

## **“Expert Cloud Consulting”**

**SOP** | AWS Infrastructure with Terraform: S3 and DynamoDB Backend Setup

**27 Jun 2025**

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AWS Infrastructure with Terraform: S3 and DynamoDB Backend Setup





## Document Overview

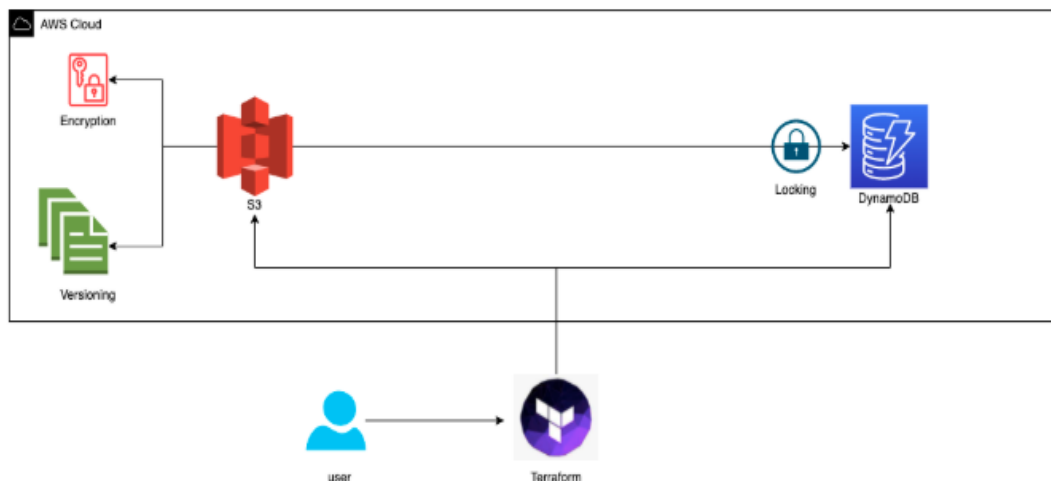
This document provides a detailed walkthrough of setting up a robust and collaborative Terraform backend using AWS S3 and DynamoDB, along with provisioning a complete multi-tier infrastructure on AWS. It demonstrates the practical application of Infrastructure as Code (IaC) principles and how centralized state management improves team collaboration and operational safety.

The setup includes multiple stages—from configuring IAM access and Terraform providers to provisioning VPCs, EC2 instances, and an Application Load Balancer—while ensuring the Terraform state is secure, centralized, and version-controlled

## Document References

The following resources were referred to during the creation and execution of this Terraform-based infrastructure setup

Date	Document	Filename / Url
27 Jun	Streamlining AWS Infrastructure with Terraform using S3 and DynamoDB	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/streamlining-aws-infrastructure-terraform-s3-dynamodb-erumal-lvlpc/">https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/streamlining-aws-infrastructure-terraform-s3-dynamodb-erumal-lvlpc/</a>
27 Jun	Terraform State Remote Storage with S3 and Locking using DynamoDB	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/terraform-state-remote-storage-s3-locking-dynamodb-oramu-/">https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/terraform-state-remote-storage-s3-locking-dynamodb-oramu-/</a>



### Why Use a Terraform Backend?

When you start using Terraform, local state files might suffice for small projects. But as teams grow and infrastructure scales, storing state files locally becomes a bottleneck—or worse, a liability. A remote backend, like AWS S3 with DynamoDB for locking, solves this by enabling

- **Collaboration:** Multiple team members can work on the same infrastructure without conflicts.
- **Security:** State files often contain sensitive data, and S3 offers encryption and access control.
- **Consistency:** DynamoDB ensures state locking and prevents race conditions during deployments.

### Setting Up the S3 Bucket

- **Bucket Creation:** Define an S3 bucket resource in Terraform with a unique name (S3 bucket names are globally unique, so get creative or append a random suffix).
- **Versioning:** Enable versioning to maintain a history of state file changes—crucial for rollback scenarios.
- **Access Control:** Restrict access with a bucket policy or IAM roles to ensure only authorized users or services can interact with it.

### Adding DynamoDB for State Locking

S3 alone handles storage, but it doesn't prevent multiple users from overwriting the state simultaneously. Enter DynamoDB:



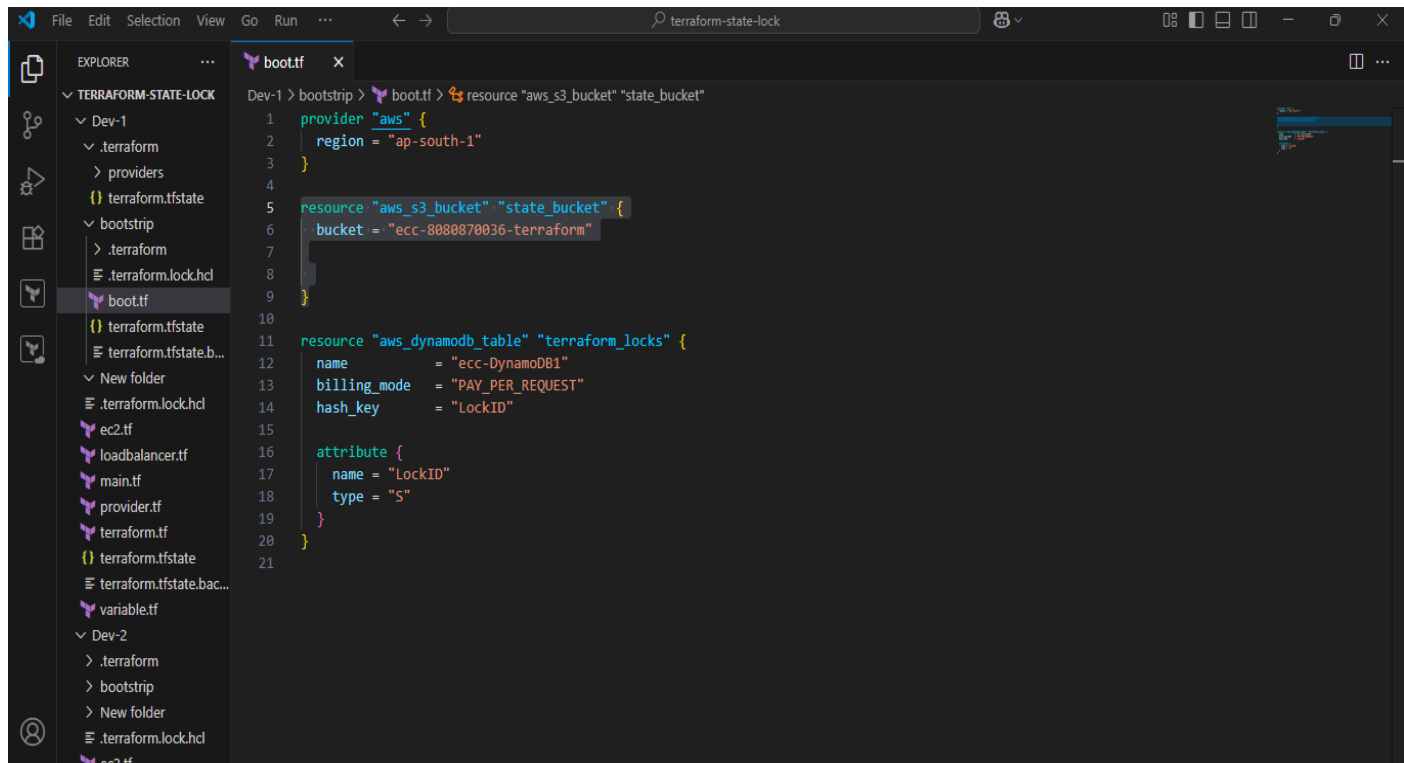
**Primary Key:** We use a simple key called LockID to track the lock.

