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lab title

Bulletproof HTML5 Websites with AWS in a Nutshell

V1.28



Course title

BackSpace Academy Nutshell Series



Table of Contents

Contents

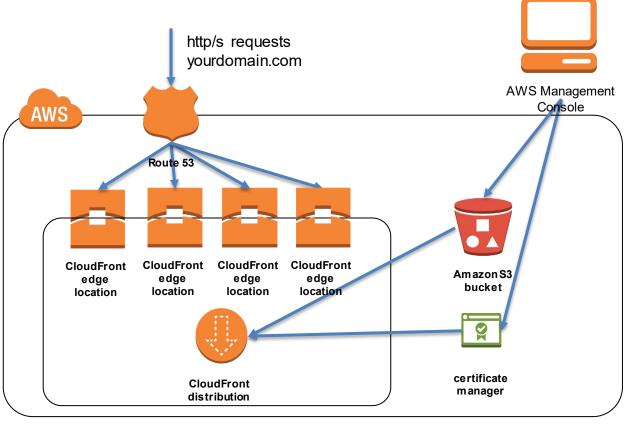
Table of Contents	1
About the Lab	2
Purchasing a Custom Domain Name	3
Creating an S3 Bucket and Uploading our Website	6
Create an S3 Bucket	6
Apply Public Permissions to our Bucket	9
Upload Website Objects	12
Enabling S3 Website Hosting	16
Troubleshooting	17
Creating an SSL Certificate with AWS Certificate Manager	19
Creating a CloudFront Distribution	24
Optional - Requiring HTTPS for Communication Between CloudFront and Your Amazon S3 Origin	26
Invalidating a CloudFront Distribution	27
Routing Traffic with AWS Route 53	29
Routing Traffic with a Domain Name from another Registrar	30
Route Requests for www Subdomain	31
Checking DNS Propagation Status	31
Redirecting Domain Traffic to another Domain	33
Deleting the Website	38
Delete Bucket	38
Remove Route 53 Hosted Zone	38
Delete CloudFront Distribution	39

About the Lab

Please note that not all AWS services are supported in all regions. Please use the US-East-1 (North Virginia) region for this lab.

These lab notes are to support the instructional videos on Bulletproof HTML5 Websites with AWS in a Nutshell Course.

This is a typical use case for S3 and CloudFront to deliver highly available static websites that can handle heavy traffic.



AWS cloud

Please note that AWS services change on a weekly basis and it is extremely important you check the version number on this document to ensure you have the lastest version with any updates or corrections.

Purchasing a Custom Domain Name

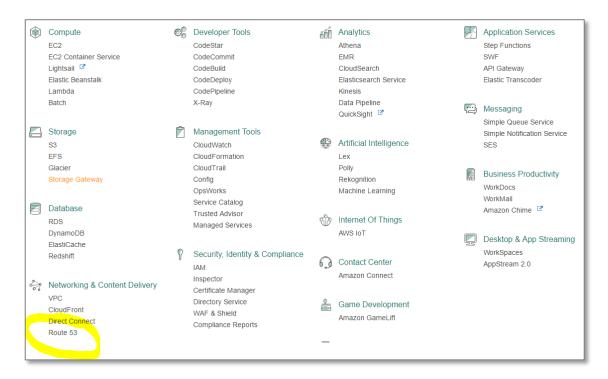
In this section, we will purchase a domain name through AWS Route 53.

*Please note this process will involve paying for a domain name with AWS.

Our S3 bucket must have the same name as our domain name in order for it to be hosted by S3. So, our first task is to purchase a domain name.

This part involves purchasing a domain through the Route 53 service.

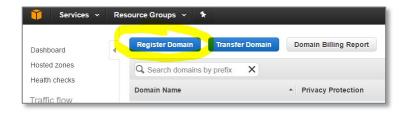
Click on the services menu and Route 53.



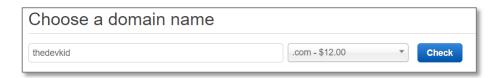
Click on Registered Domains from the menu



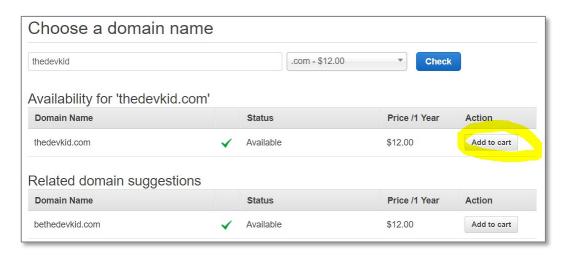
Click on Register Domain



Type in the domain name you would like and click *Check* to see if it is available.



