

ASSIGNMENT 2

Cloud Project & Video Explainer



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Student and Project Information

Name: Rohit Kumar MalikStudent ID: 35363998

Public IP Address: 13.60.189.141
Domain Name: rohitwebsite.com

• VideoAddress: https://rohitwebsite.com/videos/Assignment%20Video%20Explanatio

n.mp4

Project Overview

For this project, I wanted to build something meaningful and practical, not just for the sake of the assignment, but as something I could actually use or build upon later in my degree. I decided to create a website called **Student Portfolio Hub**, a platform where students like myself can showcase their skills and academic projects, while also giving potential employers a way to browse through portfolios and discover fresh talent.

To host this site, I used **Amazon EC2**, which fits the IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service) requirement. I set up a virtual machine running **Ubuntu**, installed and configured **Apache** as the web server. I also bought a domain — rohitwebsite.com — to give the website a more polished and professional feel, and I secured it using a free SSL certificate from **Let's Encrypt**.

The entire server setup was done manually so I could understand each step of the process, from launching the VM to configuring DNS records and handling permissions for file uploads. On top of that, I customized the website design using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, and added interactive features like a contact form and a video section. A five-minute video is also embedded in the site to explain my work and thought process.

Overall, this project helped me put my learning into action. I've not only built a secure, working server from scratch, but I also gained valuable experience in deployment, documentation, and presenting my work in a real-world context.

Cloud Server Setup

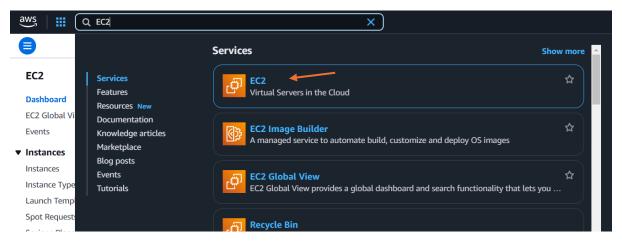
Cloud Service Provider (CSP): Amazon Web Services (AWS)

I chose Amazon Web Services (AWS) mainly because it's user-friendly and offers a free tier, which was perfect for trying out cloud hosting without worrying about extra costs. AWS is widely used in the industry, so learning how to use it felt like a smart move for building real-world skills. It is also flexible and I could configure everything manually and had full control over the server. The setup process was straightforward and easy to understand.

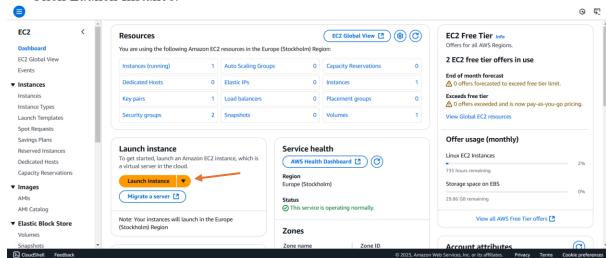
Launching the EC2 Instance

I used the AWS Management Console to launch a new EC2 instance. I selected **Ubuntu 20.04 LTS** as the Amazon Machine Image and the **t2.micro** instance type (which is eligible under the free tier).

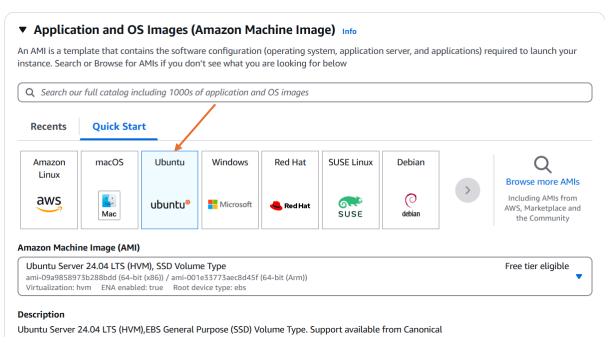
• Logging into AWS Management Console and search for EC2.



• Click Launch Instance.



