

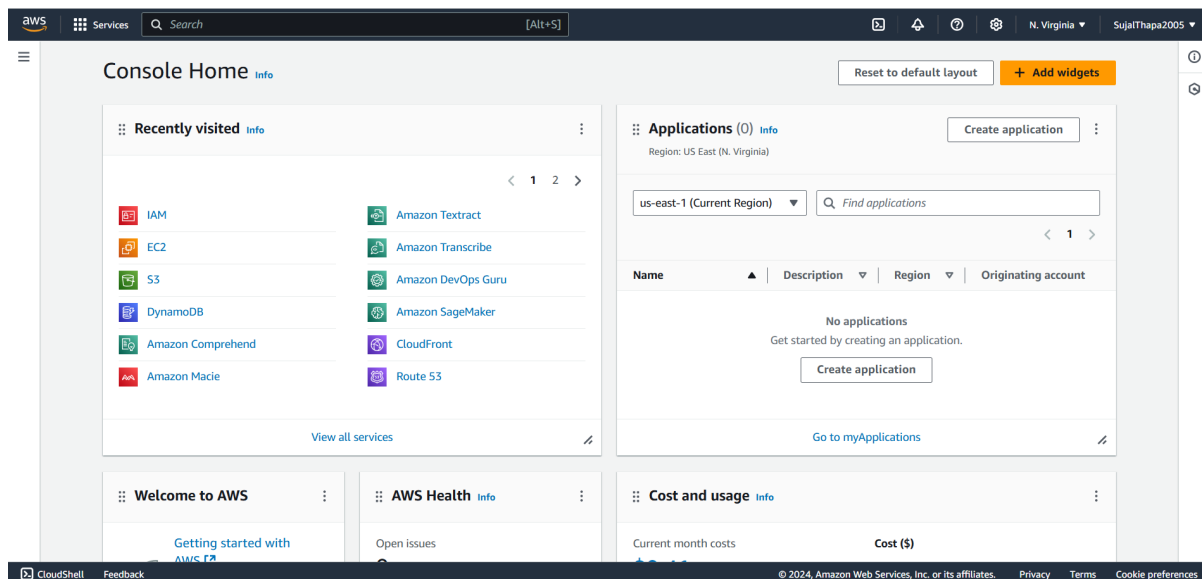


Connecting to AWS

Now there are three main interfaces by which the reader may utilize and administer resources in AWS: **The AWS Management Console**, **The Command-line interface** and **SDKs**. A more in-depth look at all three is given below:

The AWS Management Console

The main suggested method of interacting with AWS for people not of a technical persuasion, the AWS Management Console is a simple-to-use web interface provided to us by AWS in order to both create and manage AWS infrastructure and its related components. An image of how the Console Home page should look like for a relatively new AWS account is given below:



Having an account with AWS is a pre-requisite for logging in, a process that will yes, require entering the reader's credit card details. This may sound scary, especially for readers from the third world but do not be afraid, Amazon charges you a minimal amount and the information can be removed from your account

once it is created. (I personally know many brilliant people who have refused to make an AWS account simply because they will not enter their credit card information digitally).

As the reader progresses through the book, it would be prudent for them to log in to console, search for, and play around with any and all services they find interesting. That is after all, the ultimate aim of the book, to make the reader comfortable understanding the cloud and to get them started building real solutions using AWS.

AWS Command Line Interface

The preferred method of handling AWS resources for people familiar with the Linux operating system, the AWS Command Line Interface (or CLI) is a text-based user interface (like Command prompt, Windows Powershell etc) enables us to manage infrastructure via Linux commands and JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) scripting.

It is more efficient than using the console but also requires administrators with a wider set of knowledge and training, and is ideal organizations that already aware of what exactly is needed and how to configure properly.

With the CLI, the administrator is working in an environment with much less guardrails and guidance, so ensure that a certain base level of expertise has been acquired before engaging with it.

AWS Software Development Kit

A method for modifying and provisioning AWS resources programmatically, the AWS Software Development Kit (or SDK) allows us to build applications that leverage AWS resources for its functioning.

With support for over a dozen major programming languages like Python and Java, the SDK is going to be the major method of interacting with AWS for the readers who plan on being software engineers or developers. Utilizing SDKs properly however, will obviously require familiarity with an established programming language alongside knowledge of AWS, its resources and its 200+ services.

While all three of the mentioned interface types operate using radically different method from one another, it is important to remember that they are simply different ways of achieving the same thing: **The creation and management of AWS resources**. Therefore, having at least a basic understanding of what those resources are, and the services they relate to must be treated as a pre-requisite to operating the mentioned interfaces.

Once that has been achieved, the reader may find that there is actually very little difference between say, using AWS through the CLI or using AWS through the console, as the soft-skills and knowledge required to do both are quite similar, it is merely a matter of preference which interface the reader prefers.