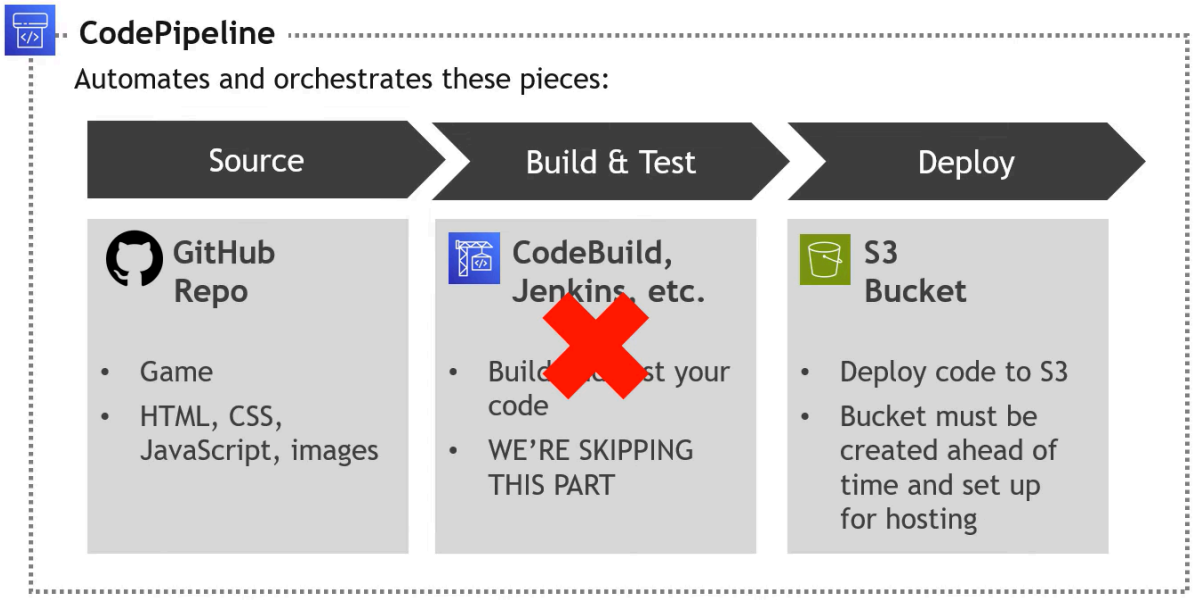
Project Documentation: AWS Continuous Deployment Pipeline

1. Project Overview

Project Title: AWS Meme Matching Game Continuous Deployment Pipeline

Introduction: This project involves building and deploying a simple meme-matching memory card game using AWS services. The core of the project is setting up a continuous deployment pipeline with AWS CodePipeline to automatically pull code from GitHub and deploy it to an S3 bucket configured for static website hosting. The game is built using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, with no server-side code.



Project Workflow

Video Reference: AWS Project: Build a Game with a Continuous Deployment Pipeline from GitHub to S3

