GROUP 13

Capstone Project 1 – Part 1: VPC Creation Report

Introduction

This report outlines the steps in building a secure Virtual Private cloud (VPC) and subnets configuration in the AWS infrastructure. the report provides a detailed guide to setup a customized Virtual private cloud (VPC) and a subnet architecture. A VPC is created with a defined CIDR block, public and private subnets are provisioned across multiple availability zones and route tables are configured to direct traffic appropriately between public and private resources. This configuration of our customized VPC supports the foundation for deploying scalable, secure and highly available applications in the cloud environment.

Step 1: VPC and Subnet Configuration

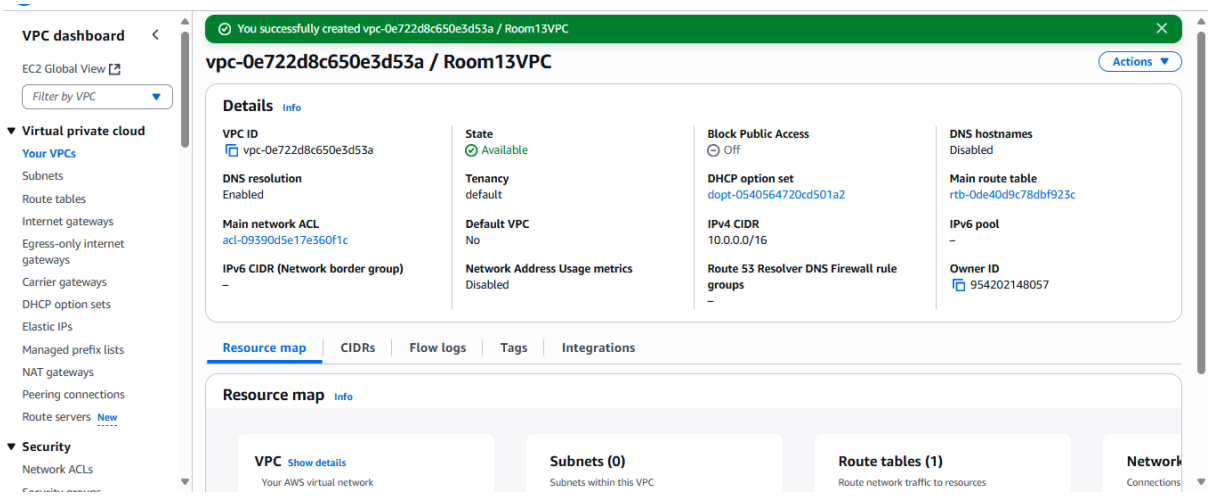
1. Creation of a New VPC

The process began by accessing the AWS Console and navigating to the **VPC service** section. The **Create VPC** option was selected to initiate the VPC creation.

The following details were entered:

- **Name**: Room13VPC
- **IPv4 CIDR Block**: 10.0.0.0/16
- **IPv6 CIDR Block**: Left as *No IPv6 CIDR Block*
- **Tenancy**: Default

Upon completion of the configuration, the **Create VPC** button was clicked to successfully create the new VPC. A screenshot was taken as evidence of successful creation.



2. Creation of Subnets

To ensure high availability, a total of four subnets were created: two public subnets and two private subnets, distributed across two Availability Zones.

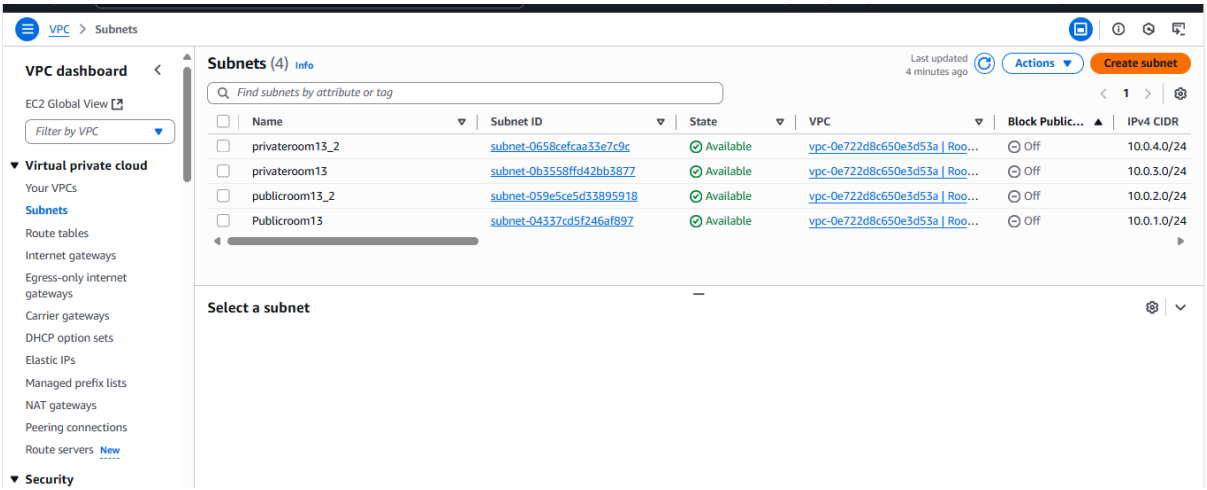
The subnet configuration was as follows:

Availability Zone	Public Subnet	Private Subnet	CIDR Block
us-east-1a	publicroom13	privateroom13	10.0.1.0/24 (public), 10.0.3.0/24 (private)
us-east-1b	publicroom13_2	privateroom13_2	10.0.2.0/24 (public), 10.0.4.0/24 (private)

The **Subnets** section was accessed, and the **Create Subnet** option was selected. For each subnet:

- The **VPC** selected was Room13VPC.
- The **Name** was assigned accordingly (e.g., publicroom13, publicroom13_2, privateroom13, privateroom13_2).
- Appropriate **Availability Zones** (us-east-1a, us-east-1b) were selected.
- The corresponding **CIDR blocks** were entered.

All four subsets were created at once, and a screenshot was taken after a successful creation.



3. Route Table Configuration

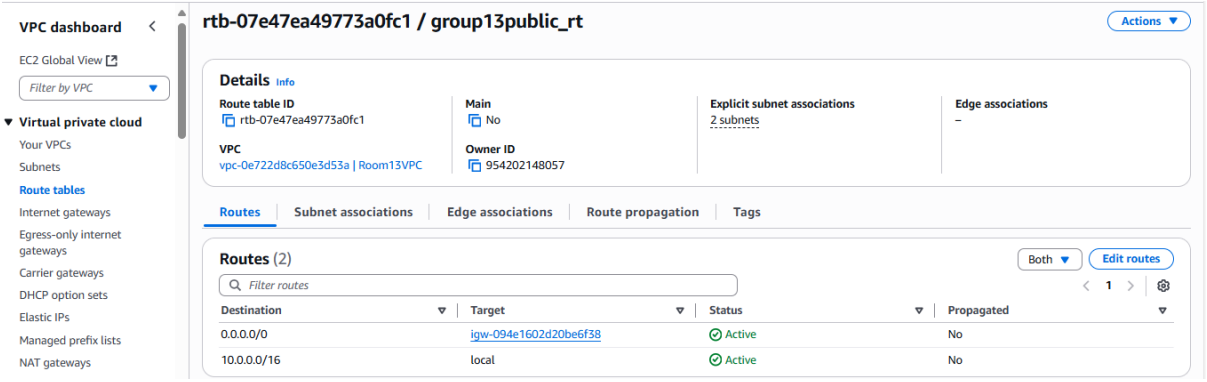
Public Route Table

The **Route Tables** section was accessed, and a new route table named **group13public_rt** was created and associated with Room13VPC.

A route was then added with the following configuration:

- **Destination**: `0.0.0.0/0`
- **Target**: Internet Gateway (to be created in the next step)

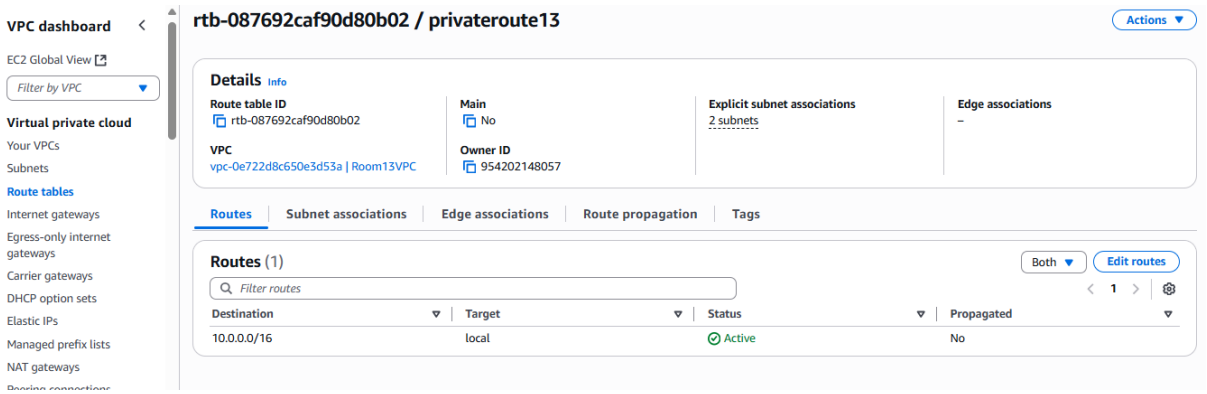
The **group13public_rt** route table was associated with both public subnets (publicroom13 and publicroom13_2). A screenshot was captured for documentation.



Private Route Table

Similarly, another route table named **privateroute13** was created for private subnets, associated with Room13VPC. Initially, no default route (`0.0.0.0/0`) was added, as this would be configured after the NAT Gateway creation.

The **privateroute13** route table was associated with both private subnets (privateroom13 and privateroom13_2). A screenshot was taken upon completion.



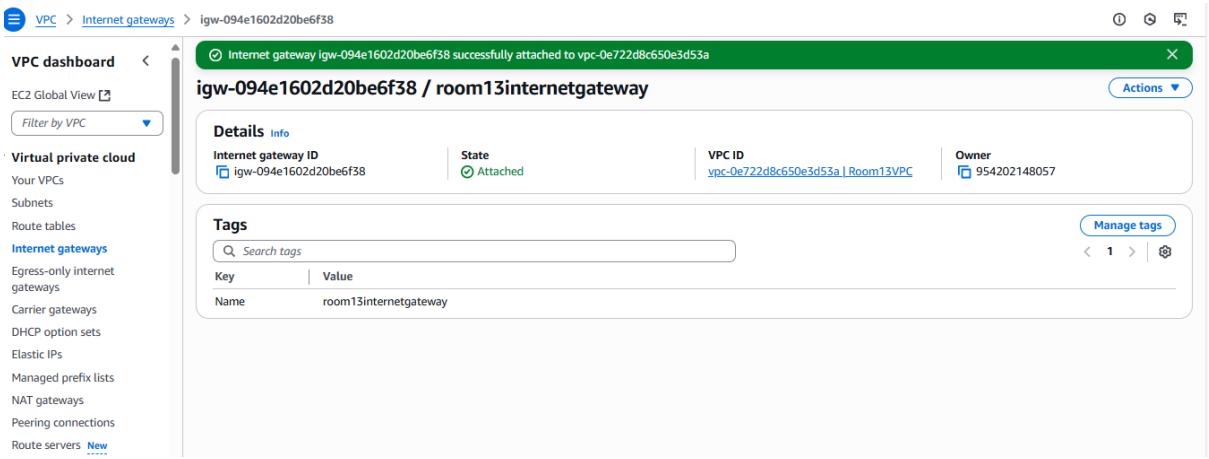
Step 2: Security Configurations

1. Creation and Attachment of Internet Gateway

An Internet Gateway was created by navigating to the **Internet Gateway** section and selecting **Create internet gateway**.

- **Name**: room13internetgateway

The Internet Gateway was successfully created and attached to the Room13VPC. A screenshot was taken to confirm attachment.



