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Host a Website on Amazon S3



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Not secure nextwork-website-project-aljur.s3-website.me-south-1.amazonaws.com

The screenshot shows a dark-themed website for 'NEXTWORK'. At the top, there's a navigation bar with icons for back, forward, search, and other browser controls. The main header features the 'NEXTWORK' logo with a stylized 'N' icon. Below the logo is a large, bold, white and blue title: 'EVERYONE SHOULD BE IN A JOB THEY LOVE' with a blue heart icon. Underneath the title is a horizontal row of small circular images showing various animals like a dog, a squirrel, a giraffe, a cat, an owl, a llama, a pineapple, and a dog again. To the right of this row is a dark circular button with the text 'You?'. Below the images is a tagline: 'Building the best online learning experience to switch careers and upskill.' followed by 'Starting with AWS certifications.' At the bottom, there are two input fields: 'Enter your email' and a blue 'Join waitlist' button. The overall design is clean and modern.



Introducing Today's Project!

We are here to demonstrate that we know how to create a static website using Amazon S3 and host it on AWS.

Tools and concepts

The key services and concepts I learned in this project were Amazon S3 for storage, Access Control Lists (ACLs) for managing permissions, static website hosting to make a website publicly accessible, and bucket policies to control access to specific

Project reflection

It took me approximately 1 hour to complete this project, with the most challenging part being resolving the 403 Forbidden error, and the most rewarding part being seeing the website live on the internet for the first time.



How I Set Up an S3 Bucket

Creating the S3 bucket took me approximately 10 minutes.

I picked the AWS Region closest to me which was me-south1 to ensure faster access and lower latency for users visiting the website.

S3 bucket names are globally unique! This means no other AWS account in the world can use the same bucket name, so each bucket name must be distinct across all of AWS.

The screenshot shows the AWS S3 Buckets page. At the top, there is a green success message: "Successfully created bucket 'nextwork-website-project-alhur'. To upload files and folders, or to configure additional bucket settings, choose [View details](#)". Below this, there are two tabs: "General purpose buckets" (selected) and "All AWS Regions". A search bar and a filter button ("Find buckets by name") are also present. On the left, there is a sidebar with sections for "Account snapshot" (updated daily) and "External access summary - new" (updated daily). The main content area displays a table of buckets:

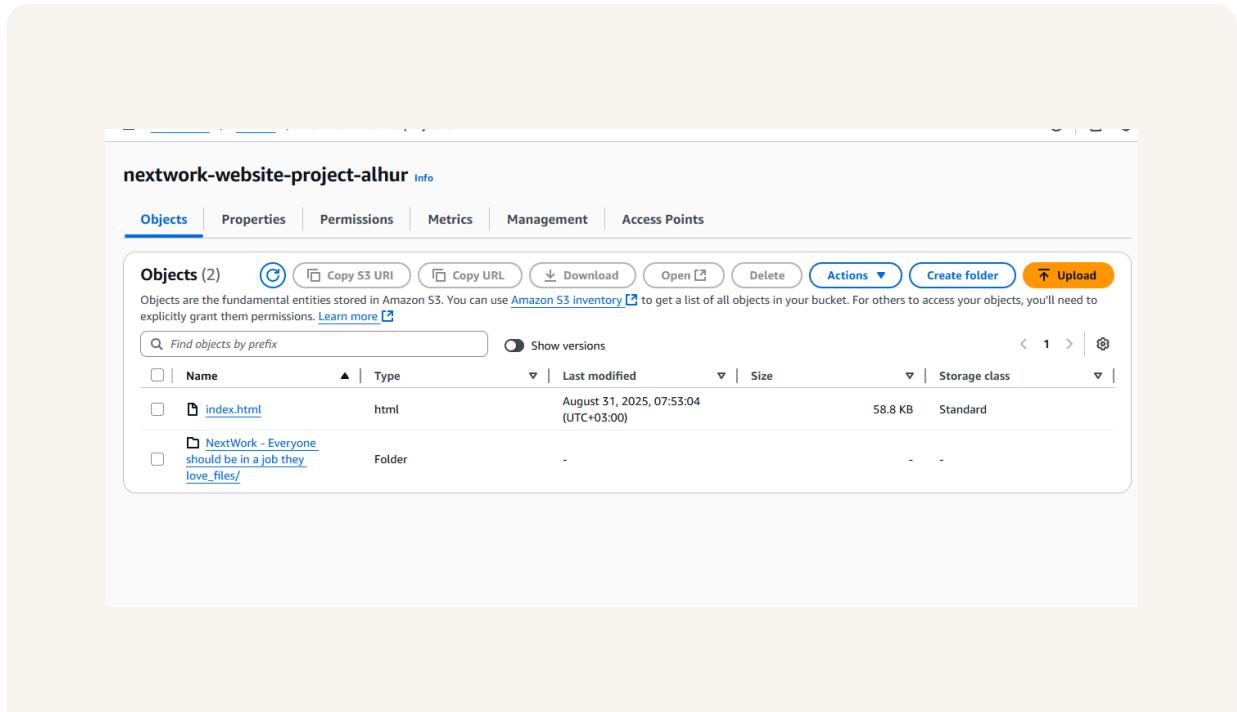
Name	AWS Region	Creation date
nextwork-website-project-alhur	Middle East (Bahrain) me-south-1	August 31, 2025, 07:49:29 (UTC+03:00)

Upload Website Files to S3

index.html and image assets

The two files I uploaded into my bucket were the `index.html` file and the folder of website images from the ZIP file.