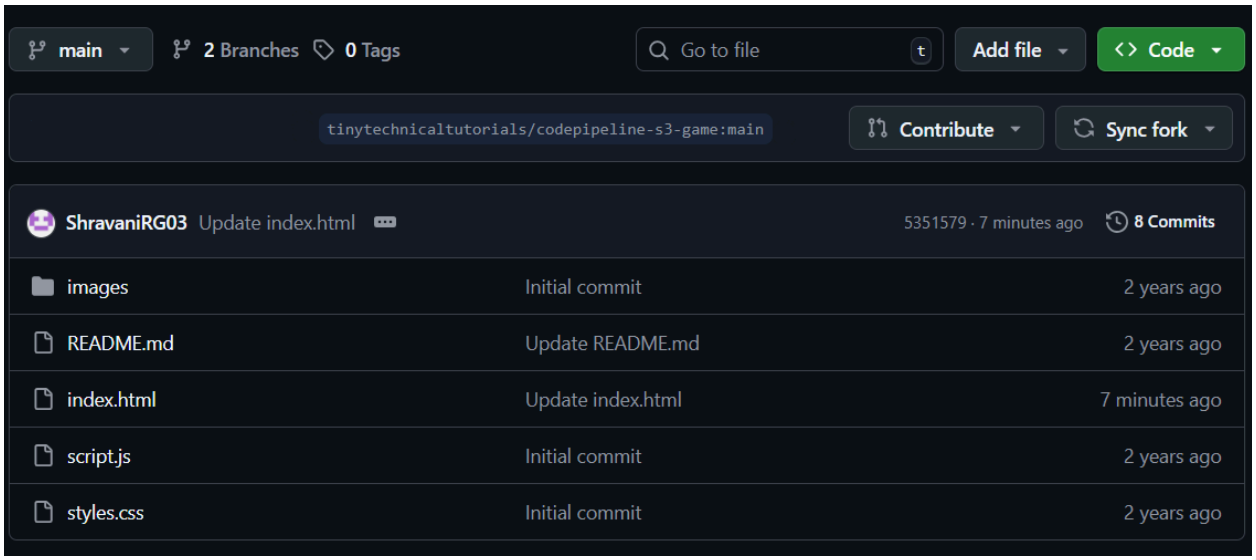
2. Tools and Technologies

Version Control: GitHub
Cloud Services: Amazon Web Services (AWS)
    CI/CD: AWS CodePipeline
    Storage: AWS S3 (for static website hosting)
Web Technologies:

HTML, CSS, JavaScript

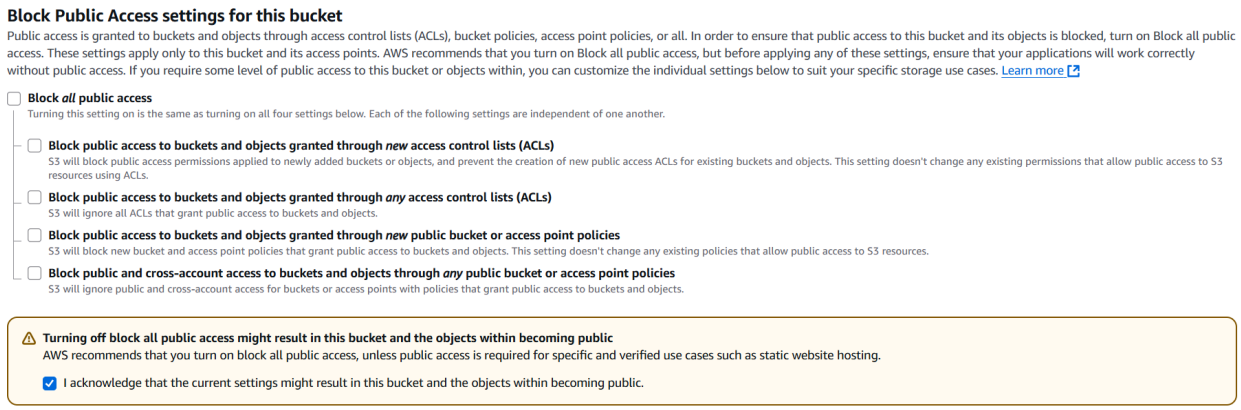
3. Implementation Steps

Step 3.1: Getting the Project Code from GitHub
Fork the Repository: Start by forking the provided GitHub repository (codepipeline-s3-game) to your own GitHub account. This creates a copy that you can modify and use for your pipeline.



