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11-08-2025

Image Hosting and Website Setup with AWS S3

Create the bucket

Console: **S3 → Buckets → Create bucket**.

Bucket type: General purpose

Bucket name: type a globally unique name (e.g. my-Ateeb02).

Under Object Ownership: Keep ACLs disabled (recommended).

Block all public access → ON (it's default).

Leave versioning Disabled.

No tags.

Default encryption: SSE-S3 (default).

Leave all other options at their **default** values (do not enable any special options).

Click **Create bucket**.

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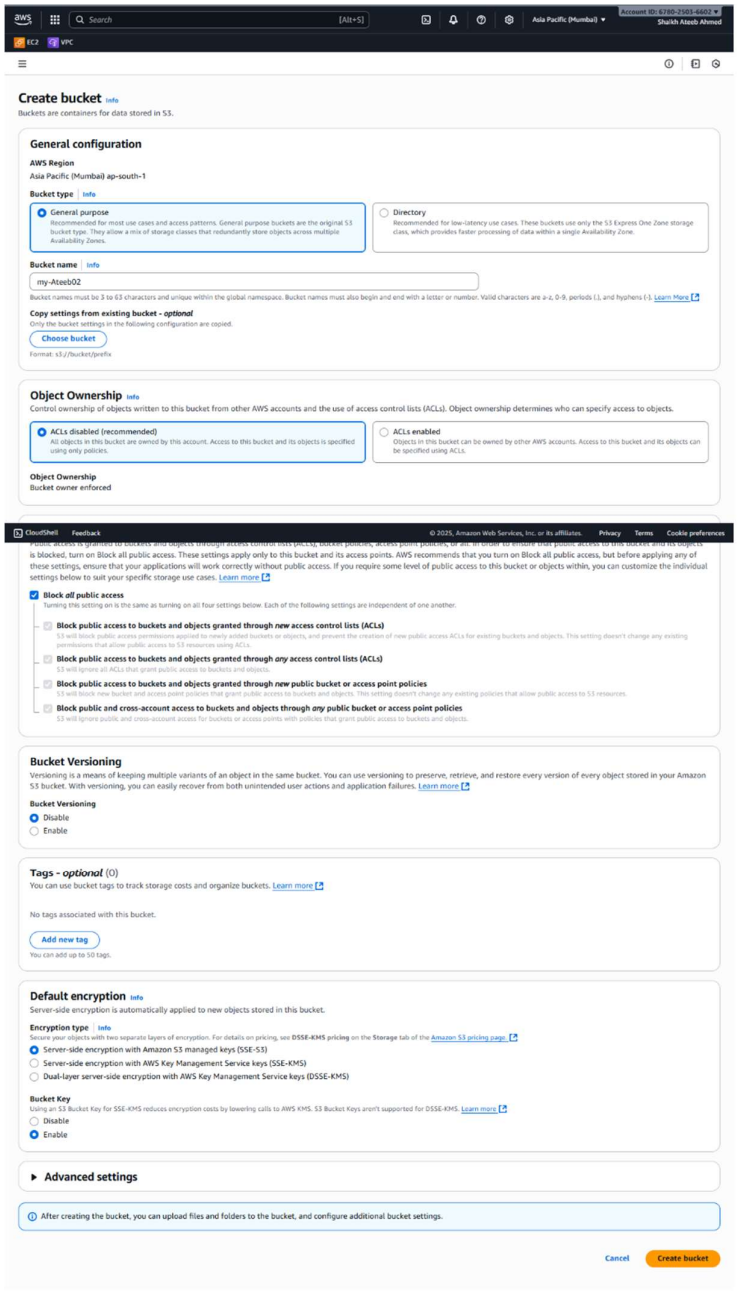

Upload an image

Click your newly created bucket in the bucket list.

Click **Upload → Add files** → select the image file from your machine → **Upload**.

After upload, click the uploaded object in the bucket list to view its **Overview**.

