Project Report

Project: Digitalization SS 2023

IoT - From the Microcontroller to the Cloud

by

Alexander Atanassov
and
Binyam Tekeste

Supervisor
Prof. Dr. Oliver Hahm

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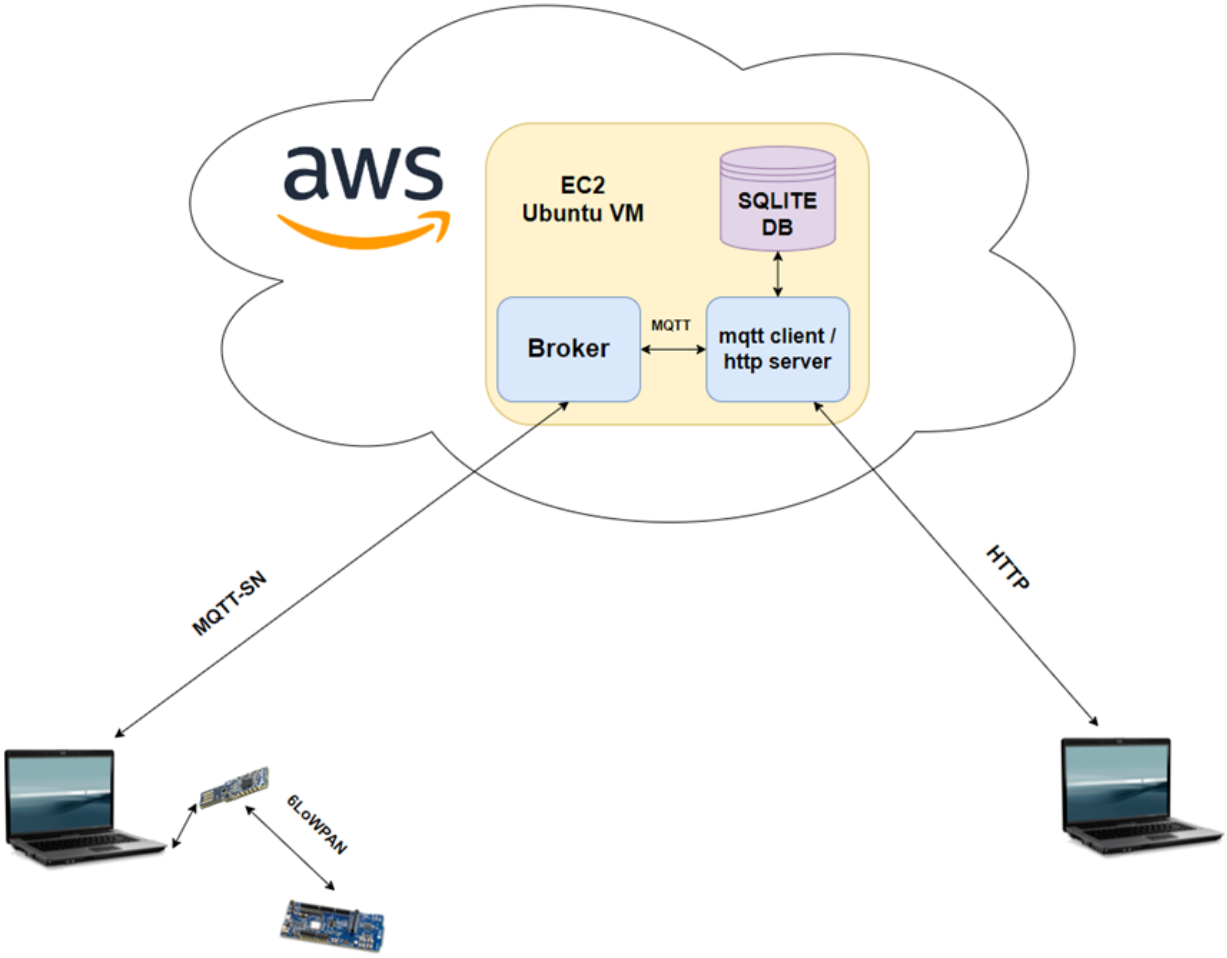
Overview

Project description:

The goal of the project is to create a system where sensor data can be send from a microcontroller to a cloud. The data should be send every *x* (e.g. 60) seconds and must be stored at the cloud. Also a user interface should be implemented where the data can be visualized. The UI must run on any local PC. The user should also be able to send commands back to the sensor node (e.g. request the sensor data immediately).

System architecture:



The system consists of three main parts:

- The first part is responsible for sending the sensor data to the cloud. It consists of a *nrf52840dk* board which captures the data and send it to the cloud using MQTT-SN protocol, a *nrf52840dongle* as a border router to route the packets between a 6Lo network and a normal IPv6 network and a Linux system with IPv6 connection to forwards the packets.
- The second part is the cloud. It consists of a MQTT broker as a middleware between the sensor node and the backend script. The backend script is responsible for storing the data into a SQLITE database and sending it to the end user.
- The last part is the user interface which is a desktop program and can run on any PC with IPv6 connection.

Set Up

In this chapter all of the system components will be explained. For each component there will be a guide how to set it up.

Virtual Machine

Overview:

For this project, a Linux operating system is required. It can be either be a host system or a guest system in a virtual machine. The machine on which Linux is running is used to forward IPv6 packets from the the sensor node to the cloud and back. It is also used for implementation tasks, connecting with the boards, monitoring the board terminal and debugging tasks. If a Linux system is already installed, the VirtualBox installation can be skipped.

Set up:

The following steps will explain how to set up an Ubuntu virtual machine. After that, it will be explained what configurations have to be done and what software have to be installed.

Virtual box and Ubuntu installation:

1. Install VirtualBox and the extension pack.
2. Download an Ubuntu Desktop image.
3. Follow the tutorial to create a Ubuntu virtual machine.
4. Install the Guest Additions.

Configurations and installations:

1. Allow IPv6 forwarding.
    - Open the file `/etc/sysctl.conf`
    - Make sure that the forwarding is enabled

```
net.ipv6.conf.all.forwarding=1
```

2. Set up a wireguard IPv6 connection
    - Install wireguard

```
sudo apt install wireguard
```

    - Set up a new wireguard connection using e.g. Advanced Network Configuration
    - Add the connection details:

```
[Interface]
PrivateKey = ************************************
Address = 2001:470:7347:c200:1000::/64
```

```
[Peer]
PublicKey = OzafSSqhtZDkHLgSIXY6a3n6Yi4EK9W3npfbWKA0VFc=
AllowedIPs = ::/0
Endpoint = 176.9.132.254:51820
PersistentKeepAlive = 60
```

3. To be able to flash programs on the boards, the following software has to be installed:
    - J-Link
    - gcc-multilib
    - arm-none-eabi-gcc
    - openocd
    - nrfjprog
    - nrf-udev
    - nrfutil
4. Clone the RIOT repository,

```
git clone git@github.com:RIOT-OS/RIOT.git
```

5. Clone this project.

```
git clone https://github.com/alllexander1/IoTProject.git
```

Border Router

Overview:

The border router is used to route packets between the sensor node and the internet. This component is necessary because the sensor node cannot directly send packets to the internet, since it is in a 6Lo network. The border router routes the packets between a 6Lo network and a 'normal' IPv6 network. It has two interfaces: A downstream to run 6LoWPAN and an IPv6 uplink. The program is based on the "gnrc_border_router" example program with small modifications so it can run on a *nrf52840dongle*.

Set up:

1. Open the Makefile of the *Border Router* program.
2. Set the path to the RIOT directory corectly.

```
RIOTBASE ?= $<Path to RIOT>
```

3. Set the IPv6 prefix to the prefix of your network. Make sure to change the last two digits.

```
IPV6_PREFIX ?= 2001:470:7347:c211::/64
```

4. Open a terminal and navigate to the *Border Router* folder.
5. Check the path to the serial port of the dongle.

```
make list-ttys
```

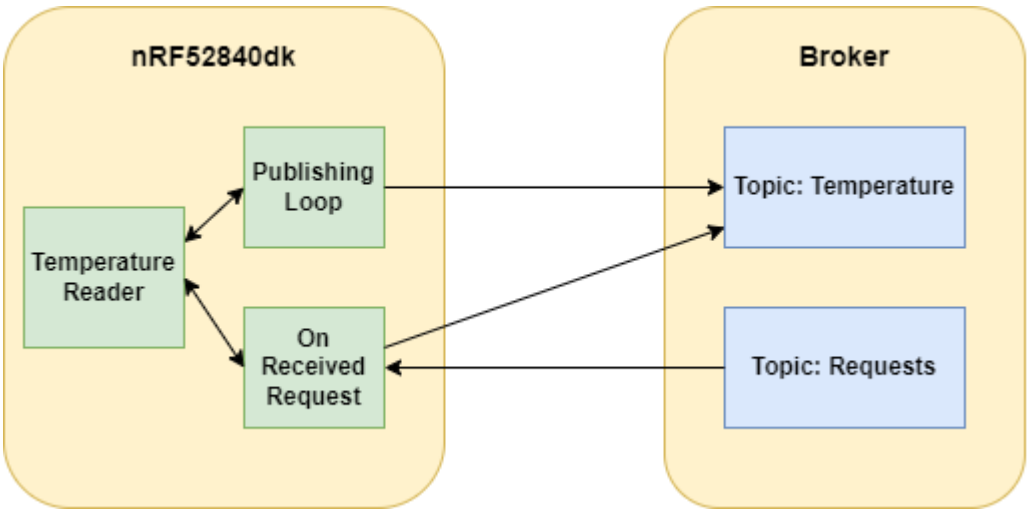
6. Flash the program on a *nrf52840dongle*. Eg for port: "/dev/ttyACM0".

```
PORT=/dev/ttyACM0 BOARD="nrf52840dongle" make all flash
```

Sensor Node

Overview:

The sensor node component is responsible for sending temperature values to the cloud. To do that, the *SAUL* module is used to read the current temperature from the build-in sensor. To send the data to the cloud, MQTT-SN (MQTT for Sensor Networks) protocol is used. The temperature data is sent every *x* seconds by publishing the value on a topic called "temperature". The sensor node is also listening for commands from the user. For that, it subscribes for a topic "requests". When a request is received, a callback function checks the command and publish the temperature immediately. For now there is only one valid command "get_temp_now". To make sure that the temperature reading function is not called by the callback function and the publishing loop at the same time, it is synchronized using *mutex*. For the MQTT-SN client, *EMCUTE* module is used. The diagram bellow shows the communication process between the sensor node and the MQTT broker.



Set up:

1. Open a terminal and unlock the *nrf52840dk* board.

```
nrfjprog --recover
```

2. In the *Sensor Node* folder open the main.c file.
3. Change the destination IPv6 address to the address of your EC2 instance.

```
char * dest_addr = "<EC2 IPv6 address>";
```

4. The publishing interval can be changed here:

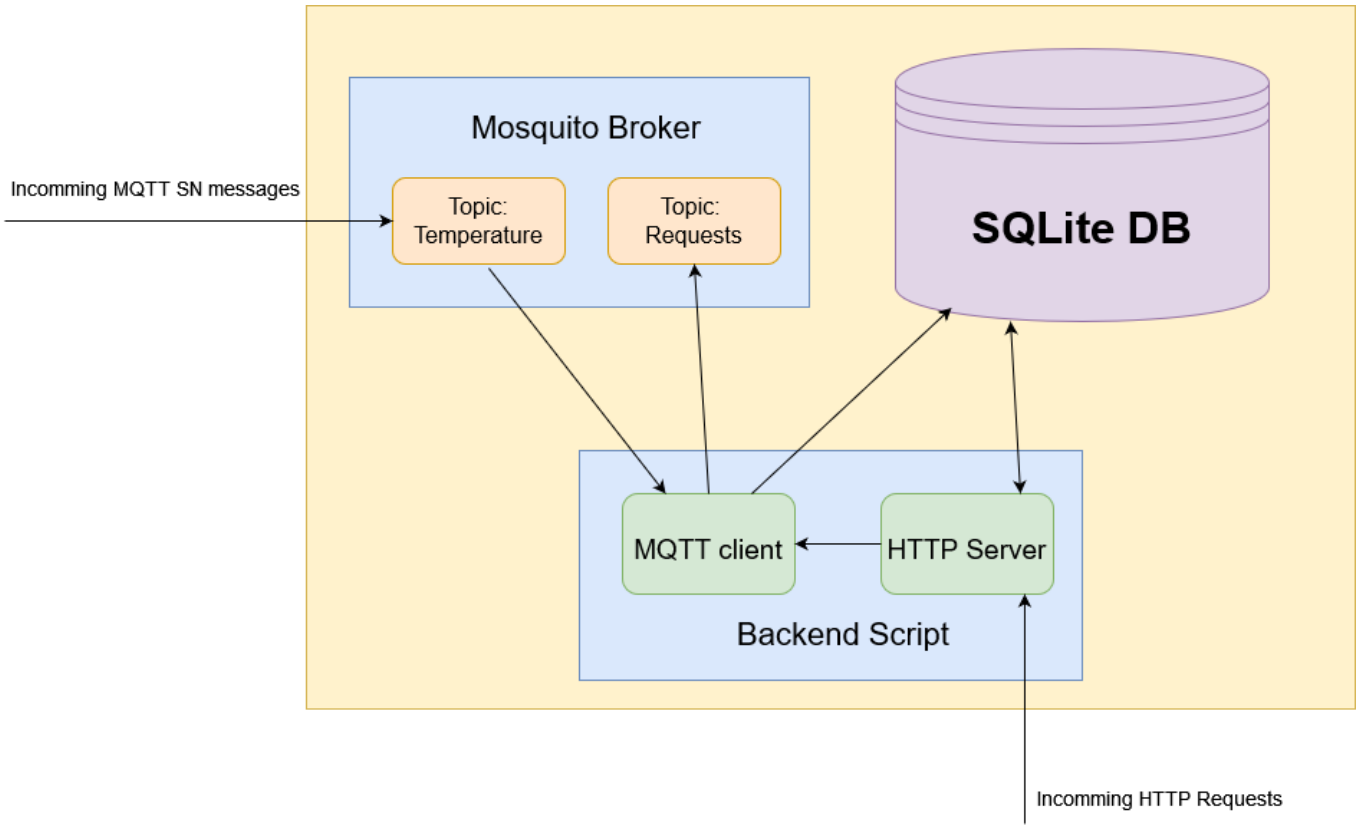
```
xtimer_sleep(60);
```

- Note: The program should be flashed when the cloud part is running, since a connection loop or reconnecting mechanism is not implemented.

