AdvDevOps Case Study 12: Serverless Logging with S3 and Lambda

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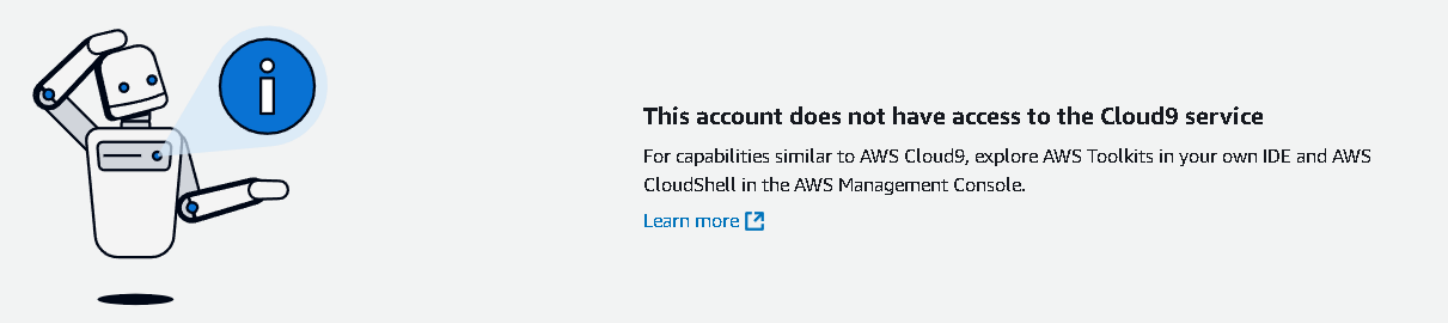
- **Concepts Used**: AWS Lambda, S3, and AWS Cloud9.
- **Problem Statement**: "Set up a Lambda function using AWS Cloud9 that triggers when a text file is uploaded to an S3 bucket. The Lambda function should read the file's content and log it."
- **Tasks**:
  - Create a Lambda function in Python using AWS Cloud9.
  - Configure an S3 bucket as the trigger for the Lambda function.
  - Upload a text file to the S3 bucket and verify that the Lambda function logs the content.

Note:
AWS **Cloud9** has been **discontinued**, so we will now use **EC2** for our development environment.



Introduction:

Overview:
This case study focuses on the implementation of a serverless architecture using AWS services, specifically AWS Lambda and Amazon S3, to automate the logging of text file contents uploaded to an S3 bucket. The project capitalizes on the event-driven model of AWS Lambda, which allows functions to be triggered automatically in response to events, such as file uploads. This approach eliminates the need for manual processes, streamlining workflows and reducing the time from data generation to logging.
The chosen architecture supports a variety of applications, from monitoring and auditing file uploads to real-time data analytics. By leveraging the scalability and flexibility of AWS, this implementation can efficiently handle varying loads of file uploads, making it suitable for diverse use cases such as content management systems, log aggregation, and data pipeline automation.

Key Features and Applications:

1. **Event-Driven Architecture:**
   - The solution utilizes an event-driven architecture, where the Lambda function is automatically triggered by specific events in the S3 bucket, specifically s3:ObjectCreated:*. This ensures immediate processing of the uploaded files without manual intervention, enhancing responsiveness and efficiency.
2. **Real-Time Data Processing:**
   - By reading and logging the contents of text files in real-time, the system provides immediate feedback to users or systems that rely on this data. This is crucial for applications that require timely information, such as monitoring changes in configurations, updates in content, or logging user activities.
3. **Scalability:**
   - AWS Lambda inherently scales to accommodate varying loads. As file uploads increase, the Lambda function can handle multiple concurrent executions, allowing the system to grow without requiring changes to the underlying infrastructure.
4. **Cost Efficiency:**
   - The serverless nature of this solution means that users only pay for the compute time consumed by the Lambda function when it is invoked, rather than maintaining dedicated servers. This cost model is especially advantageous for sporadic or unpredictable workloads.
5. **Seamless Integration with AWS Services:**
   - The solution integrates smoothly with other AWS services. For instance, Amazon S3 serves as a durable and highly available storage solution, while AWS CloudWatch provides logging and monitoring capabilities, enabling easy tracking of function executions and error handling.
6. **Robust Logging and Monitoring:**
   - Utilizing AWS CloudWatch, the Lambda function logs all relevant activities, including the contents of the uploaded files. This logging capability allows for comprehensive monitoring and auditing, making it easier to track file processing and identify issues quickly.

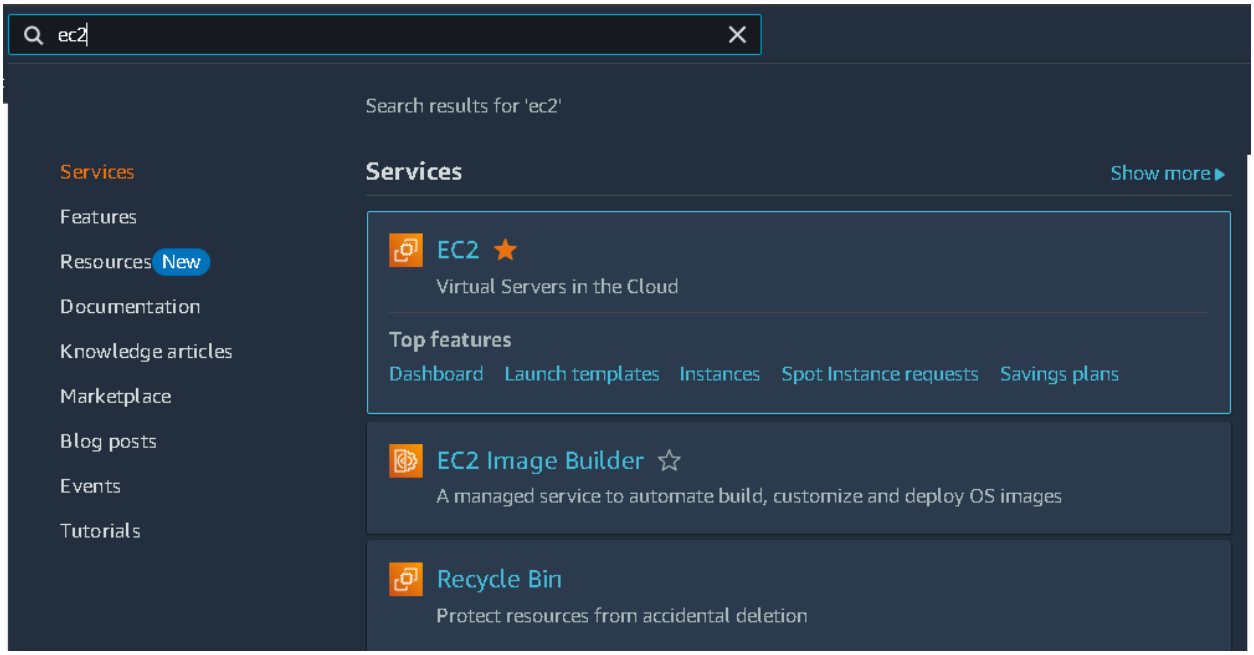
Steps:

1. **Create an S3 Bucket**:
   - Set up an S3 bucket (named soham-lambucket) to store uploaded text files.
2. **Write the Lambda Function**:
   - Created a Python Lambda function to read the content of text files uploaded to the S3 bucket and log that content using CloudWatch.
3. **Set Permissions**:
   - Configured an IAM policy allowing the Lambda function to access the S3 bucket and log content.
4. **Configure S3 Trigger**:
   - Set the S3 bucket to trigger the Lambda function on the s3:ObjectCreated:* event, ensuring the function runs whenever a new file is uploaded.
5. **Upload a Test File**:
   - Uploaded a text file (e.g., test1.txt) to the S3 bucket to test the functionality.
6. **Verify Logs**:
   - Checked CloudWatch logs to confirm that the Lambda function executed successfully and logged the content of the uploaded file.

STEPS:

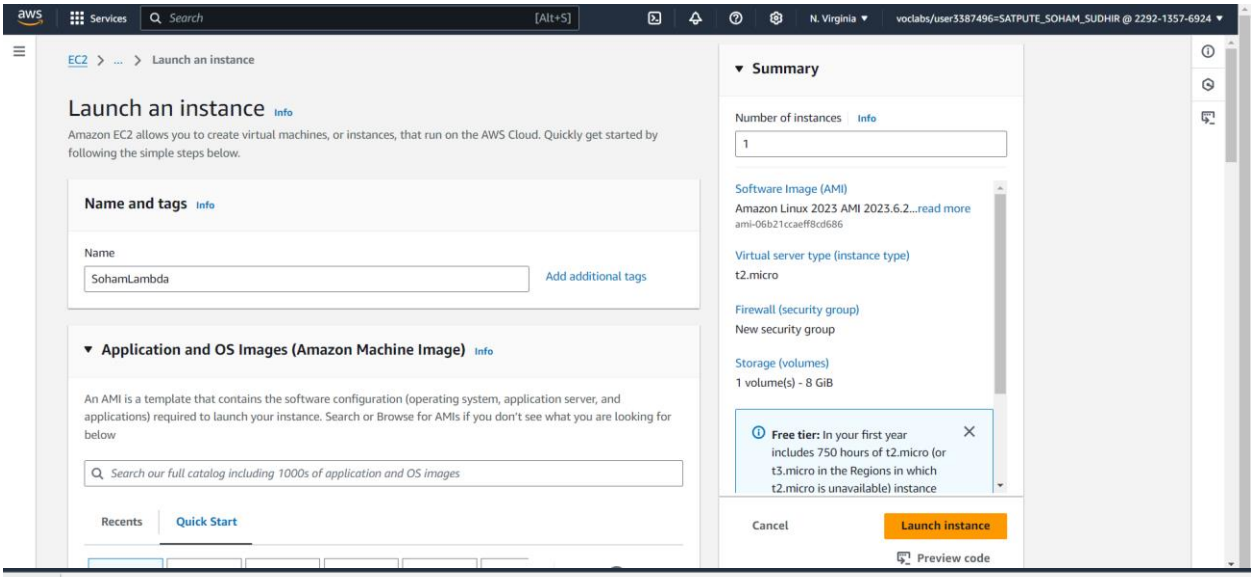
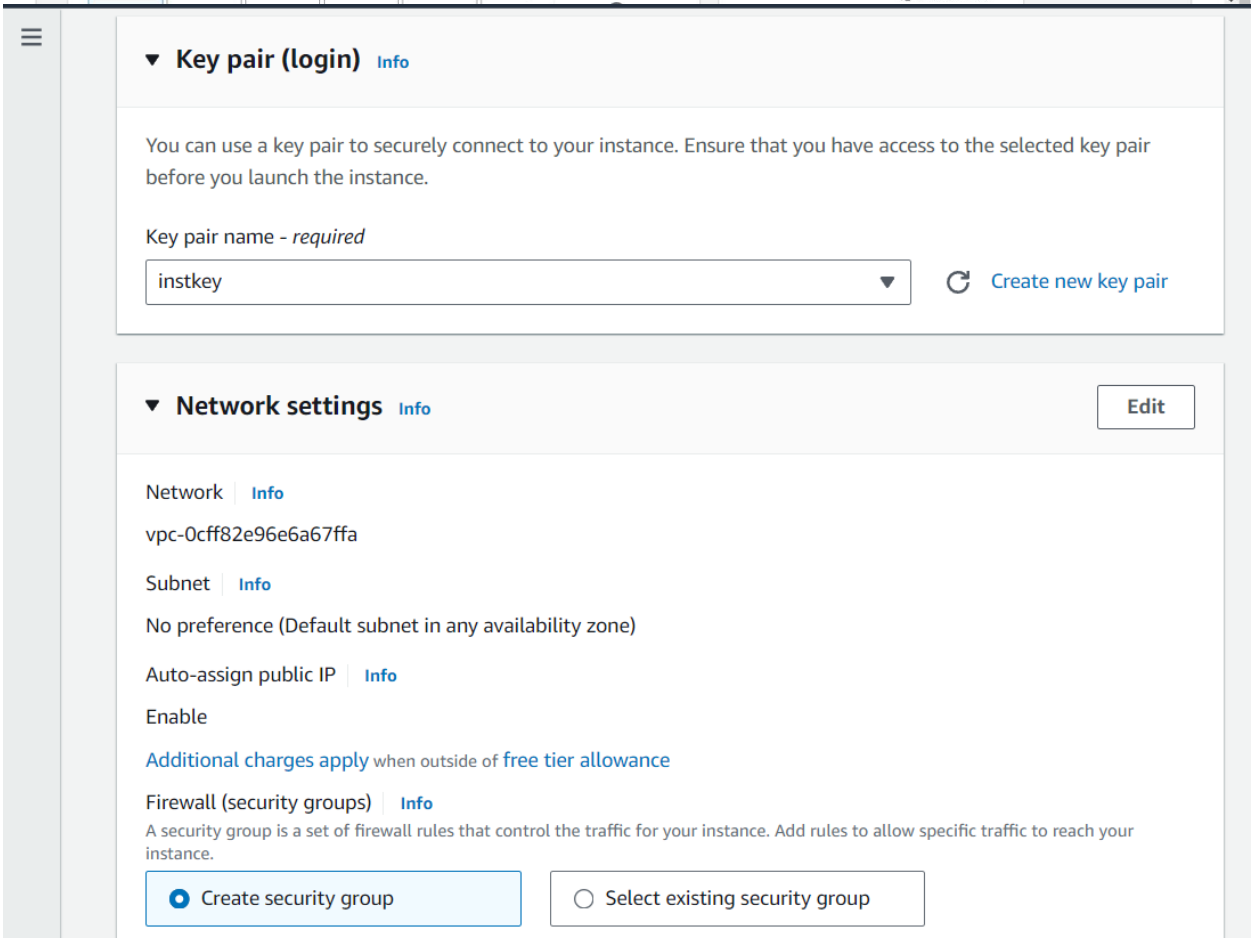
1. Launch an EC2 Instance

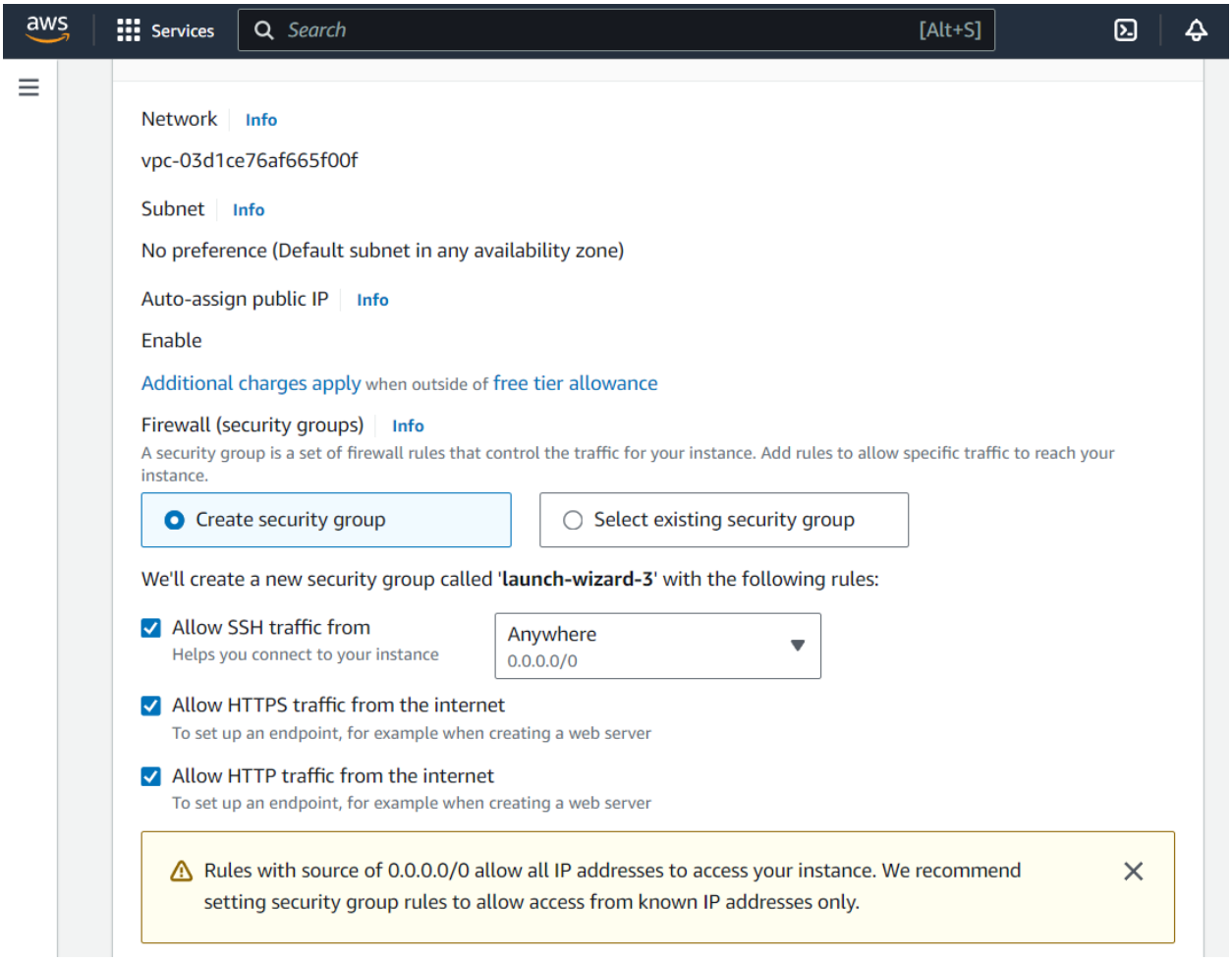
1.1 Login to AWS Console and go to EC2 service.



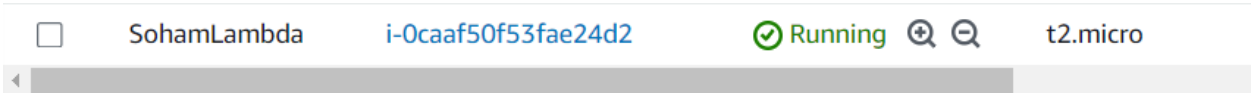
1.2 Click on "Launch Instance".