- Select t3.micro Instance Type.
- Select Ubuntu for the Amazon Machine Image (AMI)



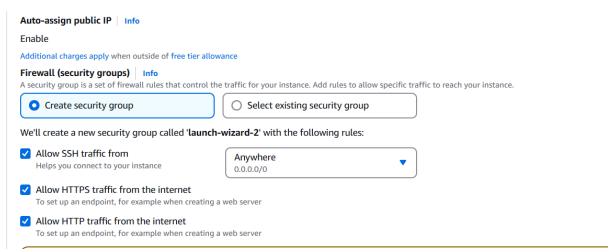
- **Key Pair Generation**: Create a **key pair** in AWS for securely connect to the instance via **SSH**.
- ▼ Key pair (login) Info

 You can use a key pair to securely connect to your instance. Ensure that you have access to the selected key pair before you launch the instance.

 Key pair name required

 Select

 Create new key pair
- Security Groups Configuration: In security groups select these ports to allow inbound traffic on port 22 for SSH (remote login) and port 80 for HTTP (web traffic) and port443 for HTTPS.



• Then click on review and launch.

SSH Access/ Installing and configurating the web server

• Installing Apache Web Server.

```
*** System restart required ***
Last login: Mon Apr 7 09:23:29 2025 from 92.97.179.100
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y
Hit:1 http://eu-north-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble InRelease
Get:2 http://eu-north-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-updates InRelease [1
26 kB]
Hit:3 http://eu-north-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-backports InRelease
Hit:4 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-security InRelease
Get:5 http://eu-north-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-updates/main amd64 |
ackages [989 kB]
Get:6 http://eu-north-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-updates/universe amd
64 Packages [1051 kB]
Fetched 2166 kB in 1s (3120 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
9 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
Calculating upgrade... Done
The following packages will be upgraded:
 apache2 apache2-bin apache2-data apache2-utils vim vim-common vim-runtime
 vim-tiny xxd
```

sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y

-- This updates the package list and installs any available updates to keep the system secure and up-to-date.

```
Restarting the system to load the new kernel will not be handled automatically,
so you should consider rebooting.
Restarting services...
Service restarts being deferred:
/etc/needrestart/restart.d/dbus.service
systemctl restart networkd-dispatcher.service
systemctl restart systemd-logind.service
systemctl restart unattended-upgrades.service
No containers need to be restarted.
No user sessions are running outdated binaries.
No VM guests are running outdated hypervisor (qemu) binaries on this host.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo apt install apache2 -y
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
apache2 is already the newest version (2.4.58-1ubuntu8.6).
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$
```

sudo apt install apache2 -y

--Installs the Apache web server so I can serve my website files online.

```
Restarting services...
Service restarts being deferred:
/etc/needrestart/restart.d/dbus.service
systemctl restart networkd-dispatcher.service
systemctl restart systemd-logind.service
systemctl restart unattended-upgrades.service
No containers need to be restarted.
No user sessions are running outdated binaries.
No VM guests are running outdated hypervisor (qemu) binaries on this host.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo apt install apache2 -y
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
apache2 is already the newest version (2.4.58-1ubuntu8.6).
upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl enable apache2
Synchronizing state of apache2.service with SysV service script with /usr/lib/sy
stemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$
```

sudo systemctl enable apache2

-- Ensures Apache starts automatically whenever the server is rebooted.

```
Service restarts being deferred:
 /etc/needrestart/restart.d/dbus.service
systemctl restart networkd-dispatcher.service
 systemctl restart systemd-logind.service
 systemctl restart unattended-upgrades.service
No containers need to be restarted.
No user sessions are running outdated binaries.
No VM guests are running outdated hypervisor (qemu) binaries on this host.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo apt install apache2 -y
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
apache2 is already the newest version (2.4.58-1ubuntu8.6).
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl enable apache2
Synchronizing state of apache2.service with SysV service script with /usr/lib/sy
stemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl start apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$
```

sudo systemctl start apache2

--Starts the Apache service so the website becomes accessible immediately.

