

Lesson 13 Demo 02

Working with Variables and Versions on Terraform Cloud

Objective: To use Terraform Cloud for managing infrastructure by creating workspaces and defining variables to ensure consistent and reliable deployments

Tools required: Terraform Cloud

Prerequisites: Ensure you have created and implemented the AWS access key and secret key before starting this demo. Refer to Lesson 08 Demo 02 for detailed steps.

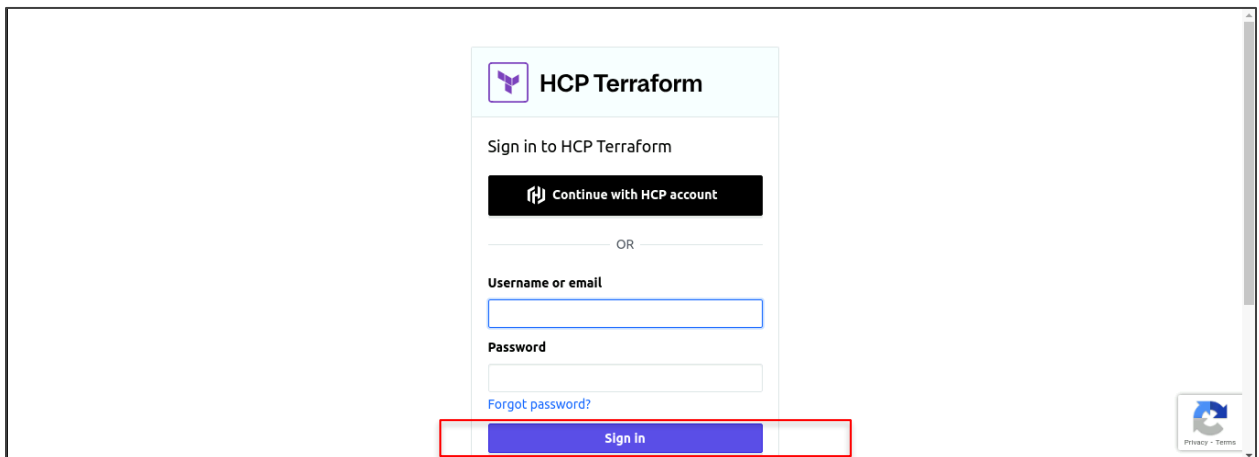
Steps to be followed:

1. Sign in to Terraform Cloud platform
2. Create an organization and workspace
3. Configure Terraform CLI for Terraform Cloud
4. Define and use variables on Terraform Cloud
5. Run the Terraform plan and apply

Step 1: Sign in to Terraform Cloud platform

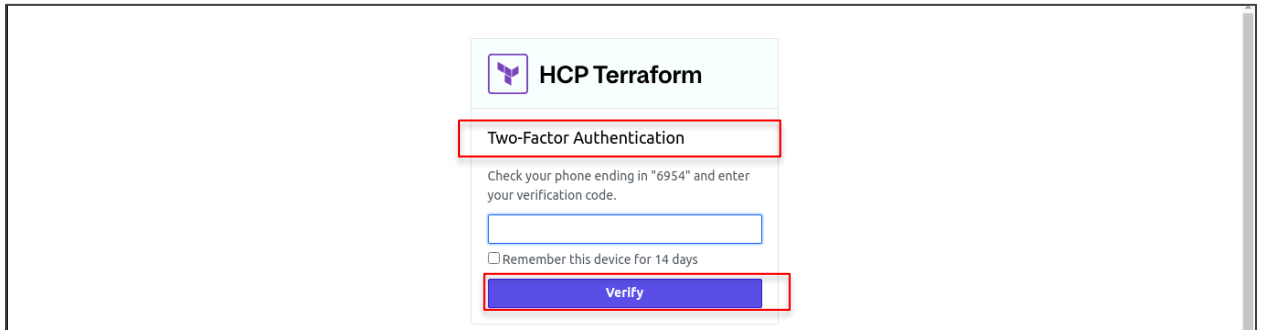
1.1 Enter the required details and click on **Sign In** by using the following URL:

<https://app.terraform.io/session>

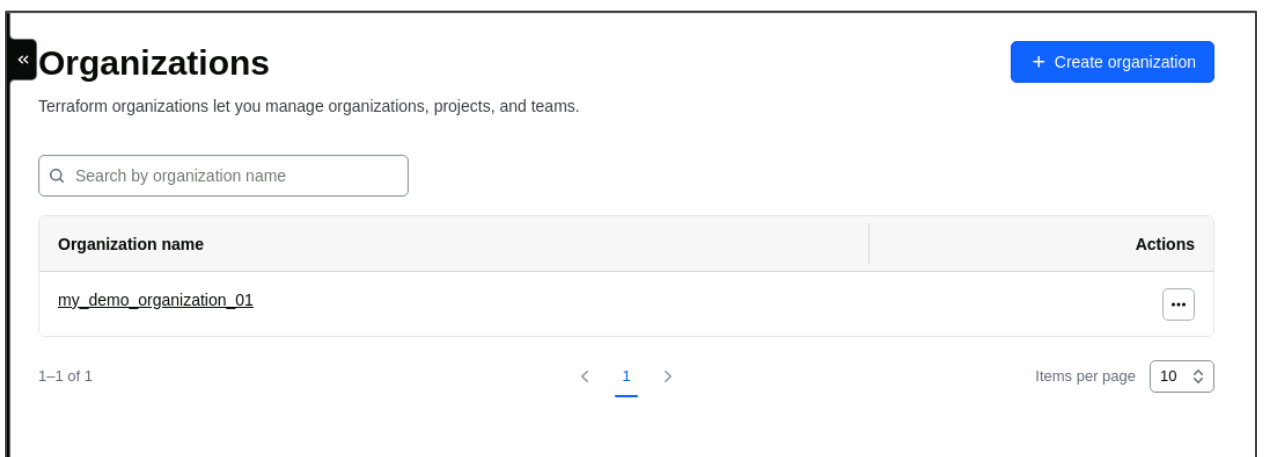


The screenshot displays the sign-in interface for HCP Terraform. At the top, there is a logo and the text 'HCP Terraform'. Below this, it says 'Sign in to HCP Terraform'. There is a button labeled 'Continue with HCP account'. Underneath, there is an 'OR' separator. Then, there are two input fields: 'Username or email' and 'Password'. Below the password field is a link that says 'Forgot password?'. At the bottom, there is a blue 'Sign in' button, which is highlighted with a red rectangular box. In the bottom right corner, there is a small icon for 'Privacy - Terms'.