- AMI: Choose Amazon Linux 2.
- Instance Type: Select t2.micro (eligible for free tier).
- Key Pair: Create a new key pair (or select an existing one). You'll need this for SSH access.
- Network Settings:
    - Choose default VPC.
    - Security Group: Create a new security group:
        - Inbound Rules:
            - SSH (TCP port 22): Allow from your IP.
            - HTTP (TCP port 80): Optional, allows browser access.
            - HTTPS (TCP port 443): Optional, for secure traffic.
        - Outbound Rules:
            - Allow all outbound traffic (default).

- 
Services
Search
[Alt+S]
N. Virginia
voclabs/user3387496=SATPUTE_SOHAM_SUDHIR @ 2292-1357-6924
EC2 > ... > Launch an instance
Launch an instance Info
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 Info
Name
SohamLambda
Add additional tags
Application and OS Images (Amazon Machine Image) Info
An AMI is a template that contains the software configuration (operating system, application server, and applications) required to launch your instance. Search or Browse for AMIs if you don't see what you are looking for below
Search our full catalog including 1000s of application and OS images
Recents
Quick Start
Summary
Number of instances Info
1
Software Image (AMI)
Amazon Linux 2023 AMI 2023.6.2...read more
ami-06b21ccaeff8cd686
Virtual server type (instance type)
t2.micro
Firewall (security group)
New security group
Storage (volumes)
1 volume(s) - 8 GiB
Free tier: In your first year includes 750 hours of t2.micro (or t3.micro in the Regions in which t2.micro is unavailable) instance
Cancel
Launch instance
Preview code
- 
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
instkey
Create new key pair
Network settings Info
Edit
Network Info
vpc-0cff82e96e6a67ffa
Subnet Info
No preference (Default subnet in any availability zone)
Auto-assign public IP Info
Enable
Additional charges apply when outside of free tier allowance
Firewall (security groups) Info
A security group is a set of firewall rules that control the traffic for your instance. Add rules to allow specific traffic to reach your instance.
Create security group
Select existing security group



1.3 Launch the instance and wait for it to be ready.



1.4 Connect to the EC2 instance via SSH:

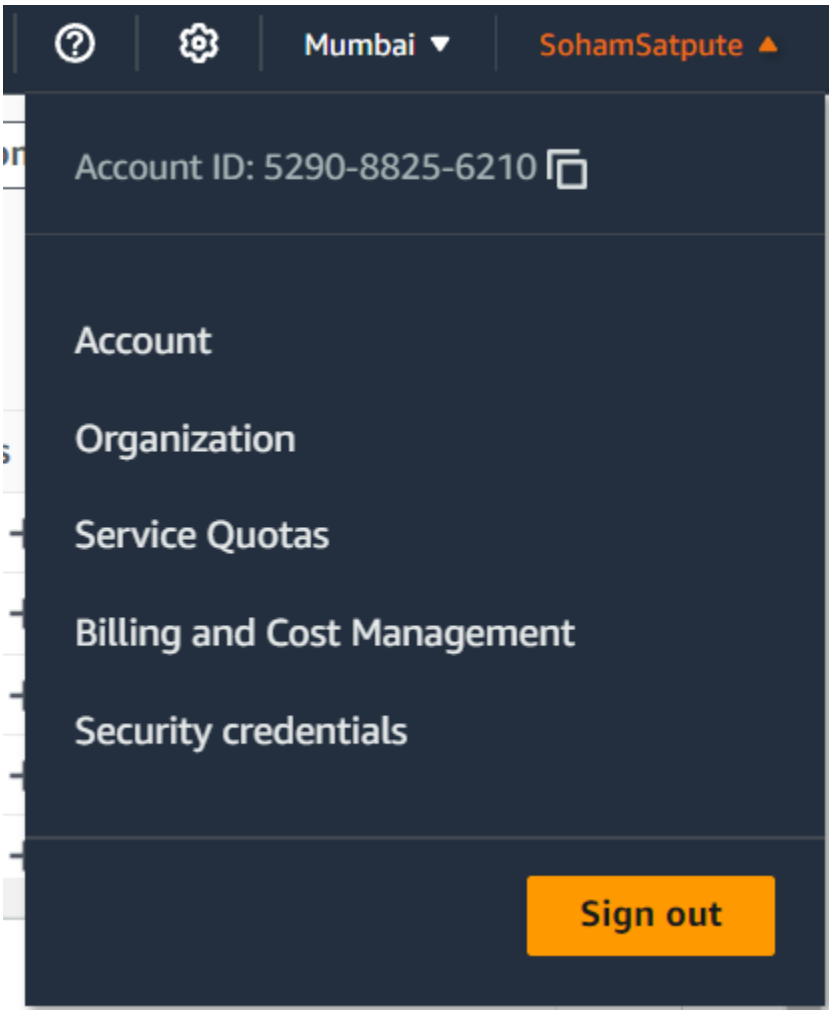
ssh -i <your-key.pem> ec2-user@<your-ec2-public-dns>

```
PS C:\Users\Soham Satpute\downloads> ssh -i "instkey.pem" ec2-user@ec2-43-205-128-6.ap-south-1.compute.amazonaws.com
The authenticity of host 'ec2-43-205-128-6.ap-south-1.compute.amazonaws.com (43.205.128.6)' can't be established.
ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:/KqjzIkRpqOikHBJp+qczfMyt8xOPsgpJ5XH9LQ5z5E.
This key is not known by any other names.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added 'ec2-43-205-128-6.ap-south-1.compute.amazonaws.com' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts.
   ,     #_
   ~\_  ####_        Amazon Linux 2023
  ~~  \_#####\
  ~~     \###|
  ~~       \#/ ___   https://aws.amazon.com/linux/amazon-linux-2023
   ~~       V~' '->
    ~~~         /
      ~~._.   _/
         _/ _/
       _/m/'
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-36-17 ~]$
```

2. **Create Access keys for Root user**

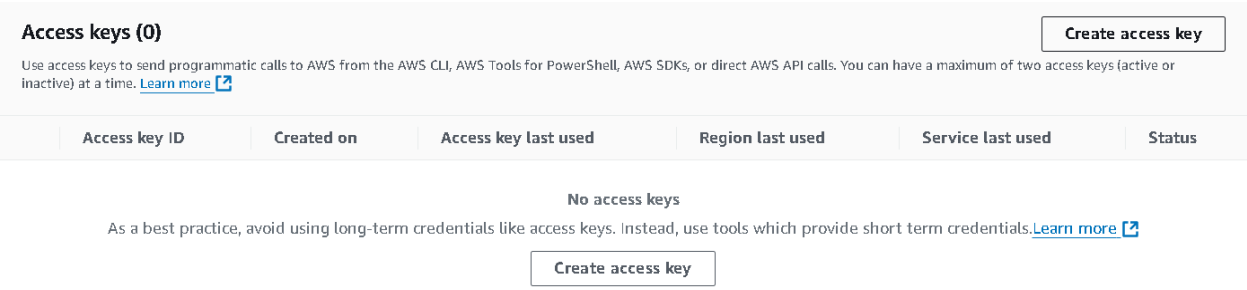
2.1 Access the Root User Security Credentials:

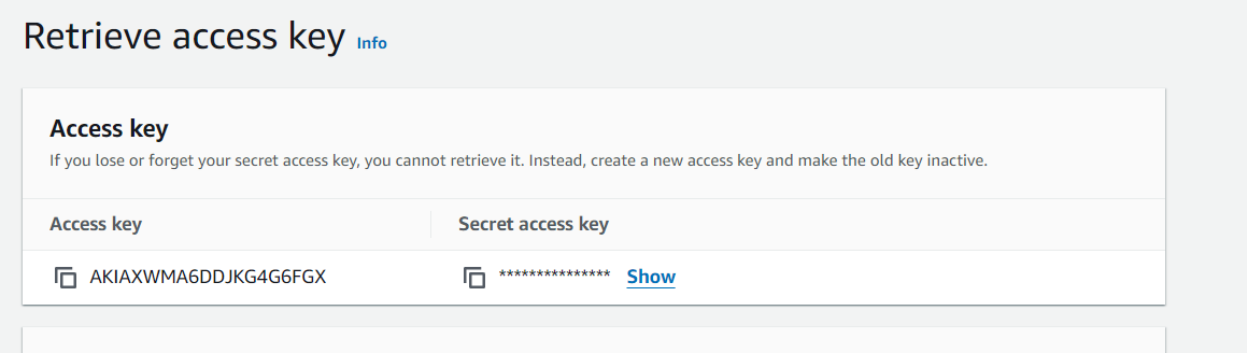
- In the top-right corner of AWS Management Console, click on your account name or email address, and then click **Security Credentials** from the dropdown menu.



2.2 Manage Root Access Keys:

- Scroll down to the **Access keys for the root account** section.
- If you don't have any existing access keys, click on **Create New Access Key**.
    - This will generate an **Access Key ID** and a **Secret Access Key** for your root user.
- **Download** the keys or **copy** them immediately. You won't be able to see the **Secret Access Key** again after closing this page.





