Lab 2: Exploit S3 Buckets

Lab Scenario

As a professional ethical hacker or pen tester, you must have sound knowledge of enumerating S3 buckets. Using various techniques, you can exploit misconfigurations in bucket implementation and breach the security mechanism to compromise data privacy. Leaving the S3 bucket session running enables you to modify files such as JavaScript or related code and inject malware into the bucket files. Furthermore, finding the bucket's location and name will help you in testing its security and identifying vulnerabilities in the implementation.

Lab Objectives

- Exploit open S3 buckets using AWS CLI

Overview of S3 Buckets

S3 buckets are used by customers and end users to store text documents, PDFs, videos, images, etc. To store all these data, the user needs to create a bucket with a unique name.

Listed below are several techniques that can be adopted to identify AWS S3 Buckets:

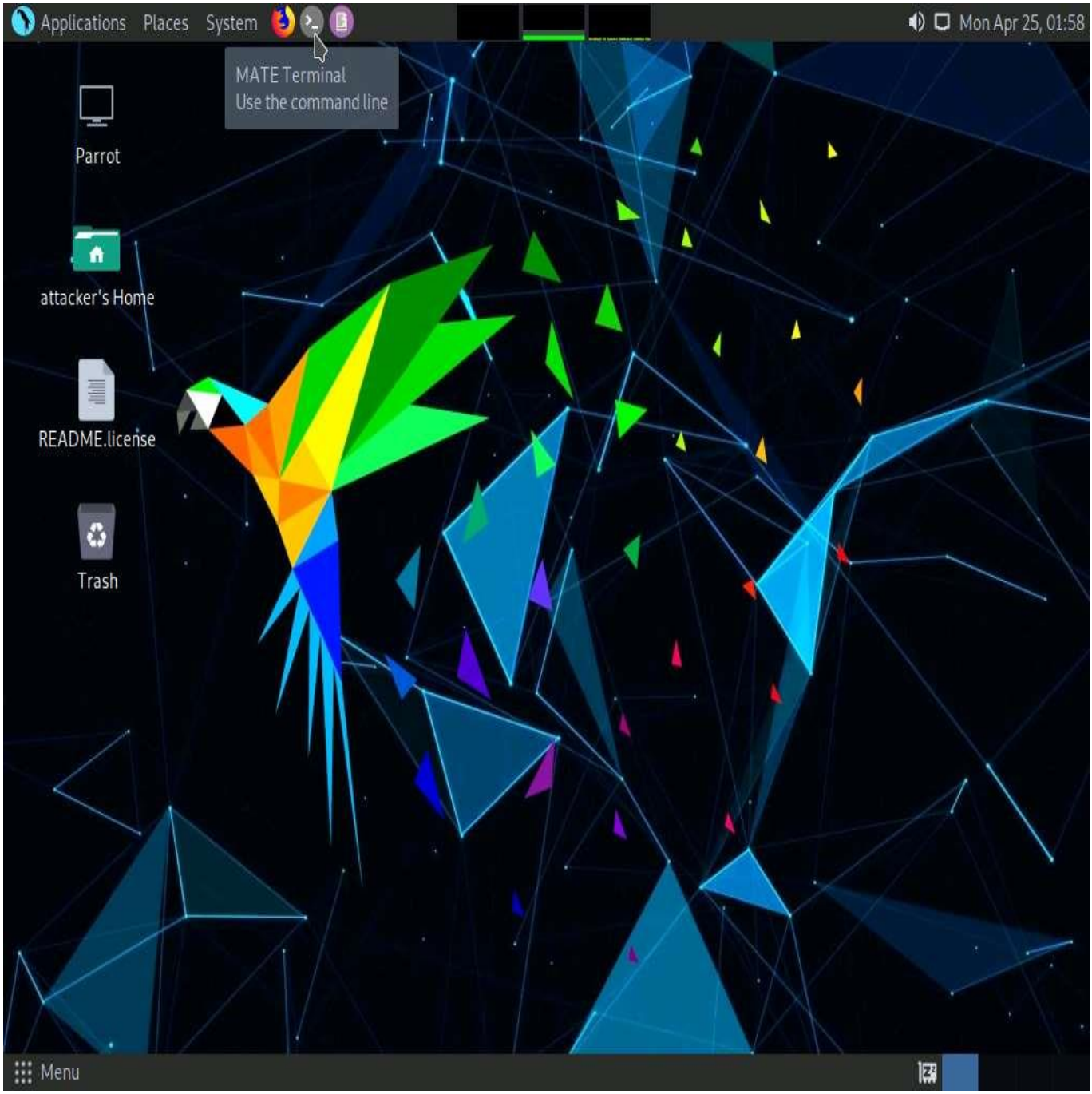
- **Inspecting HTML**: Analyze the source code of HTML web pages in the background to find URLs to the target S3 buckets
- **Brute-Forcing URL**: Use Burp Suite to perform a brute-force attack on the target bucket's URL to identify its correct URL
- **Finding subdomains**: Use tools such as Findsubdomains and Robtex to identify subdomains related to the target bucket
- **Reverse IP Search**: Use search engines such as Bing to perform reverse IP search to identify the domains of the target S3 buckets
- **Advanced Google hacking**: Use advanced Google search operators such as **"inurl"** to search for URLs related to the target S3 buckets

Task 1: Exploit Open S3 Buckets using AWS CLI

The AWS command line interface (CLI) is a unified tool for managing AWS services. With just one tool to download and configure, you can control multiple AWS services from the command line and automate them through scripts.

Before starting this task, you must create your AWS account (**https://aws.amazon.com**).

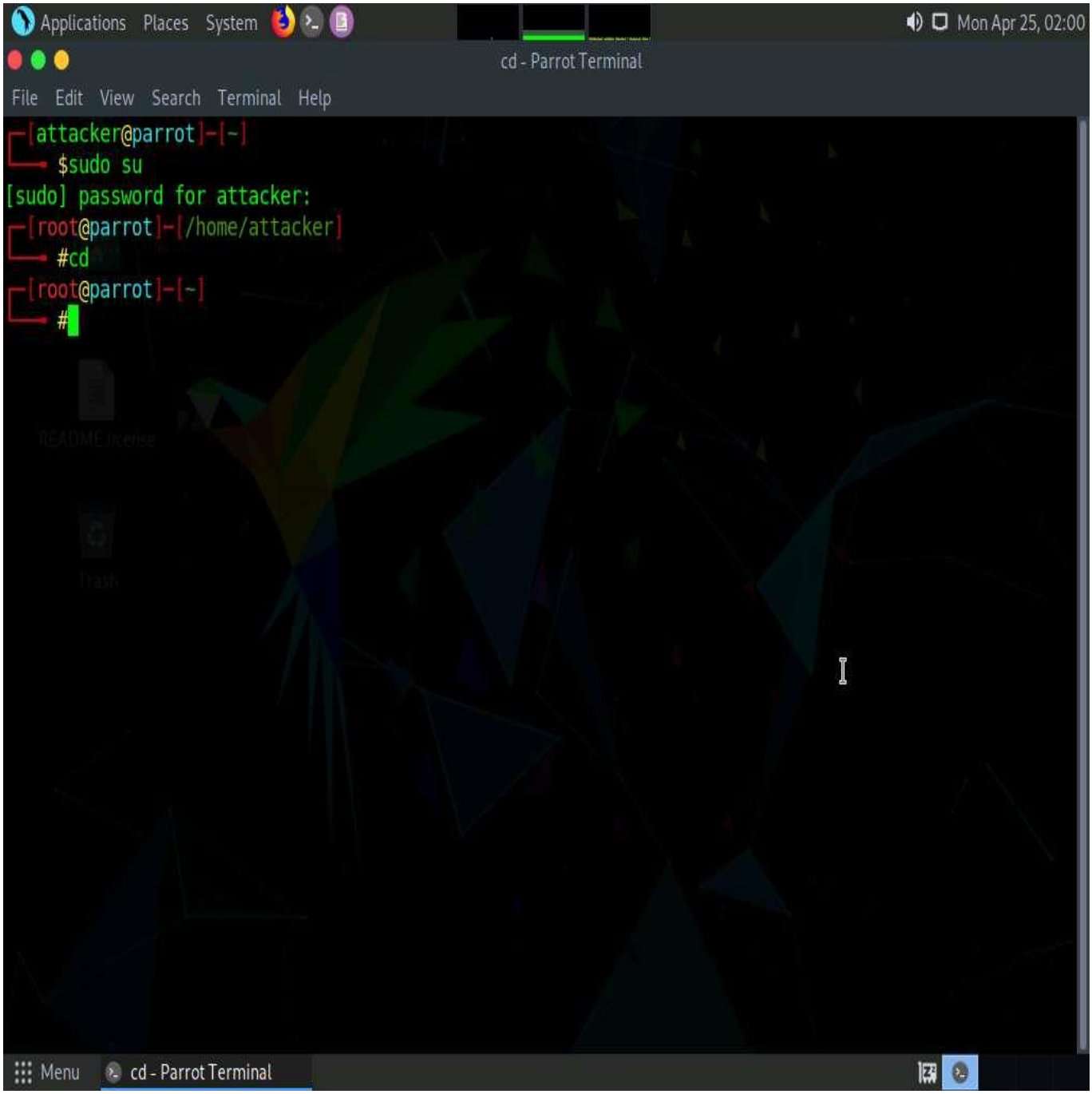
1. ☐ In the **Parrot Security** machine, click the **MATE Terminal** icon in the menu to launch the terminal.



