Data Science Intern at Data Glacier

Week 5: Deployment of Flask App to AWS Cloud

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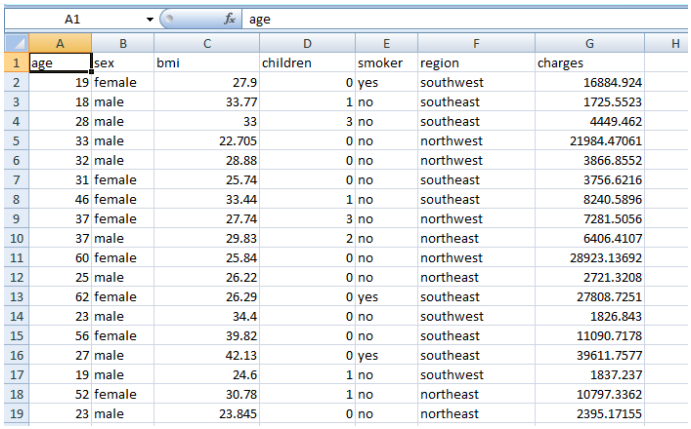
1. Introduction

This project involves the deployment of a web app to AWS cloud using the Python and Flask framework. I used a dummy dataset (insurance.csv) along with a trained model (RandomForestRegressor from sklearn.ensemble) saved as model.pkl, which is to be used to predict Premium Health Insurance charges.

The necessary files and directories, including the Flask app (app.py), HTML templates, CSS file, was placed in their respective folders.

2. Data Information

The dataset in CSV (Viewed in Excel) showing the column headers and the first few rows are as follows:



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	age	sex	bmi	children	smoker	region	charges
2	19	female	27.9	0	yes	southwest	16884.924
3	18	male	33.77	1	no	southeast	1725.5523
4	28	male	33	3	no	southeast	4449.462
5	33	male	22.705	0	no	northwest	21984.47061
6	32	male	28.88	0	no	northwest	3866.8552
7	31	female	25.74	0	no	southeast	3756.6216
8	46	female	33.44	1	no	southeast	8240.5896
9	37	female	27.74	3	no	northwest	7281.5056
10	37	male	29.83	2	no	northeast	6406.4107
11	60	female	25.84	0	no	northwest	28923.13692
12	25	male	26.22	0	no	northeast	2721.3208
13	62	female	26.29	0	yes	southeast	27808.7251
14	23	male	34.4	0	no	southwest	1826.843
15	56	female	39.82	0	no	southeast	11090.7178
16	27	male	42.13	0	yes	southeast	39611.7577
17	19	male	24.6	1	no	southwest	1837.237
18	52	female	30.78	1	no	northeast	10797.3362
19	23	male	23.845	0	no	northeast	2395.17155

Figure 1.1: Dataset used for the App deployment in Excel Table (insurance.csv)

2.1. Attribute Information

The CSV consists of the following columns: ‘age’, ‘sex’, ‘bmi’, ‘children’, ‘smoker’, ‘region’ and ‘charges’, There are six(6) feature variables and one(1) target variables. The below table describes the field properties and what it should be converted to before being passed to the Machine Learning model:

Table 2.2: Attribute Information (Feature variables)

Attributes	**Data-type**
age	INT
sex	To be converted to INT – ‘male’:0, ‘female’1
bmi	FLOAT
children	INT

smoker	To be converted to INT – ‘yes’:0, ‘No’:1
region	To be converted to INT – ‘southeast’:0, ‘southwest’:1, ‘northeast’:2, ‘northwest’:3

The Outcome variable (Target) is the ‘**charges**’ column which will be used to predict the insurance premium charges of the particular person.

3. Building the Model

The model was trained and saved into path (‘model/model.pkl’). A Python program was created and saved with the file named model_training.py to handle the model training and saving. Here is the code for the file.

