

CloudFront with ALB + EC2 (Free Tier)

Step 1: Launch an EC2 instance

Open the EC2 Console

Sign in to the AWS Management Console → **EC2**.

Create the ALB security group (ALB-SG)

In the EC2 left menu → **Network & Security** → **Security Groups** → **Create security group**.

Set:

Name: ALB-SG

Description: Allow HTTP from Internet (for ALB)

VPC: choose the same VPC you will use for your instance.

Inbound rules → **Add rule:**

Type: **HTTP**, Port: **80**, Source: **Anywhere (0.0.0.0/0)**

Leave outbound as default (allow all).

Click **Create security group**.

The screenshot shows the 'Create security group' page in the AWS Management Console. The 'Basic details' section includes the following fields:

- Security group name:** ALB-SG
- Description:** Allow HTTP from Internet for ALB
- VPC:** ap-south-1-subnet-0987

The 'Inbound rules' section contains a table with one rule:

Type	Protocol	Port range	Source	Description - optional
HTTP	TCP	80	Anywhere (0.0.0.0/0)	

The 'Outbound rules' section shows a default rule for all traffic.

At the bottom, there is a 'Tags' section and a 'Create security group' button.

Create the EC2 security group (EC2-SG)

Still in **Security Groups** → **Create security group**.

Set:

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Name: EC2-SG

Description: Allow SSH from my IP and HTTP from ALB

VPC: same VPC as ALB-SG and instance.

Inbound rules → add:

SSH — Port **22** — **Source:** **My IP** (click “My IP” to auto-fill your public IP).

HTTP — Port **80** — **Source:** **Custom** → *select the ALB security group you created.*

Create the security group.

The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console interface for creating a new security group. The 'Basic details' section includes fields for 'Security group name' (EC2-SG), 'Description' (Allow SSH from my IP and HTTP from ALB), and 'VPC' (vpc-02b177ba0b030507). The 'Inbound rules' section contains two rules: one for SSH (port 22) from 'My IP' and one for HTTP (port 80) from a custom source 'sg-00b357a60d0164339'. The 'Outbound rules' section has one rule for 'All traffic' to '0.0.0.0/0'. The 'Tags' section is empty. The 'Create security group' button is highlighted in orange.

Launch EC2 instance (Amazon Linux 2, Free Tier)

EC2 → **Instances** → **Launch instances.**

Configure:

Name: e.g., web-server-1.

AMI: **Amazon Linux 2** (Free Tier eligible).

Instance type: **t3.micro** (or t2.micro if t3 not available).

Key pair: choose existing.

Network: choose the same **VPC** as your security groups.

Subnet: choose a **public subnet** (one that assigns a public IP) if you want to test via the public IP.

Auto-assign Public IP: **Enable** (for quick testing).

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Security group: select **Select an existing security group** → choose EC2-SG.

Storage/Tags: set as desired (default 8 GiB is fine).

Click **Launch instance**.

Launch an instance

Amazon EC2 allows you to create virtual machines, or instances, that run on the AWS Cloud. Quickly get started by following the simple steps below.

Name and tags

Name: web-server-1 [Add additional tags](#)

Application and OS Images (Amazon Machine Image)

Amazon Linux 2023 AMI

Instance type

t3.micro

Summary

Number of instances: 1

Software Image (AMI): Amazon Linux 2023 AMI 2023.9.2, read more

Virtual server type (Instance type): t3.micro

Forward Security group: EC2-SG

Storage (estimated): 8 GiB

[Launch instance](#)

Additional costs apply for AMIs with pre-installed software

Key pair (login)

Key pair name: required

Key pair: [Create new key pair](#)

Network settings

VPC: ap-south-1-111111111111

Subnet: ap-south-1-subnet-11111111

Auto-assign public IP: Enable

Firewall (security group)

Security group: EC2-SG

Common security group

EC2-SG

Configure storage

Size: 8 GiB

[Add new volume](#)