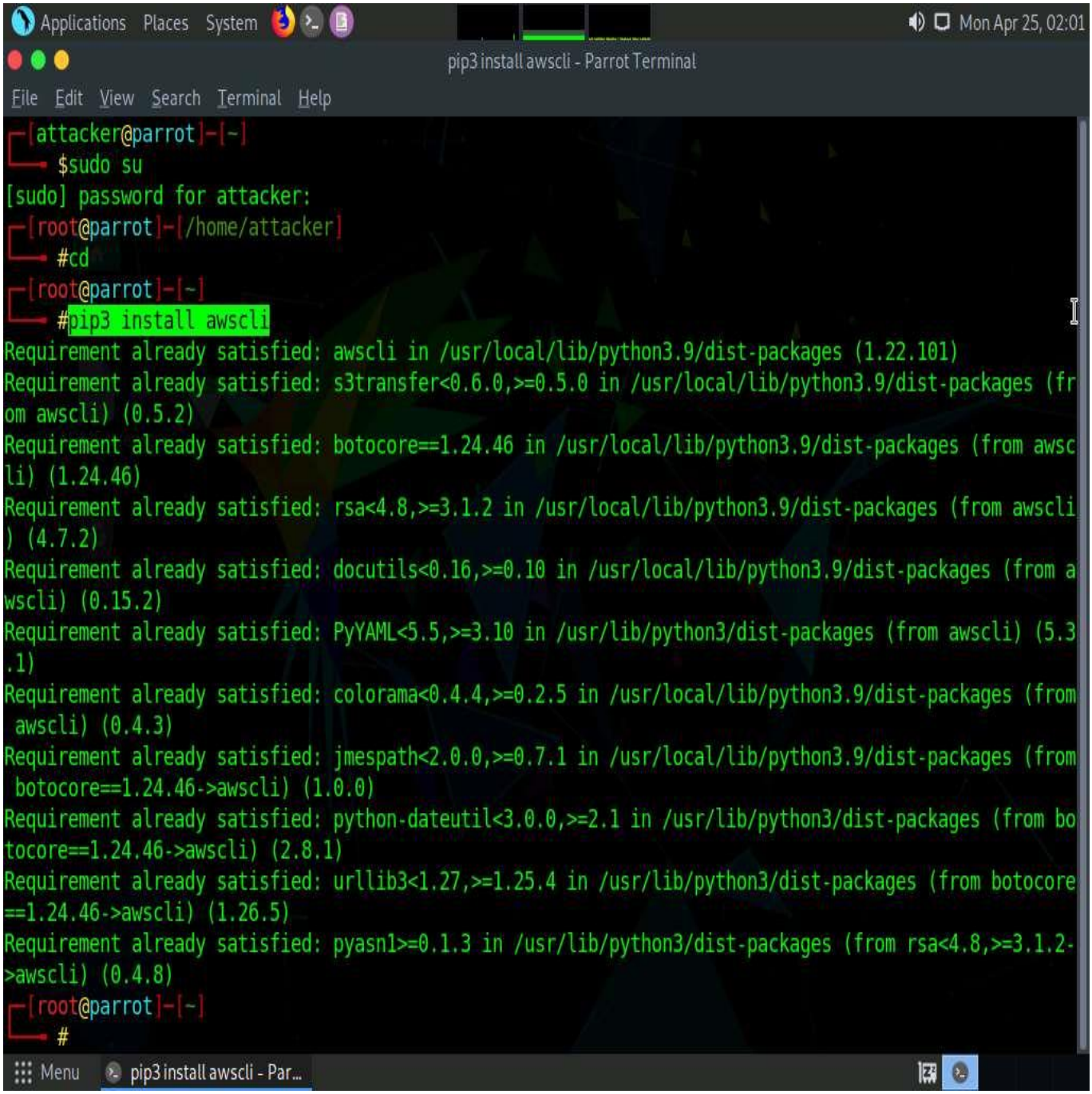
2. A **Parrot Terminal** window appears. In the terminal window, type **sudo su** and press **Enter** to run the programs as a root user.
3. In the **[sudo] password for attacker** field, type **toor** as a password and press **Enter**.

The password that you type will not be visible.

4. Now, type **cd** and press **Enter** to jump to the root directory.



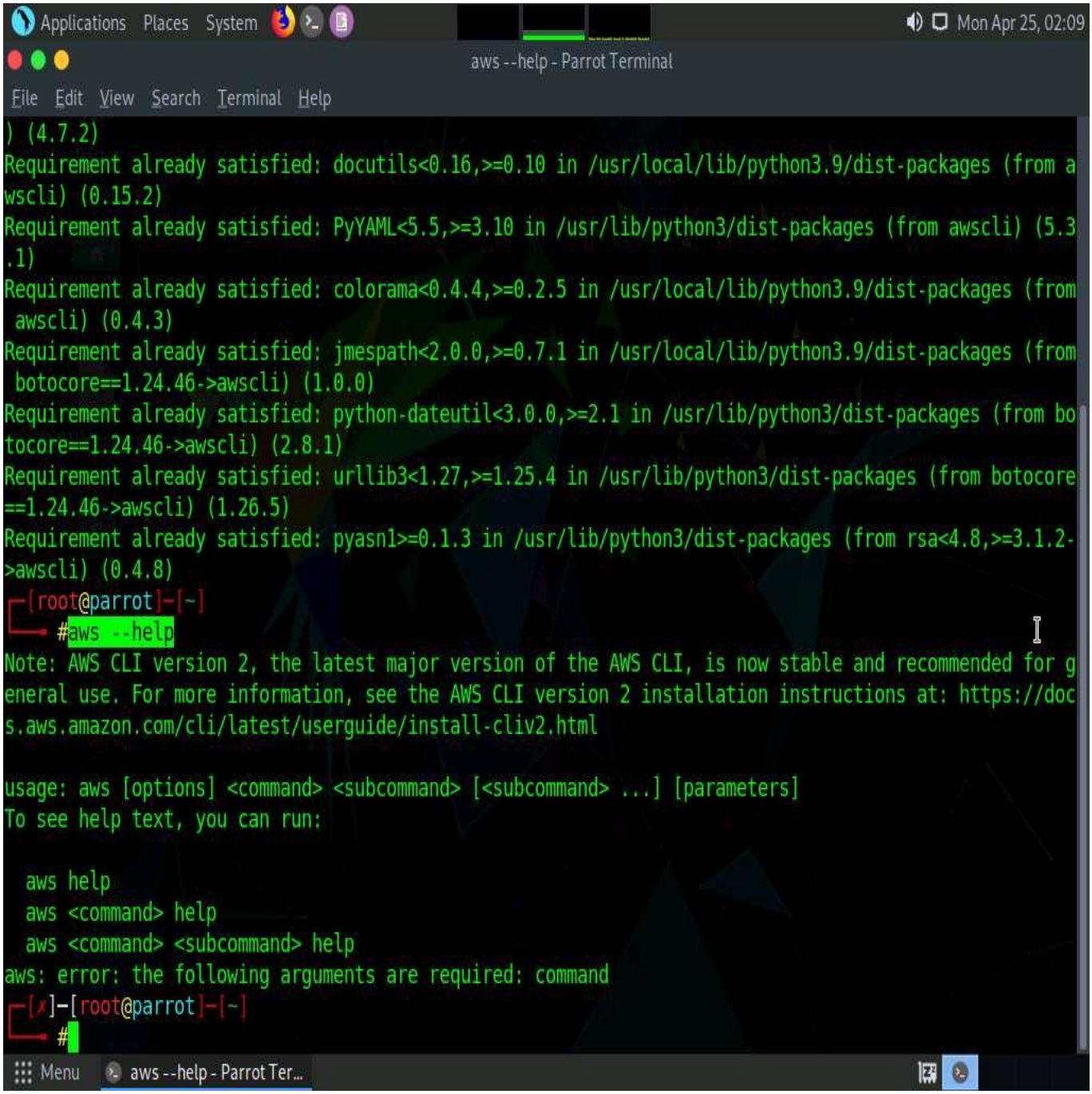
5. In the terminal window, type **pip3 install awscli** and press **Enter** to install AWS CLI.



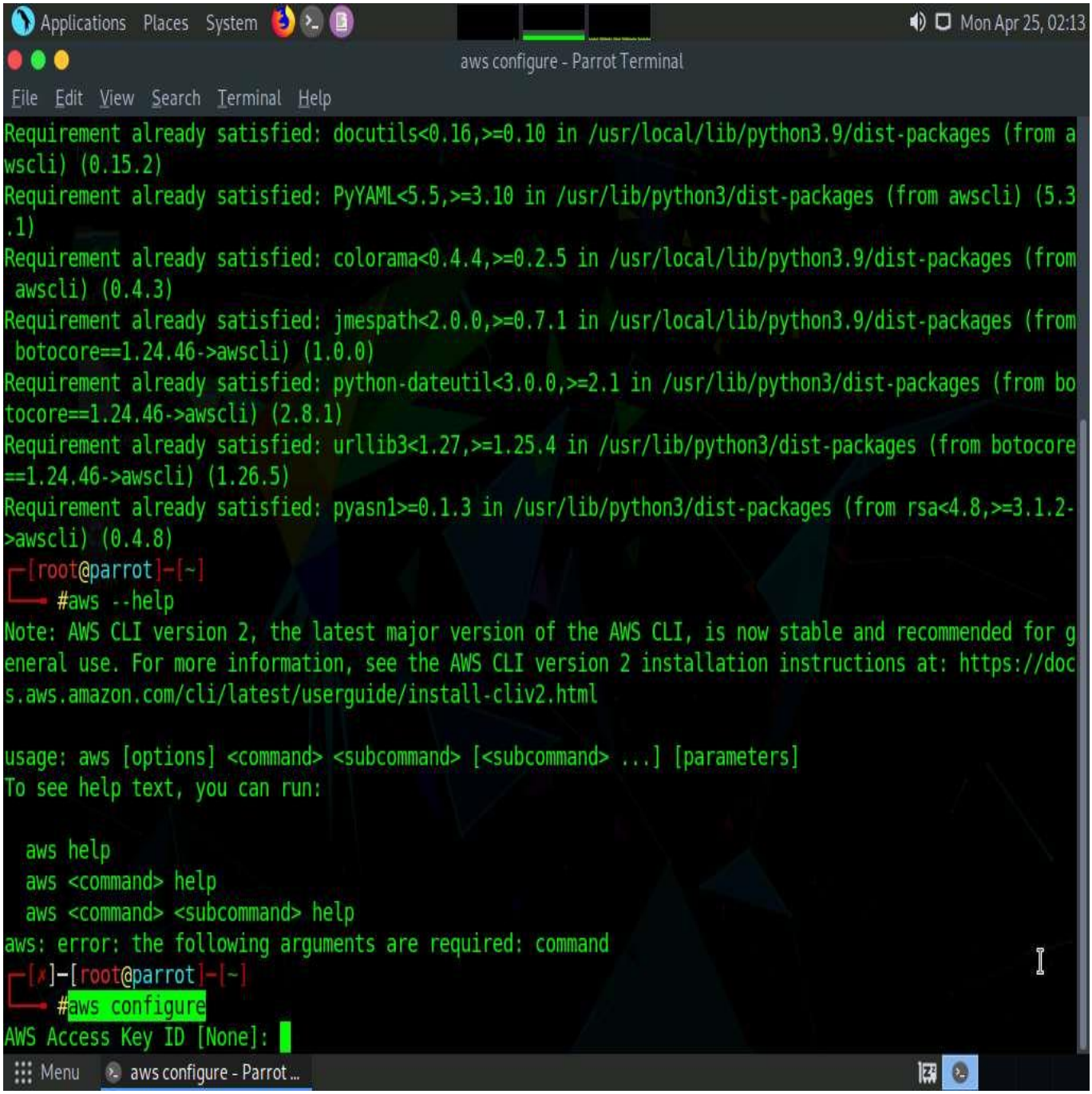
6. Once the installation is completed, type **aws --help** and press **Enter** to check whether AWS CLI is properly installed.

Here, the awscli is already installed.