If it is available click 'add to cart"



Scroll down and click on 'Continue"

Complete the process making sure you use a valid email for the domain registration otherwise the process will fail. You should receive an email with a link to verify your email. About 30 minutes after your email address has been verified you should receive an email stating the domain was successfully registered with Route 53.

After the domain has been successfully registered you will see it in the 'Registered domains"

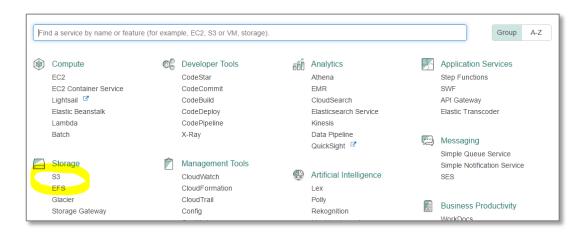


Creating an S3 Bucket and Uploading our Website

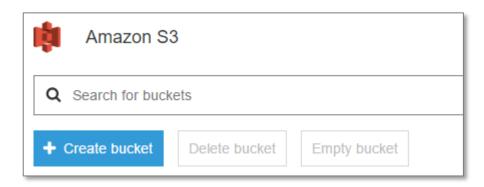
In this section we will create an S3 bucket and upload our HTML5 website.

Create an S3 Bucket

Click on the services menu and select S3.



Click on Create Bucket

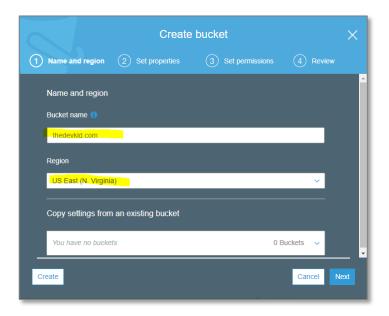


The create bucket dialog box will appear.

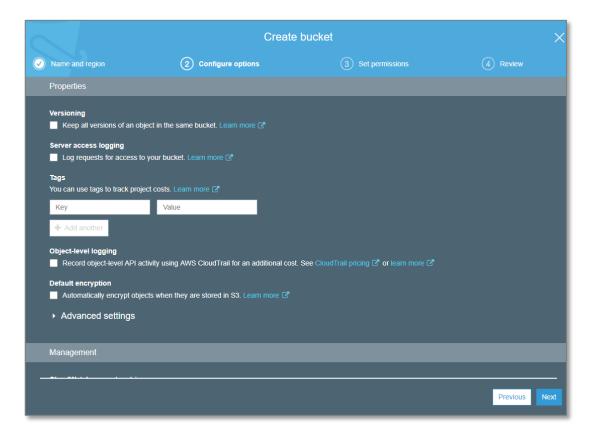
Enter your custom domain name.

Select US East (N. Virginia).

