

Serverless Web Application Deployment using AWS

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TITLE: Serverless Web Application Deployment

DESCRIPTION:

Managing student information is a common requirement for educational institutions. Traditional web applications often rely on dedicated servers, which require continuous management, scaling, and maintenance, leading to higher operational costs and complexity. This project addresses the need for a modern, cost-effective, and scalable solution for managing student data. By leveraging a serverless three-tier architecture on AWS, we can build a system that is resilient, scales automatically, and operates on a pay-as-you-go model, minimizing idle costs.

OUTCOMES:

- The web application successfully performs data storage and retrieval operations.
- The frontend is hosted on AWS S3 and accessible via a CloudFront HTTPS URL.
- The application scales automatically without any manual server management.
- Demonstrates cost-efficient and secure deployment using AWS's serverless ecosystem.

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

Traditional web applications rely on dedicated servers for hosting and backend processing, which require continuous management, scaling, and maintenance.

This leads to higher operational costs and increased complexity.

There is a need for a modern, cost-effective, and scalable solution that allows developers to focus on functionality rather than infrastructure.

This project addresses that challenge by implementing a **Serverless Web Application Deployment using AWS**, where backend logic, data storage, and hosting are fully managed by AWS services. The aim is to develop a **student data management system** that scales automatically, minimizes overhead, and operates on a pay-as-you-use model.

KEY TECHNOLOGIES USED:

| AWS Service | Purpose in this Project |
|-----------------------|---|
| Amazon S3 | Hosts the static frontend website (HTML, CSS, JavaScript) and serves as the origin for CloudFront. |
| Amazon DynamoDB | Fully managed NoSQL database used to store the studentData items. |
| AWS Lambda | Provides the serverless compute logic (Python/boto3) for the getStudent and insertStudentData functions. |
| Amazon API Gateway | Creates and manages the RESTful API endpoints (GET, POST) that trigger the Lambda functions. |
| Amazon CloudFront | (Enhancement) Acts as a CDN to securely and quickly deliver the S3 website to users worldwide. |
| IAM | Manages permissions and roles, specifically the LambdaDynamoDb-Role which allows Lambda to access DynamoDB. |
| Programming Language | Python (used for developing AWS Lambda functions) |
| Frontend Technologies | HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (used to design and control the web interface) |
| Data Format | JSON (used for sending and receiving data between frontend, API Gateway, and Lambda functions) |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Web Browser | Google Chrome (used to run and test the deployed web application) |
|-------------|---|

OVERVIEW:

- The project focuses on deploying a **serverless web application** using **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**.
- It demonstrates how to build and host a **student data management system** without managing servers.
- The application allows users to **add** and **view** student details such as ID, name, class, and age.
- **AWS Lambda** handles backend logic for inserting and retrieving data.
- **Amazon DynamoDB** stores all student records in a NoSQL format.
- **Amazon API Gateway** connects the frontend to backend Lambda functions.
- **Amazon S3** hosts the static frontend files (HTML, CSS, JavaScript).
- **Amazon CloudFront** provides global HTTPS access and improved security.
- The system ensures **automatic scalability**, **cost-efficiency**, and **simplified deployment**.
- The project demonstrates a complete **end-to-end serverless architecture** for modern web development.

OBJECTIVES:

- To design and deploy a **serverless web application** using Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- To develop a **student data management system** that allows adding and viewing student details.
- To implement **AWS Lambda functions** for backend processing without using traditional servers.
- To integrate **Amazon API Gateway** with Lambda for handling HTTP GET and POST requests.
- To use **Amazon DynamoDB** as a NoSQL database for storing student information.
- To host the frontend (HTML, CSS, JavaScript) on **Amazon S3** as a static website.
- To enhance application **security and performance** using **Amazon CloudFront** for HTTPS access.
- To demonstrate **cost optimization, scalability, and reliability** through a serverless architecture.

Architecture Design :

The system follows a classic three-tier architecture, implemented with serverless components:

1. Presentation Tier (Frontend):

- **Amazon S3:** Used for static website hosting. It stores the index.html, scripts.js, and any CSS files.
- **Amazon CloudFront:** Acts as the Content Delivery Network (CDN). It provides a secure, public-facing URL (<https://...cloudfront.net>) and caches the website at edge locations, improving performance. It also allows the S3 bucket itself to remain private, enhancing security.

