

Advance DevOps Practical Exam

Case study no 17:

1.Introduction:

Case Study Overview

This case study examines the deployment of an AWS Lambda function using Node.js 20.x, detailing the process of creating a zip file for the function code and integrating it with an S3 bucket and DynamoDB for data processing.

Key Feature and Application

The unique feature of this case study is the use of AWS Lambda, a serverless compute service that allows users to run code without provisioning or managing servers. This enables quick scaling and cost efficiency. The practical application involves setting up a Lambda function that processes JSON files uploaded to an S3 bucket and stores the processed data in a DynamoDB table.

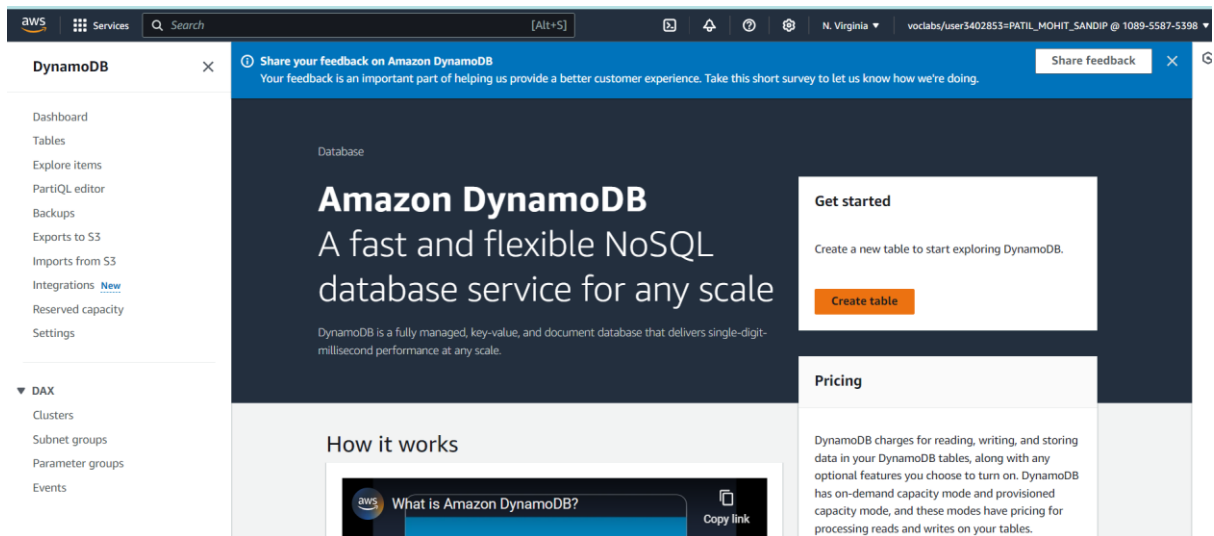
2. Step-by-Step Explanation

Serverless Data Processing with DynamoDB

- **Concepts Used:** AWS Lambda, DynamoDB, S3.
- **Problem Statement:** "Develop a Lambda function that processes a JSON file uploaded to an S3 bucket and writes specific fields from the JSON to a DynamoDB table."
- **Tasks:**
 - **Create a DynamoDB table with relevant attributes.**
 - **Write a Lambda function in Node.js that triggers when a JSON file is uploaded to an S3 bucket.**
 - **Parse the JSON and write specific fields (e.g., userID and timestamp) to the DynamoDB table.**
 - **Upload a sample JSON file to S3 and verify that the data is correctly written to DynamoDB.**

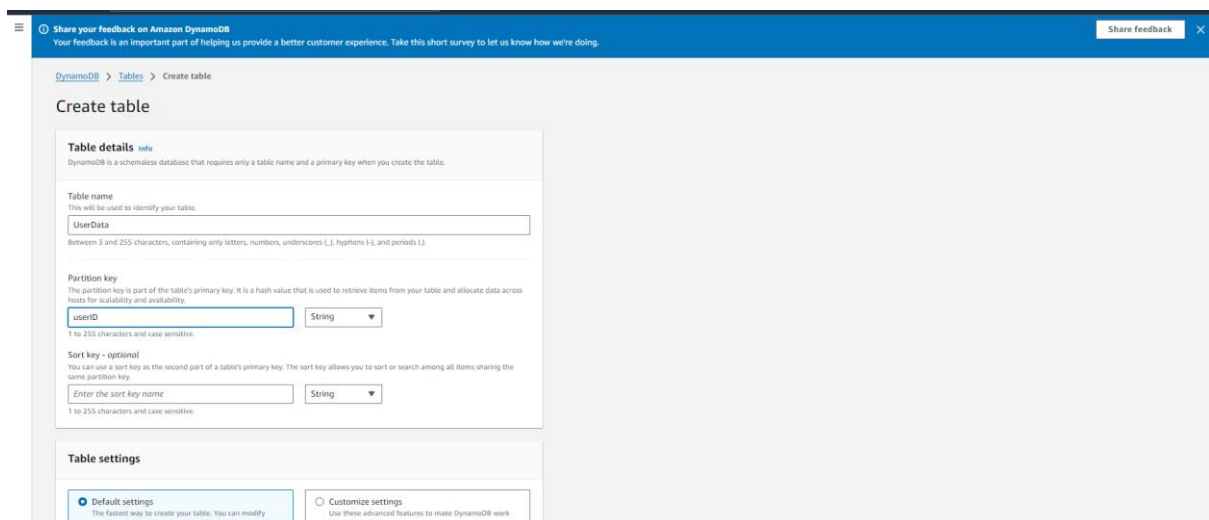
Solution:

Step 1 : Open the AWS Management Console and navigate to DynamoDB.