Click Next

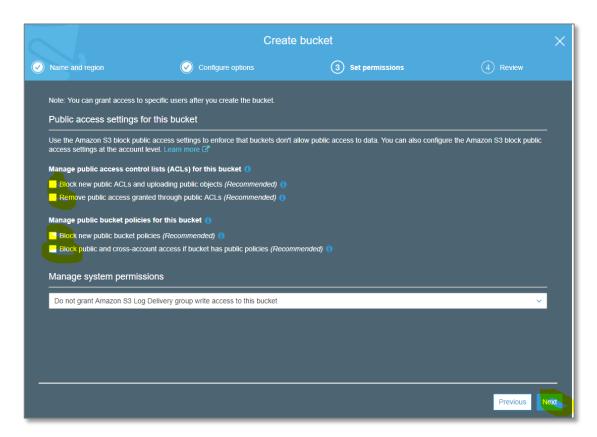


Click Next

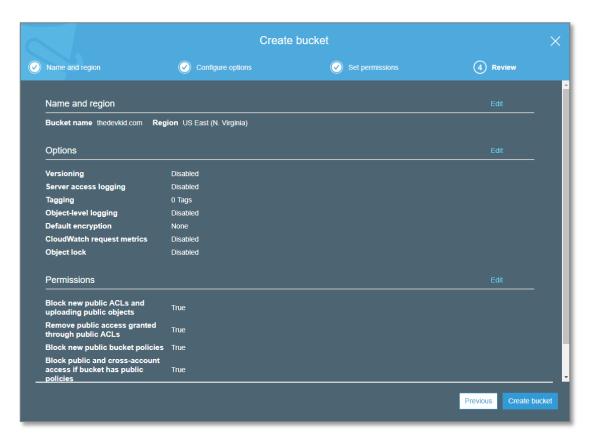


Uncheck the Blocks to make the bucket public

Click Next



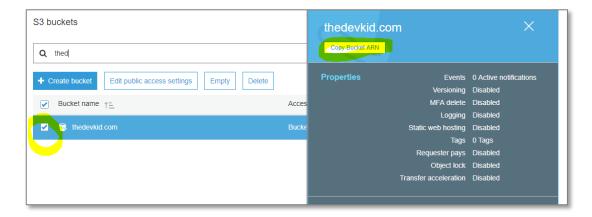
Click Create Bucket to create the bucket.



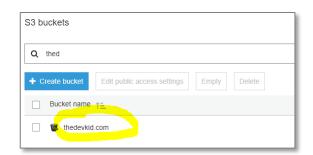
Apply Public Permissions to our Bucket

Click on the checkbox next to the bucket name

Click on Copy Bucket ARN (we will need this later on)



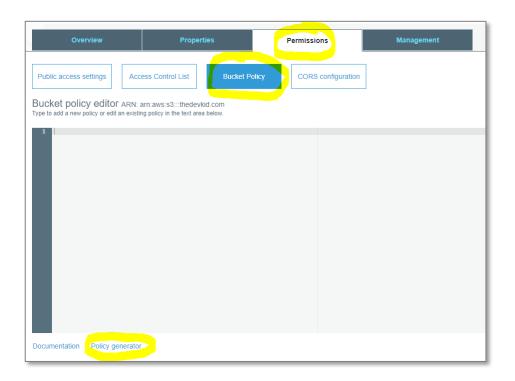
Now click on the bucket name link to open the bucket details page



Click on Permission tab

Select Bucket Policy

Click on *Policy generator*



Select 53 Bucket Policy



Add the following details:

Effect: Allow

Principal: *

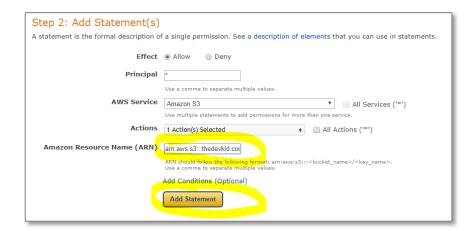
AWS Service: Amazon S3

Actions: GetObject



Amazon Resource Name (ARN): Paste in the bucket ARN with /* on the end (e.g. arn:aws:s3:::mydomain.com/*)

Click Add Statement



Click Generate Policy



Copy the generated policy JSON text

```
Policy JSON Document

Click below to edit. To save the policy, copy the text below to a text editor. Changes made below will not be reflected in the policy generator tool.

"Id": "Policy1543751425259",
"Version": "2012-10-17",
"Statement": [

"sid": "Stat1543751389220",
"Action": [
"sid": "Stat1543751389220",
"Action": [
"sid": "Allow",
"Resource": "ann:aws:s3:::thedevkid.com/"",
"Principal": """

}

This AWS Policy Generator is provided for informational purposes only, you are still responsible for your use of Amazon Web Services technologies as that your use is in complaince with all applicable terms and conditions. This AWS Policy Generator is provided as is without warranty of any kind, express, implied, or statutory. This AWS Policy Generator does not modify the applicable terms and conditions governing your use of Amazon Web

Close
```

Now go back to Permissions tab

Paste in the JSON text

Click Save

A message will appear This bucket has public access

Troubleshooting – If you have *Error Access denied*, check you have *Block new public bucket policies* set as false in *Public access settings*

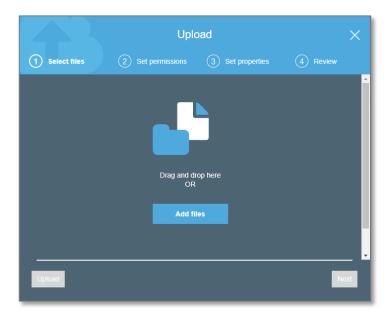
Upload Website Objects

Now it is time to upload our website objects. You can find free website templates at https://html5up.net/

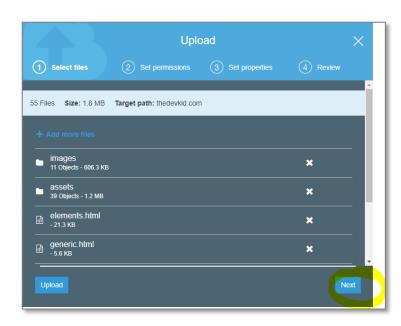
Select the root domain bucket (yourdomain.com)

Click Upload

You want to upload entire directories, including contents, do not Click *Add Files*. Open a Windows File Explorer window and drag the folder from File Explorer and drop on top of the Upload form.

