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Host a Website on Amazon S3

A

Andrei Boboc

The screenshot shows a landing page with the following content:

Everyone should be in a job they love II

Nextwork alumni student
Building the best online learning experience to switch careers and upskill.
Starting with AWS certifications.

Enter your email

You're on the list! 🎉

We are still in a closed beta but will reach out with official launch dates soon. Let's do it!

Oh snap! That email didn't work, give it another go.

Nextwork journey starting point



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Andrei Boboc

NextWork Student

nextwork.org

Introducing Today's Project!

Project overview

In this project, I will demonstrate... I'm doing this project to learn...

Tools and concepts

The service i used was Amazon S3.

Time, challenges, and wins

This project took me around an hour to complete.

A**Andrei Boboc**

NextWork Student

nextwork.org

How I Set Up an S3 Bucket

What I did in this step

In this step I will open Amazon S3 and create a bucket.

How long it took to create the bucket

Creating a bucket took me about a minute.

Region selection

I chose US East 1 ast it is the default region, I am in europe and I am not too affected by this choice

Understanding bucket name uniqueness

S3 bucket names are globally unique! This means that two buckets with the same name cannot exist globally

A

Andrei Boboc

NextWork Student

nextwork.org

The screenshot shows the AWS S3 console interface. At the top, there's a green success message: "Successfully created bucket 'nextwork-website-project-andreiboboc'. To upload files and folders, or to configure additional bucket settings, choose View details." Below this, the "General purpose buckets" section lists two buckets:

| Name | AWS Region | Creation date |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| aws-cloudtrail-log-839185959892-71c5d004 | US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1 | October 20, 2025, 13:31:22 (UTC+03:00) |
| nextwork-website-project-andreiboboc | US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1 | December 22, 2025, 21:39:42 (UTC+02:00) |

Other sections visible include "Account snapshot" (with a link to "View dashboard") and "External access summary - new". The bottom of the page includes standard AWS navigation links like CloudShell, Feedback, and Console Mobile App.

A**Andrei Boboc**

NextWork Student

nextwork.org

Upload Website Files to S3

What I did in this step

In this step I have downloaded the HTML index file that sets up my website. I downloaded a zip file of images for my website And I will upload both files into my S3 bucket.

Files I uploaded

I uploaded two files to my S3 bucket - they were an index HTML file and a folder

How the files work together

Both files are necessary for this project as one represents the website itself and the other represents the images that the website is using

A

Andrei Boboc

NextWork Student

nextwork.org

The screenshot shows the AWS S3 console interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the AWS logo, search bar, and account information (Account ID: A131-0988-9107, United States (N. Virginia)). Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: Amazon S3 > Buckets > nextwork-website-project-andreiboboc. The main content area is titled "nextwork-website-project-andreiboboc" with a "info" link. Below the title are tabs for Objects, Metadata, Properties, Permissions, Metrics, Management, and Access Points. The "Objects" tab is selected, showing a list of 2 items:

| Name | Type | Last modified | Size | Storage class |
|--|--------|---|---------|---------------|
| index.html | html | December 22, 2025, 21:45:37 (UTC+02:00) | 58.8 KB | Standard |
| NextWork - Everyone should be in a job... they love files/ | Folder | | | |

At the bottom of the page, there are links for CloseShell, Feedback, and Console Mobile App, along with copyright information: © 2025, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates.

A**Andrei Boboc**

NextWork Student

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Static Website Hosting on S3

What I did in this step

In this step we will configure the bucket for website public hosting on the internet.

Understanding website hosting

Website hosting means instructing the bucket to make the website publicly available in the form of a URL.

How I enabled website hosting

To enable website hosting with my S3 bucket, I used the "Properties" Tab from S3 after selecting my bucket and scrolling all the way down to enable static website hosting and finally I filled in my details.

Access Control Lists (ACLs)

An ACL is a set of rules who determines who can access and cannot access the contents of the bucket (the files).

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Andrei Boboc

NextWork Student

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The screenshot shows the 'Edit static website hosting' configuration page for an S3 bucket named 'nextwork-website-project-andreiboboc'. The 'Static website hosting' section is enabled. Under 'Hosting type', 'Host a static website' is selected, with the bucket endpoint 'nextwork-website-project-andreiboboc.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com' listed as the web address. The 'Index document' field contains 'index.html', and the 'Error document - optional' field contains 'error.html'. A note at the top right of the configuration area states: 'For your customers to access content at the website endpoint, you must make all your content publicly readable. To do so, you can edit the S3 Block Public Access settings for the bucket. For more information, see Using Amazon S3 Block Public Access.' Below the configuration area, there is a table titled 'Redirection rules - optional' with one row containing the value '1'. At the bottom of the page, there are links for CloudShell, Feedback, and Console Mobile App, along with copyright information and privacy terms.