1.2 Verify the Two-Factor Authentication:



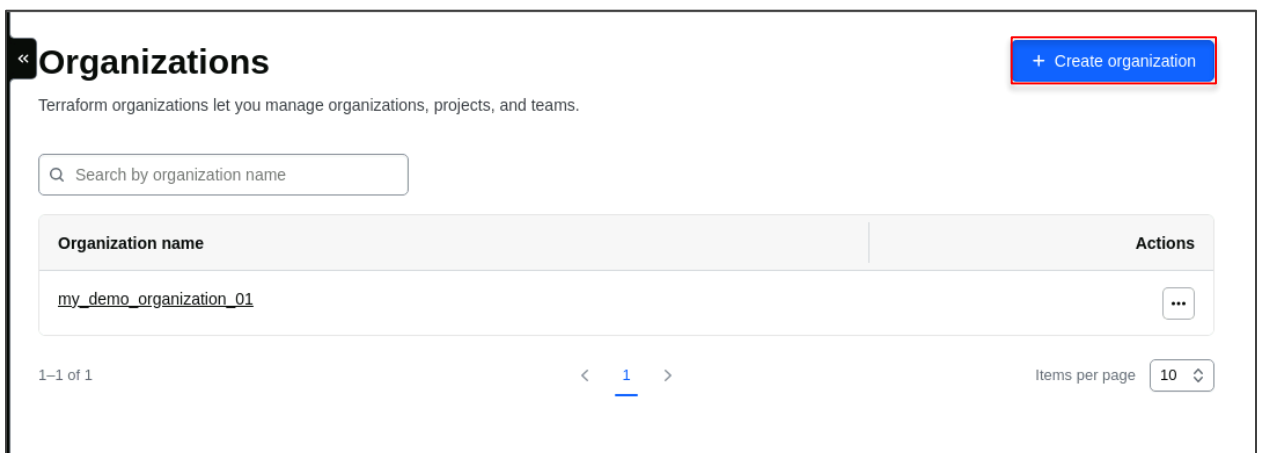
The screenshot shows the 'HCP Terraform' interface for Two-Factor Authentication. A red box highlights the 'Two-Factor Authentication' title. Below it, a text prompt asks the user to check their phone ending in '6954' and enter their verification code. A text input field is provided for the code. Below the input field is a checkbox labeled 'Remember this device for 14 days'. A red box highlights the 'Verify' button at the bottom of the form.



The screenshot shows the 'Organizations' page in Terraform. The page title is 'Organizations' with a back arrow icon. A blue button '+ Create organization' is in the top right. Below the title is a description: 'Terraform organizations let you manage organizations, projects, and teams.' A search bar with the placeholder 'Search by organization name' is present. Below the search bar is a table with two columns: 'Organization name' and 'Actions'. The table contains one row with the organization name 'my_demo_organization_01' and an ellipsis icon in the Actions column. At the bottom, there is pagination information '1-1 of 1', a page number '1' with left and right arrows, and a dropdown for 'Items per page' set to '10'.

Step 2: Create an organization and workspace

2.1 Click on Create organization:



This screenshot is identical to the previous one, showing the 'Organizations' page. A red box highlights the '+ Create organization' button in the top right corner.

2.2 Enter the **Organization name** as **demo_03** and click on **Create organization**:

New Organization | HCP Terraform

app.terraform.io/app/organizations/new

Organizations / New

Create a new organization

Organizations are privately shared spaces for teams to collaborate on infrastructure. [Learn more](#) about organizations in HCP Terraform.

Organization name

demo_03

Organization names must be unique and can only include numbers, letters, underscores (_), and hyphens (-).

Email address

sachidanand.yadav@simplelearn.net

The organization email is used for any future notifications, such as billing alerts, and the organization avatar, via [gravatar.com](#).

Create organization

Privacy - Terms

2.3 In the section of **Choose your workflow**, select **CLI-Driven Workflow**:

demo_03 | HCP Terraform

app.terraform.io/app/demo_03/workspaces/new

demo_03 / Workspaces / New Workspace

Create a new Workspace

HCP Terraform organizes your infrastructure resources by workspaces. A workspace contains infrastructure resources, variables, state data, and run history. [Learn more](#) about workspaces in HCP Terraform.

Choose your workflow

Version Control Workflow

Trigger runs based on changes to configuration in repositories.

Best for those who need traceability and transparency

CLI-Driven Workflow

Trigger runs in a workspace using the Terraform CLI.

Best for those comfortable with Terraform CLI

API-Driven Workflow

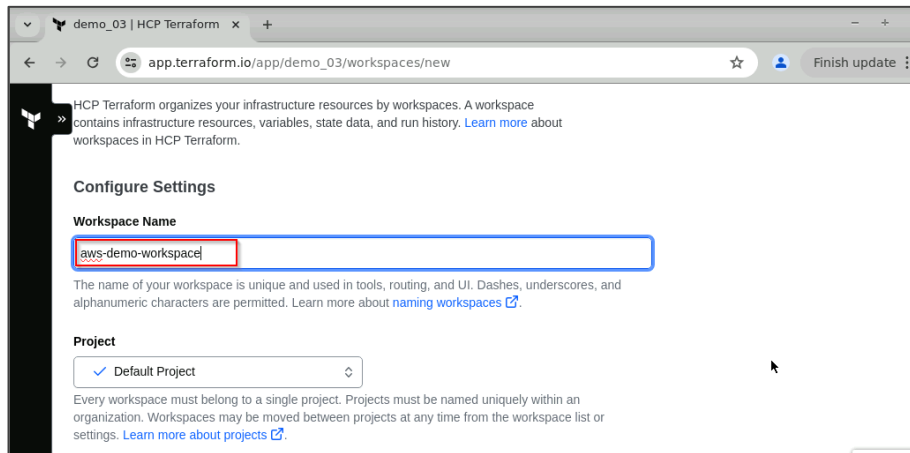
Trigger runs using the HCP Terraform API.