**Simple Setup:** Only one attribute is needed. No complex table design required.

**On-Demand Mode:** We use PAY\_PER\_REQUEST so we only pay for what we use. This is great for small teams or less frequent usage

### backend.tf

#### S3.tf



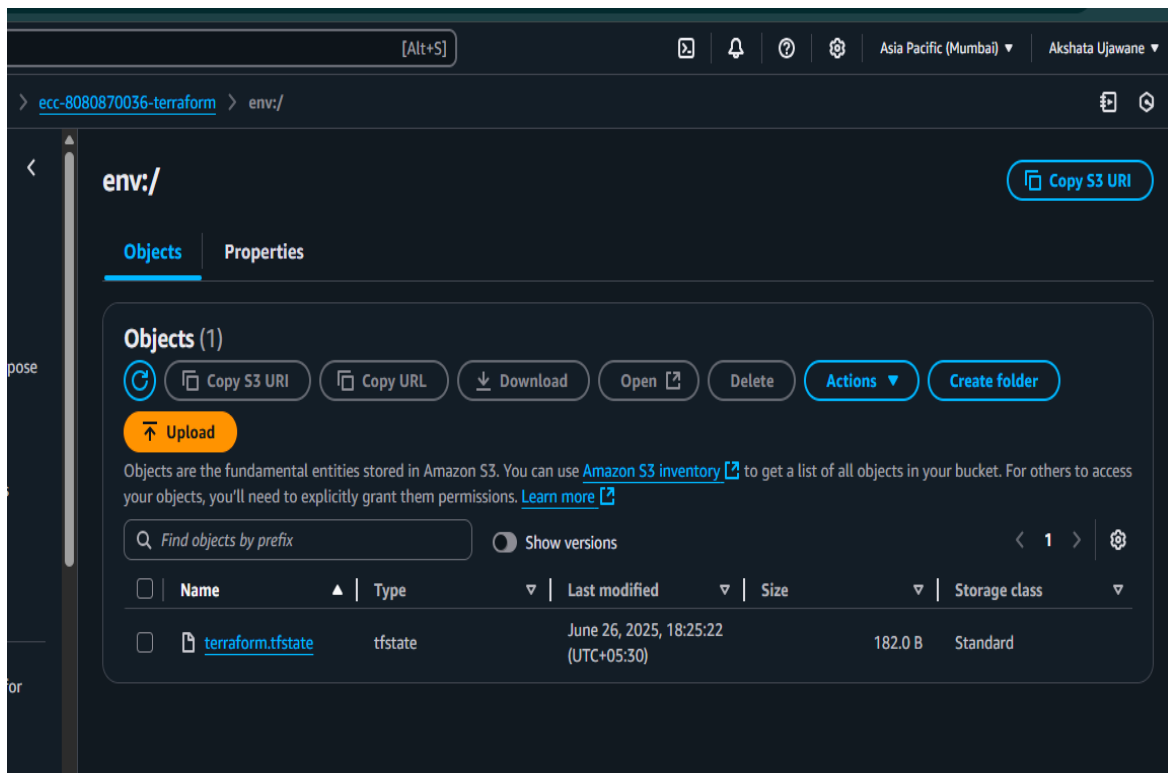
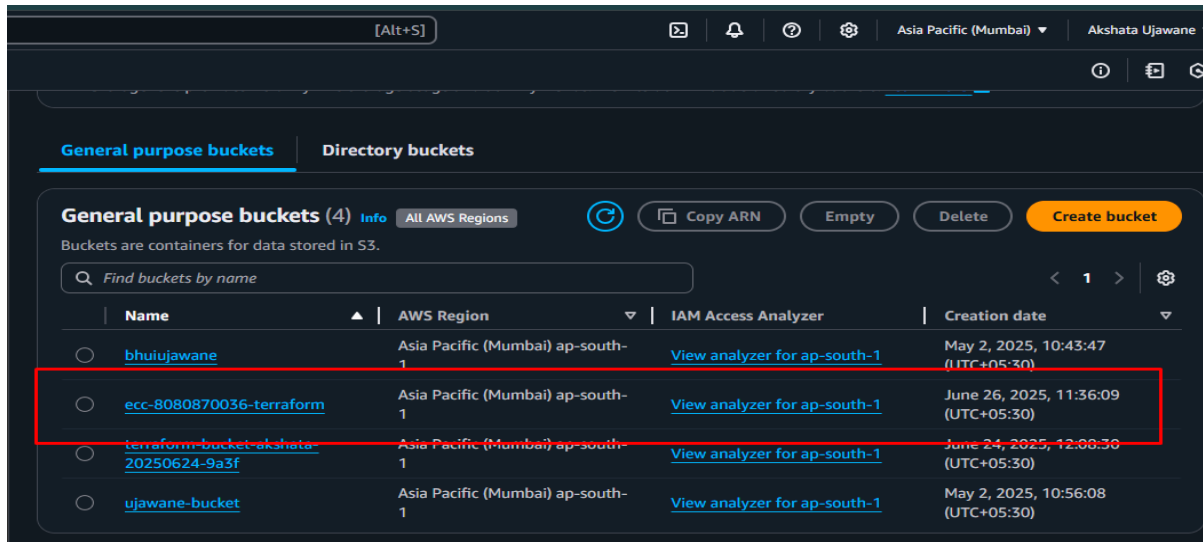
After setting up both the S3 bucket and DynamoDB table, you can run **terraform init** **Terraform plan** **Terraform apply** to initialize the backend

```
terraform init
terraform plan
terraform apply -auto-approve
```

