Name: Pelumi Johnson
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Course: CMIT 436 | Cloud Security
Institution: University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)
Lab Title: Creating a CloudWatch Dashboard and Adding a Metric

Objective

The objective of this lab was to create a CloudWatch dashboard in AWS and add a metric widget to monitor service usage. This lab provided hands-on experience navigating the AWS Management Console, creating dashboards, and visualizing billing metrics using CloudWatch.

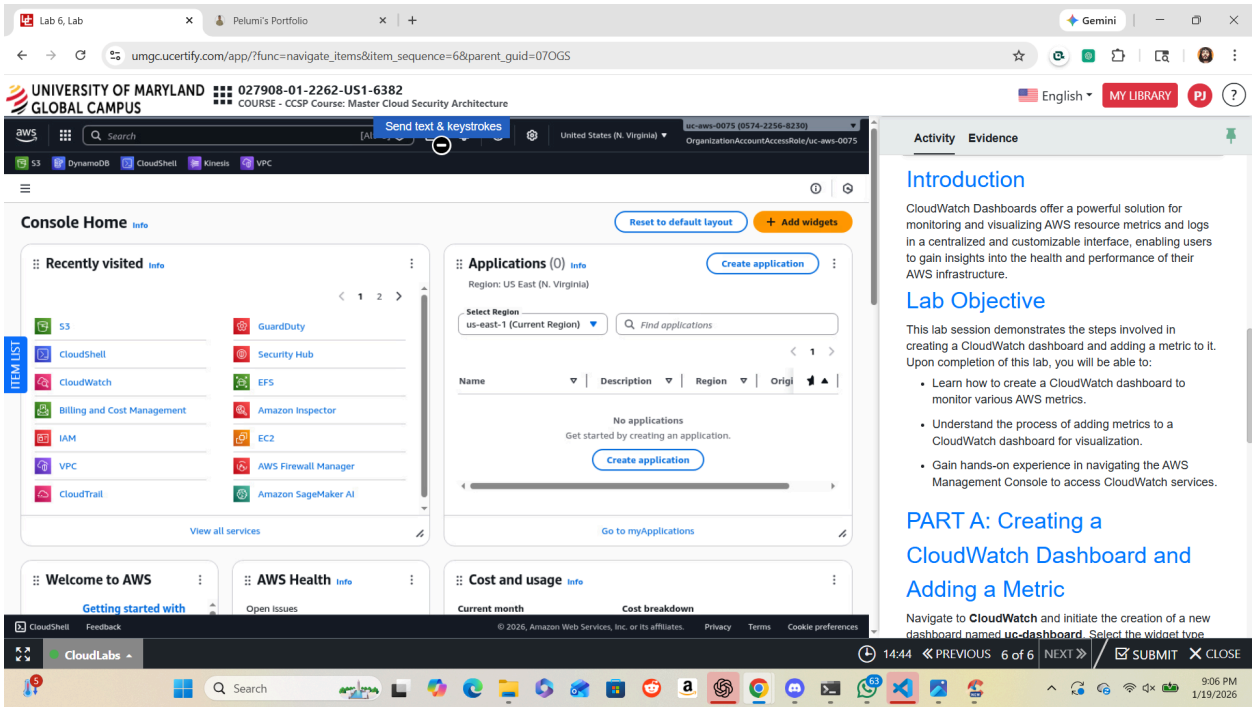
Tools & Environment Used

- AWS Management Console (CloudLabs Environment)
- Amazon CloudWatch
- Billing Metrics
- N. Virginia (us-east-1) Region