Best for those with custom integrations and pipelines

https://app.terraform.io/app/demo_03/workspaces/new#

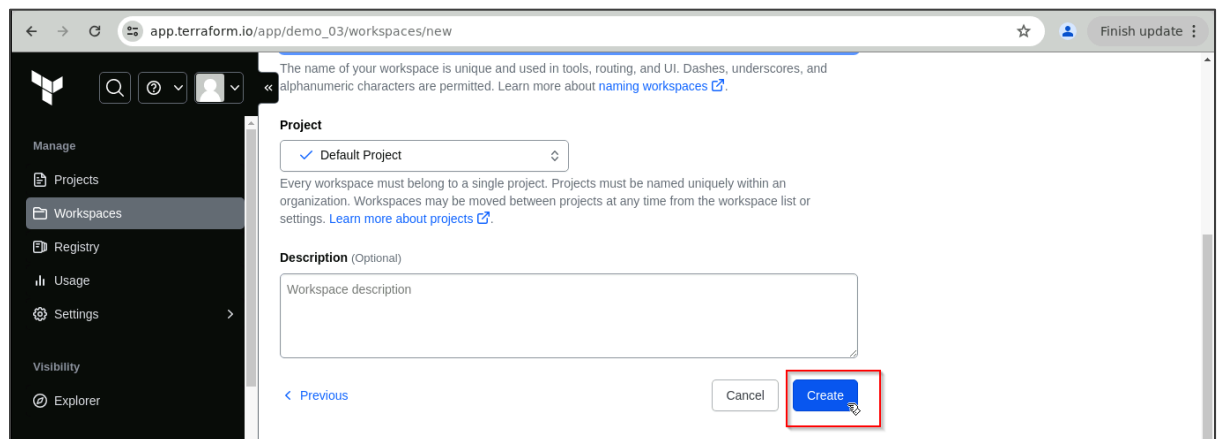
Privacy - Terms

2.4 Enter the **Workspace Name** as aws-demo-workspace:

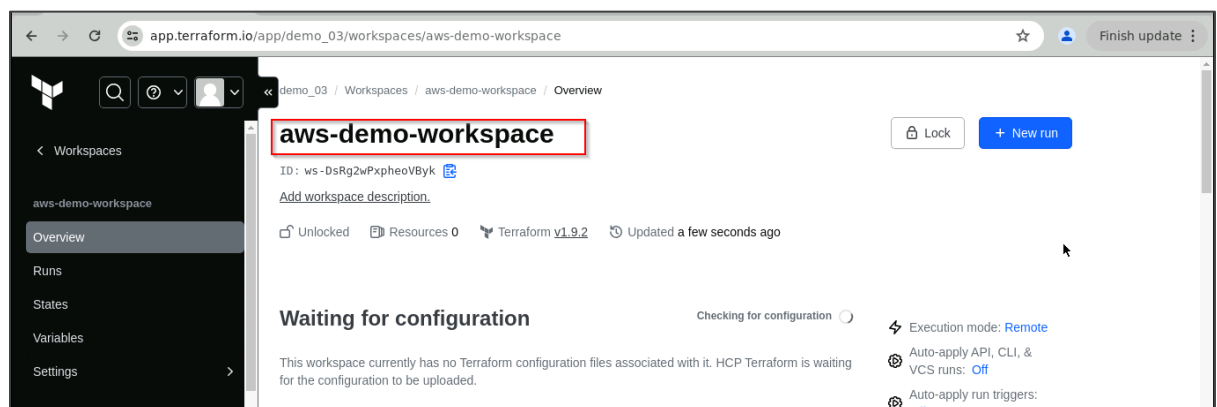


The screenshot shows the 'Configure Settings' page for a new workspace in HCP Terraform. The 'Workspace Name' field is highlighted with a red box and contains the text 'aws-demo-workspace'. Below it, a note states: 'The name of your workspace is unique and used in tools, routing, and UI. Dashes, underscores, and alphanumeric characters are permitted. [Learn more about naming workspaces](#).' The 'Project' dropdown is set to 'Default Project'.

2.5 Scroll down and click on **Create**:



The screenshot shows the 'Configure Settings' page for a new workspace in HCP Terraform. The 'Create' button is highlighted with a red box. The page includes a sidebar with navigation options: Manage, Projects, Workspaces, Registry, Usage, Settings, Visibility, and Explorer. The main content area shows the 'Project' dropdown set to 'Default Project' and a 'Description (Optional)' text area.



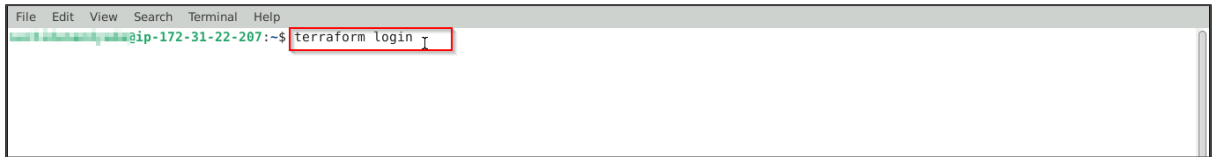
The screenshot shows the 'Overview' page for the newly created workspace 'aws-demo-workspace'. The workspace name is highlighted with a red box. The page displays the workspace ID 'ws-DsRg2wPxpheoVByk', its status as 'Unlocked', and the Terraform version 'v1.9.2'. It also shows the execution mode as 'Remote' and the auto-apply settings.