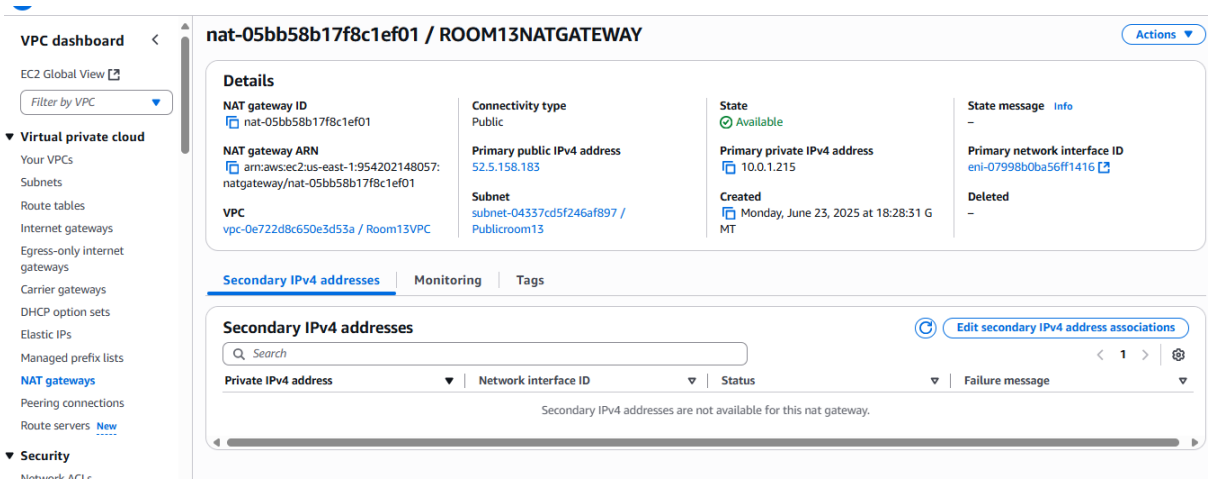
2. NAT Gateway Setup

An Elastic IP address was first allocated under the **Elastic IPs** section to be used for the NAT Gateway.

Subsequently, the **NAT Gateway** section was accessed, and a new NAT Gateway was created with the following configuration:

- **Name**: ROOM13NATGATEWAY
- **Subnet**: Selected one of the public subnets (publicroom13)
- **Elastic IP**: Selected the allocated Elastic IP

The NAT Gateway was successfully created, and a screenshot was taken as proof of completion.



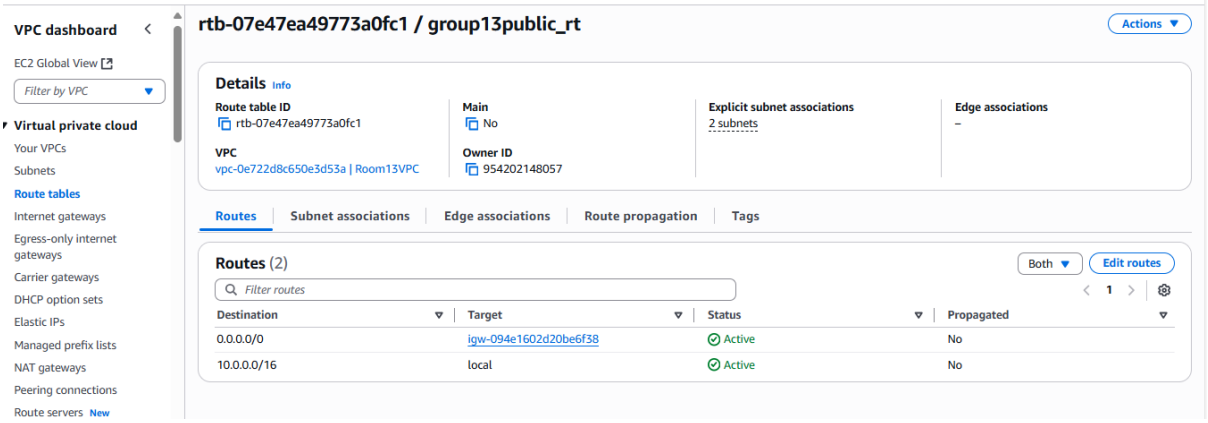
3. Update of Route Tables

Public Route Table

Verification was performed to ensure that the **group13public_rt** already contained the route:

- **Destination**: `0.0.0.0/0`
- **Target**: Internet Gateway (room13internetgateway)

A screenshot was taken after updating the public route table

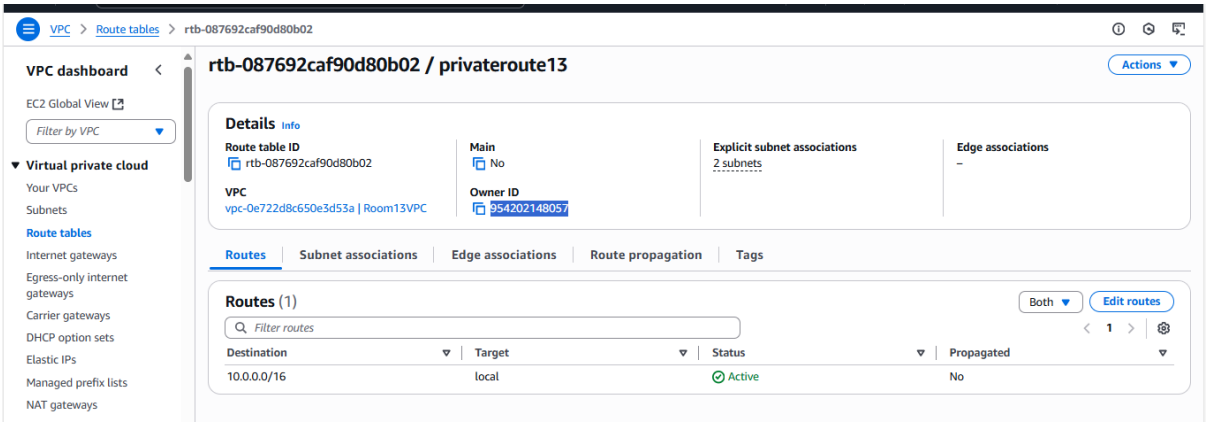


Private Route Table

For the **privateroute13**, a new route was added:

- **Destination**: `0.0.0.0/0`
- **Target**: NAT Gateway (ROOM13NATGATEWAY)

A screenshot was taken after updating the private route table



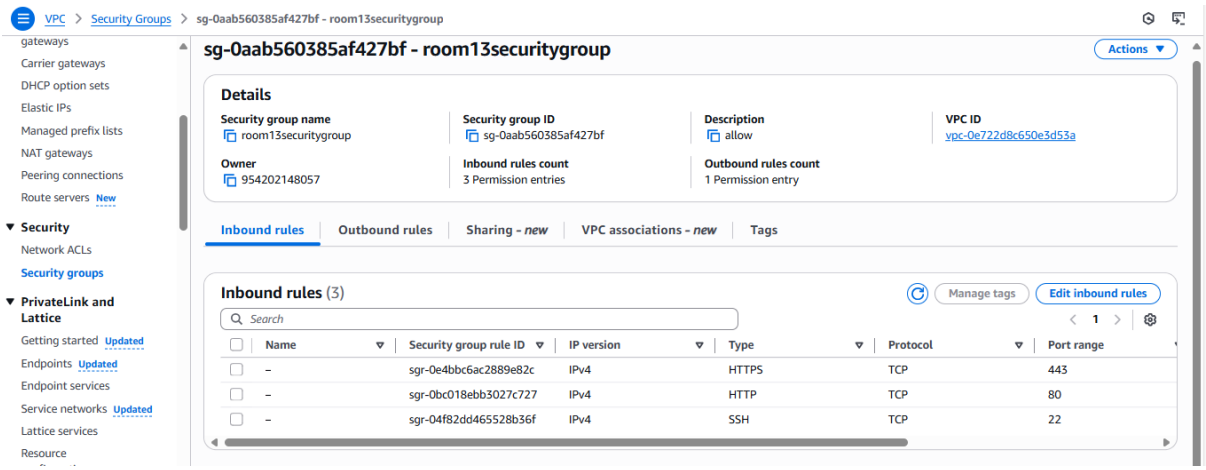
4. Security Group Configuration

The **Security Groups** section was accessed, and a security group was created:

For Public Instances (e.g., Load Balancer)

- **Name**: room13securitygroup
- **Inbound Rules**:
  - HTTP (port 80) – Allow from Anywhere (`0.0.0.0/0`)
  - HTTPS (port 443) – Allow from Anywhere (`0.0.0.0/0`)
  - SSH (port 22) – Allow from specific IP (administrator's IP)
- **Outbound Rules**: Allow all traffic (default configuration)

A screenshot was captured for both security group.

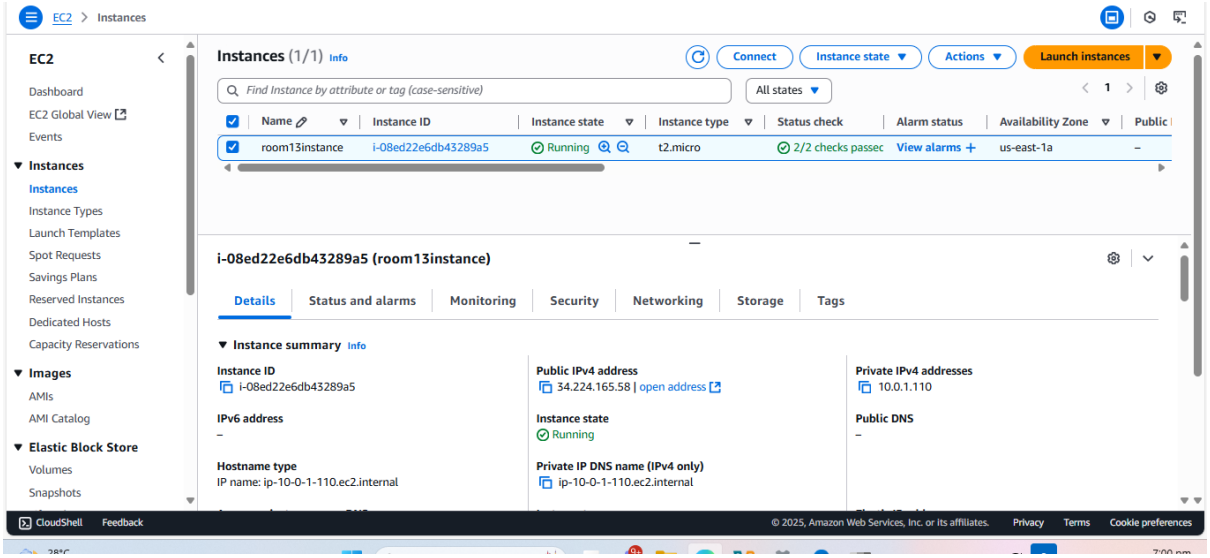


5. VPC Functionality Test

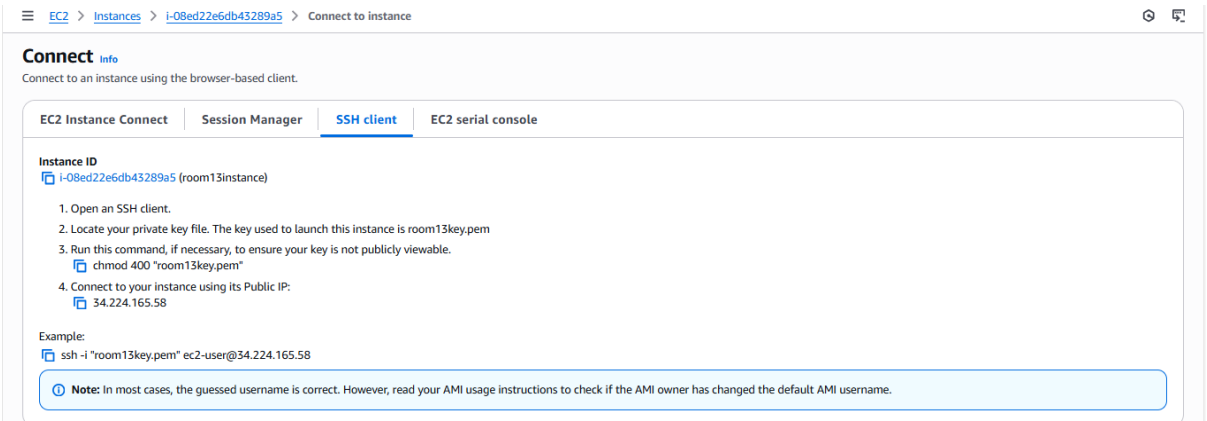
A test EC2 instance was launched within one of the public subnets:

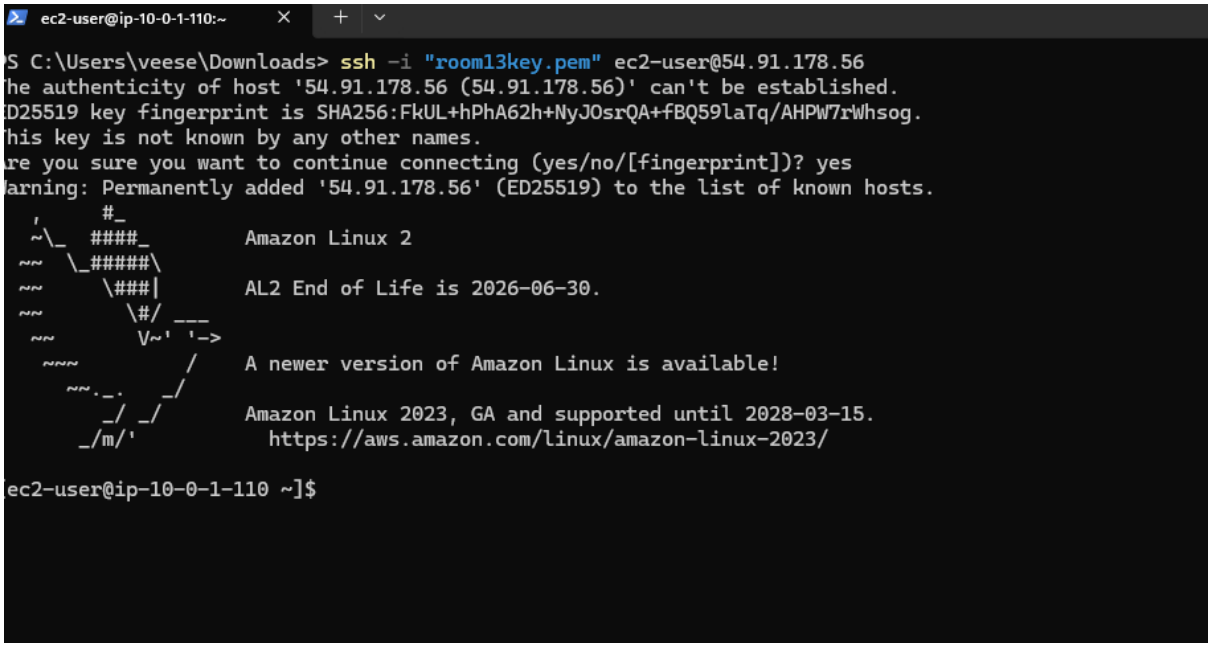
- The room13securitygroup security group was assigned.
- An Elastic IP was associated with the instance.

A screenshot was created after creating the EC2 instance.



An SSH connection was initiated to verify internet connectivity. Upon successful connection, a screenshot was taken to confirm proper functionality of the VPC setup.





Challenges Encountered

During the course of this project, a key challenge was identified:

- Initially, after creating the route tables (**group13public_rt** and **privateroute13**), the team neglected to associate these route tables with the corresponding subnets. As a result, network traffic routing failed, and the test EC2 instance was unable to access the internet.
- Upon diagnosing the issue, it was determined that proper association of the route tables to their respective public and private subnets was missing. After correcting these associations, full connectivity was achieved.
- This experience emphasized the importance of thorough verification of route table associations during VPC configuration.

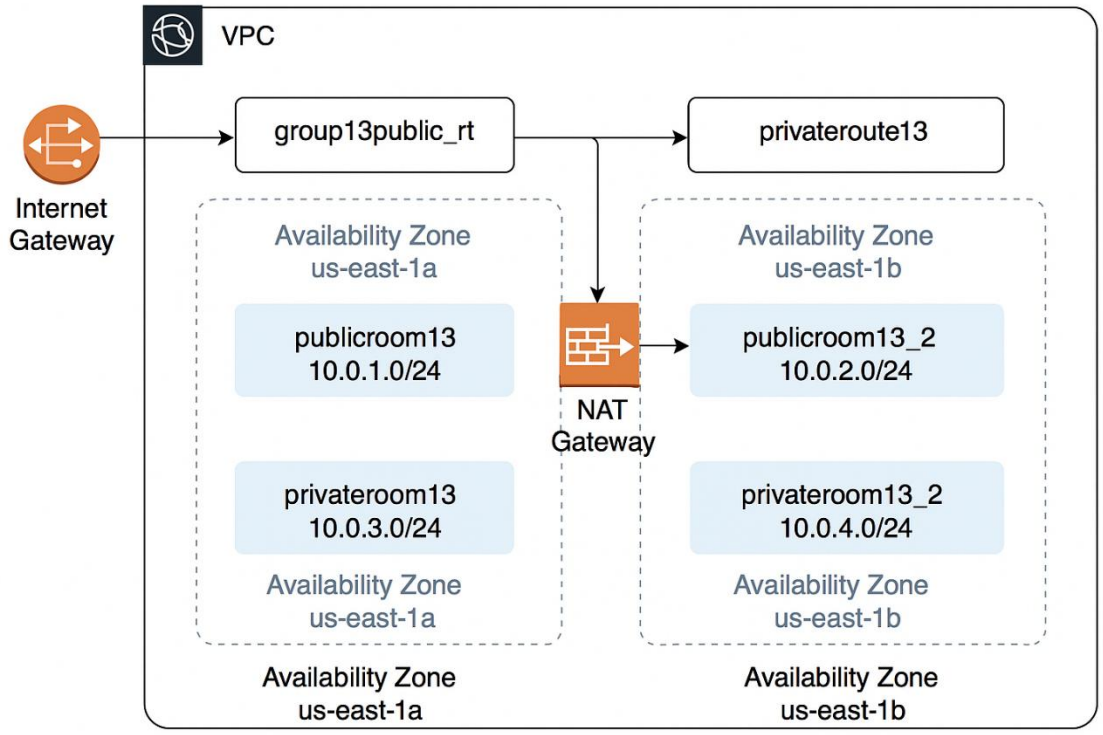
Summary and Conclusion

In this project, a secure and highly available Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) was successfully designed and deployed using AWS services. The group created one VPC with the CIDR block `10.0.0.0/16`, two public subnets and two private subnets across multiple availability zones, Internet Gateway for public internet access, NAT Gateway for controlled outbound access from private subnets and a security group for public instances.

The project not only reinforced our understanding of the core AWS networking services but also provided hands-on experience in troubleshooting common configuration oversights. The challenge encountered with route table associations reinforced the importance of attention to detail when designing cloud infrastructure.

Overall, the objectives of the Capstone Project Part 1 were fully met, providing a solid foundation for subsequent phases of cloud infrastructure development.

Architectural Diagram



The diagram above provides a clear and concise overview of the VPC architecture, including key components and the direction of traffic flow.

Capstone Project 1 – Part 2:

Implementation Report: Scalable AWS Architecture with Load Balancing and Auto Scaling

Introduction

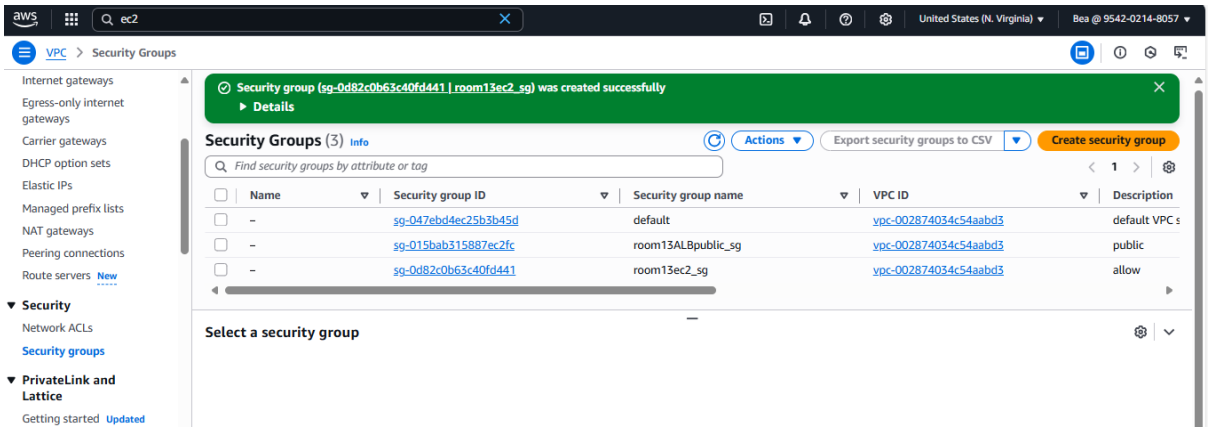
In this project, the team implemented a highly available, secure, and scalable web application environment on AWS. The process began with the configuration of security groups to enforce controlled access—allowing public traffic to reach the load balancer while restricting backend EC2 instances to accept traffic only from the load balancer.

Subsequently, EC2 instances were launched and configured in public subnets. A web application was installed, and an (AMI) Amazon Machine was created to support auto scaling. An **Application Load Balancer (ALB)** was then set up to intelligently route incoming traffic and perform health checks, ensuring that only healthy instances receive requests.

Finally, an **Auto Scaling Group (ASG)** was configured to span multiple Availability Zones. Dynamic scaling policies were defined based on CPU utilization to maintain responsiveness during peak traffic. Collectively, these steps resulted in a robust cloud infrastructure capable of ensuring high reliability.

