



IT 334 – DevOps Engineering on AWS  
Cloud

# **Project – Building a Highly Available, Scalable Web Application**

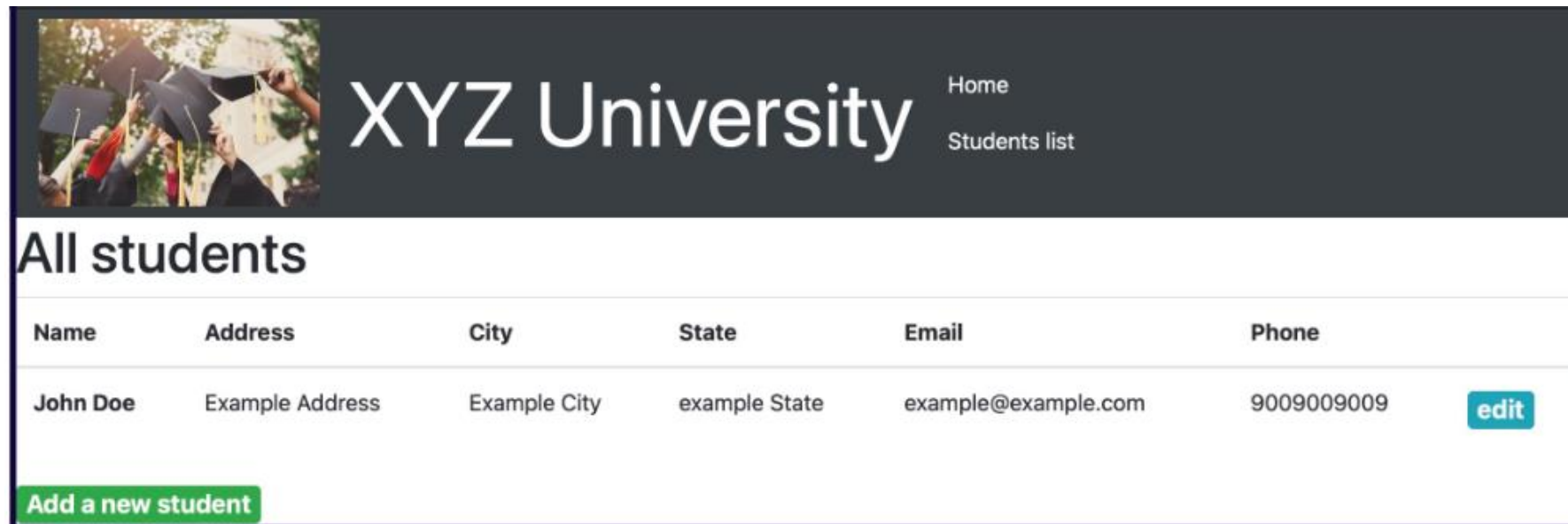
Group 13:  
Lejla Muratović  
Aldijana Čulezović

Date:  
05/06/2024

Teacher:  
Dzenana Dzevlan

# Business scenario overview

- Example University is preparing for the new school year. The huge volume of inquiries has resulted in complaints to the admissions department over the slowness or unavailability of their web application for student records during the peak admissions period.
- The challenge is to plan, design, build, and deploy the web application to the AWS Cloud, which should support thousands of users, and be highly available, scalable, load balanced, secure, and high performing, during the peak admissions period
- The following image shows an example of the student records web application. Users can view, add, delete, and modify student records.



# Business scenario overview

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## Solution Requirements:

- **Functional:** The solution should meet the functional requirements, such as the ability to view, add, delete, or modify the student records, without any perceivable delay.
- **Load balanced:** The solution should properly balance user traffic to avoid overloaded or underutilized resources.
- **Scalable:** The solution should be designed to scale to meet the demands that are placed on the application.
- **Highly available:** The solution should be designed to have limited downtime when a web server becomes unavailable.
- **Secure:**
  1. The database should be secured and can't be accessed directly from public networks.
  2. The web servers and database can be accessed only over the appropriate ports.
  3. The web application should be accessible over the internet.
  4. The database credentials shouldn't be hardcoded into the web application.
- **Cost optimized:** The solution should be designed to keep costs low.
- **High performing:** The routine operations should be performed without a perceivable delay under normal, variable, and peak loads.