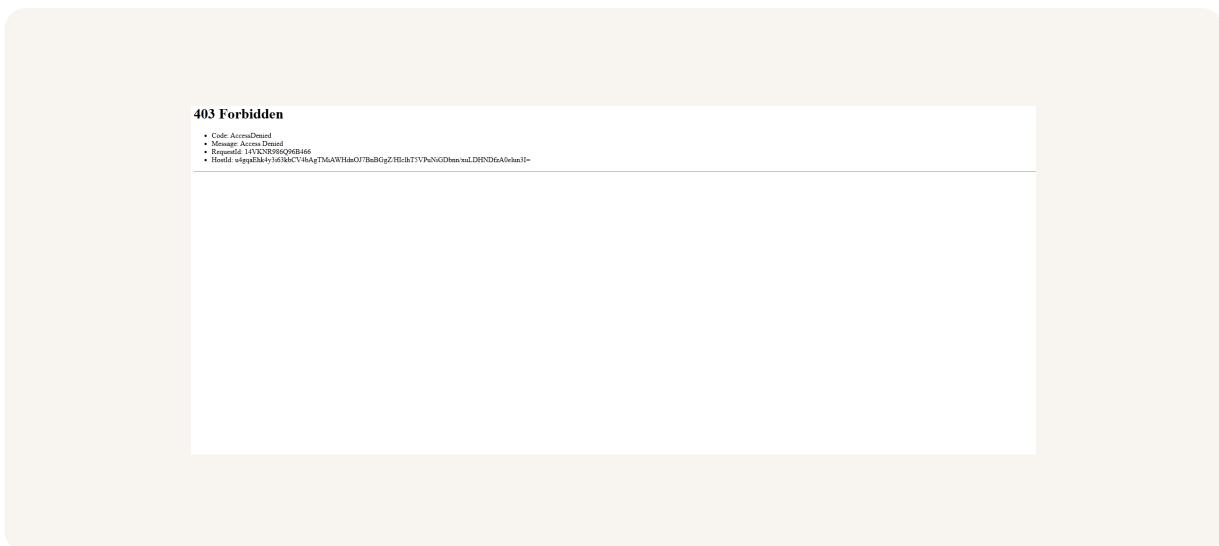
Bucket Endpoints

Understanding bucket endpoint URLs

Once static website is enabled, S3 produces a bucket endpoint URL, which is the URL users follow to access the website stored on my bucket.

What I saw when I tested the endpoint

When I first visited the bucket endpoint URL, I saw a "403 Forbidden" error which is due to the fact that the contents of the bucket are not publicly available.



A

Andrei Boboc
NextWork Student

nextwork.org

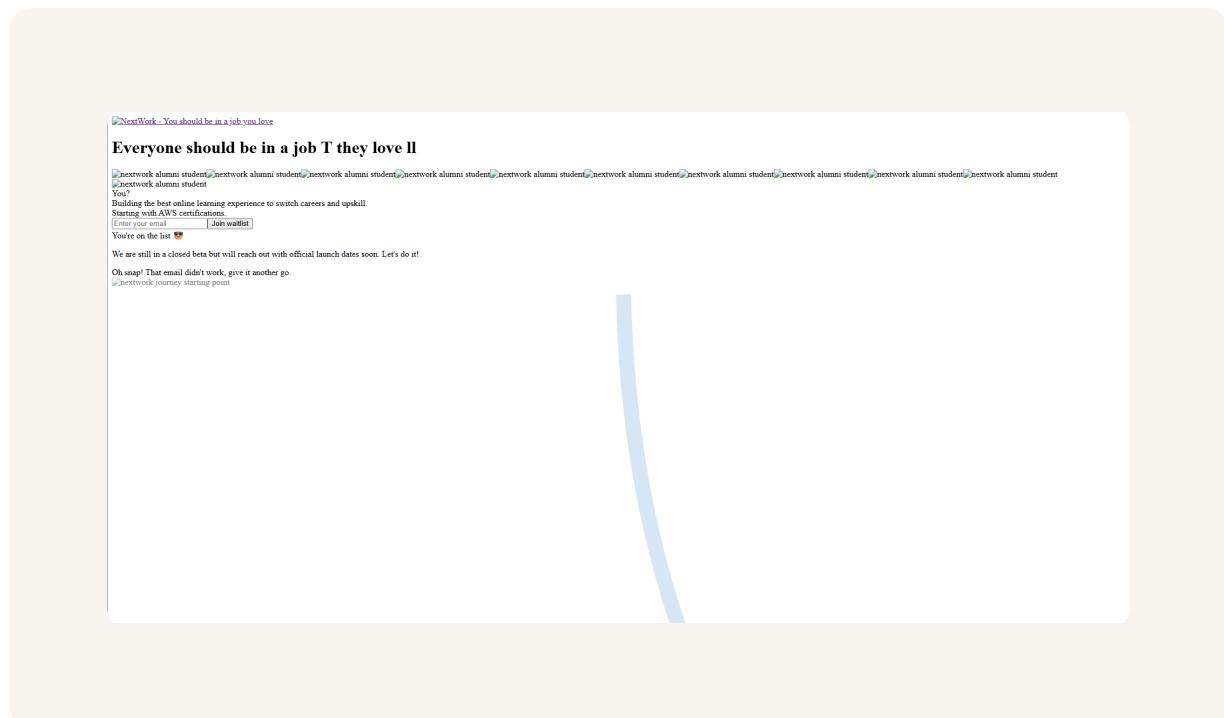
Success!