• Firewall (UFW) Configuration

```
systemctl restart networkd-dispatcher.service
systemctl restart systemd-logind.service
systemctl restart unattended-upgrades.service
No containers need to be restarted.
No user sessions are running outdated binaries.
No VM guests are running outdated hypervisor (qemu) binaries on this host.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo apt install apache2 -y
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
apache2 is already the newest version (2.4.58-1ubuntu8.6).
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl enable apache2
Synchronizing state of apache2.service with SysV service script with /usr/lib/sy
stemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl start apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow ssh
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$
```

sudo ufw allow ssh

--Opens port 22 so I can continue accessing the server via SSH.

```
No containers need to be restarted.
No user sessions are running outdated binaries.
No VM guests are running outdated hypervisor (qemu) binaries on this host.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo apt install apache2 -y
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
apache2 is already the newest version (2.4.58-1ubuntu8.6).
O upgraded, O newly installed, O to remove and O not upgraded.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl enable apache2
Synchronizing state of apache2.service with SysV service script with /usr/lib/sy
stemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl start apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow ssh
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow 'Apache Full'
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$
```

sudo ufw allow 'Apache Full'

--Allows web traffic (HTTP and HTTPS) through the firewall for the website.

```
No user sessions are running outdated binaries.
No VM guests are running outdated hypervisor (qemu) binaries on this host.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo apt install apache2 -y
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
apache2 is already the newest version (2.4.58-1ubuntu8.6).
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded. ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl enable apache2
Synchronizing state of apache2.service with SysV service script with /usr/lib/sy
stemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl start apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow ssh
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow 'Apache Full'
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw enable
Command may disrupt existing ssh connections. Proceed with operation (y|n)? y
Firewall is active and enabled on system startup
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$
```

sudo ufw enable

--Activates the firewall with the rules I've set up.

```
Synchronizing state of apache2.service with SysV service script with /usr/lib/sy
stemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl start apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow ssh
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow 'Apache Full'
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw enable
Command may disrupt existing ssh connections. Proceed with operation (y|n)? y
Firewall is active and enabled on system startup
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw status
Status: active
То
                           Action
                                       From
Apache Full
                           ALLOW
                                       Anywhere
22/tcp
                           ALLOW
                                       Anywhere
Apache Full (v6)
                           ALLOW
                                       Anywhere (v6)
                                       Anywhere (v6)
                           ALLOW
22/tcp (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$
```

sudo ufw status

--Lets me double-check which services are currently allowed through the firewall.

```
stemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl start apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow ssh
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow 'Apache Full'
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw enable
Command may disrupt existing ssh connections. Proceed with operation (y|n)? y
Firewall is active and enabled on system startup
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw status
Status: active
То
                           Action
                                       From
                           ALLOW
                                       Anywhere
Apache Full
                           ALLOW
22/tcp
                                       Anywhere
Apache Full (v6)
                           ALLOW
                                       Anywhere (v6)
                           ALLOW
22/tcp (v6)
                                       Anywhere (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo chown -R ubuntu:ubuntu /var/www/html
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$
```

sudo chown -R ubuntu:ubuntu /var/www/html

--Changes ownership of the website folder so I can upload files without getting permission errors.

• Restart Apache After Uploading Files

```
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl start apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow ssh
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw allow 'Apache Full'
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw enable
Command may disrupt existing ssh connections. Proceed with operation (y|n)? y
Firewall is active and enabled on system startup
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo ufw status
Status: active
То
                             Action
                                          From
Apache Full
                             ALLOW
                                          Anywhere
22/tcp
                             ALLOW
                                          Anywhere
Apache Full (v6)
                             ALLOW
                                          Anywhere (v6)
22/tcp (v6)
                             ALLOW
                                          Anywhere (v6)
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo chown -R ubuntu:ubuntu /var/www/html ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo systemctl restart apache2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$
```

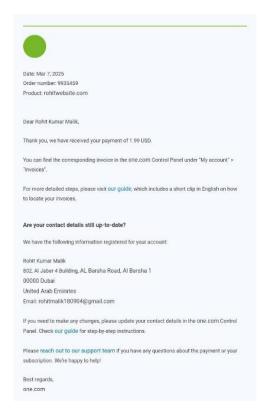
sudo systemctl restart apache2

--Restarts the Apache server so any changes to the website files take effect right away.