# Solution overview

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## High-level Description

- We created a secure and scalable web application on AWS to make sure it can effectively manage large amounts of traffic. With the ability to view, add, delete, and alter records, this program acts as a platform for Example University's student record management.

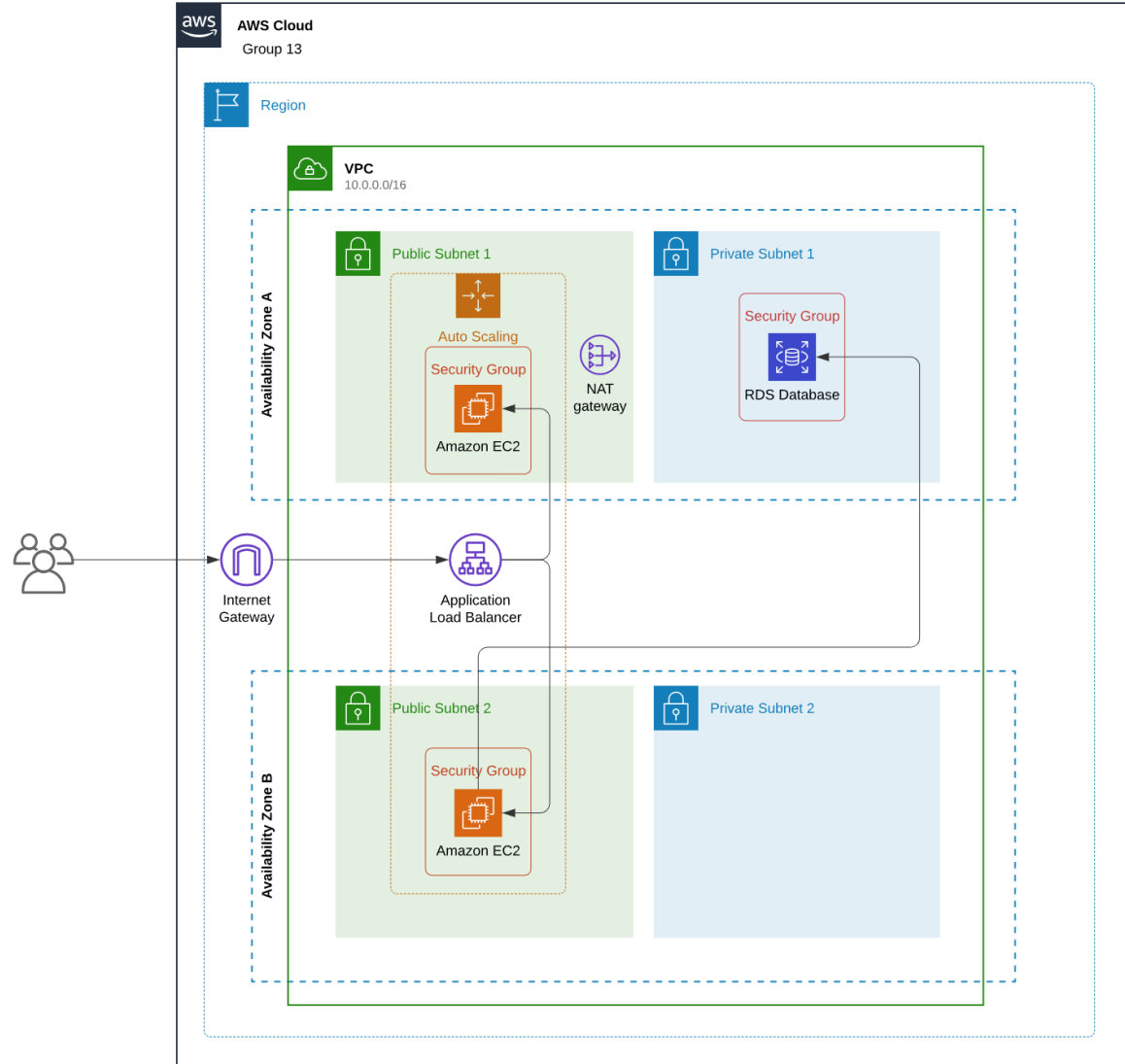
## Design Considerations

1. **High Availability** → Multiple AZs
2. **Functionality** → Amazon EC2
3. **Scalability** → Amazon RDS and Auto Scalling
4. **Security** → VPC, Security Groups, Secrets Manager
5. **Load balancing** → Amazon ELB

## Use Cases

- Administrative Access: Faculty members can access and modify student records
- Student Information Retrieval: Students can view their personal and academic information