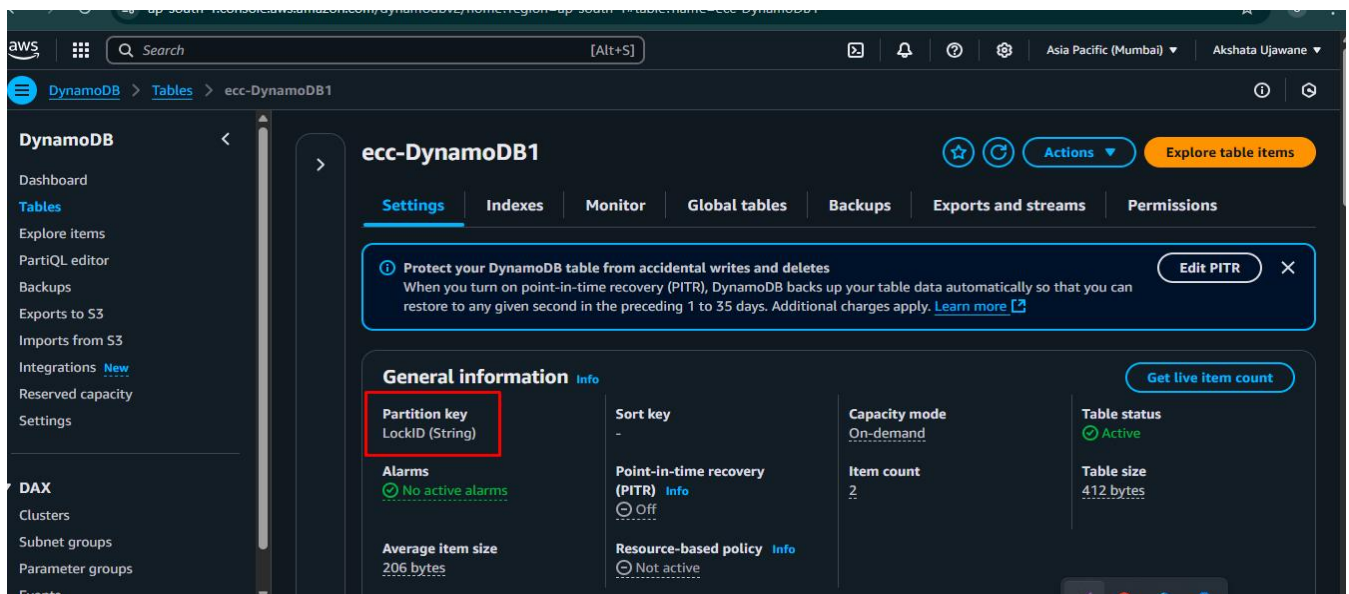


This successfully created

## S3 Bucket

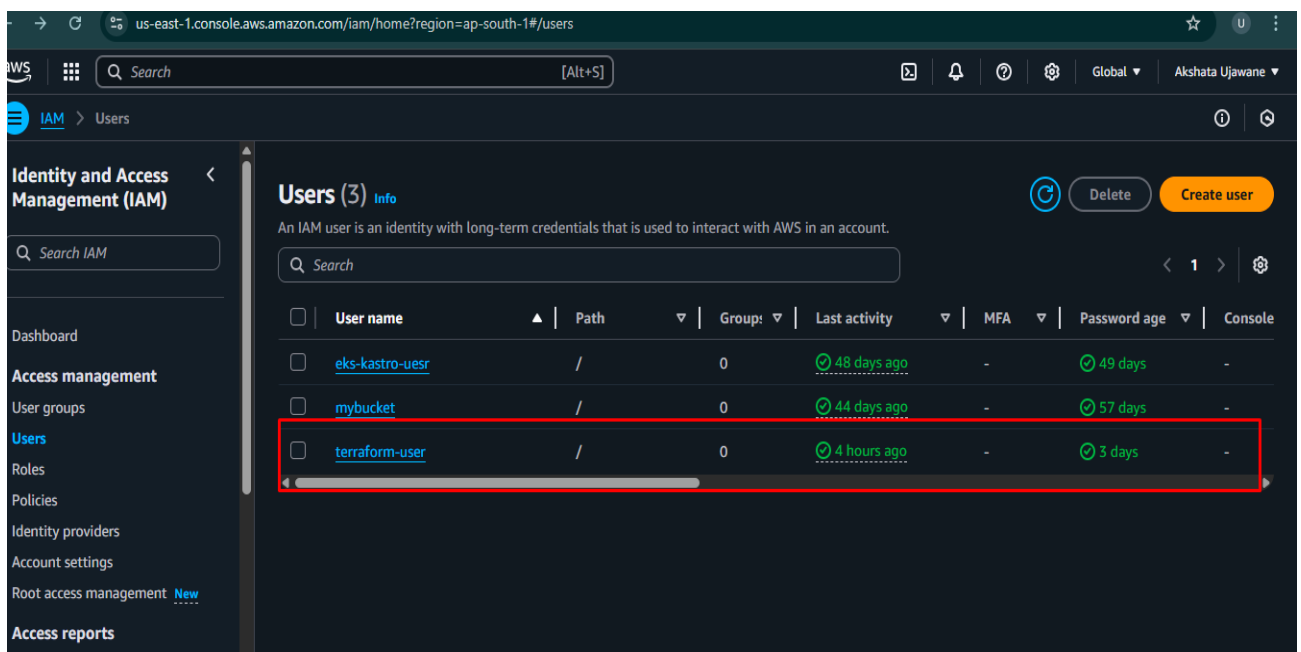


## DynamoDB

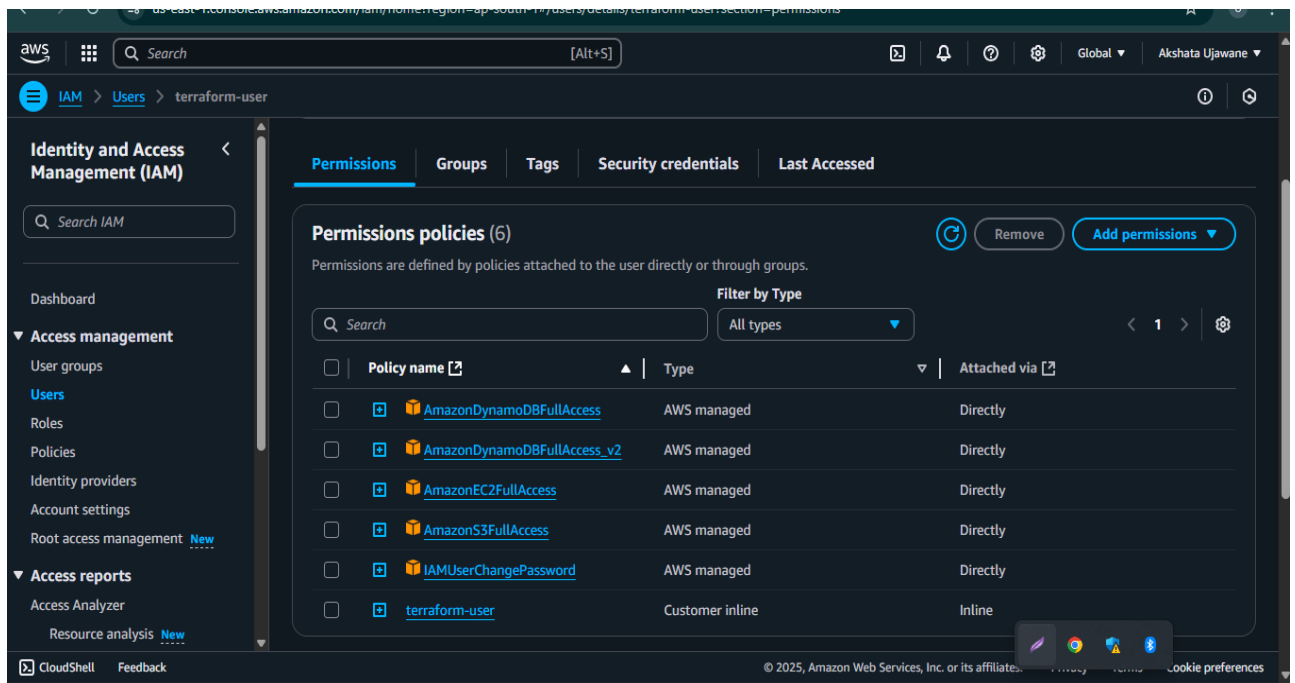


## IAM User Integration

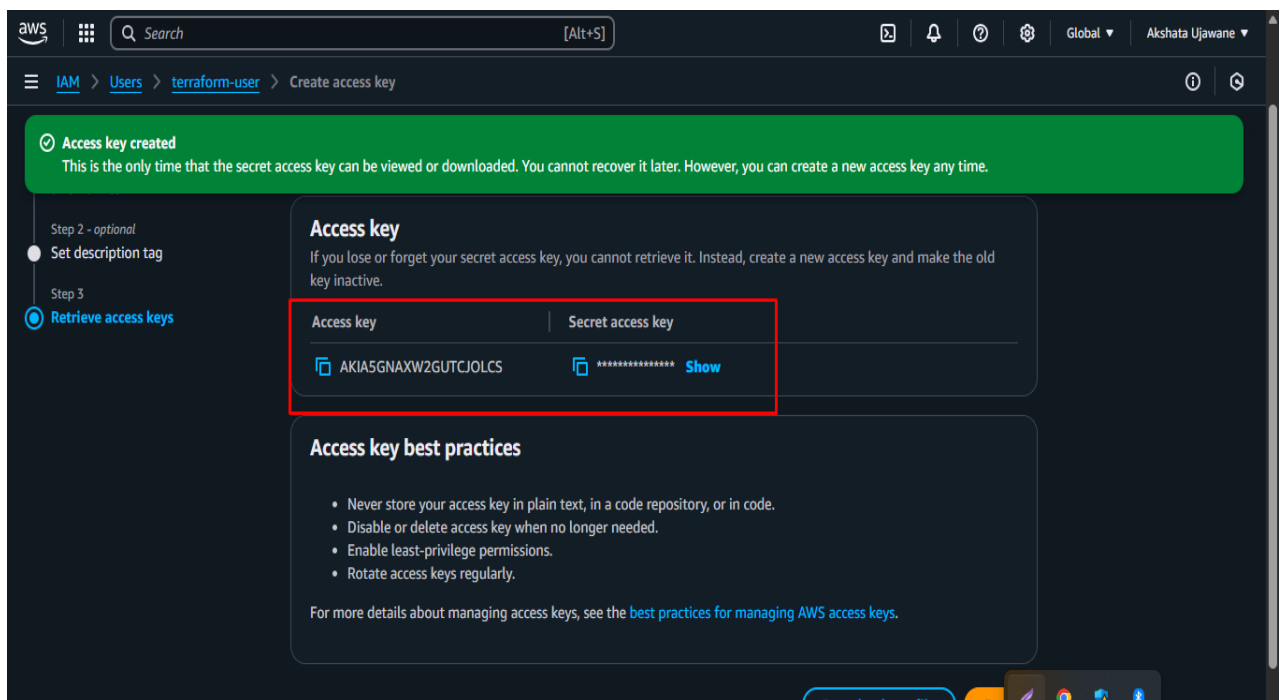
- Create and configure **IAM users** with fine-grained permissions.