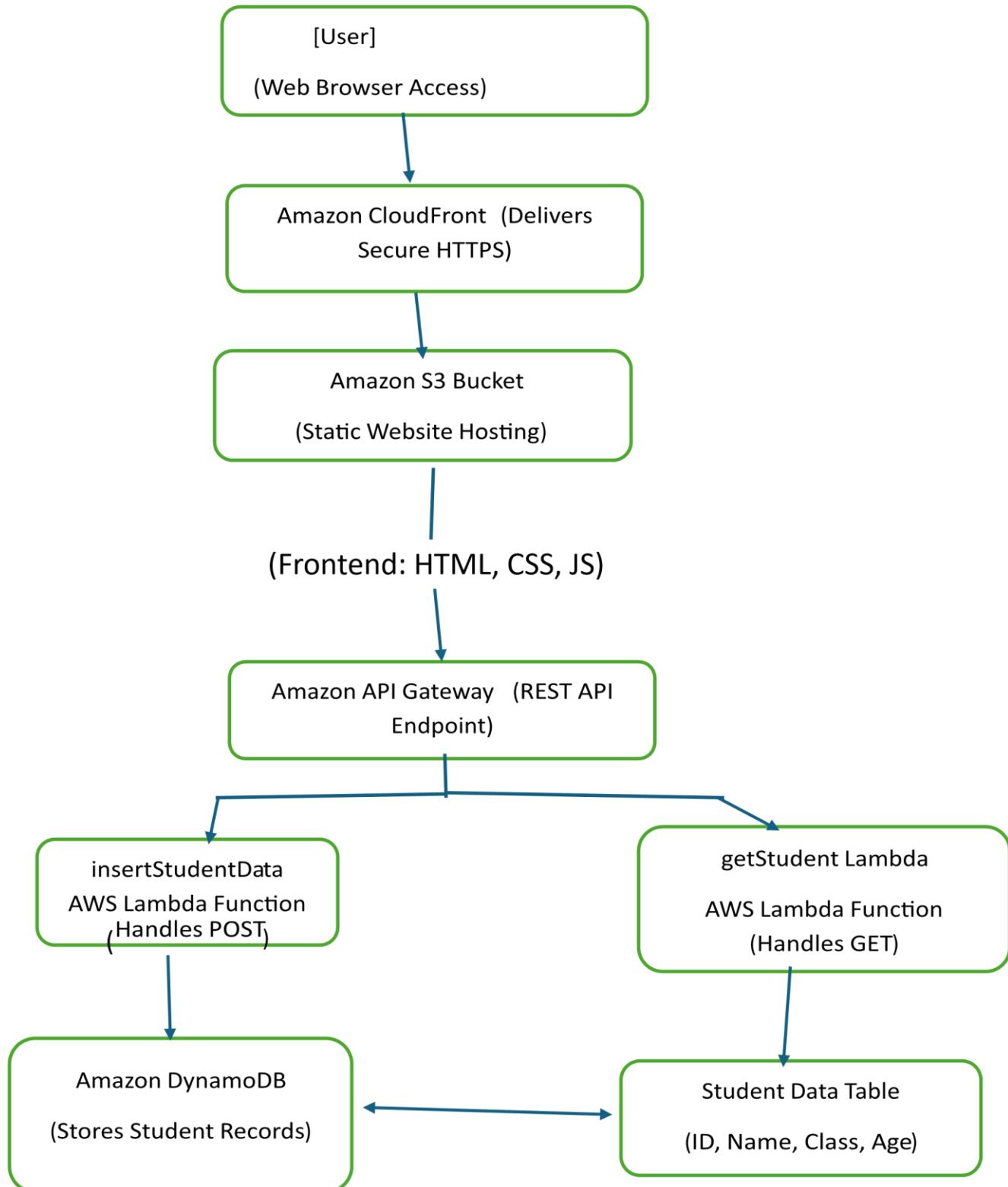
2. Application Tier (Logic):

- **Amazon API Gateway:** Provides the RESTful API "front door." It exposes HTTP endpoints (e.g., POST / and GET /) that the frontend JavaScript can call.
- **AWS Lambda:** Contains the serverless business logic (written in Python). Two functions are used:
 - >insertStudentData: Triggered by the POST request. It parses the incoming student data and saves it to DynamoDB.
 - >getStudent: Triggered by the GET request. It scans the DynamoDB table and returns a list of all students.

3. Data Tier (Database):

- **Amazon DynamoDB:** A fully managed NoSQL database. A table named studentData is used to store student records, with studentId as the partition key.

WORKFLOW:



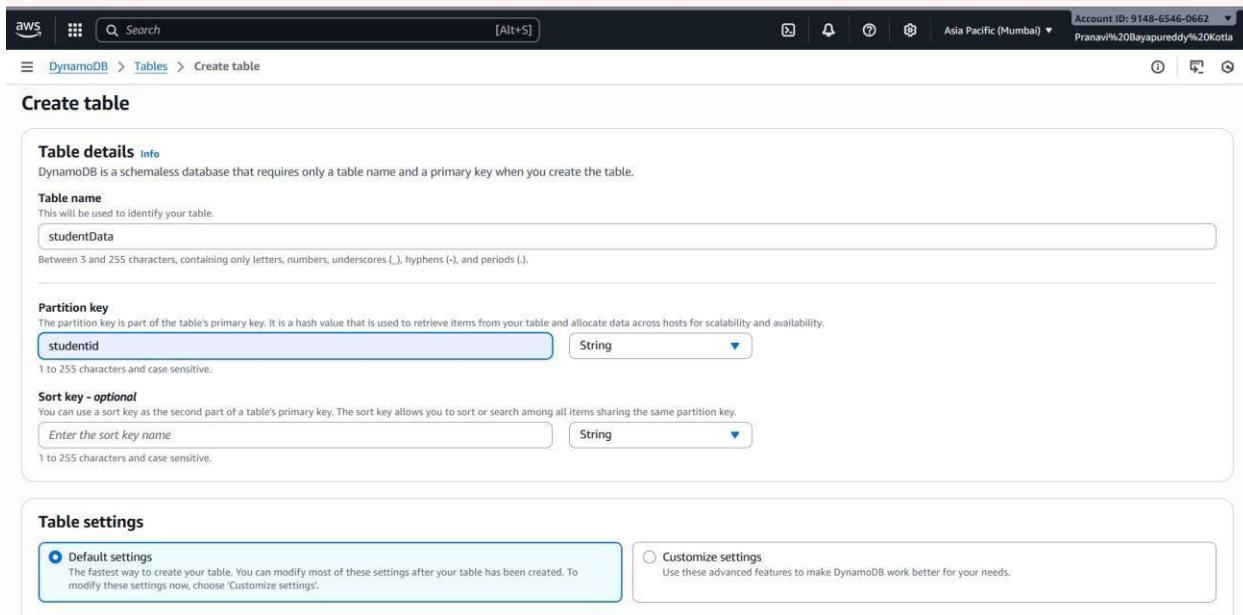
Implementation Steps & Screenshots:

This section details the step-by-step implementation, as captured in the project screenshots.

Part 1: Data & Logic Tiers (DynamoDB & Lambda):-

1.Create DynamoDB Table

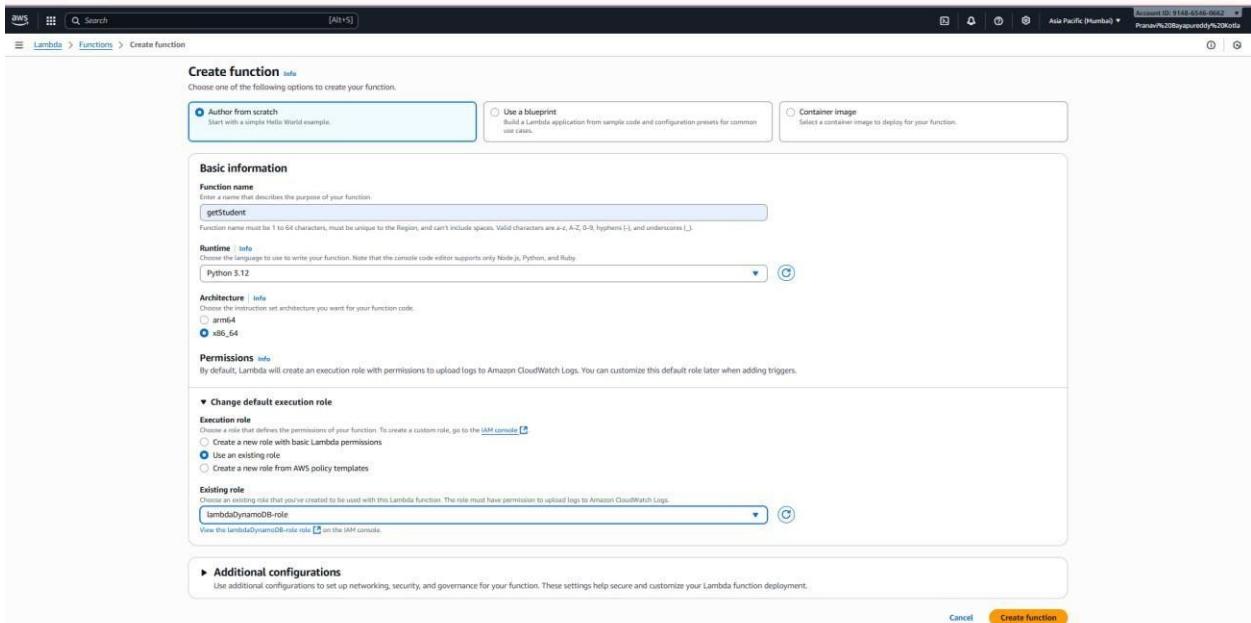
- Open the AWS Management Console and navigate to DynamoDB.
- Click Create Table and name it studentData.
- Set the Partition Key as Studentid (String).
- Leave other settings as default and create the table.



2.Create Lambda Function for Retrieving Data (GET) .

Go to AWS Lambda → Create Function → From Scratch.

- Function name: getStudent.
- Runtime: Python 3.12.
- Assign an existing IAM role with DynamoDB read permissions.