# Architecture diagram of the solution



**Figure 1.**  
Architecture Diagram

# Demo

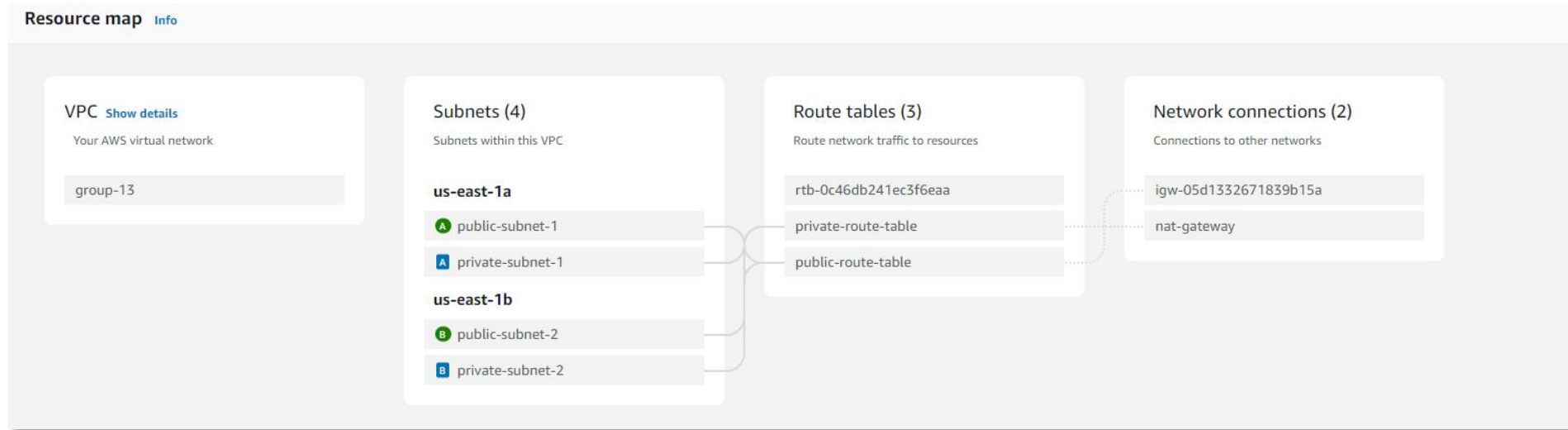


Figure 2. VPC Setup

# Demo

<input type="checkbox"/>	aws-cloud9-Gr...	i-0f919f5aaeeba3e8b	✔ Running	🔍 🔍	t2.micro	✔ 2/2 checks passed	<a href="#">View alarms</a> +	us-east-1a	ec2-3-93-181-218.com...	3.93.181.218	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	My Web Server	i-0888adbd298a81add	✔ Running	🔍 🔍	t3.micro	✔ 2/2 checks passed	<a href="#">View alarms</a> +	us-east-1a	ec2-54-91-198-177.co...	54.91.198.177	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Second Web S...	i-04f13164ea7045dbf	✔ Running	🔍 🔍	t2.micro	✔ 2/2 checks passed	<a href="#">View alarms</a> +	us-east-1b	ec2-3-94-212-139.com...	3.94.212.139	-