Lab Overview

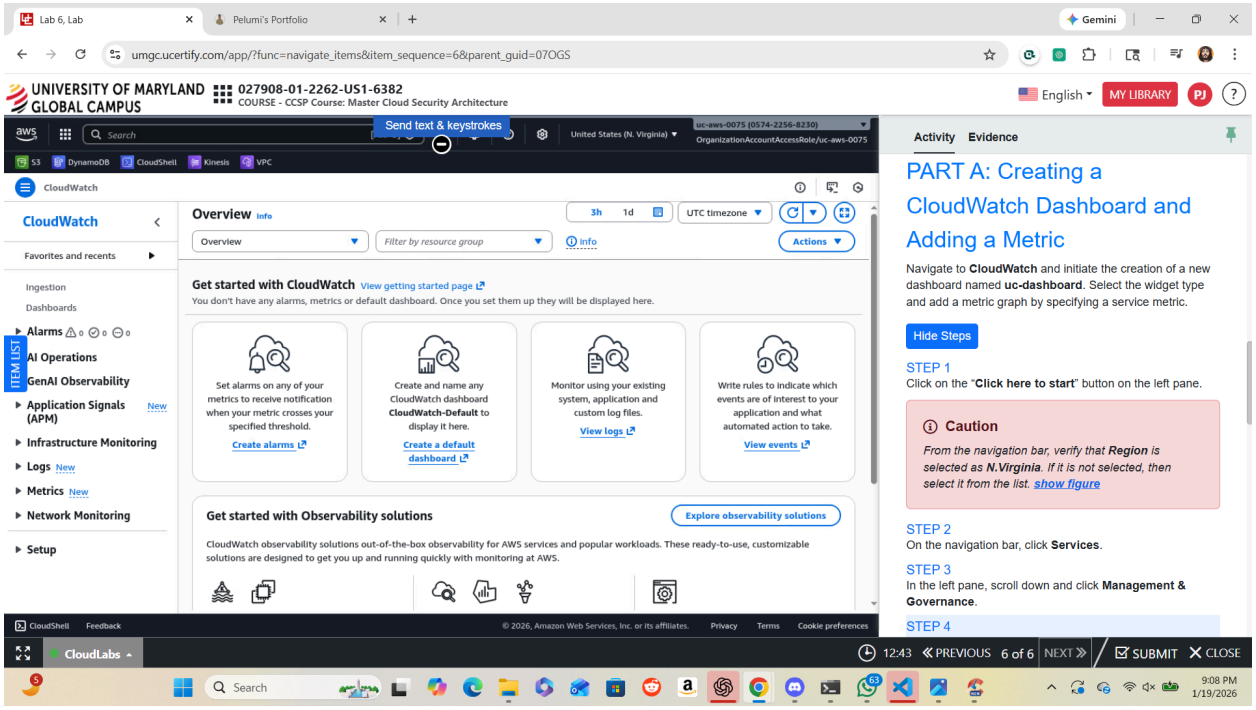
Amazon CloudWatch is a monitoring and observability service that provides real-time metrics, logs, and dashboards for AWS resources. Dashboards allow users to visualize performance data in a centralized interface.

In this lab, a custom CloudWatch dashboard was created and configured to display a billing metric using a line graph widget.



Step 1: Verifying the AWS Region

The AWS region was verified as N. Virginia (us-east-1) to ensure metrics were available and properly displayed.

