**Final Project** 

Course: DevOps

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Instructor: Sir Hafeez Khawaja

#### **Project Overview**

This project showcases the design and deployment of a scalable, secure, and containerized infrastructure on AWS using **Terraform**. The primary objective was to automate the provisioning of cloud resources and orchestrate the deployment of a full-stack Dockerized web application, complete with integrated database services, load balancing, custom domain setup, SSL encryption, and real-time business intelligence (BI) visualization.

By leveraging **Infrastructure as Code (IaC)** principles with Terraform, modular and reusable templates were developed to provision and manage critical AWS services. These include:

- EC2 instances deployed through Auto Scaling Groups
- RDS instances (PostgreSQL and MySQL) hosted in private subnets
- Application Load Balancer (ALB) configured with HTTPS and domain routing

The frontend and backend applications were containerized using **multi-stage Docker builds** and deployed across EC2 instances behind the ALB to ensure high availability and efficient load distribution.

## Objective

The primary objective of this project is to build a **production-ready, scalable, and secure cloud infrastructure** on AWS using Infrastructure as Code (IaC) principles. The key goals include:

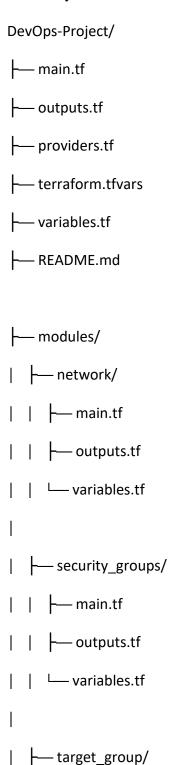
- Provisioning Auto Scaling EC2 instances pre-configured with Nginx, Docker, and Node.js
   20
- Deploying RDS databases (MySQL and PostgreSQL) within private subnets to ensure data security
- Setting up an Application Load Balancer (ALB) with HTTPS support for secure traffic routing
- Deploying a Business Intelligence (BI) tool Metabase on a dedicated EC2 instance
- Configuring a custom domain with SSL encryption using AWS Certificate Manager (ACM)
- Enabling **SSH tunneling** for secure access to the private RDS databases

#### **Resources & References**

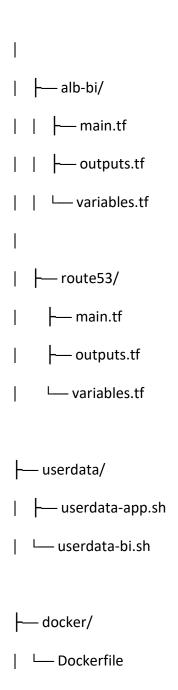
- Terraform Infrastructure (IaC) Repository: <a href="https://github.com/MuhammadGhulamAbbas/Devops-Project">https://github.com/MuhammadGhulamAbbas/Devops-Project</a>
- Frontend React Application Repository: <a href="https://github.com/MuhammadGhulamAbbas/reactapp">https://github.com/MuhammadGhulamAbbas/reactapp</a>
- Demonstration Video (Loom):
   A Loom video walkthrough of the project implementation is provided in a text file located within the Devops GitHub repository.

# **Project Structure (Modular Approach)**

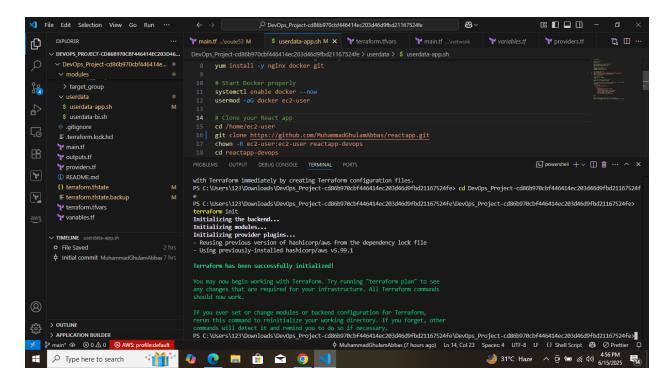
The project follows a modular Terraform structure to promote reusability, maintainability, and scalability. Below is the directory layout:



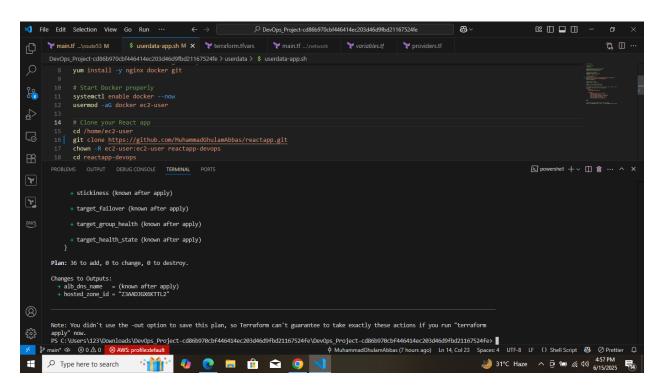
```
| | — outputs.tf
| <del>|</del> ec2/
| | <del>|</del>—outputs.tf
| ---- ec2-bi/
| | — outputs.tf
| | — outputs.tf
| |---- alb/
| | — outputs.tf
```



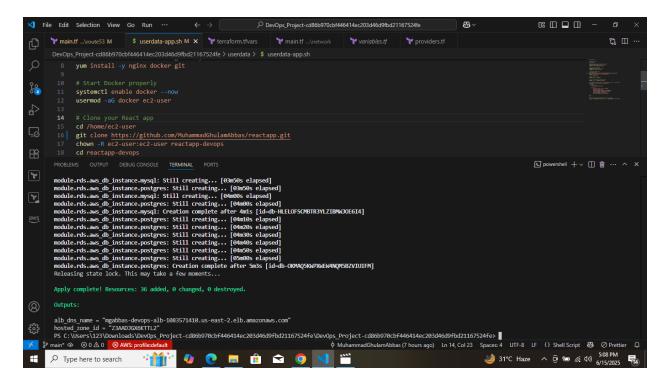
#### 1.Terraform init



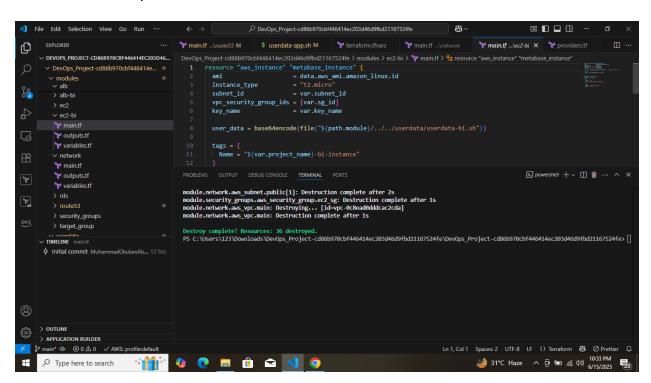
#### 2.Terraform Plan



#### 3. Terraform apply



#### 4.Terraform destroy



# **Project Overview**

# 1. EC2 Auto Scaling Group:

② A total of **3 EC2 instances** were launched using a **Launch Template** with Auto Scaling configuration for high availability and scalability.

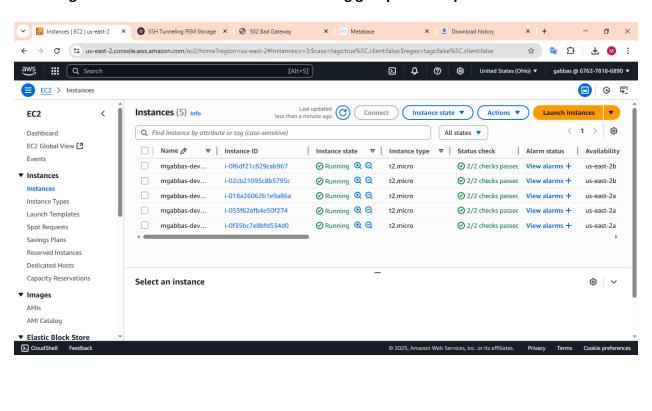
② **User data scripts** (userdata-app.sh and userdata-bi.sh) were used to automate the installation of required components on instance boot:

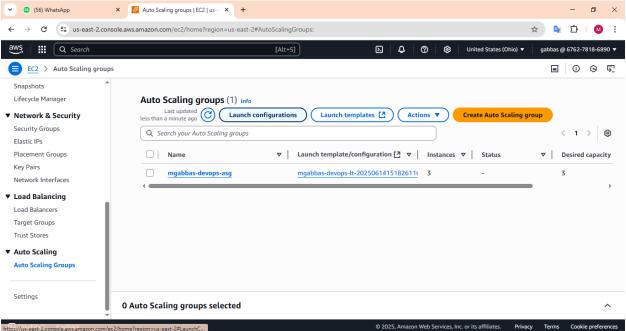
- Nginx
- Docker
- Node.js 20

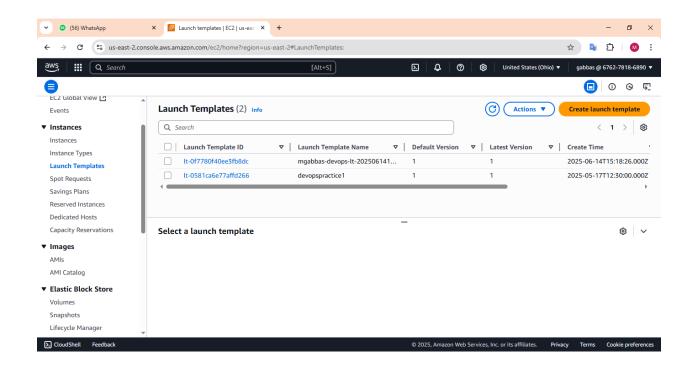
## Instance Roles:

- Two EC2 instances were configured to host the Dockerized applications.
- One EC2 instance was dedicated to running Metabase, a Business Intelligence (BI) tool, containerized via Docker.

### This image is instance in aws with their autoscaling group and template.



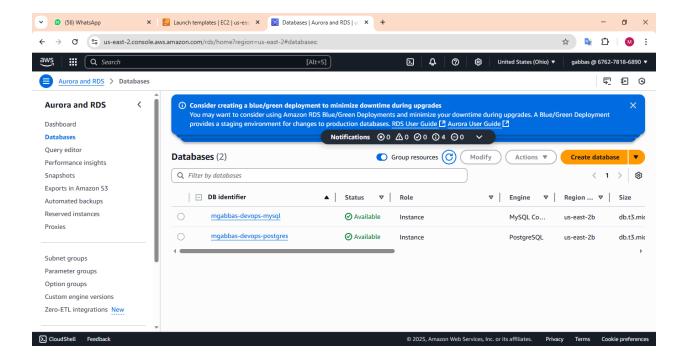


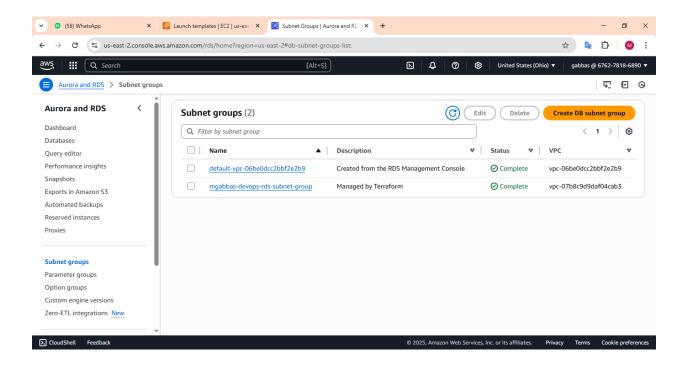


#### 2. RDS Instances

- Two RDS instances were provisioned:
  - 1 MySQL
  - 1 PostgreSQL
- Both databases were deployed in **private subnets** to ensure network-level security and prevent direct public access.
- **Secure connectivity** was established using **SSH tunneling** through the application EC2 instance, allowing access for development and monitoring without exposing the databases to the internet.
- Terraform configurations were used to define:
  - DB Subnet Groups to control the network placement of the RDS instances
  - Parameter Groups to customize engine-level settings for performance and compatibility

This images is RDS instance in aws with their subnet group.