Figure 3. EC2 Instances

Databases (1)											Group resources		Refresh	Modify	Actions ▼	Restore from S3	Create database
<input type="text" value="Filter by databases"/>																	
	DB identifier ▲	Status ▼	Role ▼	Engine ▼	Region & AZ ▼	Size ▼	Recommendations ▼	CPU ▼	Current activity ▼	Maintenance ▼							
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">students</a>	✔ Available	Instance	MySQL Community	us-east-1b	db.t3.micro	1 Informational	3.39%	9 Connections	available							

Figure 4. RDS Database

# Demo

Load balancers (1)

Elastic Load Balancing scales your load balancer capacity automatically in response to changes in incoming traffic.

Q Filter load balancers

1 match

Name = group-13-load-balancer

Clear filters

< 1 > ⚙

☐

Name

▼

☐

DNS name

▼

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State

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☐

VPC ID

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☐

Availability Zones

▼

☐

Type

▼


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Date created

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☐

[group-13-load-balancer](#)

 group-13-load-balancer-1...

✔

Active

vpc-0f56524c9ea7f44bc

[2 Availability Zones](#)

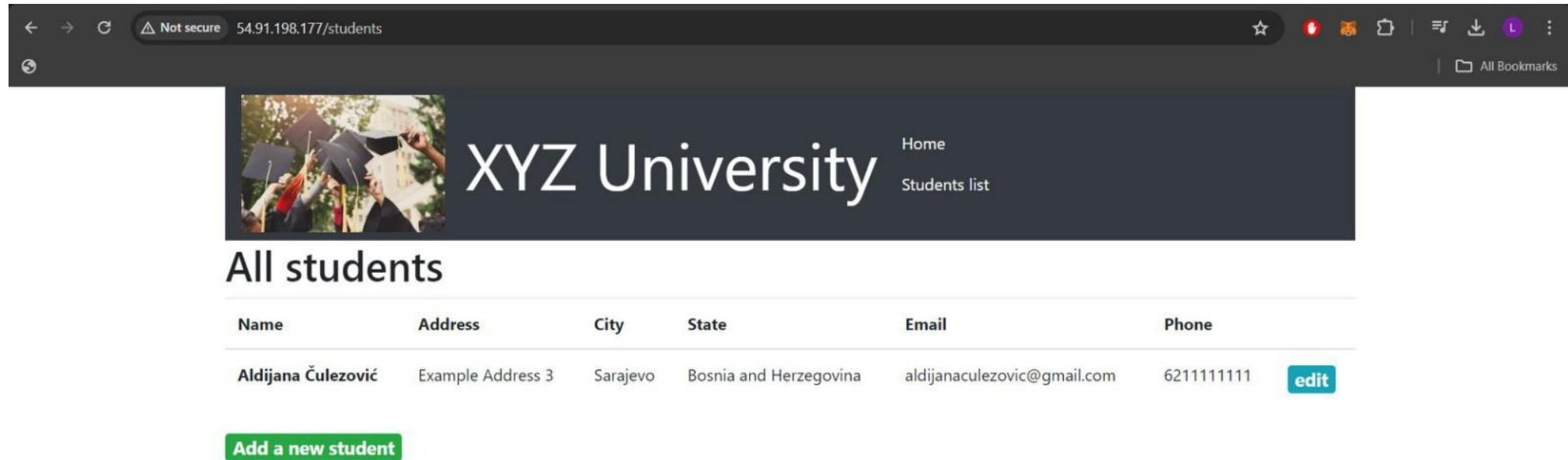
application

June 5, 2024, 20:55 (UTC+02:00)