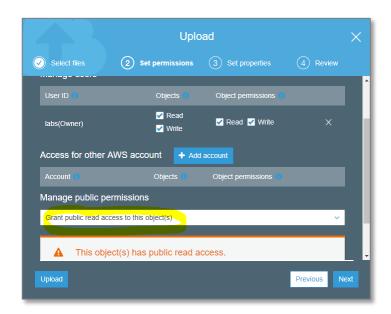


Click 'Next"



Select Manage Public Permissions

Select Grant public read access to this object(s)

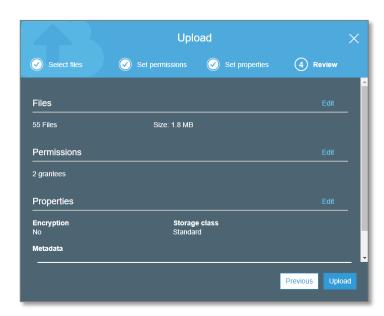


Click Next

Select Standard for Storage Class and None for encryption



Click Next



Click Upload

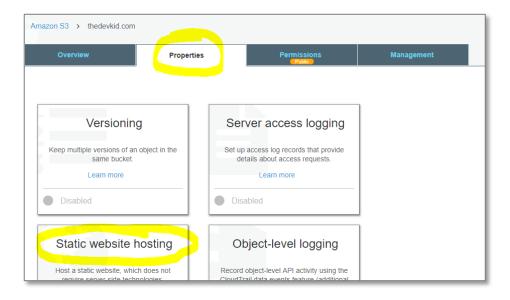
Your files will now be uploaded.

Enabling S3 Website Hosting

In this section we will enable website hosting for our root domain (yourdomain.com) and also redirect requests to the www subdomain (www.yourdomain.com) to our root domain.

Select Properties

Select Static Website Hosting

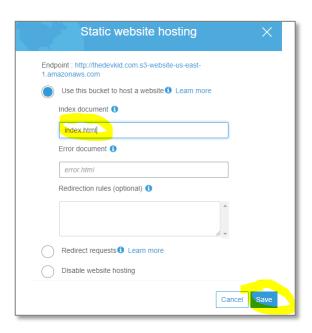


Now Select *Use this bucket to host a website*

Enter the *Index Document* (required)

Enter Error Document if available or else enter just enter index.html again

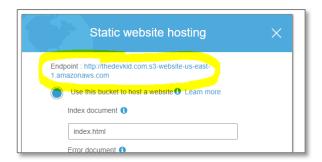
Click Save



If you go back into *Static Webstite Hosting* you will see the public endpoint for the S3 website.

Endpoint: http://yourdomain.com.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com

Click on the endpoint to see your website in your browser.

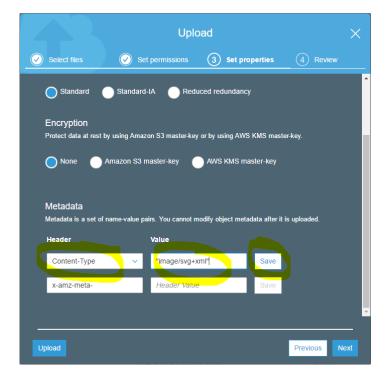


Troubleshooting

If you get either of the following message your object permissions are not set to public.

Code: AccessDenied Message: Access Denied RequestId: 3D615DF91F90446F HostId: VGBfqelVfAp1LOs/1QsZzYCa3/V11o75WDkmFpJDPLrJyvqZoqYuRddGnZNaF+QUiKNNtA5nGDk=

If you find svg images are not showing on your website it is most probably incorrect header information. Upload the specific files again but add Content-type "image/svg+xml" in the Metadata section (you need to scroll down to see it).