Step 1: Security Group Configuration

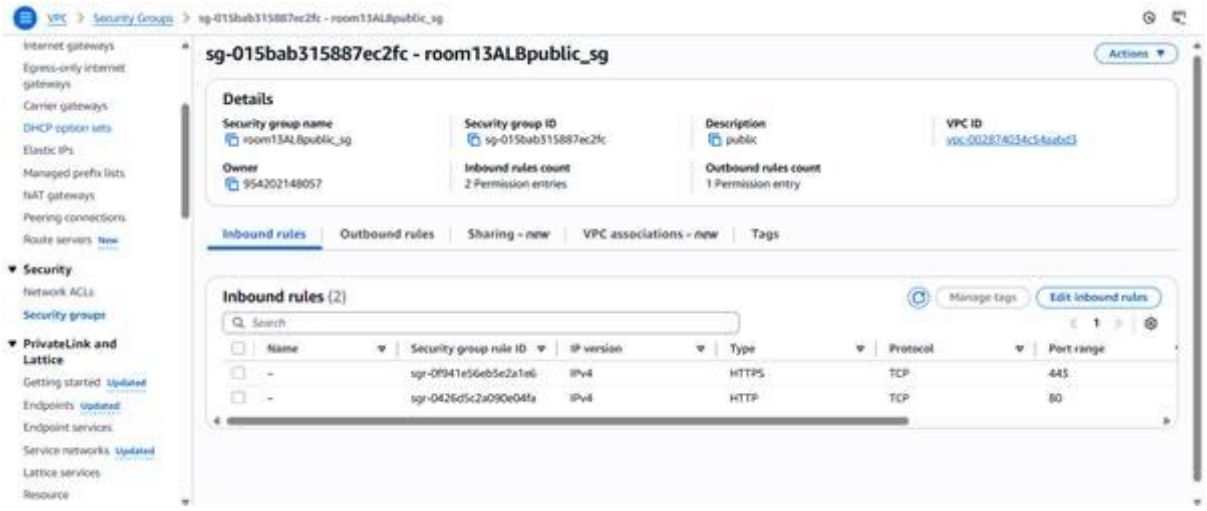
Two distinct security groups were created to control network access:



1.1 Load Balancer Security Group (ALB-SG)

A security group was configured specifically for the Application Load Balancer. It was set to allow inbound traffic on the following ports:

- **HTTP (port 80)**
- **HTTPS (port 443)**
- **Source:** Anywhere (`0.0.0.0/0`)

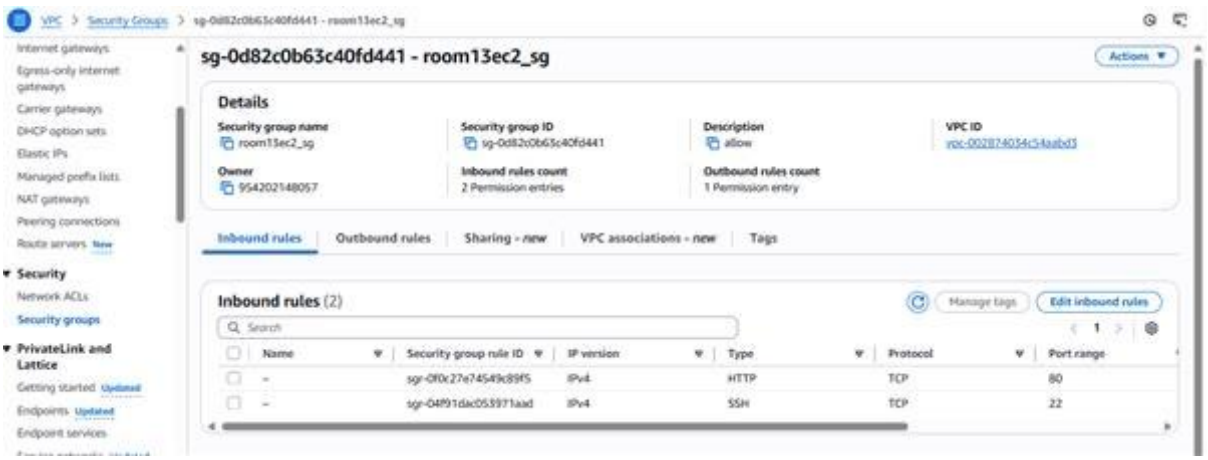


1.2 EC2 Instance Security Group (EC2-SG)

A separate security group was assigned to EC2 instances. This group allowed inbound traffic only on:

- **HTTP (port 80)**
- **Source:** The ALB security group

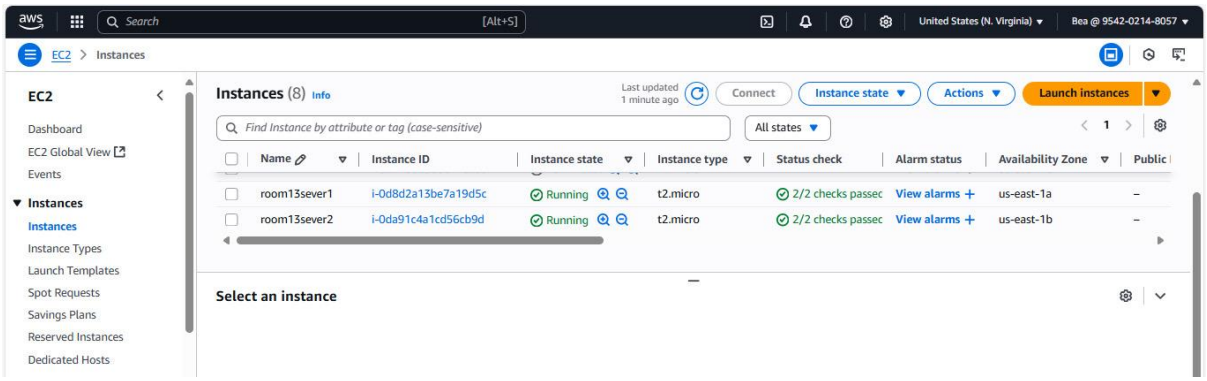
This ensured that only traffic routed through the load balancer could reach the EC2 instances.



Step 2: EC2 Instance Deployment and AMI Creation

2.1 Instance Launch and Configuration

Two EC2 instances (`t2.micro`) were launched in a public subnet. (room13sever1 and room13sever2)

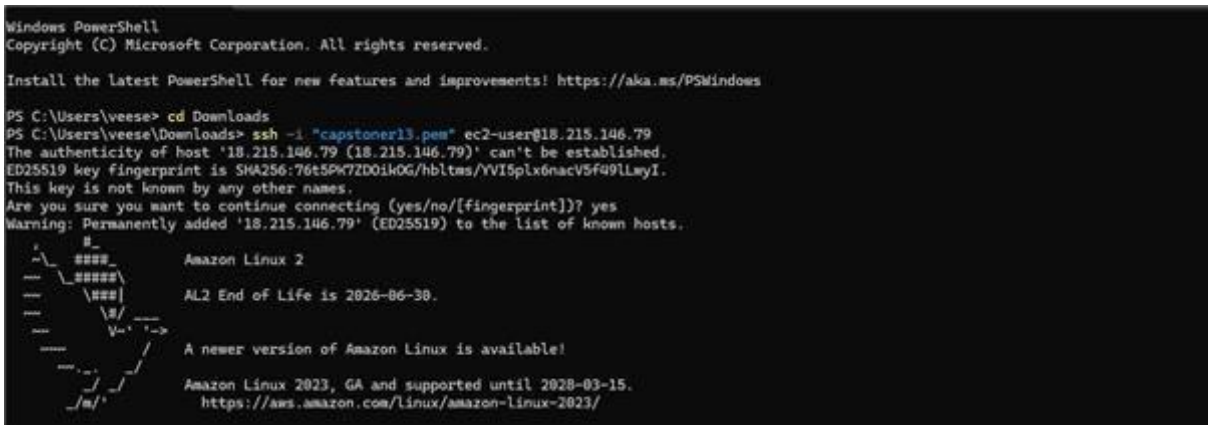


A basic web server was installed using the following commands:

```
sudo yum update -y
sudo yum install httpd -y
sudo systemctl start httpd
sudo systemctl enable httpd
echo "Hello from $(hostname)" > /var/www/html/index.html
```

Functionality was validated by accessing the instance's public IP to confirm web server availability.

Server 1:



Server 2:

```
Install the latest PowerShell for new features and improvements! https://aka.ms/PSWindows

PS C:\Users\veese> cd Downloads
PS C:\Users\veese\Downloads> ssh -i "capstoner13.pem" ec2-user@13.221.215.99
The authenticity of host '13.221.215.99 (13.221.215.99)' can't be established.
ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:z4nLXV4zVV4K1eO6CXqe9yU/1Cq8l0r0Mj0FCevdvO4.
This key is not known by any other names.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '13.221.215.99' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts.
       #_
   ~\_  ####_        Amazon Linux 2
  ~~  \_#####\
  ~~     \###|       AL2 End of Life is 2026-06-30.
  ~~       \#/ ___
   ~~       V~' '->
    ~~~         /    A newer version of Amazon Linux is available!
      ~~._.   _/
         _/ _/       Amazon Linux 2023, GA and supported until 2028-03-15.
       _/m/'           https://aws.amazon.com/linux/amazon-linux-2023/
```

```
Installed:
  httpd.x86_64 0:2.4.62-1.amzn2.0.2

Dependency Installed:
  apr.x86_64 0:1.7.2-1.amzn2.0.1                apr-util.x86_64 0:1.6.3-1.amzn2.0.1              apr-util-bdb.x86_64 0:1.6.3-1.amzn2.0.1
  generic-logos-httpd.noarch 0:18.0.0-4.amzn2   httpd-filesystem.noarch 0:2.4.62-1.amzn2.0.2     httpd-tools.x86_64 0:2.4.62-1.amzn2.0.2
  mailcap.noarch 0:2.1.41-2.amzn2               mod_http2.x86_64 0:1.15.19-1.amzn2.0.2

Complete!
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-4-152 ~]$ sudo systemctl start httpd
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-4-152 ~]$ sudo systemctl enable httpd
```

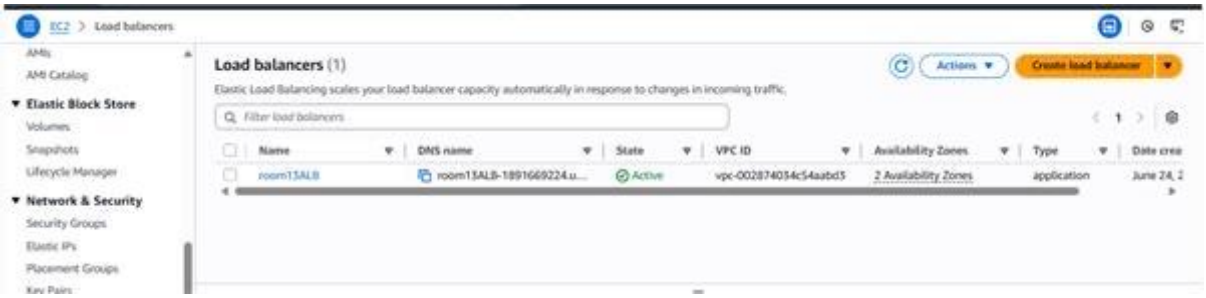
2.2 AMI Creation

After configuration, an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) was created from the running EC2 instance. This AMI served as the template for instances launched within the Auto Scaling Group.

Step 3: Application Load Balancer (ALB) Configuration

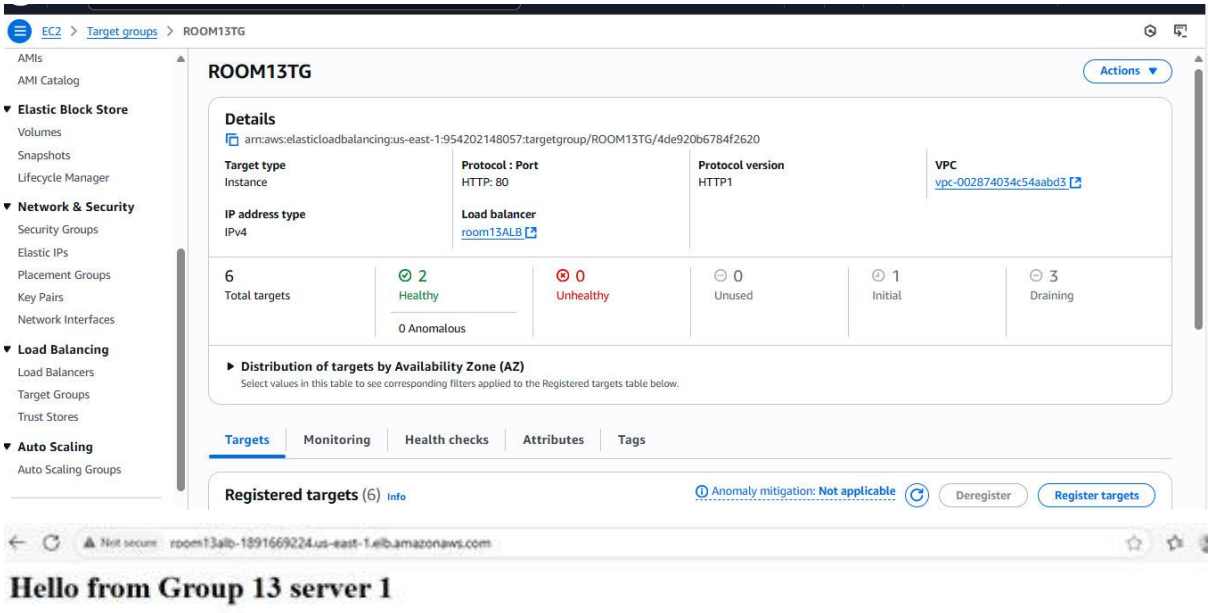
An **Application Load Balancer** was created from the EC2 Dashboard with the following configuration:

- **Scheme:** Internet-facing
- **Listener:** HTTP on port 80
- **Availability Zones:** Two public subnets were selected across different AZs



A target group was created and registered with the EC2 instance. Health checks were defined with the following parameters:

- **Path:** /
- **Protocol:** HTTP



The load balancer was tested by lunching the DNS name in a new tab and this displayed “Hello from Group 13 server 1 and as the page was refreshed it displayed sever 2 as indicated below.