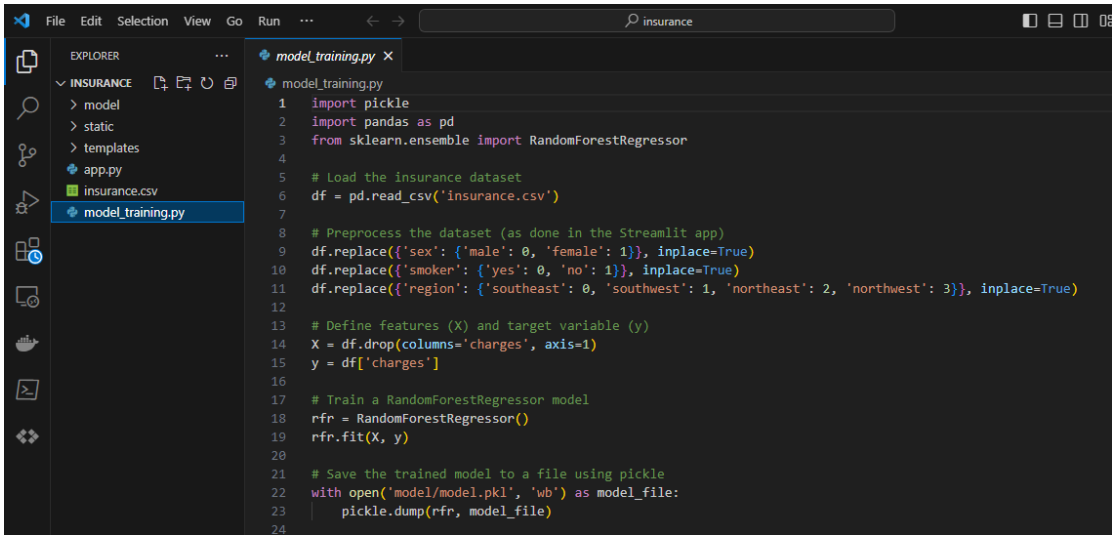


Figure 3.1: model_training.py file used for training and saving the model

4. Create Flask App

4.1. Predict.html

I created an HTML template for the web app. Here's a simple "predict.html" template that was created and saved in the template folder.

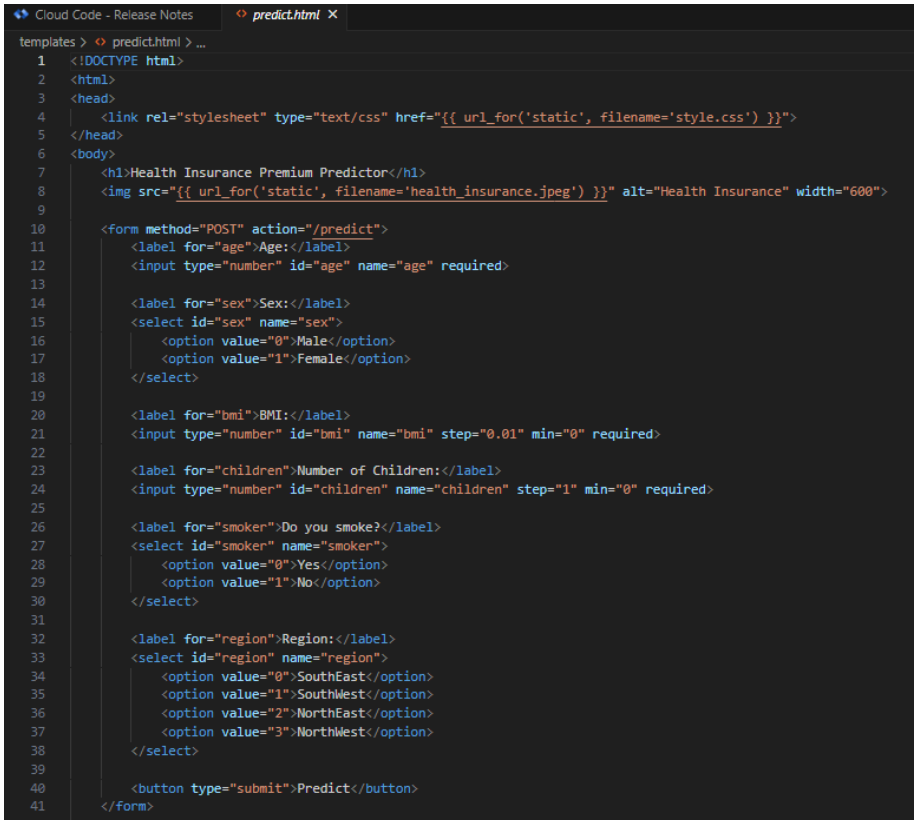


Figure 4.1: predict.html Template for interfacing with the user

4.2. Styles.css

I created a CSS file named style.css in a "static" folder. Here, I defined the styling for the HTML template in this file.