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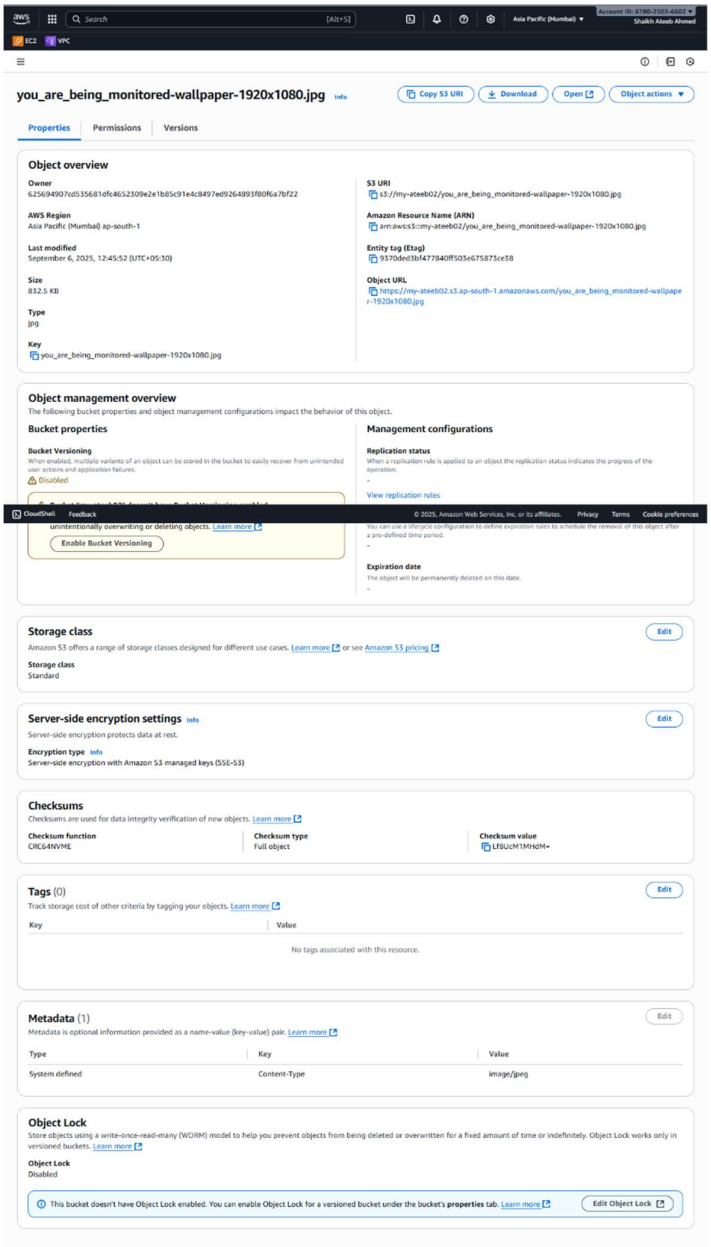
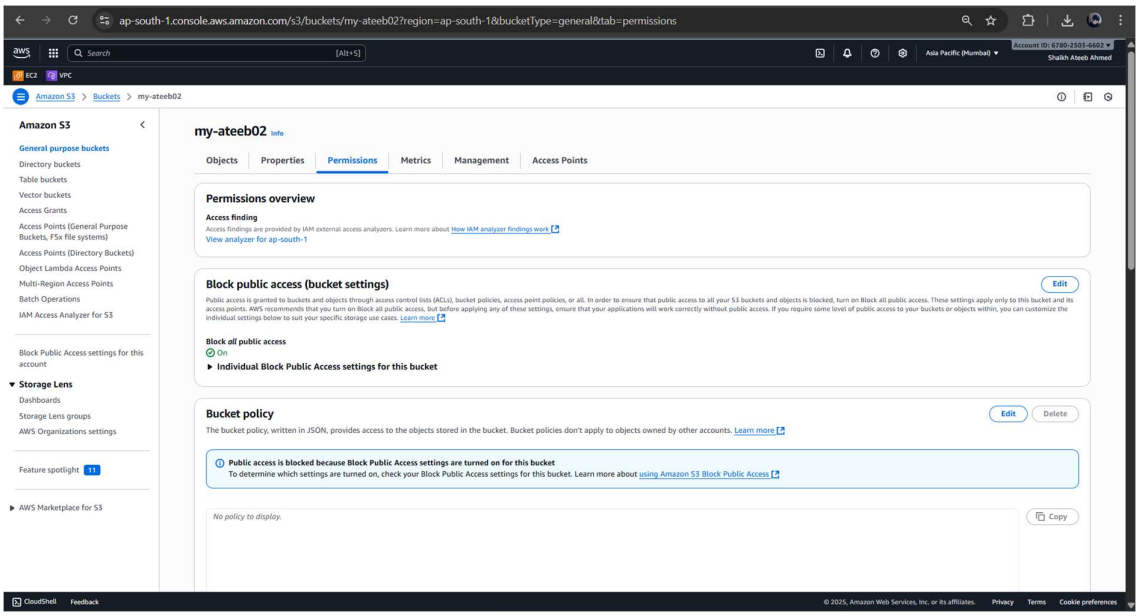