Figure 5. Load Balancer



# Demo: First EC2 Instance



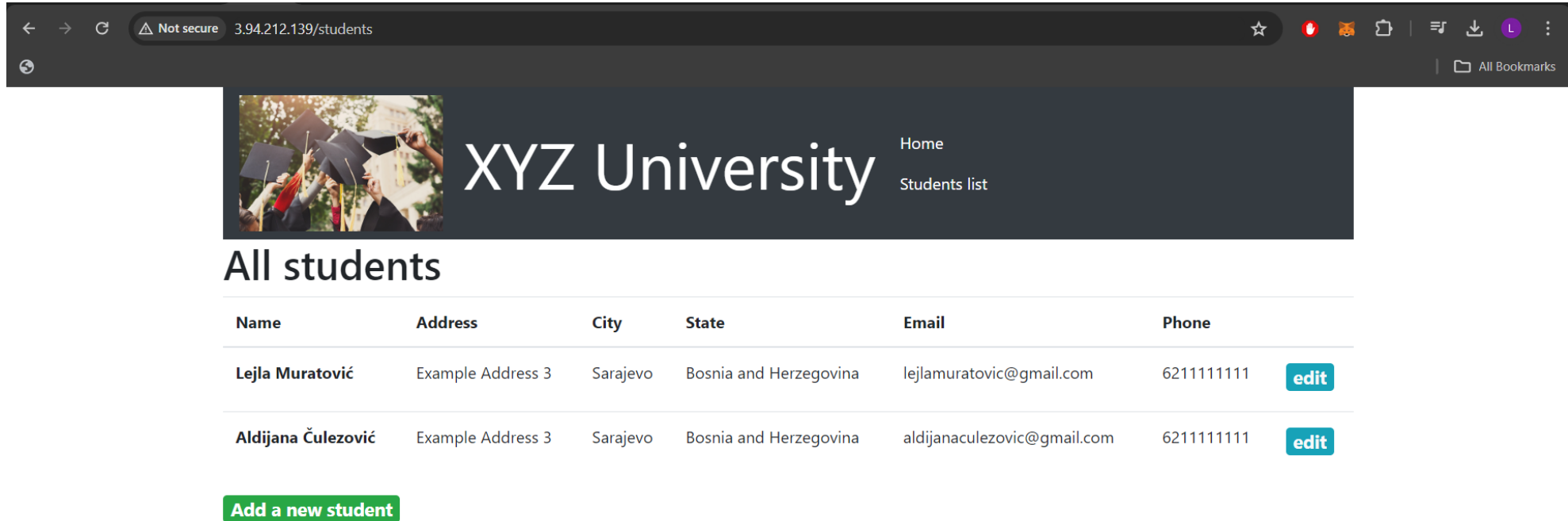
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "54.91.198.177/students". The page features a header for "XYZ University" with a navigation menu containing "Home" and "Students list". Below the header, the title "All students" is displayed. A table lists student information with columns for Name, Address, City, State, Email, and Phone. One student, Aldijana Čulezović, is listed with the address "Example Address 3" and phone number "6211111111". An "edit" button is next to the phone number. At the bottom left, there is a green button labeled "Add a new student".

Name	Address	City	State	Email	Phone
Aldijana Čulezović	Example Address 3	Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	aldijanaculezovic@gmail.com	6211111111

[Add a new student](#)