Domain and DNS Configuration

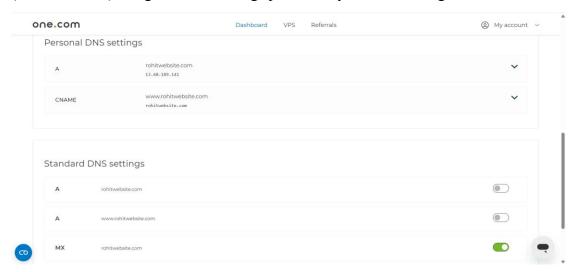
Domain Purchase

I purchased the domain **rohitwebsite.com** from **one.com** for \$1.99. This gives me full control of DNS settings.



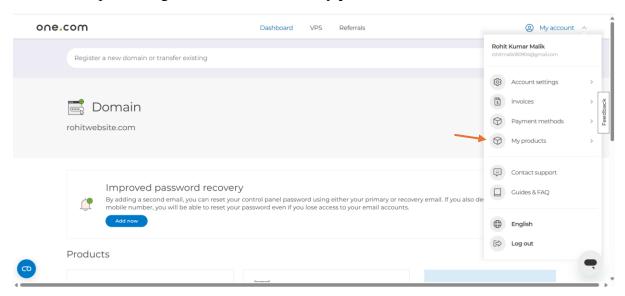
DNS Record Setup

I pointed an A, CNAME and NS record from rohitwebsite.com to my EC2 public IP (13.60.189.141) using the DNS settings provided by the domain registrar.

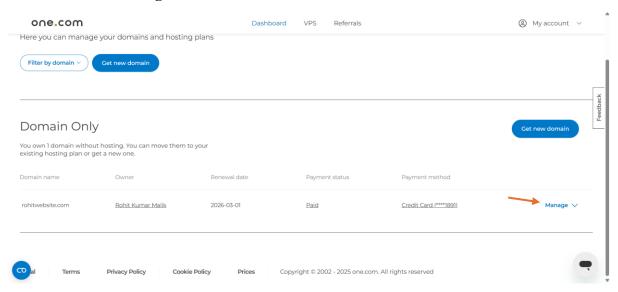


To begin with, I set up the DNS Records using the following steps:

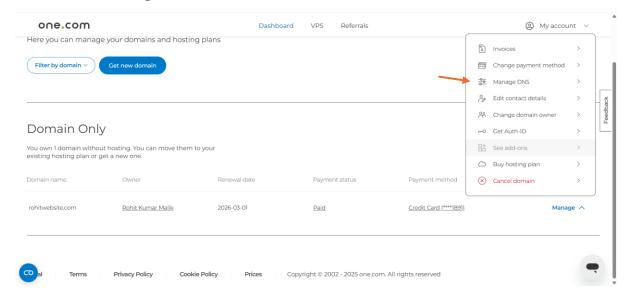
• After purchasing the domain. Click on **My products**.



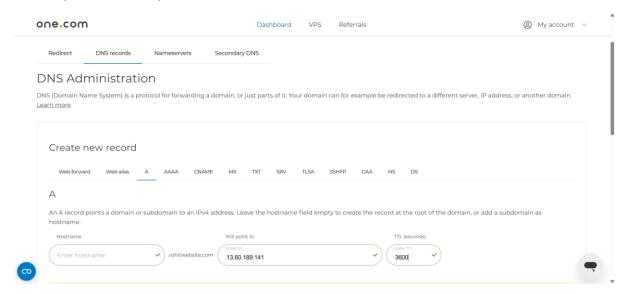
• Click on Manage.



• Then, Manage DNS.



• In DNS records, create A, CNAME, and NS records using my EC2 public IP (13.60.189.141).