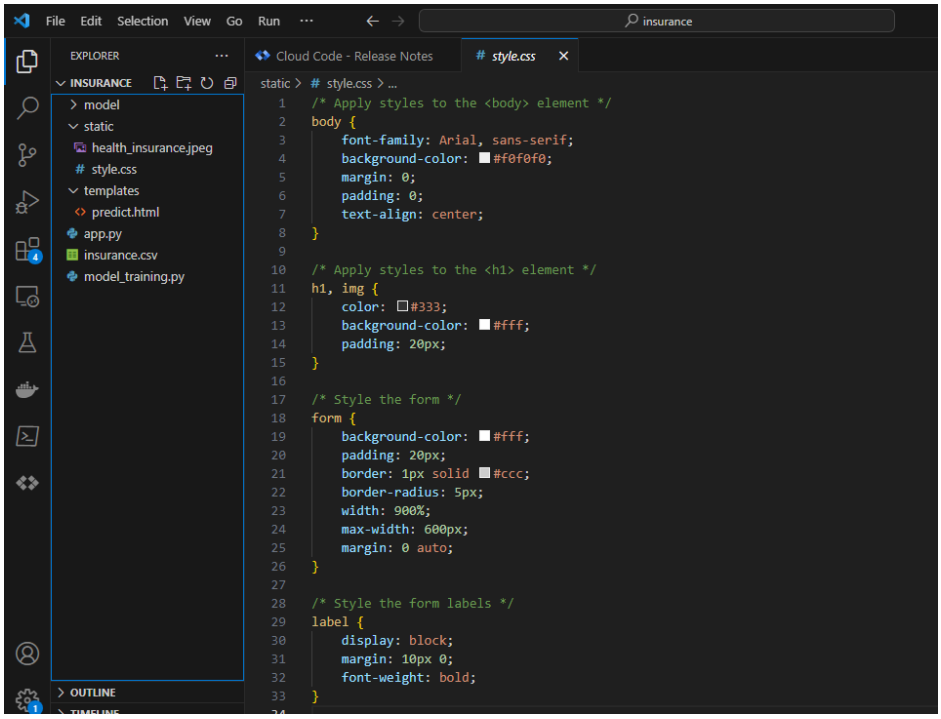


Figure 4.2: style.css used for styling the HTML template

4.3. App.py

I created a file named app.py for the Flask application, which ties everything together

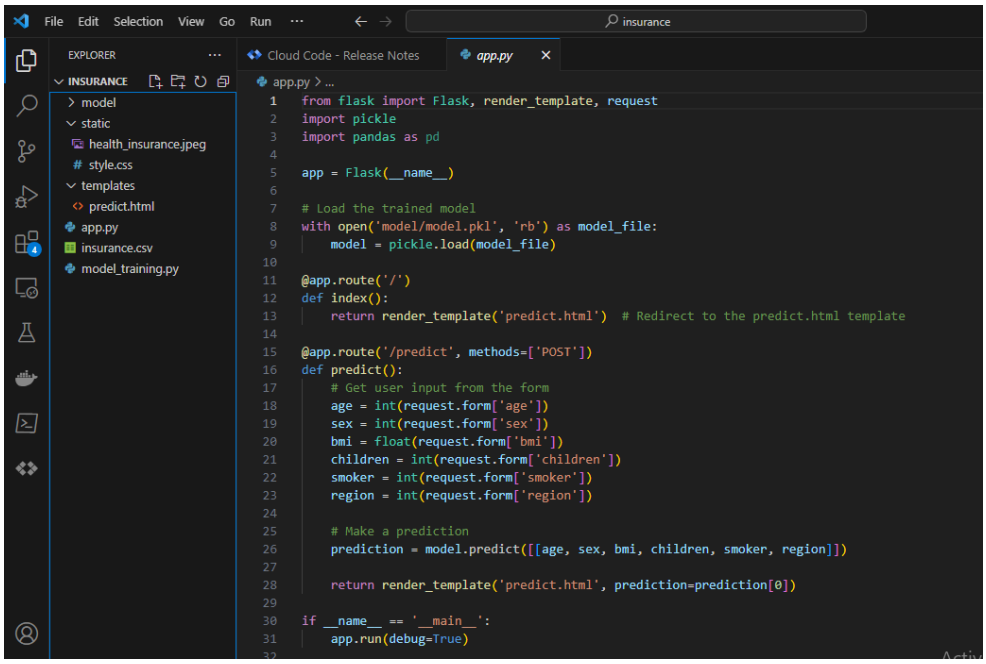


Figure 4.3: style.css used for styling the HTML template

4.4. Running the App locally

To run the Flask app, make sure you have Flask installed (pip install Flask). Then, run the app.py file. You can access the app in your web browser