3. Install AWS CLI and Configure EC2

3.1 Update packages and install AWS CLI:

sudo yum update -y
sudo yum install aws-cli -y

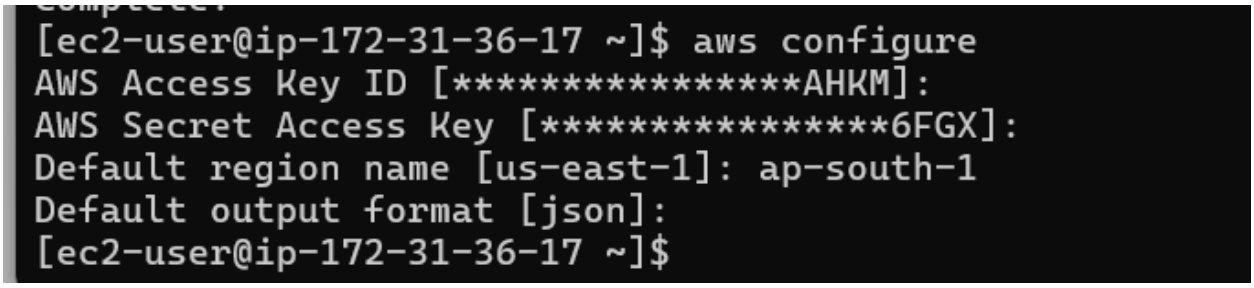
```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-36-17 ~]$ sudo yum update -y
sudo yum install aws-cli -y
Last metadata expiration check: 0:14:50 ago on Wed Oct 23 03:26:50 2024.
Dependencies resolved.
Nothing to do.
Complete!
Last metadata expiration check: 0:14:50 ago on Wed Oct 23 03:26:50 2024.
Package awscli-2-2.15.30-1.amzn2023.0.1.noarch is already installed.
Dependencies resolved.
Nothing to do.
Complete!
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-36-17 ~]$
```

3.2 Configure AWS CLI:

aws configure

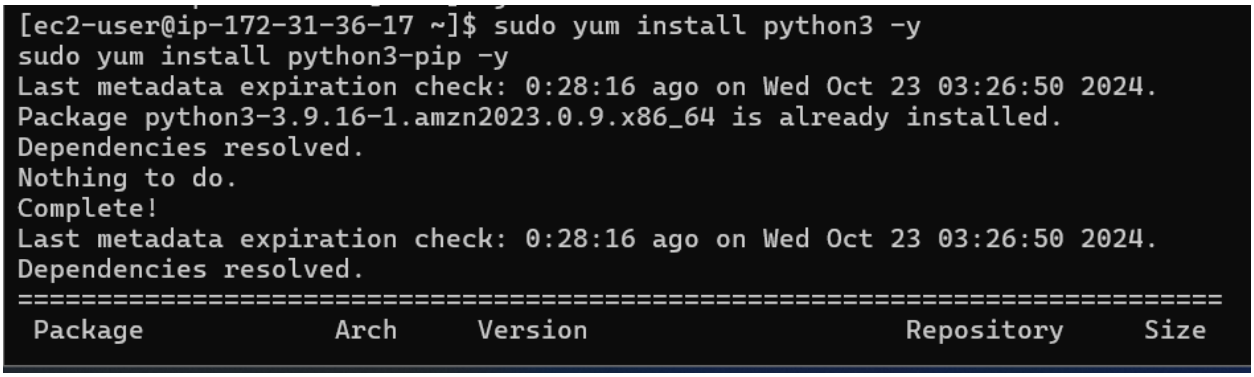
Enter your:

- AWS **Access Key ID**
- AWS **Secret Access Key**
- Region (e.g., `us-east-1`)
- Output format: `json`



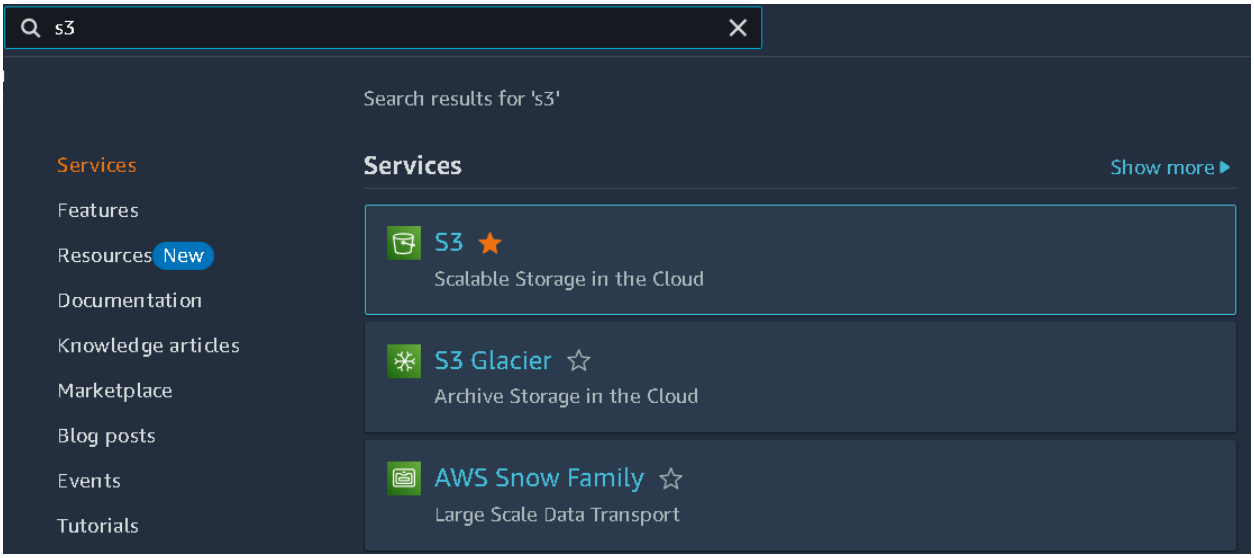
3.3 Install Python and pip (since Lambda uses Python):

sudo yum install python3 -y
sudo yum install python3-pip -y



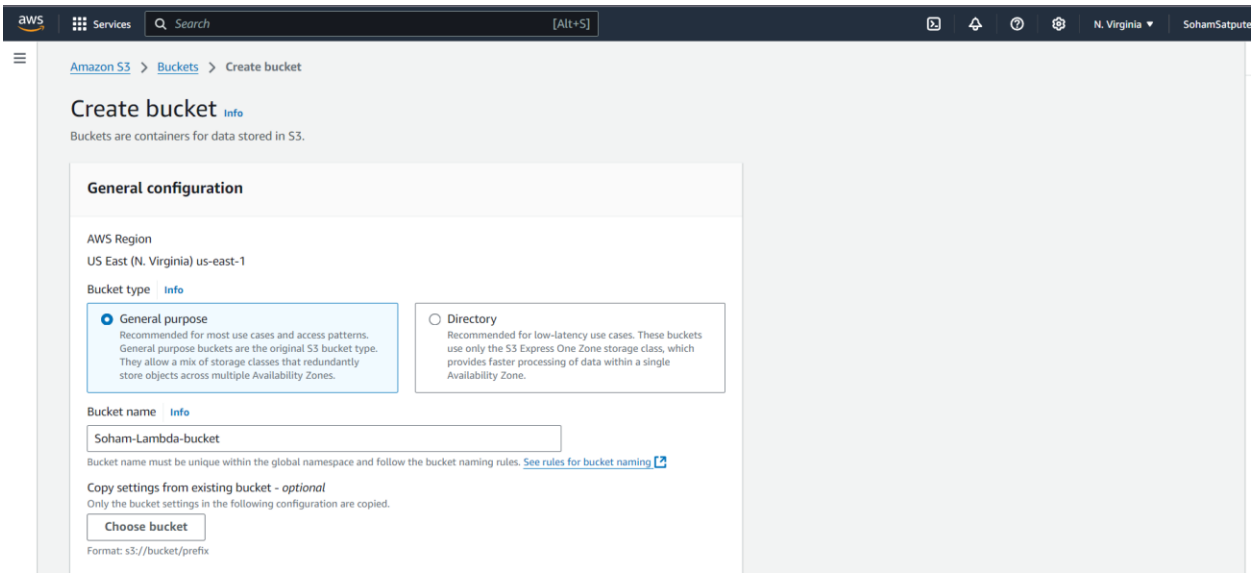
4. Create and S3 Bucket

4.1 In the AWS Management Console, go to **S3**.



4.2 Click **Create bucket**:

- **Bucket Name**: Give a unique name (e.g., `lambda-s3-trigger-bucket`).
- **Region**: Keep the same as your AWS Configuration (e.g., `us-east-1`).
- Keep other settings default.



