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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.

The screenshot displays the AWS Management Console interface within a web browser. The top navigation bar shows the user is logged in as 'Pelumi's Portfolio' and is in the 'US East (N. Virginia)' region. The main console area is divided into several sections: 'Recently visited' services, 'Applications' (currently empty), 'Welcome to AWS', 'AWS Health', and 'Cost and usage'. The 'Cost and usage' section is expanded, showing a 'Current month' cost breakdown. On the right side of the console, there is a sidebar with 'Activity' and 'Evidence' tabs. The 'Evidence' tab is active, displaying a document titled 'Introduction' and 'Lab Objective'. The 'Lab Objective' section states: 'This lab session demonstrates the steps involved in creating a CloudWatch dashboard and adding a metric to it. Upon completion of this lab, you will be able to: Learn how to create a CloudWatch dashboard to monitor various AWS metrics. Understand the process of adding metrics to a CloudWatch dashboard for visualization. Gain hands-on experience in navigating the AWS Management Console to access CloudWatch services.' Below the objectives, there is a section titled 'PART A: Creating a CloudWatch Dashboard and Adding a Metric' which begins with the instruction: 'Navigate to CloudWatch and initiate the creation of a new dashboard named myDashboard. Select the widget type'.

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.

The screenshot displays the AWS CloudWatch console interface. The top navigation bar shows the AWS logo, a search bar, and the current region 'United States (N. Virginia)'. The left-hand navigation pane lists various services, with 'Dashboards' highlighted. The main content area is titled 'Overview' and includes sections for 'Get started with CloudWatch' and 'Get started with Observability solutions'. A right-hand sidebar provides detailed instructions for 'PART A: Creating a CloudWatch Dashboard and Adding a Metric', including steps 1 through 4 and a caution note.

Activity Evidence

PART A: Creating a CloudWatch Dashboard and Adding a Metric

Navigate to **CloudWatch** and initiate the creation of a new dashboard named **uc-dashboard**. Select the widget type and add a metric graph by specifying a service metric.

Hide Steps

STEP 1
Click on the "Click here to start" button on the left pane.

Caution
From the navigation bar, verify that **Region** is selected as **N.Virginia**. If it is not selected, then select it from the list. [show figure](#)

STEP 2
On the navigation bar, click **Services**.

STEP 3
In the left pane, scroll down and click **Management & Governance**.

STEP 4

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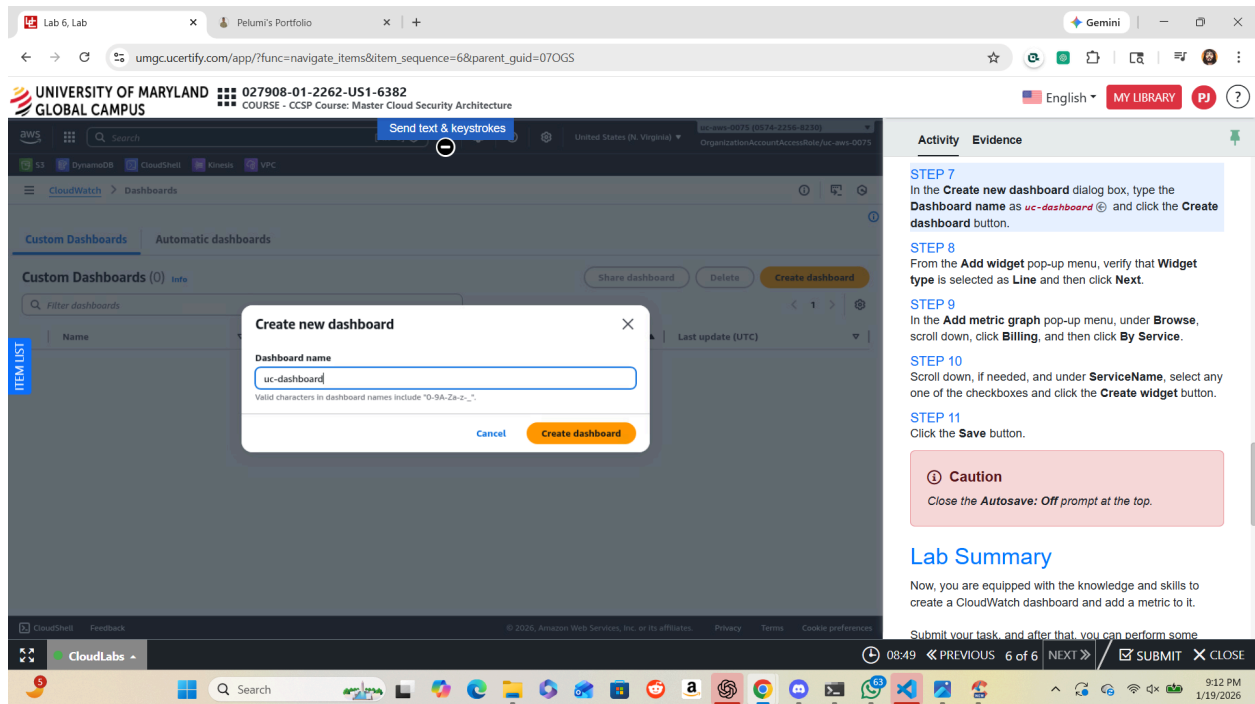
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Step 2: Navigating to CloudWatch

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.

Lab 6, Lab

Pelumi's Portfolio

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Activity Evidence

STEP 7

In the **Create new dashboard** dialog box, type the **Dashboard name** as **uc-dashboard** and click the **Create dashboard** button.

STEP 8

From the **Add widget** pop-up menu, verify that **Widget type** is selected as **Line** and then click **Next**.

STEP 9

In the **Add metric graph** pop-up menu, under **Browse**, scroll down, click **Billing**, and then click **By Service**.

STEP 10

Scroll down, if needed, and under **ServiceName**, select any one of the checkboxes and click the **Create widget** button.

STEP 11

Click the **Save** button.

Caution

Close the **Autosave: Off** prompt at the top.

Lab Summary

Now, you are equipped with the knowledge and skills to create a CloudWatch dashboard and add a metric to it.

Submit your task, and after that, you can perform some

06:47

PREVIOUS 6 of 6 NEXT

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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.

Lab 6, Lab

Pelumi's Portfolio

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PREVIOUS 6 of 6 NEXT

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Step 8: Observing the Dashboard

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

The screenshot displays the AWS CloudWatch console interface. The main dashboard, titled 'uc-dashboard', features a line graph for the 'EstimatedCharges' metric. The graph shows a single data point at 0.18. The dashboard includes a search bar, navigation tabs for 'CloudWatch' and 'Dashboards', and a 'Send text & keystrokes' button. A sidebar on the right displays a confirmation message: 'Creating a CloudWatch Dashboard and Adding a Metric to it' with a 'Correct' status and a timestamp 'Monday, January 19, 2026 22:17:59'. The bottom of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and a system clock indicating 07:41 on 1/19/2026.

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.