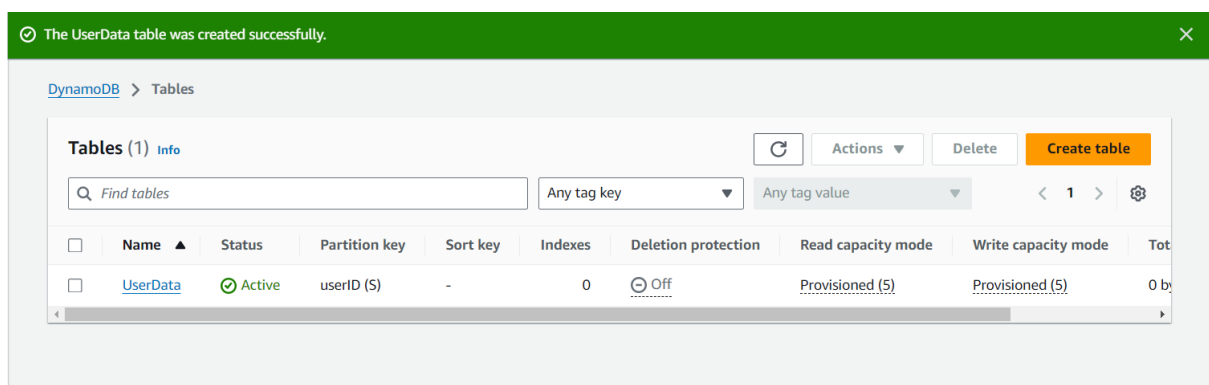


Step 2: Create table in Dynamo DB

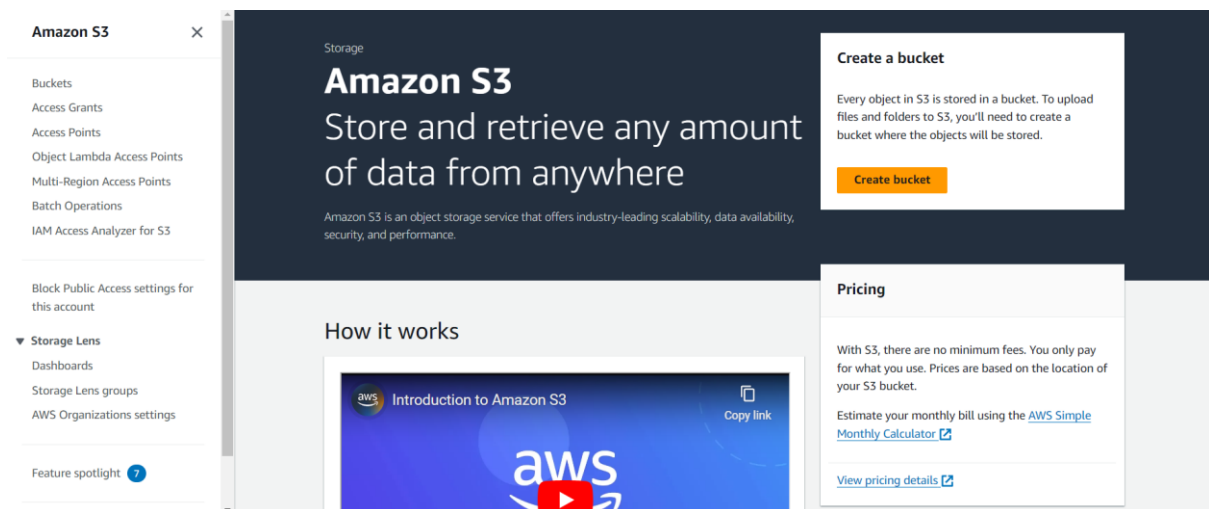
- Define the primary key (e.g., user ID as the partition key and timestamp as the sort key).



Step 3: DynamoDB Table is created successfully

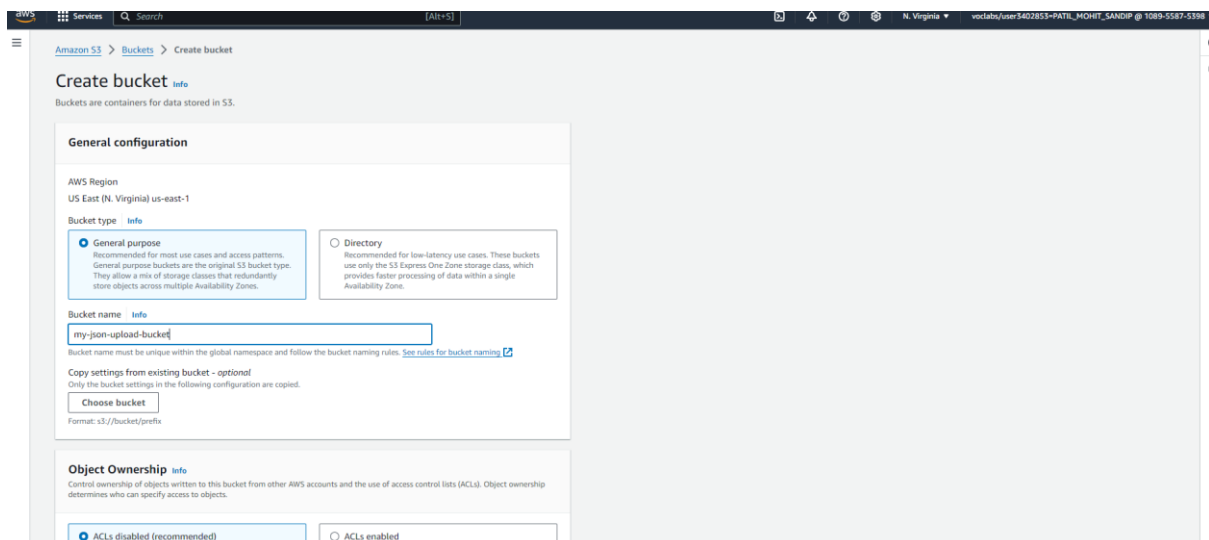


Step 4: Create a S3 Bucket



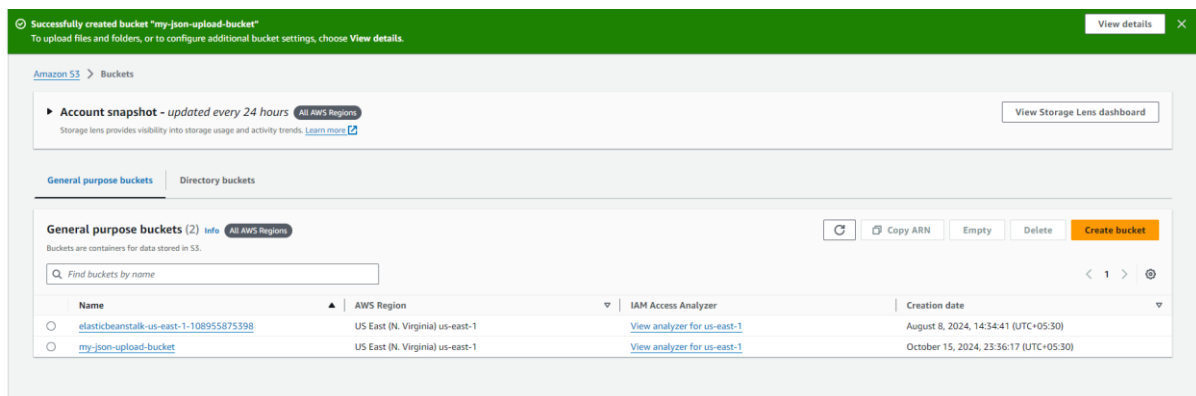
The image shows the Amazon S3 landing page. On the left is a navigation sidebar with links like Buckets, Access Grants, and Storage Lens. The main content area has a dark header with the text 'Storage Amazon S3 Store and retrieve any amount of data from anywhere'. Below this is a 'How it works' section with a video thumbnail. To the right, there are two white boxes: 'Create a bucket' with a 'Create bucket' button, and 'Pricing' with information about fees and a 'View pricing details' link.

Step 5: Give naming to bucket



The image shows the 'Create bucket' form in the AWS console. It has two main sections: 'General configuration' and 'Object Ownership'. In the 'General configuration' section, the 'AWS Region' is set to 'US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1'. Under 'Bucket type', 'General purpose' is selected. The 'Bucket name' field contains 'my-json-upload-bucket'. There are buttons for 'Choose bucket' and 'Copy settings from existing bucket - optional'. The 'Object Ownership' section has 'ACLs disabled (recommended)' selected. A 'Format: s3://bucket/prefix' is shown at the bottom.