SSL Certificate via Let's Encrypt

After verifying my domain, I successfully enabled HTTPS. Certbot also configured redirection from HTTP to HTTPS automatically.

```
0 updates can be applied immediately.
Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status
*** System restart required ***
Last login: Tue Apr 8 03:51:34 2025 from 92.97.179.100 ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ ^[[200~sudo systemctl restart apache2
sudo: command not found
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ ~sudo systemctl restart apache2
Command '~sudo' not found, did you mean:
 command 'sudo' from deb sudo (1.9.14p2-1ubuntu1)
 command 'sudo' from deb sudo-ldap (1.9.14p2-1ubuntu1)
Try: sudo apt install <deb name>
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo apt install certbot python3-certbot-apache -y
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
certbot is already the newest version (2.9.0-1).
python3-certbot-apache is already the newest version (2.9.0-1).
O upgraded, O newly installed, O to remove and O not upgraded.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$
```

sudo apt install certbot python3-certbot-apache -y

-- This installs Certbot along with the Apache plugin so I can automatically get and configure an SSL certificate.

```
python3-certbot-apache is already the newest version (2.9.0-1).
upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
ubuntu@ip-172-31-45-71:~$ sudo certbot --apache
Saving debug log to /var/log/letsencrypt/letsencrypt.log
Which names would you like to activate HTTPS for?
We recommend selecting either all domains, or all domains in a VirtualHost/serve
r block.
1: rohitwebsite.com
Select the appropriate numbers separated by commas and/or spaces, or leave input
blank to select all options shown (Enter 'c' to cancel): 1
Certificate not yet due for renewal
You have an existing certificate that has exactly the same domains or certificat
e name you requested and isn't close to expiry.
(ref: /etc/letsencrypt/renewal/rohitwebsite.com.conf)
What would you like to do?
1: Attempt to reinstall this existing certificate

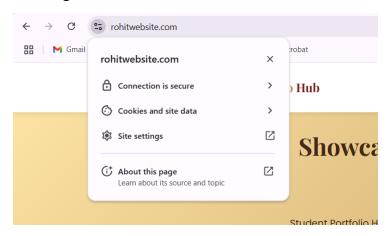
    Renew & replace the certificate (may be subject to CA rate limits)
```

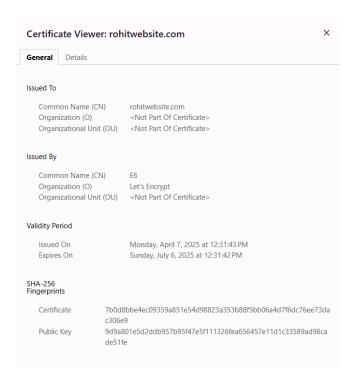
--This command starts the Certbot tool to set up SSL with Apache. During the process, it asks for my **email address** (Rohitmalik180904@gmail.com), the **domain name** I want to secure (**rohitwebsite.com**), and whether I want to redirect all HTTP traffic to HTTPS.

Note: I had already purchased and configured the SSL certificate earlier, so I'm just rerunning the command now to take screenshots for documentation. This didn't make any changes to my existing certificate, but it was useful for capturing the steps again.

Verify SSL Certificate:

Ensuring if the site is accessible via HTTPS.





Final Testing

To ensure the domain was linked correctly, I tested both:

• **Direct IP Access**: 13.60.189.141

• **Domain Access:** rohitwebsite.com

Both loaded the same website, confirming that the DNS linking was successful.

Website Features and Files

Project Purpose

The goal of my website (**Student Portfolio Hub**) is to bridge the gap between education and employment by giving students a space to showcase their academic and personal projects. It's designed to help university students present their skills in a clean, organized, and interactive way. At the same time, employers can explore student portfolios, making it easier to connect with talent based on real abilities instead of just resumes.

My inspiration came from platforms like LinkedIn, but I wanted to make something simpler and student focused. The entire layout, design, and written content were created by me. Every element, from the fonts and images to the sections like About, Offerings, and Video -was placed intentionally to make the website feel polished yet personal.

Technologies Used

The website is made using modern front-end technologies that I learned throughout the unit:

- HTML5: Used to structure all the content on the website including sections like About, Contact, and Video.
- CSS3: Responsible for the styling, layout, color palette, and responsive design. I used variables to maintain a consistent theme across all elements.
- **JavaScript**: Enhances user experience by controlling the mobile navigation menu, scroll-based section highlights, and form validation.
- Let's Encrypt SSL: Provides HTTPS security to ensure safe, encrypted access to the website.
- **Custom Fonts**: Google Fonts (Poppins and Playfair Display) were used for a modern and elegant look.
- **Responsive Design**: The layout automatically adjusts for desktops, tablets, and mobile devices using media queries.

