

# Creating a CloudFront Distribution











## 1. Steps for creating a CloudFront distribution

- Sign in to the AWS Management Console and in the **Find Services** search box type cloud and choose **CloudFront**.
- You should **Global** for the region at the top right.
- Click **Create Distribution**.
- Under **Web** click **Get Started**.
- For **Origin Domain Name** once you place the cursor in there you should see your available S3 buckets.
- Pick the website bucket you created.
- If it's not listed type it in: e.g `2019-03-01-er-website.s3.amazonaws.com` *Using your bucket name*
- Leave **Origin Path** blank.
- The **Origin ID** should have been pre-populated when you chose your bucket.
- Click **Yes** to **Restrict Bucket Access**.
- Under **Origin Access Identity** select **Create a New Identity**.
- It will pre-populate the **Comment** and append the bucket name.
- For **Grant Read Permissions on Bucket** check **Yes, Update Bucket Policy**. This will update the bucket policy for us.
- Leave the **Origin Custom Headers** blank.

### Origin Settings

Origin Domain Name	<input type="text" value="2019-03-01-er-website.s3.amazonaws.com"/>					
Origin Path	<input type="text"/>					
Origin ID	<input type="text" value="S3-2019-03-01-er-website"/>					
Restrict Bucket Access	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No					
Origin Access Identity	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Create a New Identity <input type="radio"/> Use an Existing Identity					
Comment	<input type="text" value="access-identity-2019-03-01-er-website.s3"/>					
Grant Read Permissions on Bucket	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes, Update Bucket Policy <input type="radio"/> No, I Will Update Permissions					
Origin Custom Headers	<table><thead><tr><th>Header Name</th><th>Value</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td></tr></tbody></table>	Header Name	Value	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Header Name	Value					
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>					

- For the **Default Cache Behavior Settings** section:
- Under **Viewer Protocol Policy** select **Redirect HTTP to HTTPS**.
- For **Allowed HTTP Methods** choose **GET, HEAD**.
- Leave **Field-level Encryption Config** blank.
- Leave **GET, HEAD (Cached by default)** for **Cached HTTP Methods**.
- For **Cache Based on Selected Request Headers** leave it as the default **None (Improves Caching)**.
- For **Object Caching** also leave it at the default **Use Origin Cache Headers**.

Path Pattern	Default (*)	
Viewer Protocol Policy	<input type="radio"/> HTTP and HTTPS <input checked="" type="radio"/> Redirect HTTP to HTTPS <input type="radio"/> HTTPS Only	
Allowed HTTP Methods	<input checked="" type="radio"/> GET, HEAD <input type="radio"/> GET, HEAD, OPTIONS <input type="radio"/> GET, HEAD, OPTIONS, PUT, POST, PATCH, DELETE	
Field-level Encryption Config	<input type="text" value=""/>	
Cached HTTP Methods	GET, HEAD (Cached by default)	
Cache Based on Selected Request Headers	<input type="text" value="None (Improves Caching)"/> <a href="#">Learn More</a>	
Object Caching	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Use Origin Cache Headers <input type="radio"/> Customize	
	<a href="#">Learn More</a>	
Minimum TTL	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Maximum TTL	<input type="text" value="31536000"/>	
Default TTL	<input type="text" value="86400"/>	

- Under **Forward Cookies** leave it as **None (Improves Caching)**.
- Also for **Query String Forwarding and Caching** leave as **None (Improves Caching)**.
- For **Smoothing Streaming** select **No**.
- For **Restrict Viewer Access (Use Signed URLs or Signed Cookies)** select **No**.
- Also leave **Compress Objects Automatically** as **No**.

- We can also leave **Lambda Function Associations** as the default.

Forward Cookies

None (Improves Caching) ▾

ⓘ

Query String Forwarding and Caching

None (Improves Caching) ▾

ⓘ

Smooth Streaming

☐ Yes  
☒ No

ⓘ

Restrict Viewer Access  
(Use Signed URLs or Signed Cookies)

☐ Yes  
☒ No

ⓘ

Compress Objects Automatically

☐ Yes  
☒ No

ⓘ

[Learn More](#)

Lambda Function Associations

ⓘ

CloudFront Event

Lambda Function ARN

Include Body

Select Event Type ▾

☐

+

[Learn More](#)

- Scroll down to **Distribution Settings**.
- For **Price Class** leave the default **Use All Edge Locations (Best Performance)**.
- We will not be using WAF so for **AWS WAF Web ACL** leave it as **None**.
- Also leave **Alternate Domain Names (CNAMEs)** blank.
- We will also use the **Default CloudFront Certificate** for **SSL Certificate**.