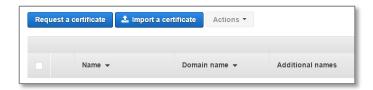


Creating an SSL Certificate with AWS Certificate Manager

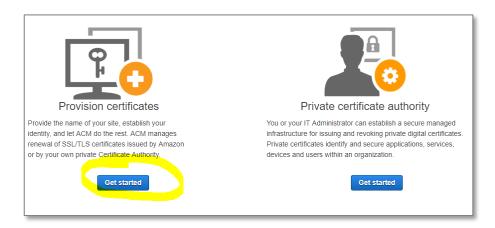
In this section we will use the AWS Certificate Manager to create an SSL certificate we can use to enable HTTPS with CloudFront.

Please note that to require HTTPS between viewers and CloudFront, you must change the AWS region to US East (N. Virginia) before you request or import a certificate.

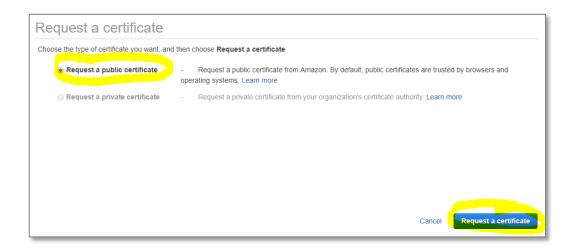
Click on the services menu and select AWS Certificate Manager.



Click Provision Certificate



Click Request a certificate



Enter the root domain (yourdomain.com)

Click Add another name to this certificate

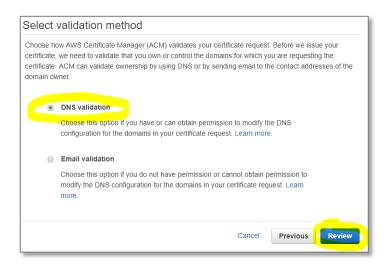
Enter the root domain prefixed with *. (*.yourdomain.com)

Click Next



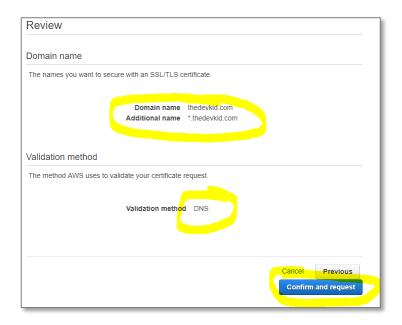
Select DNS validation

Click Review



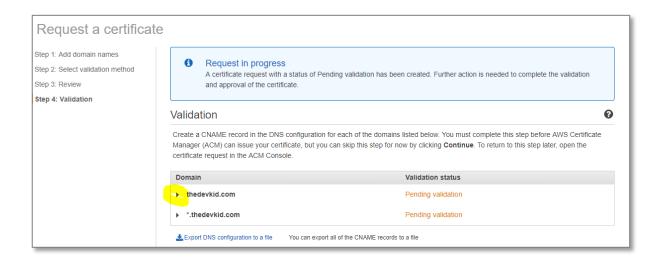
Check everything is ok

Click Confirm and request

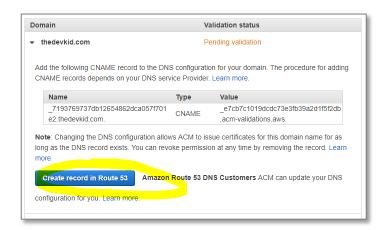


After a about a minute you will see messages *Pending validation*

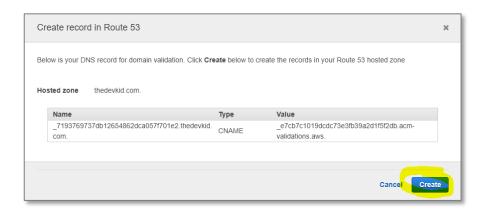
Expand the domain by clicking on the claret



Click Create record in Route 53



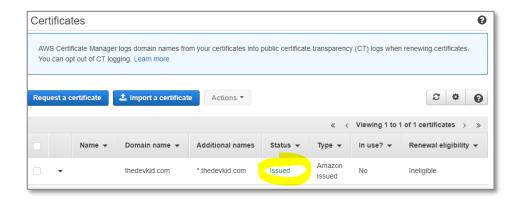
Click Create



There is no need to repeat the process for the wildcard domain as the records are the same.

Click Continue

After about 30 minutes the certificate will be validated. You can click the refresh icon to check its status.



Creating a CloudFront Distribution

In this section we will use the AWS CloudFront Content Delivery Network (CDN) to cache our site to edge locations across the Globe.

Click on the services menu and select CloudFront.