Cloud

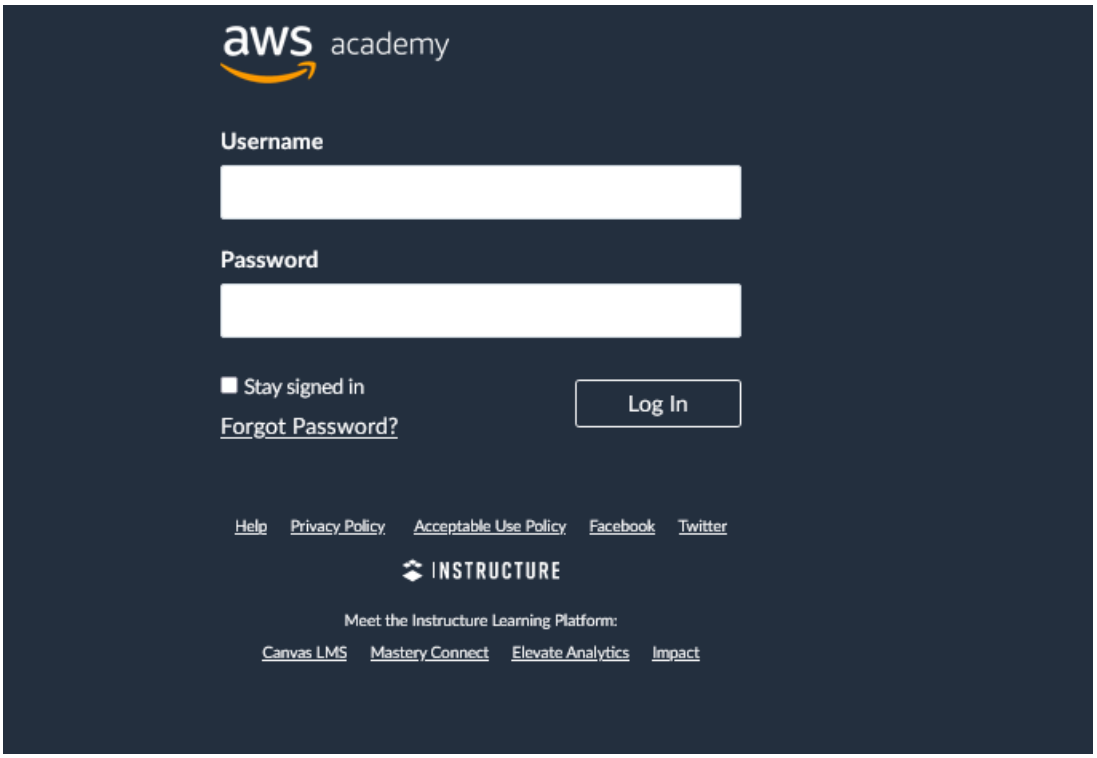
Overview:

For the cloud part AWS (Amazon Web Services) is used. The cloud system consists of an Ubuntu EC2 instance with an IPv6 address. The instance itself consists of three components. The first one is a *Mosquito RSMB broker* which is a middleware between MQTT clients. The second component is a *SQLITE database* where the temperature values and the corresponding date and time are stored. The last part is a *Backend Script* which is responsible for the communication with the sensor node and the end user. It consists of two parts: a MQTT client (Paho) and a HTTP server (Flask). The MQTT client is listening for messages from the topic "temperature". When a message is received, it is processed and stored at the database. The HTTP server has two APIs. The first one receives the latest ID available at the user interface and returns newer data entries if available. The second one is for sending a request to the sensor node. For that the MQTT client publishes a message "get_temp_now" on the topic "requests".

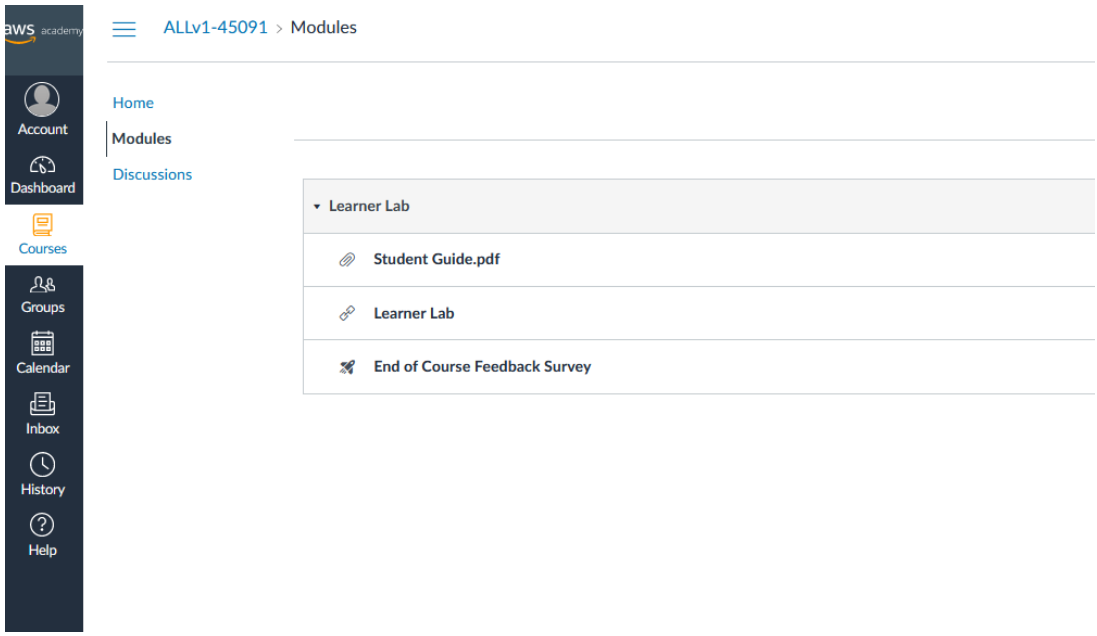


Set up

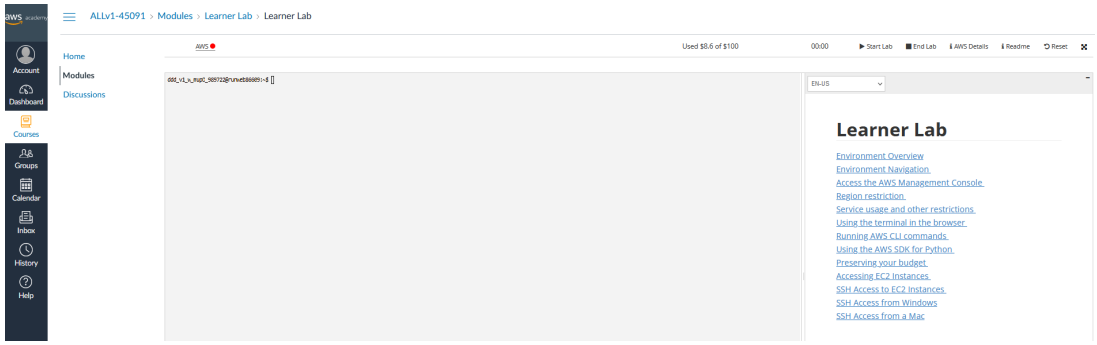
Create EC2 instance:



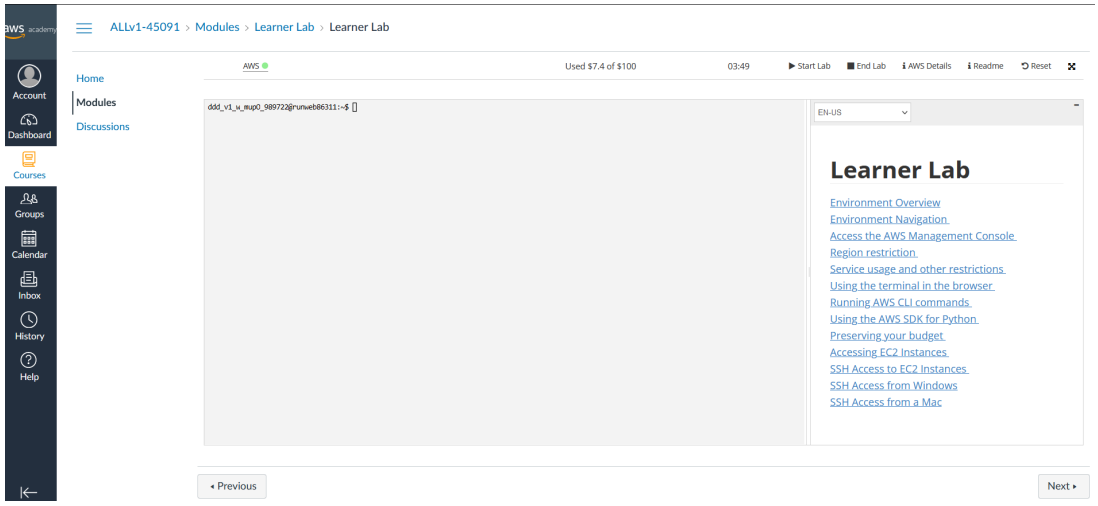
After signing up, you have to put in your username and password and hit the log in button.



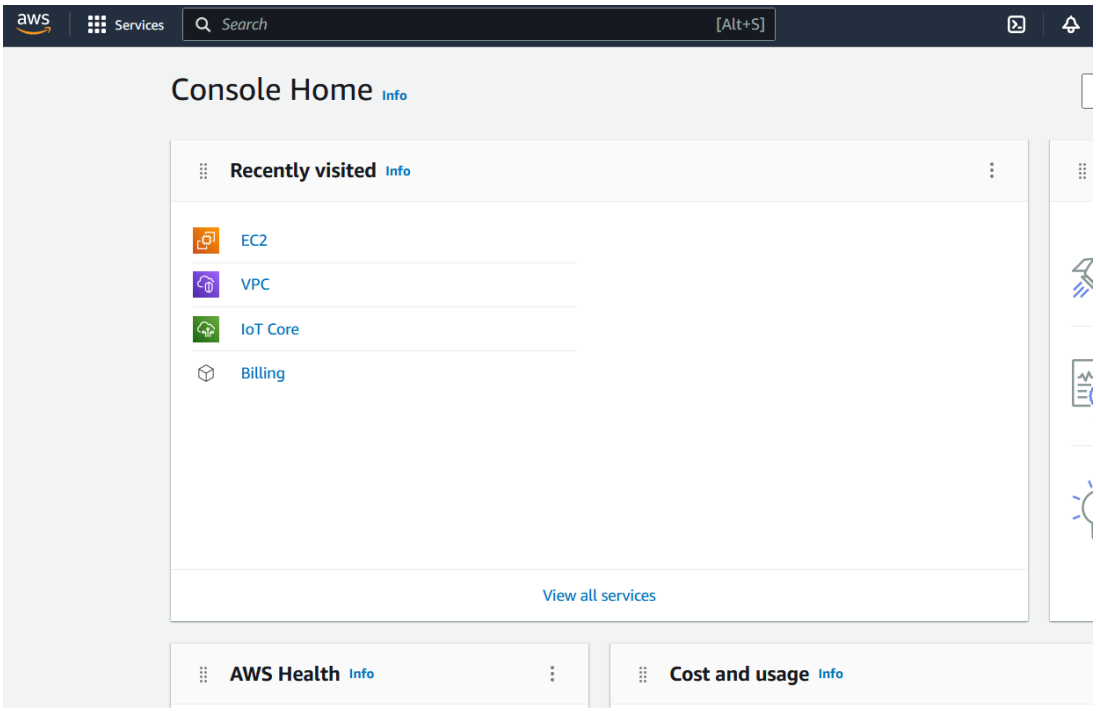
In the aws academy navigation you'll click on Modules and select Learner Lab.

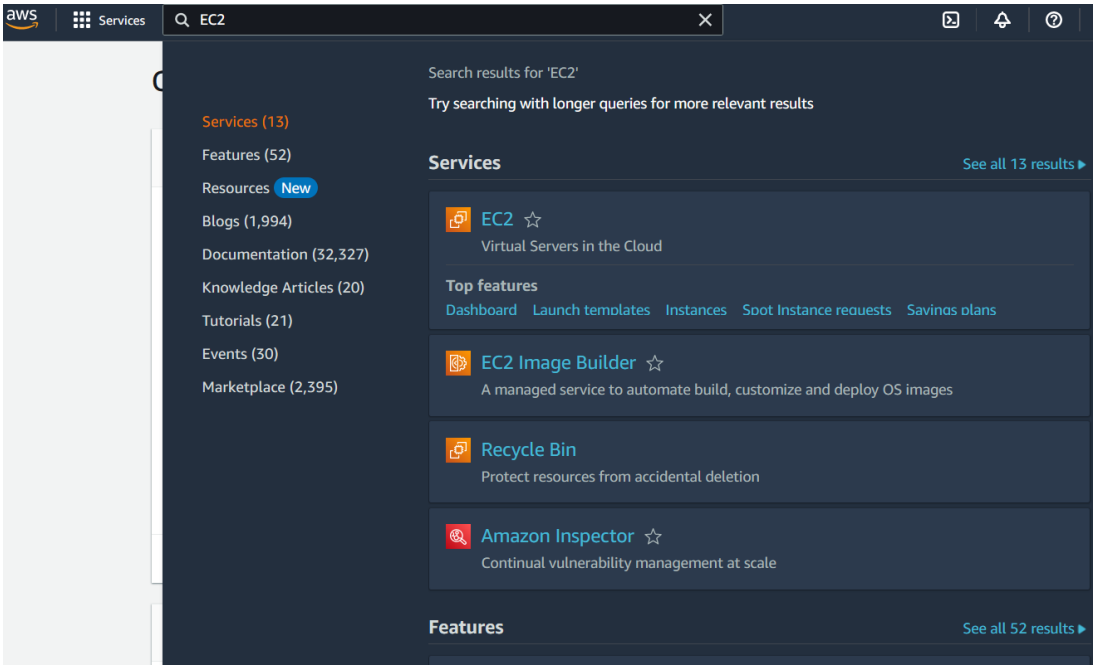


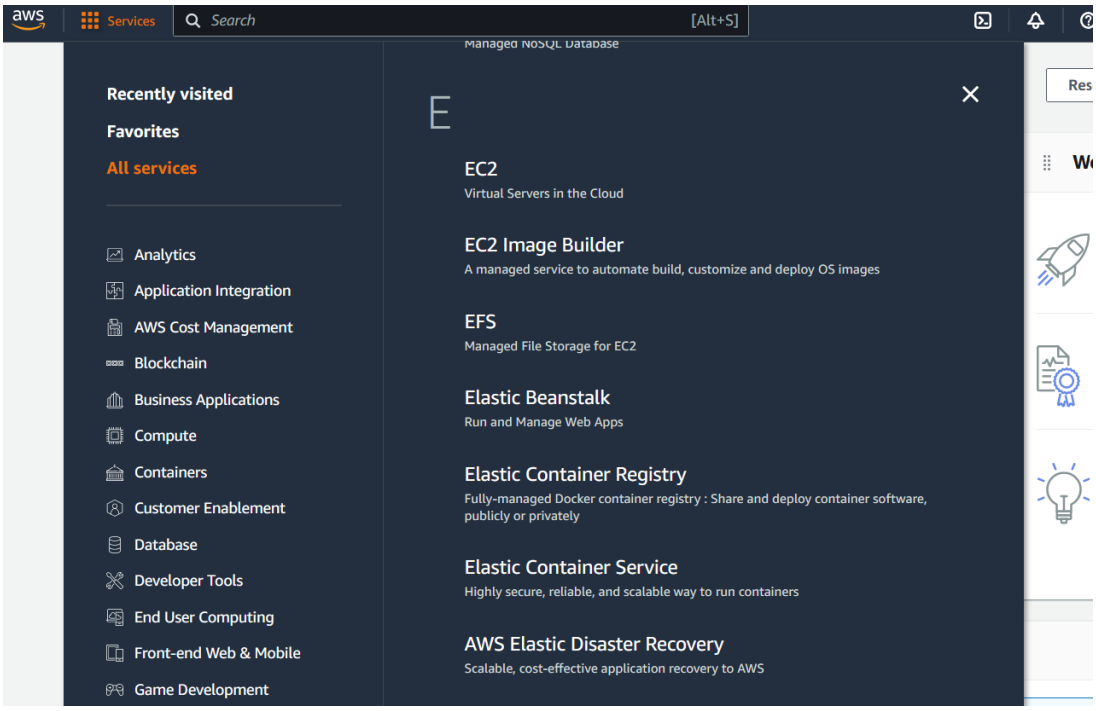
In the Learner Lab environment click on the right side "Start Lab" and wait till the red button next to "AWS" on the left side turns green.