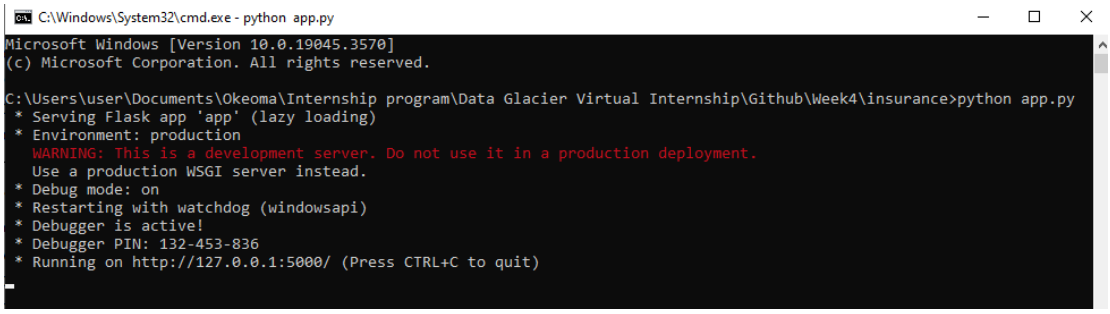


Figure 4.4: Running the App via Command prompt

Figure 4.5: App running locally in the browser

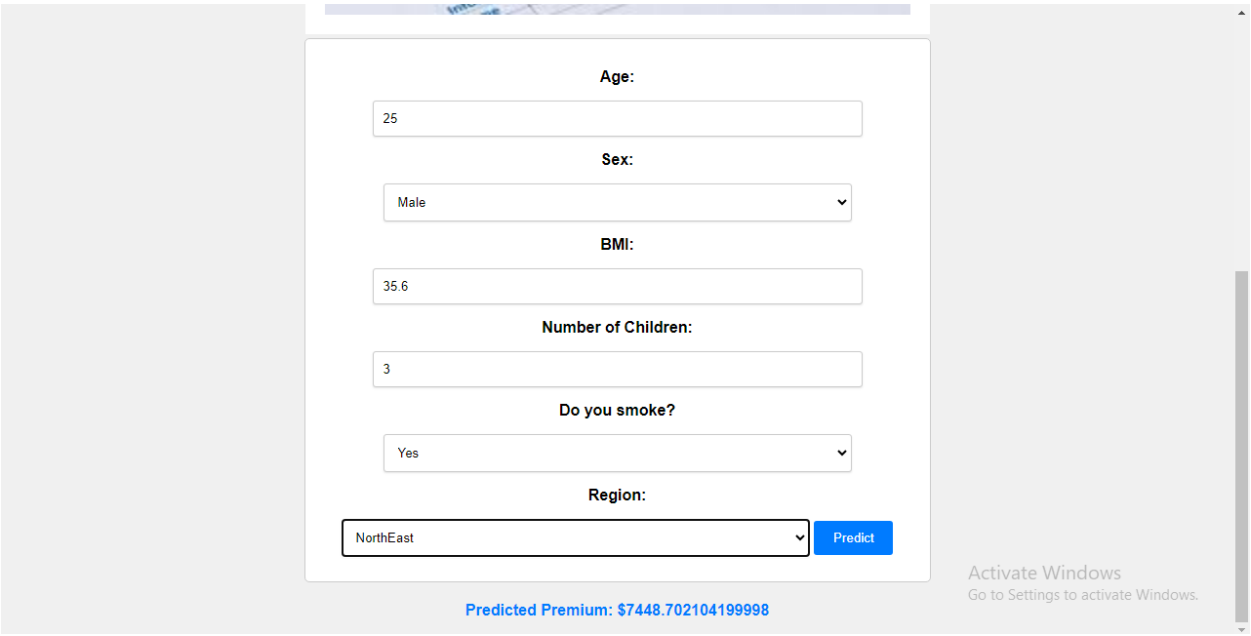


Figure 4.6: Showing the predicted results derived from the model

5. Create & Connect to AWS EC2

5.1. Log-in to AWS

Create or Log-in to AWS account.

