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Date: January 19, 2026

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 shows the AWS Management Console with the URL umgc.ucertify.com/app/?func=navigate_items&item_sequence=6&parent_guid=07OGS. The page title is "Lab 6, Lab". The top navigation bar includes "Send text & keystrokes", "Region: United States (N. Virginia)", and "OrganizationAccountAccessRole/uc-aws-0075". The main content area displays the "Console Home" with sections for "Recently visited", "Applications", "Cost and usage", and "Welcome to AWS". On the right, there is a "Lab" interface with tabs for "Activity" and "Evidence". The "Introduction" tab is active, containing text about CloudWatch Dashboards. The "Lab Objective" tab lists learning objectives: creating a CloudWatch dashboard and adding a metric. The "PART A: Creating a CloudWatch Dashboard and Adding a Metric" section is visible, with instructions to navigate to CloudWatch and create a new dashboard named "uc-dashboard". The bottom status bar shows the time as 14:44 and the date as 1/19/2026.

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.

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aws S3 DynamoDB CloudShell Kinesis VPC CloudWatch

CloudWatch Overview 3h 1d UTC timezone Actions

Get started with CloudWatch View getting started page You don't have any alarms, metrics or default dashboard. Once you set them up they will be displayed here.

Set alarms on any of your metrics to receive notification when your metric crosses your specified threshold. Create alarms

Create and name any CloudWatch dashboard CloudWatch-Default to display it here. Create a default dashboard

Monitor using your existing system, application and custom log files. View logs

Write rules to indicate which events are of interest to your application and what automated action to take. View events

Get started with Observability solutions Explore observability solutions

CloudWatch observability solutions out-of-the-box observability for AWS services and popular workloads. These ready-to-use, customizable solutions are designed to get you up and running quickly with monitoring at AWS.

cloudShell Feedback CloudLabs Search

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.

① 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

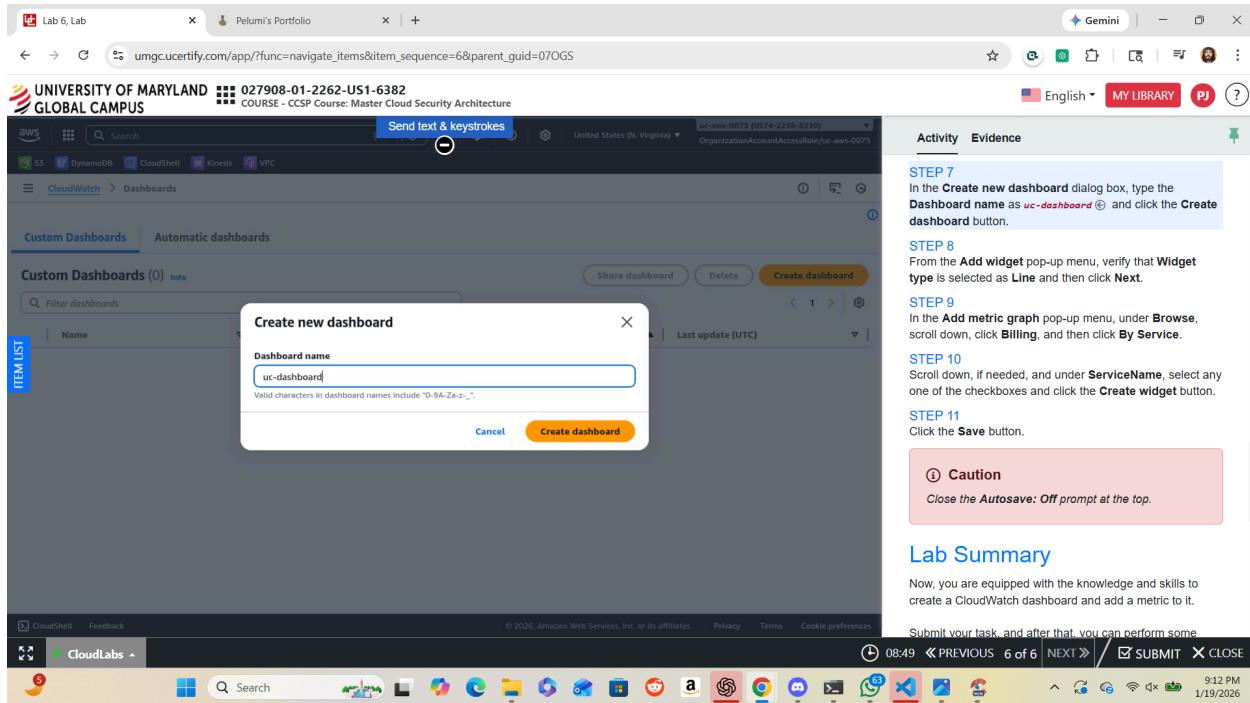
12:43 << PREVIOUS 6 of 6 NEXT >> SUBMIT X CLOSE 9:08 PM 1/19/2026

