         print("Event Received: ", json.dumps(event, indent=2))
11
12         log_events = event['logEvents'] # Extract log events
13         print(f"Received {len(log_events)} log events")
14
15         # Filter logs containing 'ERROR'
16         filtered_logs = [log for log in log_events if 'ERROR' in log['message']]
17         print(f"Filtered {len(filtered_logs)} error log events")
18
19         if filtered_logs:
20             # Generate a unique key for each log upload to avoid overwriting
21             timestamp = int(time.time())
22             s3_client.put_object(
23                 Bucket='mahvish-logs-bucket',
24                 Key=f'filtered_logs_{timestamp}.json', # Unique key
25                 Body=json.dumps(filtered_logs)
26             )
27             print(f"Successfully uploaded filtered logs to S3 with key: filtered_logs_{timestamp}.json")
28
29             return {
30                 'statusCode': 200,
31                 'body': json.dumps('Logs processed successfully!')
32             }
33         except KeyError as e:
34             print(f"KeyError: {e}")
35             raise e
36         except Exception as e:
37             print(f"Exception: {e}")
38             raise e

```

After adding the code, click on deploy to save it.

Step 10: Create a new test event to test the setup.



Add this to the json part,

```
{
  "logEvents": [
    {
      "id": "event_id_1",
      "timestamp": 1234567890,
      "message": "INFO: This is a regular log message."
    },
    {
      "id": "event_id_2",
      "timestamp": 1234567891,
      "message": "ERROR: This is a test error log message."
    }
  ]
}
```


Event JSON

Format JSON

```

1 {
2   "logEvents": [
3     {
4       "id": "event_id_1",
5       "timestamp": 1234567890,
6       "message": "INFO: This is a regular log message."
7     },
8     {
9       "id": "event_id_2",
10      "timestamp": 1234567891,
11      "message": "ERROR: This is a test error log message."
12     }
13   ]
14 }
15
16

```

15:1 JSON Spaces: 2

Cancel

Invoke

Save

Click on Invoke to run the test case. A success 200 message appears in the execution results.

lambda_function. x

Environment Var x

Execution result: x

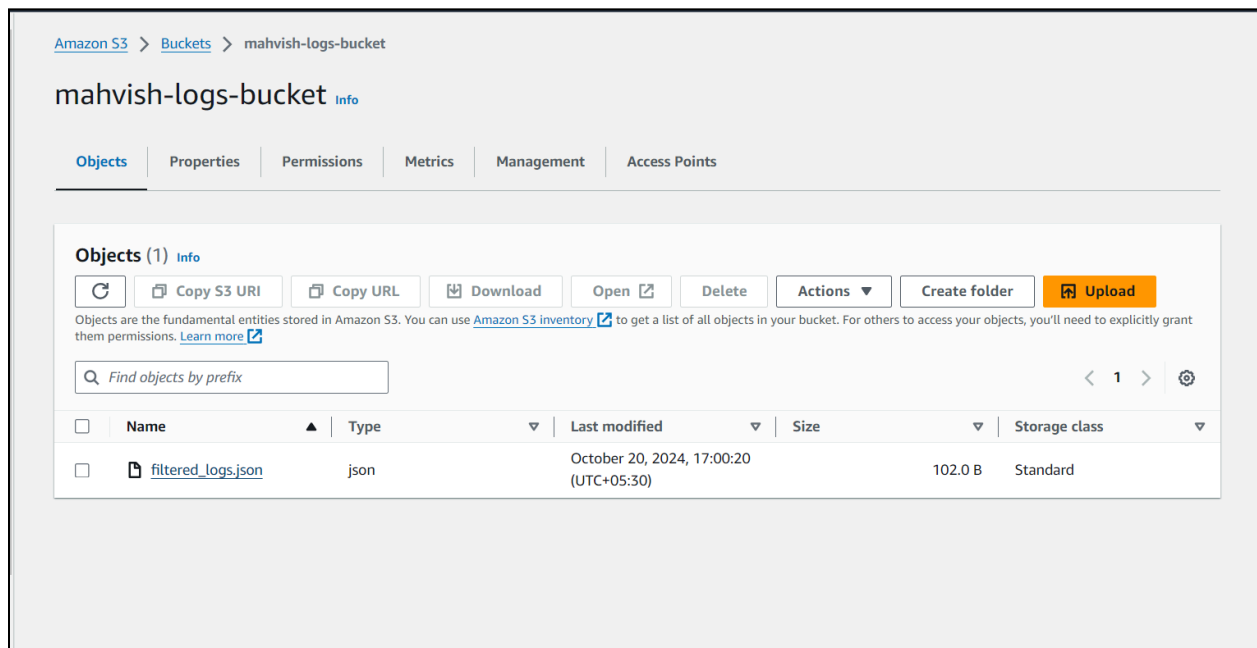
+

▼ Execution results

Status: Succeeded | Max memory used: 87 MB | Time: 191.04 ms

Test Event Name newtestwitherror	
Response <pre>{ "statusCode": 200, "body": "\"Logs processed successfully!\"" }</pre>	
Function Logs START RequestId: 3f8c24f4-4ef9-4a1d-935f-9b01e5cbf50c Version: \$LATEST Event Received: { "logEvents": [{ "id": "event_id_1", "timestamp": 1234567890, "message": "INFO: This is a regular log message." }, { "id": "event_id_2", "timestamp": 1234567891, "message": "ERROR: This is a test error log message." }] } Received 2 log events Filtered 1 error log events Successfully uploaded filtered logs to S3 with key: filtered_logs_1729792608.json END RequestId: 3f8c24f4-4ef9-4a1d-935f-9b01e5cbf50c REPORT RequestId: 3f8c24f4-4ef9-4a1d-935f-9b01e5cbf50c Duration: 191.04 ms Billed Duration: 192 ms Memory Size: 128 MB Max Me	
Request ID 3f8c24f4-4ef9-4a1d-935f-9b01e5cbf50c	

Step 11: To verify, go back to your S3 bucket. A new item called filtered_logs.json is added in the S3 bucket.



On opening the json file, we can see the output.



Guidelines:

1. Use your personal AWS account as the AWS academy account does not offer enough privileges to the default role.
2. Principle of Least Privilege: Assign the minimum permissions necessary for IAM roles and policies. This minimizes security risks.
3. Logging and Monitoring: Enable detailed logging for your Lambda functions and monitor them using CloudWatch. This helps in troubleshooting.

Conclusion:

In this case study, the integration of AWS Lambda, CloudWatch Logs, and S3 for real-time log processing was demonstrated. An IAM user with the necessary permissions was created, ensuring secure access to the required AWS services. A Lambda function was set up to trigger on new log entries in a CloudWatch Log Group, filtering specific log events based on a keyword. The filtered logs were then stored in an S3 bucket for further analysis and storage. This system enhanced log monitoring and alerting capabilities while automating the log management process. By following best practices, such as adhering to the principle of least privilege and implementing error handling, a secure, efficient, and scalable solution was achieved.