Step 6: Bucket was created successfully

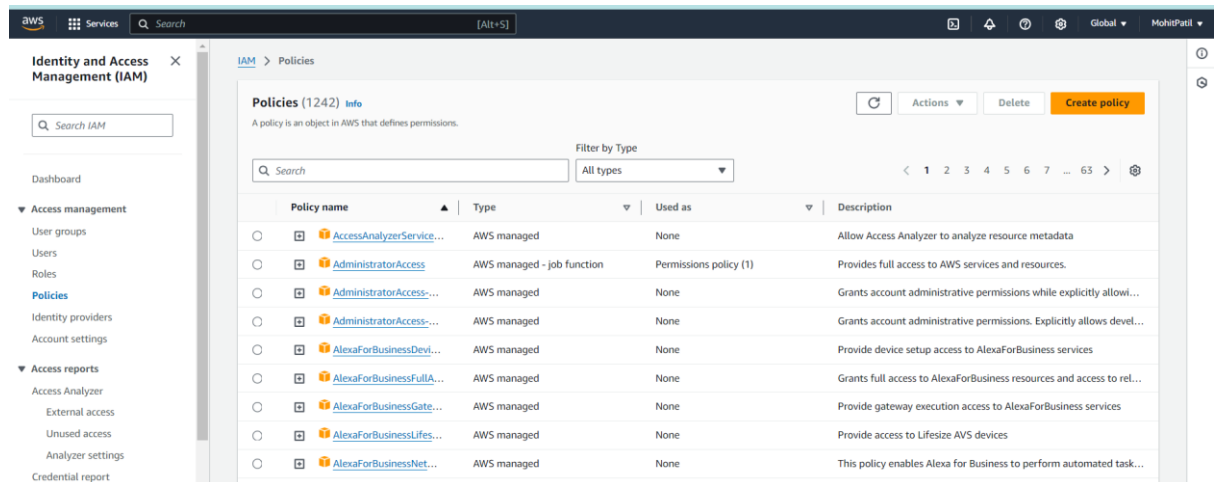


The image shows a green success banner at the top stating 'Successfully created bucket "my-json-upload-bucket"'. Below this is the 'Buckets' page in the AWS console. It features an 'Account snapshot' section and a 'General purpose buckets' tab. A table lists the created buckets:

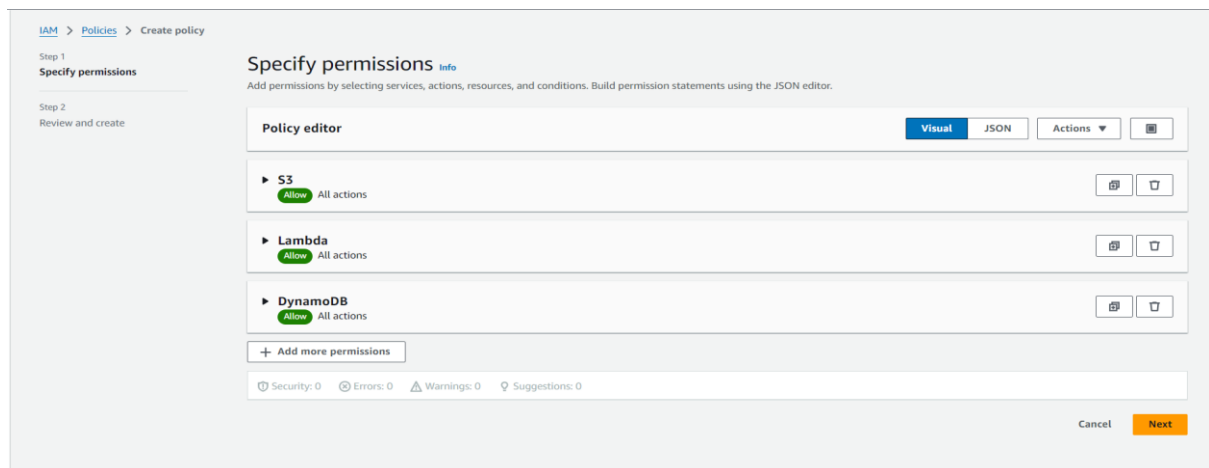
Name	AWS Region	IAM Access Analyzer	Creation date
elasticbeanstalk-us-east-1-108955875398	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	View analyzer for us-east-1	August 8, 2024, 14:34:41 (UTC+05:30)
my-json-upload-bucket	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	View analyzer for us-east-1	October 15, 2024, 23:36:17 (UTC+05:30)

Step 7: Redirect to IAM console

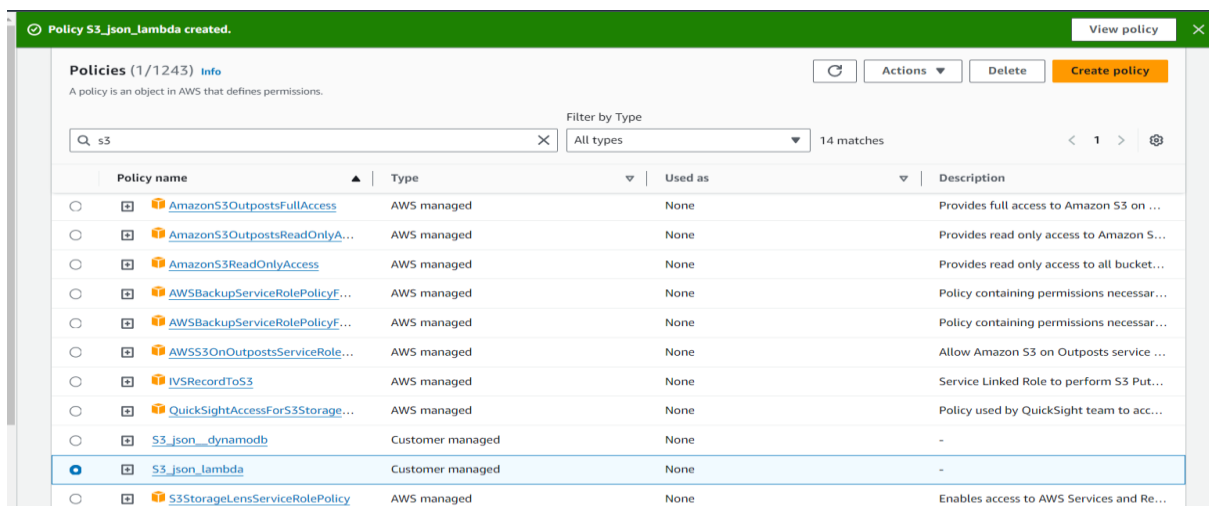
- Redirect to create policies



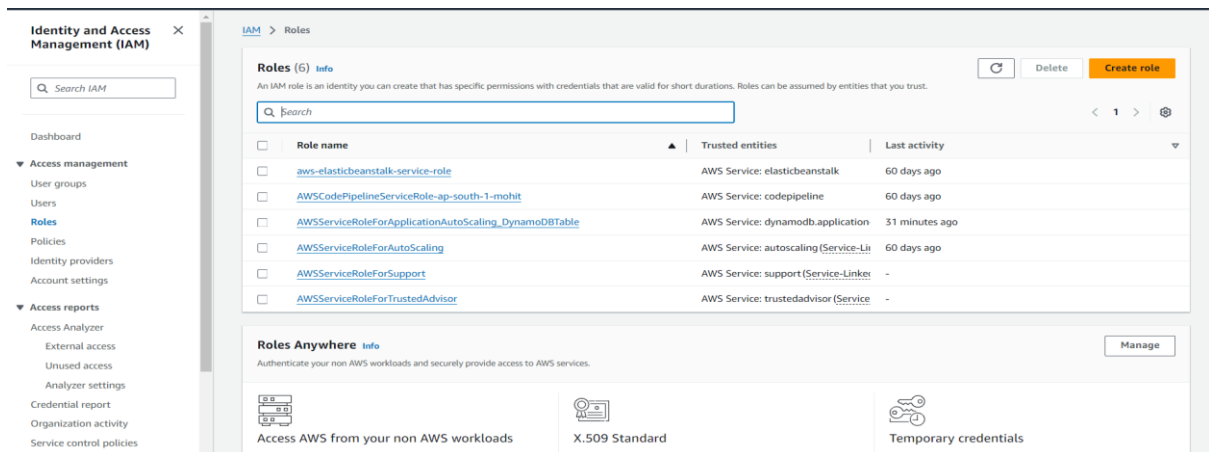
- Specify the permissions



- Policy was created successfully



Step 8: Create new Role



The screenshot shows the AWS IAM console 'Roles' page. The left sidebar contains navigation links for Identity and Access Management (IAM), including Dashboard, Access management, Users, Policies, Identity providers, Account settings, Access reports, Access Analyzer, External access, Unused access, Analyzer settings, Credential report, Organization activity, and Service control policies. The main content area shows a list of roles with columns for Role name, Trusted entities, and Last activity. The roles listed are: aws-elasticbeanstalk-service-role, AWSCodePipelineServiceRole-ap-south-1-mohit, AWSServiceRoleForApplicationAutoScaling_DynamoDBTable, AWSServiceRoleForAutoScaling, AWSServiceRoleForSupport, and AWSServiceRoleForTrustedAdvisor. Below the list, there are sections for 'Roles Anywhere' and 'Access AWS from your non AWS workloads'.