-
- Add Python code using boto3 to scan and return all items from the DynamoDB table.
 - Click Deploy and test using a sample event (empty payload).

```

Code source Info Open in Visual Studio Code \[VS Code\] Upload from \[Upload\]

EXPLORER ...
GETSTUDENT
  lambda_function.py
    + lambda_function.py
      import json
      import boto3
      ...
      # Initialize a DynamoDB resource object for the specified region
      dynamodb = boto3.resource('dynamodb', region_name='ap-south-1')
      ...
      # Select the DynamoDB table named 'studentData'
      table = dynamodb.Table("studentData")
      ...
      # Scan the table to retrieve all items
      response = table.scan()
      data = response['Items']
      ...
      # If there are more items to scan, continue scanning until all items are retrieved
      while 'LastEvaluatedKey' in response:
        response = table.scan(ExclusiveStartKey=response['LastEvaluatedKey'])
        data.extend(response['Items'])
      ...
      # Return the retrieved data
      return data

DEPLOY
  Deploy (Ctrl+Shift+U)
  Test (Ctrl+Shift+I)

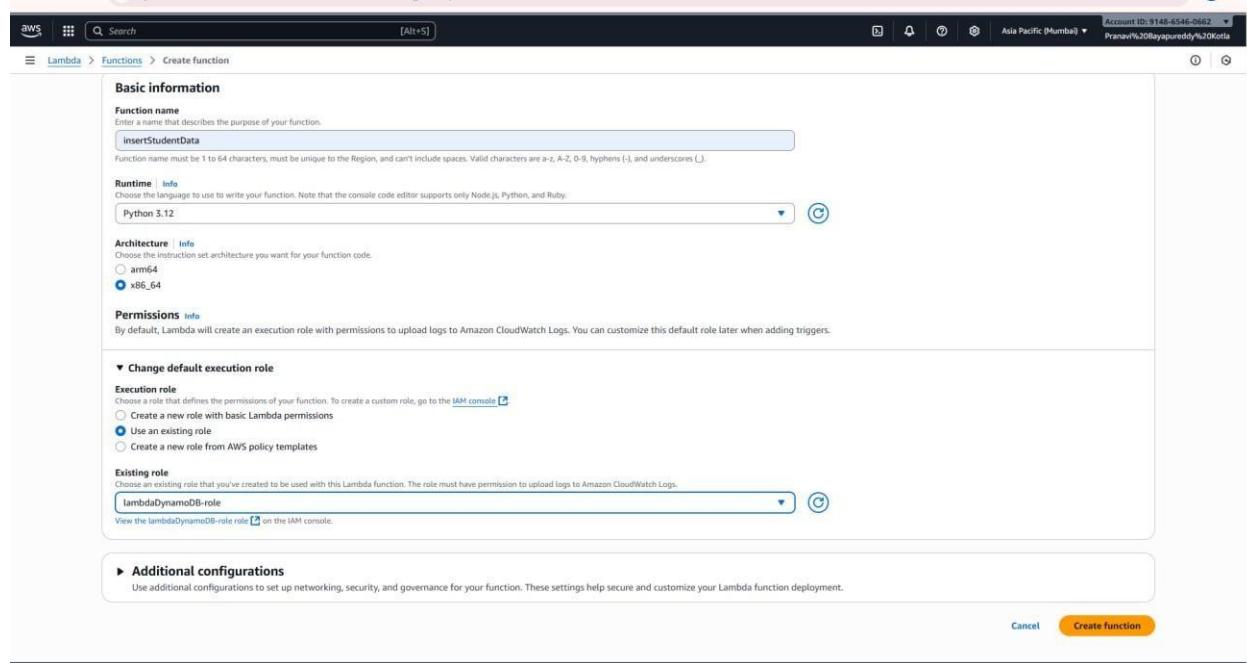
TEST EVENTS [SELECTED: ...]
  + Create new test...
  - Private saved ev...
  mytest

PROBLEMS OUTPUT CODE REFERENCE LOG TERMINAL Tasks

```

3.Create Lambda Function for Inserting Data (POST)

- Create another function named insertStudentData.
- Use the same runtime (**Python 3.12**) and role as before.



- Write Python code to parse the input JSON (Studentid, Name, Class, Age) and insert it into DynamoDB using `put_item()`.
- Deploy and test using a JSON test event to verify that data is stored correctly
- Validate the record in DynamoDB using **Explore Table Items**