## AWS Infrastructure with Terraform: S3 and DynamoDB Backend Setup

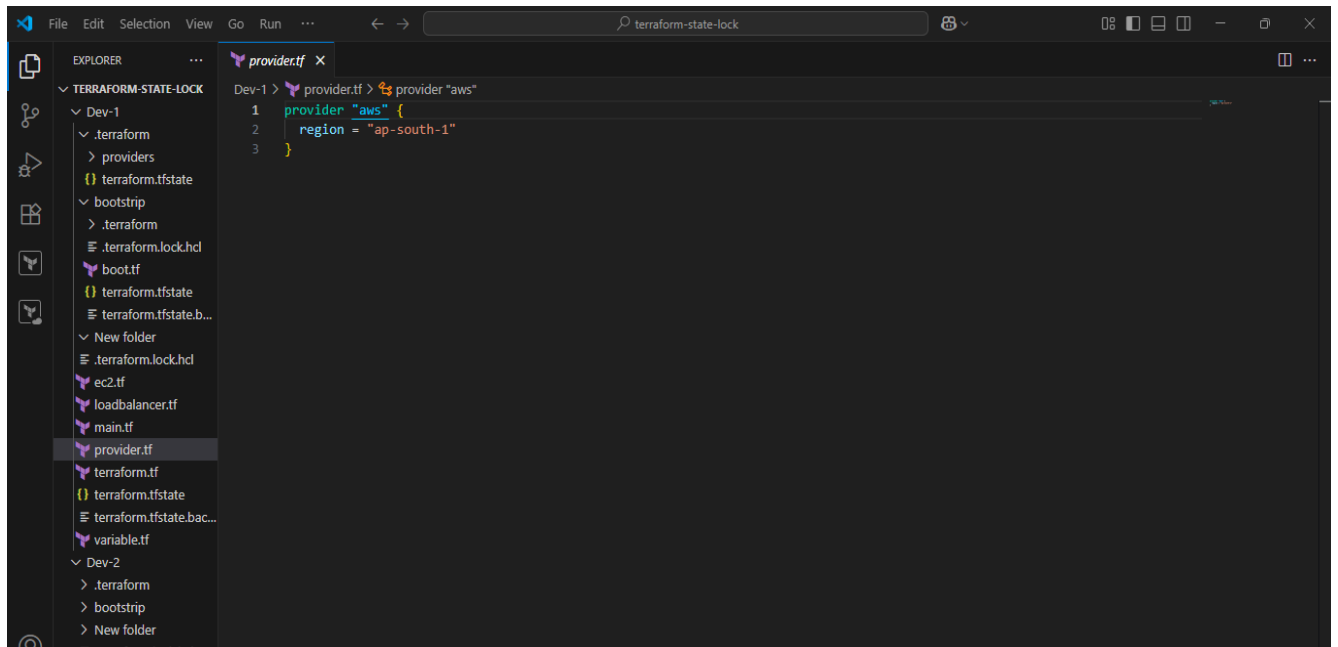


Securely connect Terraform to AWS using **Access Key** and **Secret Key** for automated deployments.

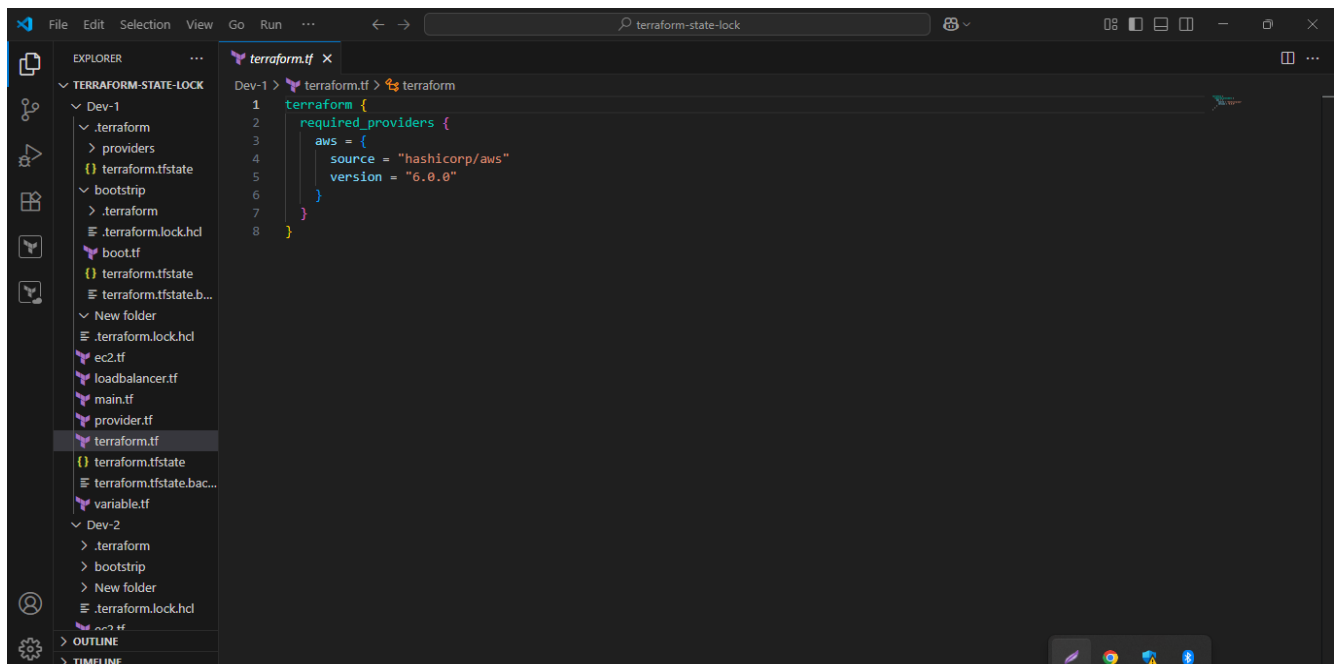


provider.tf:

Specifies AWS provider and region



terraform.tf





## Created VPC, Subnets, Route Tables, and Internet Gateway

These components form the **network architecture** of your cloud environment.

```
1 > ec2.tf > resource "aws_vpc" "myvpc" > cidr_block
#create a vpc
resource "aws_vpc" "myvpc" {
  cidr_block = "10.0.0.0/16"
  tags = {
    Name = "myTerraformvpc"
  }
}

# Create a public subnet
resource "aws_subnet" "publicsubnet" {
  vpc_id      = aws_vpc.myvpc.id
  cidr_block  = "10.0.1.0/24"
  availability_zone = "ap-south-1a"
}

# Create a private subnet
resource "aws_subnet" "privatesubnet" {
  vpc_id      = aws_vpc.myvpc.id
  cidr_block  = "10.0.2.0/24"
  availability_zone = "ap-south-1b"
}

# Create an Internet Gateway
resource "aws_internet_gateway" "igw" {
  vpc_id = aws_vpc.myvpc.id
}
```

```
# Route Table for public subnet
resource "aws_route_table" "PublicRT" {
  vpc_id = aws_vpc.myvpc.id
  route {
    cidr_block = "0.0.0.0/0"
    gateway_id = aws_internet_gateway.igw.id
  }
}

# Route table association for public subnet
resource "aws_route_table_association" "PublicRTAssociation" {
  subnet_id      = aws_subnet.publicsubnet.id
  route_table_id = aws_route_table.PublicRT.id
}
```



### Launch EC2 Instances in Private Subnet

```
# create ec2
resource "aws_instance" "testinstancez" {
  count = 3
  ami    = var.ami_id
  instance_type = "t2.micro"
  key_name    = "Demo-app"
  subnet_id   = aws_subnet.privatesubnet.id
  vpc_security_group_ids = [aws_security_group.allow_user_to_connect.id]
  tags = {
    Name = "Terra-Automate"
  }

  root_block_device {
    volume_size = 10
    volume_type = "gp3"
  }
}
```

### Creating Security Group to allow SSH, HTTP, and HTTPS

```
# create security group
resource "aws_security_group" "allow_user_to_connect" {
  name        = "allow-user-to-connect"
  description = "Allow user to connect (SSH, HTTP, HTTPS)"
  vpc_id      = aws_vpc.myvpc.id

  ingress {
    description = "Allow SSH"
    from_port   = 22
    to_port     = 22
    protocol    = "tcp"
    cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]
  }

  ingress {
    description = "Allow HTTP"
    from_port   = 80
    to_port     = 80
    protocol    = "tcp"
    cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]
  }

  ingress {
    description = "Allow HTTPS"
    from_port   = 443
    to_port     = 443
    protocol    = "tcp"
    cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]
  }
}
```