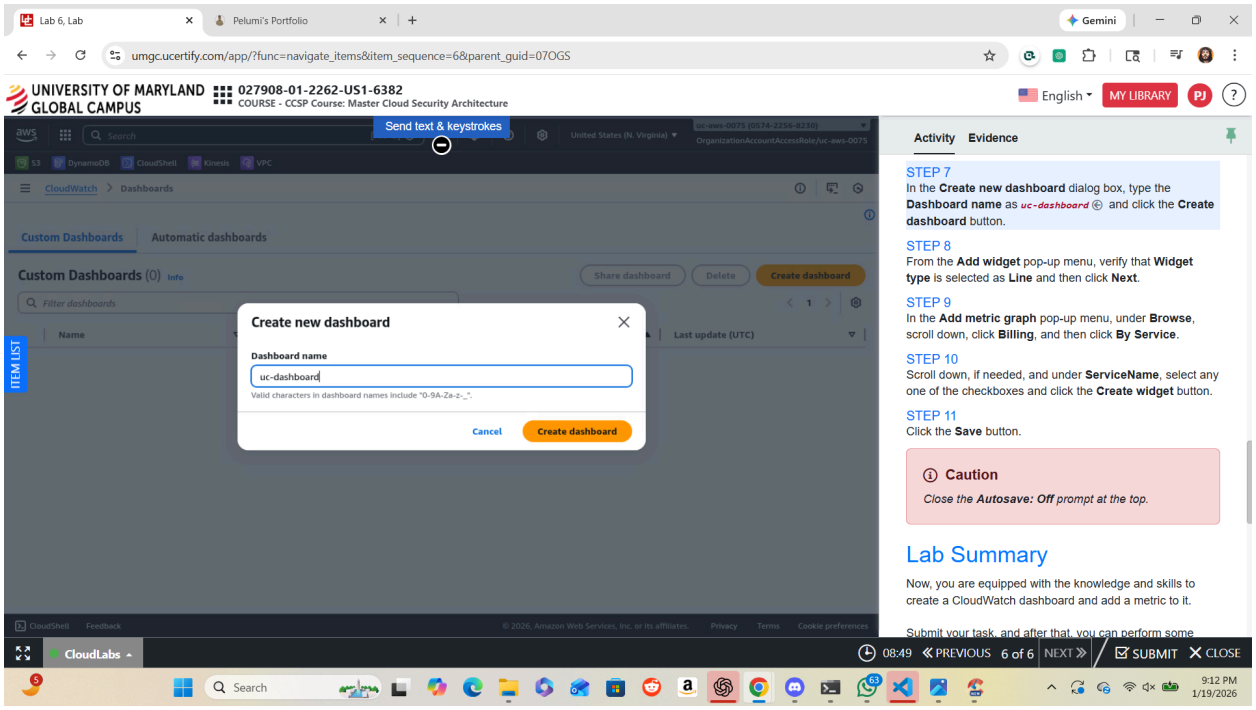


Step 2: Navigating to CloudWatch

From the AWS Management Console, Services was selected, and under Management & Governance, CloudWatch was opened.

Step 3: Accessing Dashboards

Within CloudWatch, the Dashboards section was selected from the left navigation pane.



Step 4: Creating a New Dashboard

The Create dashboard button was clicked.

In the dialog box, the dashboard name was entered as:

uc-dashboard

The Create dashboard button was selected to proceed.

Step 5: Adding a Widget

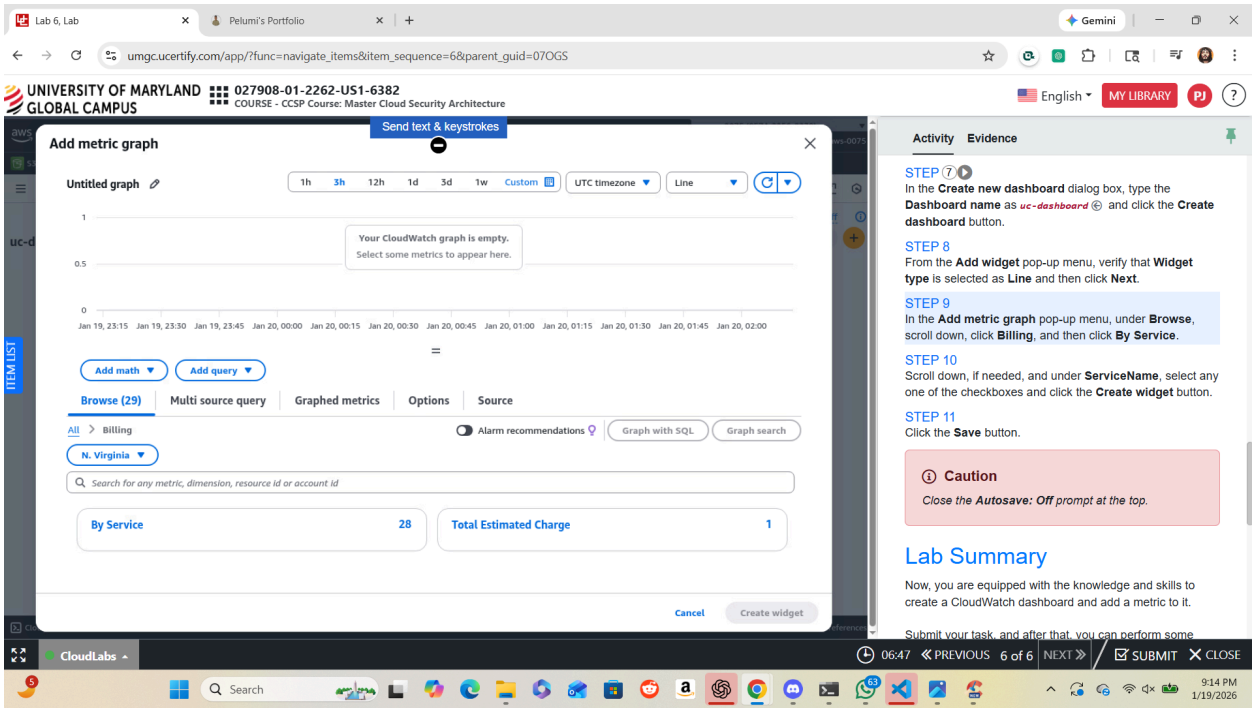
In the Add widget pop-up window:

- Widget type was selected as Line.
- Next was clicked.

Step 6: Selecting a Metric

In the Add metric graph window:

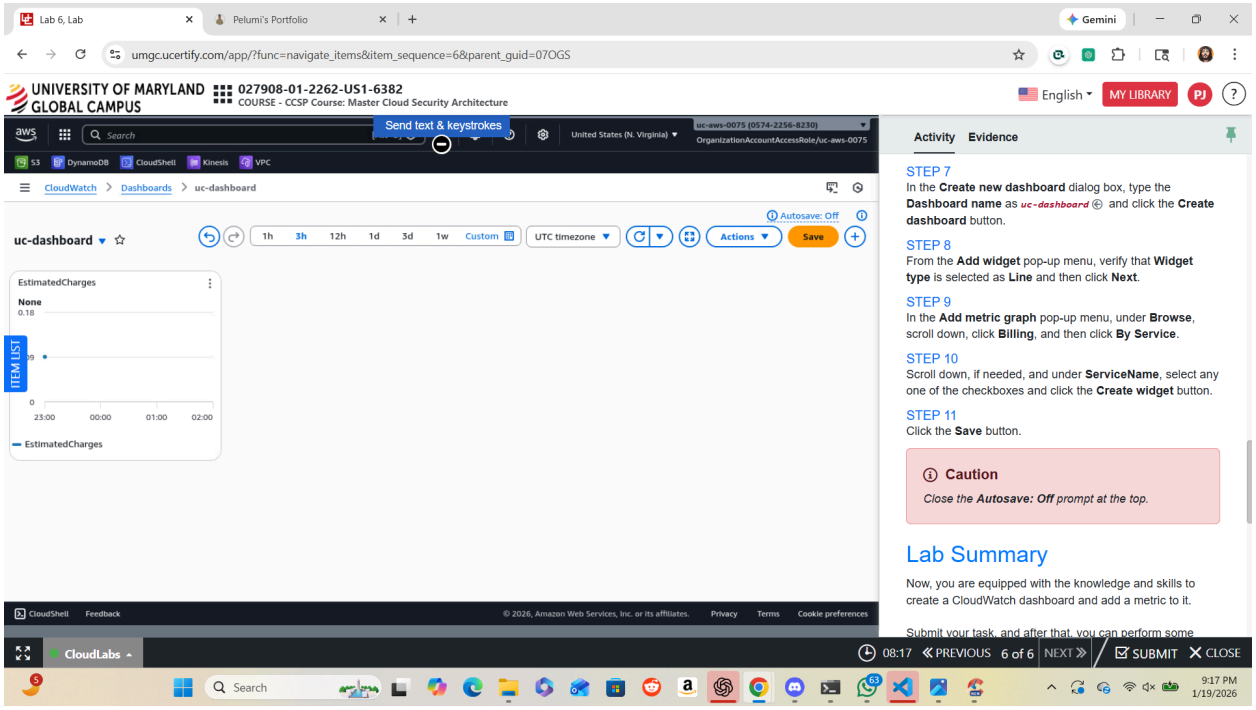
- Under Browse, Billing was selected.
- By Service was clicked.
- A ServiceName checkbox was selected.
- The Create widget button was clicked.