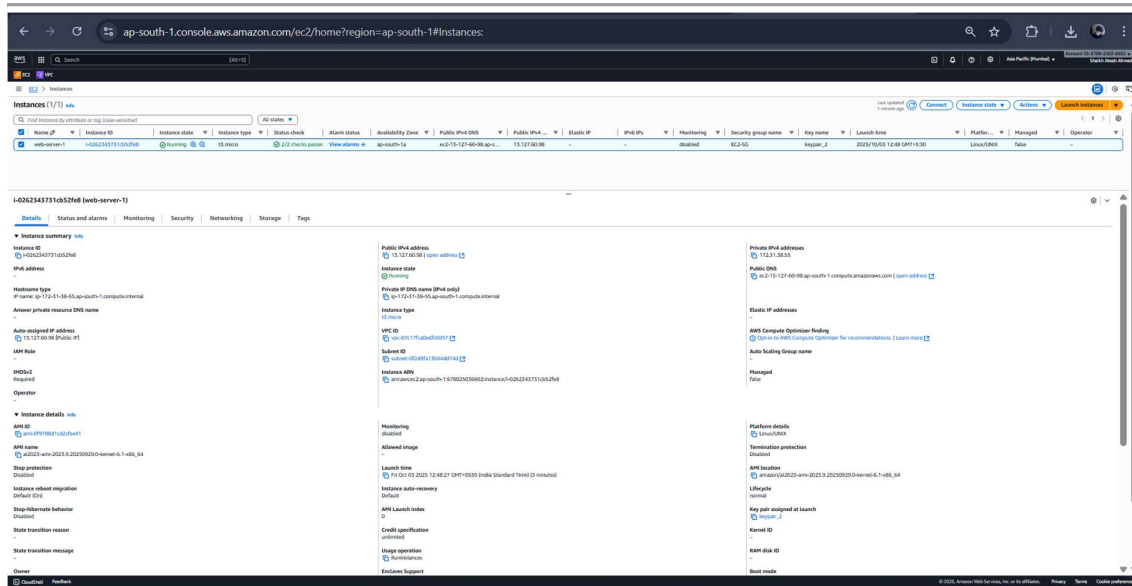
[Launch instance](#)

Wait & confirm instance state

EC2 → Instances → wait for **Instance state** = running and **Status checks** = 2/2 checks passed.

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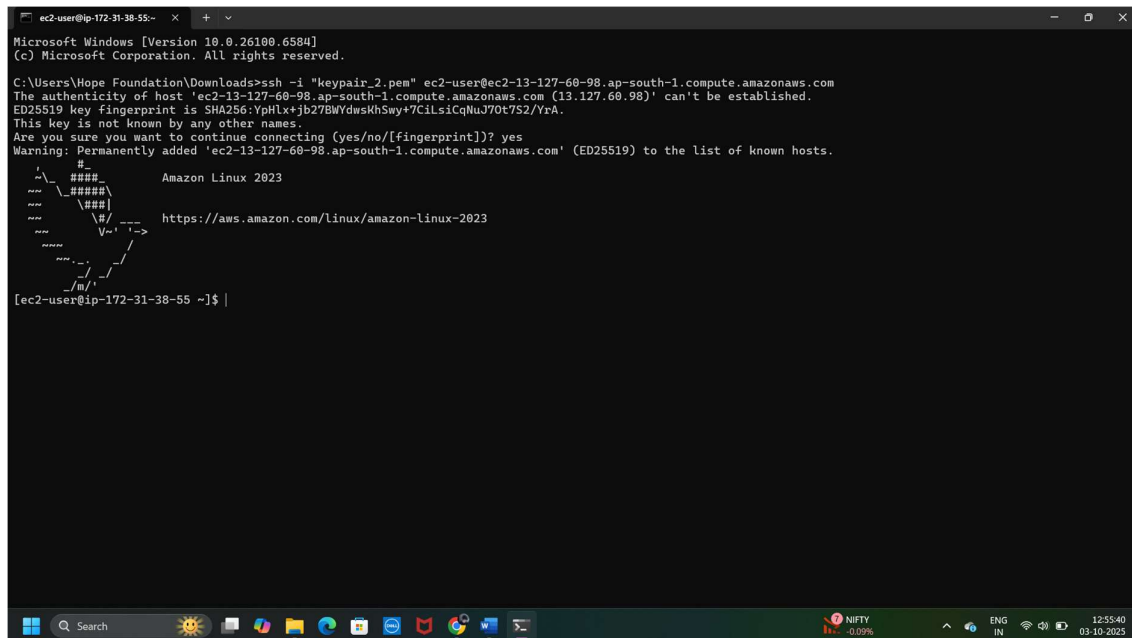
SSH in and install Apache (quick verification)