Hello from Group 13 server 2

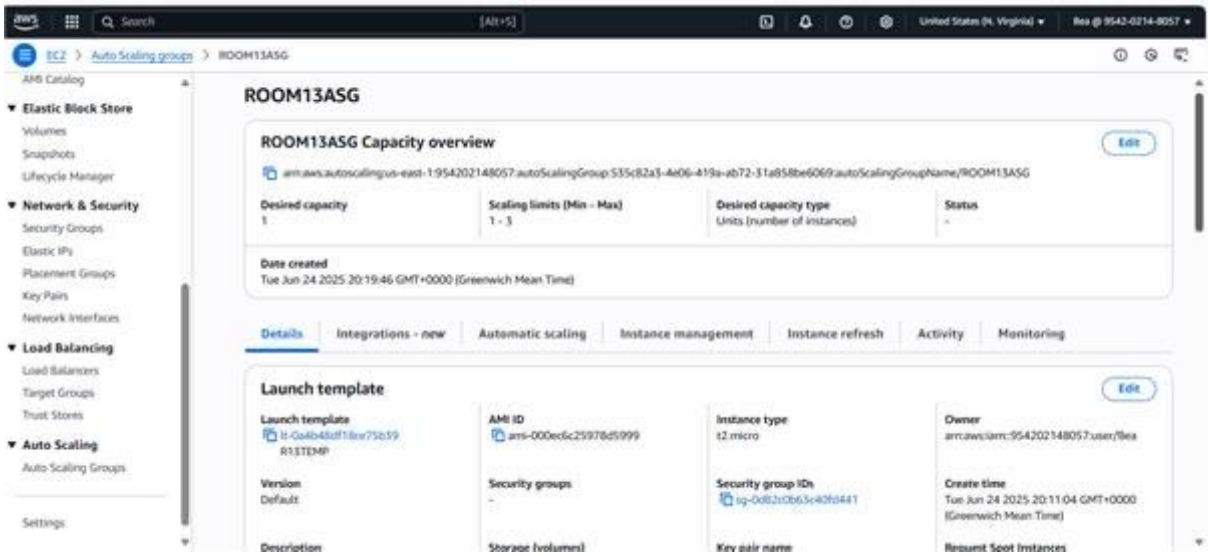
The ALB was associated with the previously created `ALB-SG`.

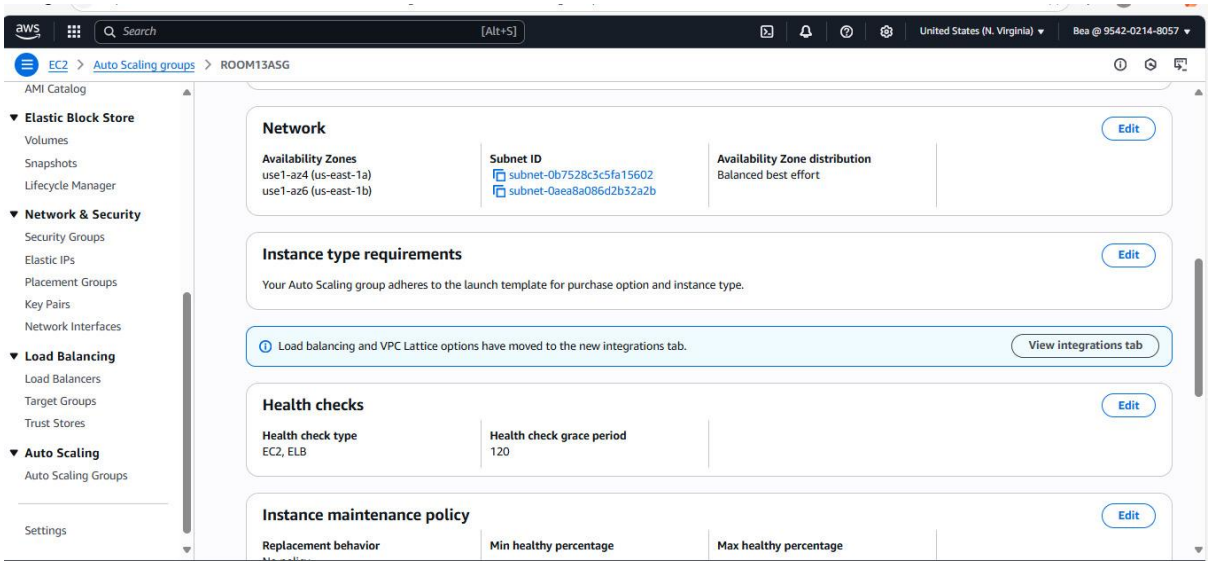
Step 4: Auto Scaling Group (ASG) Setup

An **Auto Scaling Group** was configured using the AMI created in Step 2. Key configurations included:

- **Availability Zones:** Spanned multiple zones for redundancy
- **Target Group:** Attached to the ALB's target group
- **Instance Counts:**

- Minimum: 1
- Desired: 2
- Maximum: 4



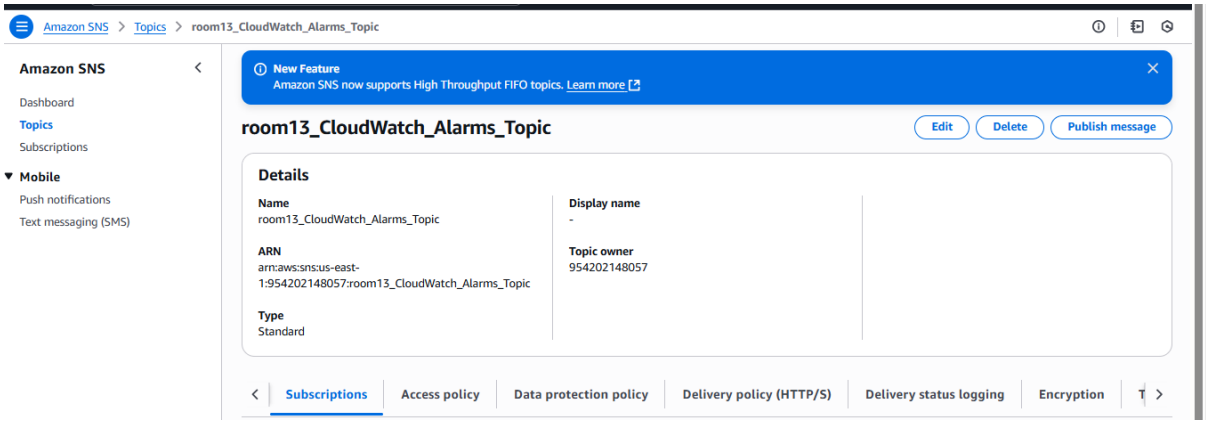


Scaling Policies

Scaling policies were defined using **CloudWatch alarms**. The configuration included:

- **Scale Out:** When CPU utilization exceeded 60%
- **Scale In:** When CPU utilization dropped below 30%

This allowed the infrastructure to dynamically adapt to changes in demand.



Step 5: Testing and Optimization

The system was subjected to multiple tests to validate performance, availability, and fault tolerance:

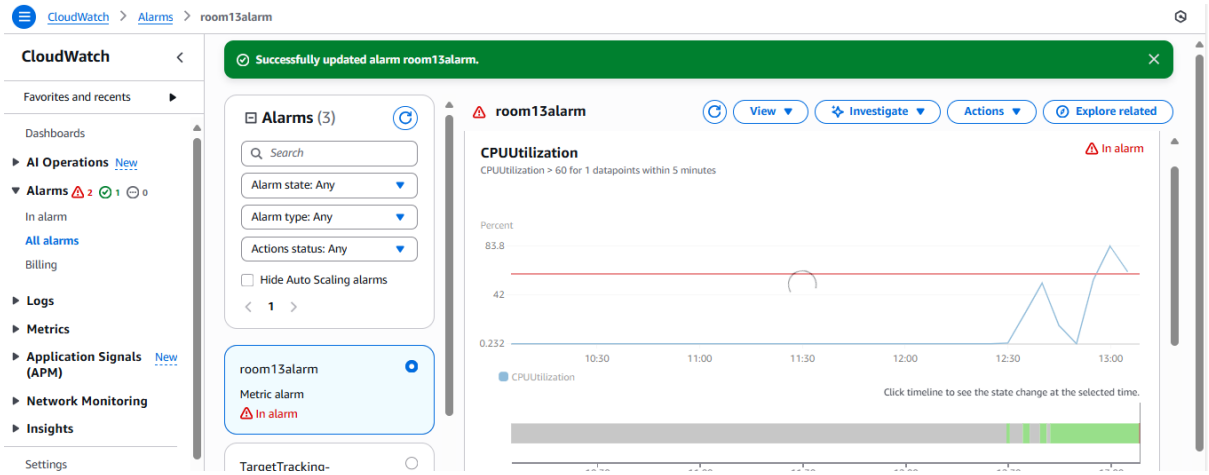
5.1 Connectivity Testing

The ALB DNS endpoint was used to verify that traffic was correctly routed to healthy EC2 instances.

```
stress: info: [6902] dispatching hogs: 2 cpu, 0 io, 0 vm, 0 hdd
stress: info: [6902] successful run completed in 60s
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ stress --cpu 2 --timeout 60
stress: info: [6919] dispatching hogs: 2 cpu, 0 io, 0 vm, 0 hdd
stress: info: [6919] successful run completed in 60s
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ stress --cpu 2 --timeout 60
stress: info: [6922] dispatching hogs: 2 cpu, 0 io, 0 vm, 0 hdd
stress: info: [6922] successful run completed in 60s
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ stress --cpu 2 --timeout 60
stress: info: [6925] dispatching hogs: 2 cpu, 0 io, 0 vm, 0 hdd
stress: info: [6925] successful run completed in 60s
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ stress --cpu 2 --timeout 60
stress: info: [6928] dispatching hogs: 2 cpu, 0 io, 0 vm, 0 hdd
stress: info: [6928] successful run completed in 60s
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ stress --cpu 2 --timeout 60
stress: info: [6931] dispatching hogs: 2 cpu, 0 io, 0 vm, 0 hdd
stress: info: [6931] successful run completed in 60s
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ stress --cpu 2 --timeout 60
stress: info: [6934] dispatching hogs: 2 cpu, 0 io, 0 vm, 0 hdd
stress: info: [6934] successful run completed in 60s
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ stress --cpu 2 --timeout 60
stress: info: [6937] dispatching hogs: 2 cpu, 0 io, 0 vm, 0 hdd
stress: info: [6937] successful run completed in 60s
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ stress --cpu 2 --timeout 60
stress: info: [6940] dispatching hogs: 2 cpu, 0 io, 0 vm, 0 hdd
stress: info: [6940] successful run completed in 60s
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$
```

