



Deploying the 2048 Game on Amazon EKS using Kubernetes

Introduction

This project involved deploying the classic 2048 puzzle game on a containerized infrastructure using Amazon Elastic Kubernetes Service (EKS). The goal was to gain hands-on experience with container orchestration, AWS infrastructure management, and Kubernetes deployment practices in a cloud-native environment.

To begin, an EKS cluster was created using the AWS Console, along with a managed EC2 node group to serve as worker nodes. Access to the cluster was configured using the AWS CLI and `kubectl`, allowing interaction with the Kubernetes API server. A Kubernetes Pod definition (`2048-pod.yml`) was written using the public Docker image `blackicebird/2048` and deployed via `kubectl apply`.

Upon deployment, the pod remained in Pending state due to the worker node being marked NotReady. Investigation using `kubectl describe node` revealed that the issue was caused by an uninitialized CNI plugin, which prevented the network from being ready. To resolve this, the AWS VPC CNI plugin was installed using the appropriate Kubernetes manifest. Once the `aws-node` DaemonSet started running, the node status changed to Ready, and the pod was scheduled successfully.

Finally, the application was verified through a browser by accessing the public IP or service URL, confirming that the game was running as expected. Throughout the process, detailed troubleshooting was performed using CLI tools and AWS services.



- [Create IAM role for EKS cluster](#)

Use case

Allow an AWS service like EC2, Lambda, or others to perform actions in this account.

Service or use case

EKS

Choose a use case for the specified service.

Use case

- ☐ EKS - Service
Allows EKS to manage clusters on your behalf.
- ☒ EKS - Cluster
Allows the cluster Kubernetes control plane to manage AWS resources on your behalf.

Permissions policies (1) [Info](#)

The type of role that you selected requires the following policy.

Policy name 	Type
 AmazonEKSClusterPolicy	AWS managed

Role details

Role name

Enter a meaningful name to identify this role.

eks-cluster-role-101

Maximum 64 characters. Use alphanumeric and '+','=','@-_' characters.



• Create EKS cluster

Amazon Elastic Kubernetes Service > Create EKS cluster

Choose how you would like to configure the cluster.

☒ Quick configuration (with EKS Auto Mode) - new

Quickly create a cluster with production-grade default settings. The configuration uses EKS Auto Mode to automate infrastructure tasks like creating nodes and provisioning storage.

☐ Custom configuration

To change default settings prior to Auto Mode and customize the clust

Cluster configuration

Name

Use the auto-generated name or enter a unique name for this cluster. This property cannot be changed after the cluster is created.

eks-cluster-101

The cluster name should begin with letter or digit and can have any of the following characters: the set of Unicode letters, digits, hyphens and underscores. Maximum l

Kubernetes version [Info](#)

Select Kubernetes version for this cluster.

1.33

Cluster IAM role [Info](#)

Select the Cluster IAM role to allow the Kubernetes control plane to manage AWS resources on your behalf. This cannot be changed after the cluster is created. To crea

eks-cluster-role-101

Clusters (2) [Info](#)

🔍 Filter clusters

	Cluster name ▲	Status ▼	Kubernetes version ▼	Support period
<input type="radio"/>	eks-cluster-101	✔ Active	1.33	i Standard support until July 29, 2026
<input type="radio"/>	nginxcluster	✔ Active	1.33	i Standard support until July 29, 2026



• [Create Security Groups\(EC2\)](#)

Basic details

Security group name [Info](#)

Name cannot be edited after creation.

Description [Info](#)

VPC [Info](#)

vpc-0fad64e64b03d7441

▼

Inbound rules [Info](#)

Type Info	Protocol Info	Port range Info	Source Info
SSH ▼	TCP	22	Anyw... ▼ <div>Q0.0.0.0/0 X</div>
HTTP ▼	TCP	80	Anyw... ▼ <div>Q0.0.0.0/0 X</div>
Custom TCP ▼	TCP	8080	Anyw... ▼ <div>Q0.0.0.0/0 X</div>

Add rule



Setting up data plain Steps

- Create new IAM role

Use case

Allow an AWS service like EC2, Lambda, or others to perform actions in this account.

Service or use case

EC2

Role details


Role name

Enter a meaningful name to identify this role.

node-grp-role-101

Maximum 64 characters. Use alphanumeric and '+=, @-_' characters.