Copy or click **Object URL** (this is the S3 object link shown in the object overview). If the bucket is private (default), opening this URL in a browser will show **Access Denied**. (This is expected).

Turn off bucket Block Public Access (bucket-level)

AWS sets Block Public Access to prevent accidental public exposure. It can override bucket policies and object ACLs.

In the bucket page, open **Permissions → Block public access (bucket settings)**.



Click **Edit**.

Uncheck all the checkboxes (i.e., disable the block settings for this bucket).

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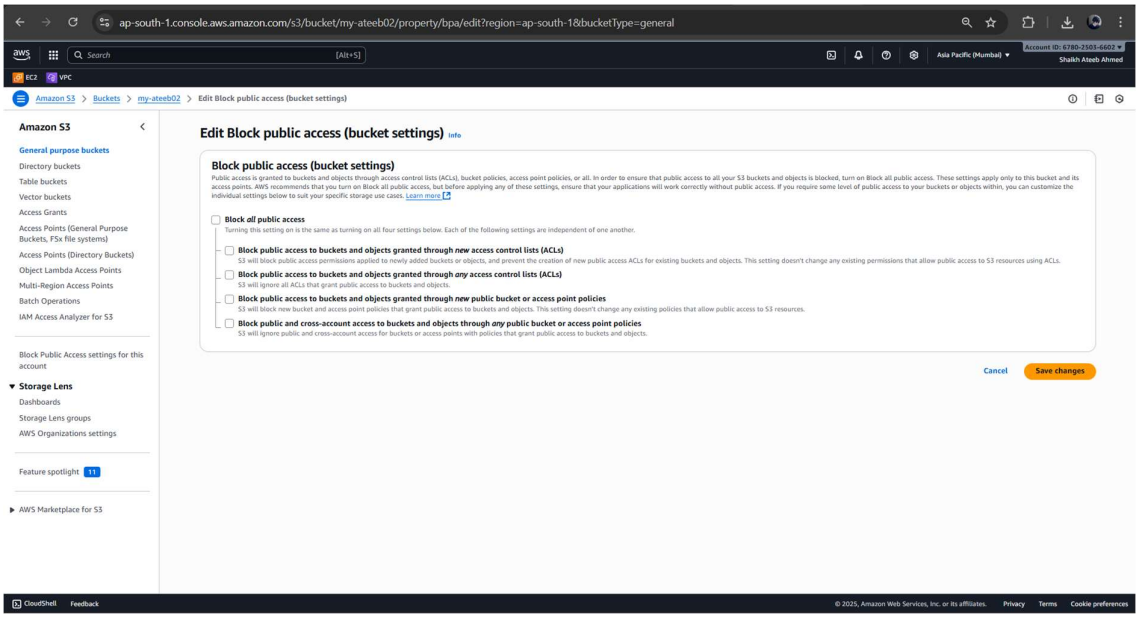

Click **Save changes**, then **Confirm** in the popup.