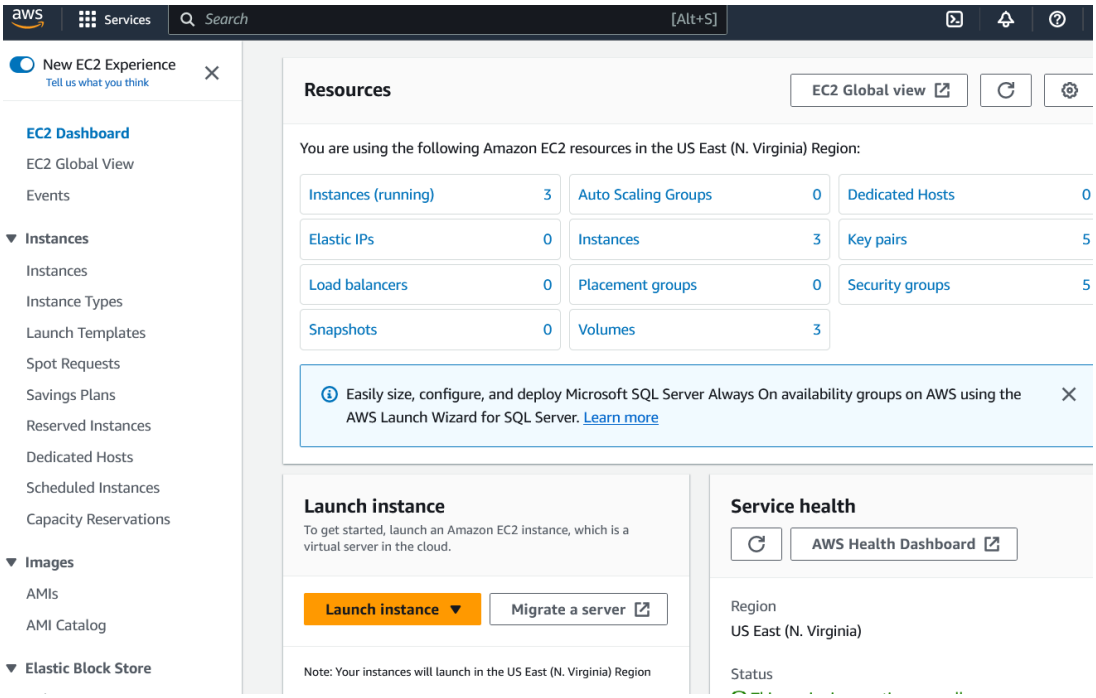
Click on "AWS" next to the green button and wait. If nothing happens, change your browser or check your ad blockers and settings.


aws
Services
Search
[Alt+S]
Console Home Info
Recently visited Info
EC2
VPC
IoT Core
Billing
View all services
AWS Health Info
Cost and usage Info

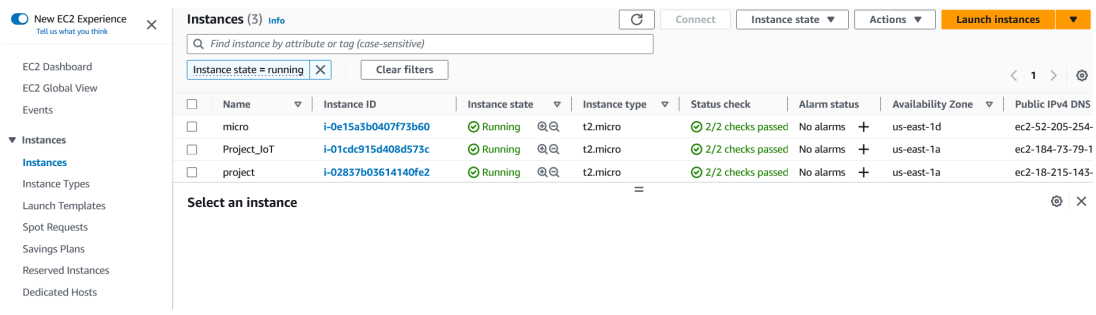

aws
Services
EC2
Search results for 'EC2'
Try searching with longer queries for more relevant results
Services (13)
Features (52)
Resources New
Blogs (1,994)
Documentation (32,327)
Knowledge Articles (20)
Tutorials (21)
Events (30)
Marketplace (2,395)
Services
See all 13 results
EC2
Virtual Servers in the Cloud
Top features
Dashboard
Launch templates
Instances
Spot Instance requests
Savings plans
EC2 Image Builder
A managed service to automate build, customize and deploy OS images
Recycle Bin
Protect resources from accidental deletion
Amazon Inspector
Continual vulnerability management at scale
Features
See all 52 results



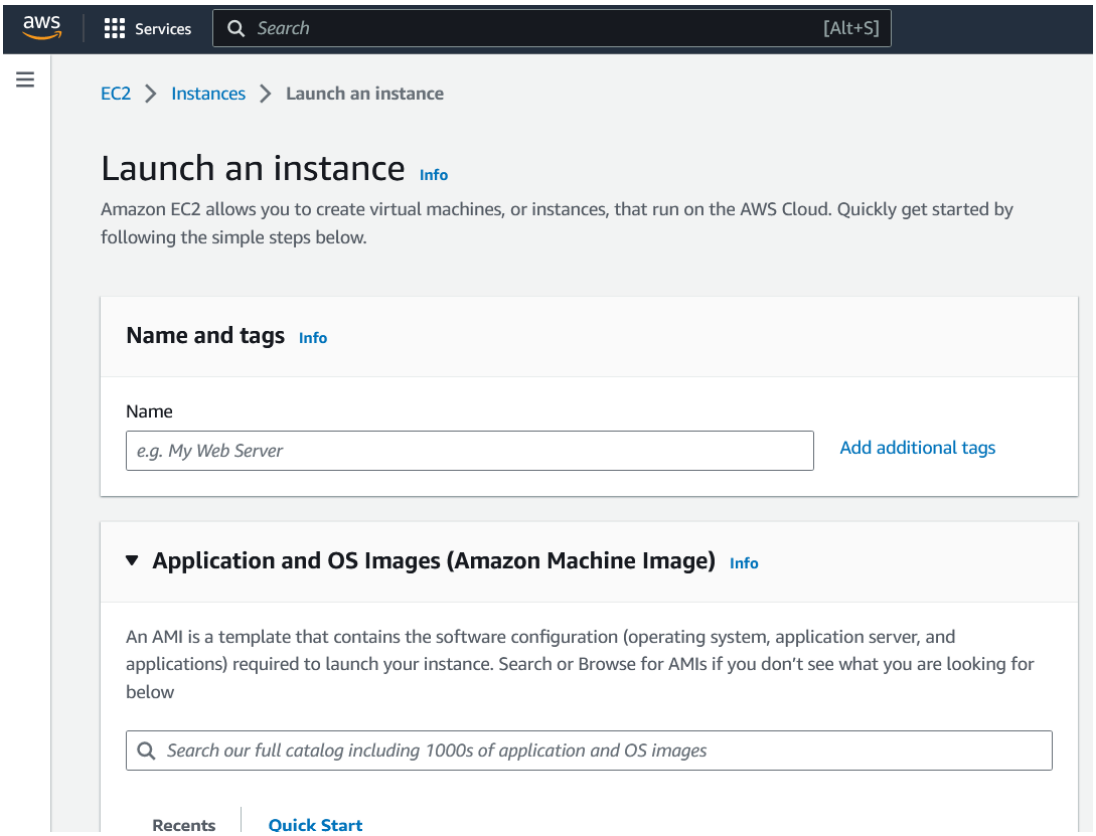
On your first visit, click on Services and scroll down to E. Choose EC2. A other option would be to write EC2 in the search bar and choose it from there. After visiting the EC2 (Instances (running)) Page you can also click on EC2 under Recently visited.



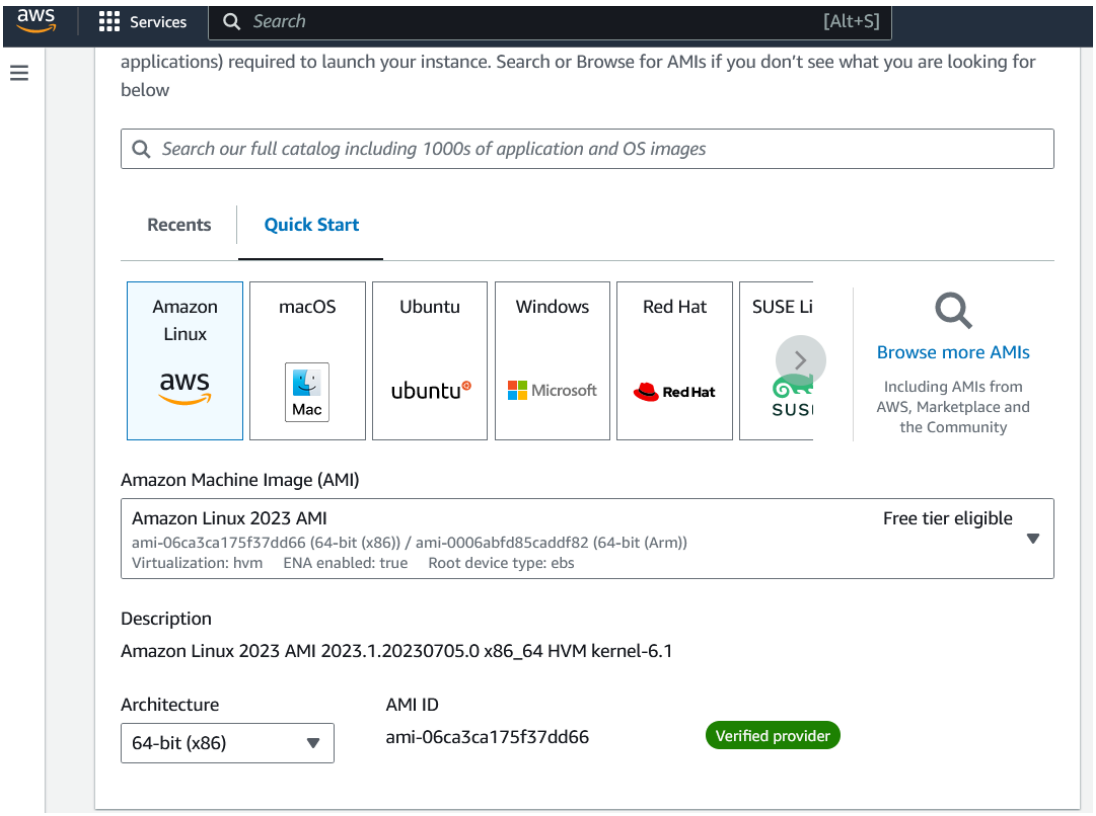
Click on Instances (running)



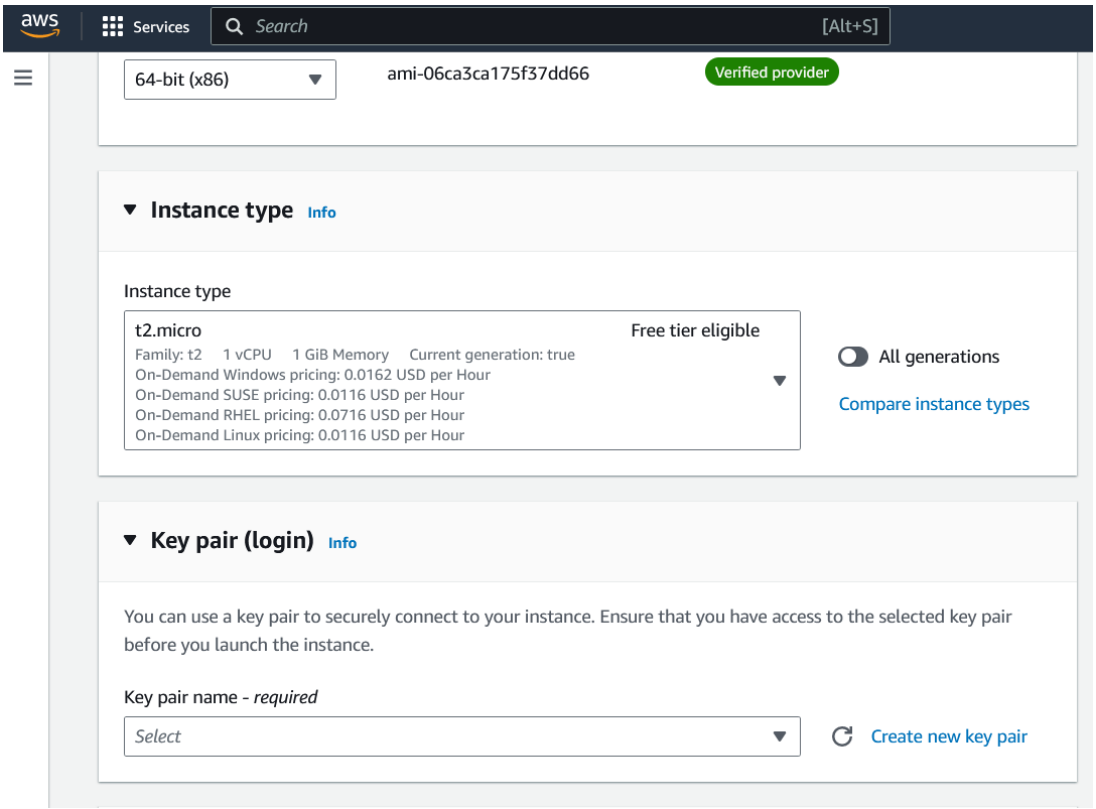
Click on the yellow "Launch instances" button on the right top corner.