The workspace will be created as shown in the above screenshot.

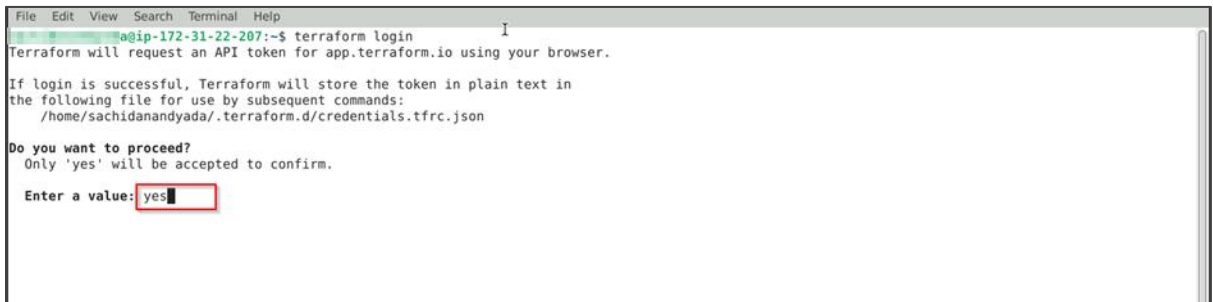
Step 3: Configure Terraform CLI for Terraform Cloud

3.1 Go to the terminal and run the following command to log in to Terraform Cloud:

terraform login

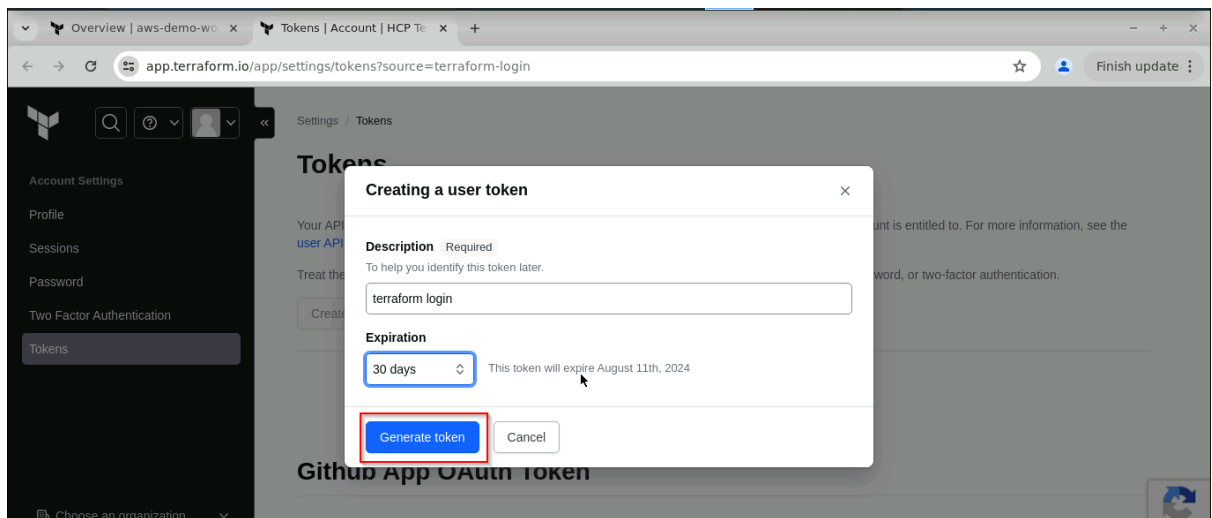


3.2 When prompted, proceed by typing **yes**:

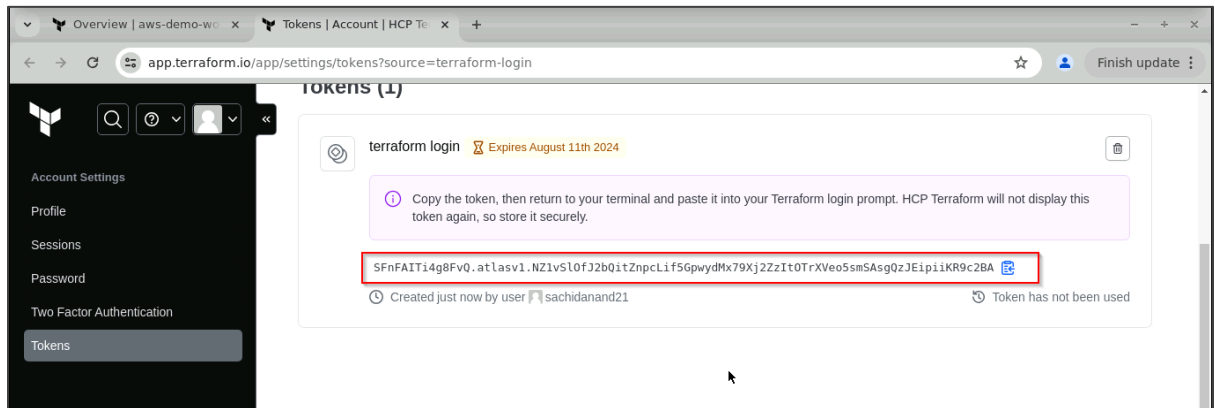


The Terraform Cloud interface will automatically open.