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.

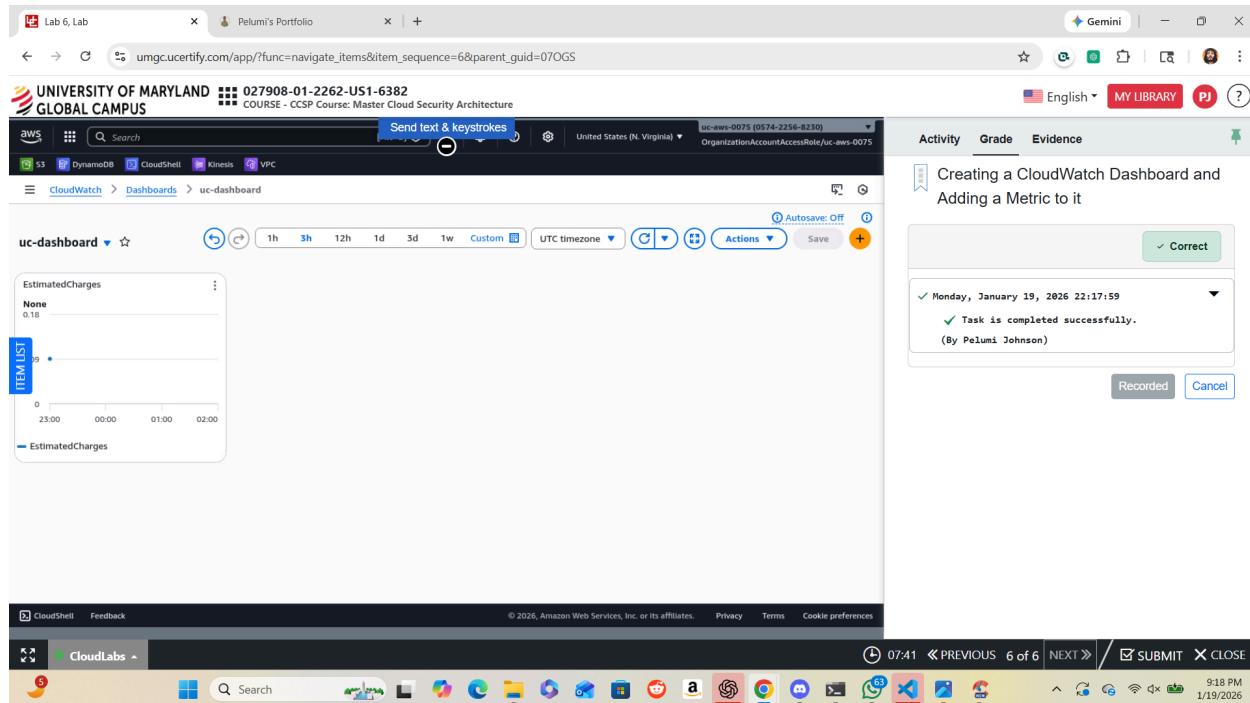
Step 7: Saving the Dashboard

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.