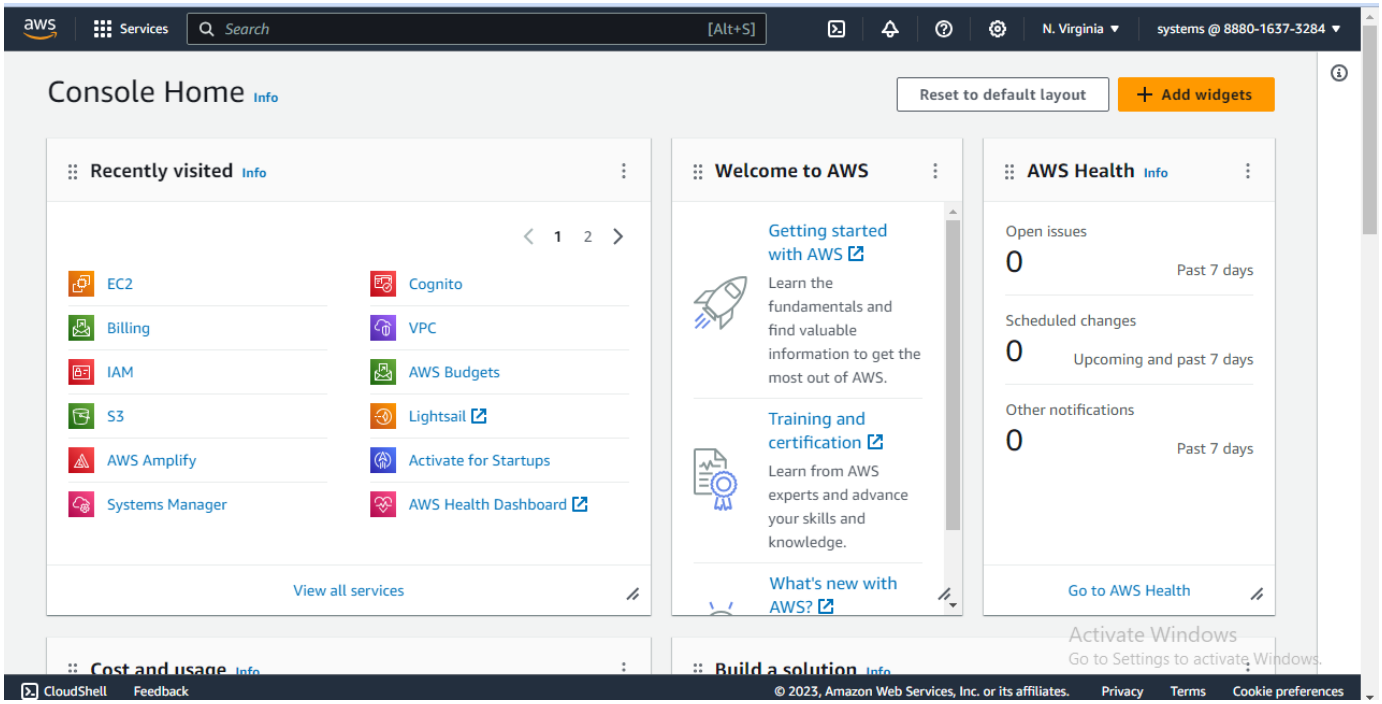


Figure 5.1: AWS Console

5.2. Create EC2 Instance

Create a free tier EC2 (Ubuntu Server 20.04 LTS (HVM), SSD Volume Type) instance and download the key pair for accessing the server remotely using Putty via windows system.

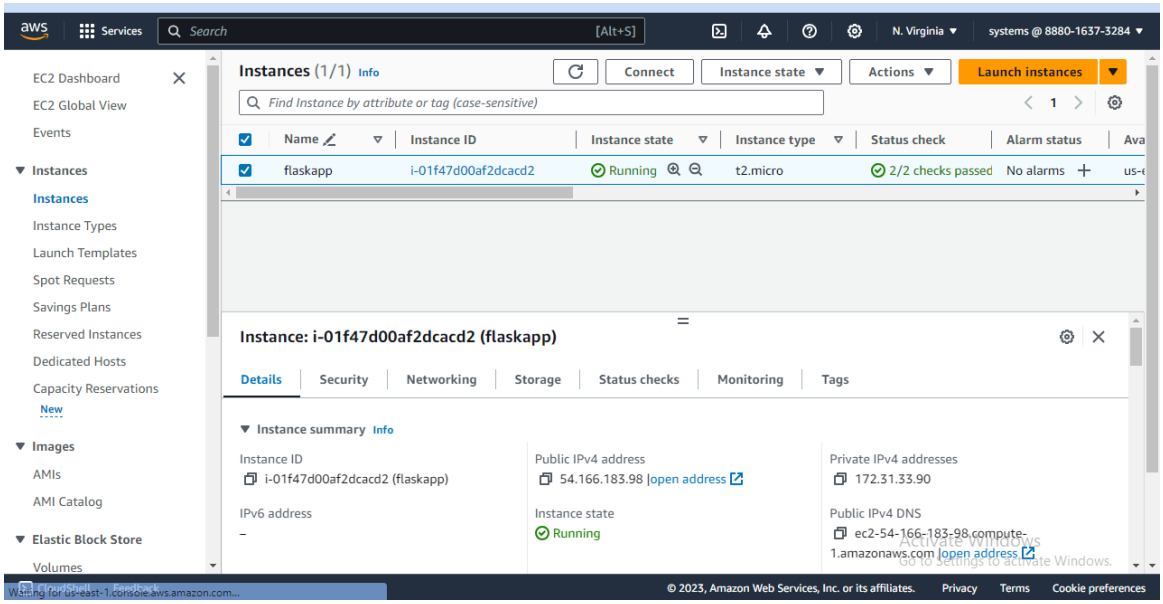


Figure 5.2: New AWS EC2 Instance

5.3. Download & Install Puttygen, Wincp & Putty

Download and install the updated version of Puttygen, Wincp and Putty.