Step 7: Saving the Dashboard

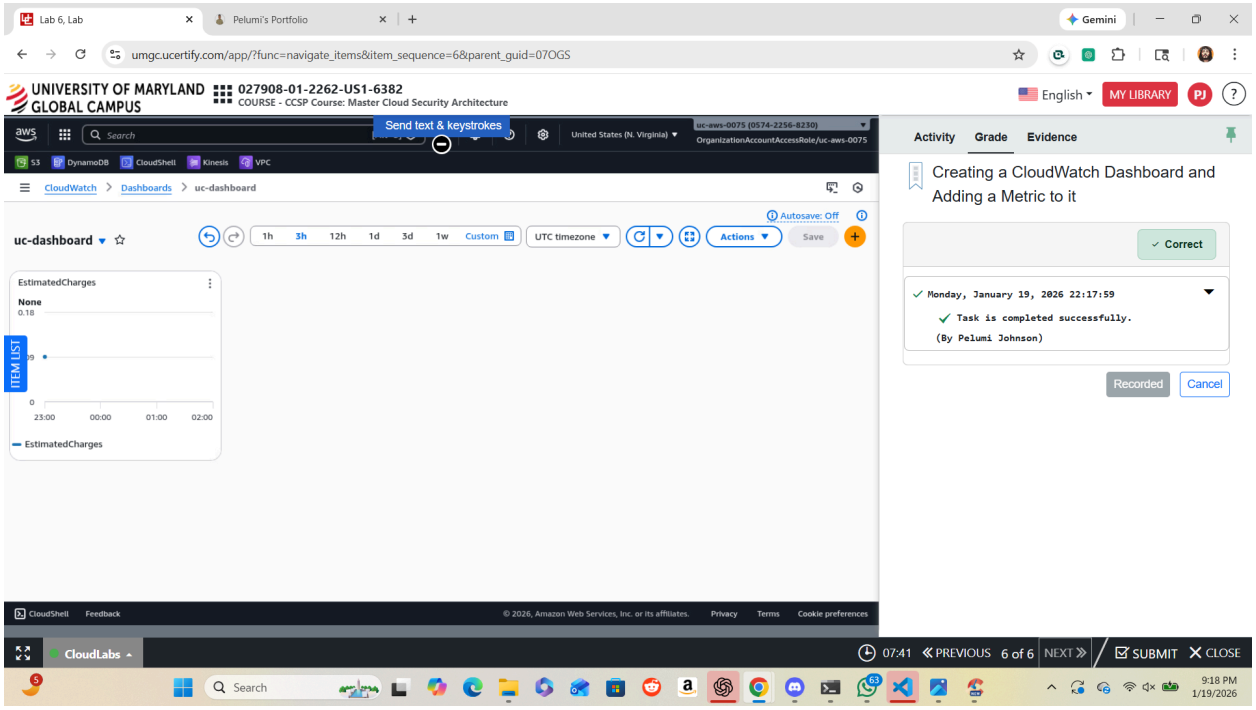
The Save button was clicked to finalize the dashboard configuration.

The Autosave: Off prompt at the top was closed as instructed.



Step 8: Observing the Dashboard

The newly created dashboard displayed a line graph showing the EstimatedCharges billing metric over time.



Results

- A CloudWatch dashboard named uc-dashboard was successfully created.
- A billing metric (EstimatedCharges) was added as a line graph widget.
- The dashboard displayed billing data successfully.
- The lab task was completed successfully.

Conclusion

This lab demonstrated how to create a CloudWatch dashboard and visualize AWS metrics using widgets. Dashboards provide centralized visibility into AWS resource usage and cost monitoring. Monitoring billing metrics is essential for maintaining cost control and operational awareness in cloud environments.

Key Takeaways

- CloudWatch dashboards allow centralized visualization of AWS metrics.
- Billing metrics such as EstimatedCharges can be monitored in real time.
- Widgets such as Line graphs help visualize trends over time.
- Monitoring cost metrics is critical for cloud governance and financial oversight.
- Proper region selection is important for accurate metric availability.