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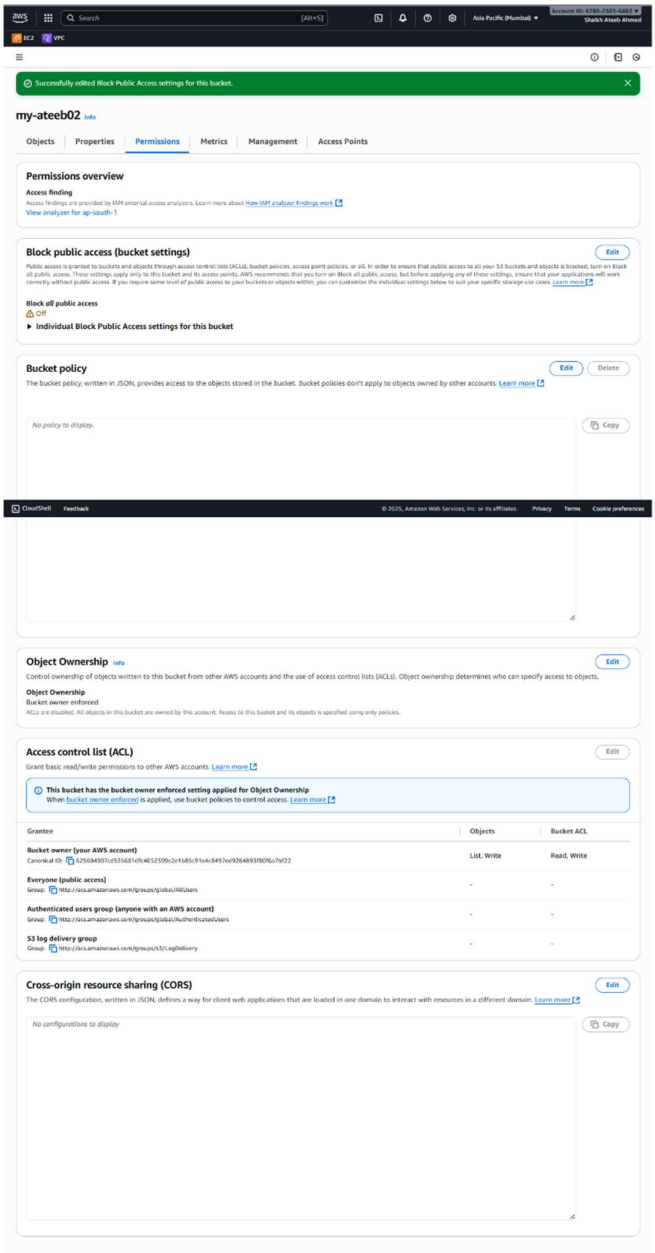

If the console refuses or you see a message that account-level Block Public Access is preventing changes, you must also edit **Block Public Access settings for this account** (S3 console → left menu → *Block Public Access settings for this account* → Edit → adjust as needed).

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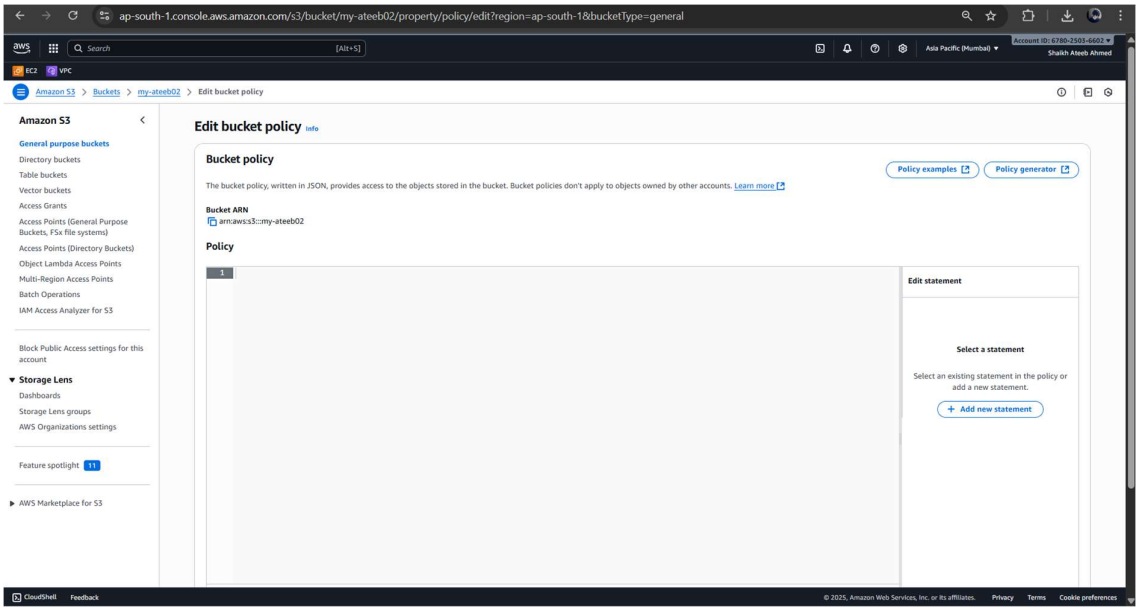
Create a public bucket policy using the Policy Generator

