

What You Won't Find in This Book

This book is not meant to be an exhaustive reference manual for Terraform. I do not cover all of the cloud providers, or all of the resources supported by each cloud provider, or every available Terraform command. For these nitty-gritty details, I refer you instead to the [Terraform documentation](#).

The documentation contains many useful answers, but if you're new to Terraform, infrastructure as code, or operations, you won't even know what questions to ask. Therefore, this book is focused on what the documentation does *not* cover: namely, how to go beyond introductory examples and use Terraform in a real-world setting. My goal is to get you up and running quickly by discussing why you might want to use Terraform in the first place, how to fit it into your workflow, and what practices and patterns tend to work best.

To demonstrate these patterns, I've included a number of code examples. I've tried to make it as easy as possible for you to try these examples at home by minimizing dependencies on any third parties. This is why almost all the examples use just a single cloud provider, AWS, so that you need to sign up only for a single third-party service (also, AWS offers a generous free tier, so running the example code shouldn't cost you much). This is why the book and the example code do not cover or require HashiCorp's paid services, Terraform Cloud or Terraform Enterprise. And this is why I've released all of the code examples as open source.

Open Source Code Examples

You can find all of the code samples in the book at the following URL:

[*https://github.com/brikis98/terraform-up-and-running-code*](https://github.com/brikis98/terraform-up-and-running-code)

You might want to check out this repo before you begin reading so you can follow along with all the examples on your own computer:

```
git clone https://github.com/brikis98/terraform-up-and-running-code.git
```

The code examples in that repo are in the *code* folder, and they are organized first by the tool or language (e.g., Terraform, Packer, OPA) and then by chapter. The one exception is the Go code used for automated tests in **Chapter 9**, which lives in the *terraform* folder to follow the *examples*, *modules*, and *test* folder layout recommended in that chapter. **Table P-1** shows a few examples of where to find different types of code examples in the code samples repo.

Table P-1. Where to find different types of code examples in the code samples repo

Type of code	Chapter	Folder to look at in the samples repo
Terraform	Chapter 2	<i>code/terraform/02-intro-to-terraform-syntax</i>
Terraform	Chapter 5	<i>code/terraform/05-tips-and-tricks</i>
Packer	Chapter 1	<i>code/packer/01-why-terraform</i>
OPA	Chapter 9	<i>code/opa/09-testing-terraform-code</i>
Go	Chapter 9	<i>code/terraform/09-testing-terraform-code/test</i>

It's worth noting that most of the examples show you what the code looks like at the *end* of a chapter. If you want to maximize your learning, you're better off writing the code yourself, from scratch, and checking the "official" solutions only at the very end.

You'll begin writing code in **Chapter 2**, where you'll learn how to use Terraform to deploy a basic cluster of web servers from scratch. After that, follow the instructions in each subsequent chapter on how to develop and improve this web server cluster example. Make the changes as instructed, try to write all the code yourself, and use the sample code in the GitHub repo only as a way to check your work or get yourself unstuck.