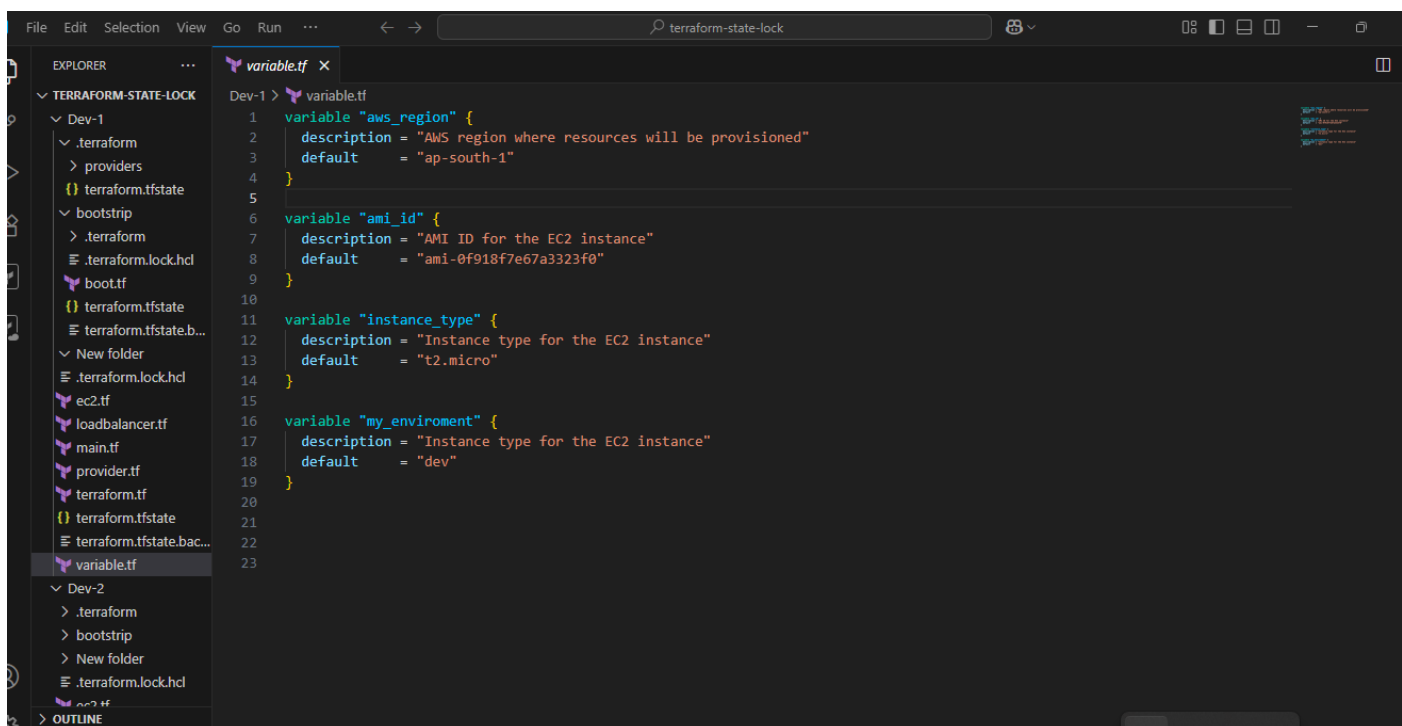


```
egress {
  description = "Allow all outbound traffic"
  from_port   = 0
  to_port     = 0
  protocol    = "-1"
  cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]
}

tags = {
  Name = "mysecurity"
}
```

### variable.tf

It allows us to define reusable and dynamic input values for Terraform resources. This makes the configuration cleaner and easier to manage.



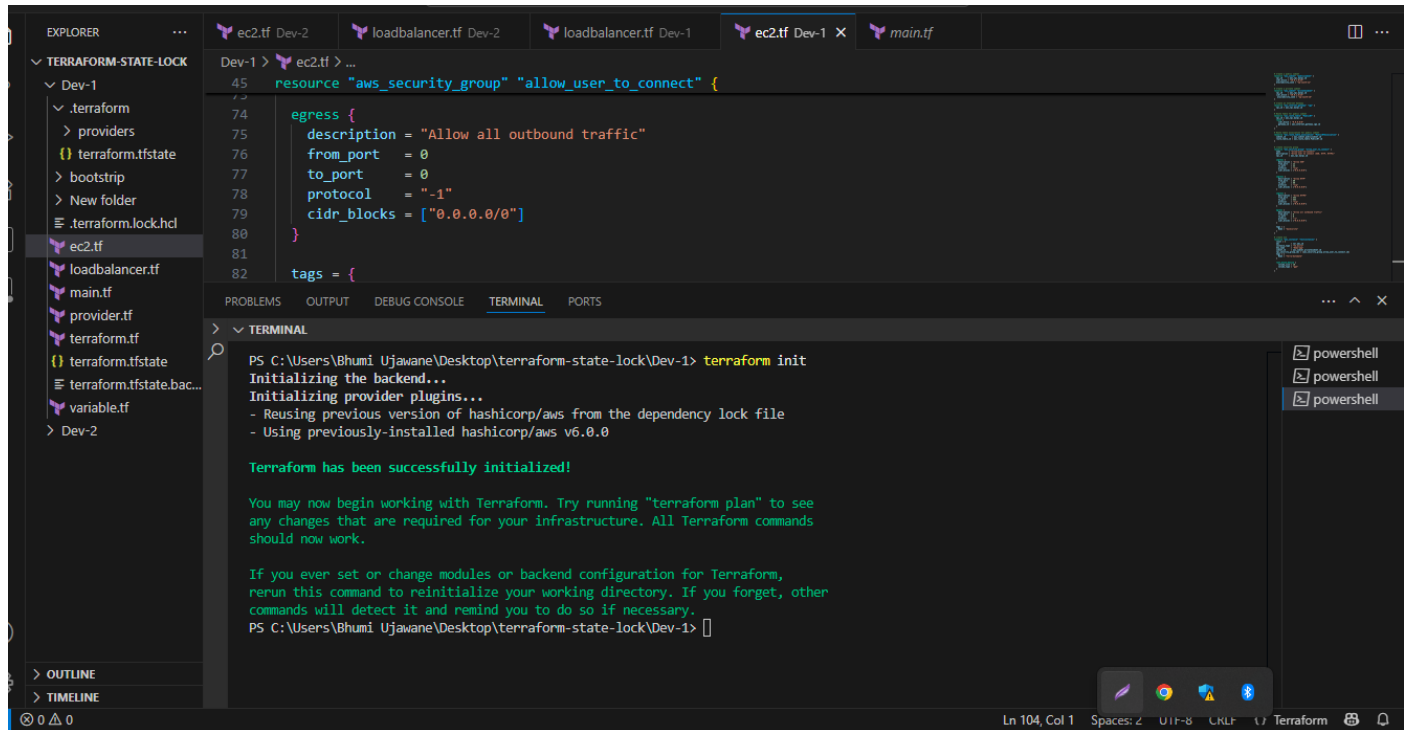
### Dev-1 User: Deploying Infrastructure with Terraform



Once all your .tf files are ready (VPC, EC2, subnets, load balancer, variables, etc.), run the following Terraform commands to deploy your infrastructure

## Terraform init

Initializes your Terraform project



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with the Explorer view on the left displaying a project structure for Terraform. The main editor shows the `ec2.tf` file with a resource definition for `aws_security_group`. The terminal window at the bottom shows the output of the `terraform init` command, which successfully initializes the backend and provider plugins.

```
PS C:\Users\Bhumi Ujawane\Desktop\terraform-state-lock\Dev-1> terraform init
Initializing the backend...
Initializing provider plugins...
- Reusing previous version of hashicorp/aws from the dependency lock file
- Using previously-installed hashicorp/aws v6.0.0

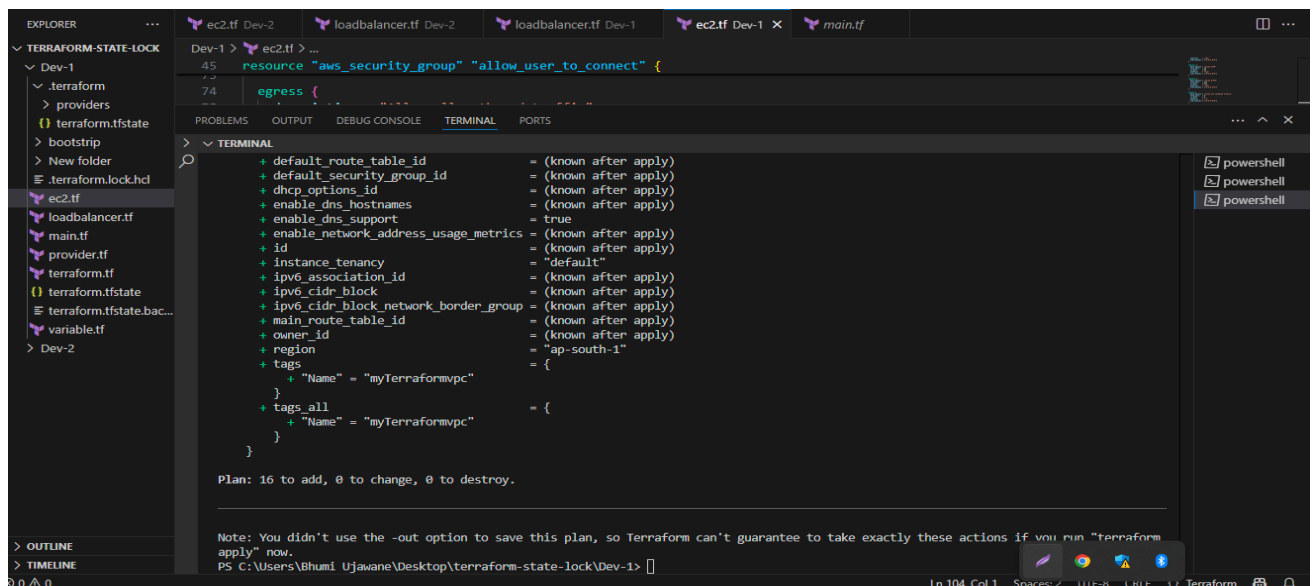
Terraform has been successfully initialized!

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

If you ever set or change modules or backend configuration for Terraform,
rerun this command to reinitialize your working directory. If you forget, other
commands will detect it and remind you to do so if necessary.
PS C:\Users\Bhumi Ujawane\Desktop\terraform-state-lock\Dev-1>
```

## Terraform Plan

Shows the **execution plan**—what Terraform will create or change. This helps verify that the configuration is correct before applying changes.