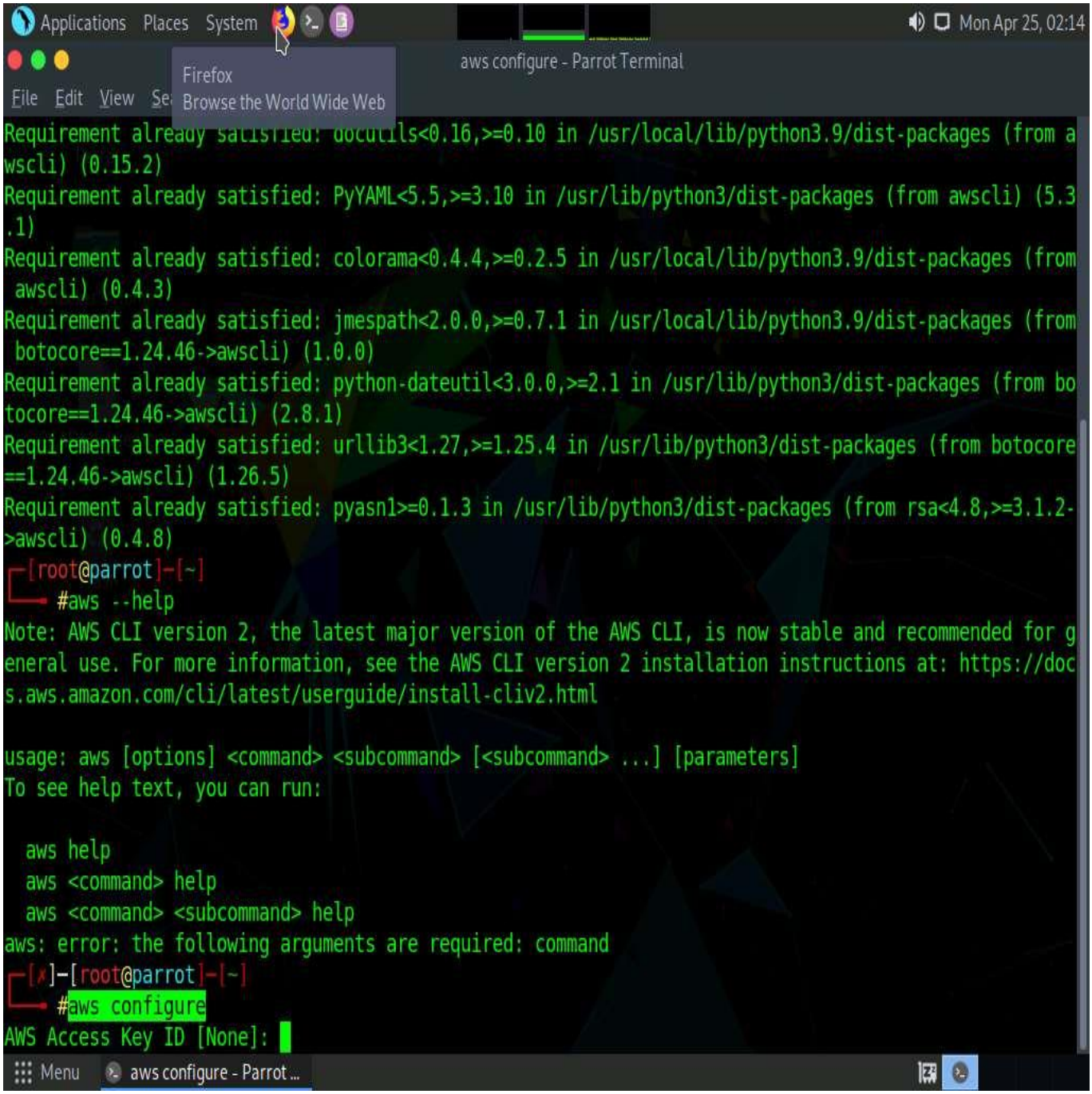
Ignore the errors (if you find any).



7. Now, we need to configure AWS CLI. To configure AWS CLI in the terminal window, type **aws configure** and press **Enter**.



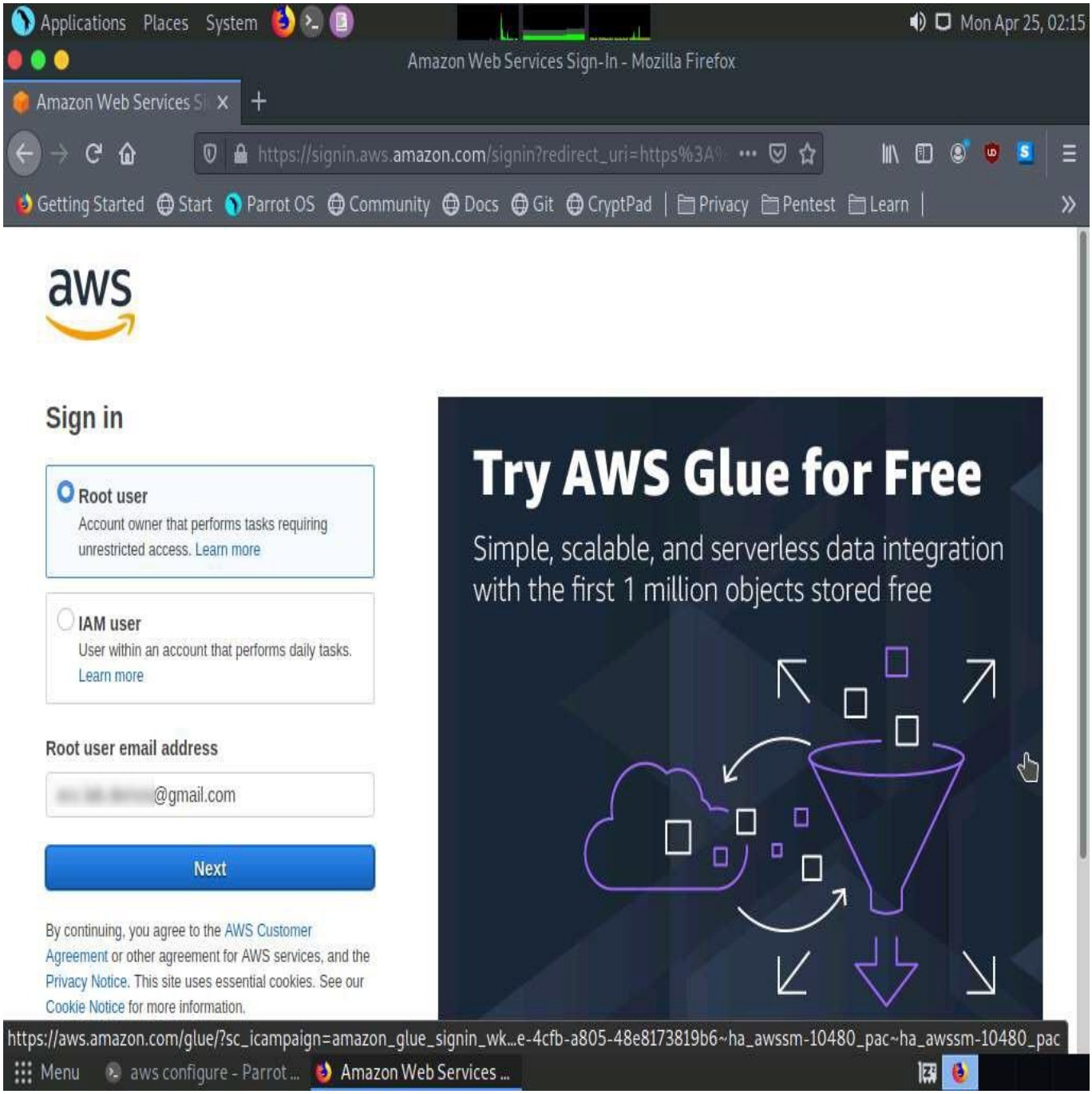
8. ☐ It will ask for the following details:
   - AWS Access Key ID
   - AWS Secret Access Key
   - Default region name
   - Default output format
9. ☐ To provide these details, you need to login to your AWS account.
10. ☐ Click **Firefox** icon from the top-section of the **Desktop**.



11. ☐ Login to your AWS account that you created at the beginning of this task. Click the **Firefox** browser icon in the menu, type **https://console.aws.amazon.com** in the address bar, and press **Enter**.

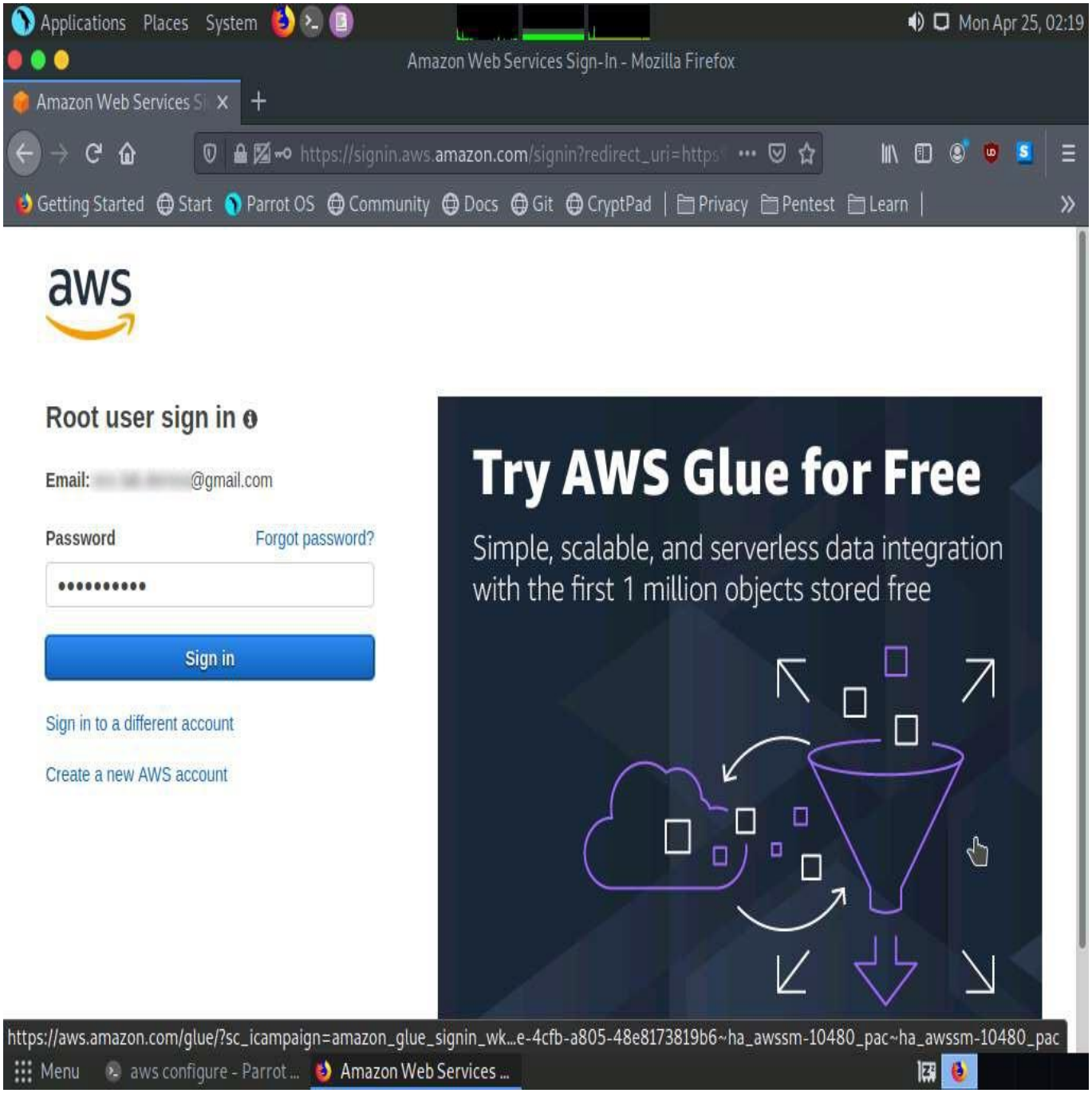
If you do not have an AWS account, create one with the Basic Free Plan, and then proceed with the tasks.