Still in the bucket: go to **Permissions → Bucket policy → Edit**.

Click **Policy generator** (link/button in the console opens the AWS Policy Generator).



In the Policy Generator:

Type of policy: S3 Bucket Policy (or S3 depending on the generator UI).

Add Statement:

Effect: Allow

Principal: * (makes objects readable by anyone)

Action: pick **GetObject**

Amazon Resource Name (ARN): arn:aws:s3:::YOUR_BUCKET_NAME/* (replace YOUR_BUCKET_NAME with your actual bucket name and **include /*** at the end to allow access to *objects* inside the bucket (not the bucket itself)).

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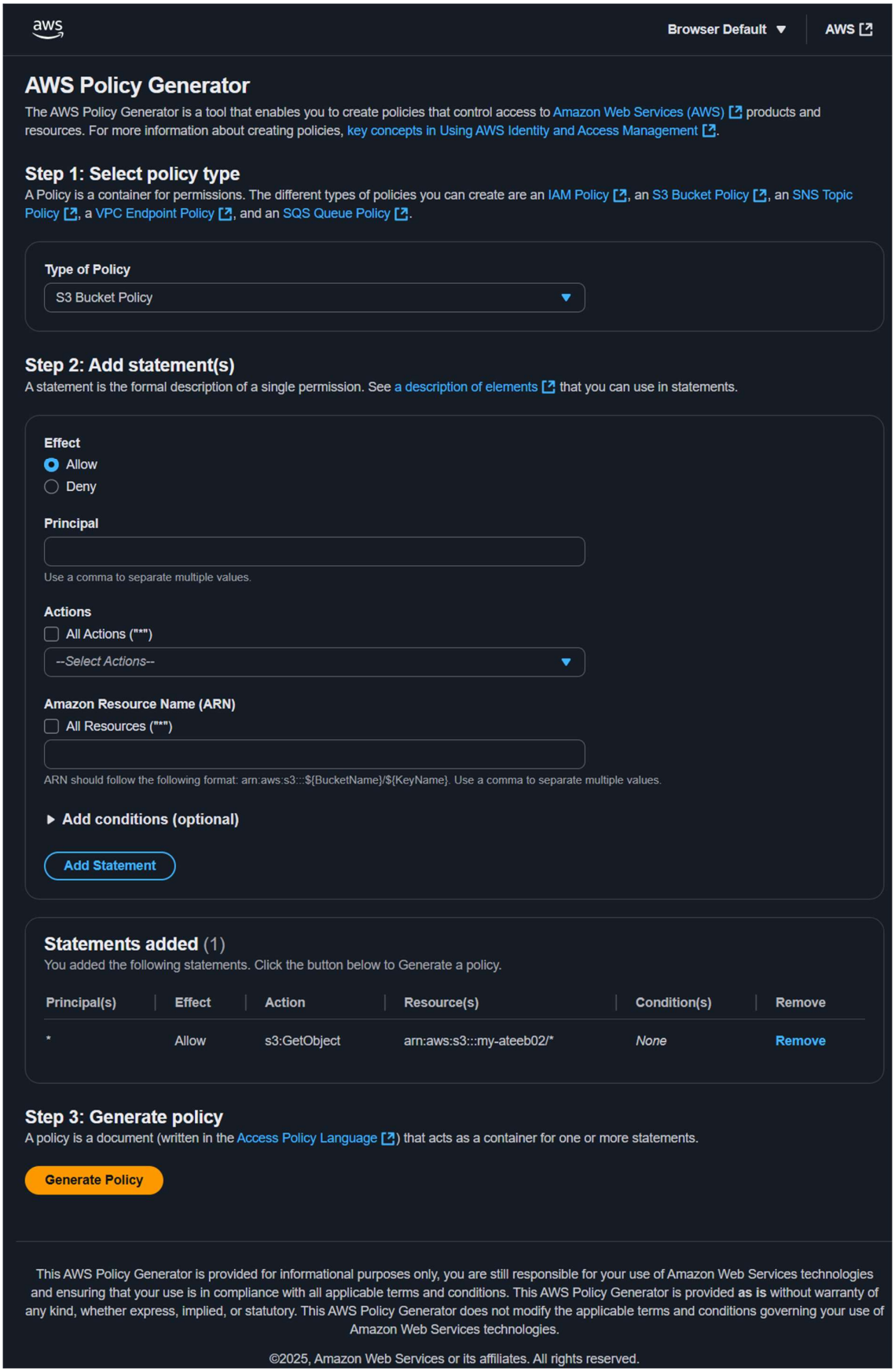