Give the instance a name

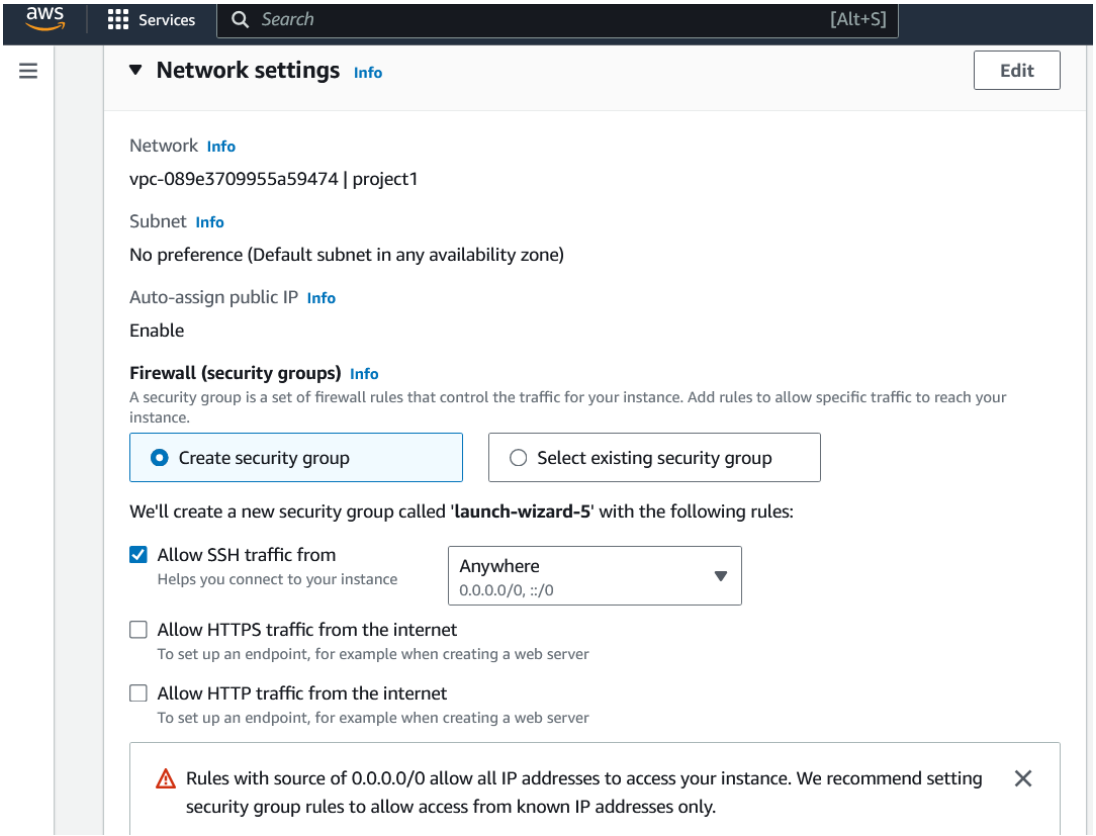


Select a Amazon Machine Image (AMI). For our project we used ubuntu. Click the ubuntu option. Leave the Server and the Architecture as it is.

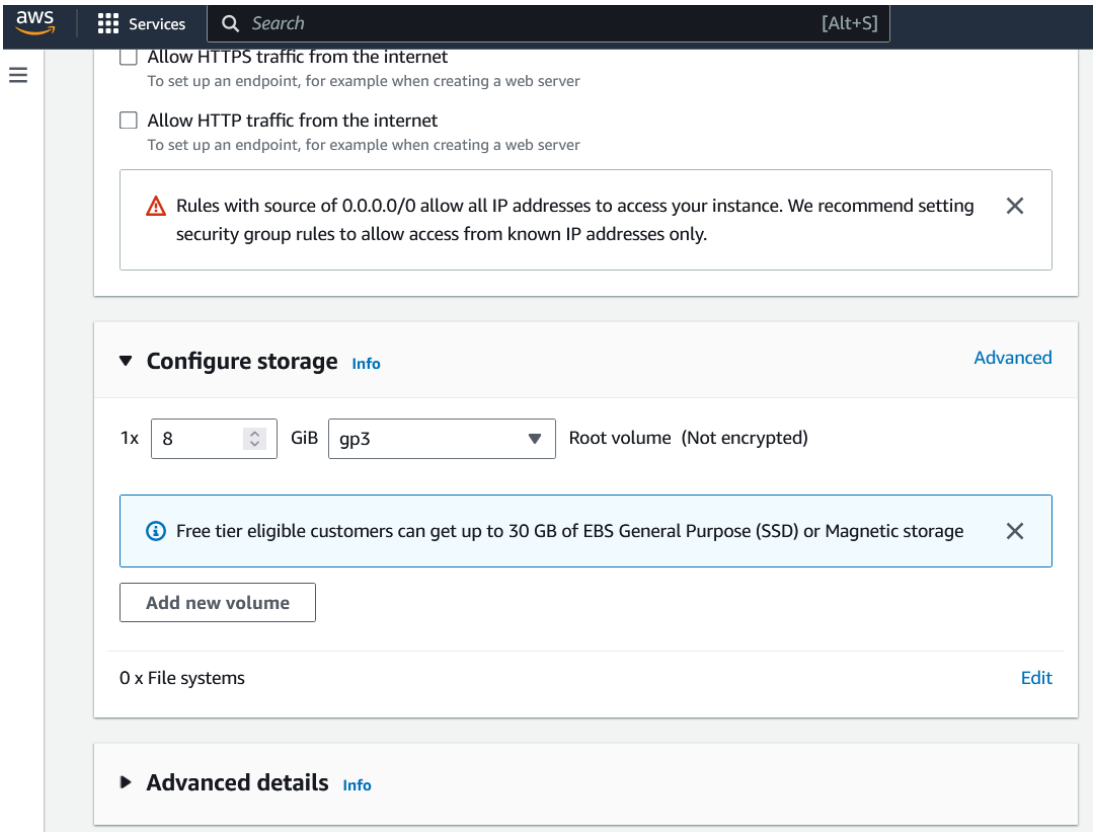


For the instance type, select the Free tier eligible version. Which is the t2.micro.

If you don't have a Key pair, click on "Create a new key pair" on the right side. In the Window that will open, give the key pair a name. Select RSA for the key pair type. For the private file formate we used .pem so we could use OpenSSH. If PuTTY is the preferred to use, choose .ppk Click on the yellow button with the text "Create key pair" on it. Choose a place to safe your key. Choose the Key pair you created.

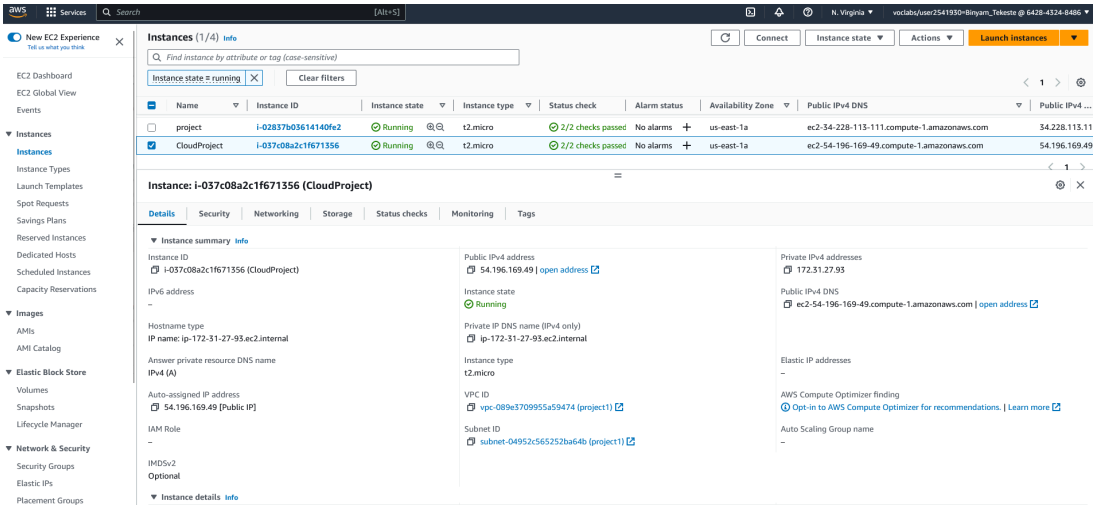


Leave the Network Settings as they are.

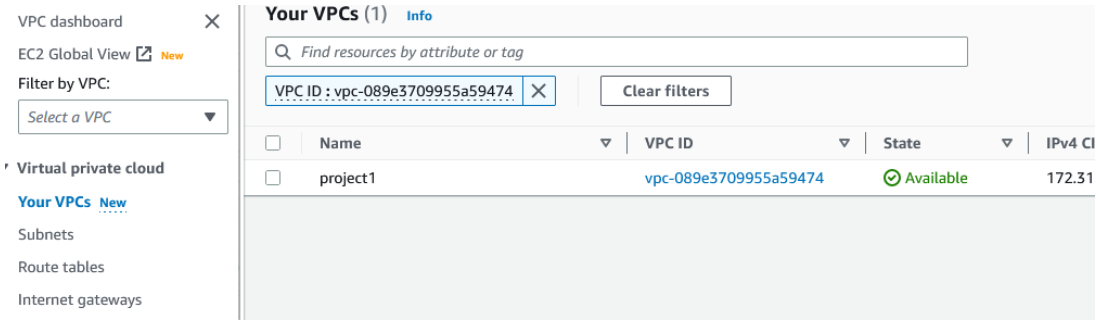


Set the configure storage to 30 GiB Scroll down. Check the summary and click on the yellow button ("Launch instance") on the lower right corner.

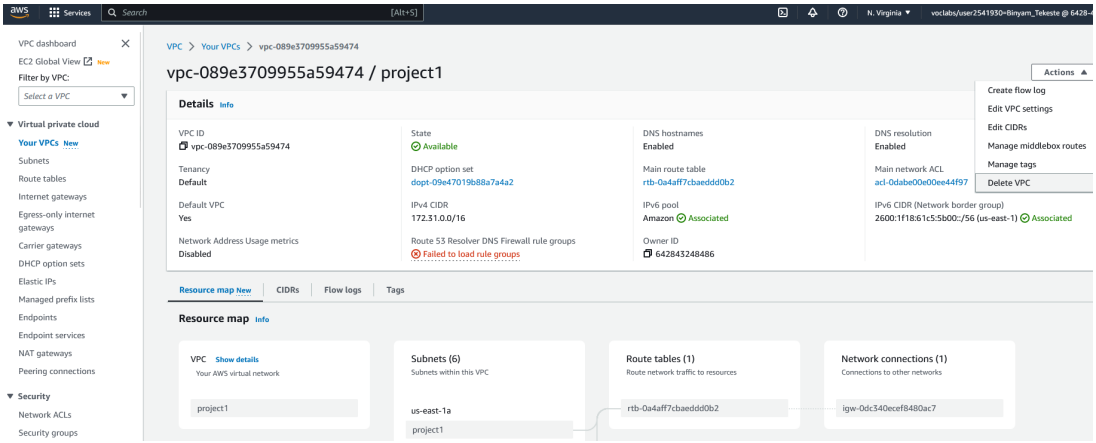
The Instance will be shown under Instances after a little while. Under Status checked it might be shown as Initializing. After a while it will turn to 2/2 checks passed.



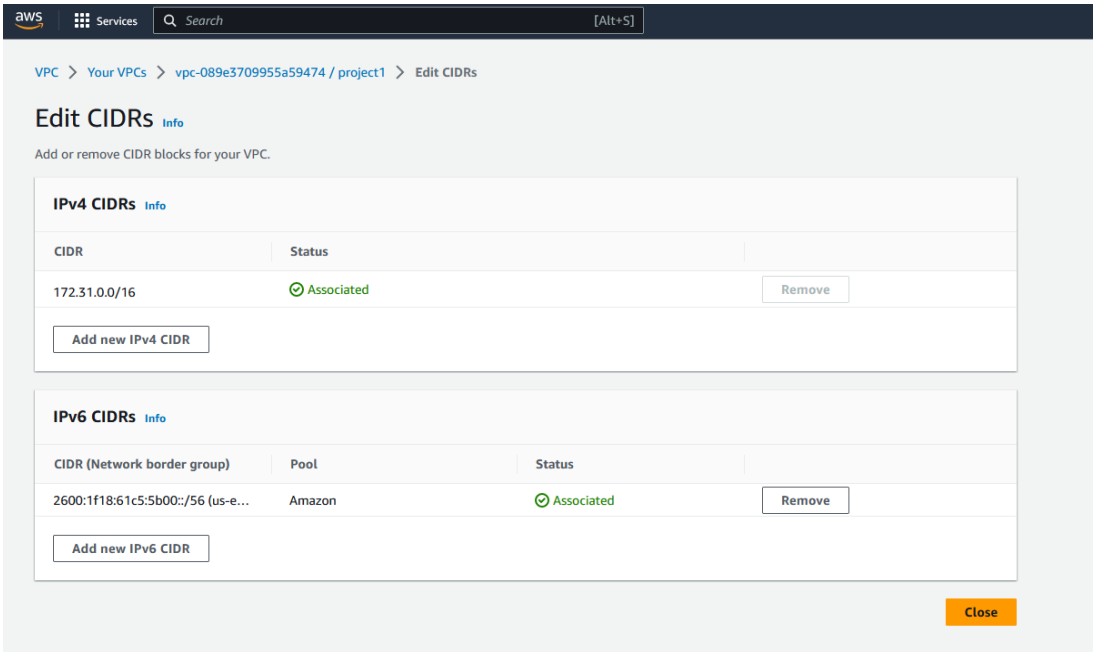
Click the checkbox next to the instance name. In the lower part of the screen you will find the instance summary. Search for VPC ID and click on the ID.



