

Automatically setting an EC2 instance using bootstrap script

When we create a virtual server, we need to install software so it does something. Commonly, a VM can be used to run a web server like Apache httpd. To install software/packages when setting up an EC2 Linux instance, we tell AWS to run a bootstrap script as "User data". You can do this **during the EC2 setup**, under AWS EC2. We recommend you use the provided script (provided in a separate text file):



This script does the following (for more details, visit <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/ec2-lamp-amazon-linux-2.html>):

1. Updates the Linux operating system with the yum command
2. Installs the Apache Web server httpd along with PHP and MySQL and other necessary packages
3. Changes the max php file upload size to 10M
4. Starts the Web server and checks its configuration
5. Adds ec2-user to apache group
6. Changes file and directory permissions so files can be uploaded to the www directory
7. Copies a sample php web page to the www directory for testing.

NOTE: Pay attention to the syntax when you copy & paste the script to the input field in AWS Management Console. Syntax errors often occur with cross-platform copy & paste. To mitigate this issue, we have provided a bare text file (*Install_PHP_AWS.rtf* file) that contains the script.

NOTE: On Swinburne Mercury, the directory for html files was called *www/htdocs*. In this set up, it is *www/html*.