3.3 Create a user token by clicking on **Generate token**:



3.4 Scroll down and copy the generated token:



3.5 Go to the terminal and paste the copied token:

```
Do you want to proceed?
Only 'yes' will be accepted to confirm.

Enter a value: yes

-----

Terraform must now open a web browser to the tokens page for app.terraform.io.

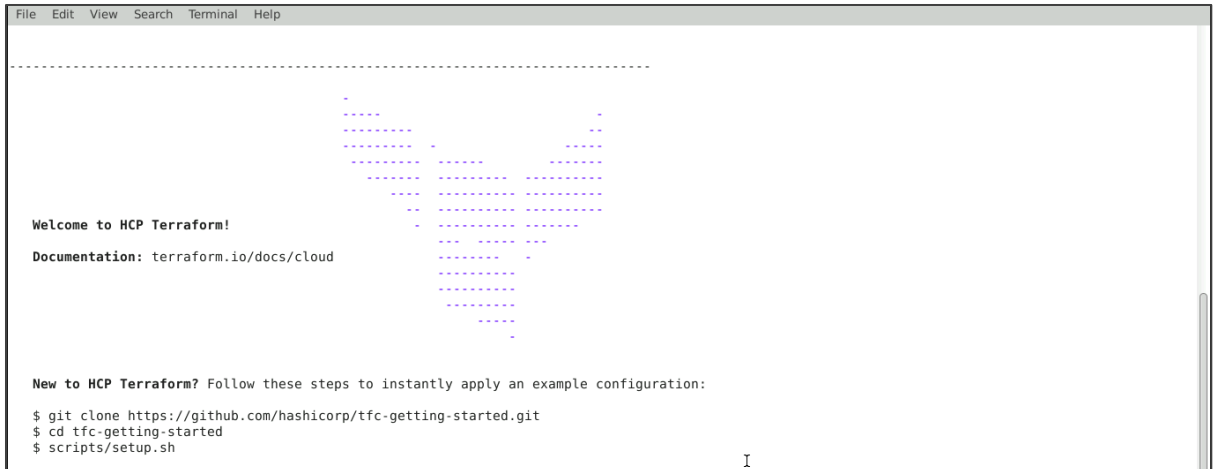
If a browser does not open this automatically, open the following URL to proceed:
https://app.terraform.io/app/settings/tokens?source=terraform-login

-----

Generate a token using your browser, and copy-paste it into this prompt.

Terraform will store the token in plain text in the following file
for use by subsequent commands:
~/.terraform.d/credentials.tfrc.json

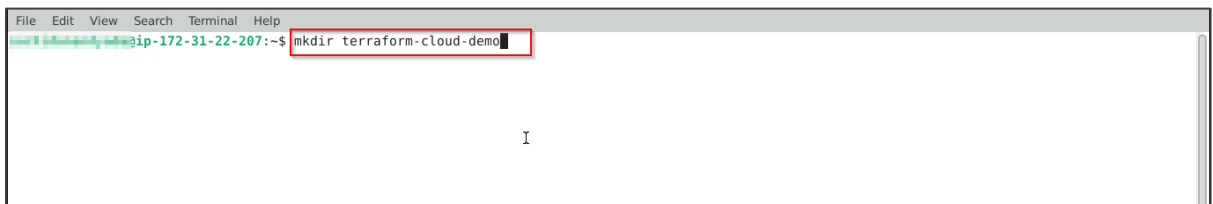
Token for app.terraform.io:
Enter a value: Opening in existing browser session.
```



A welcome message from Terraform will appear as shown in the above screenshot.

3.6 Create a folder to proceed with Terraform initialization using the following command:

```
mkdir terraform-cloud-demo
```



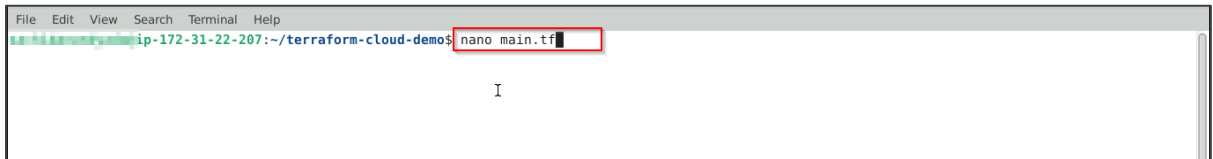
3.7 Navigate to the created folder by using the following command:

```
cd terraform-cloud-demo
```



3.8 Create a new file named **main.tf** in your project directory using the following command:

nano main.tf



3.9 Add the initial Terraform configuration to the **main.tf** file:

```
terraform {
  cloud {
    organization = "demo_03"

    workspaces {
      name = "aws-demo-workspace"
    }
  }
  required_version = ">= 0.12"
}

provider "aws" {
  region = var.aws_region
}

variable "aws_region" {
  description = "The AWS region to deploy resources in"
  type        = string
  default     = "us-east-1"
}

resource "aws_instance" "example" {
  ami          = "ami-00402f0bdf4996822" # Replace with a valid AMI ID for your region
  instance_type = var.instance_type
  tags = {
    Name = "TerraformExample"
  }
}
```



```
variable "instance_type" {  
  description = "The instance type for the EC2 instance"  
  type        = string  
}
```



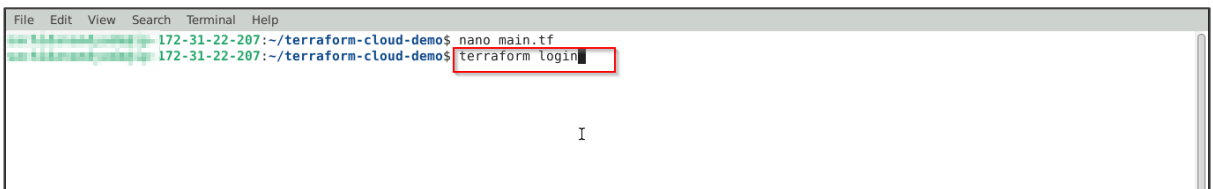
```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
GNU nano 6.2 main.tf *  
terraform {  
  cloud {  
    organization = "demo_03"  
  }  
  workspaces {  
    name = "aws-demo-workspace"  
  }  
  required_version = ">= 0.12"  
}  
  
provider "aws" {  
  region = var.aws_region  
}  
  
variable "aws_region" {  
  description = "The AWS region to deploy resources in"  
  type        = string  
  default     = "us-east-1"  
}  
  
resource "aws_instance" "example" {  
  ami      = "ami-00402f0bdf4996822" # Replace with a valid AMI ID for your region  
  instance_type = var.instance_type  
  tags = {  
    Name = "TerraformExample"  
  }  
}
```