On your workstation:

replace path and address

chmod 400 /path/to/your-key.pem

ssh -i /path/to/your-key.pem ec2-user@<EC2-Public-IP>



On the instance, run:

sudo yum update -y

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sudo yum install -y httpd

```
Running transaction check
Transaction check succeeded.
Running transaction test
Transaction test succeeded.
Running transaction
  Preparing                : 1/1
  Installing                : apr-1.7.5-1.amzn2023.0.4.x86_64          1/12
  Installing                : apr-util-openssl-1.6.3-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64 2/12
  Installing                : apr-util-1.6.3-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64      3/12
  Installing                : mailcap-2.1.49-3.amzn2023.0.3.noarch       4/12
  Installing                : httpd-tools-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64   5/12
  Installing                : libbrotli-1.0.9-4.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64      6/12
  Running scriptlet: httpd-filesystem-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.noarch      7/12
  Installing                : httpd-filesystem-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.noarch 7/12
  Installing                : httpd-core-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64    8/12
  Installing                : mod_http2-2.0.27-1.amzn2023.0.3.x86_64     9/12
  Installing                : mod_lua-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64       10/12
  Installing                : generic-logos-httpd-18.0.0-12.amzn2023.0.3.noarch 11/12
  Installing                : httpd-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64        12/12
  Running scriptlet: httpd-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64                12/12
  Verifying                : apr-1.7.5-1.amzn2023.0.4.x86_64          1/12
  Verifying                : apr-util-1.6.3-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64      2/12
  Verifying                : apr-util-openssl-1.6.3-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64 3/12
  Verifying                : generic-logos-httpd-18.0.0-12.amzn2023.0.3.noarch 4/12
  Verifying                : httpd-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64       5/12
  Verifying                : httpd-core-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64   6/12
  Verifying                : httpd-filesystem-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.noarch 7/12
  Verifying                : httpd-tools-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64   8/12
  Verifying                : libbrotli-1.0.9-4.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64     9/12
  Verifying                : mailcap-2.1.49-3.amzn2023.0.3.noarch      10/12
  Verifying                : mod_http2-2.0.27-1.amzn2023.0.3.x86_64    11/12
  Verifying                : mod_lua-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64      12/12

Installed:
  apr-1.7.5-1.amzn2023.0.4.x86_64          apr-util-1.6.3-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64      apr-util-openssl-1.6.3-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64
  generic-logos-httpd-18.0.0-12.amzn2023.0.3.noarch  httpd-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64      httpd-core-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64
  httpd-filesystem-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.noarch  httpd-tools-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64  libbrotli-1.0.9-4.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64
  mailcap-2.1.49-3.amzn2023.0.3.noarch          mod_http2-2.0.27-1.amzn2023.0.3.x86_64    mod_lua-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64

Complete!
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-38-55 ~]$
```

sudo systemctl enable httpd

sudo systemctl start httpd

echo '<h1>Hello from EC2 via ALB!</h1>' | sudo tee /var/www/html/index.html

```
Installing                : libbrotli-1.0.9-4.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64      6/12
Running scriptlet: httpd-filesystem-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.noarch      7/12
Installing                : httpd-filesystem-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.noarch 7/12
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Verifying                : generic-logos-httpd-18.0.0-12.amzn2023.0.3.noarch 4/12
Verifying                : httpd-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64       5/12
Verifying                : httpd-core-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64   6/12
Verifying                : httpd-filesystem-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.noarch 7/12
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Verifying                : mailcap-2.1.49-3.amzn2023.0.3.noarch      10/12
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Verifying                : mod_lua-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64      12/12

Installed:
  apr-1.7.5-1.amzn2023.0.4.x86_64          apr-util-1.6.3-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64      apr-util-openssl-1.6.3-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64
  generic-logos-httpd-18.0.0-12.amzn2023.0.3.noarch  httpd-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64      httpd-core-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64
  httpd-filesystem-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.noarch  httpd-tools-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64  libbrotli-1.0.9-4.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64
  mailcap-2.1.49-3.amzn2023.0.3.noarch          mod_http2-2.0.27-1.amzn2023.0.3.x86_64    mod_lua-2.4.65-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64

Complete!
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-38-55 ~]$ sudo systemctl enable httpd
Created symlink /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/httpd.service → /usr/lib/systemd/system/httpd.service.
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-38-55 ~]$ sudo systemctl start httpd
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-38-55 ~]$ echo "<h1>Hello from EC2 via ALB!</h1>" | sudo tee /var/www/html/index.html
-bash: !: event not found
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-38-55 ~]$ sudo systemctl enable httpd
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-38-55 ~]$ sudo systemctl start httpd
echo "<h1>Hello from EC2 via ALB!</h1>" | sudo tee /var/www/html/index.html
-bash: !: event not found
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-38-55 ~]$ echo '<h1>Hello from EC2 via ALB!</h1>' | sudo tee /var/www/html/index.html
<h1>Hello from EC2 via ALB!</h1>
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-38-55 ~]$
```