File Breakdown

- index.html: This is the main webpage that contains the structure of all visible sections such as the header, about, offerings, video, and contact form.
- styles.css: This file handles the website's layout, color scheme (using my chosen palette), spacing, fonts, responsiveness, and button styling.
- script.js: Contains the JavaScript functionality that enables mobile menu toggling, highlights the current section while scrolling, validates contact form input, and provides user-friendly feedback messages.
- images/ and videos/: I included images for each section and a video explainer that walks through the server setup and features of the site.

JavaScript Script Explanation

To enhance the functionality and user experience of my website, I wrote a custom JavaScript file (script.js) that handles various dynamic features. One of the main tasks it performs is toggling the **mobile navigation menu**. When viewed on smaller screens, the menu collapses into a hamburger icon, which can be clicked to show or hide the links, a small feature, but important for usability.

Another interactive touch I added was **scroll-based navigation highlighting**. As the user scrolls, the navigation bar updates to show which section is currently being viewed, making the browsing experience more intuitive. I also implemented **smooth scrolling** for anchor links, so navigation feels natural.

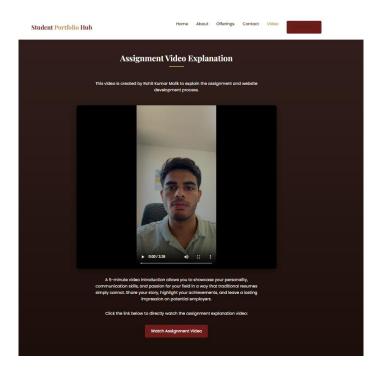
The most functional part of the script is the **contact form validation**. The script checks that all required fields are filled in before submission and gives immediate feedback using styled success or error messages. Lastly, there's also a **video fallback** that replaces the player with a placeholder if the video fails to load.

Video Explainer

To complement my written documentation, I recorded a short video (around five minutes) explaining how I set up my cloud server and deployed the website. It walks through key steps like launching the EC2 instance, linking the domain, installing Apache, and setting up SSL.

I also give a quick tour of the website and explain how I built it using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. The video includes screen recordings and my own voiceover, so it feels more natural and easier to follow — especially for someone trying to replicate the process.

Video link: https://rohitwebsite.com/videos/Assignment%20Video%20Explanation.mp4



GitHub Repository

As part of the assignment requirements, I created a GitHub repository to store and share my project files. This not only helps me stay organized but also showcases that I can use version control platforms effectively, which is a key industry skill. Below is a breakdown of what's included in the repository:

Repository Link:

https://github.com/RohitMalik7/student-portfolio-hub

The repository is public and fully accessible to view and download files.

Source Files

Includes the main files used to build the website: index.html, styles.css, and script.js. These represent the full front-end of the project.

Assignment Documentation (PDF)

I've uploaded the final PDF report that includes server setup, DNS configuration, SSL installation, and more. This is the core deliverable for assessment.

README.md File

A detailed README is included which gives a summary of the project, setup steps, and important links. It's helpful for anyone trying to understand or replicate the project.

Video Explainer Link

The repository also contains a direct link to the assignment video hosted on my server. It walks through the full deployment and explains each feature I built. The link can be found in the README.md file.

References

Amazon Web Services. (n.d.). *Amazon EC2 documentation*. AWS. https://docs.aws.amazon.com/ec2/

Apache Software Foundation. (n.d.). *Apache License, Version 2.0*. https://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0.html

Certbot. (n.d.). *Let's Encrypt - Free SSL/TLS Certificates*. Electronic Frontier Foundation. https://certbot.eff.org/

Free Software Foundation. (n.d.). *GNU General Public License v3.0*. https://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-3.0.html

Mozilla Developer Network. (n.d.). *Client-side form validation*. MDN Web Docs. https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Form validation

Google Fonts. (n.d.). Fonts. https://fonts.google.com/