EC2 Linux Instance (server) Provisioning on AWS – Step-by-Step Guide

- Prplevamp20

Overview

Amazon EC2 (Elastic Compute Cloud) allows you to launch virtual servers in the cloud, known as instances. This guide will walk you through creating your first EC2 instance, connecting to it, and cleaning up when you're done. These steps are beginner-friendly and help you understand the basics of cloud computing with AWS.

Prerequisites

Before starting, ensure you have the following:

1. **AWS Account**: Sign up at aws.amazon.com if you don't have one.
2. **Basic Computer Knowledge**: Familiarity with using a web browser and basic computer operations.
3. **SSH Client or RDP Tool**: For connecting to your instance:
    1. For Linux instances: Use an SSH client (e.g., PuTTY or terminal).
    2. For Windows instances: Use a Remote Desktop client.
4. **Free Tier Access**: Check that your AWS account is eligible for the Free Tier to avoid charges.

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Step 1: Start your Instance

An instance is like a virtual computer that runs in the cloud. Follow these steps to launch one:

1. **Go to the Console**: Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. **Choose a Region**: At the top, select a Region (choose the one closest to you for better performance).
3. **Launch the Instance**:
    1. On the EC2 dashboard, click **Launch Instance**.
    2. Fill in the details:
        1. **Name**: Give your instance a name (e.g., "My First Instance").
        2. **Application and OS**: Select an operating system. For beginners, choose "Amazon Linux."
        3. **Instance Type**: Select t2.micro (Free Tier eligible).
        4. **Key Pair**: Create or select a key pair. This is needed to log in securely.
        5. **Network Settings**: Use the default settings for now.
4. **Launch**: Click **Launch Instance** and confirm.

After launching, the instance's status will show as **Pending**. Wait until it changes to **Running** and passes the status checks.

Step 2: Connect to Your Instance

Once the instance is running, connect to it to use it:

2. **For Linux Instances**:

    3. Open a terminal or SSH client.
    4. Use the key pair file to securely log in. Example command:

        ssh -i "your-key.pem" ec2-user@<public-IP>

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Step 3: Clean Up Your Instance

After completing your tasks, terminate the instance to avoid charges:

1. **Terminate**:
    1. Open the EC2 console.
    2. Select your instance, click **Instance State**, and choose **Terminate Instance**.
    3. Confirm the termination.
2. **Note**: Once terminated, you can't reconnect to the instance.

If you want to pause charges but keep the instance for later, you can stop it instead of terminating it.

Once the instance is running, connect to it to use it:

Next Steps

Now that you've launched, connected, and cleaned up your first instance, explore more AWS EC2 features. Try adding storage, adjusting network settings, or experimenting with other instance types to deepen your knowledge.

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Task Execution Screenshots