What I did in this step

In this step, we are making the files inside my bucket publicly accessible in order for the website to be live on the internet.

How I resolved the 403 error

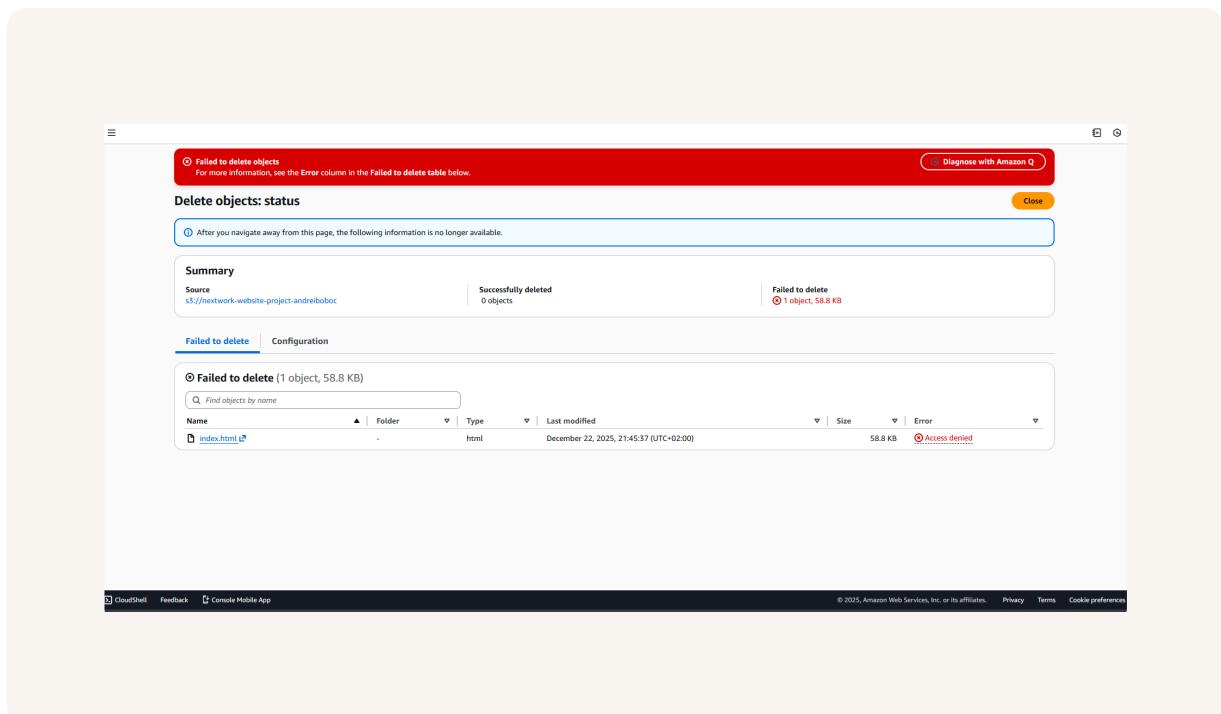
To resolve this 403 Forbidden error, I made the index.html file publicly available with ACLs.



Bucket Policies

Understanding bucket policies

An alternative to ACLs are bucket policies, which are snippets of code we can use in order to enforce access to objects. The benefit of using bucket policies is that you have more control of who and what they can do.



What my bucket policy does

The bucket policy stops anyone from deleting the object in the bucket.



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