5. **Create the Lambda Function code.**

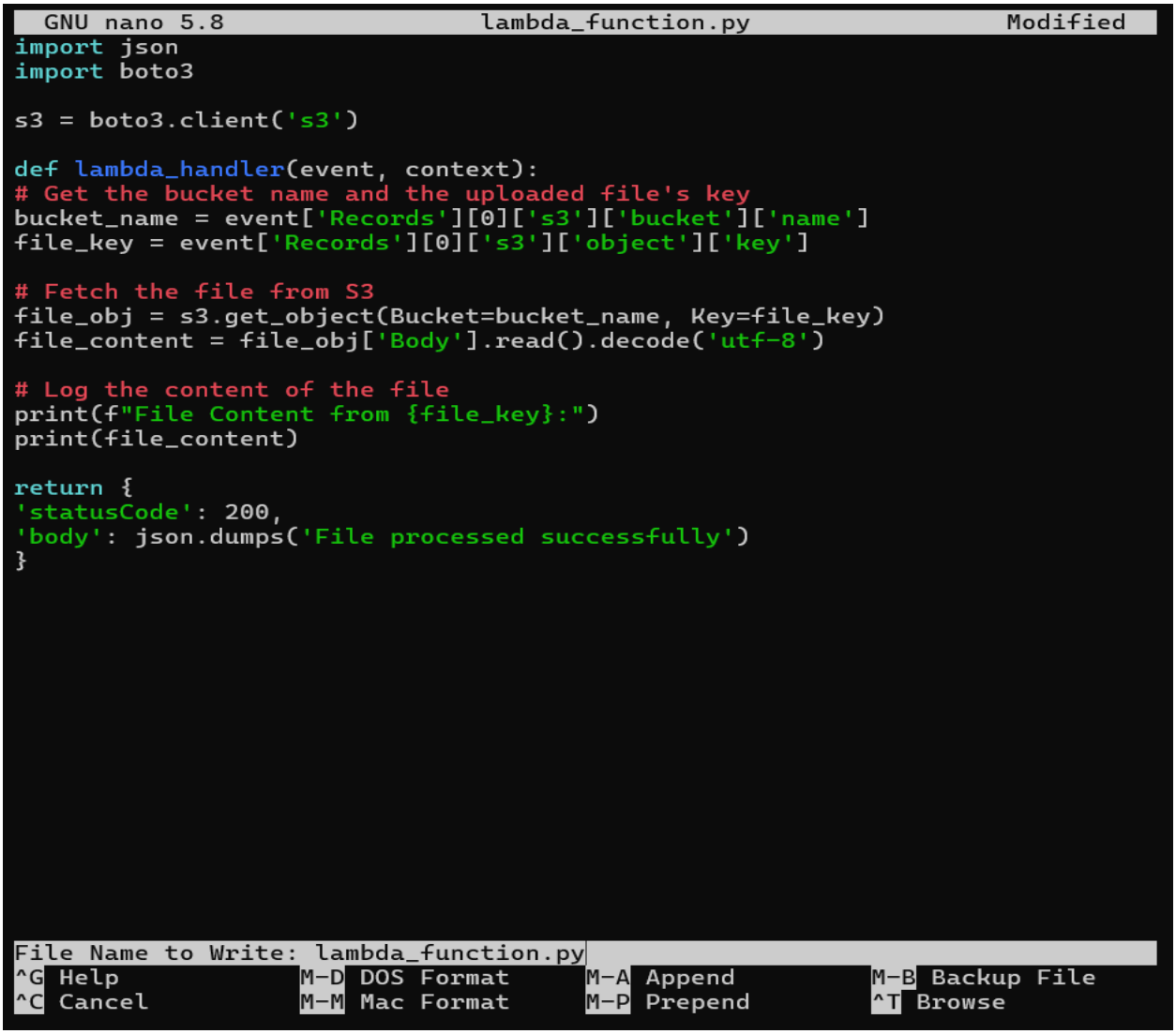
5.1 **On your EC2 instance**, create the Python Lambda function code:

nano lambda_function.py

5.2 **Write the following Lambda function** to read the uploaded file from S3:

```
import json
import boto3

s3 = boto3.client('s3')

def lambda_handler(event, context):
    # Get the bucket name and the uploaded file's key
    bucket_name = event['Records'][0]['s3']['bucket']['name']
    file_key = event['Records'][0]['s3']['object']['key']

    # Fetch the file from S3
    file_obj = s3.get_object(Bucket=bucket_name, Key=file_key)
    file_content = file_obj['Body'].read().decode('utf-8')

    # Log the content of the file
    print(f"File Content from {file_key}:")
    print(file_content)

    return {
        'statusCode': 200,
        'body': json.dumps('File processed successfully')
    }
```

5.3 Press `Ctrl+X`, then `Y`, and hit `Enter`.



6. Deploy the Lambda function from EC2

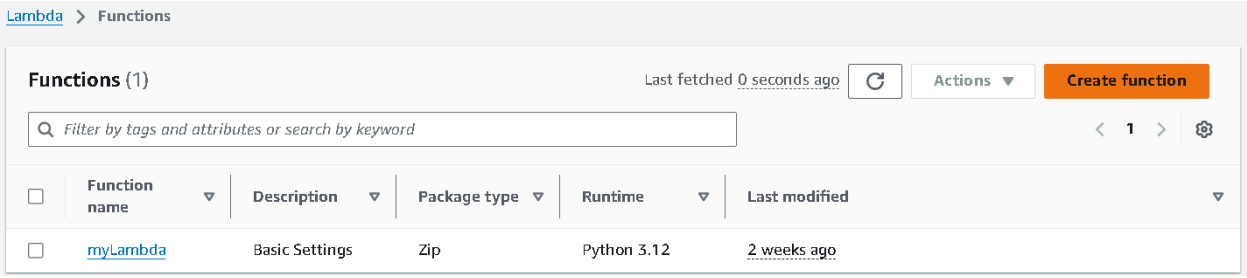
6.1 Package the Lambda function:

zip function.zip lambda_function.py

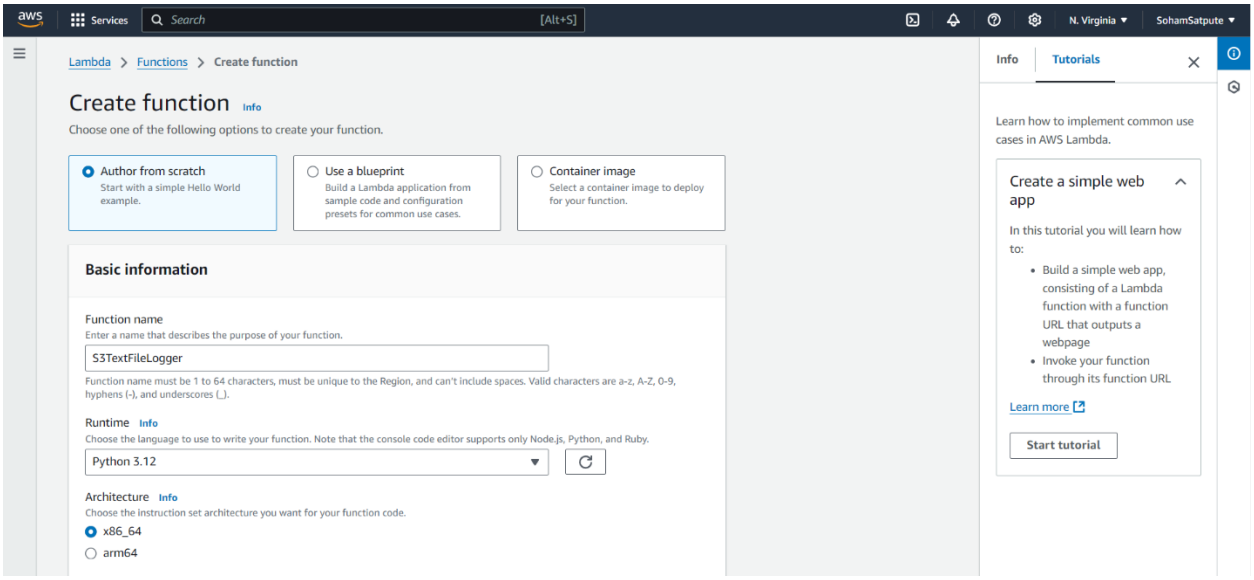
```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-36-17 ~]$ zip function.zip lambda_function.py
  adding: lambda_function.py (deflated 42%)
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-36-17 ~]$
```

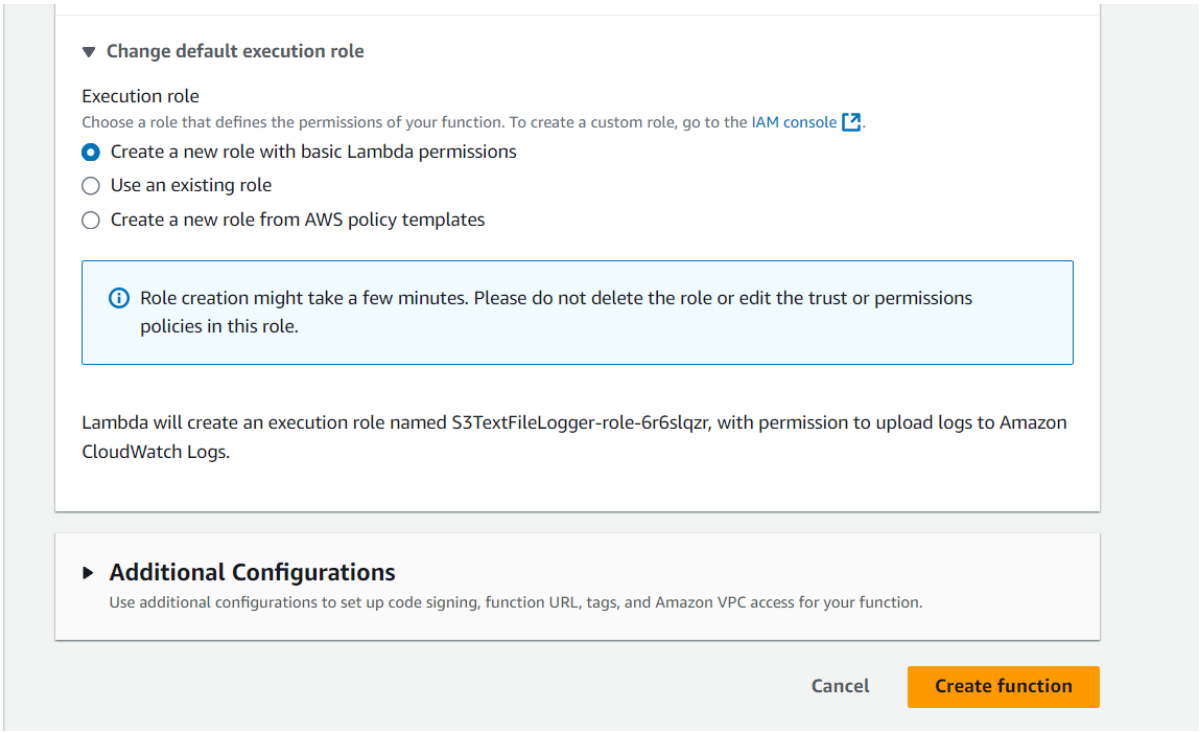
6.2 **Create a Lambda function in AWS Console**:

- Go to **Lambda** > **Create Function**.