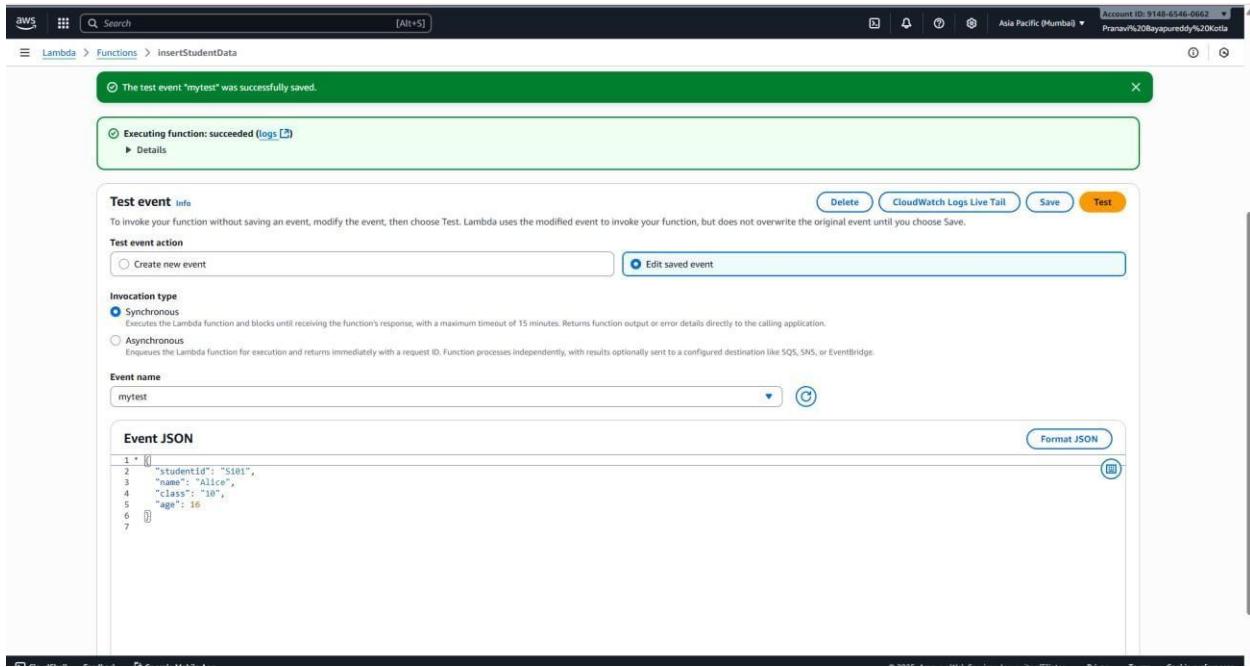
The screenshot shows the AWS Lambda function editor interface. The top bar displays the account ID (9148-6546-0662), region (Asia Pacific (Mumbai)), and user (Pranav%20Bayapureddy%20Kotla). The left sidebar shows the project structure under 'EXPLORER' with 'lambda_function.py' selected. The main area shows the Python code for the lambda function:

```
lambda_function.py
1 import json
2 import boto3
3
4 # Create a DynamoDB object using the AWS SDK
5 dynamodb = boto3.resource('dynamodb')
6 # Use the DynamoDB object to select our table
7 table = dynamodb.Table('studentData')
8
9 # Define the handler function that the Lambda service will use as an entry point
10 def lambda_handler(event, context):
11     # Extract values from the event object we got from the Lambda service and store in variables
12     student_id = event['studentid']
13     name = event['name']
14     student_class = event['class']
15     age = event['age']
16
17     # Write student data to the DynamoDB table and save the response in a variable
18     response = table.put_item(
19         Item={
20             'studentid': student_id,
21             'name': name,
22             'class': student_class,
23             'age': age
24         }
25     )
26
27     # Return a properly formatted JSON object
28     return {
29         'statusCode': 200,
30         'body': json.dumps('Student data saved successfully!')
31     }
```

The code uses the AWS SDK for Python (Boto3) to interact with a DynamoDB table named 'studentData'. It defines a handler function 'lambda_handler' that takes an event and context as input. The event contains student information: studentid, name, class, and age. The function then inserts this data into the DynamoDB table and returns a success response with a status code of 200 and a JSON body indicating the data was saved successfully.

4. Test Lambda Function:

- The insertStudentData function was tested directly in the Lambda console.
- A test event named mytest was configured with sample JSON data for a student.



- The test executed successfully, returning a statusCode: 200 and a success message.

A screenshot of the VS Code terminal. The tabs at the top are PROBLEMS, OUTPUT, CODE REFERENCE LOG, TERMINAL, and EXECUTION RESULTS (which is currently active). The terminal output shows:

```
Status: Succeeded
Test Event Name: mytest

Response:
{
  "statusCode": 200,
  "body": "\n    Student data saved successfully!\n"
}

Function Logs:
START RequestId: b624bc76-f2c3-45f4-b5cc-a40c1a8fc4c4 Version: $LATEST
END RequestId: b624bc76-f2c3-45f4-b5cc-a40c1a8fc4c4
REPORT RequestId: b624bc76-f2c3-45f4-b5cc-a40c1a8fc4c4 Duration: 28.69 ms Billed Duration: 29 ms Memory Size: 128 MB Max Memory Used: 87 MB

Request ID: b624bc76-f2c3-45f4-b5cc-a40c1a8fc4c4
```

- The successful insertion was verified by going to DynamoDB > Explore items
> studentData. The new record was visible in the table