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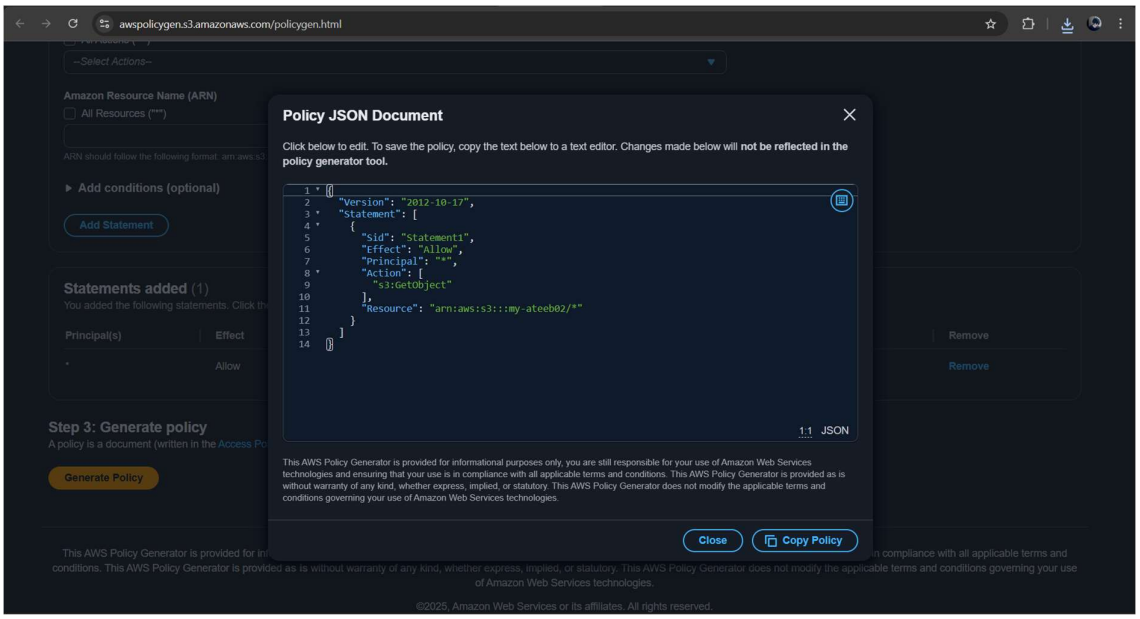
Click add statement then **Generate Policy**.

Copy the generated JSON from the Policy Generator.



Paste and save the bucket policy

Back in **S3 → Bucket → Permissions → Bucket policy → Edit**, paste the JSON policy you copied.