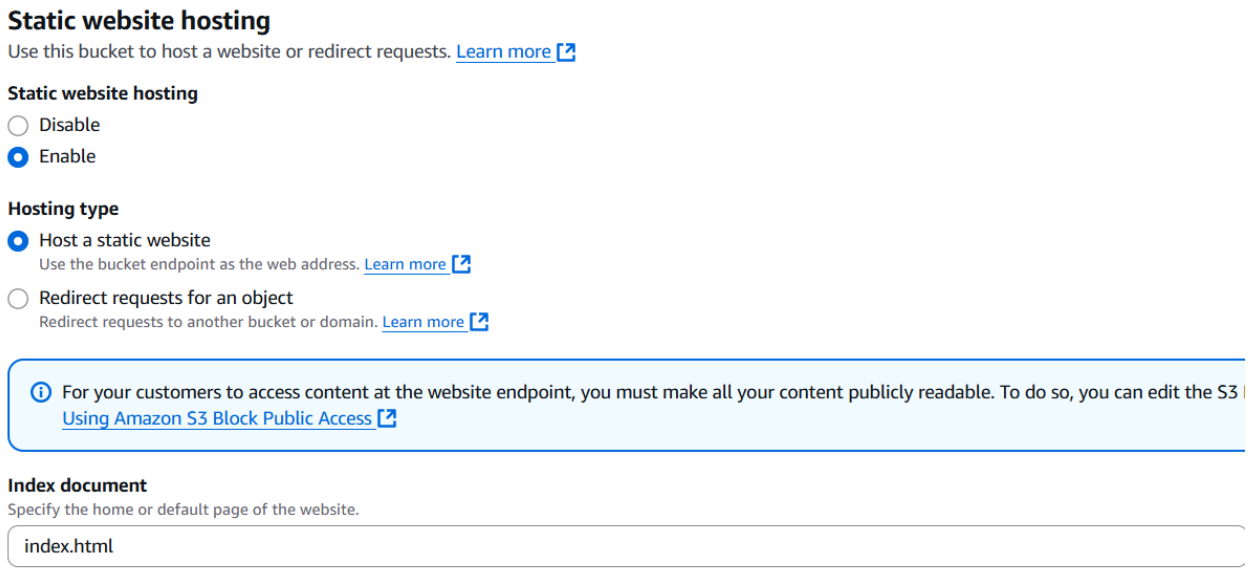
Forked repository

Step 3.2: Creating and Configuring the S3 Bucket
Create the Bucket: In the AWS Management Console, navigate to the S3 service and create a new bucket. Remember that the bucket name must be globally unique.
Disable Public Access: Uncheck the "Block all public access" setting, as the website needs to be publicly available. Acknowledge the warning.



S3 Bucket configurations

Enable Static Website Hosting: Go to the bucket's "Properties" tab, scroll down to "Static website hosting," click Edit, and enable it. Set index.html as the index document.