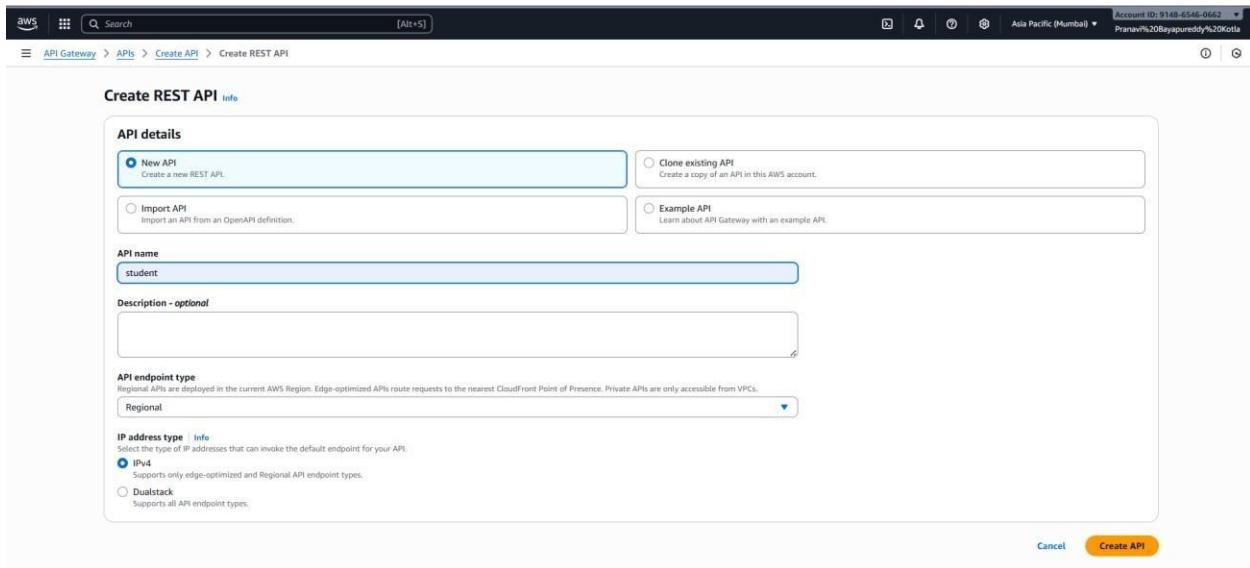
The screenshot shows the AWS DynamoDB console with the 'studentData' table selected. The table has five items with the following data:

| studentid | age | class | name |
|-----------|-----|-------|---------|
| 2 | 20 | b | prudhvi |
| 1 | 20 | 10 | Aneela |
| S101 | 16 | 10 | Alice |
| 12 | 21 | 14 | pran |
| 10 | 19 | 12 | pranavi |

Part 2: Application and Presentation Tiers (API Gateway & S3):-

1.Create API Gateway

- Navigate to API Gateway in the AWS Console.
- Click Create API → REST API → New API.
- Name it student and choose Edge-Optimized endpoint type for global access.



2.Create API Methods

- Add a **GET** method and integrate it with the `getStudent` Lambda function.
- Add a **POST** method and integrate it with the `insertStudentData` Lambda function.
- Test both methods using the **Test** option in API Gateway to confirm successful responses.

API Gateway

Resources

Resource details

Path: /

Resource ID: n4vikknnic

Methods (3)

| Method type | Integration type | Authorization | API key |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| GET | Lambda | None | Not required |
| OPTIONS | Mock | None | Not required |
| POST | Lambda | None | Not required |

3. Deploy API & Configure CORS

- The API was deployed to a New Stage named prod.
- This generated the public Invoke URL(<https://6l3dcnvdaa.executeapi.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/prod>)

API Gateway

Stages

Stage details

Stage name: prod

Rate info: 10000

Burst info: 5000

Web ACL: Client certificate

Invoke URL: <https://6l3dcnvdaa.execute-api.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/prod>

Logs and tracing

CloudWatch logs: Inactive

X-Ray tracing: Inactive

Detailed metrics: Inactive

Data tracing: Inactive

Custom access logging

Stage variables

Deployment history | Documentation history | Canary | Tags

Stage variables (0/0)

CORS (Cross-Origin Resource Sharing) was enabled for the API to allow the S3 website (on a different domain) to make requests. This automatically set up an OPTIONS method and added the necessary Access-Control-AllowOrigin: * headers.

The screenshot shows the 'Enable CORS' configuration page for an API. It includes sections for 'Gateway responses' (with options for Default 4XX and Default 5XX), 'Access-Control-Allow-Methods' (with checkboxes for GET, OPTIONS, and POST, all of which are checked), 'Access-Control-Allow-Headers' (containing 'Content-Type,X-Amz-Date,Authorization,X-Api-Key,X-Amz-Security-Token'), and 'Access-Control-Allow-Origin' (with a field containing a wildcard '*'). There is also an 'Additional settings' link and a 'Save' button at the bottom right.

4. Configure S3 Bucket for Website Hosting

- An S3 bucket named devopsmasterbucket-2025 was created in the apsouth-1 region.

The screenshot shows the 'Create bucket' configuration page. It includes sections for 'General configuration' (AWS Region: Asia Pacific (Mumbai) ap-south-1, Bucket type: General purpose, selected), 'Bucket name' (devopsmasterbucket-2025), 'Copy settings from existing bucket - optional' (Choose bucket), 'Object Ownership' (Object Ownership: ACLs disabled (recommended)), and 'Block Public Access settings for this bucket' (Block public access: Off). There are also tabs for 'Info', 'Info', 'Info', and 'Info'.

- The frontend files (scripts.js, index.html) were uploaded to the bucket.