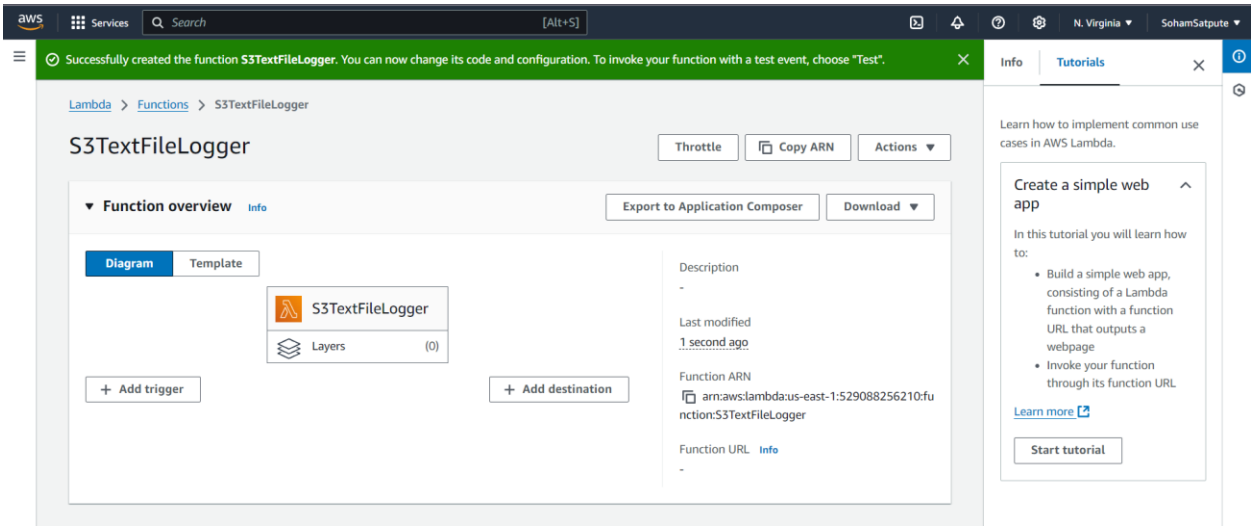


- Choose **Author from Scratch**:
  - **Function Name**: `S3TextFileLogger`
  - **Runtime**: Python 3.12
  - **Execution Role**: Select "Create a new role with basic Lambda permissions."





- Click **Create Function**.



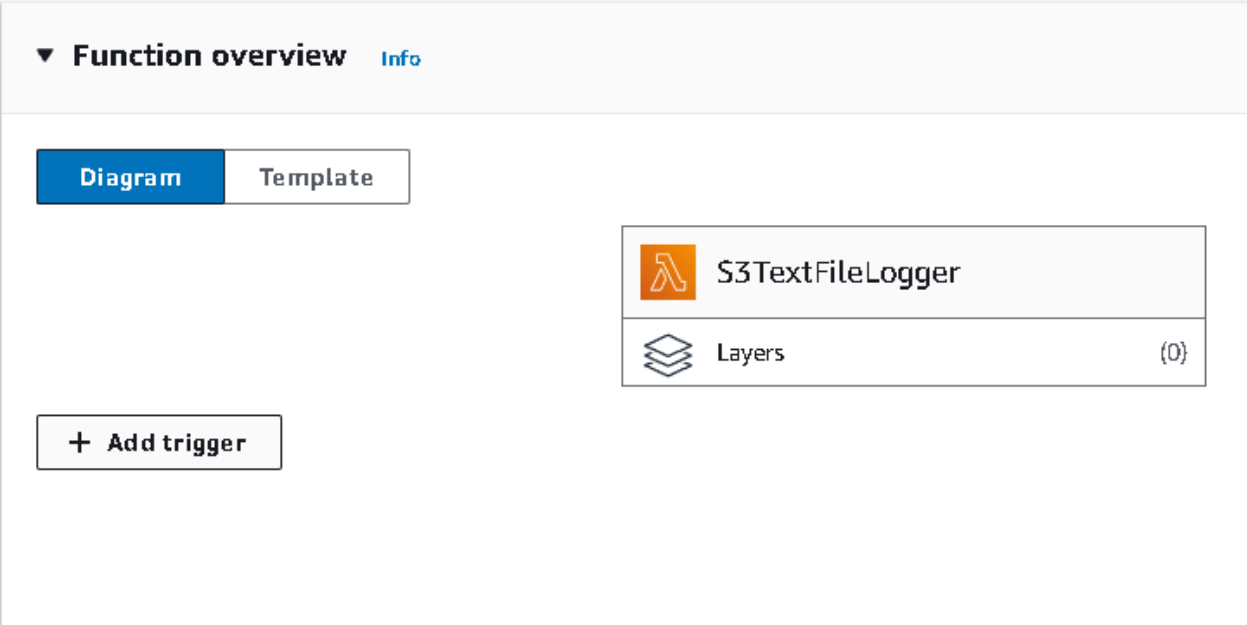
6.3 Upload the function code from EC2 using the AWS CLI:

aws lambda update-function-code --function-name S3TextFileLogger --zip-file fileb://function.zip