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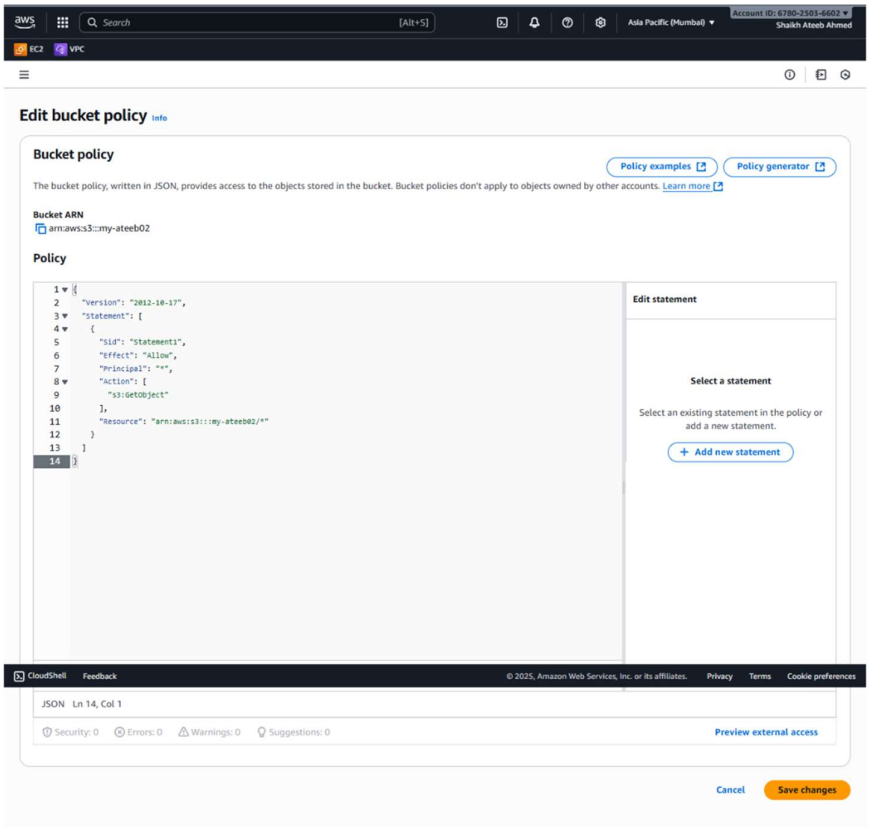

Click **Save changes**.

AWS may warn you about making the bucket public; confirm if you intend to proceed.

Example policy:

```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Principal": "*",
      "Action": "s3:GetObject",
      "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::YOUR_BUCKET_NAME/*"
```

```
  }

 ]

}
```

Confirm the image is now public

Return to the **Objects** list in your bucket, click the image object, and click the **Object URL**.

The image should now load in the browser (instead of Access Denied).

Enable static website hosting (so S3 exposes a website endpoint)

In the bucket, open **Properties → Static website hosting**

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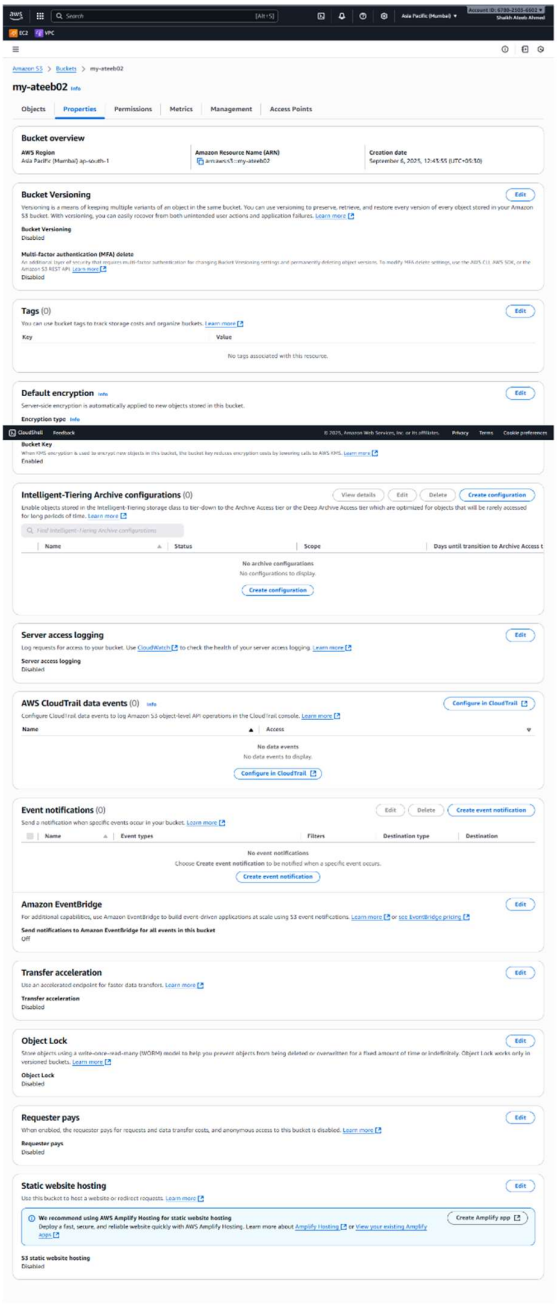