- Provide naming to role

Name, review, and create

Role details

Role name
Enter a meaningful name to identify this role.

s3_json_dynamodb

Maximum 64 characters. Use alphanumeric and '+,=,@,-' characters.

Description
Add a short explanation for this role.

Allows Lambda functions to call AWS services on your behalf.

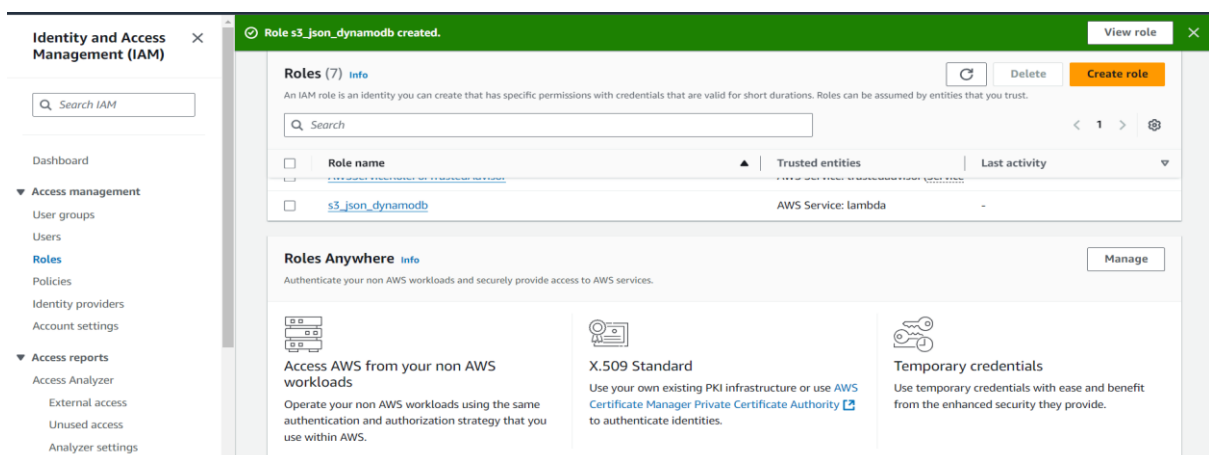
Maximum 1000 characters. Use letters (A-Z and a-z), numbers (0-9), tabs, new lines, or any of the following characters: _+=,.,@-/![]!#\$%^&*(){};:'"

Step 1: Select trusted entities

Trust policy

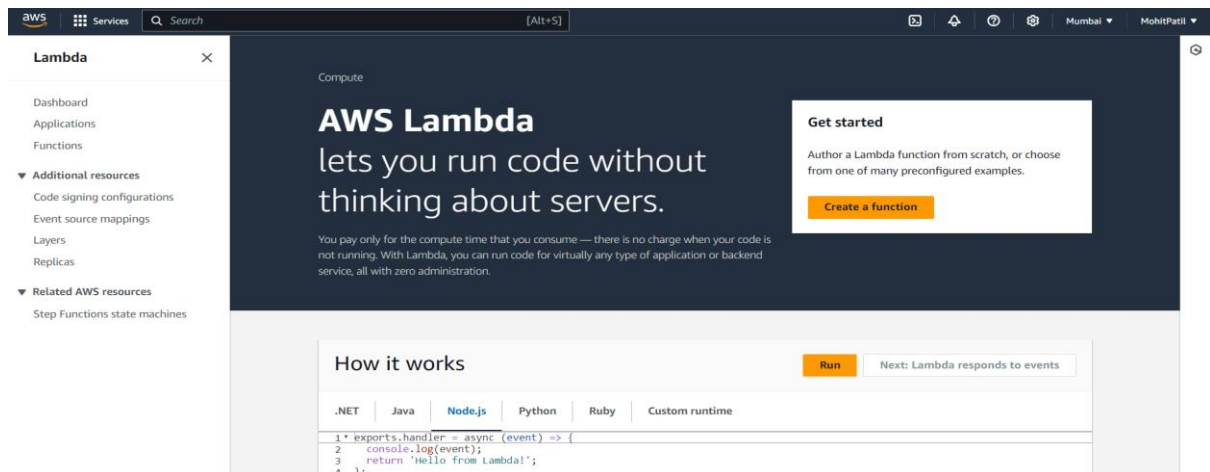
1 - [{
2 "Version": "2012-10-17",

- Our new role was created

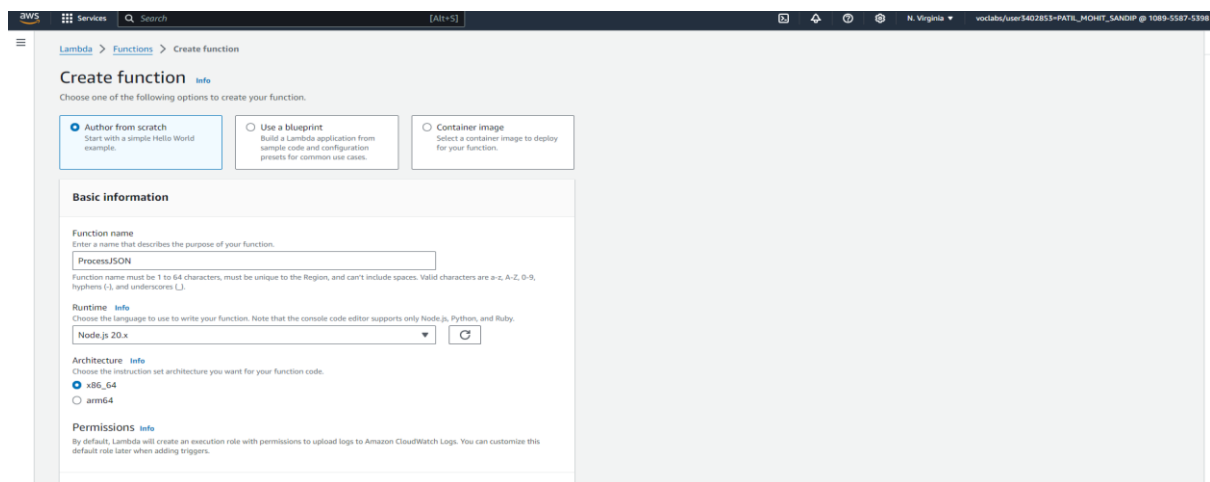


The screenshot shows the AWS IAM console 'Roles' page after creating a new role. A green banner at the top indicates 'Role s3_json_dynamodb created.' with a 'View role' button. The main content area shows the role 's3_json_dynamodb' with the trusted entity 'AWS Service: lambda'. Below the list, there are sections for 'Roles Anywhere' and 'Access AWS from your non AWS workloads'.