12. ☐ The **Amazon Web Services Sign-In** page appears; type your email account in the **Email address** field and click **Next**.

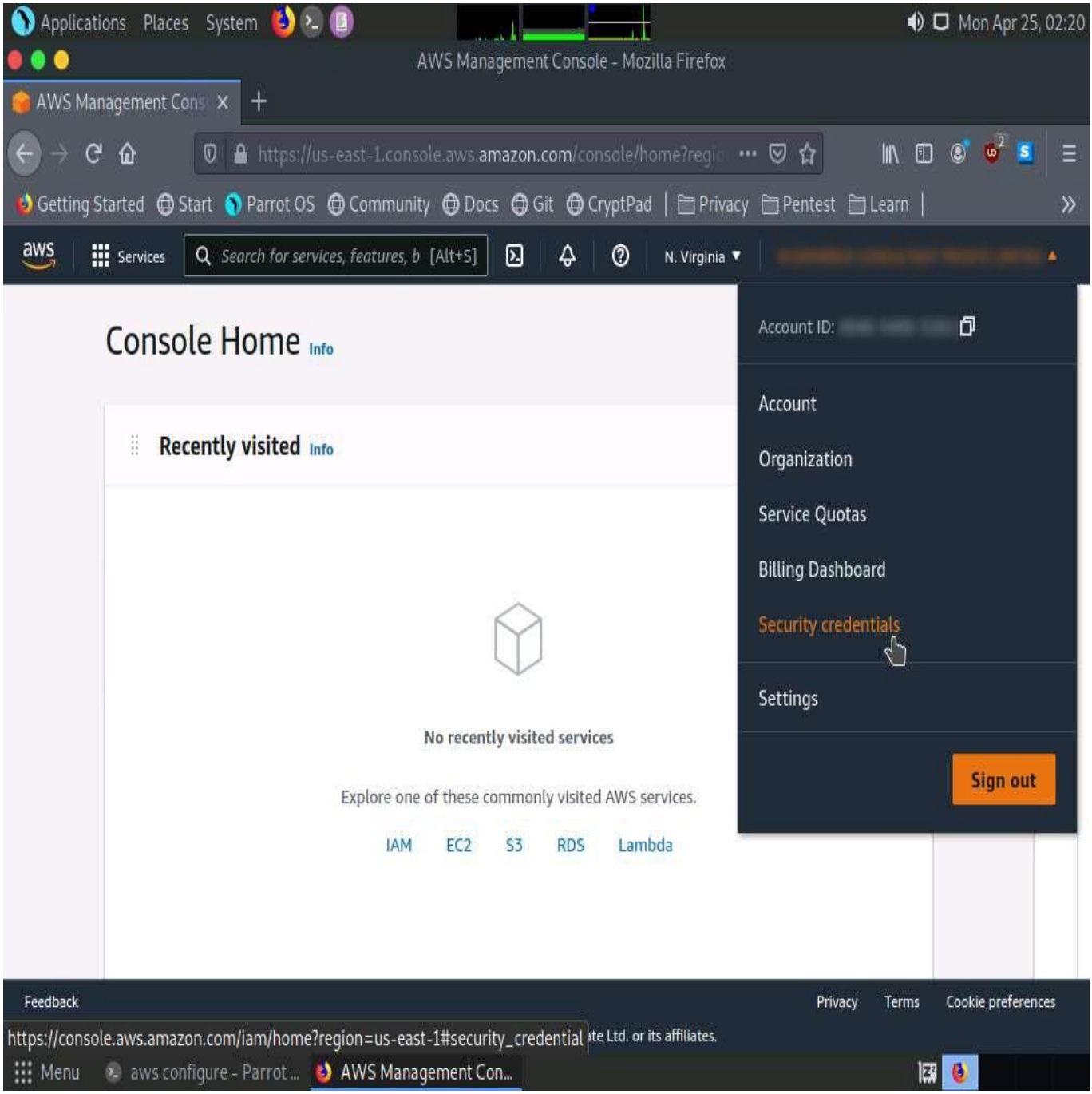


13. ☐ Type your AWS account password in the **Password** field and click **Sign in**.

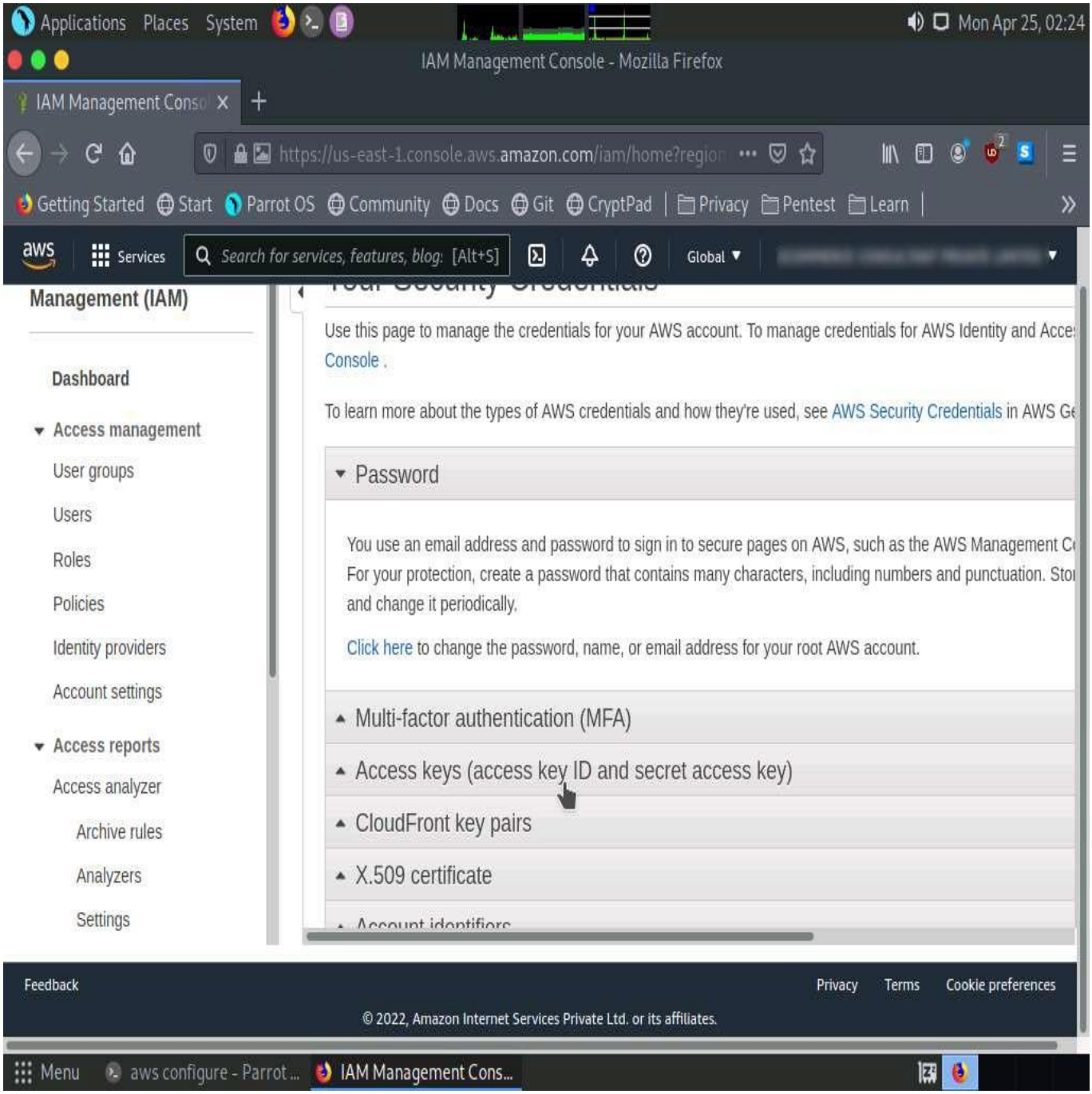
If a **Security check** window appears, enter the captcha and click on **Submit**.



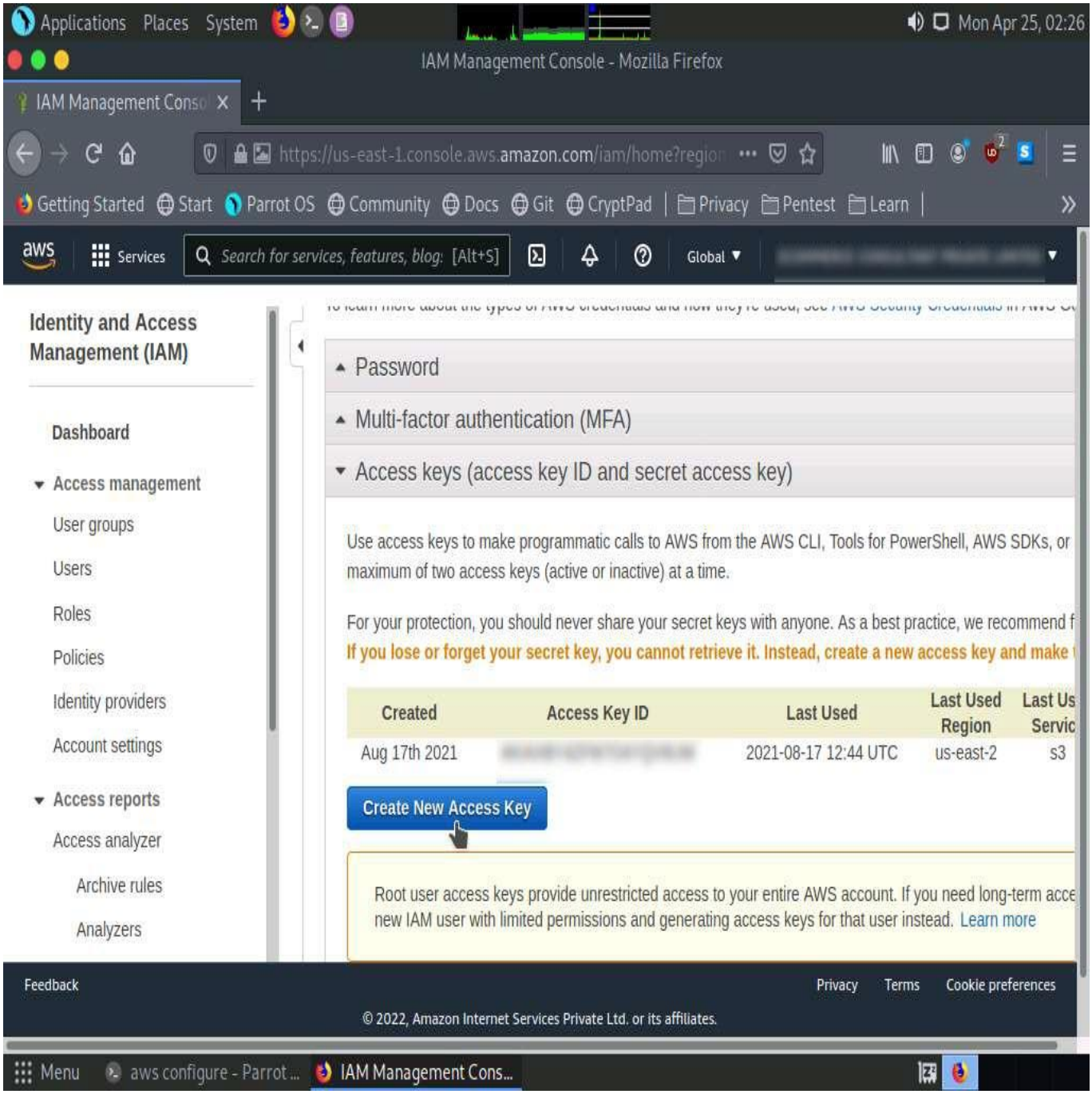
14. ☐ Click the AWS account drop-down menu and click **Security Credentials**, as shown in the screenshot.