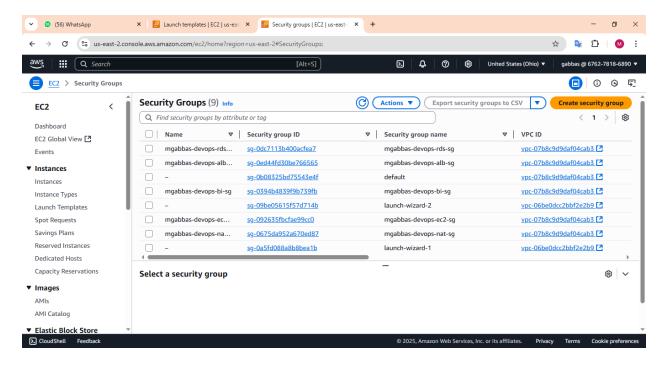


## 3. Security Groups

Proper security group configurations were implemented to control traffic flow between resources while maintaining security best practices:

- EC2 Security Group
  - Ingress Rules:
    - Port 22 SSH access (restricted to developer IP)
    - Port **80** HTTP traffic for web access
    - Port 443 HTTPS traffic for secure web access
- RDS Security Group
  - Ingress Rules:
    - Port 3306 MySQL access
    - Port 5432 PostgreSQL access
  - Access Scope:
    - Inbound connections allowed only from EC2 instances (using security group referencing)
- Application Load Balancer (ALB) Security Group
  - Ingress Rules:
    - Port 80 HTTP open to the public
    - Port 443 HTTPS open to the public
- Egress Rules (All Security Groups):
  - All traffic (0.0.0.0/0) allowed outbound to enable internet connectivity and service dependencies.

This images is Aws security Groups.



#### 4. load Balancer (ALB)

A highly available and secure **Application Load Balancer (ALB)** was provisioned using Terraform to distribute incoming traffic across EC2 instances.

### • Deployment & Configuration:

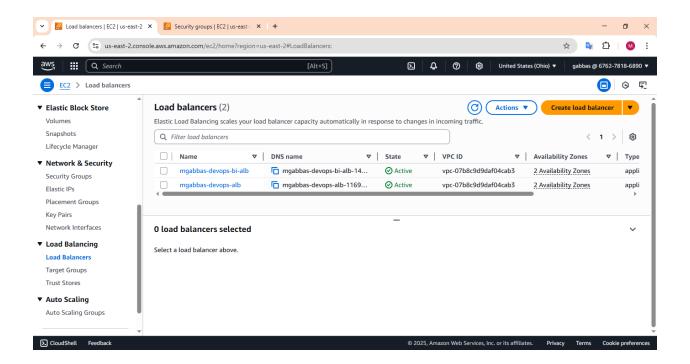
- o The ALB was deployed via Terraform within the public subnets.
- o Configured to handle both HTTP (port 80) and HTTPS (port 443) traffic.

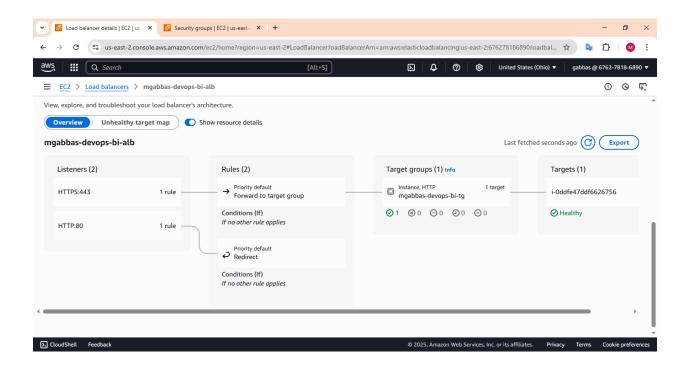
#### HTTPS Enforcement:

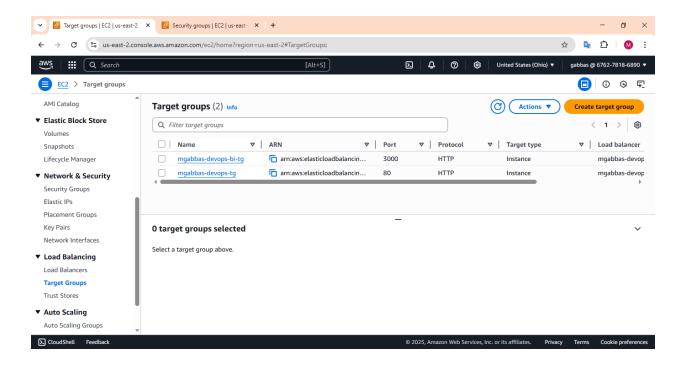
- All HTTP requests on port 80 are automatically redirected to HTTPS (port 443) to enforce secure communication.
- SSL/TLS certificates were provisioned using AWS Certificate Manager (ACM) for encrypted traffic.

#### Listener Rules & Routing:

- Listener rules were defined to forward traffic to specific target groups based on the subdomain or path.
- Ensures that frontend, backend, and BI services can be routed independently and securely.
- This images is load balancer Groups with their overview which tell health of specific load balancer for example bi alb with their target group which tells their configuration.







#### 5. Database Access and Initialization

To ensure secure and controlled access to the RDS databases, an **SSH tunneling approach** was used for connectivity and data initialization:

#### Secure Access via SSH Tunnel:

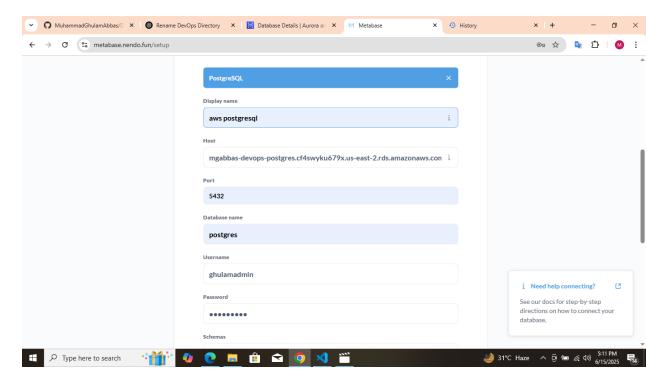
- Direct access to RDS instances is blocked from the public internet.
- An SSH tunnel is created through a publicly accessible EC2 instance (bastion or app server) to connect to the MySQL and PostgreSQL databases located in private subnets.

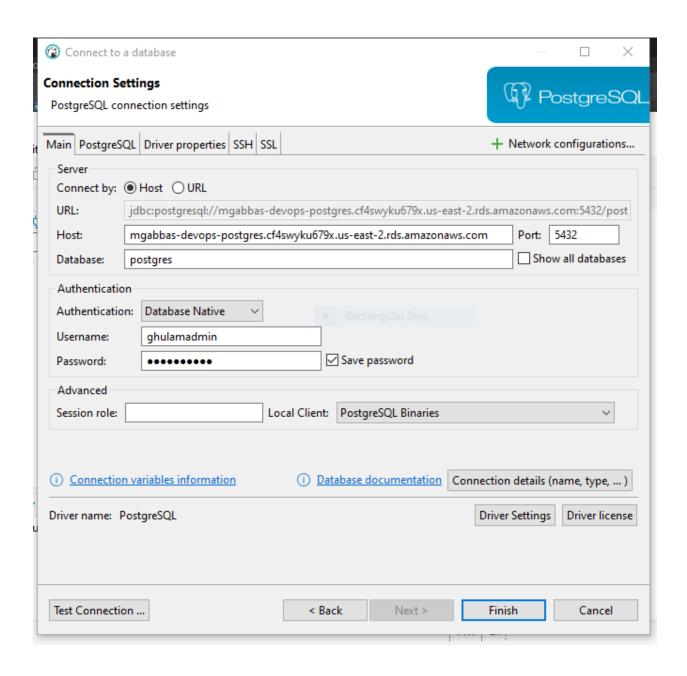
### • Database Client:

- Tools such as **DBeaver** or **pgAdmin** were used to connect to the databases through the SSH tunnel.
- This setup supports secure management and monitoring without compromising security best practices.