Open your browser to <http://<EC2-Public-IP>/> — you should see the test page.

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Step 2: Open EC2 console

In the left menu → **Load Balancers** → **Create Load Balancer** → **Application Load Balancer**.

Configure Load Balancer

Name: my-alb-lab

Scheme: **Internet-facing** (so it's accessible from the Internet)

IP address type: IPv4

Listeners: default **HTTP 80**

Availability Zones / Subnets: select your **VPC** and at least **2 public subnets** (recommended for redundancy)

Click **Next: Configure Security Settings** → skip HTTPS for now (HTTP only, lab purpose)

Configure Security Group for ALB

Select existing security group:

Name: ALB-SG

Inbound rules: HTTP 80 from **0.0.0.0/0**

Outbound: leave default (allow all)

Click **Next: Configure Routing**

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Create Application Load Balancer

How Application Load Balancers work

Basic configuration

Load balancer name
my-alb-001

Scheme
☒ Internet-facing
☐ Internal

Load balancer IP address type
☒ Public
☐ Elastic IP

Network mapping

VPC
my-vpc-01234567

IP pools
☐ Use IP pools for public IPv4 addresses
☐ Use IP pools for private IPv4 addresses

Listeners and routing

Listener: HTTP80

Protocol
HTTP

Port
80

Default action
☒ Forward to target group
☐ Redirect to URL
☐ Return fixed response

Forwarded to target group

Target group
my-alb-target

Weight
1

Percent
100%

Load balancer tags - optional

Amazon CloudFront + AWS Web Application Firewall (WAF) - new

Apply application layer acceleration and security protections - in Beta of the load balancer

Benefits and considerations

Create Target Group

Target group name: my-alb-target

Target type: Instance

Protocol / Port: HTTP / 80

VPC: choose the same VPC as your EC2 instance

Health checks: default path /

Click **Next: Register Targets**

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Create target group

Your load balancer health checks the targets in a target group and performs health checks on the targets.

Basic configuration

Settings in this section can't be changed after the target group is created.

Choose a target type

- ☒ **Instances**
 - Supports load balancing to instances within a specific VPC.
 - Facilitates the use of [Amazon EC2 Auto Scaling](#) to manage and scale your EC2 capacity.
- ☐ **IP addresses**
 - Supports load balancing to IP addresses and on-premise resources.
 - Enables routing to multiple IP addresses and allows them to be on the same instance.
 - Offers flexibility with maximum-based anti-DDoS, simplifying rate-based DDoS mitigation.
 - Supports the target, routing and use of the target group, and the use of the VPC.
- ☐ **Lambda Functions**
 - Enables routing to a single Lambda function.
 - Accessible to application load balancers only.
- ☐ **Application Load Balancer**
 - Offers the flexibility for a Network Load Balancer to accept and route TCP requests within a specific VPC.
 - Enables using static IP addresses and Private IP addresses on Application Load Balancer.

Target group name

my-alb-target

Protocol

HTTP

Port

80

IP address type

IPv4

VPC

ap-south-1-vpc-0123456789

Protocol version

HTTP1

Health checks

The associated load balancer periodically sends requests, per the settings below, to the registered targets to test their status.

Health check protocol

HTTP

Register EC2 instance

From the list of instances, select your **EC2 instance**.

