**Launch an EC2 Instance**

Learn how to launch and connect to an EC2 instance. This step-by-step guide covers the essential steps to get your instance up and running.

**Steps to Launch an Instance**

1. **Sign in to AWS Management Console**
   * Navigate to the [EC2 Dashboard](https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/).
2. **Launch Instance**
   * Click "Launch Instance" to start the instance creation wizard.
3. **Choose AMI**
   * Select an Amazon Machine Image (AMI). Options include:
     + **Amazon Linux 2**
     + **Ubuntu Server**
     + **Microsoft Windows Server**
4. **Choose Instance Type**
   * Select the instance type based on your requirements (e.g., t3.micro for low-cost testing).
5. **Configure Instance**
   * Set up network settings, IAM roles, and other configurations.
6. **Add Storage**
   * Attach Elastic Block Store (EBS) volumes. Default volume size and type can be modified.
7. **Add Tags**
   * Apply tags to organize and identify instances (e.g., Name: MyWebServer).
8. **Configure Security Group**
   * Define inbound and outbound rules. For example, allow HTTP (port 80) and SSH (port 22).
9. **Review and Launch**
   * Review your settings and click "Launch". Select an existing key pair or create a new one.

**Connecting to Your Instance**

* **Linux**: Use SSH:
* ssh -i "your-key.pem" ec2-user@your-instance-public-dns

**Windows**: Use Remote Desktop (RDP). Download the RDP file and use the password generated during instance launch.

**Example Use Case**

Development: Developers use EC2 instances to test new applications before deploying them to production.

**Certification Tips**

Practice launching and configuring instances: Key for the AWS Certified Solutions Architect and AWS Certified DevOps Engineer exams.

**Resources**

[Connecting to Your Instance](https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/connect-to-linux-instance.html)