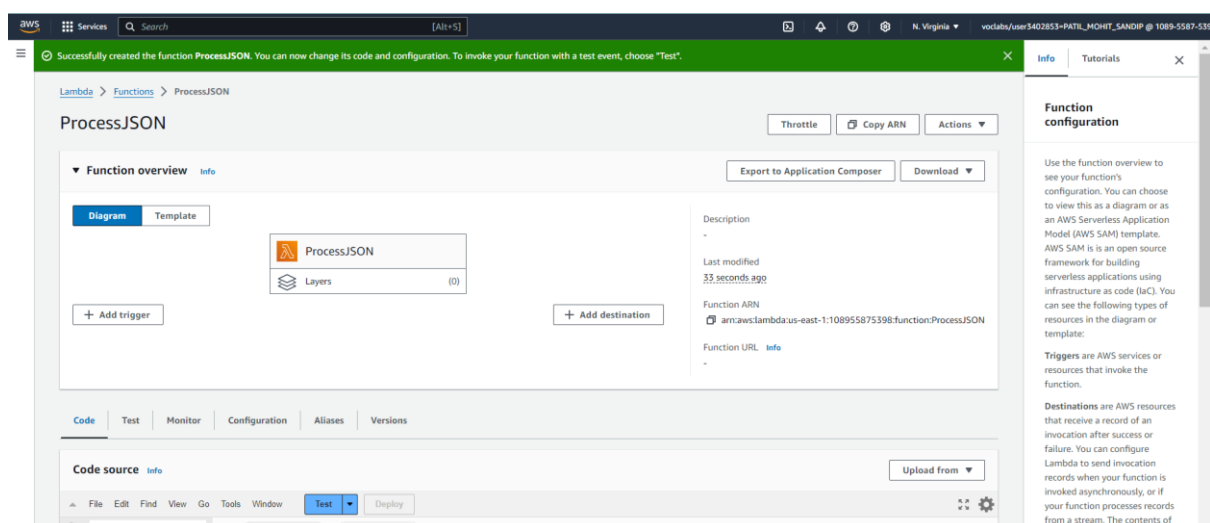
Step 9: Create Lambda function



- Create a function and name it



- Lambda function was created



Step 10 : Add trigger to the Lambda function

- Add a S3 trigger

The screenshot shows the 'Add trigger' configuration page in the AWS Lambda console. The 'Trigger configuration' section is active, showing an 'S3' trigger type. The 'Bucket' field is set to 's3/my-json-upload-bucket' with a 'Bucket region' of 'us-east-1'. The 'Event types' section is set to 'All object create events'. The 'Prefix - optional' field is empty, and the 'Suffix - optional' field is set to '.jpg'. The 'Recursive invocation' checkbox is unchecked.

Trigger configuration [Info](#)

S3 aws asynchronous storage

Bucket
Choose or enter the ARN of an S3 bucket that serves as the event source. The bucket must be in the same region as the function.
s3/my-json-upload-bucket
Bucket region: us-east-1

Event types
Select the events that you want to trigger the Lambda function. You can optionally set up a prefix or suffix for an event. However, for each bucket, individual events cannot have multiple configurations with overlapping prefixes or suffixes that could match the same object key.

Prefix - optional
Enter a single optional prefix to limit the notifications to objects with keys that start with matching characters. Any special characters must be URL encoded.
e.g. images/

Suffix - optional
Enter a single optional suffix to limit the notifications to objects with keys that end with matching characters. Any special characters must be URL encoded.
e.g. .jpg

Recursive invocation

- S3 trigger was created and displayed on the dashboard console

The screenshot shows the 'ProcessJSON' function dashboard in the AWS Lambda console. A green notification bar at the top states: 'The trigger my-json-upload-bucket was successfully added to function ProcessJSON. The function is now receiving events from the trigger.' The 'Function overview' section shows a diagram with the 'ProcessJSON' function and an 'S3' trigger. The 'Layers' section shows '(0)' layers. The 'Description' section shows the function's details, including the ARN 'arn:aws:lambda:us-east-1:108955875398:function:ProcessJSON'.

ProcessJSON

✓ The trigger my-json-upload-bucket was successfully added to function ProcessJSON. The function is now receiving events from the trigger.

Function overview [Info](#)

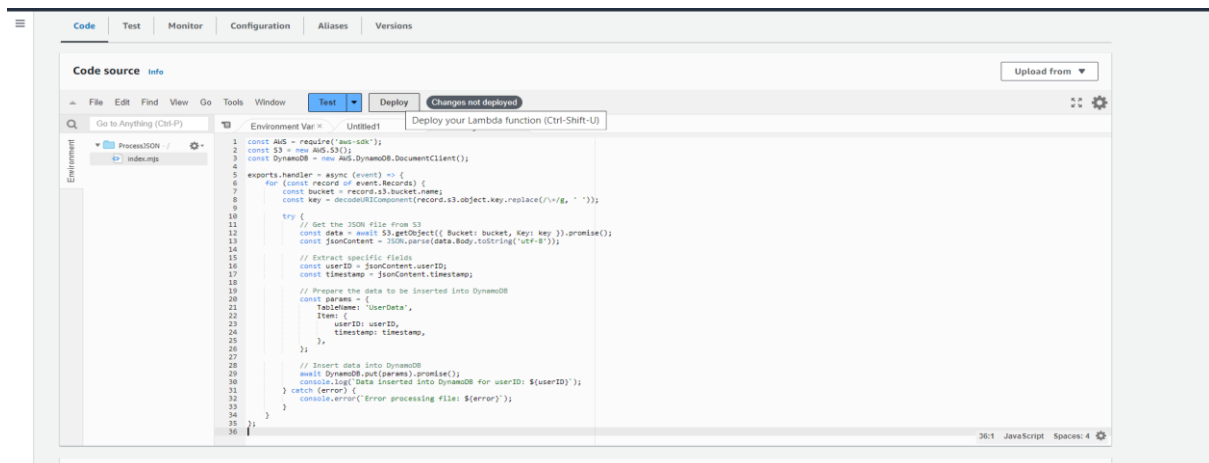
Diagram

ProcessJSON
Layers (0)

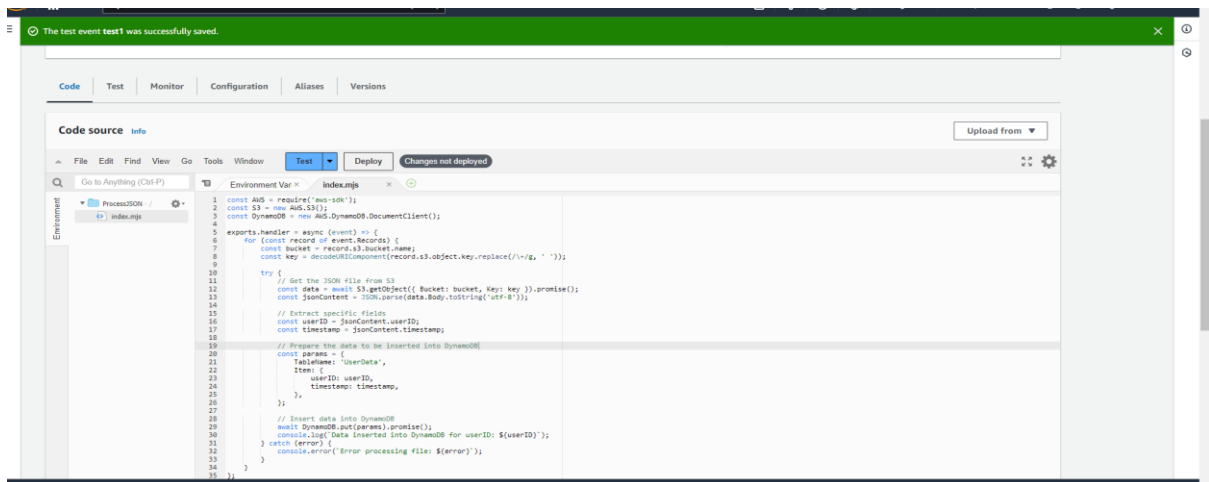
S3

Description
-
Last modified
5 minutes ago
Function ARN
arn:aws:lambda:us-east-1:108955875398:function:ProcessJSON
Function URL [Info](#)
-