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-36-17 ~]$ aws lambda update-function-code --function-name S3TextFileLogger --zip-file fileb:///home/
ec2-user/S3TextFileLogger-df44f7a0-c07a-41df-bbea-f8c16a30b37b.zip --region ap-south-1
{
    "FunctionName": "S3TextFileLogger",
    "FunctionArn": "arn:aws:lambda:ap-south-1:529088256210:function:S3TextFileLogger",
    "Runtime": "python3.12",
    "Role": "arn:aws:iam::529088256210:role/service-role/S3TextFileLogger-role-k0hiwlvy",
    "Handler": "lambda_function.lambda_handler",
    "CodeSize": 299,
    "Description": "",
    "Timeout": 3,
    "MemorySize": 128,
    "LastModified": "2024-10-23T10:29:31.000+0000",
    "CodeSha256": "HAPq9EReJVEC5gLavtc/gyd5vZtd9eiUGF932t0jBxY=",
    "Version": "$LATEST",
    "TracingConfig": {
        "Mode": "PassThrough"
    },
    "RevisionId": "3b94b729-ec0f-4c10-b609-9c007deceeba",
    "State": "Active",
    "LastUpdateStatus": "InProgress",
    "LastUpdateStatusReason": "The function is being created.",
    "LastUpdateStatusReasonCode": "Creating",
    "PackageType": "Zip",
    "Architectures": [
        "x86_64"
    ],
    "EphemeralStorage": {
        "Size": 512
    },
```

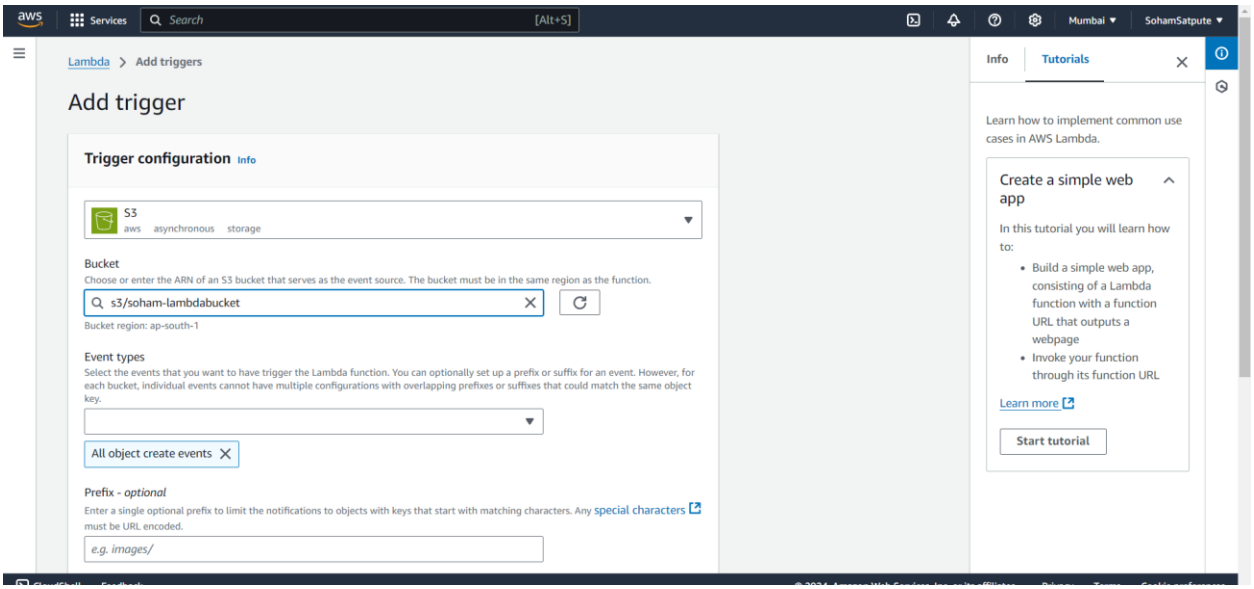
7. Configure S3 as the Trigger

7.1 **In Lambda console**, go to the **Function Overview** section and click **Add Trigger**.

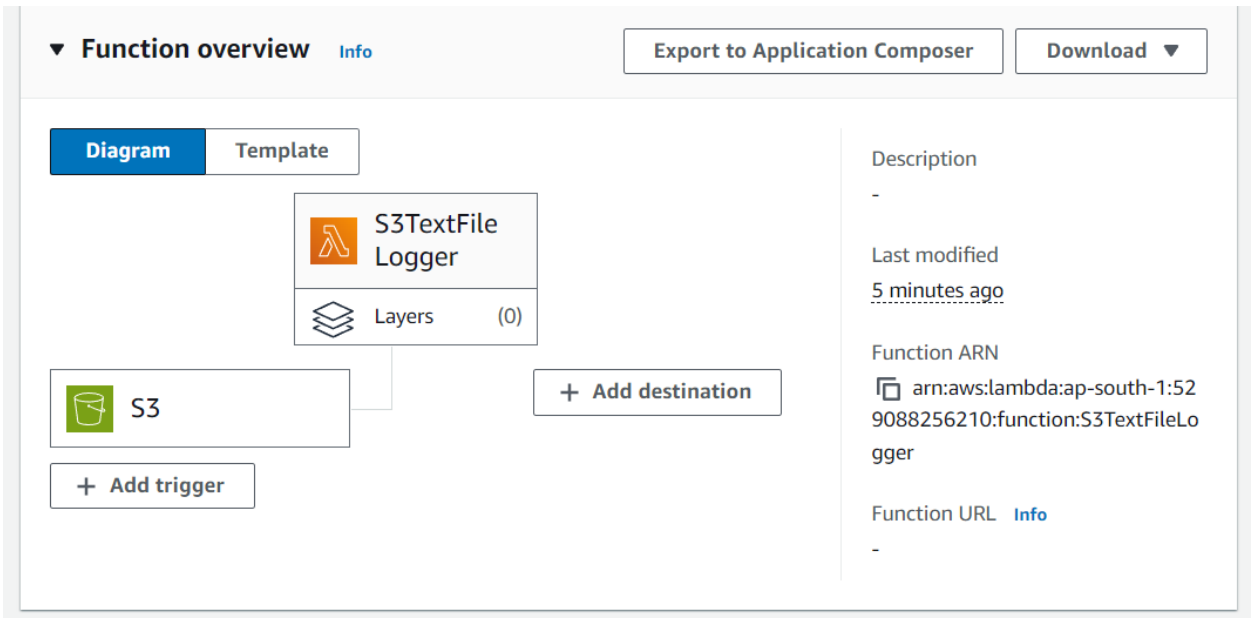


7.2 Choose **S3** as the trigger:

- Select your bucket (`lambda-s3-trigger-bucket`).
- **Event type**: Choose **All object create events**.



7.3 Click **Add** to enable the trigger.

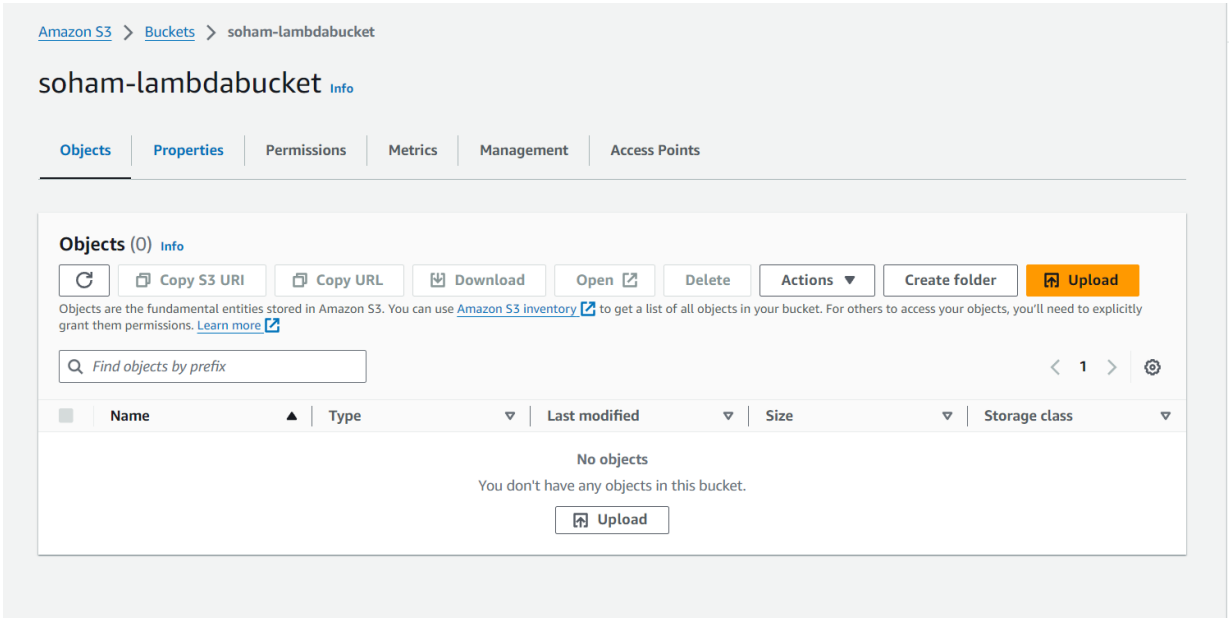


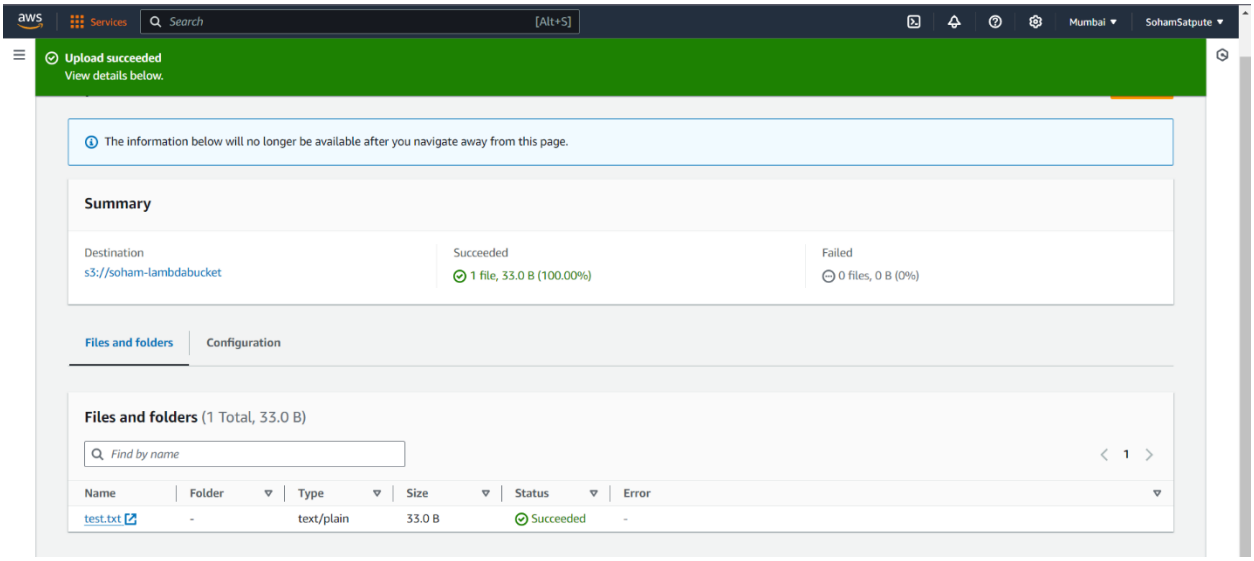
8. Upload a File and Test

8.1 Create a text file in your local host with some content.