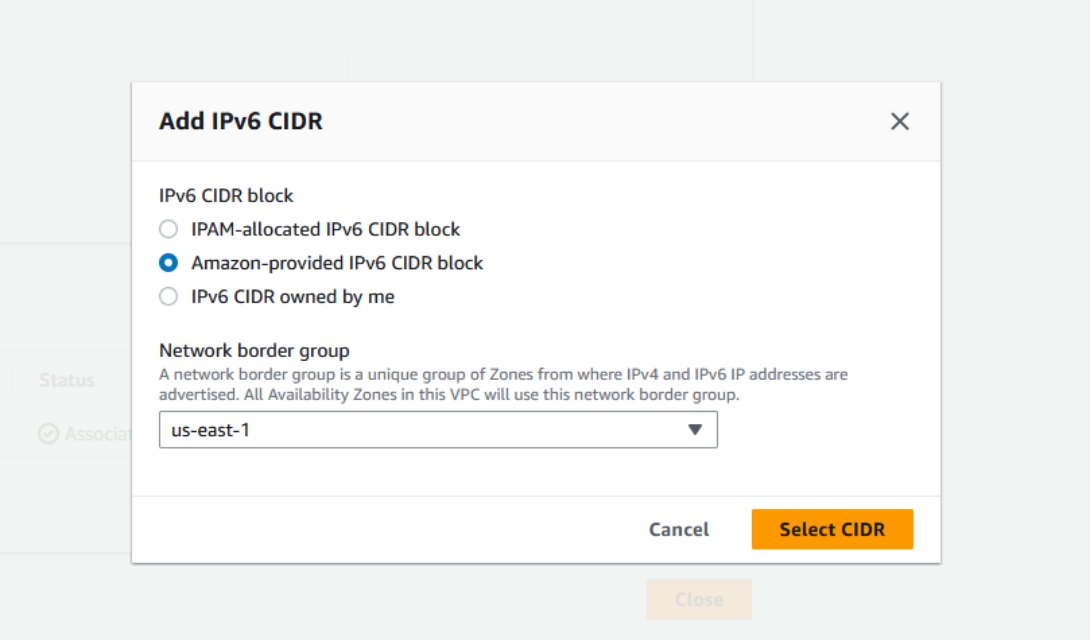
On this page, click again on the VPC ID.



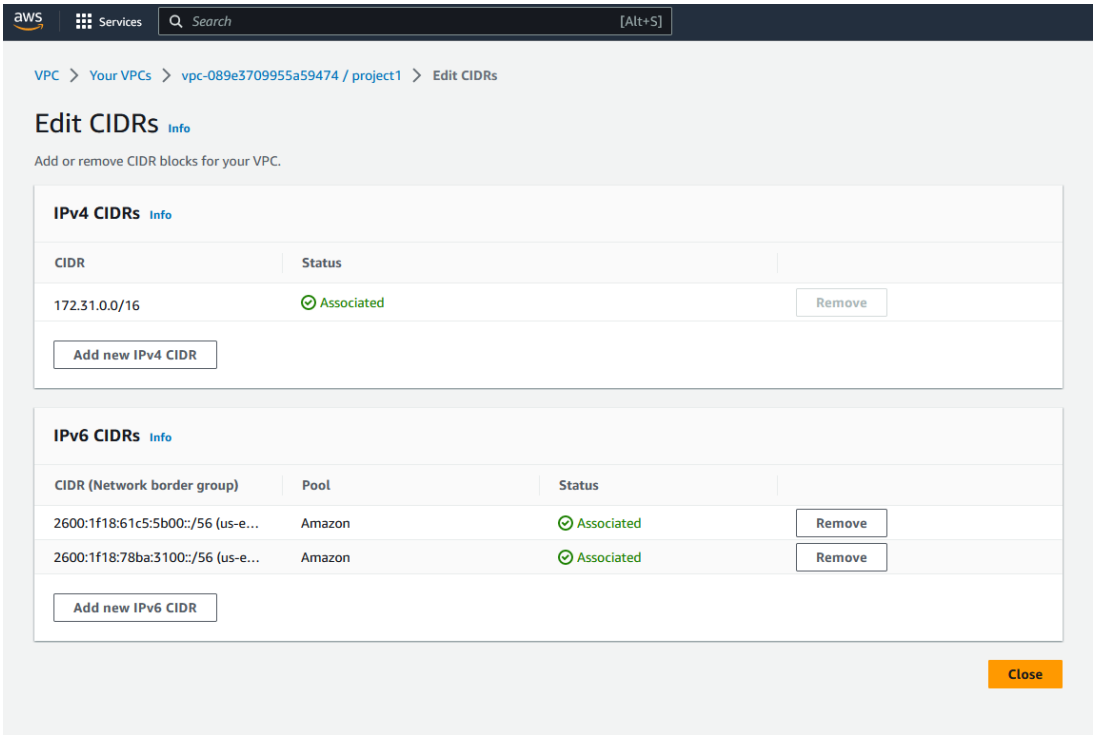
Click on the "Actions" button on the upper right corner and choose "Edit CIDRs".



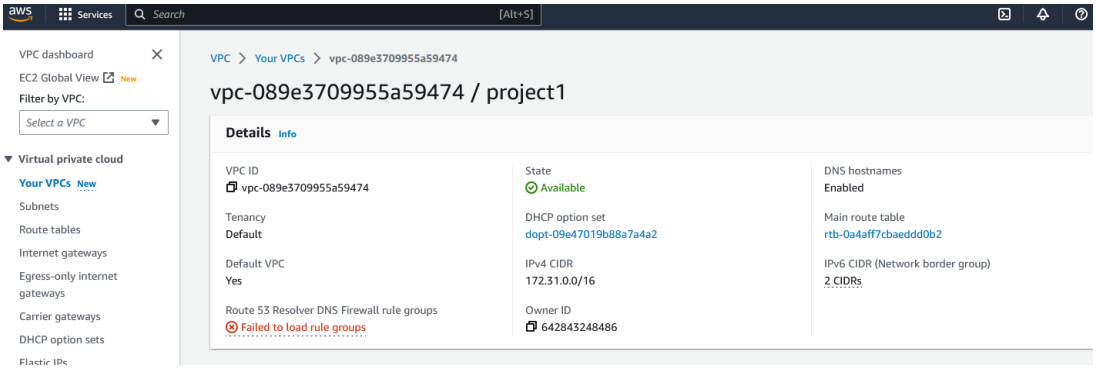
Click on "Add new IPv6 CIDR



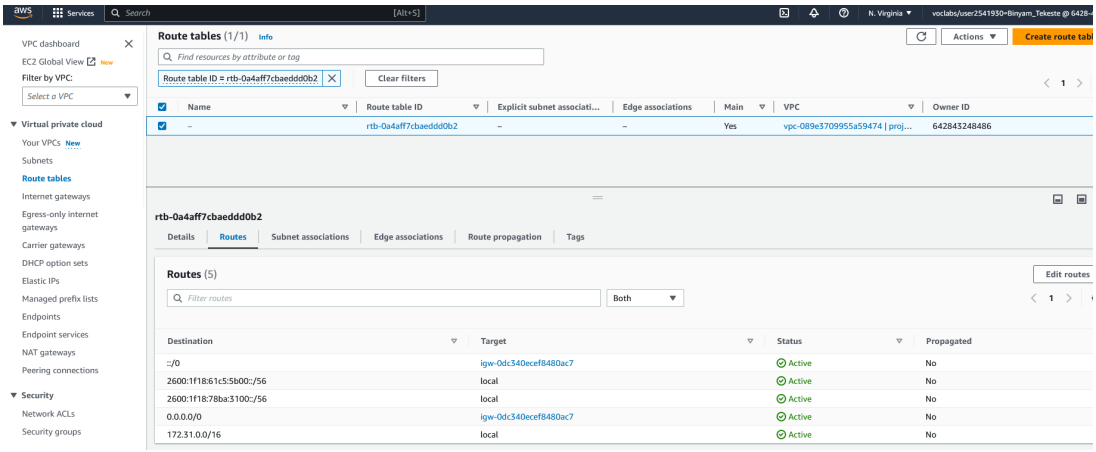
Select "Amazon-provided IPv6 CIDR block and click on "Select CIDR".



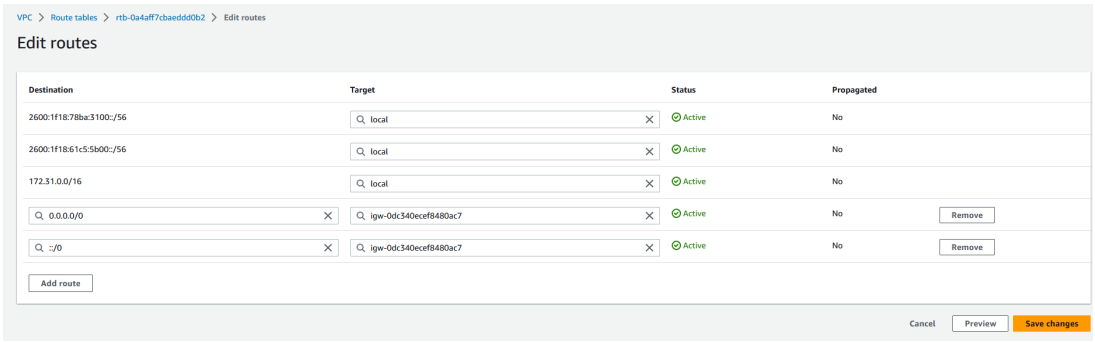
You should now see the status "Associated". Click on the VPC ID on the top to see details to your VPC ID.



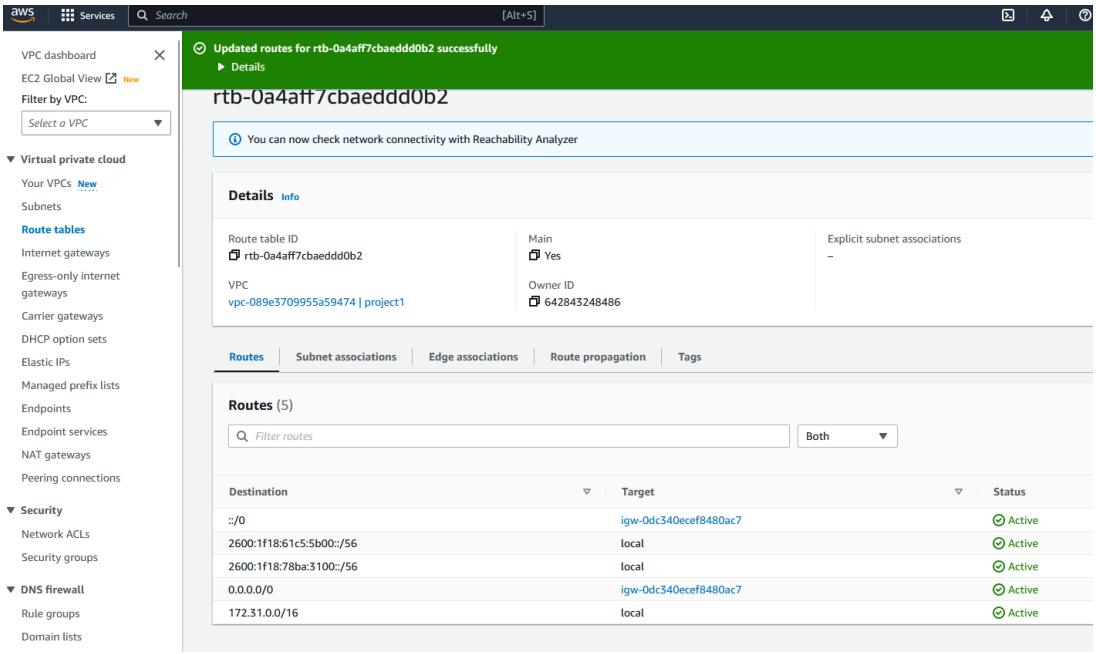
Here you should see your IPv6. Click on Route tables on the left side navigation bar.



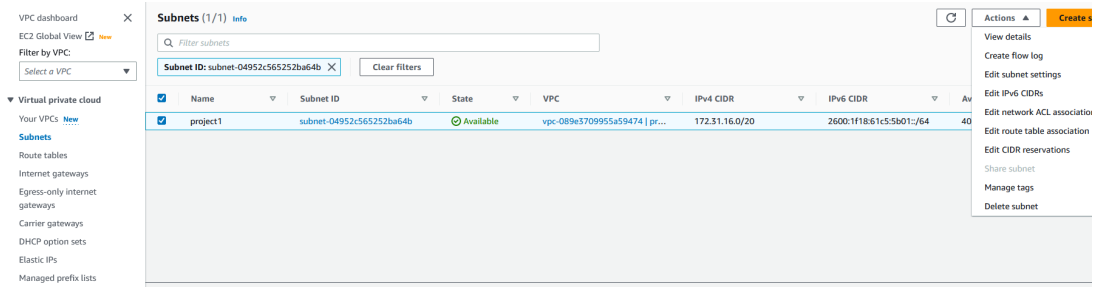
In the lower part select the tier with the name "Routes" and click the button "Edit routes" on the right side.



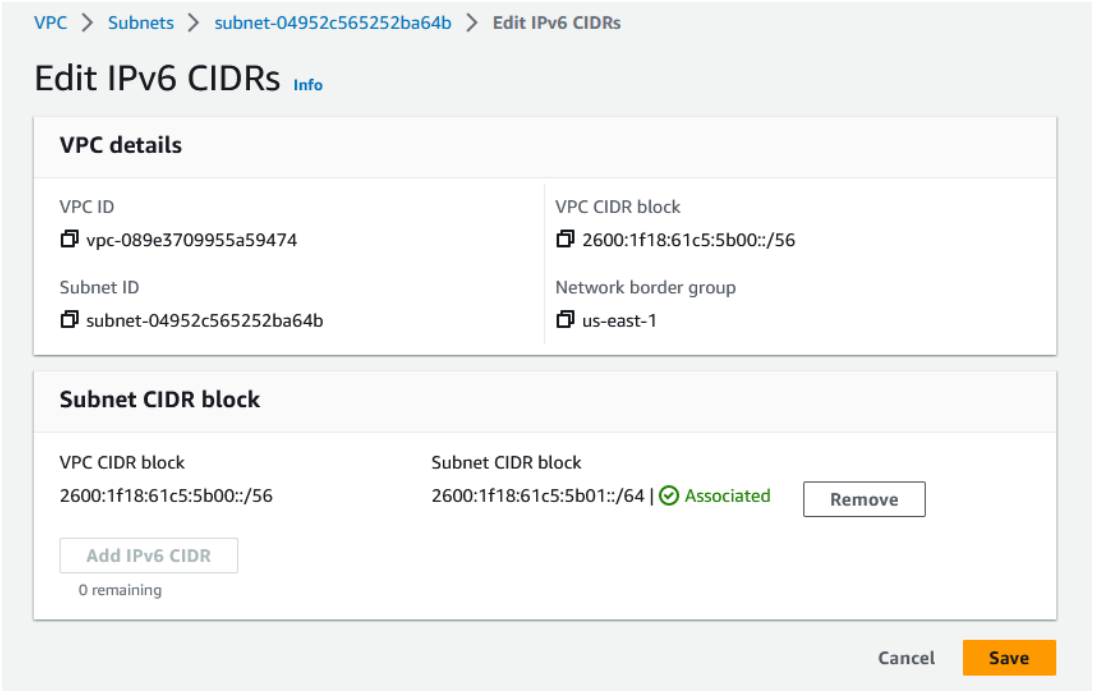
Click "Add route" for the destination use ::/0 and for the target use your amazon default value. Click "Add route again and use the destination 0.0.0.0./0 if it is not already set. use the same default value as a target. Save the changes with the click on the yellow button. Click on "Route tables" at the top.