### Distribution Settings

Price Class

Use All Edge Locations (Best Performance) ▼

?

AWS WAF Web ACL

None ▼

?

Alternate Domain Names (CNAMEs)

?

SSL Certificate

☒ Default CloudFront Certificate (\*.cloudfront.net)

Choose this option if you want your users to use HTTPS or HTTP to access your content with the CloudFront domain name (such as <https://d1111111abcdef8.cloudfront.net/logo.jpg>). Important: If you choose this option, CloudFront requires that browsers or devices support TLSv1 or later to access your content.

☐ Custom SSL Certificate (example.com)

Choose this option if you want your users to access your content by using an alternate domain name, such as <https://www.example.com/logo.jpg>. You can use a certificate stored in AWS Certificate Manager (ACM) in the US East (N. Virginia) Region, or you can use a certificate stored in IAM.










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Request or Import a Certificate with ACM

[Learn more](#) about using custom SSL/TLS certificates with CloudFront.

[Learn more](#) about using ACM.

- For **Supported HTTP Versions** leave as **HTTP/2, HTTP/1.1, HTTP/1.0**.
- Under **Default Root Object** type in `text.html`.
- We can leave **Logging** set to **Off**.
- Leave **Enable IPv6** checked.
- Finally set **Distribution State** to **Enabled**.

<b>Supported HTTP Versions</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> HTTP/2, HTTP/1.1, HTTP/1.0 <input type="radio"/> HTTP/1.1, HTTP/1.0	
<b>Default Root Object</b>	<input type="text" value="text.html"/>	
<b>Logging</b>	<input type="radio"/> On <input checked="" type="radio"/> Off	
<b>Bucket for Logs</b>	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Log Prefix</b>	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Cookie Logging</b>	<input type="radio"/> On <input checked="" type="radio"/> Off	
<b>Enable IPv6</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Learn more</a>	
<b>Comment</b>	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Distribution State</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Enabled <input type="radio"/> Disabled	

- Click **Create Distribution**.
- Click on **Distributions** at the top left to see your CloudFront distribution being built.
- This can take 15-20 minutes to complete.

 While we wait, we will head over to S3 and lock down access to only allow calls from CloudFront.

## 2. Restrict our S3 bucket policy to CloudFront

- Click **Services** at the top left and type in S3 or select it from History.
- Click your bucket `2019-mm-dd-xx-website`. IMPORTANT: Your bucket will have a different name.
- Click **Permissions**.
- Select **Bucket Policy**.
- We can see that CloudFront has added what we call an "Origin Access Identity" to the policy.

```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Sid": "AddPerm",
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Principal": "*",
      "Action": "s3:GetObject",
      "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::2019-03-01-er-website/*"
    },
    {
      "Sid": "2",
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Principal": {
        "AWS": "arn:aws:iam::cloudfront:user/CloudFront Origin Access Identity
E1KO2GAPIWFF7X"
      },
      "Action": "s3:GetObject",
      "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::2019-03-01-er-website/*"
    }
  ]
}
```

- Remove the public S3 access section so it looks more like the following:

```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Sid": "2",
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Principal": {
        "AWS": "arn:aws:iam::cloudfront:user/CloudFront Origin Access Identity
E1KO2GAPIWFF7X"
      },
      "Action": "s3:GetObject",
      "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::2019-03-01-er-website/*"
    }
  ]
}
```

- This will only allow our specific CloudFront distribution access to our S3 bucket which is what we want.
- Click **Save** and grab a cup of coffee while we wait for the CloudFront Distribution to finish baking.

### 3. Steps for testing that we successfully locked down S3 from public view

- Browse to **your** S3 endpoint: Example: <http://2019-03-01-er-website.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/>
- You will see a **403 Forbidden** as we effectively removed public access via the bucket policy.

## 403 Forbidden

- Code: AccessDenied
- Message: Access Denied

- Click on the CloudFront distribution ID. (The blue hyperlink)

CloudFront Distributions

Create Distribution		Distribution Settings	Delete	Enable	Disable			
Viewing	Any Delivery Method	Any State				Viewing 1 to 1 of 1 items		
Delivery Method	ID	Domain Name	Comment	Origin	CNAMEs	Status	State	Last Modified
Web	<a href="#">E3N3OULCASB3</a>	c3dyiw7cp6n23.cloudfr		2019-03-01-er		Deployed	Enabled	2019-03-05 10:33 UTC

- Copy the URL under **Domain Name**.
- Browse to that URL and you should now see the **text.html** page.
- ⚠️ Remember the distribution may take up to 15 minutes to complete.

Next we will wire up our static website to a backend API.

Awesome, we are moving through our exercise goal list nicely.