5.2 Load Simulation

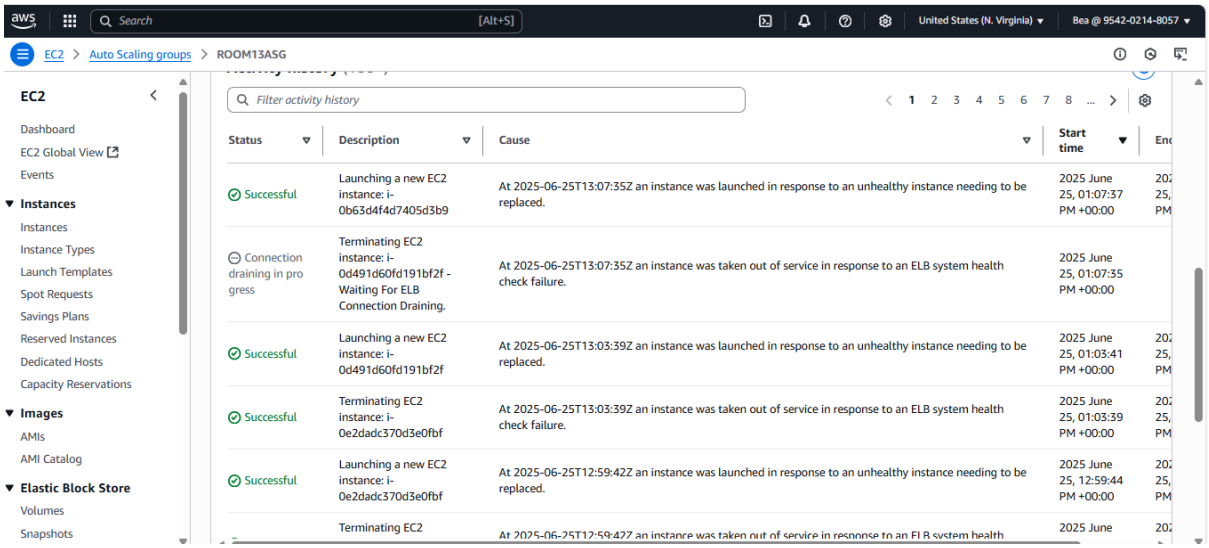
A stress tool was used to simulate traffic surges. Auto Scaling behavior was observed, confirming that additional instances were launched and terminated as expected and The instance alarm was successfully triggered once CPU utilization exceeded the set threshold.



5.3 Monitoring Review

CloudWatch dashboards were reviewed for:

- CPU utilization trends
- Target health checks
- Scaling activity history



5.4 Optimization Actions

Based on test results, the following optimizations were applied:

- Adjusted scaling thresholds for responsiveness
- Tuned instance types and cooldown periods
- Enhanced logging and alerting rules

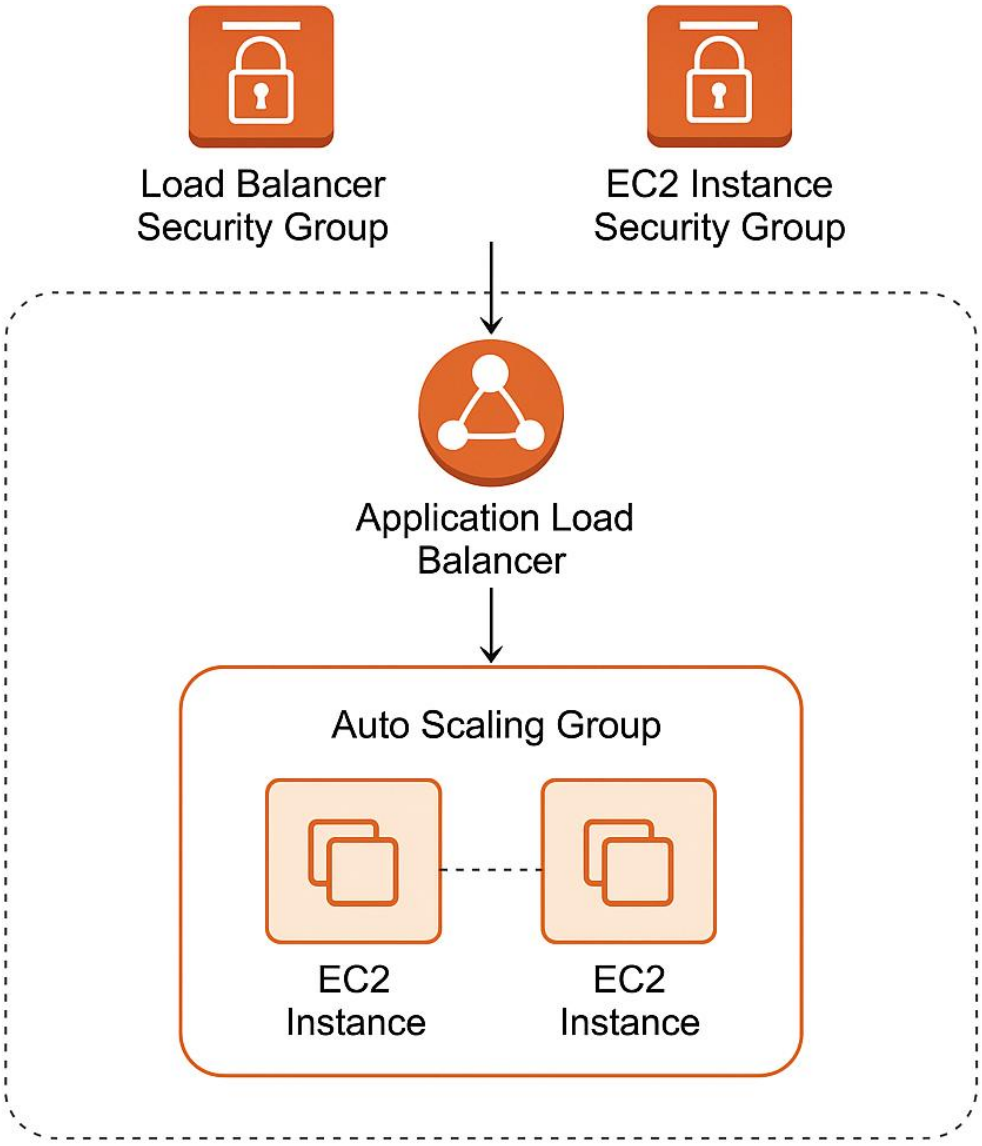
Final Outcome

The implementation successfully delivered a secure, auto-scaled, and load-balanced infrastructure using AWS-native services. The key components included:

- **Elastic Load Balancer (ALB)**
- **Auto Scaling Group (ASG)**
- **EC2 Instances launched from a custom AMI**
- **Amazon CloudWatch for monitoring and scaling triggers**
- **Tightly scoped Security Groups for controlled access**

This architecture ensures high availability, performance under load, and operational efficiency in dynamic environments.

ARCHITECTURAL DIAGRAM FOR LOAD BALANCER AND AUTO SCALING



Summary and conclusion

The report presents the design and deployment of a secure and scalable AWS infrastructure for a web application. The team configured security groups and launched EC2 instances with a basic web server. An Application Load Balancer was set up to route traffic across healthy instances, while an Auto Scaling Group ensured responsiveness using dynamic CPU-based policies. The Load was tested to confirm performance under varying demands and optimizations. The instance alarm was successfully triggered once CPU utilization exceeded the set threshold. The project successfully depicted a cloud-native solution with high availability and adaptability for modern web workloads.

Capstone Project 1 – Part 3:

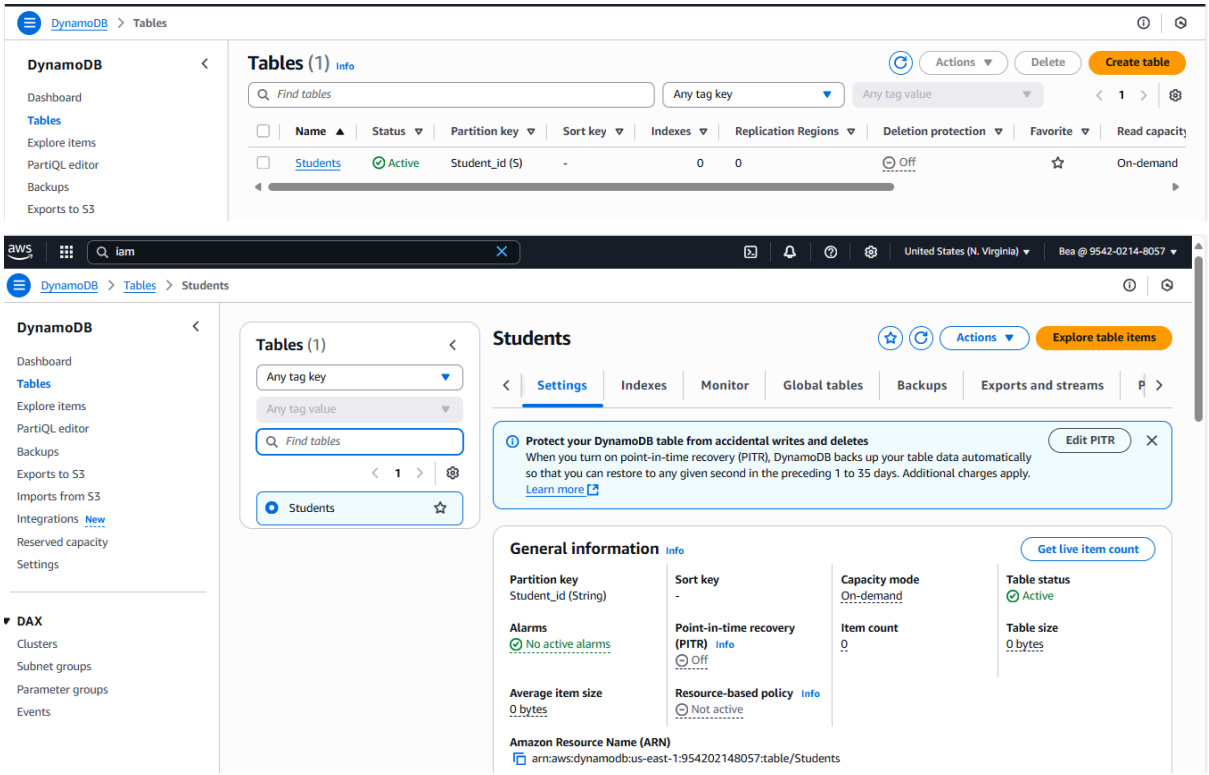
Implementation Report: Integrating EC2 with DynamoDB Using Boto3

Step 1: DynamoDB Table Setup

The project began by creating a DynamoDB table named `Students` to store structured student data. The following actions were completed:

1. Logged into the **AWS Management Console**.
2. Navigated to the **DynamoDB** service.
3. Clicked **"Create table."**
4. Provided the table name: `Students`.
5. Set the **Partition key** to `Student_id` of type **String**.
6. Retained default settings for the rest of the configuration.
7. Clicked **"Create"** to provision the table.

Upon successful creation, the `Students` table was ready for read and write operations.



Step 2: EC2 Instance Preparation

An EC2 instance was configured to serve as the interface for inserting records into DynamoDB via Python scripts. The following setup was completed:

2.1 Launch EC2 Instance

- An EC2 instance was launched with **Amazon Linux 2**.
- The instance had **Python 3** installed as part of the setup.