The `index.html` file provides the structure and content of the website, while the image files are used within the HTML to display visuals. Both are needed for the website to appear and function correctly.



Static Website Hosting on S3

Website hosting means storing your website files on a server so they can be accessed and viewed by anyone on the internet. Without hosting, the website would remain only on your local computer and not be publicly available.

I enabled website hosting by going to the bucket's properties in S3, selecting "Enable" under static website hosting, choosing "Host a static website," and setting `index.html` as the index document.

An Access Control List (ACL) is a set of rules that determines who can access and perform actions on a resource, such as the objects in an S3 bucket. I enabled ACLs for this project.



The screenshot shows the AWS S3 console with the 'Static website hosting' configuration for a bucket named 'nextwork-website-project-aihur'. The 'Static website hosting' section is active, with 'Enable' selected. Under 'Hosting type', 'Host a static website' is chosen. A note indicates that for public access, all content must be publicly readable. The 'Index document' field is set to 'index.html'. The 'Error document - optional' field contains 'error.html'. There is one redirection rule defined.

Amazon S3 > Buckets > nextwork-website-project-aihur > Edit static website hosting

Static website hosting

Use this bucket to host a website or redirect requests. [Learn more](#)

Static website hosting

Disable

Enable

Hosting type

Host a static website

Use the bucket endpoint as the web address. [Learn more](#)

Redirect requests for an object

Redirect requests to another bucket or domain. [Learn more](#)

Index document

Specify the home or default page of the website.

index.html

Error document - optional

This is returned when an error occurs.

error.html

Redirection rules - optional

Redirection rules, written in JSON, automatically redirect webpage requests for specific content. [Learn more](#)

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Bucket Endpoints

A bucket website endpoint URL is the web address provided by S3 that allows people to access your hosted website over the internet.

When I first visited the bucket endpoint URL, I saw a 403 Forbidden error. The reason for this error was that the files I uploaded were still private and not publicly accessible.

403 Forbidden

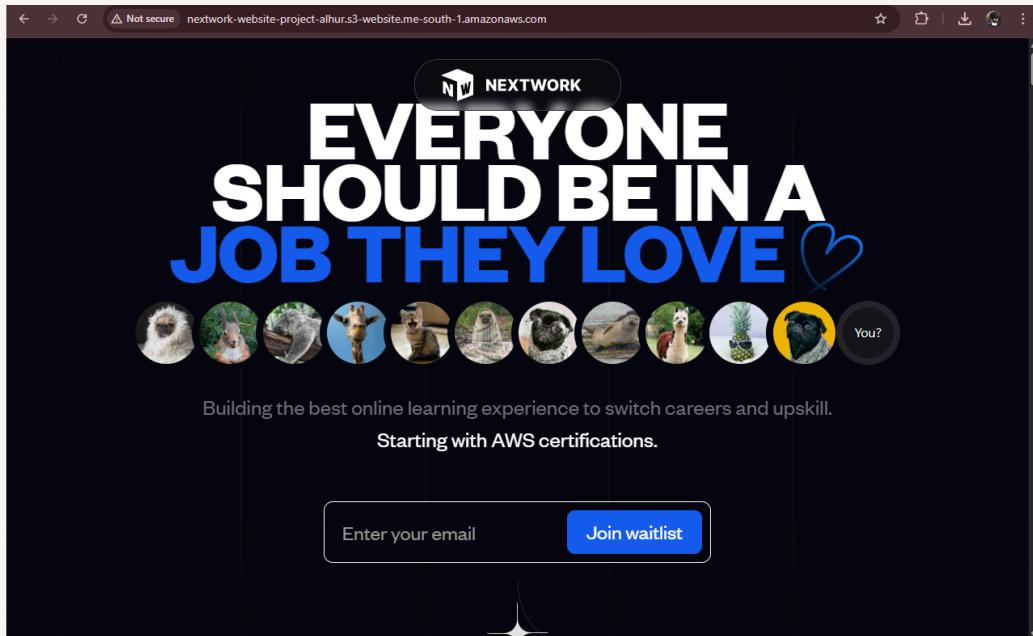
- Code: AccessDenied
- Message: Access Denied
- RequestId: D1G4698GEKRS39DF
- HostId: LFGpqmrx0ZVNthsZ2Z8SVM0t8JVBUrtoYvDWDQU5PP4K+p8wSotMrbuQhG0R99jhNkVVYjH/3cIV379VYJqcYCkUhgY22vbOi

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Success!

I resolved the 403 Forbidden error by making the uploaded files in the S3 bucket public using ACLs, which allowed the website to be accessed by anyone.





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