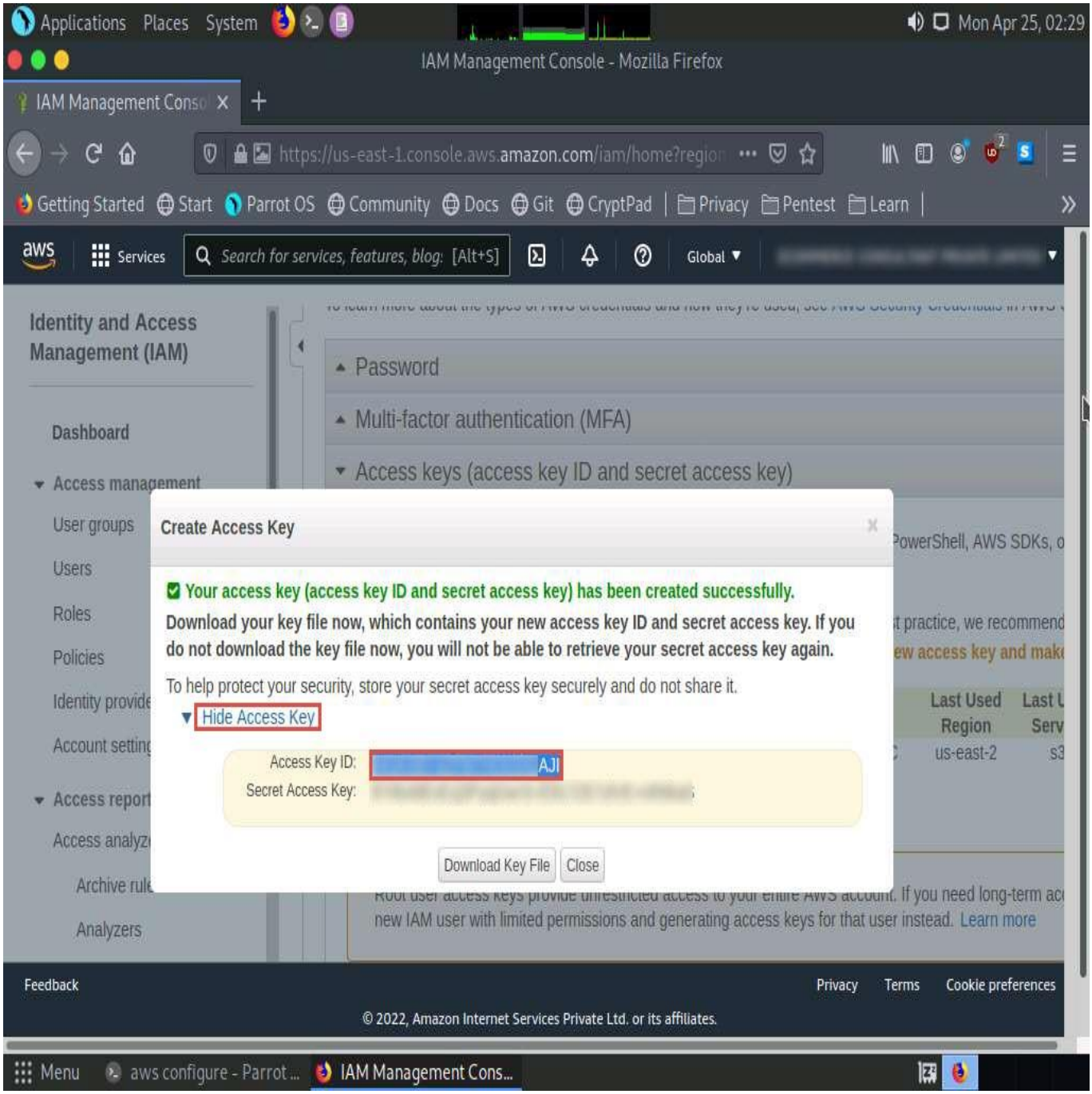
15. ☐ Click **Access keys (access key ID and secret access key)** in the **Your Security Credentials** section.



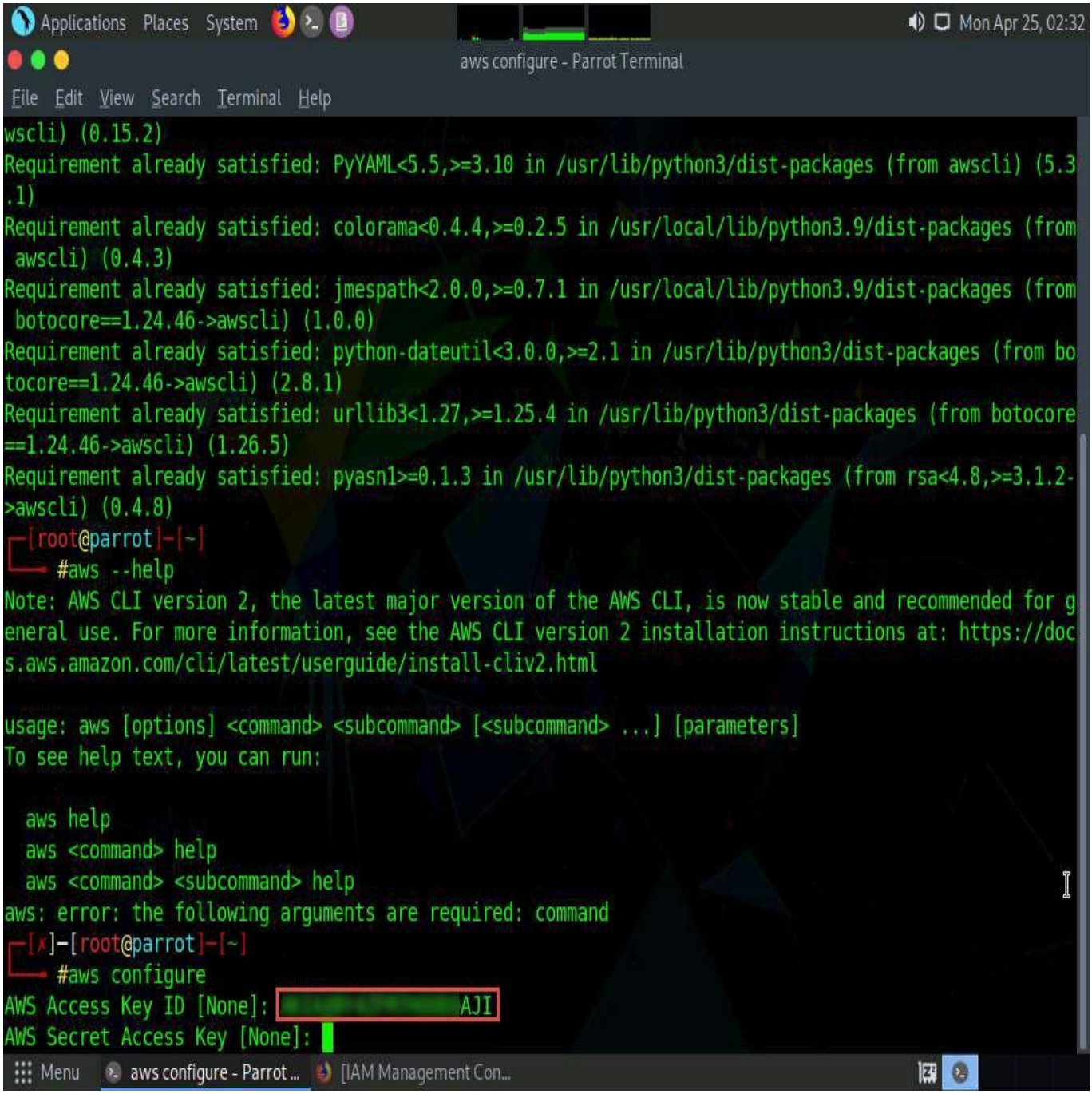
16. ☐ Click the **Create New Access Key** button.