Note: Save the file by pressing Ctrl + X, then Y to confirm changes, and Enter to save and exit

Step 4: Define and use variables on Terraform Cloud

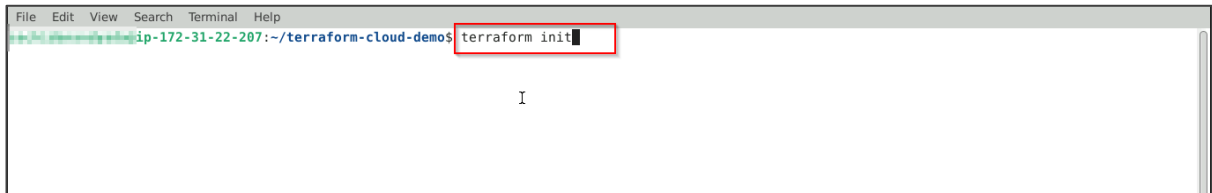
4.1 Log in to Terraform Cloud by using the following command:

terraform login

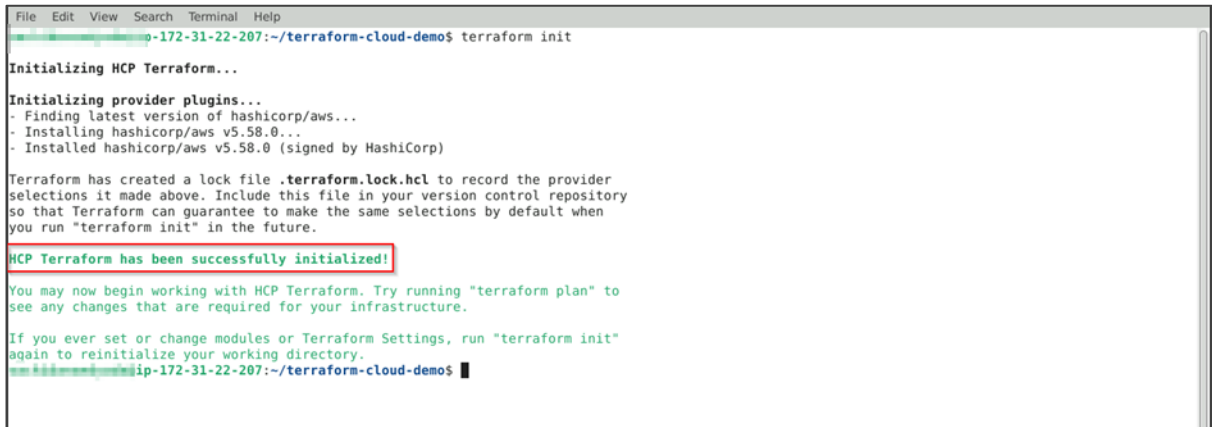


```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
172-31-22-207:~/terraform-cloud-demo$ nano main.tf  
172-31-22-207:~/terraform-cloud-demo$ terraform login
```

4.2 Initialize your Terraform configuration with the following command: **terraform init**



```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
ip-172-31-22-207:~/terraform-cloud-demo$ terraform init
```



```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
ip-172-31-22-207:~/terraform-cloud-demo$ terraform init

Initializing HCP Terraform...

Initializing provider plugins...
- Finding latest version of hashicorp/aws...
- Installing hashicorp/aws v5.58.0...
- Installed hashicorp/aws v5.58.0 (signed by HashiCorp)

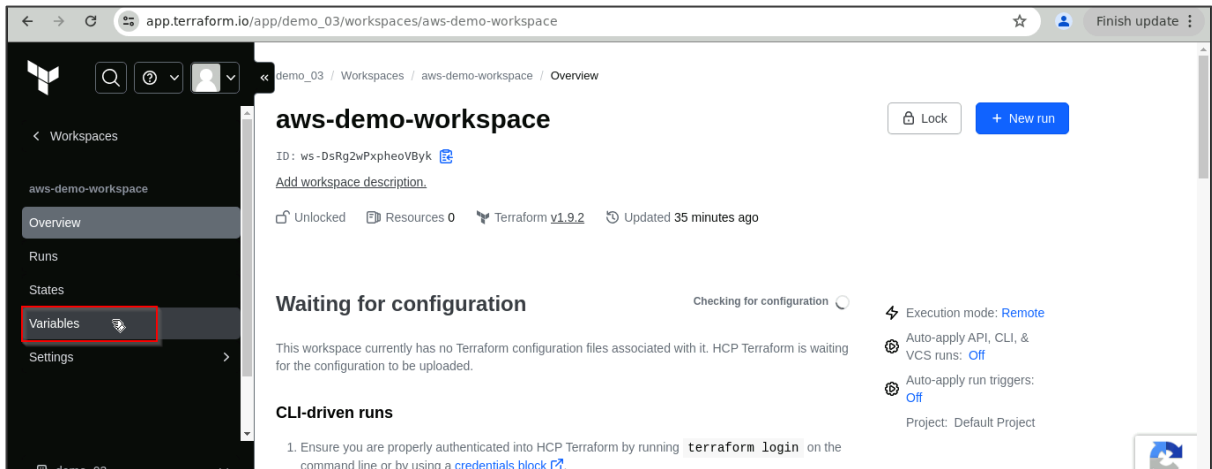
Terraform has created a lock file .terraform.lock.hcl to record the provider
selections it made above. Include this file in your version control repository
so that Terraform can guarantee to make the same selections by default when
you run "terraform init" in the future.

HCP Terraform has been successfully initialized!

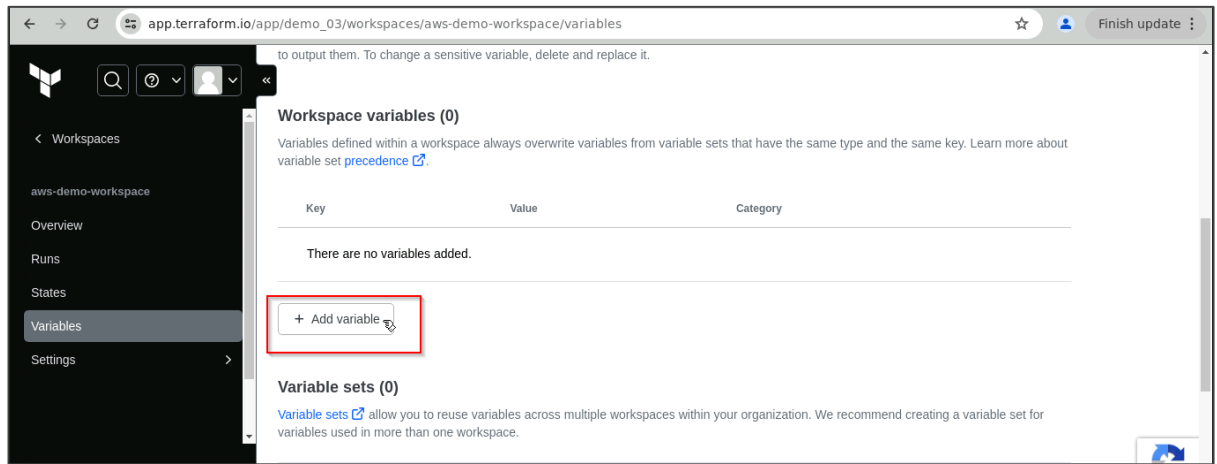
You may now begin working with HCP Terraform. Try running "terraform plan" to
see any changes that are required for your infrastructure.

If you ever set or change modules or Terraform Settings, run "terraform init"
again to reinitialize your working directory.
ip-172-31-22-207:~/terraform-cloud-demo$
```