Edit (or **Static website hosting** pane).

Enable static website hosting.

Index document: type index.html.

Save changes.

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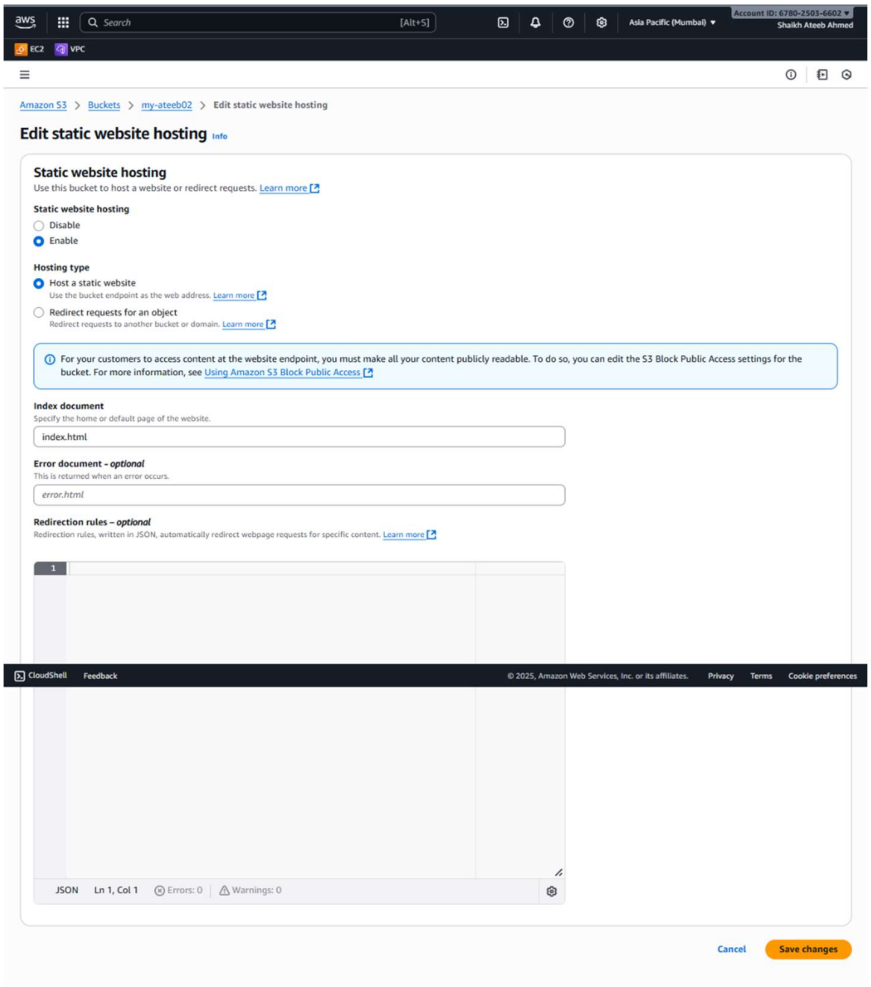

Open the Bucket website endpoint

In **Properties** (bottom of page) you'll see **Bucket website endpoint** (a URL like http://YOUR_BUCKET_NAME.s3-website-<region>.amazonaws.com).

Click/open that endpoint. Because you have not uploaded index.html, the website will show **404 Not Found** (or the S3 error page) that's expected. If you upload an index.html at the bucket root, the site will show that page instead.