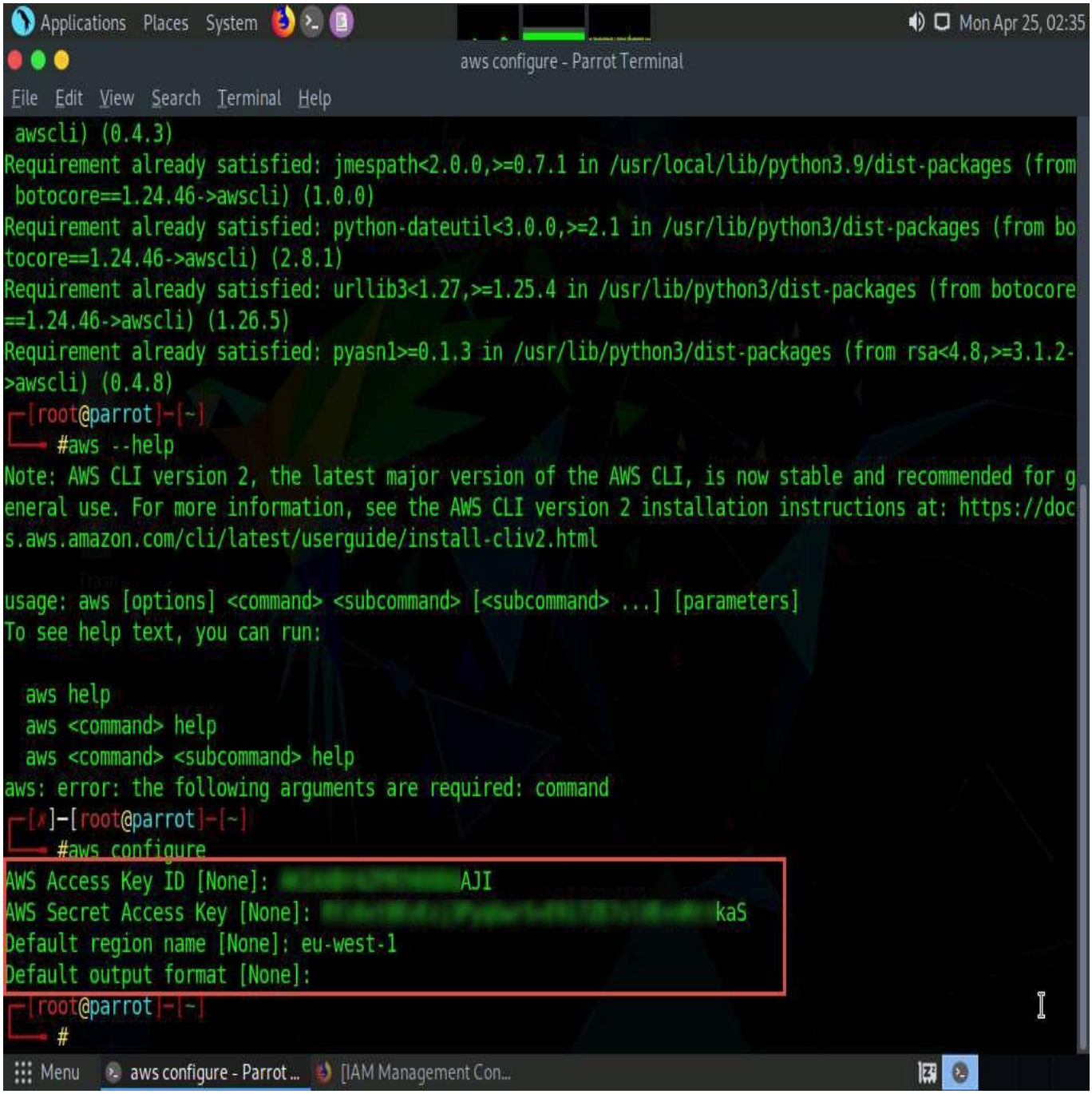
17. ☐ A **Create Access Key** pop-up appears, stating that your access key has been successfully created. Click the **Show Access Key** link to view the access key.
18. ☐ Copy the **Access Key ID** displayed by pressing **Ctrl+C** on your keyboard and switch to the **Terminal** window.



19. In the terminal window, right-click your mouse; select **Paste** from the context menu to paste the copied **Access Key ID** and press **Enter**. It will prompt you to the **AWS Secret Access Key**. Switch to your AWS Account in the browser.



20. ☐ In the **Create Access Key** pop-up, select the **Secret Access Key** displayed, copy it by pressing **Ctrl+C** on your keyboard, and minimize the browser window. Switch to the **Terminal** window.
21. ☐ In the terminal window, right-click your mouse, select **Paste** from the context menu to paste the copied **Secret Access Key** and press **Enter**. It will prompt you for the default region name.
22. ☐ In the **Default region name** field, type **eu-west-1** and press **Enter**.
23. ☐ The **Default output format** prompt appears; leave it as default and press **Enter**.



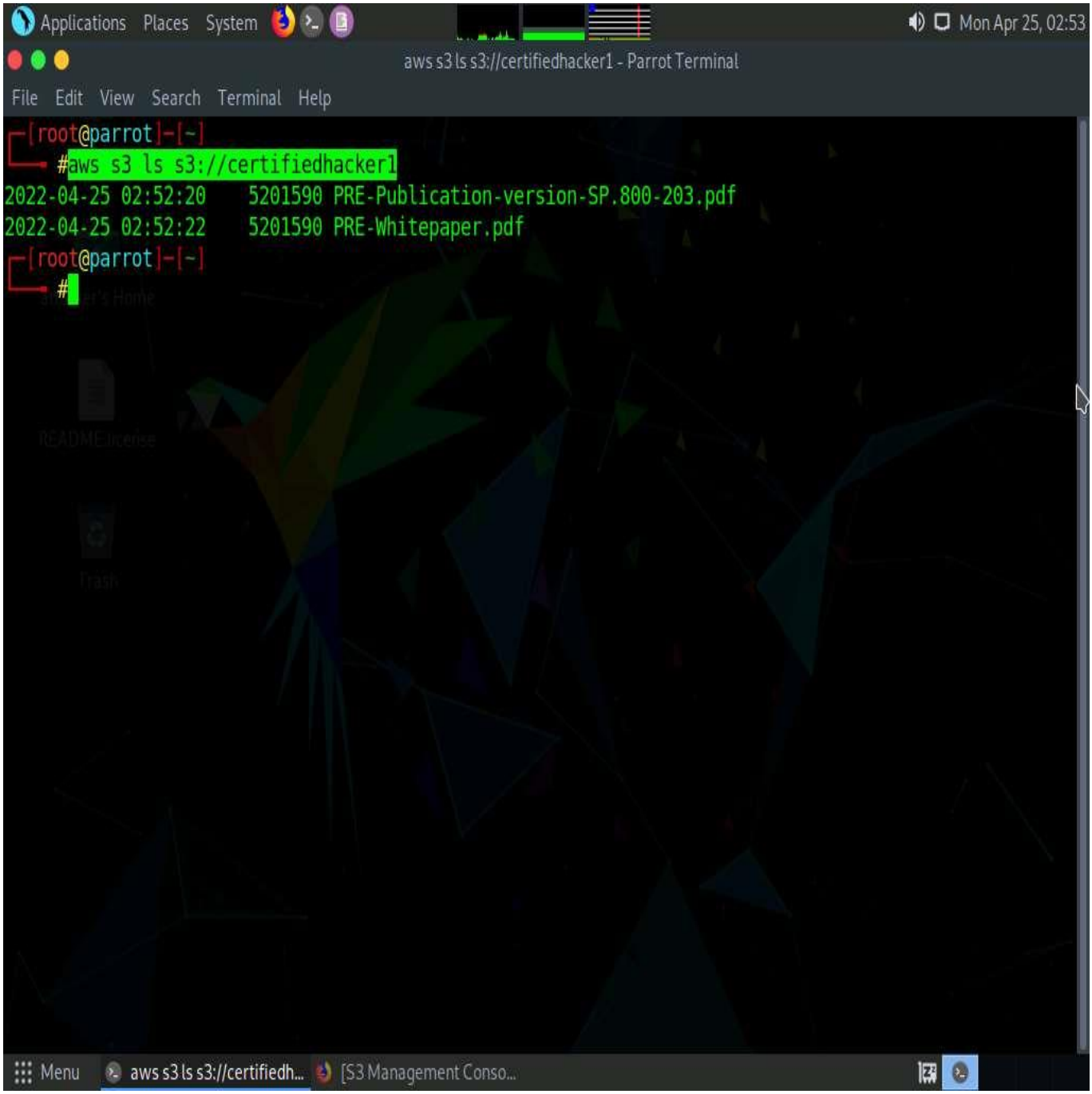
24. ☐ For demonstration purposes, we have created an open S3 bucket with the name **certifiedhacker1** in the AWS service. We are going to use that bucket in this task.

The public S3 buckets can be found during the enumeration phase.

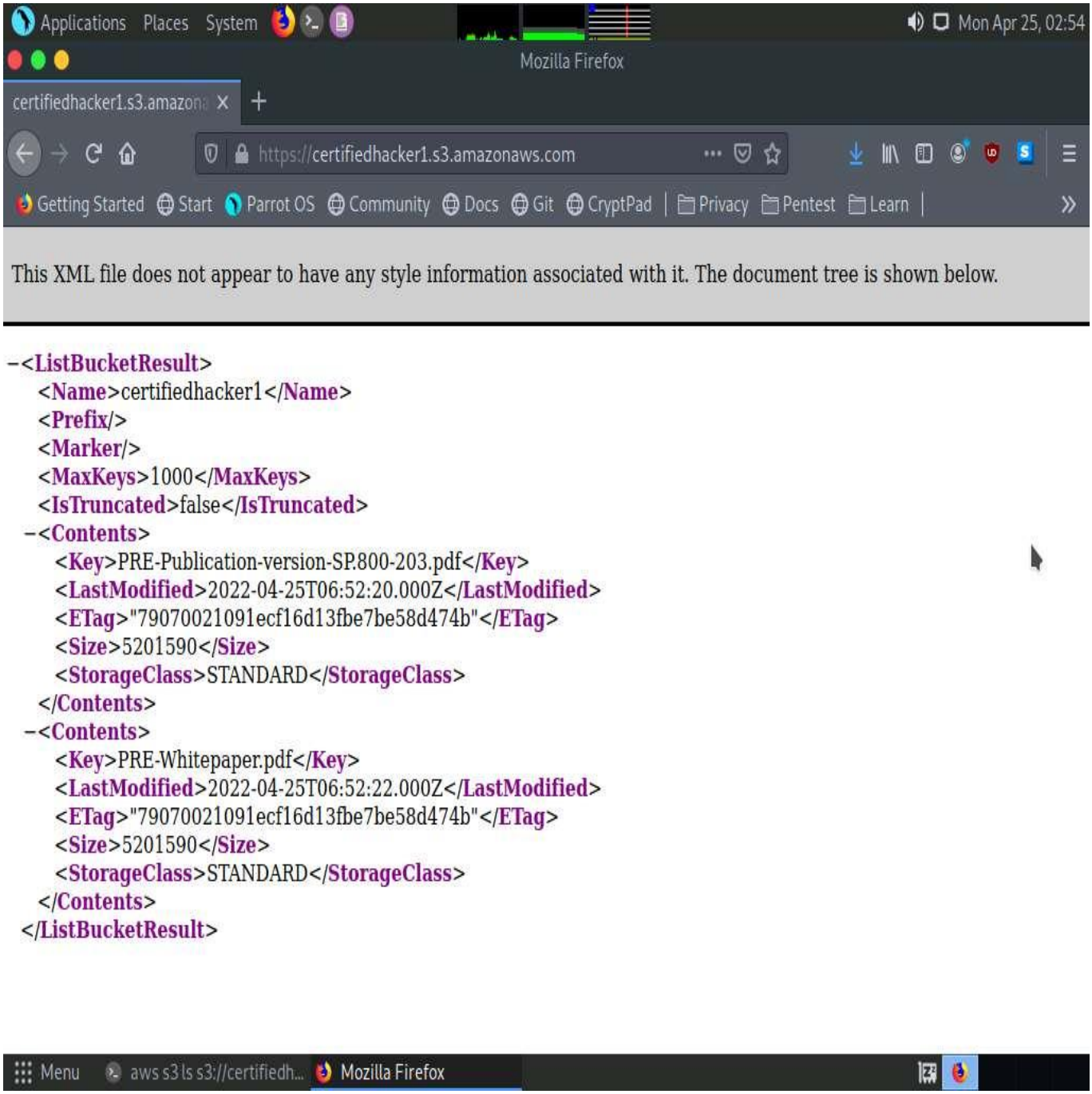
25. ☐ Let us list the directories in the certifiedhacker1 bucket. In the terminal window, type **aws s3 ls s3://[Bucket Name]** (here, Bucket Name is **certifiedhacker1**) and press **Enter**.