The screenshot shows the AWS S3 'Upload' interface. At the top, the path is 'Amazon S3 > Buckets > devopsmasterbucket-2025 > Upload'. The 'Upload' tab is selected. In the main area, there's a large text input field with the placeholder 'Drag and drop files and folders you want to upload here, or choose Add files or Add folder.' Below it, a table lists the files: 'index.html' (text/html, 3.3 KB) and 'scripts.js' (text/javascript, 1.6 KB). To the right of the table are 'Remove', 'Add files', and 'Add folder' buttons. Below the table, the 'Destination info' section shows the destination as 's3://devopsmasterbucket-2025'. It includes sections for 'Destination details' (Bucket settings) and 'Permissions' (Grant public access and access to other AWS accounts). The 'Properties' section is collapsed. At the bottom right are 'Cancel' and 'Upload' buttons.

- The scripts.js file was edited to include the API Gateway Invoke URL in the API_ENDPOINT variable.

The screenshot shows the AWS Lambda Function Editor for the function 'AWS-SERVERLESS-DEPLOYMENT-main'. The code editor displays the 'scripts.js' file. The code includes the following snippet:

```

1 // Add your API endpoint here
2 var API_ENDPOINT = "https://613dcnvdaa.execute-api.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/prod";
3
4 // AJAX POST request to save student data
5 document.getElementById("savestudent").onclick = function(){
6   var inputData = {
7     "studentId": $("#studentId").val(),
8     "name": $("#name").val(),
9     "class": $("#class").val(),
10    "age": $("#age").val()
11  };
12  $.ajax({
13    url: API_ENDPOINT,
14    type: "POST",
15    data: JSON.stringify(inputData),
16    contentType: "application/json; charset=utf-8",
17    success: function (response) {
18      document.getElementById("studentSaved").innerHTML = "Student Data Saved!";
19    },
20    error: function () {
21      alert("Error saving student data.");
22    }
23  });
24}
25
26 // AJAX GET request to retrieve all students
27 document.getElementById("getstudents").onclick = function(){
28  $.ajax({
29    url: API_ENDPOINT,
30    type: "GET",
31    dataType: "application/json; charset=utf-8",
32    success: function (response) {
33      $('#studentTable tr').slice(1).remove();
34      jQuery.each(response, function(i, data) {
35        $('#studentTable').append("<tr> \
36          <td>" + data['studentId'] + "</td> \
37          <td>" + data['name'] + "</td> \
38          <td>" + data['class'] + "</td> \
39          <td>" + data['age'] + "</td> \
40        </tr>");
41      });
42    },
43    error: function () {
44      alert("Error retrieving student data.");
45    }
46  });
47}
48

```

The code defines two functions: one for saving student data via POST to the API endpoint, and another for retrieving all students via GET from the same endpoint. The API endpoint is set to 'https://613dcnvdaa.execute-api.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/prod'.

- Static website hosting was enabled on the bucket, with index.html as the index document.

Edit static website hosting [Info](#)

Static website hosting
Use this bucket to host a website or redirect requests. [Learn more](#)

Static website hosting
 Disable
 Enable

Hosting type
 Host a static website
Use the bucket endpoint as the web address. [Learn more](#)
 Redirect requests for an object
Redirect requests to another bucket or domain. [Learn more](#)

Public Access For your customers to access content at the website endpoint, you must make all your content publicly readable. To do so, you can edit the S3 Block Public Access settings for the bucket. For more information, see [Using Amazon S3 Block Public Access](#)

Index document
Specify the home or default page of the website.

Error document - optional
This is returned when an error occurs.

Redirection rules - optional
Redirection rules, written in JSON, automatically redirect webpage requests for specific content. [Learn more](#)

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | |
|---|--|

- A public bucket policy was generated (using the AWS Policy Generator) and applied to the bucket to allow s3:GetObject actions from any principal ("Principal": "*").

Type of Policy
S3 Bucket Policy

Step 2: Add statement(s)
A statement is the formal description of a single permission. See [a description of elements](#) that you can use in statements.

Effect
 Allow
 Deny

Principal

Actions
 All Actions (*)
~Select Actions~

Amazon Resource Name (ARN)
 All Resources (*)

ARN should follow the following format: arn:aws:s3:::\${BucketName}/\${KeyName}. Use a comma to separate multiple values.

► Add conditions (optional)

Step 3: Generate policy

The screenshot shows the AWS S3 'Edit bucket policy' interface. The policy document is as follows:

```
1 Version: "2012-10-17",
2 Statement: [
3     {
4         "Sid": "Statement1",
5         "Effect": "Allow",
6         "Principal": "*",
7         "Action": "s3:GetObject",
8         "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::devopsmasterbucket-2025/*"
9     }
10 ]
11
12 }
```

On the right side of the screen, there is a sidebar with options for 'Edit statement', 'Remove', 'Add actions', and a search bar for 'Choose a service'.

5. Test Final Website (S3 URL):

- The S3 website endpoint URL was opened in a browser.
- The "View all Students" button successfully fetched and displayed the initial test data.
- A new student ("Jahnavi") was added via the form, which successfully saved and updated the table on the page.