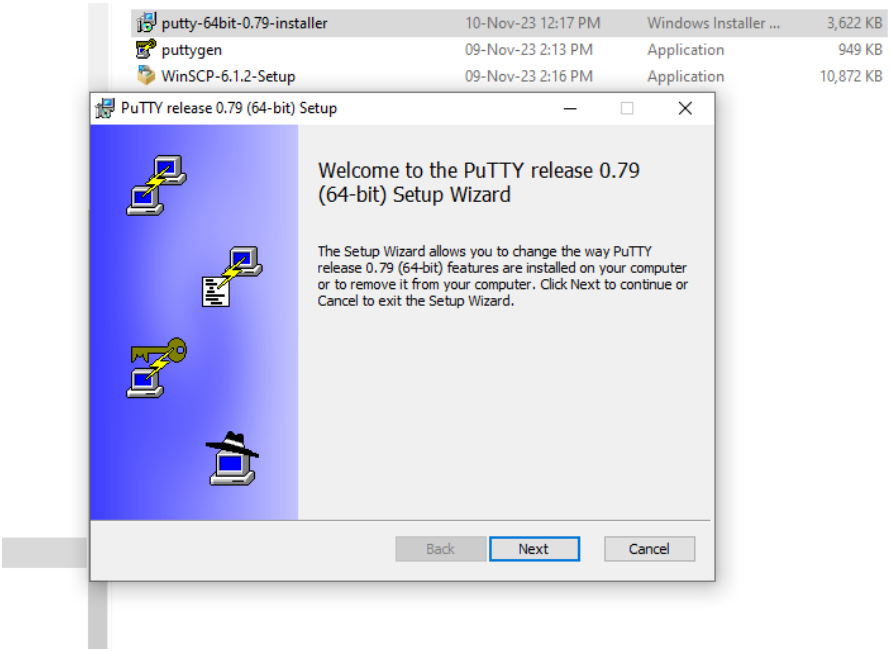


Figure 5.3: Installation of Puttygen, Wincp and Putty

5.4. Connect to EC2 Instance

You can connect to the EC2 instance by following the below steps:

5.4.1. Puttygen -> generate private key

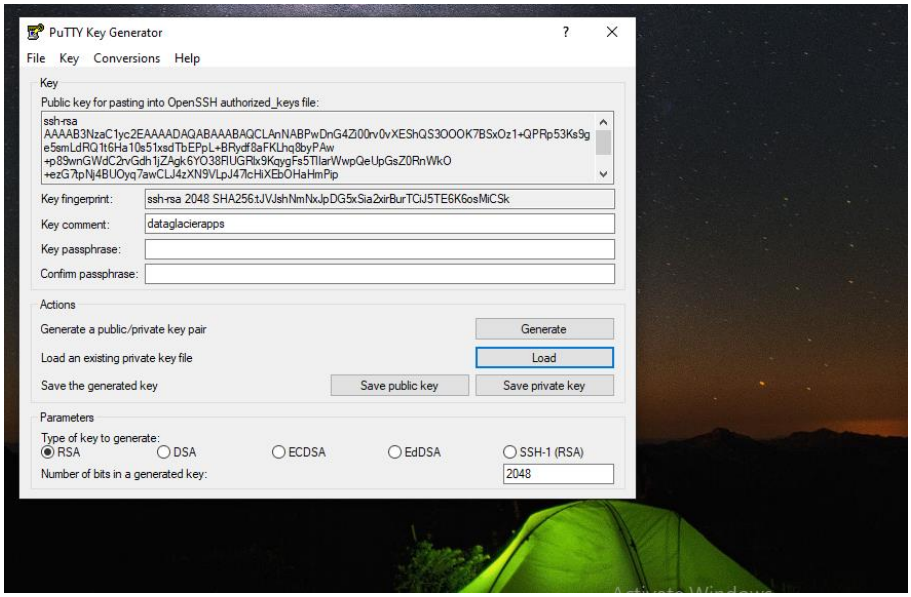


Figure 5.4.1: Generating Private key with Puttygen

5.4.2. wincp -> copy all files to Ubuntu server

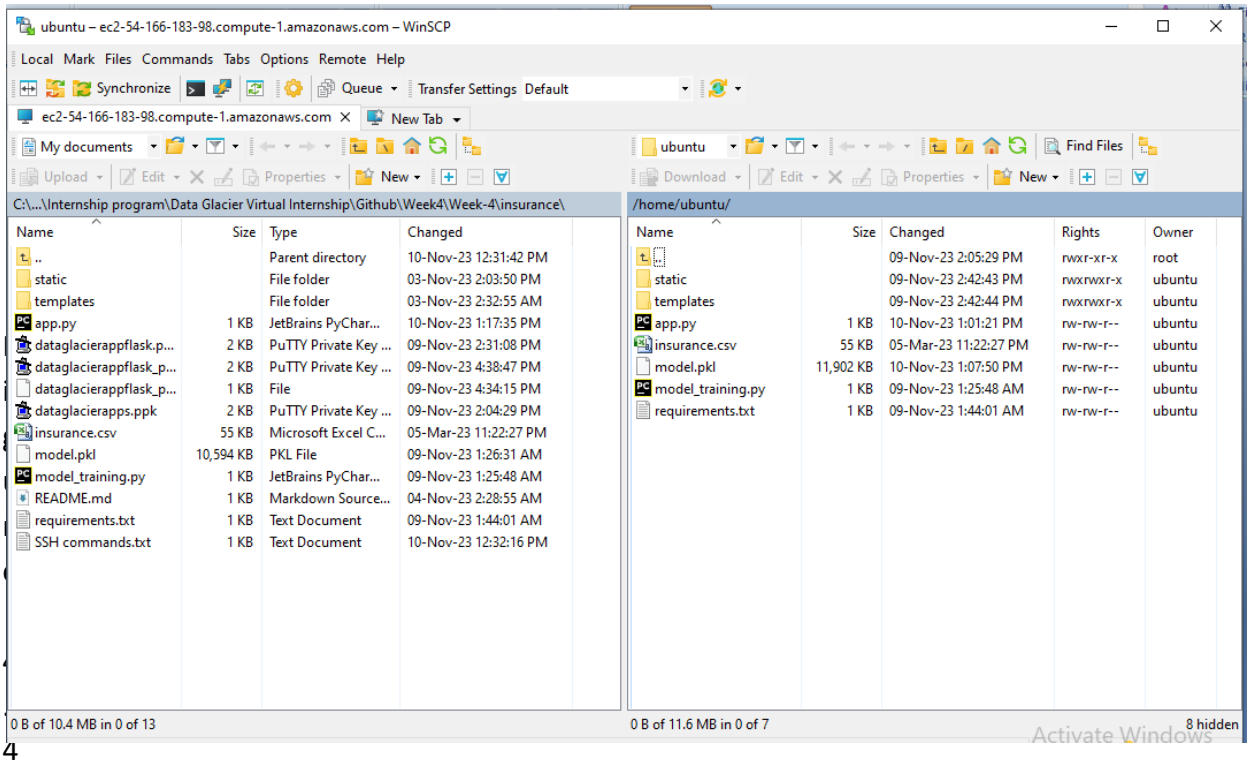


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Figure 5.4.2: Copying Flacks app files into Ubuntu server

5.4.3. Putty --> connect through Putty

Connect via SSH into the EC2 instance by authenticating with the Private key using Putty.

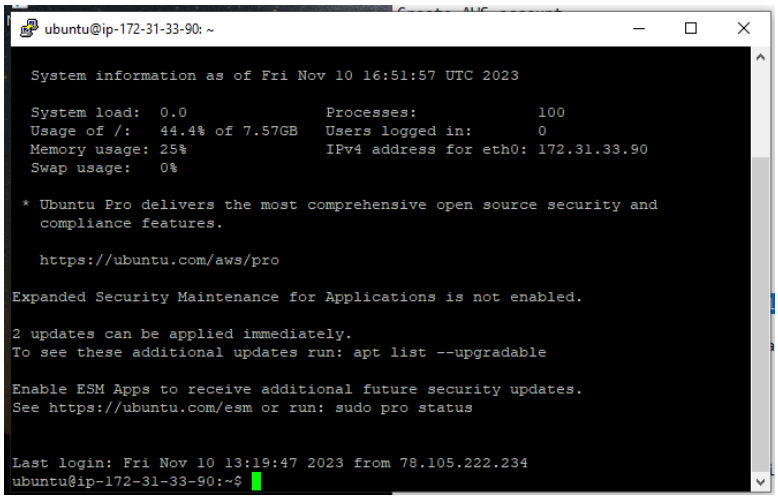

Figure 5.4.3: Connect via SSH into the EC2 instance using Putty

6. Deploy Flask App on AWS EC2

6.1. Update & Install Required Libraries

After you must have logged in to the EC2 instance, it is required to update PIP and install the required libraries using the following commands:

Command 1: sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get install python3-pip and **Command 2**: pip3 install -r requirements.txt