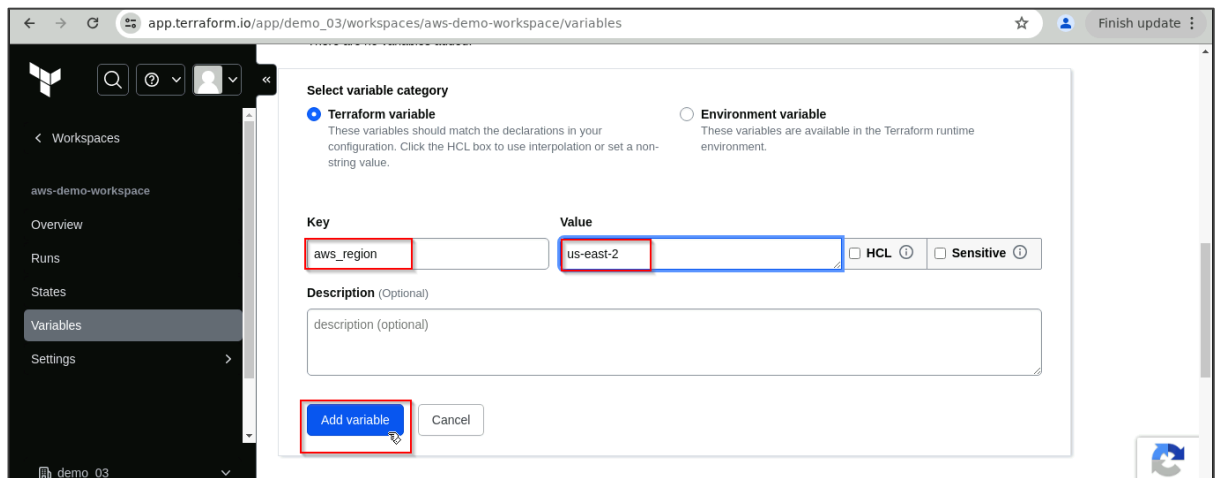
4.3 Go to your workspace on Terraform Cloud and navigate to the **Variables** tab:



4.4 Click on **Add variable**:



4.5 Enter the **Key** and **Value** as per the requirements:



4.6 Click on **Add variable**:

The screenshot shows the Terraform.io interface for adding a variable. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with 'Workspaces', 'aws-demo-workspace', 'Overview', 'Runs', 'States', 'Variables' (selected), and 'Settings'. The main content area is titled 'Select variable category' and has two radio buttons: 'Terraform variable' (selected) and 'Environment variable'. Below the radio buttons, there are two text input fields: 'Key' with the value 'aws_region' and 'Value' with the value 'us-east-2'. To the right of these fields are two checkboxes: 'HCL' and 'Sensitive'. Below the input fields is a 'Description (Optional)' text area. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: 'Add variable' (highlighted with a red box) and 'Cancel'.

The screenshot shows the Terraform.io interface after the variable has been added. The left sidebar is the same as in the previous screenshot. The main content area shows a table with the following data:

Key	Value	Category
aws_region	us-east-2	terraform

The required variable is created.

4.7 Click on **Add variable** to add one more variable to the configuration:

The screenshot shows the Terraform.io interface with the variable set table. The left sidebar is the same as in the previous screenshots. The main content area shows the table with one row: 'aws_region' with value 'us-east-2' and category 'terraform'. Below the table is a button labeled '+ Add variable' (highlighted with a red box). Below the button is a section titled 'Variable sets (0)' with a link to 'Variable sets' and a description: 'Variable sets allow you to reuse variables across multiple workspaces within your organization. We recommend creating a variable set for variables used in more than one workspace.'