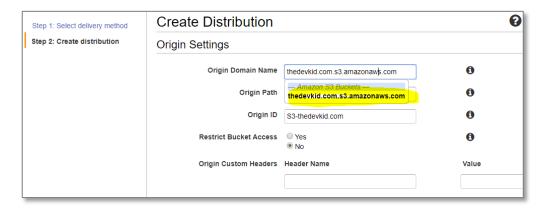
Click on Create Distribution



Select Web - Get Started

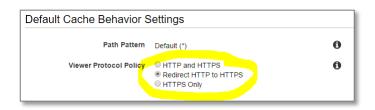


In Origin Settings select your s3 bucket as the Origin Domain Name

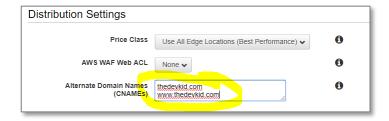


In Default Cache Behavior Settings

Set Viewer Protocol Policy to Redirect HTTP to HTTPS

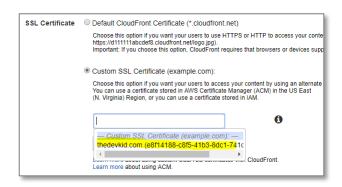


Under *Distribution Settings* enter your domain name and subdomains (www.yourdomain.com) into *Alternate Domain Names (CNAMEs)*



Under Distribution Settings enter/select your custom SSL certificate

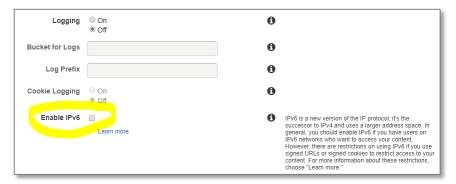
If the Custom SSL option is not available your certificate is either not issued yet or information has not propagated to CloudFront service yet. Cancel the distribution and try again after a few minutes.



Under Distribution Settings enter the index.html file for your website



Under Distribution Settings uncheck 'Enable iPv6"



Put in a comment so that you easily identify the distribution.

Click Create Distribution



The Status of the distribution will change when it has been distributed to the edge locations.

Optional - Requiring HTTPS for Communication Between CloudFront and Your Amazon S3 Origin

If you are creating a secure site you can also require HTTPS for communication between your S3 bucket and CloudFront. This is achieved by disabling website hosting for the S3 bucket. It will then only be possible to view the website through CloudFront.

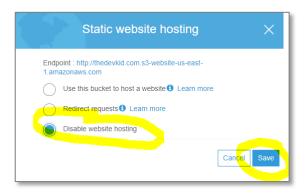
Go to the S3 management console and select the bucket.

Select the Properties tab



Select Static website hosting

Select Disable website hosting and then click Save



Invalidating a CloudFront Distribution

If you need to change your website and update your CloudFront distribution you can force CloudFront to fetch and update the distribution using invalidations.

To invalidate/update a CloudFront distribution:

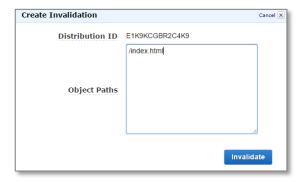
Click on the distribution from the list of distributions



Click on the *Invalidations* tab Click *Create Invalidation*



Enter the object path to the file you want to invalidate/update (e.g. /index.html) or use a wildcard symbol to invalidate all the files (e.g. /*)



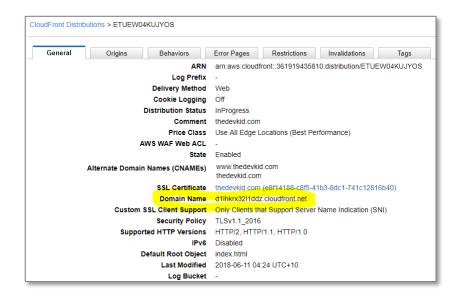
Click *Invalidate*

This will take some time to complete.

Routing Traffic with AWS Route 53

In this section we will direct all requests to our domain name and www subdomain to CloudFront using Route 53 Domain Name Service (DNS).

Go back to the CloudFront Distribution page and copy the distribution domain name



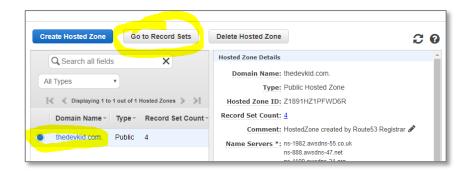
Now go back to the Route 53 Management Console:

Click on the services menu and select Route 53.