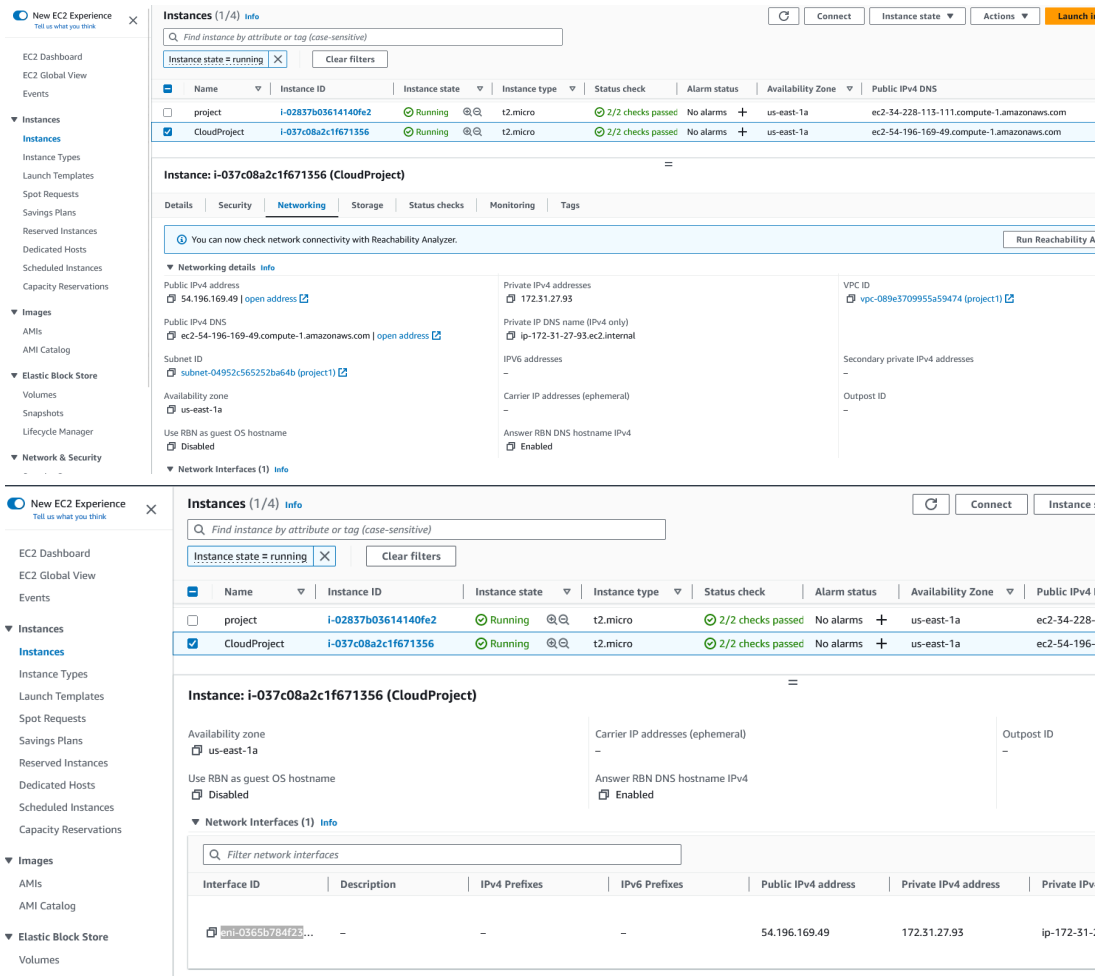
Our new routes are now shown in the lower part. Click on Subnets



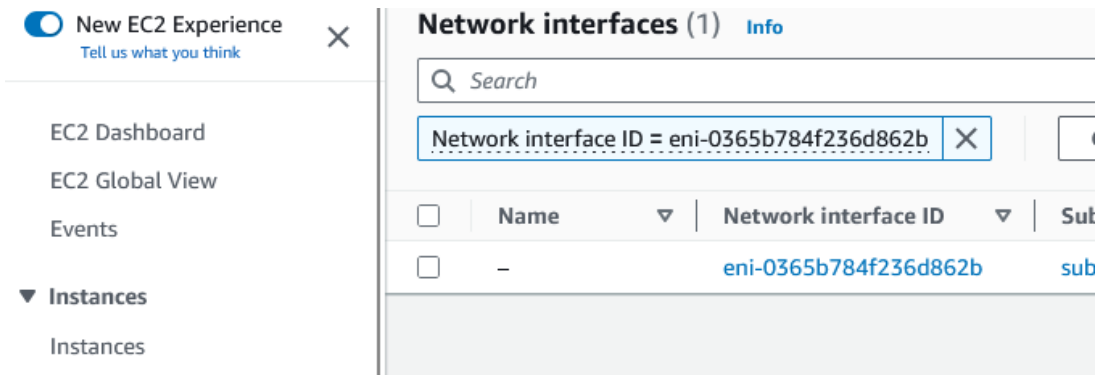
Click the checkbox next to the name. Click on the "Action" button on the upper right corner and select "Edit IPv6 CIDRs.



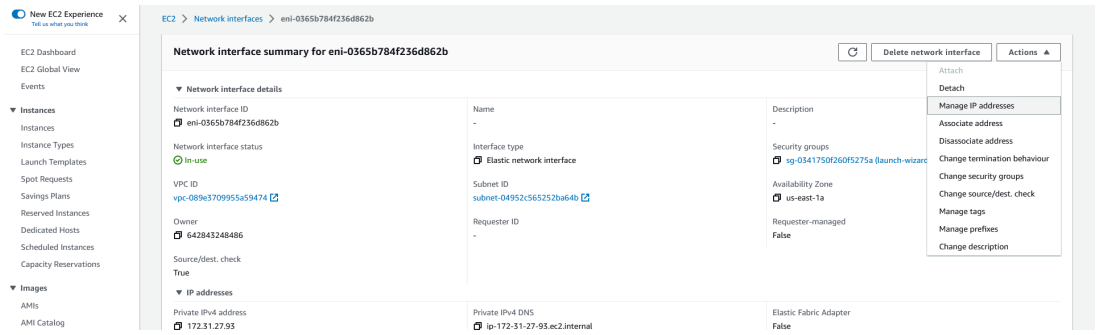
If the Subnet CIDR block is not already set, Click on "Add IPv6 CIDR" and save the changes by clicking the yellow button on the right lower corner. Then go back to your instances screen.



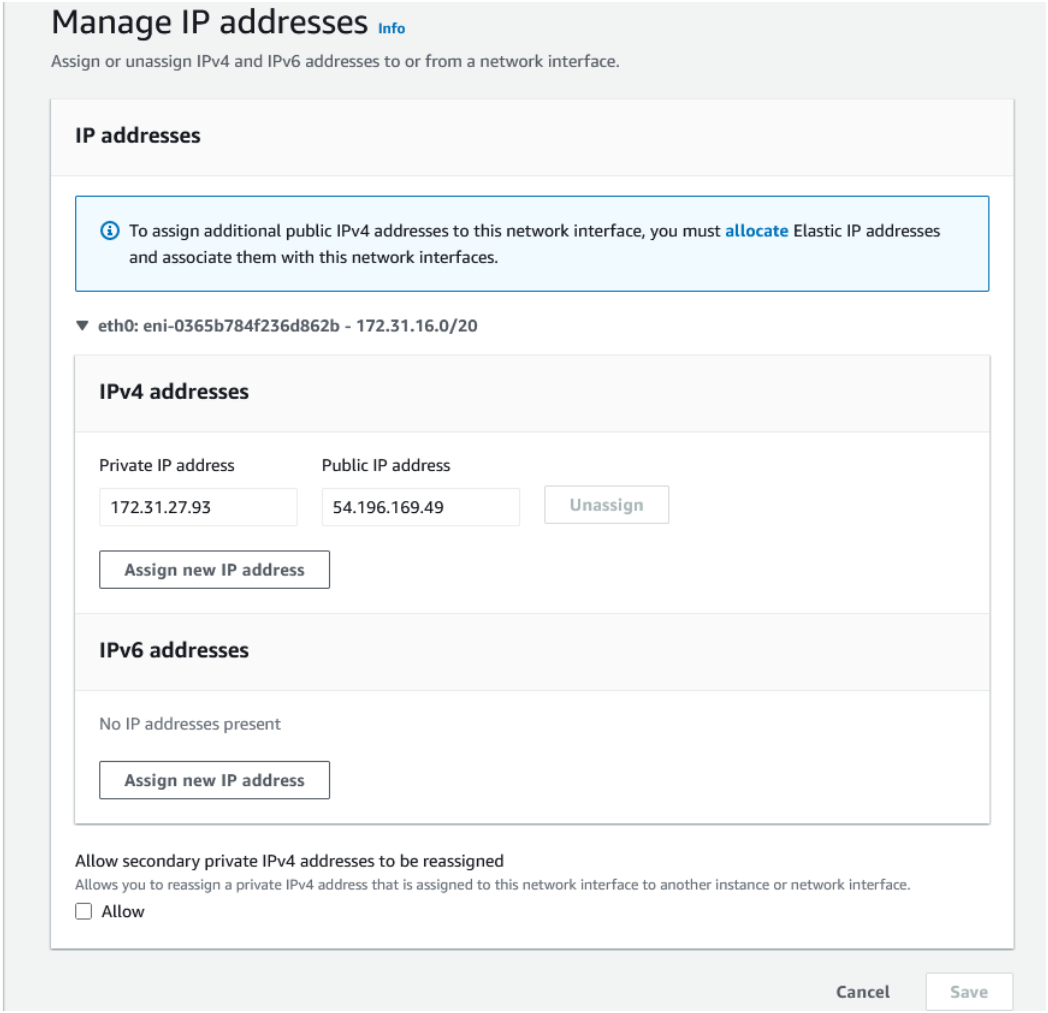
Click the checkbox next to your instance and scroll further down on the lower part, till you see your Network interface click on the Interface ID.



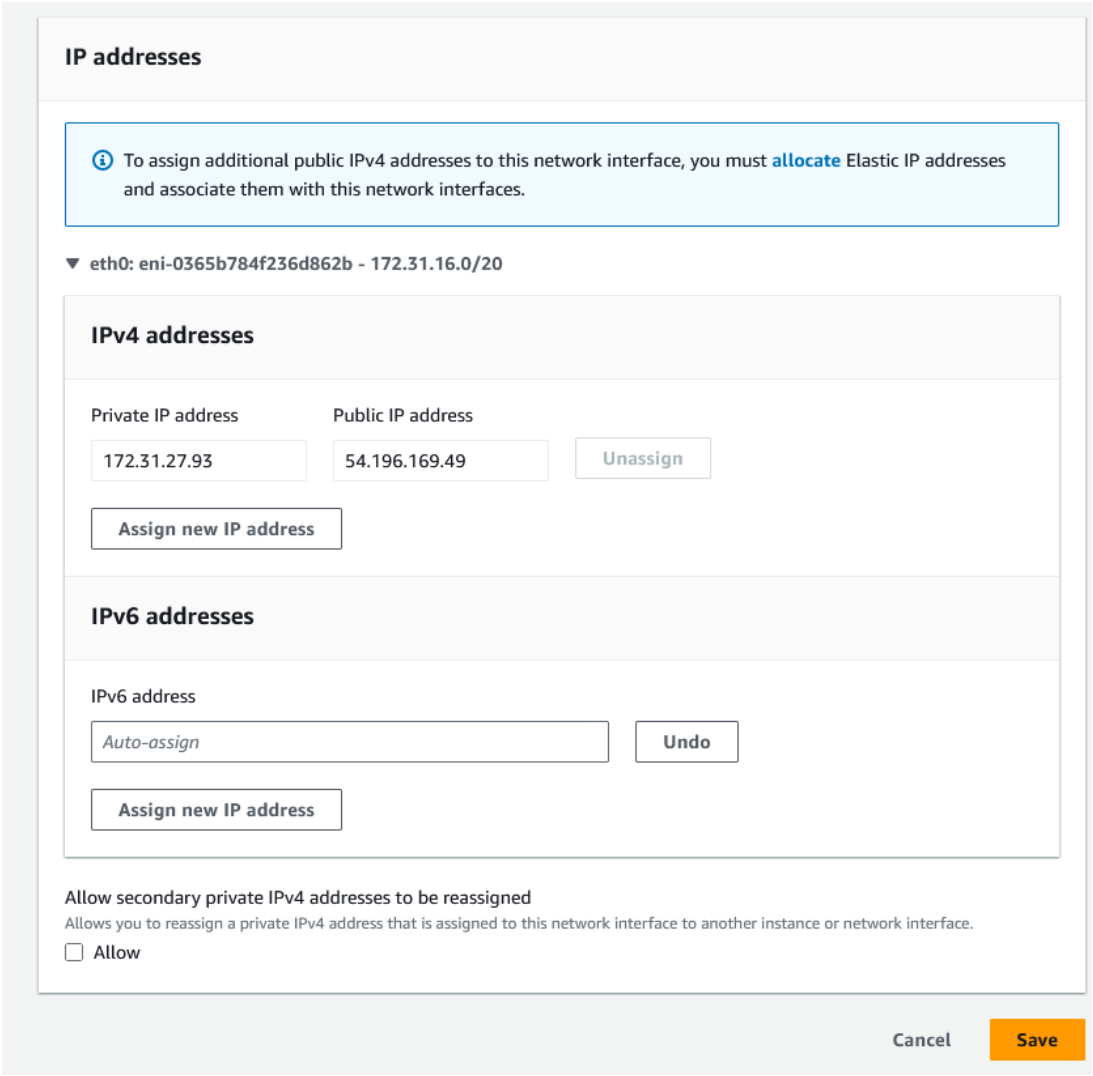
Click the Network Interface ID again.



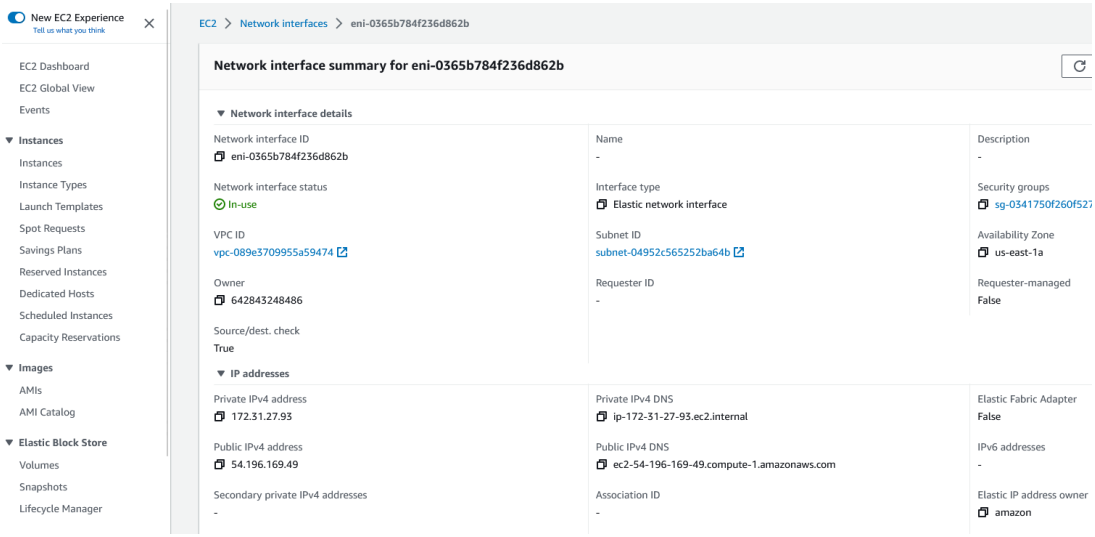
Click on the "Actions" button on the upper right corner and select "Manage IP addresses".