4.8 Enter the second **Key** and **Value** as per the requirements:

The screenshot shows the Terraform Cloud interface for adding a variable to a workspace. The 'Key' field is 'instance_type' and the 'Value' field is 't2.micro'. The 'Add variable' button is highlighted with a red box.

Select variable category

☒ **Terraform variable**
These variables should match the declarations in your configuration. Click the HCL box to use interpolation or set a non-string value.

☐ **Environment variable**
These variables are available in the Terraform runtime environment.

Key

Value ☐ HCL ⓘ ☐ Sensitive ⓘ

Description (Optional)

4.9 Click on **Add variable**:

The top screenshot shows the 'Add variable' form with 'instance_type' and 't2.micro'. The 'Add variable' button is highlighted with a red box.

Select variable category

☒ **Terraform variable**
These variables should match the declarations in your configuration. Click the HCL box to use interpolation or set a non-string value.

☐ **Environment variable**
These variables are available in the Terraform runtime environment.

Key

Value ☐ HCL ⓘ ☐ Sensitive ⓘ

Description (Optional)

The bottom screenshot shows the 'Workspace variables (2)' table. The table has columns for Key, Value, and Category. The variables are 'aws_region' with value 'us-east-2' and 'instance_type' with value 't2.micro'. Both are categorized as 'terraform'. The 'Add variable' button is highlighted with a red box.

Workspace variables (2)

Variables defined within a workspace always overwrite variables from variable sets that have the same type and the same key. Learn more about variable set [precedence](#).

Key	Value	Category
aws_region	us-east-2	terraform
instance_type	t2.micro	terraform

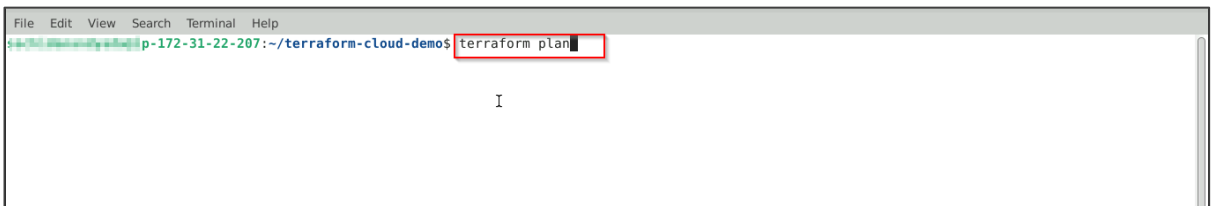
The required variables are created successfully.

By adding these key-value pairs in the **Variables** tab, you can dynamically manage the region and instance type for your Terraform configurations without hardcoding these values into your **main.tf** file.

Step 5: Run the Terraform plan and apply

5.1 Navigate to the terminal and run the following command:

terraform plan



```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
ip-172-31-22-207:~/terraform-cloud-demo$ terraform plan
```



```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
ip-172-31-22-207:~/terraform-cloud-demo$ terraform plan
Running plan in HCP Terraform. Output will stream here. Pressing Ctrl-C
will stop streaming the logs, but will not stop the plan running remotely.

Preparing the remote plan...

To view this run in a browser, visit:
https://app.terraform.io/app/demo_03/aws-demo-workspace/runs/run-7Qxd57Tqs7S1VDeh

Waiting for the plan to start...

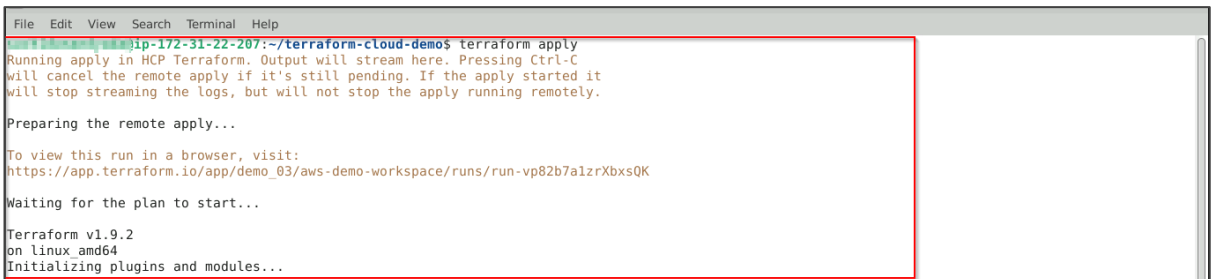
Terraform v1.9.2
on linux amd64
Initializing plugins and modules...
```

5.2 Run the following command to apply the plan:

terraform apply



```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
ip-172-31-22-207:~/terraform-cloud-demo$ terraform apply
```



```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
ip-172-31-22-207:~/terraform-cloud-demo$ terraform apply
Running apply in HCP Terraform. Output will stream here. Pressing Ctrl-C
will cancel the remote apply if it's still pending. If the apply started it
will stop streaming the logs, but will not stop the apply running remotely.

Preparing the remote apply...

To view this run in a browser, visit:
https://app.terraform.io/app/demo_03/aws-demo-workspace/runs/run-vp82b7a1zrXbsQK

Waiting for the plan to start...

Terraform v1.9.2
on linux amd64
Initializing plugins and modules...
```

5.3 Verify the variables for Terraform configurations by using the following command:

nano main.tf



```
GNU nano 6.2 main.tf
terraform {
  cloud {
    organization = "demo_03"

    workspaces {
      name = "aws-demo-workspace"
    }
  }
  required_version = ">= 0.12"
}

variable "aws_region" {
  description = "The AWS region to deploy resources in"
  type        = string
}

variable "instance_type" {
  description = "The instance type for the EC2 instance"
  type        = string
}

provider "aws" {
  region = var.aws_region
}

resource "aws_instance" "example" {
```

By following the above steps, you can effectively work with variables and versions in Terraform Cloud, ensuring a collaborative and managed approach to infrastructure provisioning.