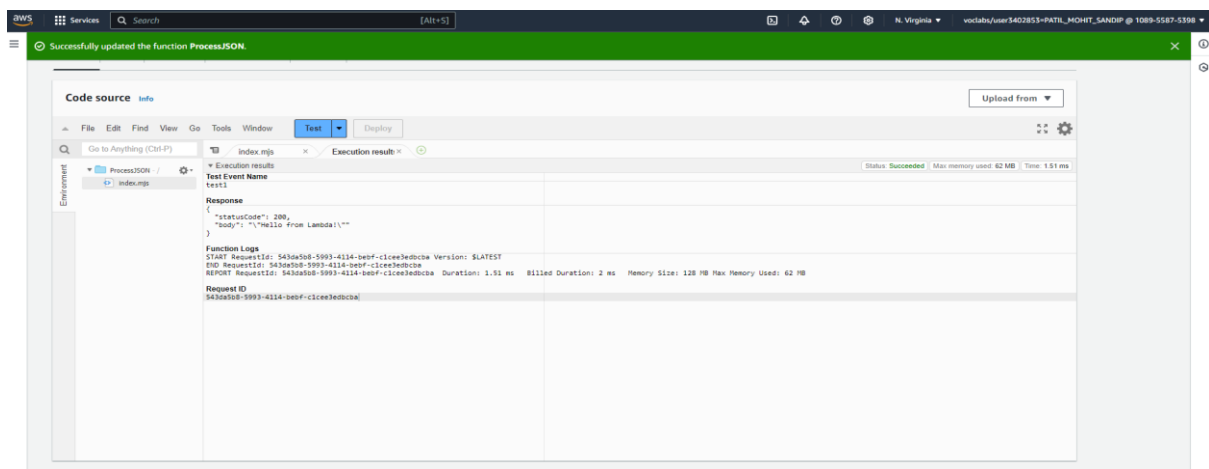
Step 11: Add the node js script in the code console of the Lambda function



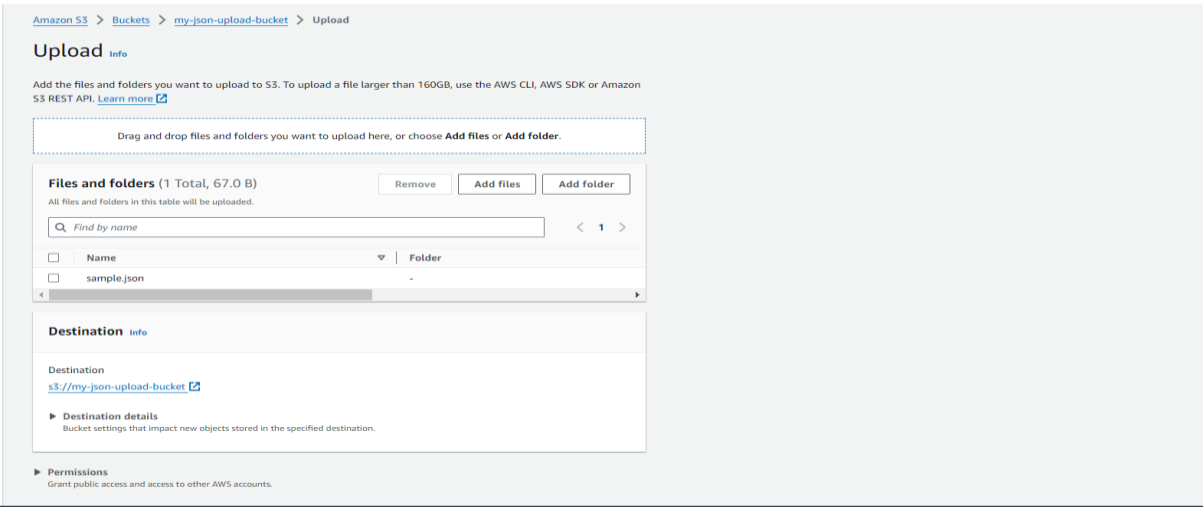
Step 12: Test the code and deploy it



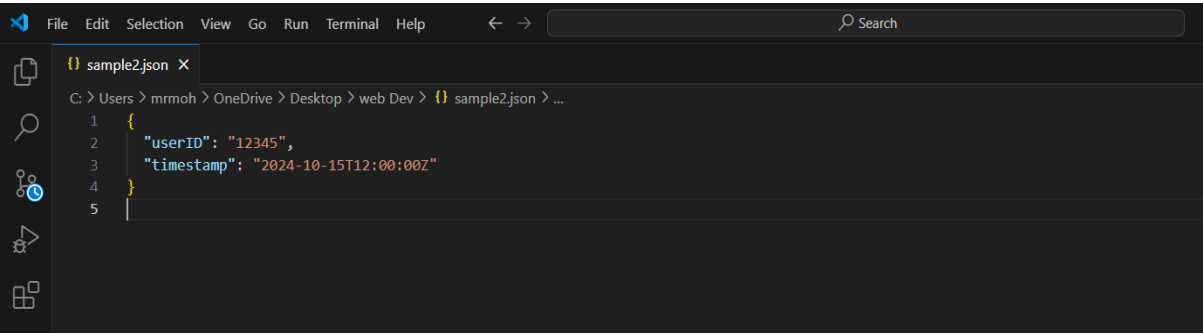
- Status 200 OK got displayed after testing of code



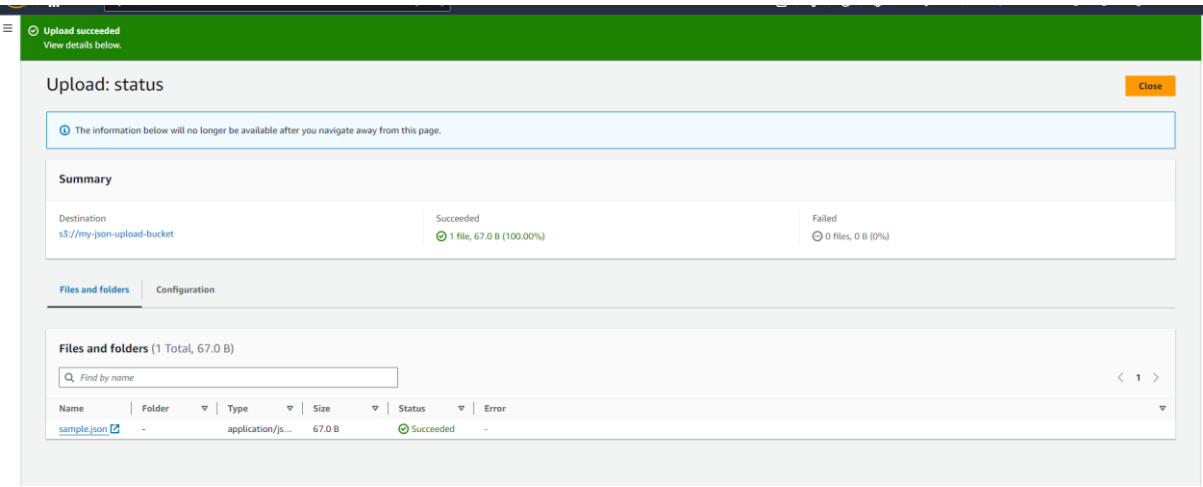
Step 13: Upload the Json file in the S3 bucket