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with the Explorer view on the left displaying the same project structure. The main editor shows the `ec2.tf` file. The terminal window at the bottom shows the output of the `terraform plan` command, which displays a detailed execution plan for the `aws_security_group` resource.

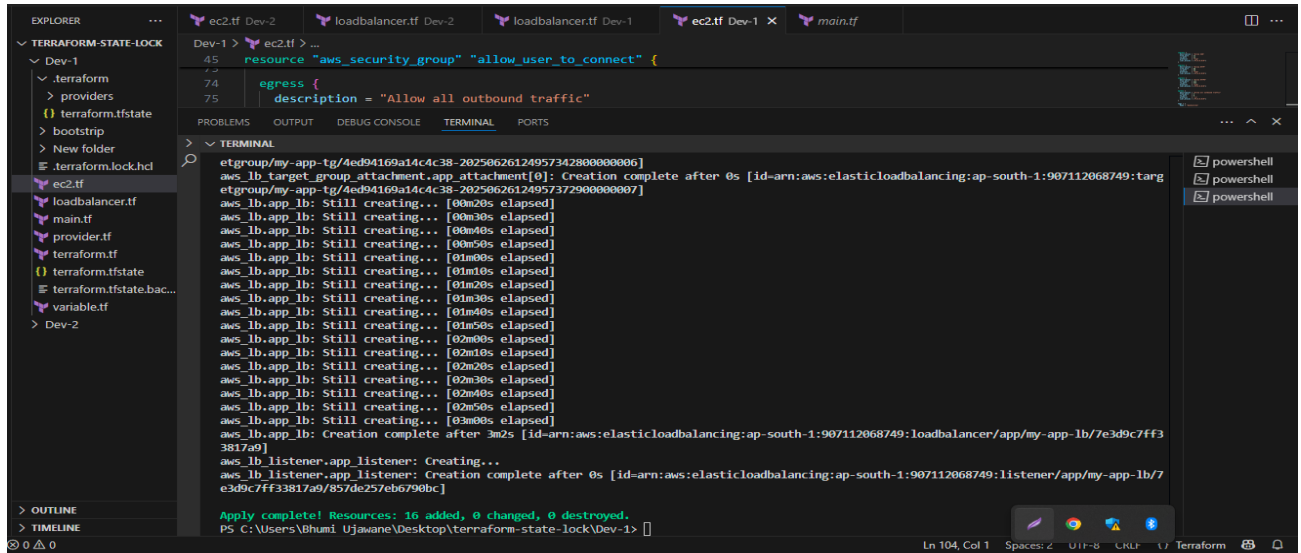
```
PS C:\Users\Bhumi Ujawane\Desktop\terraform-state-lock\Dev-1> terraform plan
Plan: 16 to add, 0 to change, 0 to destroy.

Note: You didn't use the -out option to save this plan, so Terraform can't guarantee to take exactly these actions if you run "terraform
apply" now.
PS C:\Users\Bhumi Ujawane\Desktop\terraform-state-lock\Dev-1>
```



## Terraform Apply

Applies the infrastructure changes. Terraform creates all AWS resources: **VPC, Subnets, Route Tables, Internet Gateway, EC2 Instances, Load Balancer**, etc.



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with the Terraform Apply command executed. The Explorer pane on the left shows the project structure, including the Terraform state file (terraform.tfstate) and the Terraform lock file (terraform.lock.hcl). The Output pane shows the Terraform Apply output, which includes the creation of various AWS resources. The terminal pane shows the command prompt (PS C:\Users\Bhumi Ujawane\Desktop\terraform-state-lock\Dev-1>) and the Terraform Apply output.

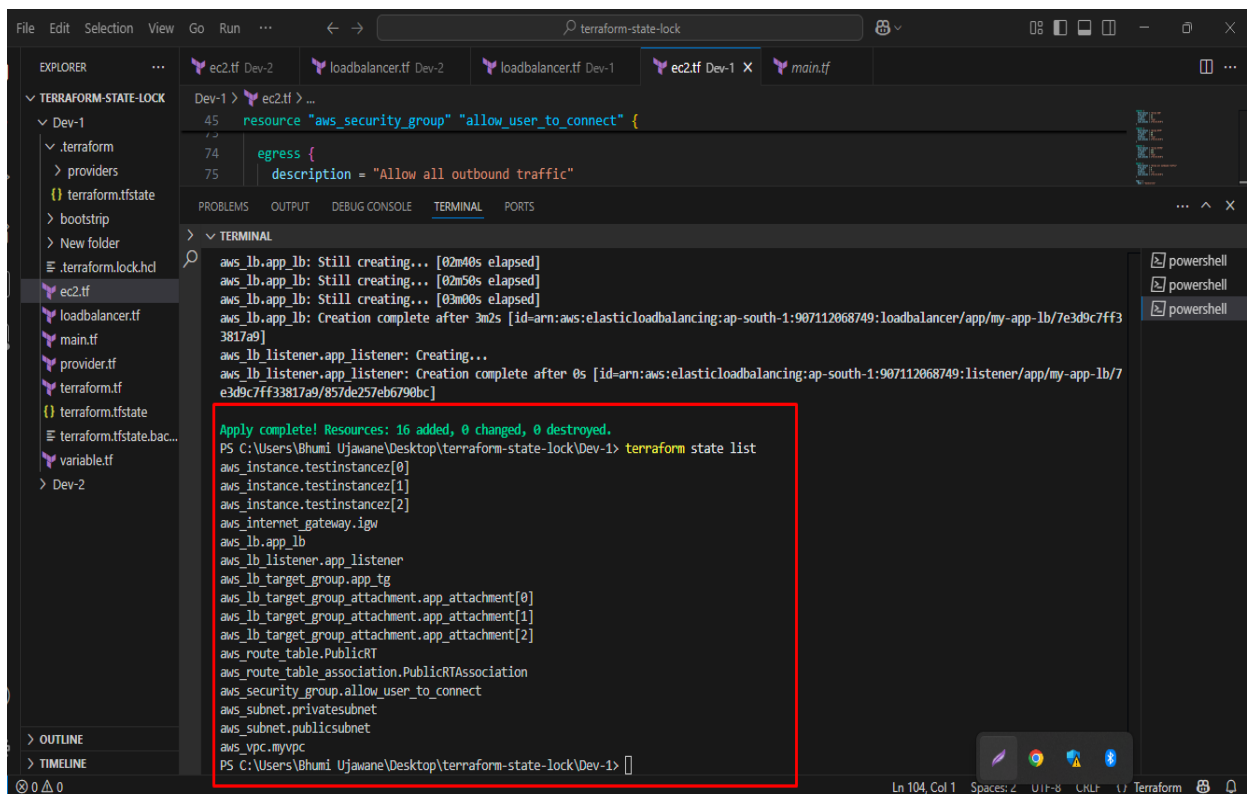
```
resource "aws_security_group" "allow_user_to_connect" {
  egress {
    description = "Allow all outbound traffic"
  }
}
```

```
etgroup/my-app-tg/4ed94169a14c4c38-20250626124957342800000006]
aws_lb_target_group_attachment.app_attachment[0]: Creation complete after 0s [id=arn:aws:elasticloadbalancing:ap-south-1:907112068749:targ
etgroup/my-app-tg/4ed94169a14c4c38-20250626124957372900000007]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [00m20s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [00m30s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [00m40s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [00m50s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [01m00s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [01m10s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [01m20s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [01m30s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [01m40s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [01m50s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [02m00s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [02m10s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [02m20s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [02m30s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [02m40s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [02m50s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [03m00s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Creation complete after 3m2s [id=arn:aws:elasticloadbalancing:ap-south-1:907112068749:loadbalancer/app/my-app-lb/7e3d9c7ff3
3817a9]
aws_lb_listener.app_listener: Creating...
aws_lb_listener.app_listener: Creation complete after 0s [id=arn:aws:elasticloadbalancing:ap-south-1:907112068749:listener/app/my-app-lb/7
e3d9c7ff33817a9/857de257eb6790bc]

Apply complete! Resources: 16 added, 0 changed, 0 destroyed.
PS C:\Users\Bhumi Ujawane\Desktop\terraform-state-lock\Dev-1>
```

## Terraform state list

To see what Terraform resources have been created and are currently tracked in your **remote state**