Permissions policy summary

Policy name 	▲ Type	▼ Attached as
AmazonEC2ContainerRegistryReadOnly	AWS managed	Permissions policy
AmazonEKS_CNI_Policy	AWS managed	Permissions policy
AmazonEKSWorkerNodePolicy	AWS managed	Permissions policy



- [Add a node group](#)

Node group configuration

These properties cannot be changed after the node group is created.

Name

Assign a unique name for this node group.

eks-node-grp-102

The node group name should begin with letter or digit and can have any of the following characters: the set of Unicode letters, digit

Node IAM role [Info](#)

Select the IAM role that will be used by the nodes. To create a new role, go to the [IAM console](#).

node-grp-role-101

Node group network configuration

These properties cannot be changed after the node group is created.

Subnets [Info](#)

Specify the subnets in your VPC where your nodes will run. To create a new subnet, go to the corresponding page in the [VPC console](#).

Select subnets

subnet-002c66a4954d91454 X
us-east-1b 172.31.0.0/20

subnet-0c17a39f85eb6f160 X
us-east-1a 172.31.32.0/20

subnet-0ccb446079d1b1285 X
us-east-1c 172.31.80.0/20

☐ **Configure remote access to nodes** [Info](#)



THISARA KANDAGE

UNDERGRADUATE - SLIIT

[E-mail](#) [LinkedIn](#) [GitHub](#) [Website](#)

Clusters (3) [Info](#)

Filter clusters

	Cluster name ▲	Status ▼	Kubernetes version ▼	Support period
<input type="radio"/>	eks-cluster-101	✓ Active	1.33	i Standard support until July 29, 2026
<input type="radio"/>	eks-node-grp-102	✓ Active	1.33	i Standard support until July 29, 2026
<input type="radio"/>	nginxcluster	✓ Active	1.33	i Standard support until July 29, 2026

Authenticating the cluster by creating kubeconfig file

- [See my details](#)

CloudShell

us-east-1



```
~ $
~ $ ll
total 0
~ $
~ $ aws sts get-caller-identity
{
  "UserId": "277707111634",
  "Account": "277707111634",
  "Arn": "arn:aws:iam::277707111634:root"
}
~ $
```



- **Update the kubeconfig file**

```
~ $ rm .kube/config
-bash: rm.kube/config: No such file or directory
~ $
~ $ aws eks update-kubeconfig --region us-east-1 --name eks-cluster-101
Added new context arn:aws:eks:us-east-1:277707111634:cluster/eks-cluster-101 to /home/cloudshell-user/.kube/config
~ $
~ $
```

- **Create the config file for the port**

```
us-east-1 +
GNU nano 8.3
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  name: 2048-pod
  labels:
    app: 2048-ws
spec:
  containers:
    - name: 2048-container
      image: blackicebird/2048
      ports:
        - containerPort: 80
```

- **Apply the config file**

```
~ $ kubectl apply -f 2048-pod.yml
pod/2048-pod created
~ $
~ $
```




- **Create the Service witch will deploy**

```
us-east-1 +  
  
~ $ kubectl get daemonsets -n kube-system  
GNU nano 8.3  
apiVersion: v1  
kind: Service  
metadata:  
  name: mygame-svc  
spec:  
  selector:  
    app: 2048-ws  
  ports:  
    - protocol: TCP  
      port: 80  
      targetPort: 80  
  type: LoadBalancer  
|
```

- **Apply the changes**

```
~ $ nano mygame-svc.yml  
~ $ kubectl apply -f mygame-svc.yml  
service/mygame-svc created  
~ $ |
```