Click **Add to registered** → it should appear in **Registered targets**

Click **Next: Review** → **Create Load Balancer**

my-alb-target

Details

Target type: Instances

IP address type: IPv4

Protocol version: HTTP1

Health checks

Health check protocol: HTTP

Registered targets (1)

Instance ID	Name	Port	Zone	Health status	Health status details	Administrative events
i-01234567890123456	web-server-1	80	ap-south-1a	Unhealthy	Target group is not active	

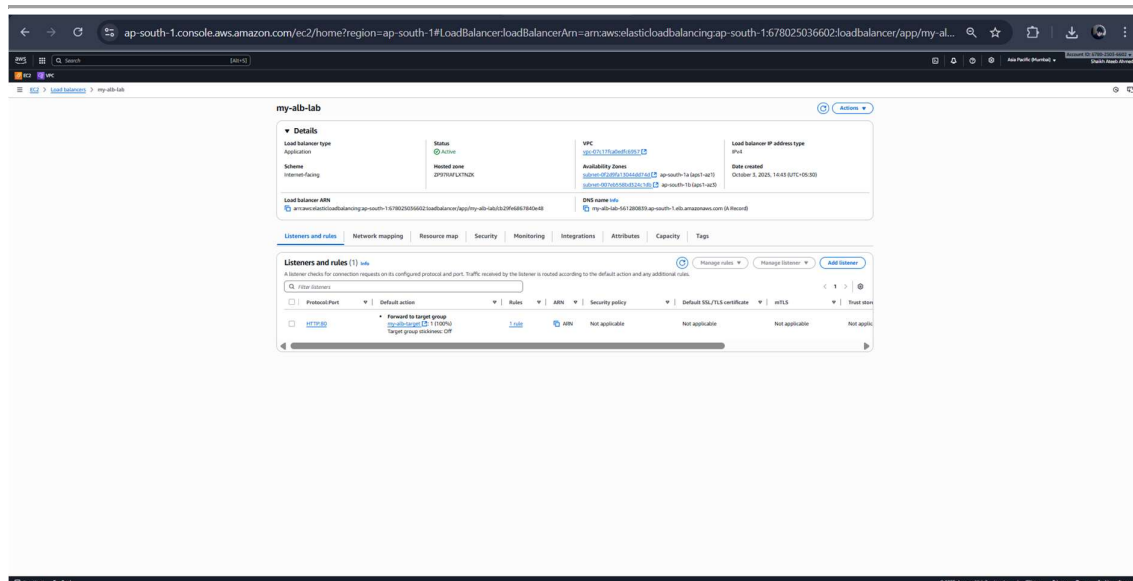
Wait for ALB to be active

After creation, in **Load Balancers** → select my-alb-lab → check **DNS name**:

Example: my-alb-lab-123456.ap-south-1.elb.amazonaws.com

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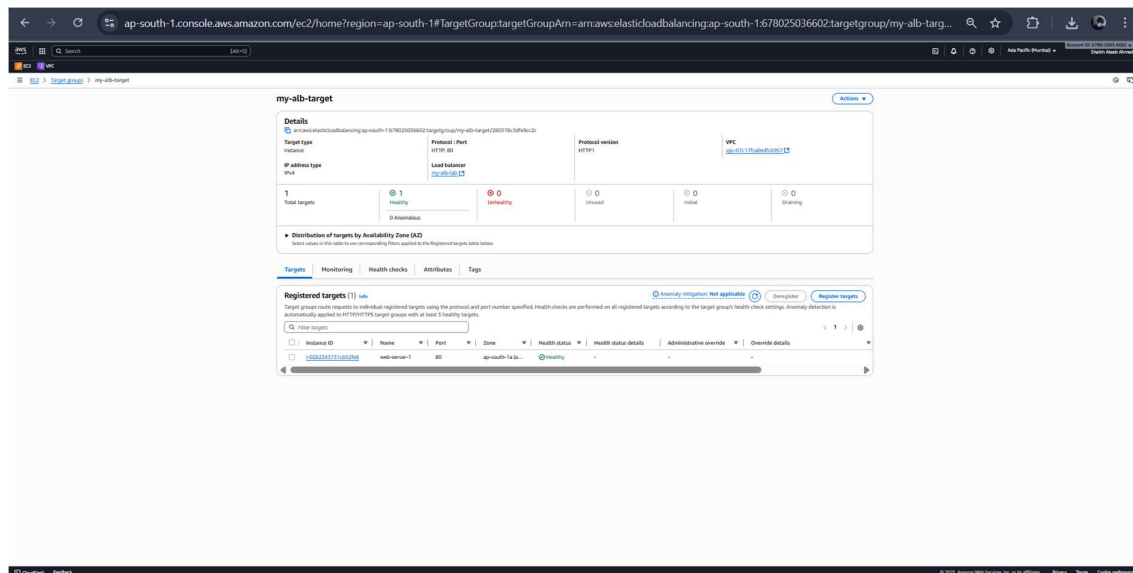
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Verify Target Health

Load Balancers → select your ALB → **Target Groups** → **Targets** tab

Your EC2 instance should show **healthy** (green).