New Tab | index.html - Object in S3 bucket | Student Data | +

devopsmasterbucket-2025.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/index.html?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Content-Sha256=UNSIGNED-PAYOUT&X-Amz-Credential=ASIA5KAR3CW3CE...

Save and View Student Data

Student ID:

Name:

Class:

Age:

Save Student Data

Student Data Saved!

View all Students

| Student ID | Name | Class | Age |
|------------|---------|-------|-----|
| 2 | prudhvi | b | 20 |
| 1 | Aneela | 10 | 20 |
| 5 | Jahnavi | 8 | 11 |
| S101 | Alice | 10 | 16 |
| 12 | pran | 14 | 21 |
| 10 | pranavi | 12 | 19 |

DB Table Result:

aws | Search | [Alt+S]

DynamoDB > Explore items > studentData

Account ID: 9148-6546-0662 | Asia Pacific (Mumbai) | Pranav%20Bajepureddy%20Kotla

DynamoDB

- Dashboard
- Tables
- Explore items**
- PartQL editor
- Backups
- Exports to S3
- Imports from S3
- Integrations
- Reserved capacity
- Settings

DAX

- Clusters
- Subnet groups
- Parameter groups
- Events

Tables (1)

studentData

Scan or query items

studentData

Completed - Items returned: 6 · Items scanned: 6 · Efficiency: 100% · RCU consumed: 2

Table: studentData - Items returned (6)

Scan started on November 06, 2025, 20:49:25

| | studentid (String) | age | class | name |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----|-------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 20 | b | prudhvi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | 20 | 10 | Aneela |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 11 | 8 | Jahnavi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | S101 | 16 | 10 | Alice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 21 | 14 | pran |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | 19 | 12 | pranavi |

Part 3: (Enhancement) Securing with CloudFront

1. Create CloudFront Distribution:

- A CloudFront distribution (aws-three-tier) was created.
- The Origin domain was set to the S3 bucket's static website endpoint (<http://devopsmasterbucket-2025.s3-website.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com>).

The screenshot shows the AWS CloudFront Distribution Details page for a distribution named "urban-noise-mumbai".
General tab details:

- Name: urban-noise-mumbai
- Distribution domain name: d17947qcfcz18.cloudfront.net
- ARN: arn:aws:cloudfront:914865460662:distribution/E2PNJ1JB529F3
- Last modified: November 4, 2025 at 6:44:46 AM UTC

Settings tab details:

- Description: -
- Alternate domain names: Add domain
- Price class: Use all edge locations (best performance)
- Supported HTTP versions: HTTP/2, HTTP/1.1, HTTP/1.0
- Standard logging: Off
- Cookie logging: Off
- Default root object: index.html

Continuous deployment info: Create staging distribution

2. Secure S3 Bucket:

- To ensure users only access the site via CloudFront, Origin access control settings (OAC) was configured.
- This generated a new S3 bucket policy that only allows s3:GetObject from the CloudFront service principal.
- The previous public bucket policy was replaced with this new, more secure policy. o Block public access (bucket settings) was then turned On for the S3 bucket.

Block public access and Update new bucket policy:

```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Sid": "Statement1",
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Principal": "*",
      "Action": "s3:GetObject",
      "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::devopsmasterbucket-2025/*"
    }
  ]
}
```

3. Final Secure URL:

The final, secure, and globally distributed URL for the application is

<https://devopsmasterbucket-2025.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/index.html>

ADVANTAGES:

- No need to manage servers — AWS handles everything automatically.
- Very cost-efficient because you only pay for what you use.
- Automatically scales when more users access the application.
- Easy to deploy and update since all components are serverless.

LIMITATIONS:

- Lambda functions may have a short delay during the first run (cold start).
- Limited execution time for AWS Lambda functions.
- Requires an active internet connection to access AWS services.
- Debugging and error tracking can be more difficult than traditional servers.

FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS:

- Add user login and authentication using **Amazon Cognito**.
- Include update and delete options for complete data management.
- Integrate **AWS CloudWatch** for monitoring and performance tracking. Use **AWS Amplify** for automated deployment and hosting.

CONCLUSION:

This project successfully demonstrates the development and deployment of a **serverless web application** using various **AWS cloud services** such as **Lambda, API Gateway, DynamoDB, S3, and CloudFront**. The application manages student data efficiently and allows users to add and view information through a simple web interface. By using a **serverless architecture**, the project removes the need for setting up or maintaining any physical servers. All infrastructure tasks such as scaling, security, and resource management are handled automatically by AWS. This results in **lower costs, faster performance, and easier maintenance**.

The use of **AWS Lambda** for backend logic and **DynamoDB** for data storage ensures that the system can handle multiple requests simultaneously without any downtime. **API Gateway** helps connect the frontend and backend securely, while **S3** and **CloudFront** provide a fast and safe way to host and access the website globally. Overall, this project proves that **serverless computing** is an ideal solution for modern applications. It provides **flexibility, scalability, and cost efficiency**, making it suitable for real-world use in both small and large-scale systems. This project also gives practical experience in integrating multiple AWS services to build a complete, fully functional web-based system.