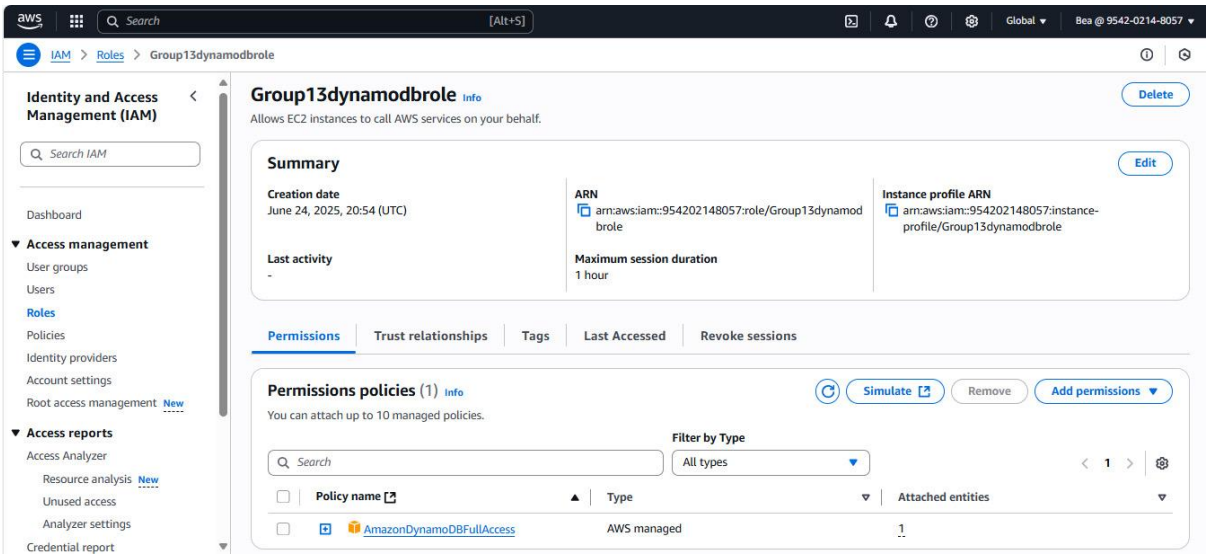
2.2 Create IAM Role with DynamoDB Access

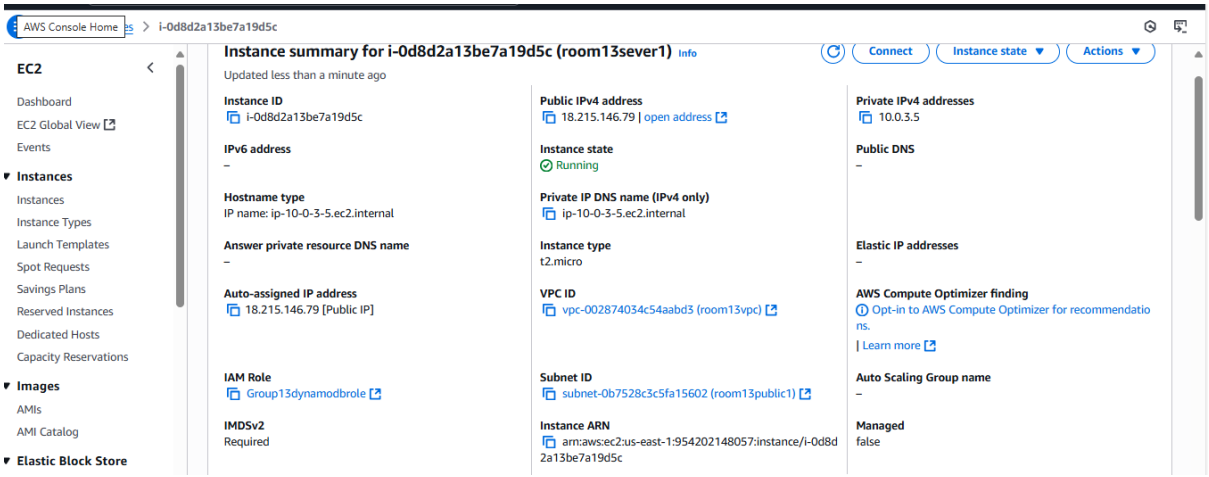
To enable the EC2 instance to communicate securely with DynamoDB:

1. Navigated to **IAM → Roles** and selected **Create role**.
2. Selected **AWS service** as the trusted entity and chose **EC2** as the use case.
3. Attached the `AmazonDynamoDBFullAccess` policy.
4. Provided a role name and created the role.

2.3 Attach IAM Role to EC2 Instance

1. In the **EC2 Console**, the target instance was selected.
2. Under **Actions → Security → Modify IAM Role**, the created role was attached.
3. Changes were saved to finalize role assignment.





2.4 Verify Permissions

To confirm access to DynamoDB, the command below was used

`aws dynamodb list-tables`

```
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ aws dynamodb list-tables
{
    "TableNames": [
        "Students"
    ]
}
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$
```

The table `Students` appeared in the output, the permissions were verified to be working correctly.

Step 3: Install Boto3 on EC2

To interact with AWS services from Python, the **Boto3 library** was installed as follows:

1. Verified Python 3 installation:

   ```
   python3 --version
   ```

2. Python 3 and pip were installed:

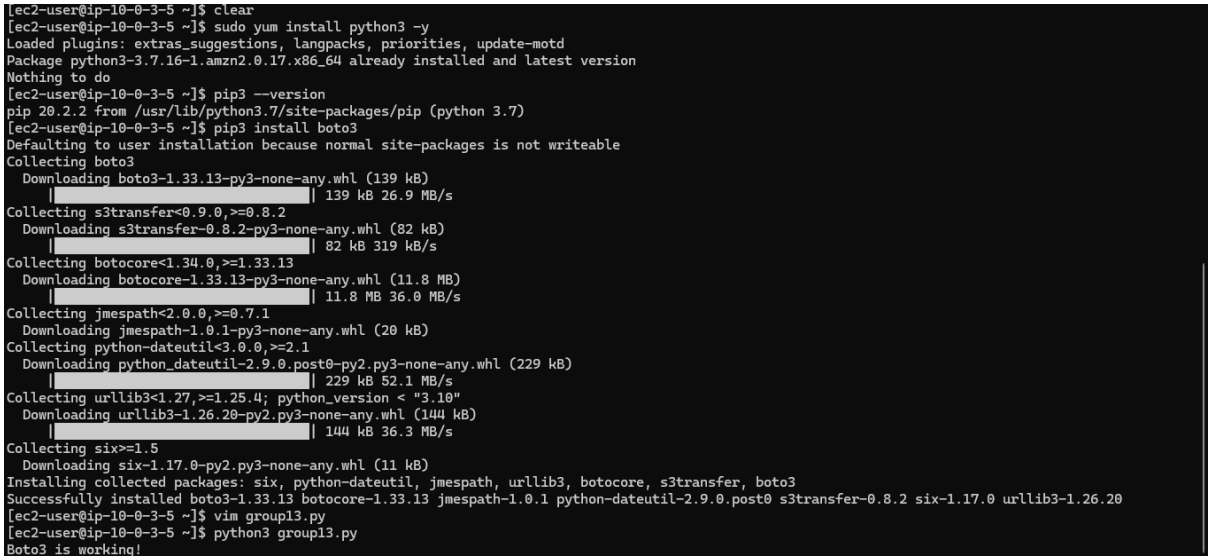
   ```
   sudo yum install python3 -y
   sudo yum install python3-pip -y
   ```

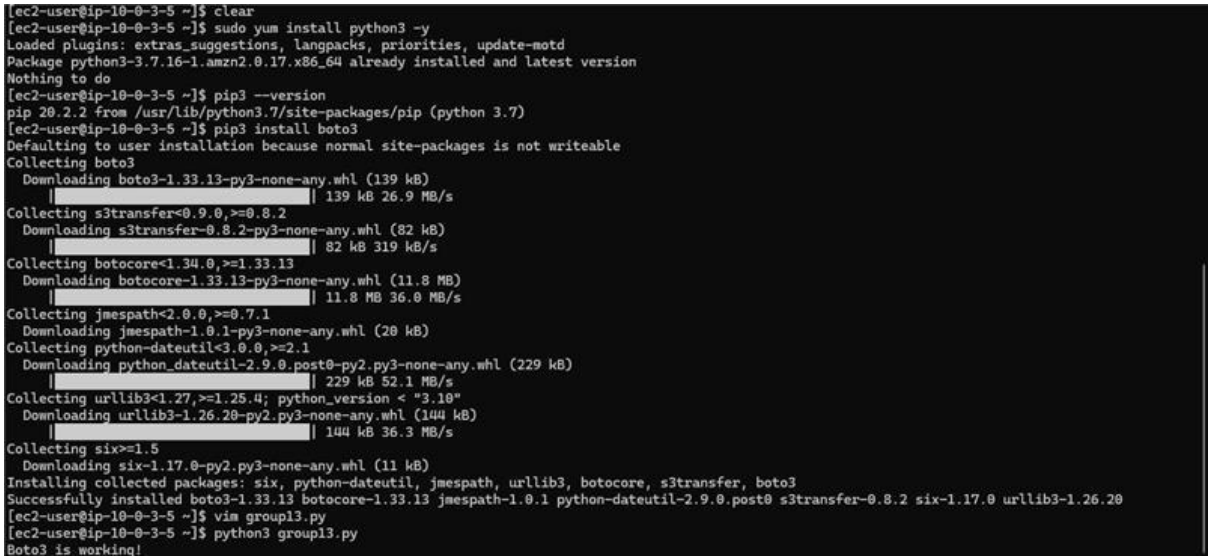
3. Installed Boto3:

   ```
   pip3 install boto3 --user
   ```

4. Verified Boto3 installation:

   ```
   python3
   >>> import boto3
   >>> print("Boto3 is working!")
   >>> exit()
   ```



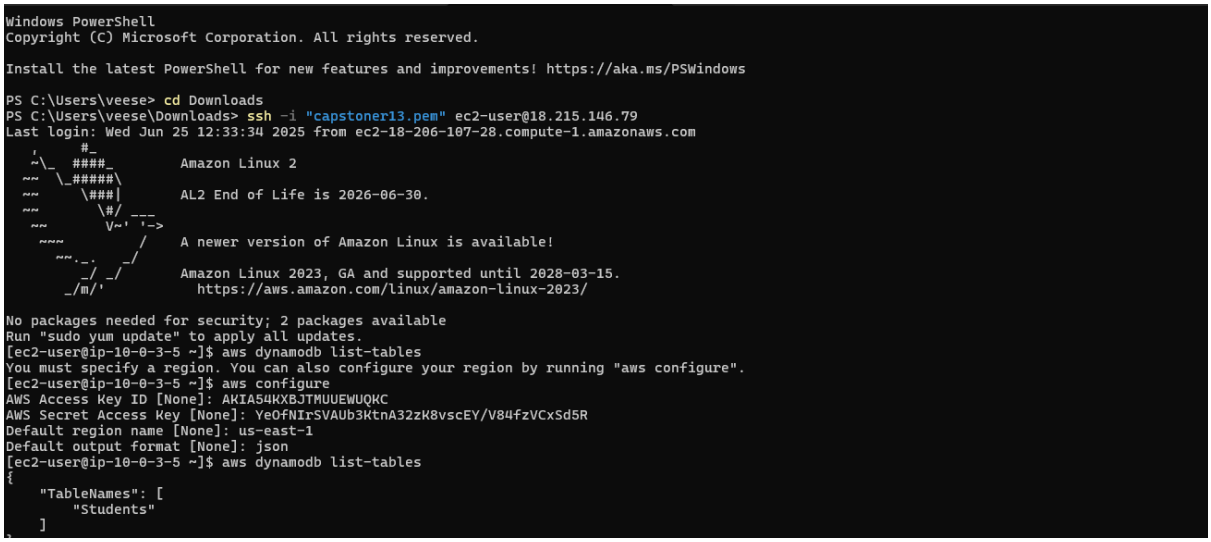


Step 4: Python Script to Interact with DynamoDB

A Python script was developed to log student data into the `Students` table. The process included:

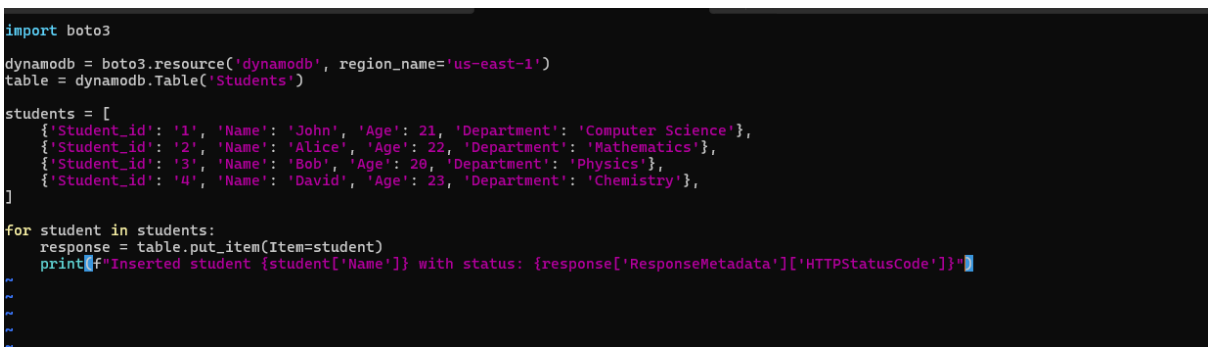
1. Created a new Python file:

   ```
   nano student_logger.py
   ```



2. Added the following code to insert multiple records:

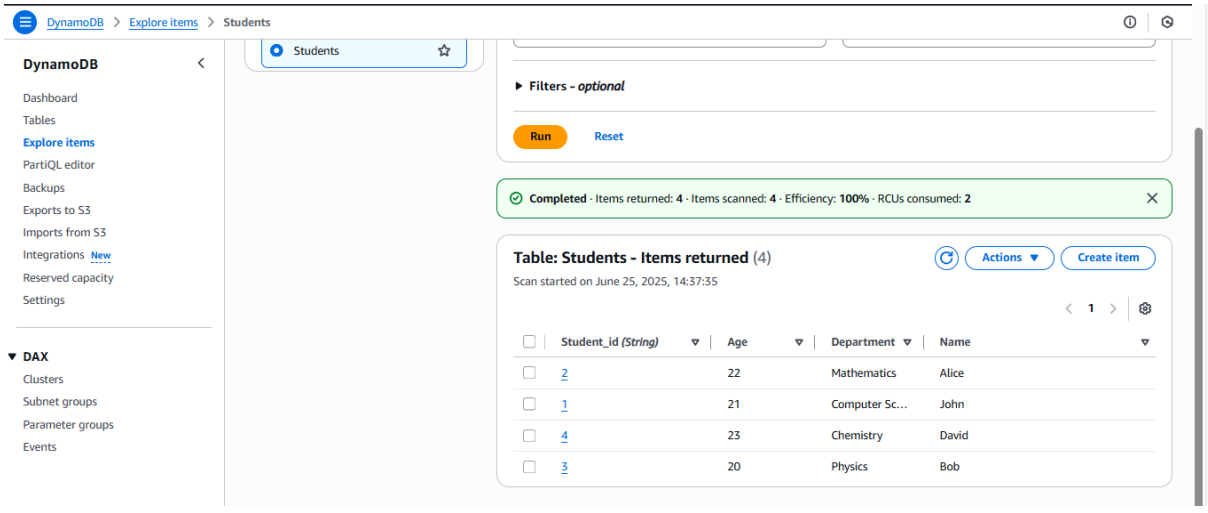
   ```
   python
   CopyEdit
   import boto3

   # Create a DynamoDB resource in us-east-1 region
   dynamodb = boto3.resource('dynamodb', region_name='us-east-1')

   # Reference the table
   table = dynamodb.Table('Students')

   # Sample student data
   students = [
       {'student_id': '001', 'name': 'Alice Appiah', 'course': 'AWS
   Cloud Fundamentals'},
       {'student_id': '002', 'name': 'Rita Okloo', 'course': 'Linux Ba-
   sics'}
   ]

   # Insert each student into the table
   for student in students:
       response = table.put_item(Item=student)
       print(f"Inserted: {student['name']} | Status: {response['Re-
   sponseMetadata']['HTTPStatusCode']}")
   ```



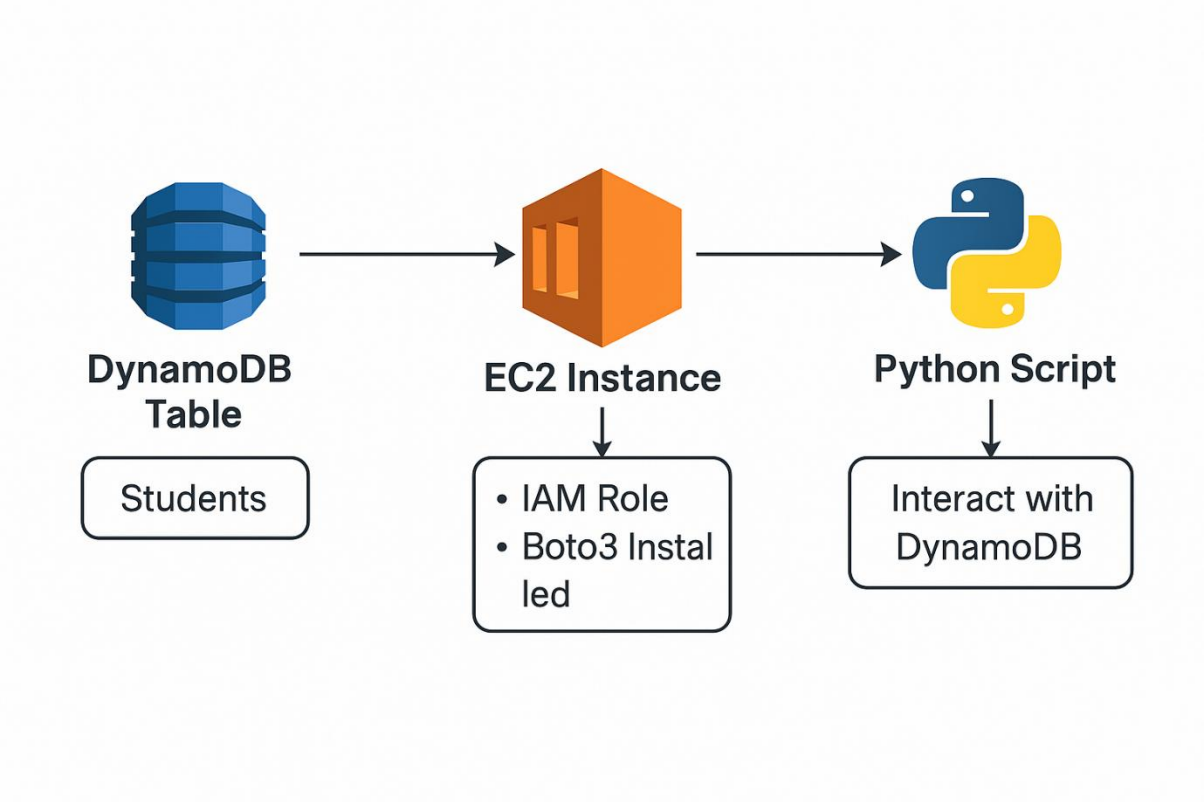
3. Saved and exited the file using:
    - `Ctrl+O` to save
    - `Enter` to confirm
    - `Ctrl+X` to exit
4. Ran the script using:
   `python3 student_logger.py`

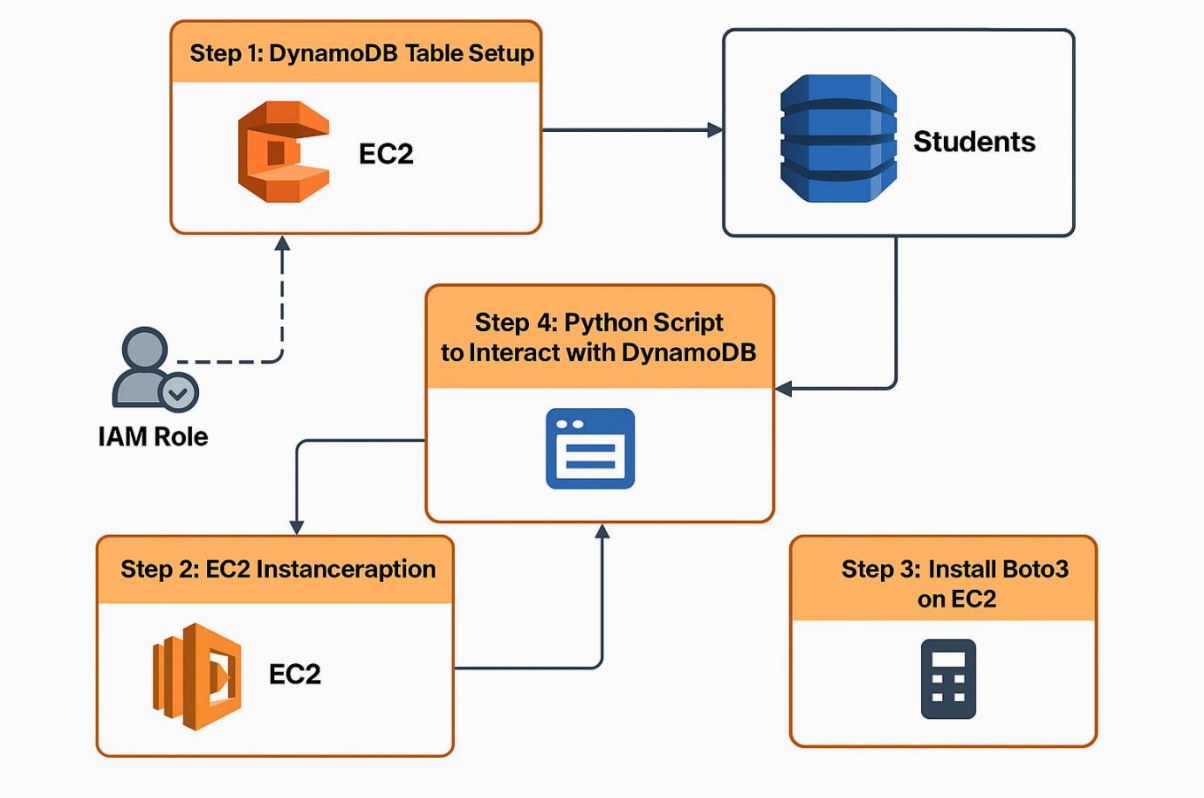
```
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ aws dynamodb list-tables
{
    "TableNames": [
        "Students"
    ]
}
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ vim student_logger.py
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$ python3 student_logger.py
/home/ec2-user/.local/lib/python3.7/site-packages/boto3/compat.py:82: PythonDeprecationWarning: Boto3 will no longer support Python 3.7 starting Dec
ember 13, 2023. To continue receiving service updates, bug fixes, and security updates please upgrade to Python 3.8 or later. More information can b
e found here: https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/developer/python-support-policy-updates-for-aws-sdks-and-tools/
  warnings.warn(warning, PythonDeprecationWarning)
Inserted student John with status: 200
Inserted student Alice with status: 200
Inserted student Bob with status: 200
Inserted student David with status: 200
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-3-5 ~]$
```

Upon successful execution, the student records were inserted into the DynamoDB table as shown below.



ARCHITECTURAL DIAGRAMS FOR DYNAMO DB


DynamoDB Table
Students
EC2 Instance
• IAM Role
• Boto3 Instal led
Python Script
Interact with DynamoDB


Step 1: DynamoDB Table Setup
EC2
Students
IAM Role
Step 4: Python Script to Interact with DynamoDB
Step 2: EC2 Instanceraption
EC2
Step 3: Install Boto3 on EC2

Summary and Conclusion

This project aimed to integrate **Amazon EC2** with **DynamoDB** using the Python **Boto3 SDK** to automate data logging. The team set up **DynamoDB to** provision a `Students` table with `Student_id` as the partition key. Launched an EC2 instance with Python installed, attached an IAM role granting DynamoDB permissions, and confirmed access using AWS CLI. The team also Installed and validated the Boto3 SDK to interact with AWS services by writing and executing a script to insert student data into the DynamoDB table. This created a reliable and scripted pipeline to move data from EC2 into DynamoDB, reflecting a fundamental backend integration pattern on AWS.

The successful setup confirms that **EC2 instances can securely communicate with DynamoDB** using properly scoped IAM roles and the Boto3 library.

THE END.