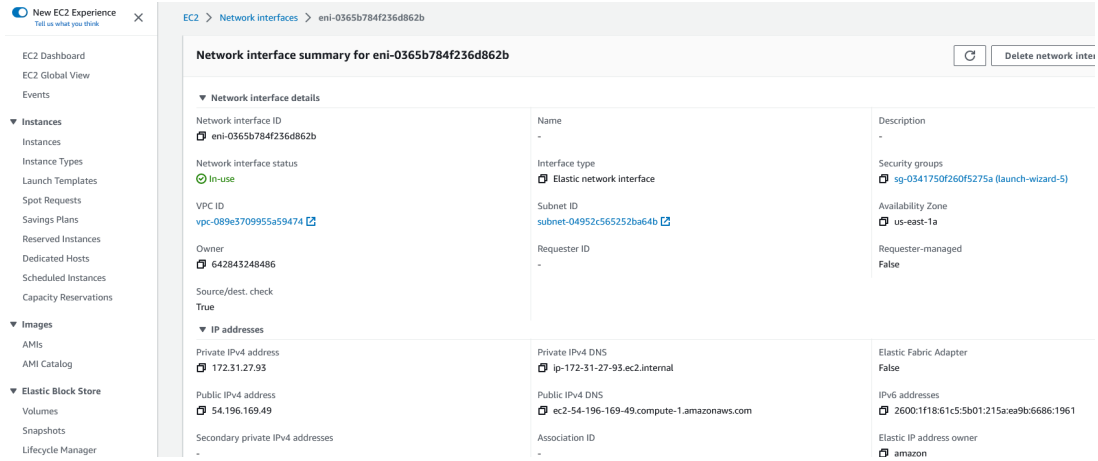
Click the button "Assign new IP address" in the IPv6 section.



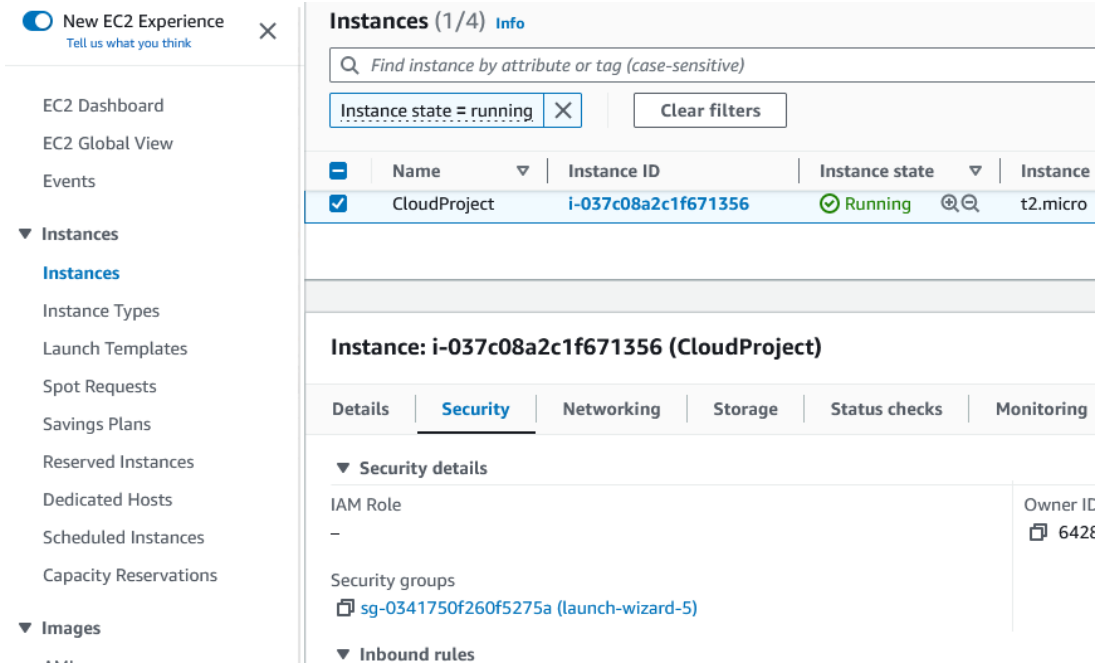
After clicking the Assign button, leave it to Auto-assign and click the yellow "Save" button.



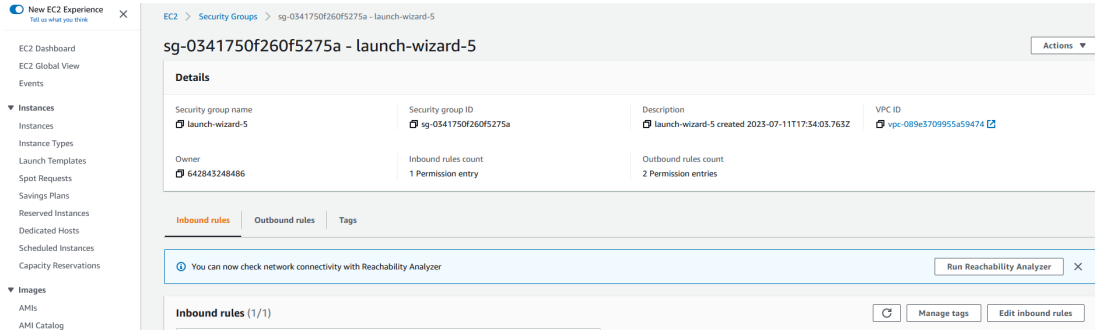
You wil end up at the Network interface summary page. Since your IPv6 addresses is not shown, click the page refreshing button.



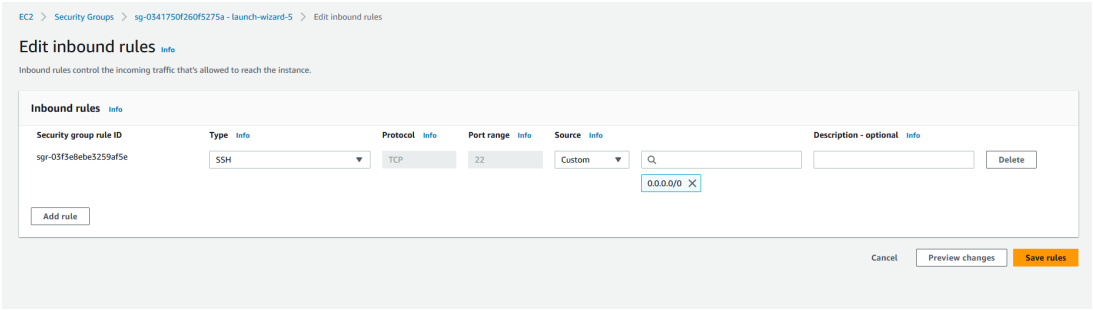
The IPv6 addresses should now be visible. Go back to your instances screen.



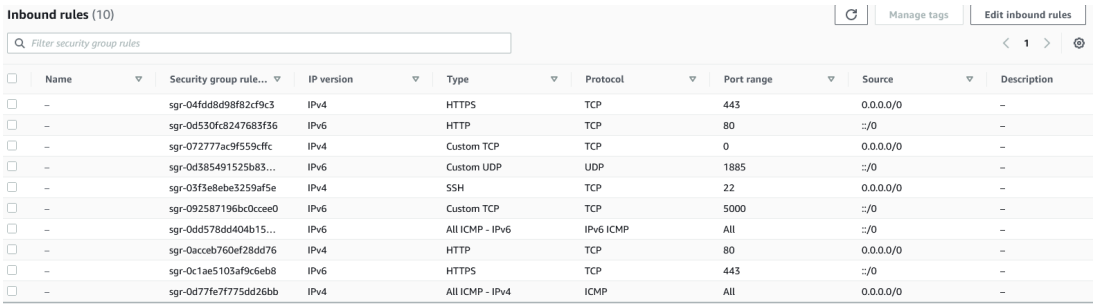
Click the checkbox next to your instance. On the lower part, click on the tier "Security". Click the link under "Security groups".



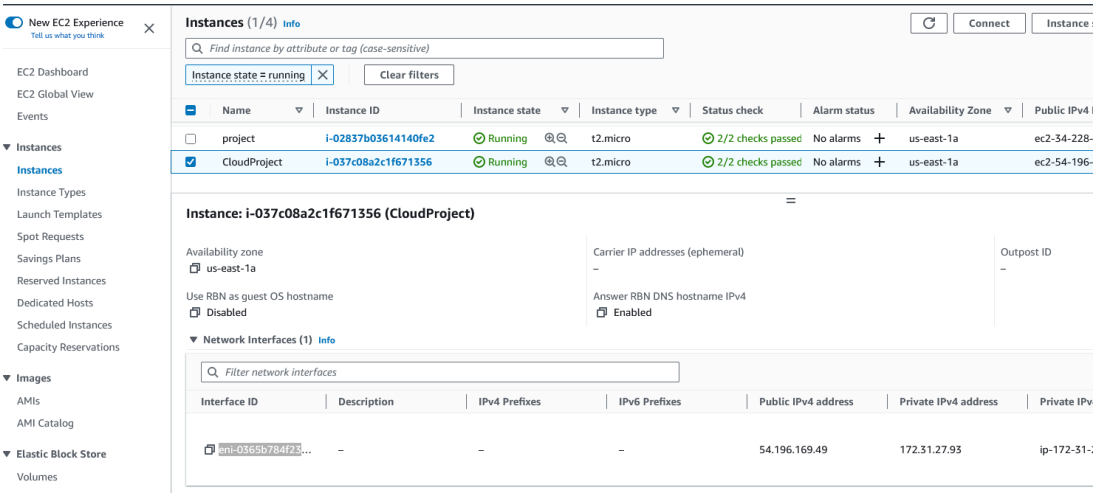
On the lower part, stay on the tier "Inbound rules" and click the button on the right "Edit inbound rules.



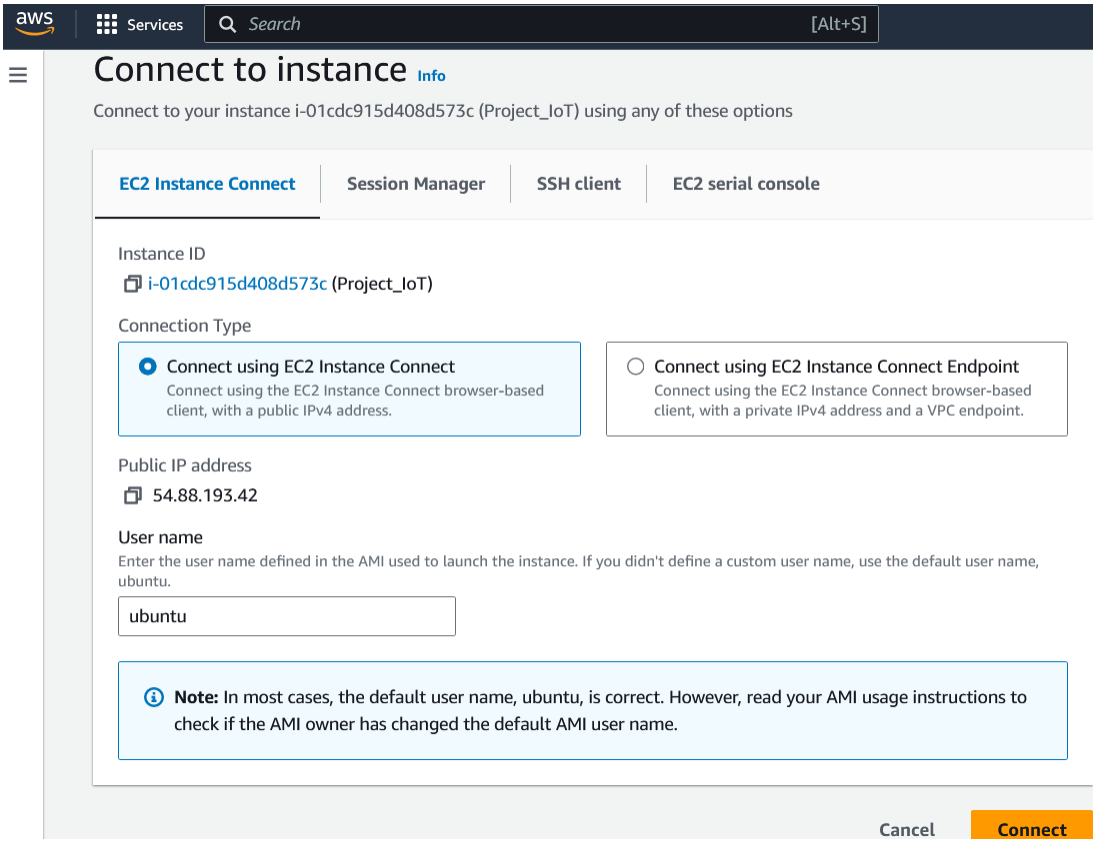
click on "Add rule".