```
C:\Users\Soham Satpute>echo I am Soham Satpute of D15A, 52 > C:\soham22\test.txt
```

8.2 **Upload a text file** to your S3 bucket:

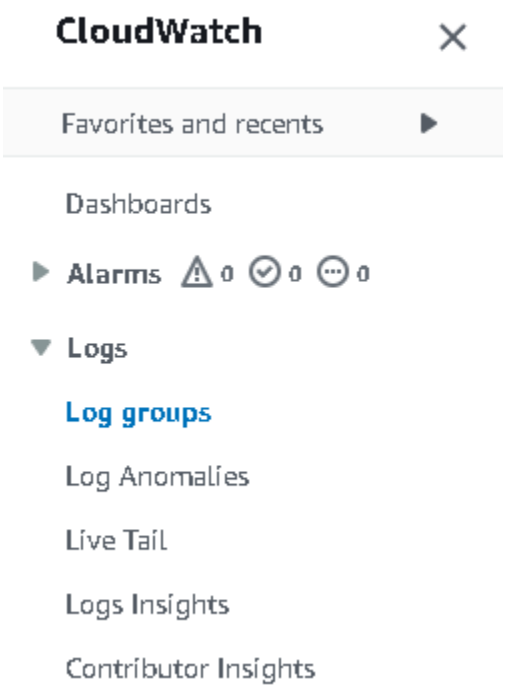
- Go to **S3** > your bucket > **Upload**.
- 

- Upload a `.txt` file with some content (e.g., `hello.txt`)
- 

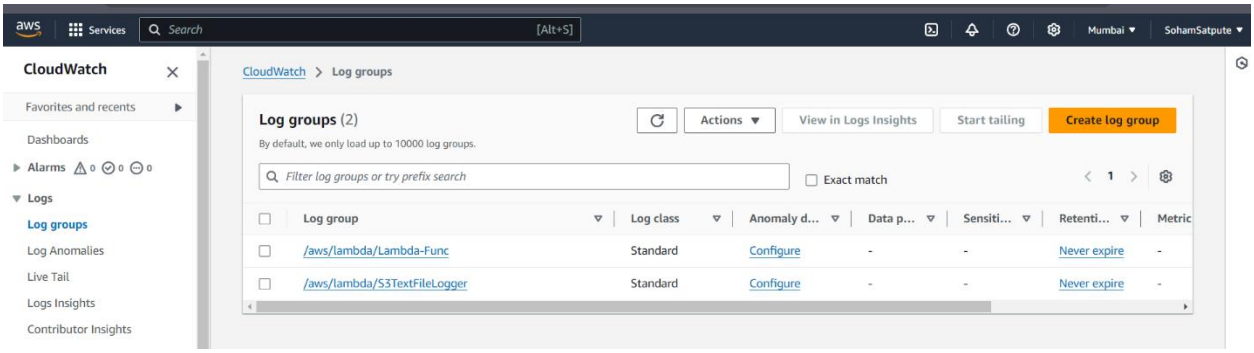
The Lambda function will automatically run when the file is uploaded.

9. Check Logs in CloudWatch

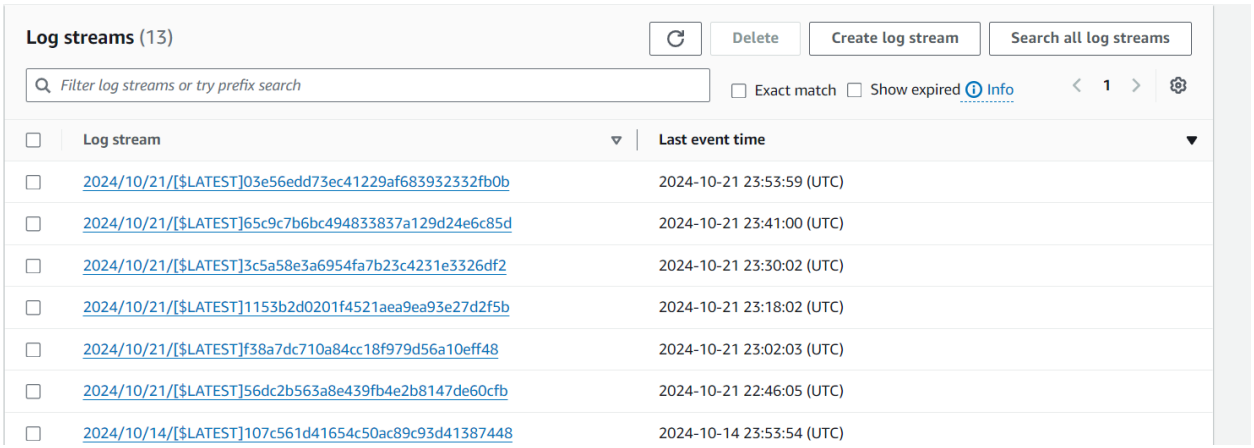
9.1 In the AWS Console, go to **CloudWatch** > **Logs**.

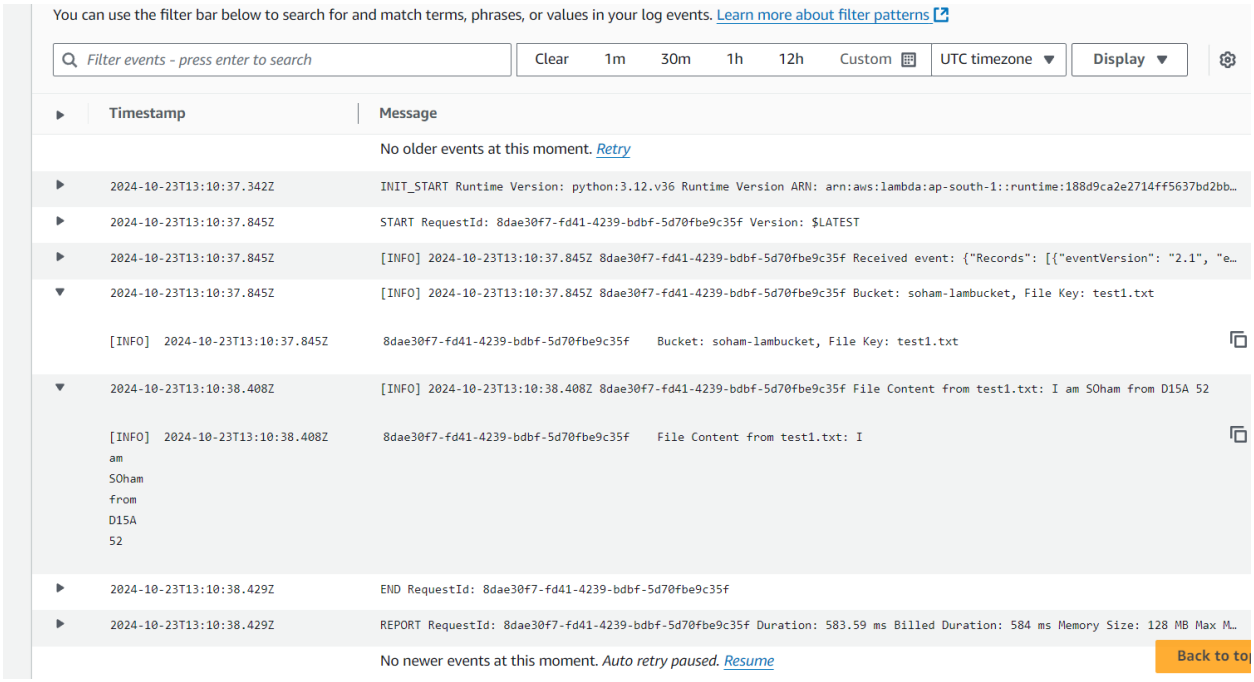


9.2 Under **Log Groups**, find the log group for your Lambda function (`/aws/lambda/S3TextFileLogger`).



9.3 Open the latest log stream to see the file content logged by the Lambda function.





Errors Faced During Implementation

1. **Encoding Issues**:
    - An error occurred when attempting to read the contents of the uploaded text file, specifically related to character encoding. The error message indicated that the UTF-8 codec could not decode certain bytes in the file. This required adjusting the code to handle different file encodings or ensuring that files were uploaded in the correct format.
2. **Permission Denied**:
    - Initial attempts to access the S3 bucket from the Lambda function resulted in permission denied errors. This highlighted the importance of correctly configuring IAM policies to grant the necessary permissions for accessing S3 resources.
3. **Incorrect Event Payload Structure**:
    - During testing, the Lambda function initially received unexpected payload structures due to misconfiguration in the S3 trigger. It was essential to verify that the S3 bucket was correctly configured to trigger the Lambda function on the appropriate events.
4. **Logging Delays**:
    - There were instances where CloudWatch logs did not immediately reflect the execution of the Lambda function. This delay made it challenging to verify whether the function had been triggered successfully after file uploads.
5. **Timeout Errors**:
    - In some cases, the Lambda function experienced timeout errors if the file size was larger than expected or if there were delays in retrieving the file from S3. This necessitated increasing the timeout settings for the Lambda function.

Guidelines for Implementation

1. **Define Use Cases**: Clearly outline the specific functions of your Lambda function.
2. **Follow AWS Best Practices**: Implement IAM roles with minimum permissions for security.
3. **Handle Encoding Issues**: Use libraries to manage various file encodings effectively.
4. **Thorough Testing**: Test with diverse file types and sizes to catch edge cases.
5. **Implement Logging**: Utilize CloudWatch for monitoring and set alerts for failures.
6. **Optimize Performance**: Review performance regularly and adjust timeout settings as needed.
7. **Maintain Documentation**: Keep clear documentation of configurations for troubleshooting.
8. **Prioritize Security**: Encrypt data in transit and at rest using AWS encryption features.

Conclusion:

The serverless file logging experiment using AWS Lambda and S3 illustrates the efficiency and scalability of cloud solutions for real-time data processing. Despite challenges like encoding and permission errors, the automation of file handling enhances operational efficiency while reducing costs. By adhering to best practices and maintaining robust monitoring, organizations can build secure, scalable serverless applications. This case study serves as a valuable resource for future projects in serverless architecture, showcasing the potential for improved workflows and timely data insights.