Test the ALB in Browser

Open browser → enter the **ALB DNS name**:

`http://my-alb-lab-123456.ap-south-1.elb.amazonaws.com`

You should see the Apache test page:

`<h1>Hello from EC2 via ALB!</h1>`

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Step 3: Open CloudFront console

Sign in to AWS Management Console → **CloudFront**.

Click **Create distribution** → choose **Web** (or “Web” for new UI).

Configure Origin Settings

Origin Domain Name: paste your **ALB DNS name** (e.g., my-alb-lab-123456.ap-south-1.elb.amazonaws.com).

Origin type: choose **Elastic Load Balancer**.

Origin settings: Use recommended origin settings.

Cache settings: Use recommended cache settings tailored to serving Elastic Load Balancing content.

Compress Objects Automatically: Enable (optional, improves speed).

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The screenshot shows the 'Review and create' step in the AWS CloudFront console. On the left, a progress bar indicates the steps: Step 1: Get started, Step 2: Specify origin, Step 3: Enable security, and Step 4: Review and create (current step). The main content area is divided into several sections, each with an 'Edit' button:

- General configuration:** Distribution name: my-alb-lab-561280839.ap-south-1.elb.amazonaws.com. Description: -.
- Origin:** Elastic Load Balancing origin: my-alb-lab-561280839.ap-south-1.elb.amazonaws.com. Origin path: -. Grant CloudFront access to origin: No. Enable Origin Shield: No. Connection attempts: 3. Connection timeout: 10.
- Cache settings:** CloudFront will apply default cache settings tailored to serving content from an Elastic Load Balancing origin. You can customize settings after you create your distribution.
- Security:** Security protections: None. Use monitor mode: No. Use existing WAF configuration: No.

At the bottom right, there are three buttons: 'Cancel', 'Previous', and 'Create distribution'.

WAF: optional, leave default.

Create Distribution

Origin Protocol Policy mismatch

If your ALB only listens on HTTP (80) but in CloudFront you selected HTTPS only, CloudFront can't connect.

Fix: In CloudFront → Origins → select your origin → set Origin Protocol Policy to HTTP Only (or "Match Viewer" if you added HTTPS on ALB).

The screenshot shows the 'Edit origin' page in the AWS CloudFront console. The page is titled 'Settings' and contains the following fields and options:

- Origin domain:** A text input field containing 'my-alb-lab-561280839.ap-south-1.elb.amazonaws.com'. Below it, a note says 'Enter a valid DNS domain name, such as an S3 bucket, HTTP server, or VPC origin ID.'
- Protocol:** Radio buttons for 'HTTP only' (selected), 'HTTPS only', and 'Match viewer'.
- HTTP port:** A text input field containing '80'. A note says 'Enter your origin's HTTP port. The default is port 80.'
- Origin path - optional:** A text input field with a placeholder 'Enter the origin path'.
- Name:** A text input field containing 'my-alb-lab-561280839.ap-south-1.elb.amazonaws.com-mgao0e1175'.
- Add custom header - optional:** A section with a note 'CloudFront includes this header in all requests that it sends to your origin.' and an 'Add header' button.
- Enable Origin Shield:** Radio buttons for 'No' (selected) and 'Yes'. A note says 'Origin Shield is an additional caching layer that can help reduce the load on your origin and help protect its availability.'
- Additional settings:** A link to expand more options.

At the bottom right, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Save changes'.

Click **Create Distribution**.

CloudFront status will show **In Progress** (it usually takes ~10–15 minutes to deploy).

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Test CloudFront

Wait until **Status = Deployed**.

Copy the **Domain Name** of the distribution (e.g., d12345abcdef.cloudfront.net).

Open in browser:

<https://d12345abcdef.cloudfront.net/>



Hello from EC2 via ALB!

You should see your test page:

Hello from EC2 via ALB!