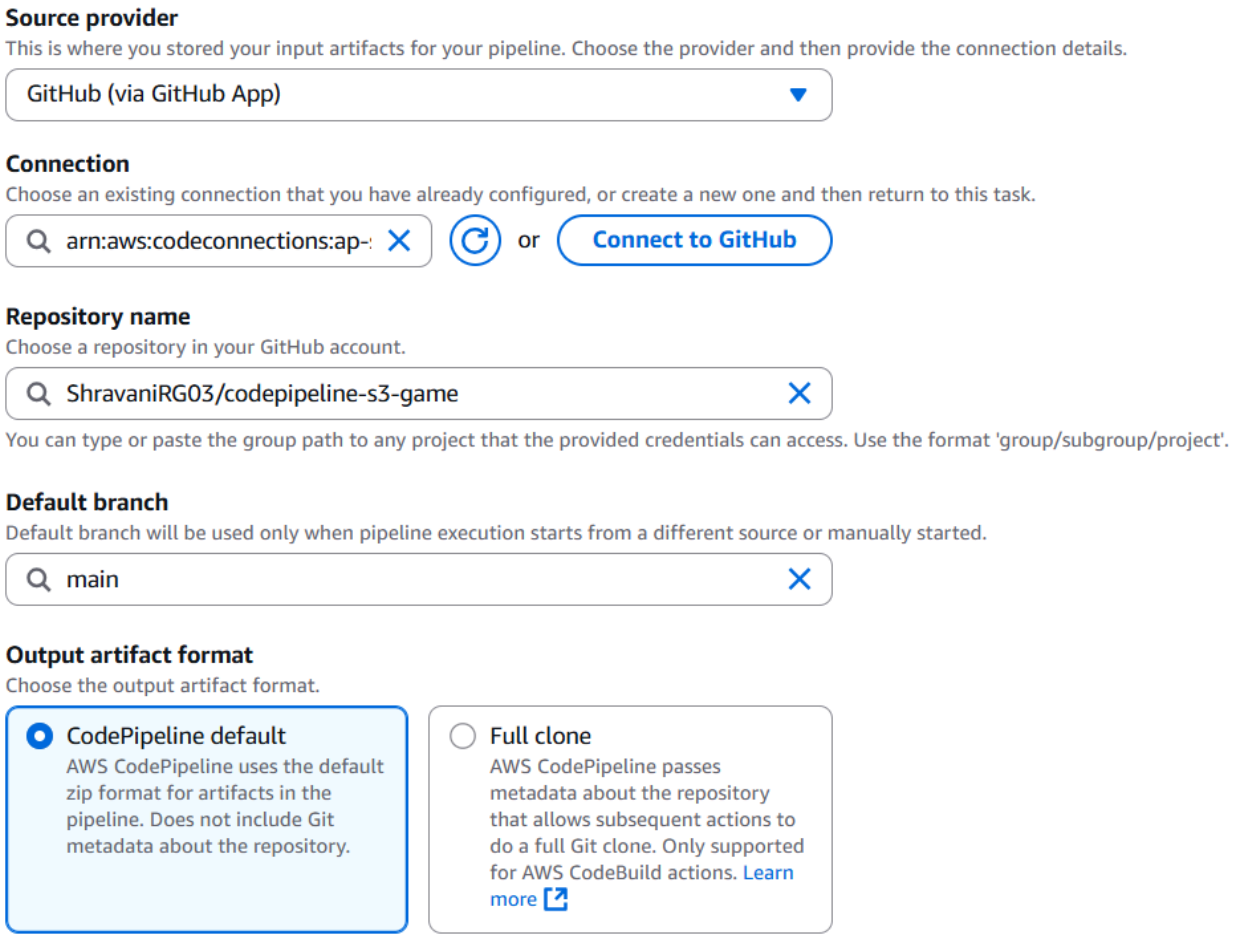
Static website hosting configurations

Add a Bucket Policy: Navigate to the "Permissions" tab and add a bucket policy to allow public read access to the objects in the bucket. The policy should grant the s3:GetObject action to all principals (*) on your bucket's resources.

Bucket policy

Step 3.3: Creating the AWS CodePipeline
Create a New Pipeline: Go to the AWS CodePipeline service and click Create pipeline. Give the pipeline a name and create a new service role.

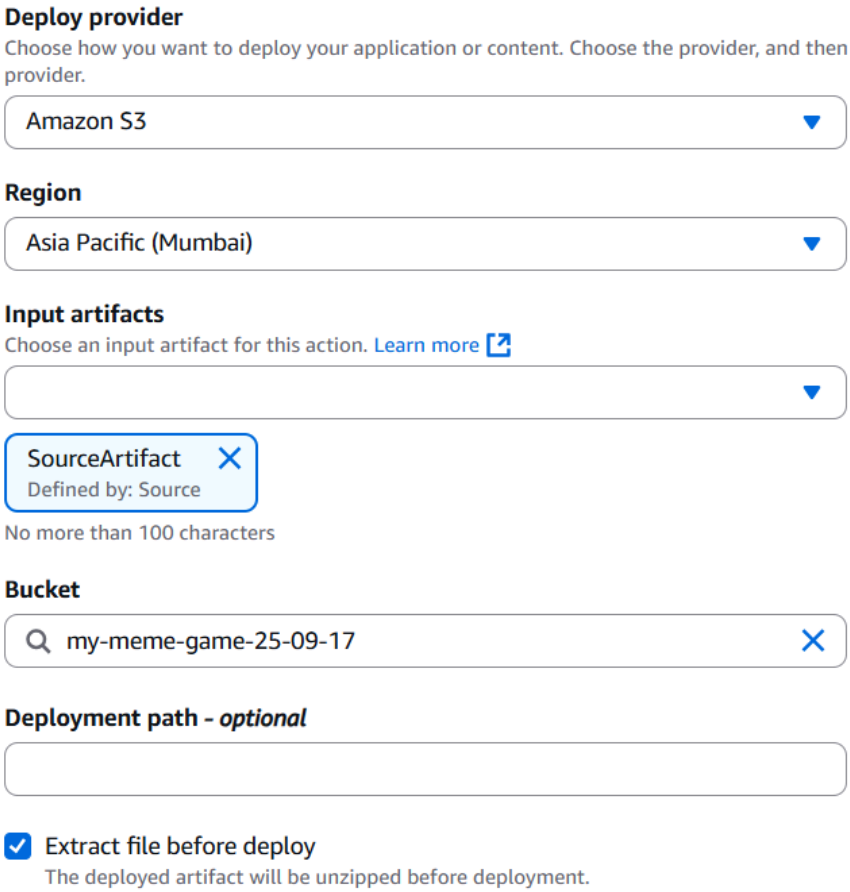
Configure the Source Stage: Select GitHub (Version 2) as the source provider. Connect to your GitHub account and select the repository you forked earlier. Set the detection mode to "GitHub webhooks" to trigger the pipeline on every commit.



Source stage configurations

Skip the Build Stage: Since this is a static website, there's no need for a build stage. Confirm that you want to skip this step.

Configure the Deploy Stage: Select Amazon S3 as the deploy provider. Choose the AWS region and the S3 bucket you created. Check the box for "Extract file before deploy" to ensure the files are correctly placed in the bucket.