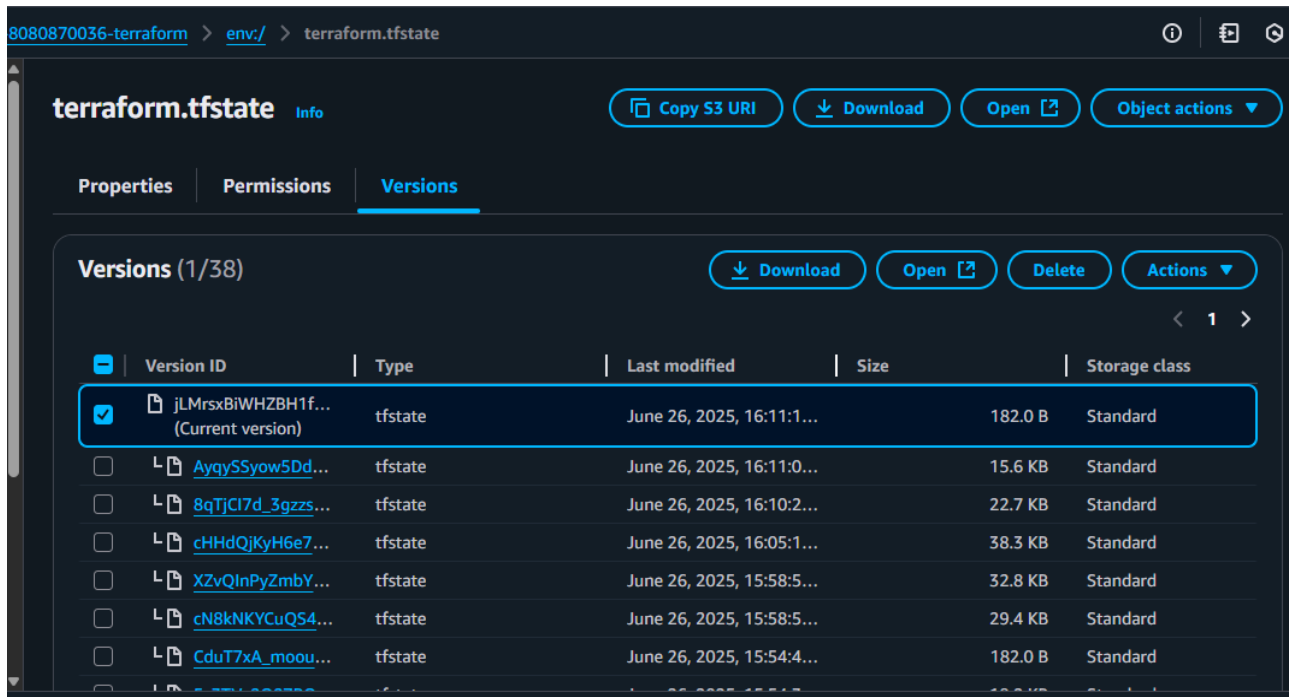


The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with the Terraform state list command executed. The Explorer pane on the left shows the project structure, including the Terraform state file (terraform.tfstate) and the Terraform lock file (terraform.lock.hcl). The Output pane shows the Terraform state list output, which includes the names of the resources created by Terraform. The terminal pane shows the command prompt (PS C:\Users\Bhumi Ujawane\Desktop\terraform-state-lock\Dev-1>) and the Terraform state list output.

```
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [02m40s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [02m50s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Still creating... [03m00s elapsed]
aws_lb.app_lb: Creation complete after 3m2s [id=arn:aws:elasticloadbalancing:ap-south-1:907112068749:loadbalancer/app/my-app-lb/7e3d9c7ff3
3817a9]
aws_lb_listener.app_listener: Creating...
aws_lb_listener.app_listener: Creation complete after 0s [id=arn:aws:elasticloadbalancing:ap-south-1:907112068749:listener/app/my-app-lb/7
e3d9c7ff33817a9/857de257eb6790bc]

Apply complete! Resources: 16 added, 0 changed, 0 destroyed.
PS C:\Users\Bhumi Ujawane\Desktop\terraform-state-lock\Dev-1> terraform state list
aws_instance.testinstance[0]
aws_instance.testinstance[1]
aws_instance.testinstance[2]
aws_internet_gateway.igw
aws_lb.app_lb
aws_lb_listener.app_listener
aws_lb_target_group.app_tg
aws_lb_target_group_attachment.app_attachment[0]
aws_lb_target_group_attachment.app_attachment[1]
aws_lb_target_group_attachment.app_attachment[2]
aws_route_table.PublicRT
aws_route_table.association.PublicRTAssociation
aws_security_group.allow_user_to_connect
aws_subnet.privatesubnet
aws_subnet.publicsubnet
aws_vpc.myvpc
PS C:\Users\Bhumi Ujawane\Desktop\terraform-state-lock\Dev-1>
```

Now we go to the s3 and dynamo DB to see the state file and locking.

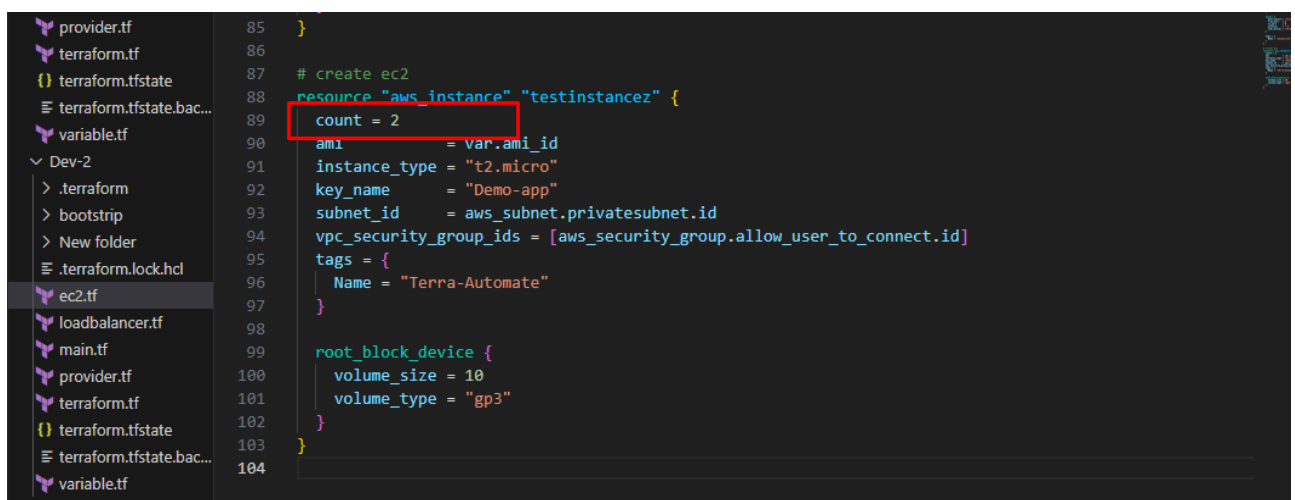


## Dev-2 User: Testing Remote State Locking with Terraform

To simulate a real-world team collaboration scenario, a second user (**Dev-2**) was introduced. Dev-2 worked in a **separate folder** but used the **same backend** configuration pointing to the shared S3 bucket and DynamoDB table.

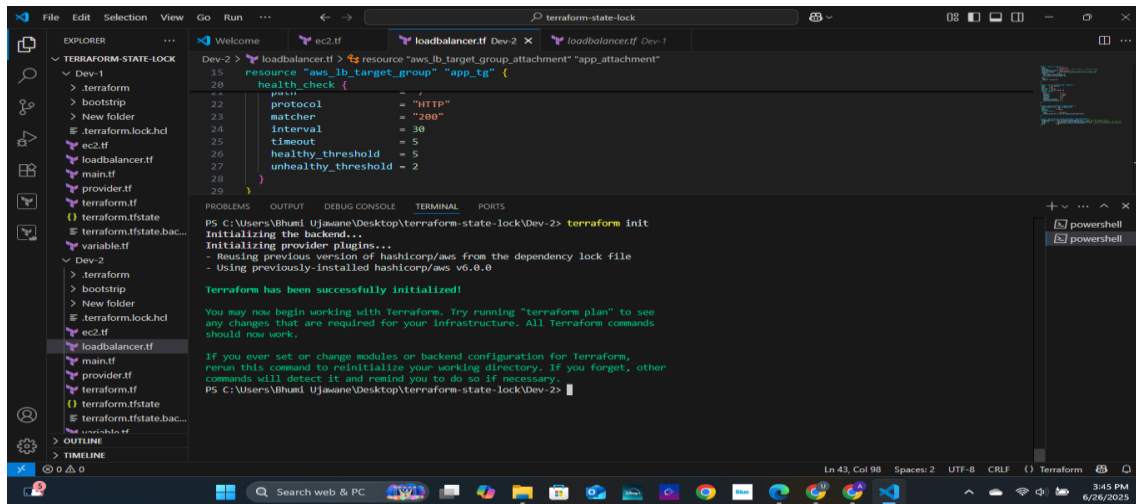
Copied all Terraform configuration files from Dev-1 to Dev-2.