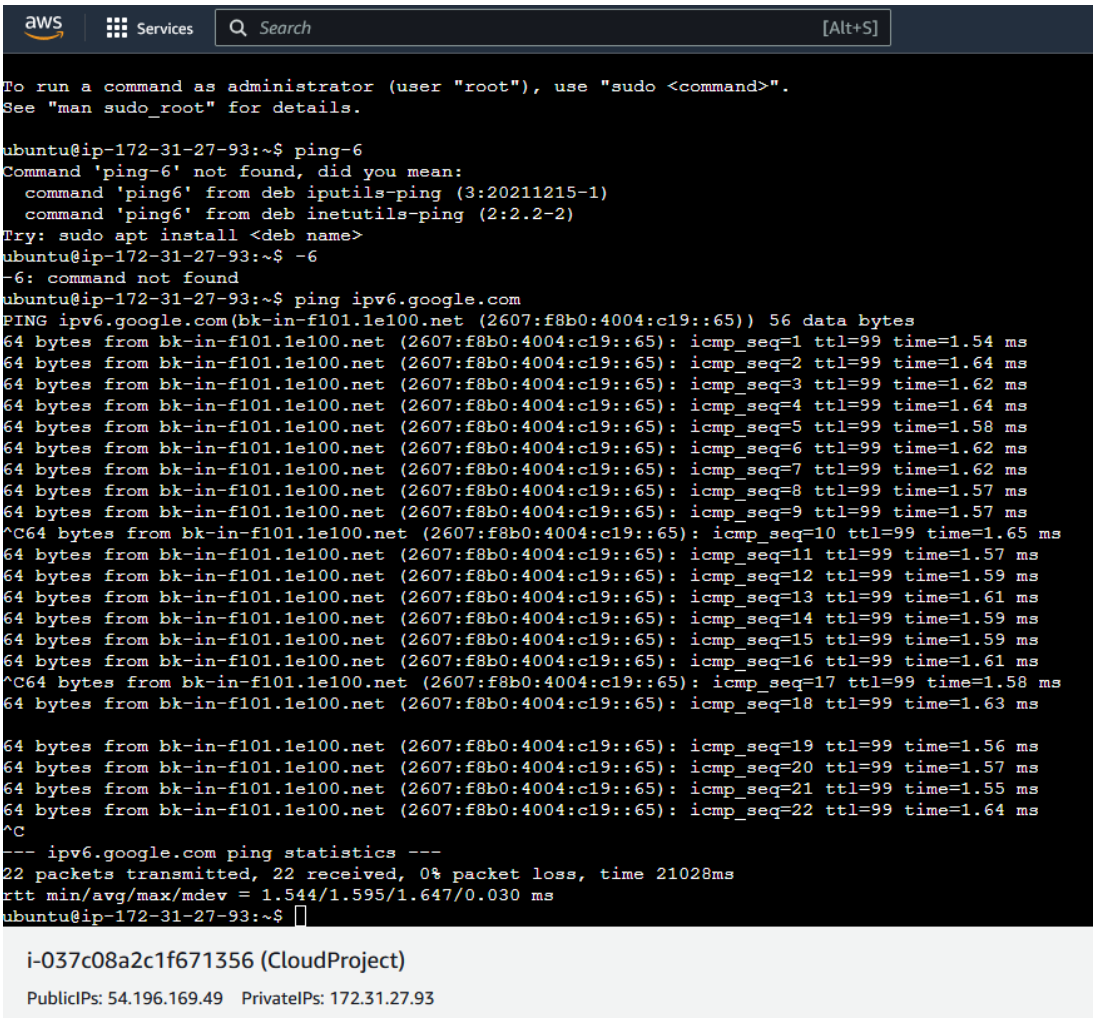
Fill in the list above. (Some ports could be different for you). After filling in all of them, click the yellow button "Save rules". Go back to your instances screen.



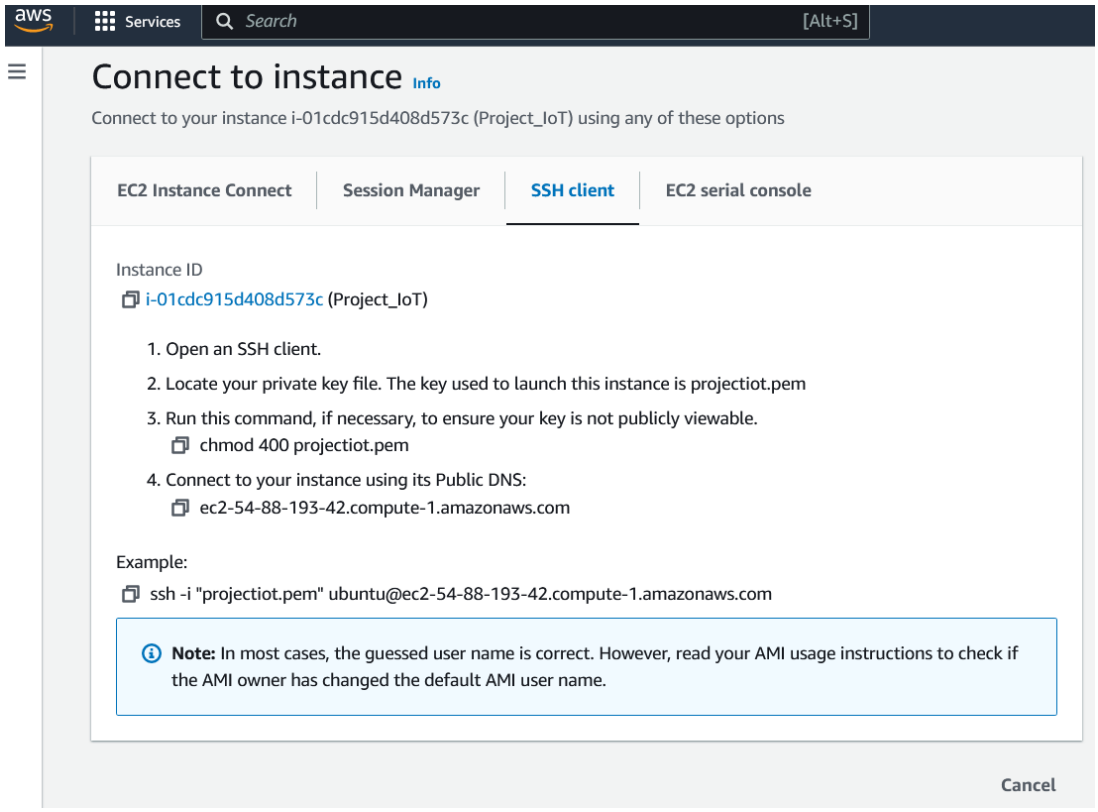
Click on the checkbox next to your instance and click the "Connect button".



On the first tier click on the yellow button "Connect".



Now your instance is connected. Go back to the Connect to instance screen.



To be able to use multiple terminals of your instance, select the tier "SSH client". Copy the Example and use it in your Linux Ubuntu environment. To connect to your instance from a different terminal.

Your EC2 is established.

Installations:

1. Open the EC2 instance terminal or connect via ssh.
2. Create a directory e.g. Project and navigate into it.

```
mkdir Project
cd Project
```

3. Install the Mosquito.RSMB broker. Follow the Setting up a broker (Steps 1-3) tutorial.
4. Install SQLITE.

```
sudo apt install sqlite3
```

5. In the Project directory, create a database.

```
sqlite3 mybase.db
```

6. Create a temperature table.

```
CREATE TABLE temperature (
id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
date TEXT,
time TEXT,
value INTEGER,
scale INTEGER
);
```

Type `.exit` to close sqlite3.

7. For the backend script, install the following libraries:
   - PAHO MQTT

     ```
     pip install paho-mqtt
     ```

   - FLASK

     ```
     pip install Flask
     ```

   - FLASK CORS

     ```
     pip install flask-cors
     ```

8. Copy the *server.py* file from the *Cloud* directory into the *Project* directory.
9. Change the address of the broker.

   ```
   broker_address = "<IPv6 of the EC2 instance>"
   ```

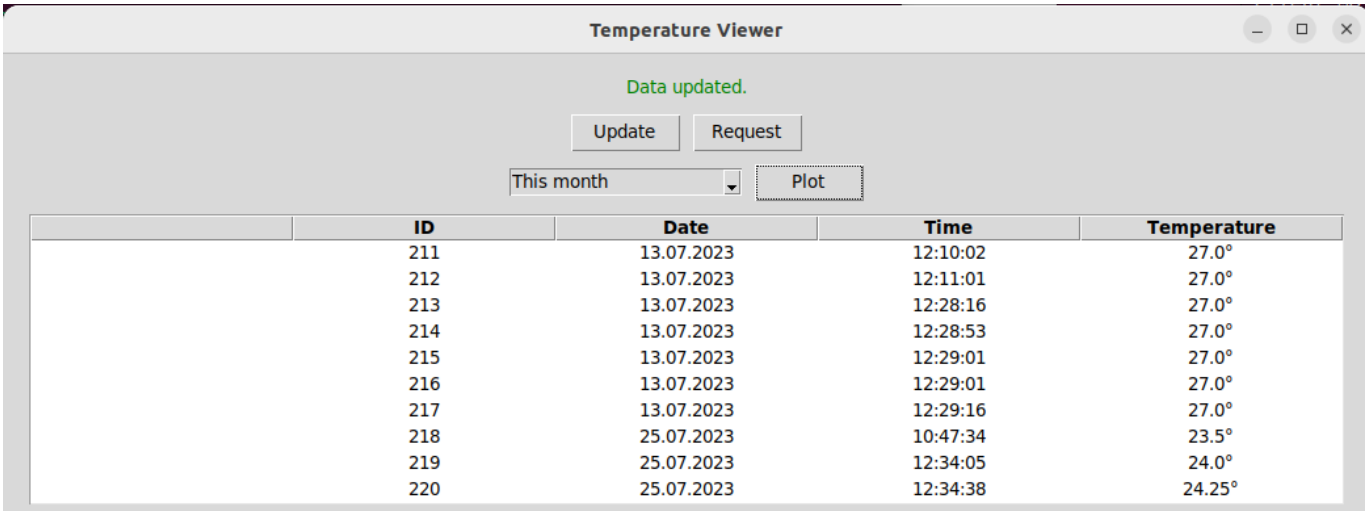
10. Enable port 1885 for incoming UDP IPv6 packets and set up a security rule.
11. Enable port 5000 for incoming TCP IPv6 packets and set up a security rule.

User Interface

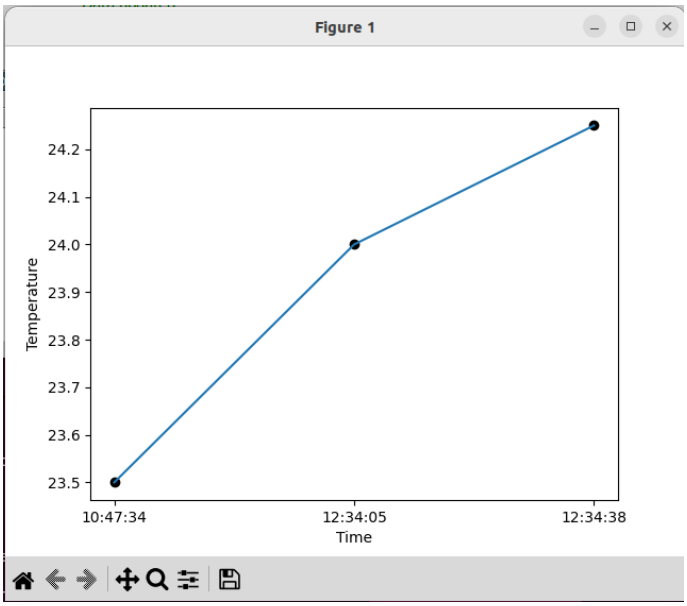
Overview:

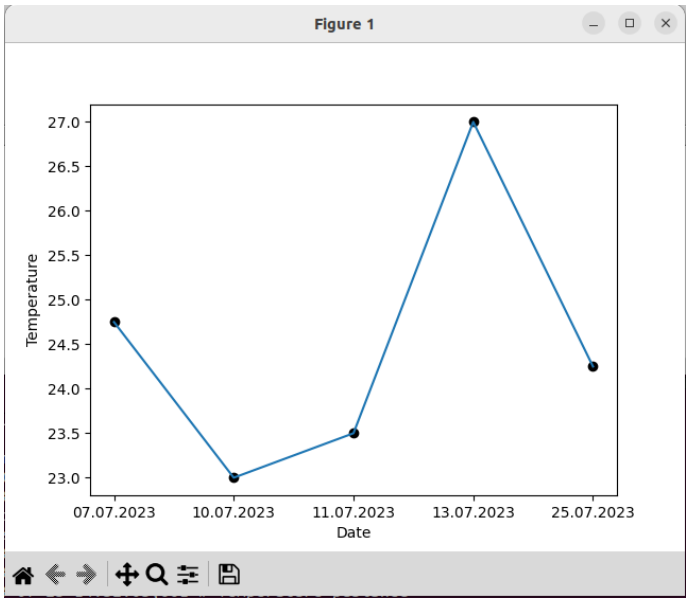
The user interface is a Desktop program which is used to visualize the stored data. The data is read from a database located at the cloud and is presented into a table. Also a temperature diagram can be created for the current day or the current month. The user can update the data or send a request to the sensor node via the cloud. Note, that the presented data is only updated by clicking on the "Update" button. For the communication between the application and the cloud, HTTP protocol is used. Since for the communication IPv6 is used, the machine of the user has to have a IPv6 network connection. The Program itself is written in

Python using the 'Tkinter' library for the graphical user interface, 'Matplotlib' for the diagrams and 'Requests' for the HTTP requests.



ID	Date	Time	Temperature
211	13.07.2023	12:10:02	27.0°
212	13.07.2023	12:11:01	27.0°
213	13.07.2023	12:28:16	27.0°
214	13.07.2023	12:28:53	27.0°
215	13.07.2023	12:29:01	27.0°
216	13.07.2023	12:29:01	27.0°
217	13.07.2023	12:29:16	27.0°
218	25.07.2023	10:47:34	23.5°
219	25.07.2023	12:34:05	24.0°
220	25.07.2023	12:34:38	24.25°





Set up:

1. Make sure that python is installed otherwise install it.
2. Install the following python libraries:
   - Tkinter

     ```
     sudo apt-get install python3-tk
     ```

   - Matplotlib

     ```
     pip install matplotlib
     ```

   - Resquests

```
pip install requests
```

3. Open the *UI* folder.
4. Change the address of the EC2 instance in the Client.py file.

```
self.base_url = "http://[<IPv6_Address>]:5000"
```

Start The System

1. Open two terminals and connect with the EC2 instance via ssh.
2. In both terminals navigate to the Project directory.

```
cd Project
```

3. In the first terminal start the Mosquitto RSMB broker.

```
cd mosquitto.rsmb/rsmb/src
./broker_mqtts config.conf
```

4. In the second terminal start the backend script.

```
python3 server.py
```

5. Start the border router.

```
PORT=/dev/ttyACM0 BOARD="nrf52840dongle" make term
```

6. Start the sensor node.

```
PORT=/dev/ttyACM2 BOARD="nrf52840dk" make all flash term
```

If it is already running or does not print the status restart it or reflash it.

```
PORT=/dev/ttyACM2 BOARD="nrf52840dk" make reset
```

7. Start the user interface.

```
python3 Application.py
```

- Note: If some of the components throw errors, it might help to restart them.

Sources

- RIOT documentation: https://doc.riot-os.org/
- RIOT Github Repository: https://github.com/RIOT-OS/RIOT
- Tkinter: https://www.pythontutorial.net/tkinter/tkinter-mvc/
- Flask: https://flask.palletsprojects.com/en/2.3.x/
- Paho: http://www.steves-internet-guide.com/into-mqtt-python-client/
- Assign IPv6 address to EC2 instance: https://4sysops.com/archives/assign-an-ipv6-address-to-an-ec2-instance-dual-stack/