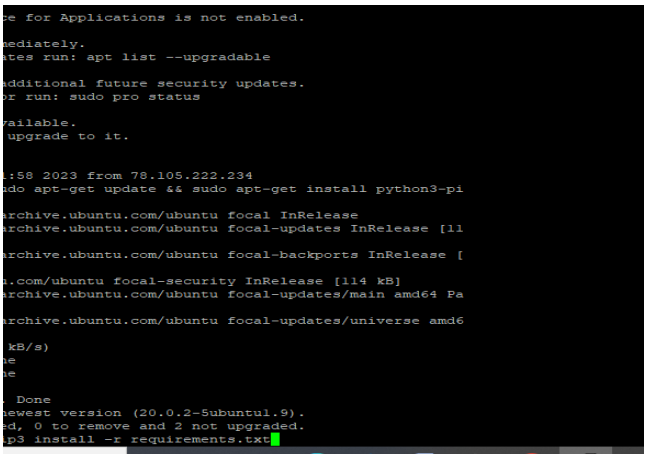

Figure 6.1: Showing the commands for updating and installing libraries

6.2. Create Security Group & Assign to EC2 Instance

A new security group (FlaskDeployment) was created to allow all users to connect to the Flask app via the internet

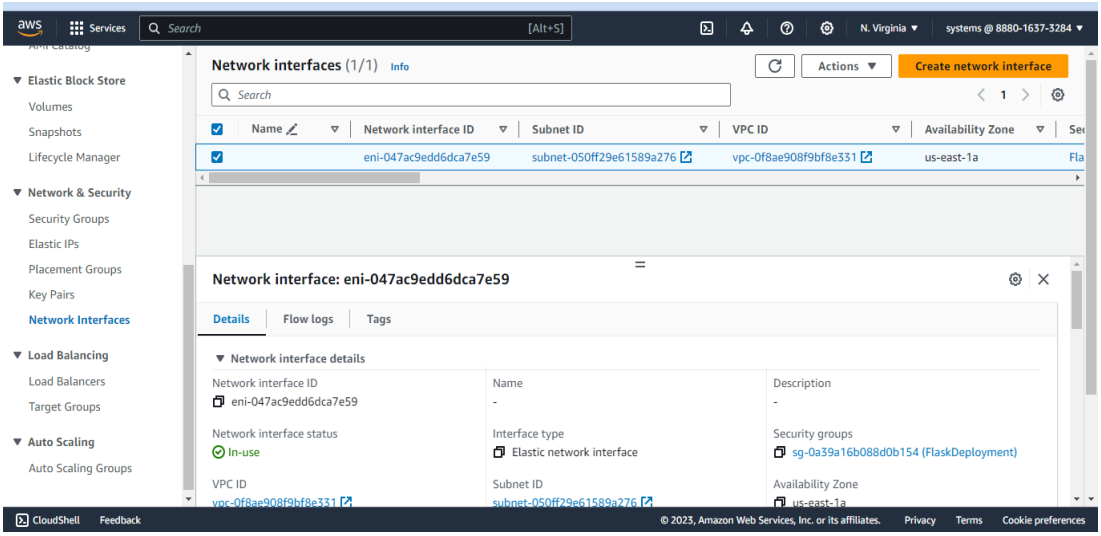

Figure 6.2: Security Group created and attached to the EC2 instance

6.3. Edit Host & Port in Flask App

To enable the connection via internet, the host and port numbers was added to the app.py file while the app.run(debug=True) code was commented:

app.run(host="0.0.0.0", port=8080)

#app.run(debug=True)

6.4. Running the App in AWS

Finally, run the app in AWS using the command “python3 app.py”

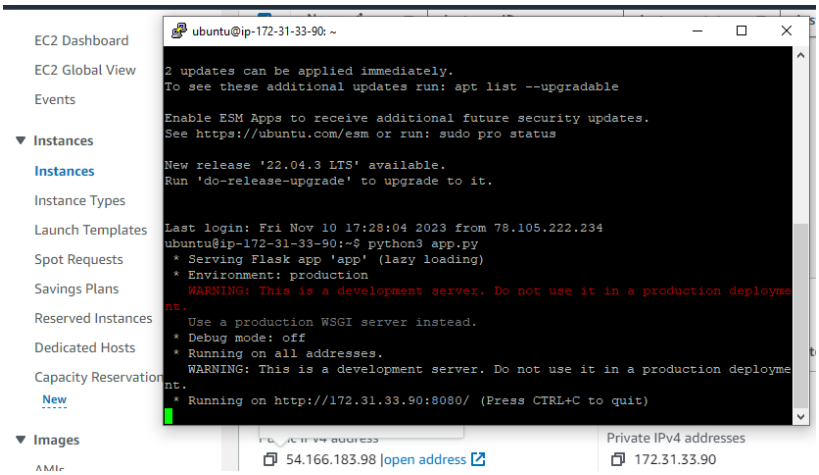

Figure 6.3: Running the Flask App from in AWS using Putty

Open the browser and paste the EC2 instance Public IP address in the browser with colon (“:”) and port “8080” following, ie: http://54.166.183.98:8080/

Figure 6.4: Accessing the deployed Flask App from a browser