Link for first EC2 Instance: <http://54.91.198.177/>

# Demo: Second EC2 Instance



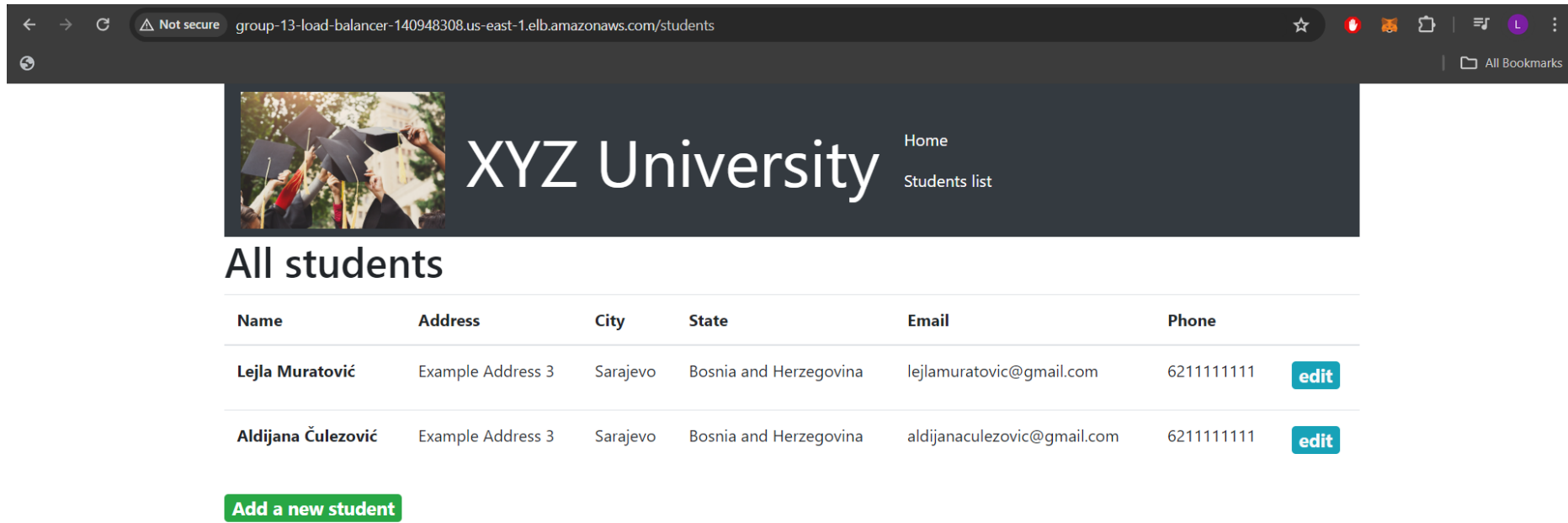
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "3.94.212.139/students". The page features a dark header with the "XYZ University" logo and navigation links for "Home" and "Students list". Below the header, the title "All students" is displayed. A table lists two students: Lejla Muratović and Aldijana Čulezović. Each student entry includes their name, address, city, state, email, and phone number, along with an "edit" button. A green button labeled "Add a new student" is located at the bottom of the table.

Name	Address	City	State	Email	Phone	
Lejla Muratović	Example Address 3	Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	lejamuratovic@gmail.com	6211111111	<a href="#">edit</a>
Aldijana Čulezović	Example Address 3	Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	aldijanaculezovic@gmail.com	6211111111	<a href="#">edit</a>

[Add a new student](#)

Link for second EC2 Instance: <http://3.94.212.139/>

# Demo: Load Balancer



XYZ University

Home  
Students list

## All students

Name	Address	City	State	Email	Phone	
Lejla Muratović	Example Address 3	Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	lejlamuratovic@gmail.com	6211111111	<a href="#">edit</a>
Aldijana Čulezović	Example Address 3	Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	aldijanaculezovic@gmail.com	6211111111	<a href="#">edit</a>

[Add a new student](#)

Link for Load Balancer: <http://group-13-load-balancer-140948308.us-east-1.elb.amazonaws.com/>

# Lessons learned

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## Challenges & Resources

- At first, we experienced issues with database migration as it was difficult to understand the shell commands at first, but after following the AWS Academy Cloud Architecting – Lab: Migrating a Database to Amazon RDS we successfully completed the task and database was migrated into the EC2 Instance.
- We also had problems understanding the steps of Load Balancer and how it actually works. We followed instructions from AWS Academy Cloud Architecting – Lab: Creating a Highly Available Environment, which helped us understand the concept and how to implement it.

## New skills

- We gained knowledge on how to use AWS services like EC2, RDS, ELB, and Auto Scaling to design and build a highly available, scalable, and secure online application. We acquired skills in setting up security groups and virtual private clouds to improve application security and guarantee data integrity. During this project, we have learned that a load balancer efficiently distributes incoming network traffic across multiple servers to ensure no single server bears too much demand.

## Next steps

- Create database backups and further scale the application.
- Secure the application by implementing HTTPS to encrypt data in transit.
- Utilize CloudWatch and CloudTrail for detailed monitoring and logging.

Questions?

**THANK YOU!**