Made a small change (e.g., increased EC2 count to 2).

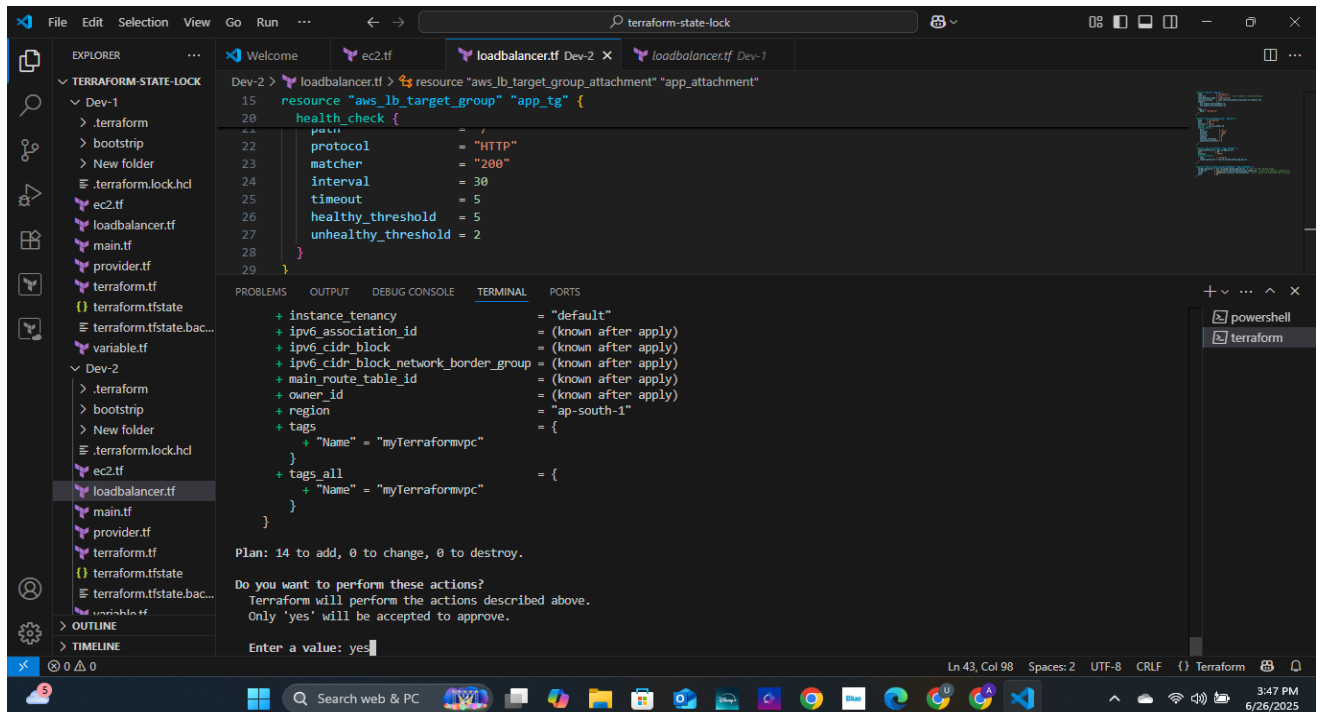


# AWS Infrastructure with Terraform: S3 and DynamoDB Backend Setup

## Terraform init -Dev-2



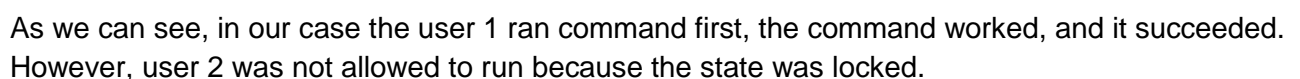
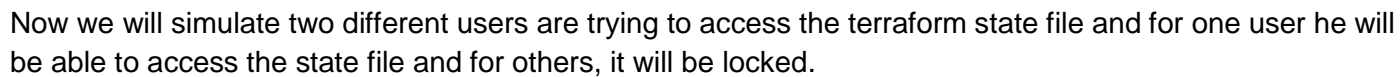
## Terraform plan -Dev -2



If Dev-1 is already applying changes, Dev-2 will see a **state lock error**. This proves that **state locking works** and prevents conflicting updates.



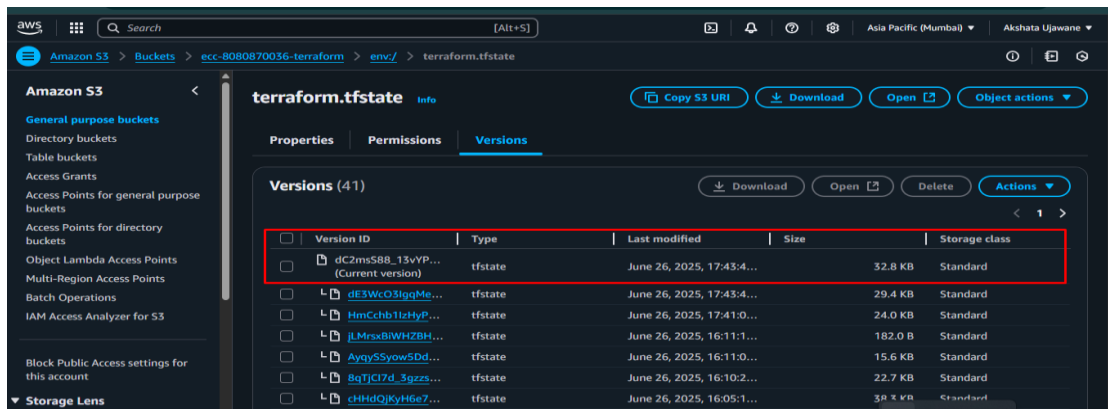
## Terraform apply - Dev2



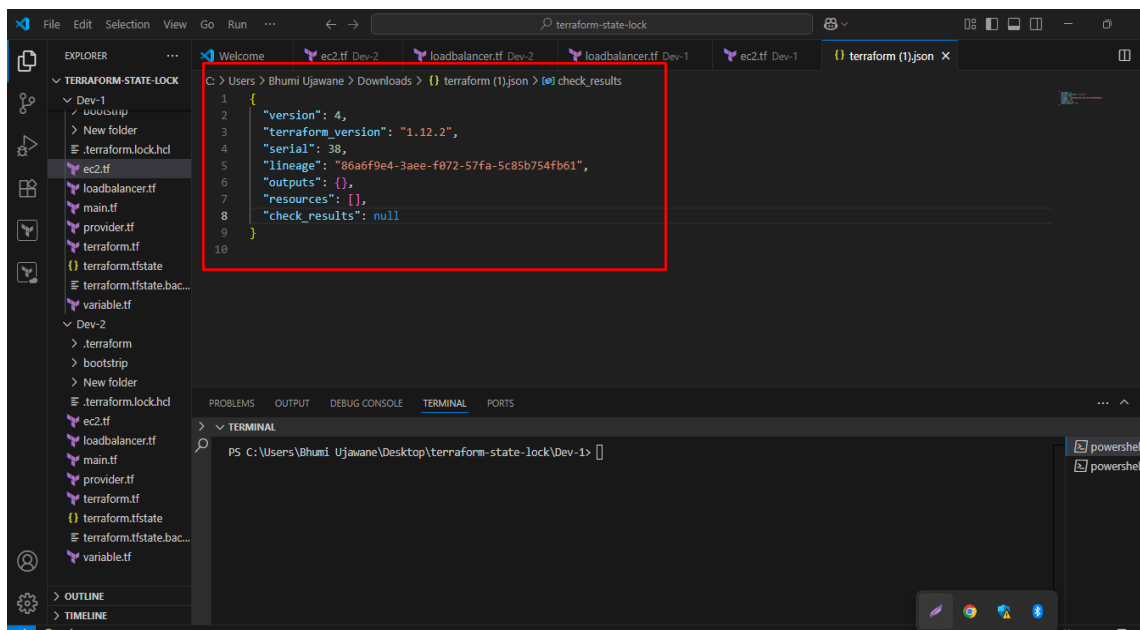


## AWS Infrastructure with Terraform: S3 and DynamoDB Backend Setup

Now we go to the s3 and dynamo DB to see the state file and locking.



the S3 bucket started to take versions of the state



In the end, don't forget to run the terraform destroy command. Also, as we use the prevent destroy argument while creating the S3 bucket, the S3 bucket, and DynamoDB table will not be deleted. So you can delete them from the AWS console.