The bucket name may be different in your lab environment depending on the bucket you are targeting.

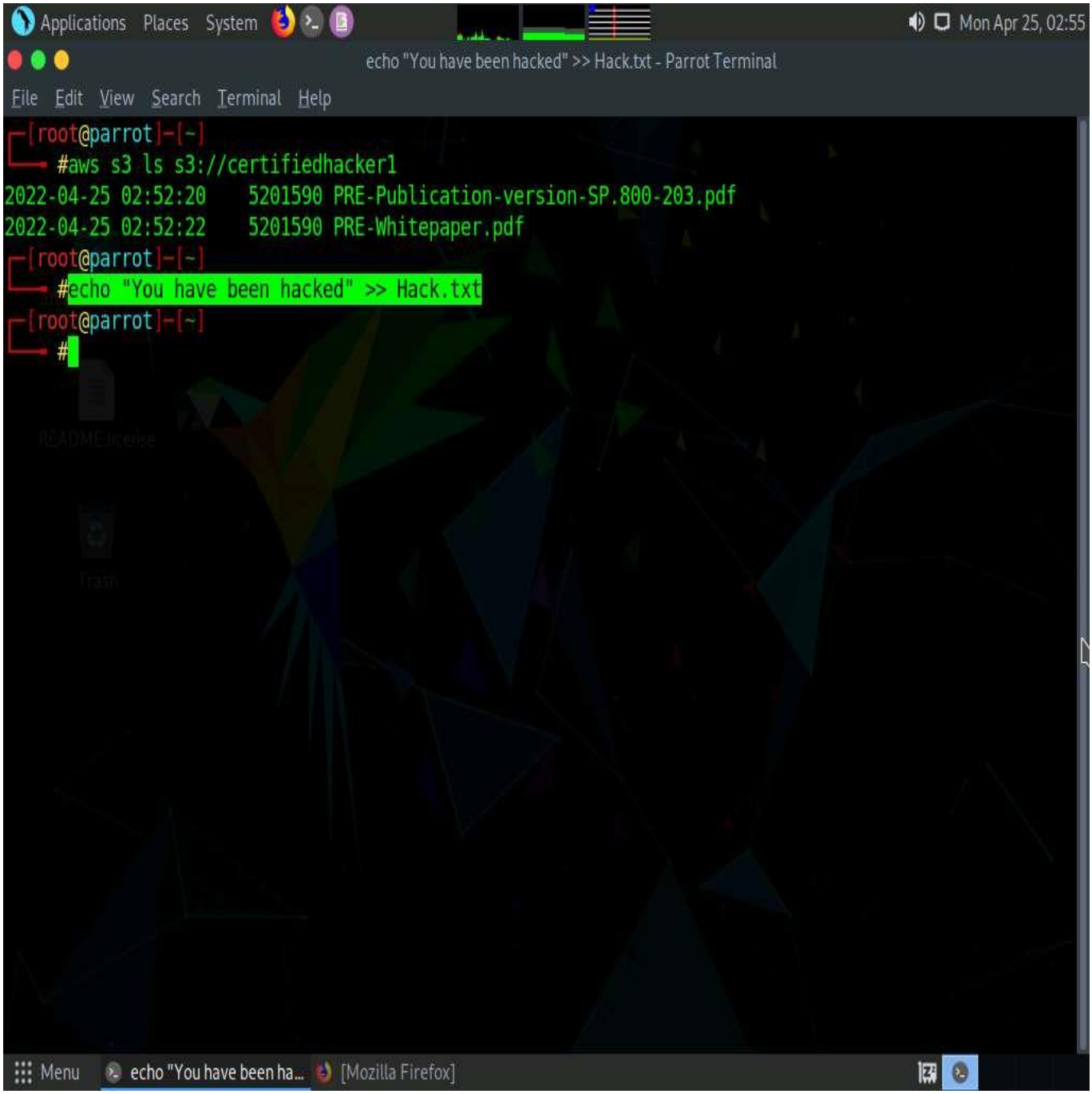
26. ☐ This will show you the list of directories in the **certifiedhacker1** S3 bucket, as shown in the screenshot.



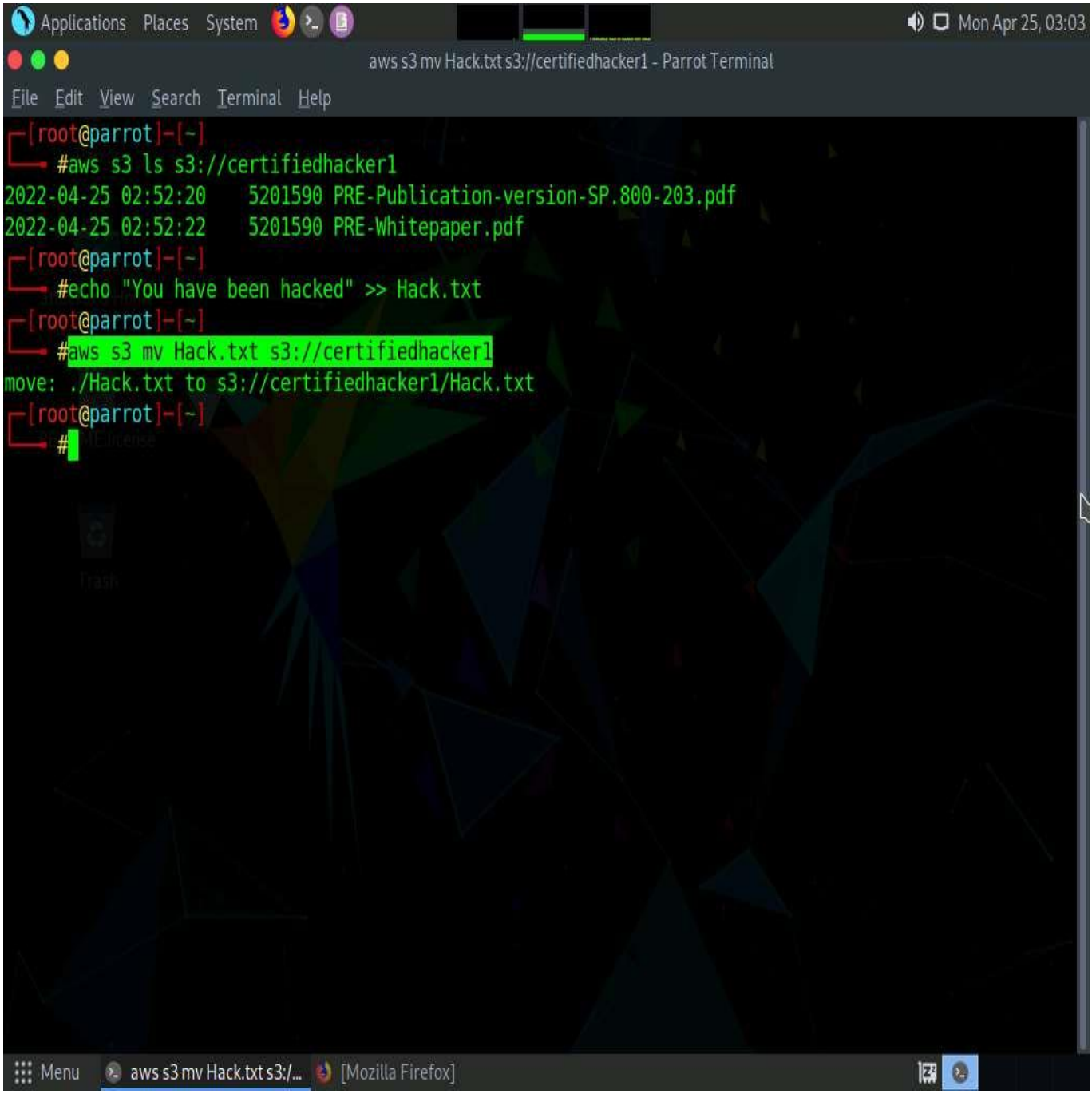
27. ☐ Now, maximize the browser window, type **certifiedhacker1.s3.amazonaws.com** in the address bar, and press **Enter**.
28. ☐ This will show you the complete list of directories and files available in this bucket.



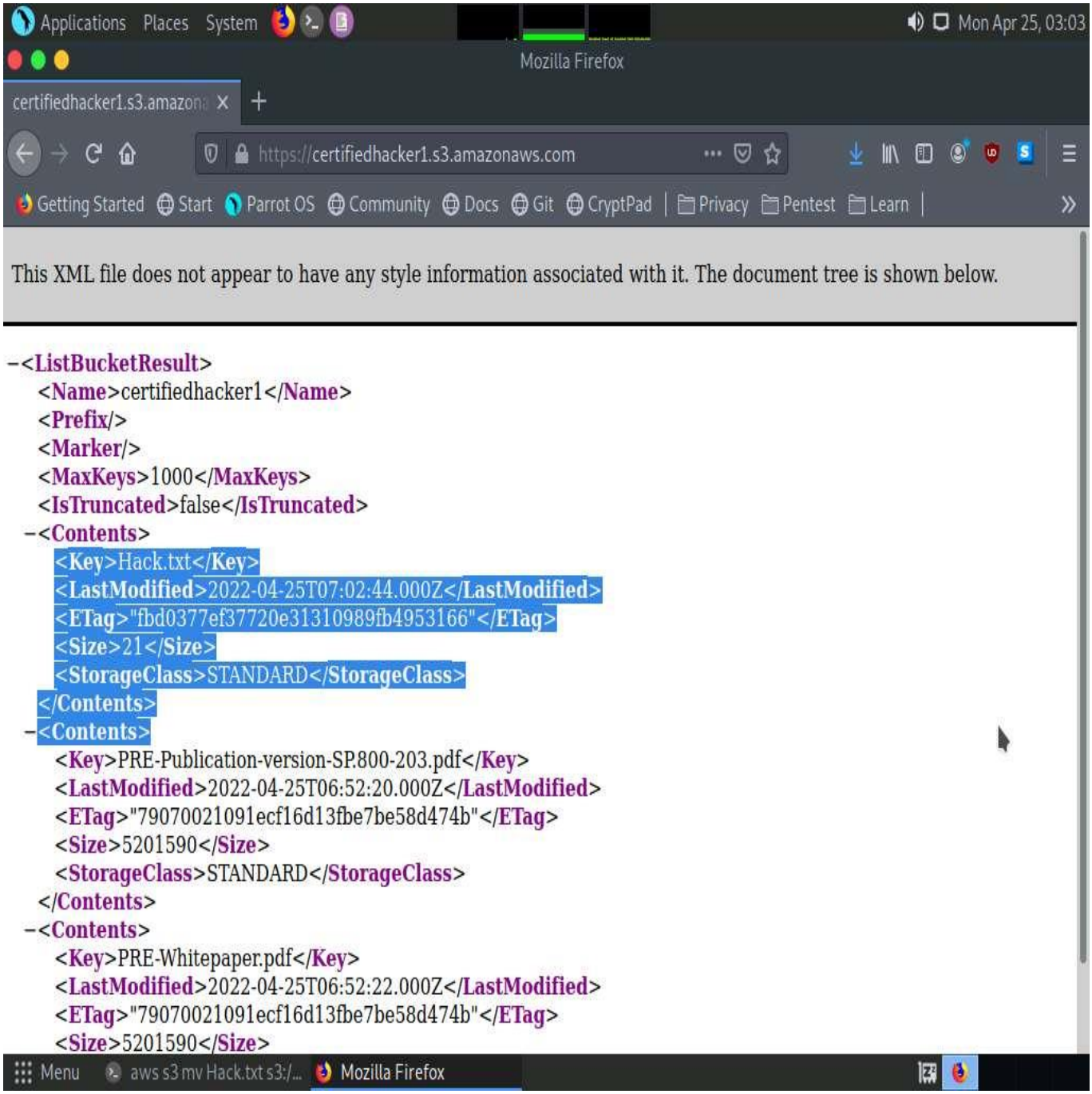
29. ☐ Minimize the browser window and switch to **Terminal**.
30. ☐ Let us move some files to the certifiedhacker1 bucket. To do this, in the terminal window, type **echo "You have been hacked" >> Hack.txt** and press **Enter**.
31. ☐ By issuing this command, you are creating a file named **Hack.txt**.