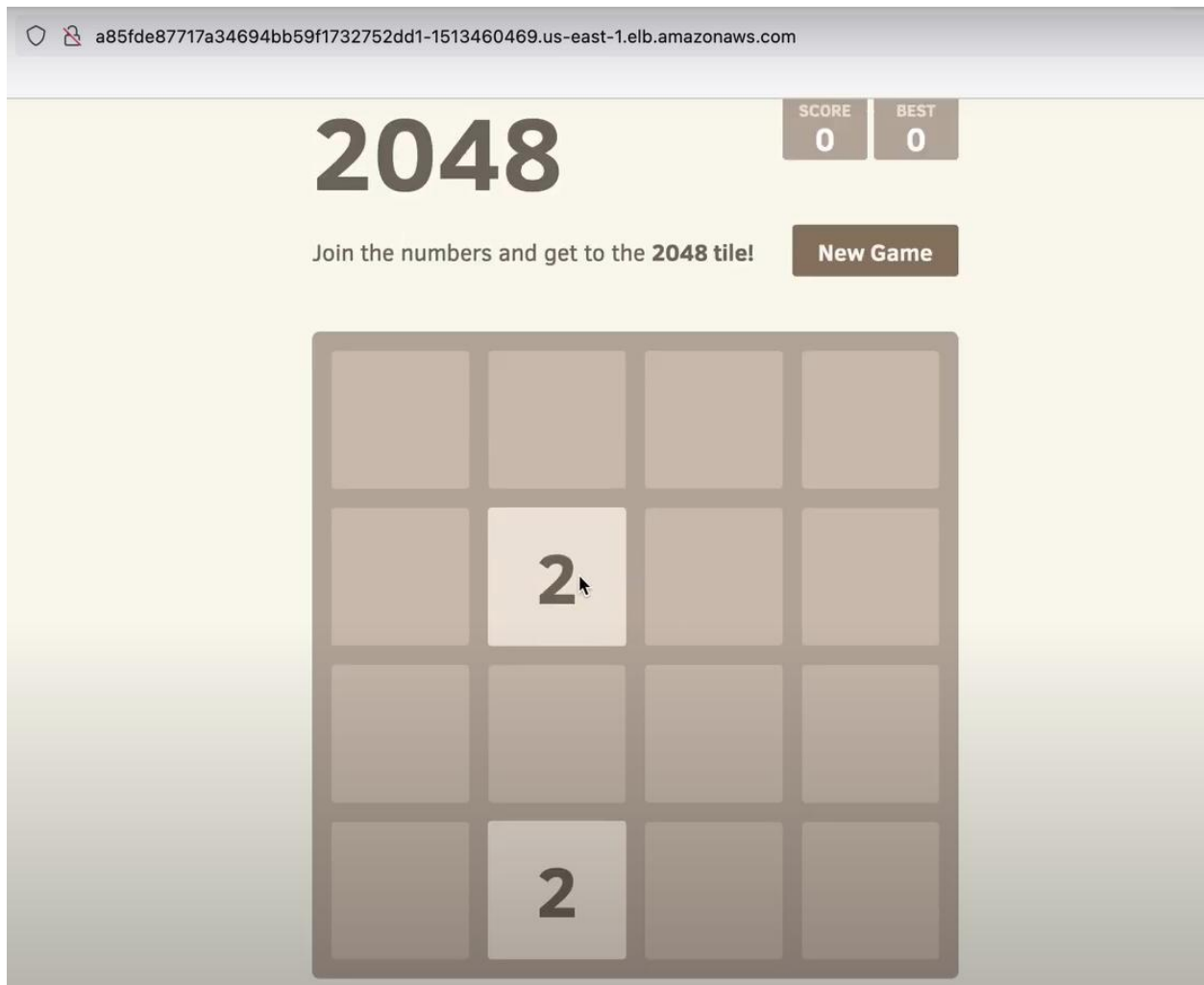


THISARA KANDAGE

UNDERGRADUATE - SLIIT

[E-mail](#) [LinkedIn](#) [GitHub](#) [Website](#)

- [Check the final output in web browser](#)





Summary

This project improved my understanding of real-world DevOps and Kubernetes workflows.

Key skills and concepts learned include:

- Setting up and configuring an Amazon EKS cluster using AWS Console and AWS CLI.
- Creating and managing EC2-based worker nodes as part of a node group.
- Using `aws eks update-kubeconfig` to securely access EKS from the CLI.
- Writing and applying Kubernetes YAML manifests to define application pods.
- Troubleshooting pod scheduling issues using `kubectl describe`.
- Understanding node states such as `NotReady` and how to resolve them.
- Installing and verifying the AWS VPC CNI plugin to restore Kubernetes networking.
- Monitoring and validating Kubernetes workloads using `kubectl get` and `kubectl describe`.
- Exposing a pod-based web application and verifying it via a browser.
- Strengthening foundational DevOps skills across cloud, infrastructure, and deployment layers.