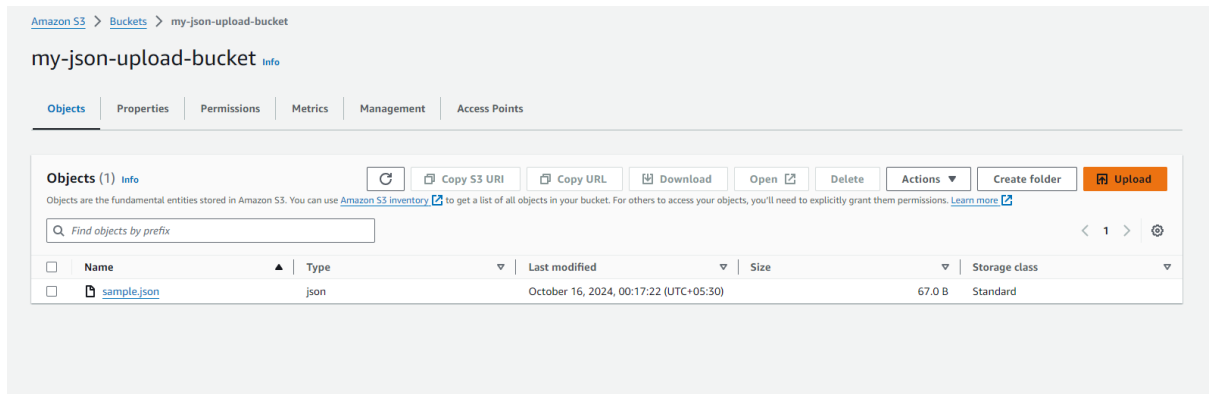
- **Content in the JSON file**



- **File Successfully uploaded**

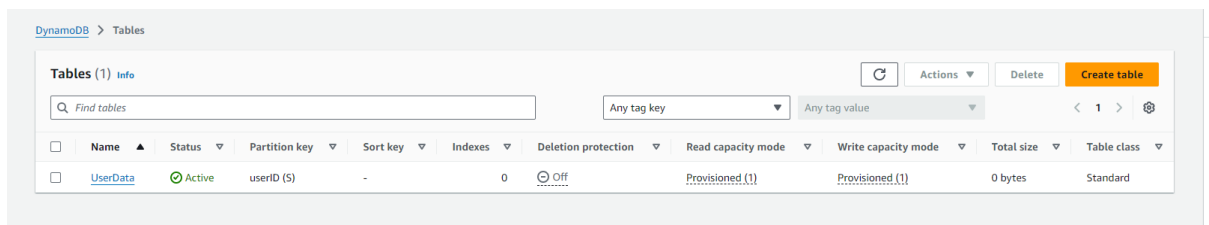


- **Uploaded file**

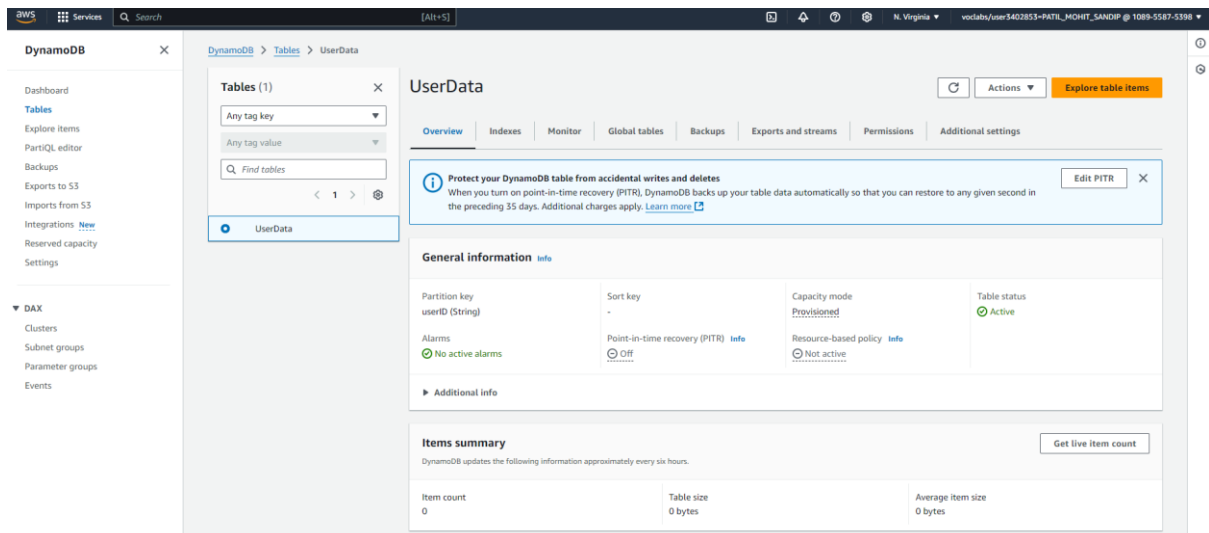


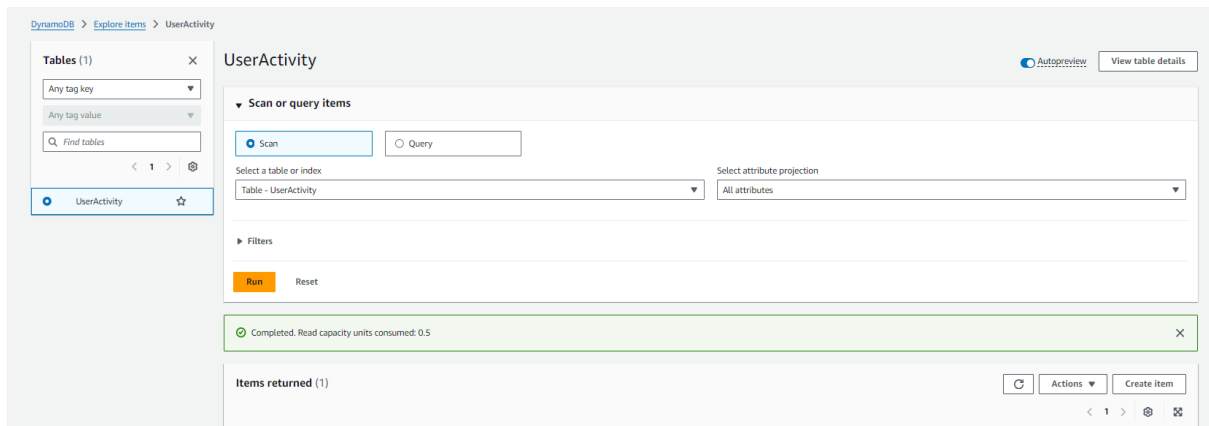
Step 14: Now, redirect to DynamoDB and go to Tables section