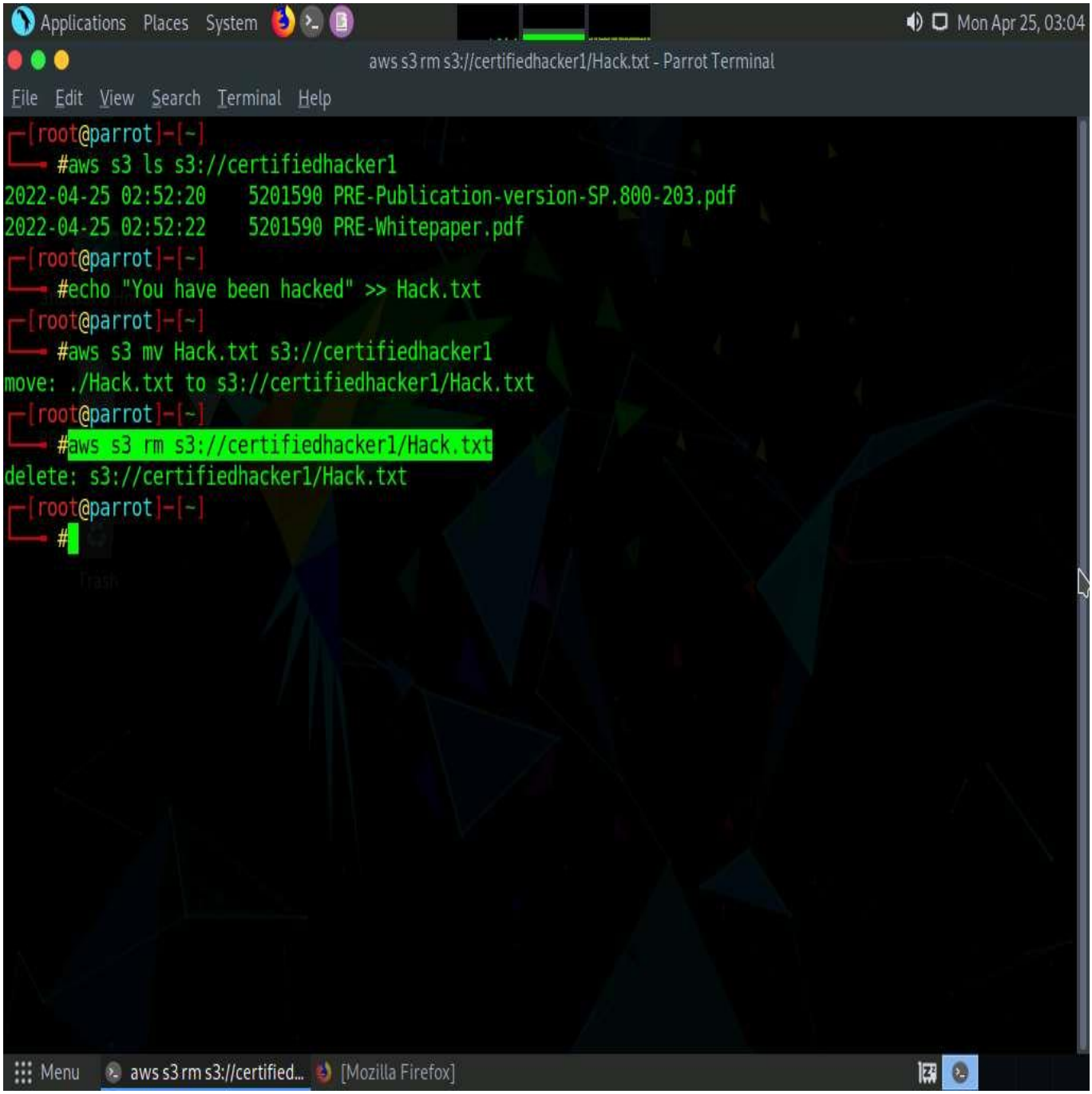
32. ☐ Let us try to move the **Hack.txt** file to the **certifiedhacker1** bucket. In the terminal window, type **aws s3 mv Hack.txt s3://certifiedhacker1** and press **Enter**.
33. ☐ You have successfully moved the **Hack.txt** file to the **certifiedhacker1** bucket.



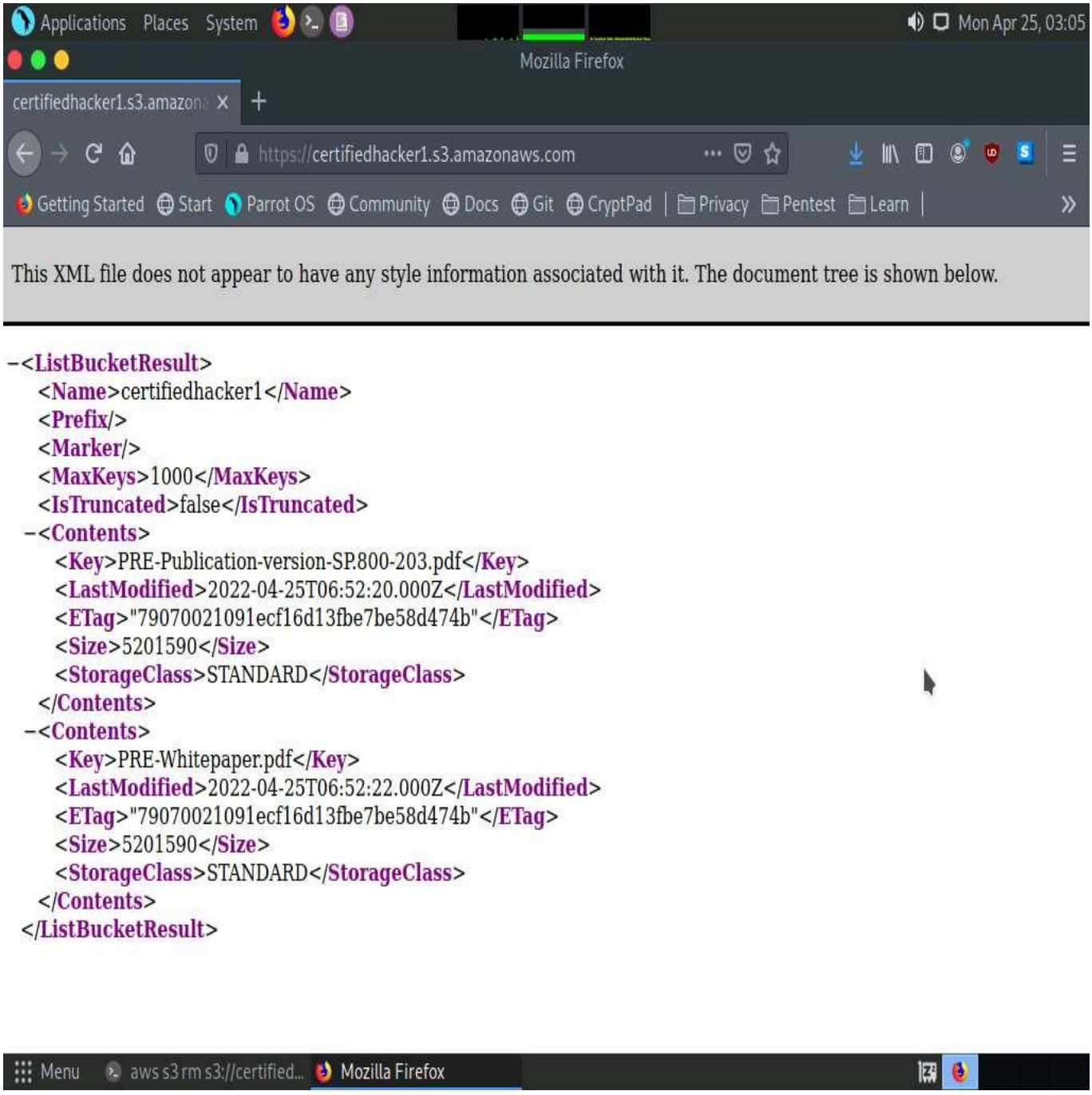
34. ☐ To verify whether the file is moved, switch to the browser window and maximize it. Reload the page.
35. ☐ You can observe that the **Hack.txt** file is moved to the certifiedhacker1 bucket, as shown in the screenshot.



36. ☐ Minimize the browser window and switch to the **Terminal** window.
37. ☐ Let us delete the **Hack.txt** file from the **certifiedhacker1** bucket. In the terminal window, type **aws s3 rm s3://certifiedhacker1/Hack.txt** and press **Enter**.
38. ☐ By issuing this command, you have successfully deleted the **Hack.txt** file from the **certifiedhacker1** bucket.



39. ☐ To verify whether the file is deleted, switch to the browser window and reload the page.
40. ☐ The **Hack.txt** file is deleted from the **certifiedhacker1** bucket.



41. ☐ Thus, you can add or delete files from open S3 buckets.
42. ☐ This concludes the demonstration of exploiting public S3 buckets.
43. ☐ Close all open windows and document all acquired information.