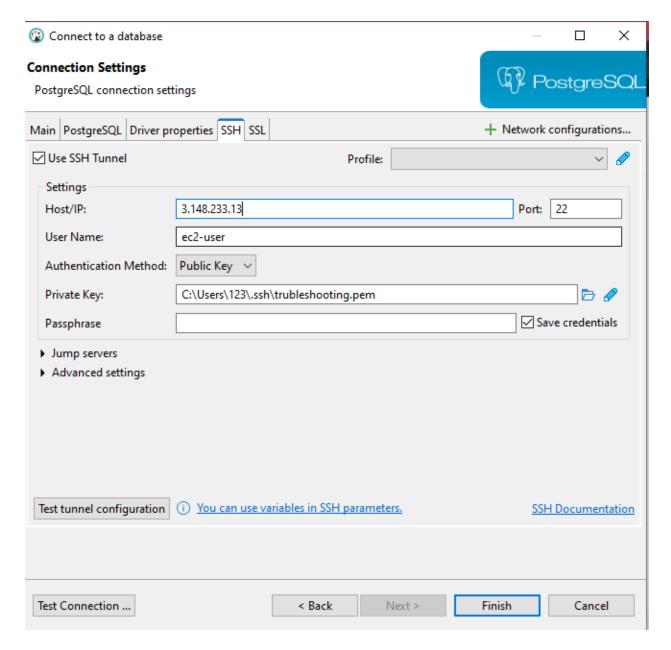
#### Data Initialization:

- Both RDS instances were populated with dummy data to simulate application behavior and enable integration testing.
- This data was later visualized through Metabase to demonstrate real-time BI insights.





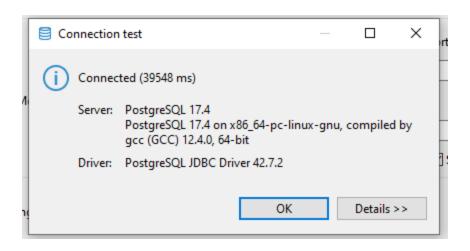
Host name is RDS database Username and Database is in tf variables file

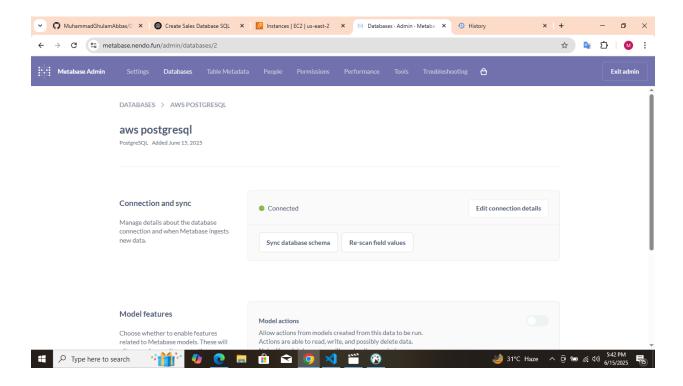


## **SSH Tunneling Configuration**

To access RDS instances securely, **SSH tunneling** was configured as follows:

- The **PEM** (**private key**) **file** required for SSH authentication was selected from the **user's local drive** (C:), specifically from the .ssh directory.
- SSH tunneling was established through the **relevant EC2 instance** that resides in the **public subnet** and has access to the private RDS instances.
- This allows developers and administrators to securely connect to the RDS databases using tools like **DBeaver**, without exposing the databases to public IPs





# This is aws postgresql database

## 6. BI Tool Deployment - Metabase

A Business Intelligence (BI) tool, Metabase, was deployed on a dedicated third EC2 instance to enable real-time analytics and data visualization.

• Tool Selection:

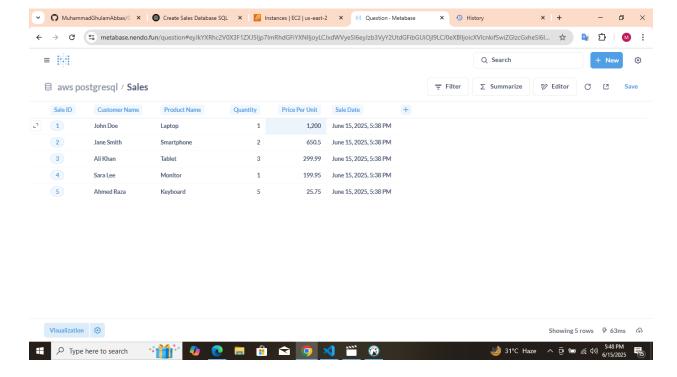
 Metabase was chosen over alternatives like Redash due to its ease of deployment, intuitive interface, and strong PostgreSQL support.