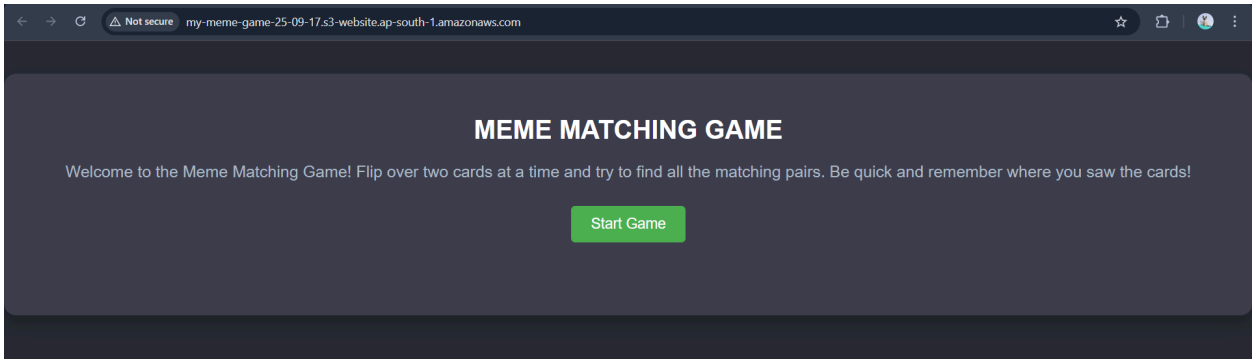


Deploy stage configuration

Review and Create: Review all the settings and create the pipeline. The pipeline will automatically start and deploy the initial code.

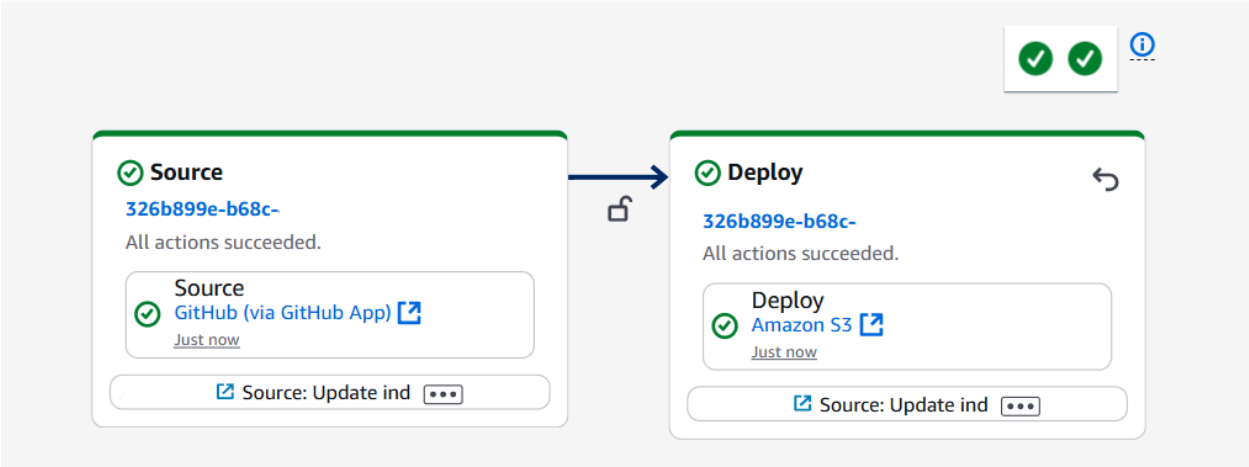
Step 3.4: Testing and Validation

Access the Deployed Website: Go back to the S3 bucket's "Properties" tab and scroll down to "Static website hosting." Click the provided endpoint URL to see your game live on the web.



Final deployed game

Test Continuous Deployment: Make a small change to the index.html file directly in your GitHub repository and commit the change. The pipeline should automatically detect this change and redeploy the updated code to the S3 bucket. Refresh your website to see the update.



CodePipeline

4. Challenges and Solutions

Challenge: Initial Access Denied errors when trying to view the website.
Solution: This is a common issue related to incorrect permissions. The fix involves ensuring the S3 bucket policy has the necessary permissions to allow public read access (s3:GetObject).

5. Conclusion

This project successfully demonstrates the power of a continuous deployment pipeline using AWS services. By automating the deployment process, updates to the game can be pushed live almost instantly with a simple code commit to GitHub, saving time and effort. This showcases fundamental DevOps practices.

6. Future Improvements

Implement a build stage using AWS CodeBuild to perform tasks like minifying code or running unit tests before deployment.
Extend the pipeline to deploy to a more scalable service like Elastic Beanstalk or an EC2 instance.