Click on Hosted Zones

Click on the hosted zone created by the Route 53 Registrar

Click on Go to Record Sets



Click on Create Record Set

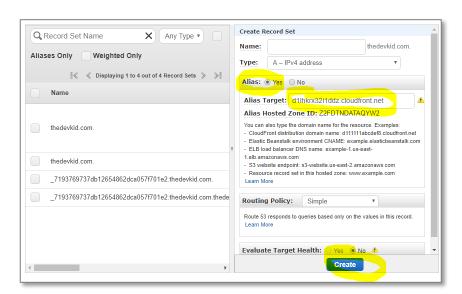
Select A-IPv4 address as Type

Check Alias: Yes

Leave Name empty

Enter the distribution domain name as Alias Target:

Click Create



Routing Traffic with a Domain Name from another Registrar

If you have a domain name from another registrar (e.g. GoDaddy) you can still direct traffic for this domain to AWS by replacing the NS records. That way all DNS requests will be directed to AWS name servers. The process is as follows:

- 1. Create a Route53 hosted zone for the domain
- 2. Copy the NS records for the hosted zone



- 3. Replace the NS records in your registrars DNS service with the NS records from your Route53 hosted zone
- 4. Add the A record to your Route53 hosted zone as detailed previously above.

Route Requests for www Subdomain

Click on Create Record Set

Select *CNAME* as Type

Select 'No" for Alias.

Enter www for Name

Enter your domain name (or the CloudFront domain, either will work) for the www subdomain as Value (without the http:// at the start)



Click on Create Record Set

After some time the changes will be propagated to the Internet and you will be able to navigate to your domain name in your browser and see your website.

Checking DNS Propagation Status

The Route 53 entries detailed above will take a while to propagate across the Internet. This could be anywhere from a couple of minutes to an hour. You can check the status of DNS propagation using the following site:

Global DNS Propagation Checker

After the records have successfully propagated you will be able to navigate to your domain name and see your website.

Redirecting Domain Traffic to another Domain

In this section we will direct all requests to our domain name and www subdomain to another domain using S3 website redirecting and Route 53 Domain Name Service (DNS). This is useful if we have multiple domain names for the same domain (e.g. xxxx.com, xxxx.net, xxxx.com.au etc).

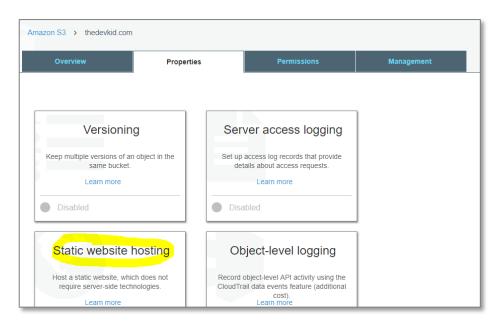
DNS services must conform to a standard (RFC1912). Subdomains can be routed using CNAME but apex domains cannot. For example, you cannot use a CNAME to redirect to google.com. Also, the A record cannot be used to point to another apex domain not managed by your hosted zone. S3 website redirecting solves this problem by accepting requests for a domain and redirecting them to another domain

*Note only http requests can be redirected using this technique. S3 website redirection does not support https.

Go back to the S3 console

Select the domain bucket

Select 'Properties" – 'Static Website Hosting"

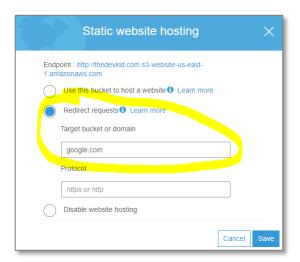


Select 'Redirect requests"

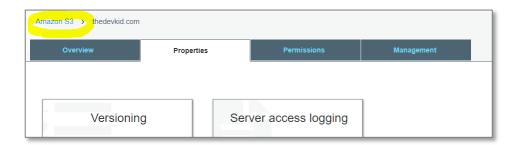
Enter a domain name to redirect requests to (you can use google.com if you want to).

Enter protocol.