## • Deployment Method:

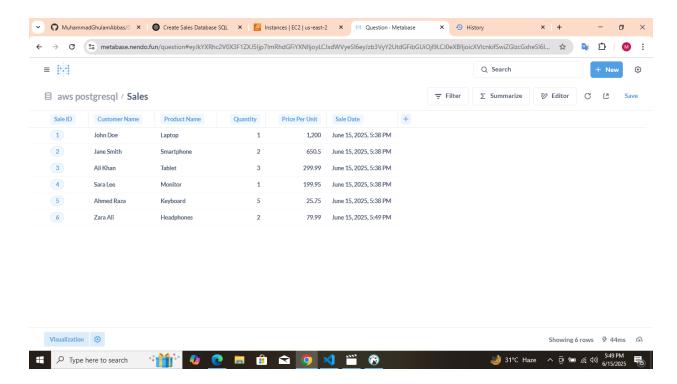
- The Metabase server was containerized using **Docker** and launched via a user data script (userdata-bi.sh) during EC2 instance provisioning.
- The Docker image was pulled and executed automatically as part of the instance initialization process.

## • Database Connectivity:

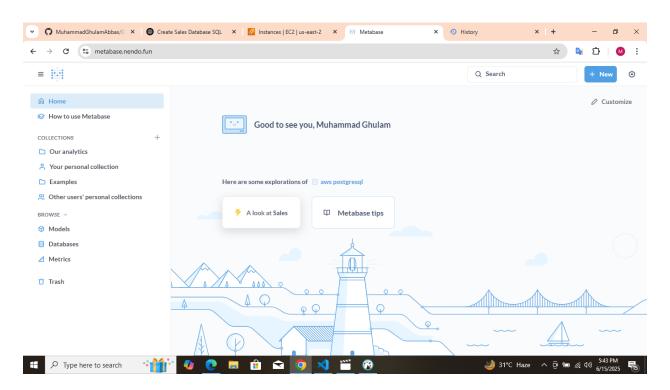
- Metabase was securely connected to the **PostgreSQL RDS instance** hosted in a private subnet.
- SSH tunneling or internal security group communication enabled private access from Metabase to the database.



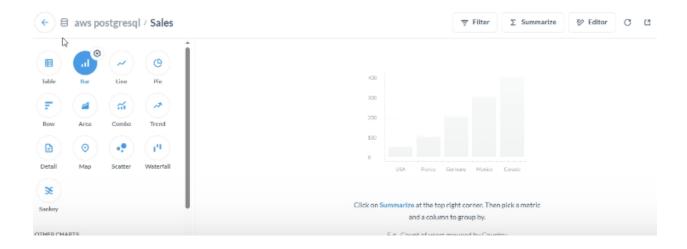
. This is sales database created in metabase with access dbeaver



### After live update one row changed



This is metabase



Live analytics can be performed in metabase.

## 7. Domain & SSL Configuration

To ensure secure and professional access to the deployed services, **custom domain names** and **SSL encryption** were configured for both the application and the BI tool.

### • Custom Domain Integration:

- A domain was registered and managed via Amazon Route 53.
- DNS records (A and CNAME) were created to point the custom domain and its subdomains to:
  - The Application Load Balancer (ALB) hosting the frontend/backend
  - The EC2 instance running the Metabase BI tool

#### SSL Configuration:

- AWS Certificate Manager (ACM) was used to provision SSL/TLS certificates for both domain endpoints.
- Certificates were attached to the ALB, enabling HTTPS support for secure client communication.
- Optionally, Let's Encrypt can also be used for EC2-hosted services like Metabase, if required.

#### • HTTPS Enforcement:

- Listener rules on the ALB automatically redirect HTTP (port 80) to HTTPS (port 443).
- This ensures all traffic is encrypted, complying with security best practices and enhancing user trust.