- **Table named “UserData” is seen**



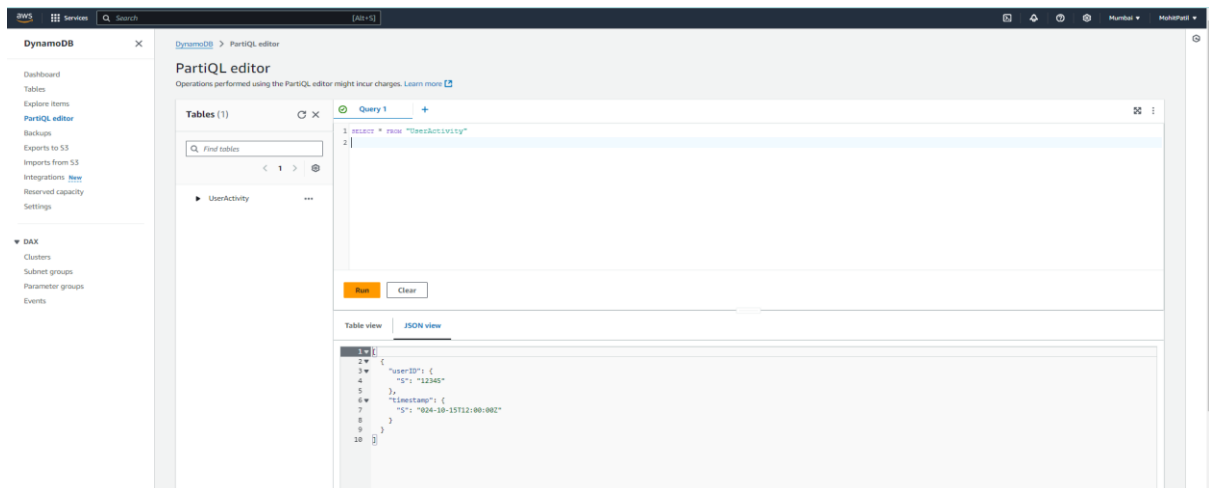
- **Redirected to the table created**





Step 15: Redirect to PartiQL editor

- Enter the query → **SELECT * FROM "UserActivity"** in the Query console
- Click on Run option
- Required data from the JSON file gets displayed in the JSON View part



- Required Output is displayed in the DynamoDB when uploaded in the JSON format



Guidelines and Best Practices :

Keep Your Code Clean: Regularly refactor your code to maintain clarity and efficiency. Test Locally: Before zipping and uploading, test your Lambda function code locally to catch any issues early.

Version Control: Use version control systems like Git to track changes to your codebase, making it easier to manage updates. **Dependency Management:** Only include necessary libraries in your zip file to reduce size and improve performance.

4. Demonstration Preparation

Key Points

1. Overview of the Project:

- Briefly introduce the purpose of the project and the AWS services used (S3, Lambda, DynamoDB).
- Explain the significance of automating data processing and the benefits of a serverless architecture.

2. Architecture Explanation:

- Present a simple diagram illustrating the workflow: S3 bucket → Lambda function → DynamoDB.
- Highlight how data flows through these services upon file upload.

3. Step-by-Step Process:

- Demonstrate how to upload a JSON file to the S3 bucket.
- Show how the Lambda function is triggered by the S3 event notification.
- Verify that the data is successfully inserted into the DynamoDB table.

4. Error Handling and Logging:

- Discuss how CloudWatch logs can be used to monitor function execution and troubleshoot issues.
- Provide examples of common errors and how they were resolved during development.

5. Security and Permissions:

- Explain the IAM roles and policies associated with the Lambda function.
- Discuss the importance of granting the minimum necessary permissions for security

Potential Questions:

1. What challenges did you face during implementation?

- Initially, the main challenge I faced was creating the necessary policies to obtain permissions for Lambda, DynamoDB, and S3 Bucket, as these permissions had not been granted earlier.

- Another issue arose when the data meant to be displayed in DynamoDB was not visible in the table, due to the S3 trigger not being properly set up.
- Additionally, the data passed was not visible in CloudWatch logs due to permission issues with the policies.

2. How does this solution scale with increasing data volume?

- **AWS Lambda Scalability:**

- AWS Lambda automatically scales based on the number of incoming requests. When multiple JSON files are uploaded to the S3 bucket simultaneously, Lambda can run multiple instances of the function concurrently, allowing it to process each file in parallel without manual intervention.

- **DynamoDB Scalability:**

- DynamoDB is designed to scale horizontally. It can handle large amounts of data and high request rates by automatically distributing data across multiple partitions. With features like on-demand capacity mode, DynamoDB can adjust its throughput automatically based on the incoming traffic, ensuring consistent performance regardless of data volume.

3. What additional features could be added in the future?

- **AWS Step Functions:**

- I could integrate AWS Step Functions to manage complex workflows, allowing for orchestrating multiple Lambda functions and handling tasks like retries and error handling seamlessly.

- **API Gateway:**

- Adding an API Gateway would allow external applications to interact with the Lambda function via RESTful APIs, making it easier to upload files and retrieve data programmatically.

- **Amazon SNS for Notifications:**

- Implementing Amazon SNS (Simple Notification Service) could enhance monitoring by sending notifications upon successful data insertion into DynamoDB or alerting for any errors during processing, thus improving the observability of the system.

4. How did you ensure data integrity and security?

- **Data Validation:**

- I implemented validation logic within the Lambda function to ensure that the incoming JSON data met the expected format and contained all required fields (like user ID). If the validation fails, the function logs the error and skips processing that file.

- **IAM Policies:**

- The execution role for the Lambda function is configured with the principle of least privilege, ensuring that it only has access to the S3 bucket and DynamoDB table it needs. Regular audits of IAM policies are conducted to ensure that no excessive permissions are granted.

5. Can you explain the cost implications of using these AWS services?

- **Amazon S3 Costs:**
 - S3 charges are based on the amount of data stored, the number of requests made, and the data transfer out of the S3 bucket. It's cost-effective for storing large amounts of data since pricing decreases with increased storage volume.
- **AWS Lambda Costs:**
 - Lambda pricing is based on the number of requests and the duration of the execution. There is a free tier that allows for a generous number of requests and compute time each month, which is beneficial for low-traffic applications.
- **DynamoDB Costs:**
 - DynamoDB has a pricing model based on data storage, read and write requests, and optional features like backups and data transfer. The on-demand capacity mode is flexible for varying workloads, ensuring I only pay for what I use.

Conclusion :

In this case study, we explored the integration of AWS services to create an automated data processing pipeline using Amazon S3, AWS Lambda, and DynamoDB. By setting up an S3 bucket to store JSON files, we configured a Lambda function that triggers upon file uploads. This function processes the incoming data and stores it in a DynamoDB table, enabling seamless data management and retrieval.

Key takeaways from this project include:

1. **Automation:** The use of S3 event notifications to trigger the Lambda function allows for real-time data processing without manual intervention, showcasing the power of serverless architectures.
2. **Scalability:** AWS services like Lambda and DynamoDB offer scalable solutions that can handle varying amounts of data, making it suitable for projects of any size.
3. **Error Handling and Debugging:** By monitoring CloudWatch logs, we identified potential issues and improved the function's reliability. This highlights the importance of logging and error handling in serverless applications.
4. **Hands-on Experience:** This project provided valuable experience in configuring AWS services, understanding IAM roles and permissions, and developing serverless applications, which are critical skills in today's cloud-centric development environment.

Overall, this case study demonstrates the effectiveness of leveraging AWS services to create efficient, automated workflows that enhance data management capabilities. Future enhancements could include adding more robust error handling, optimizing data processing, or integrating additional AWS services for advanced analytics.