Click 'Save"



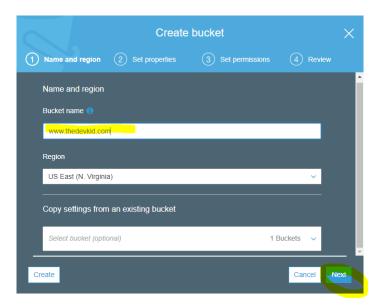
Go back to the bucket list



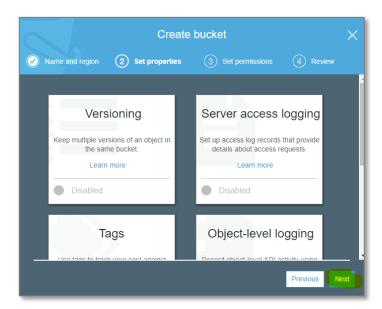
Click Create bucket

Enter the www subdomain for the name of the bucket

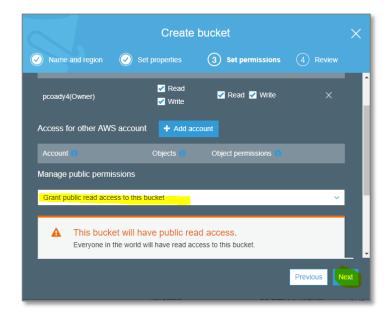
Click 'Next"



Click 'Next"



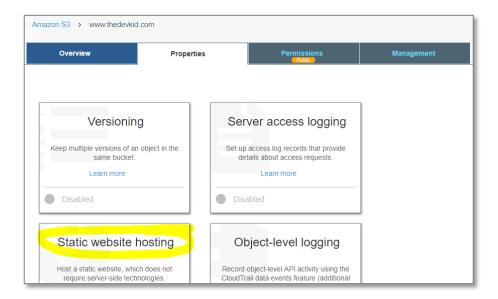
Select 'Grant public read access to this bucket"



Click 'Create Bucket"

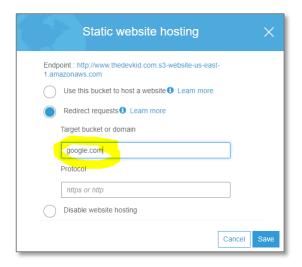
After the bucket has been created select the bucket

Select 'Properties" – 'Static website hosting"



Redirect requests as before to the other domain on http

Copy the endpoint for use later



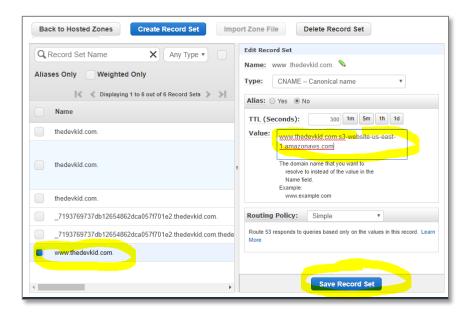
Go back to the Route53 console

Select the domain hosted zone

Click on the CNAME entry

Enter the www bucket website endpoint without the 'http://"

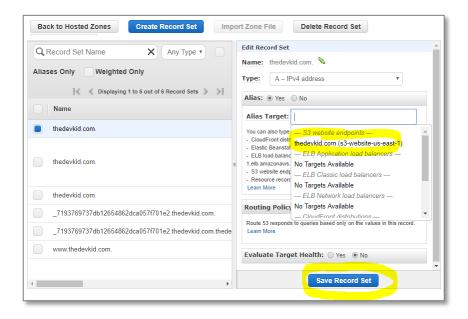
Click 'Save Record Set"



Now select the A record

Change the Alias target to the domain S3 website endpoint

Click 'Save Record Set"



After some time the records will have propagated and all requests will be redirected to the other domain.

*Note only http requests can be redirected using this technique. S3 website redirection does not support https.

Deleting the Website

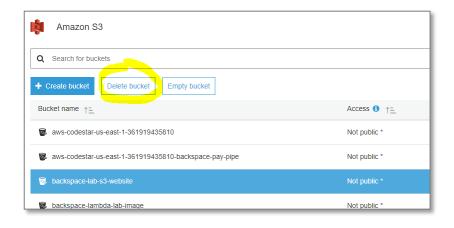
In this section we will show you how to delete all the resources if you no longer need the website.

Delete Bucket

Go to the S3 console

Select the bucket

Click delete bucket

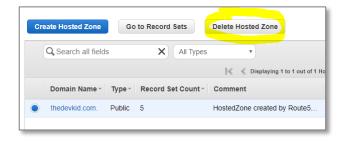


Remove Route 53 Hosted Zone

Go to the Route53 console

Select the hosted zone

Click Delete Hosted Zone



Delete CloudFront Distribution

Go to the CloudFront console

Select CloudFront Distribution

Click Disable

Wait for status to change to disabled

Click Delete

