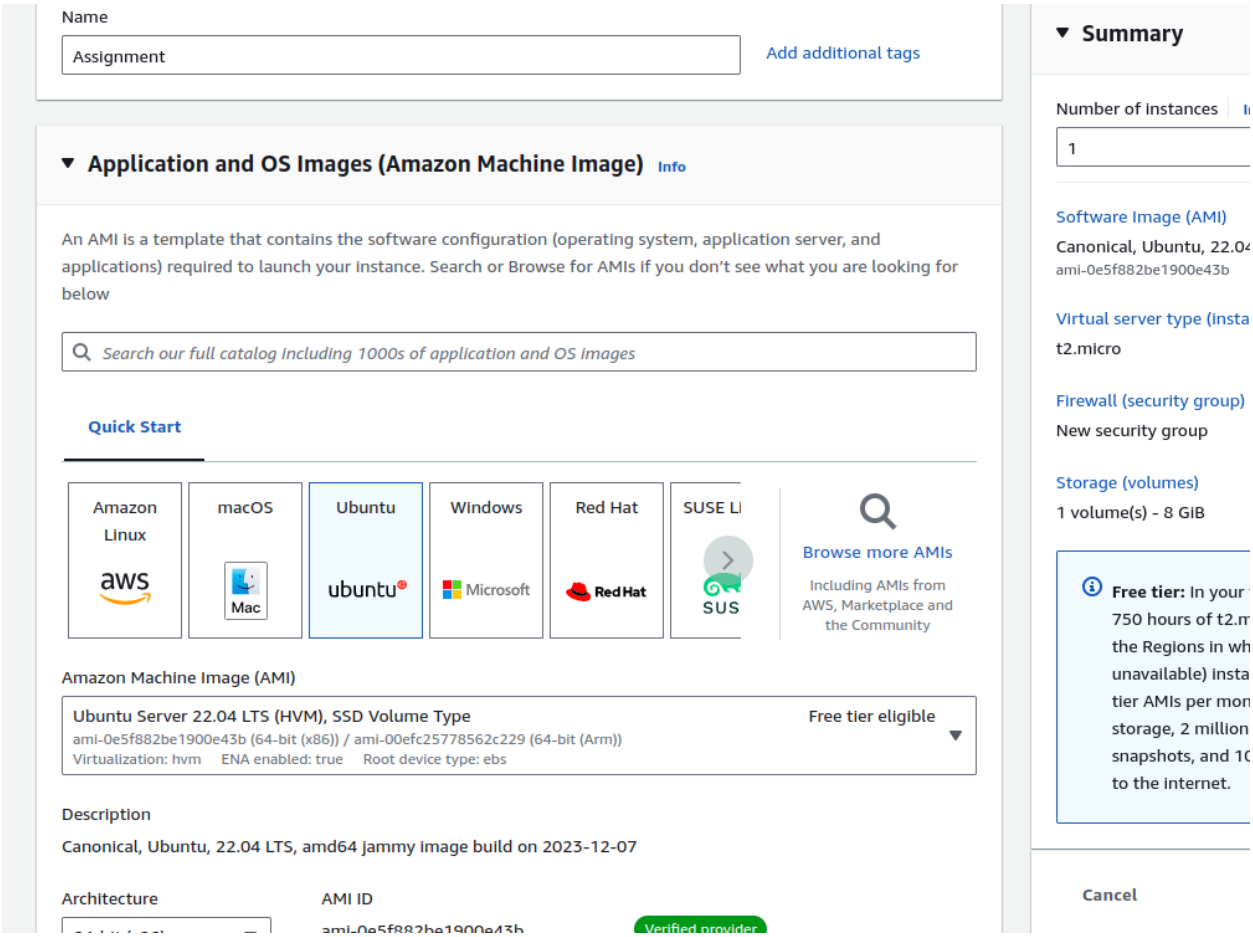
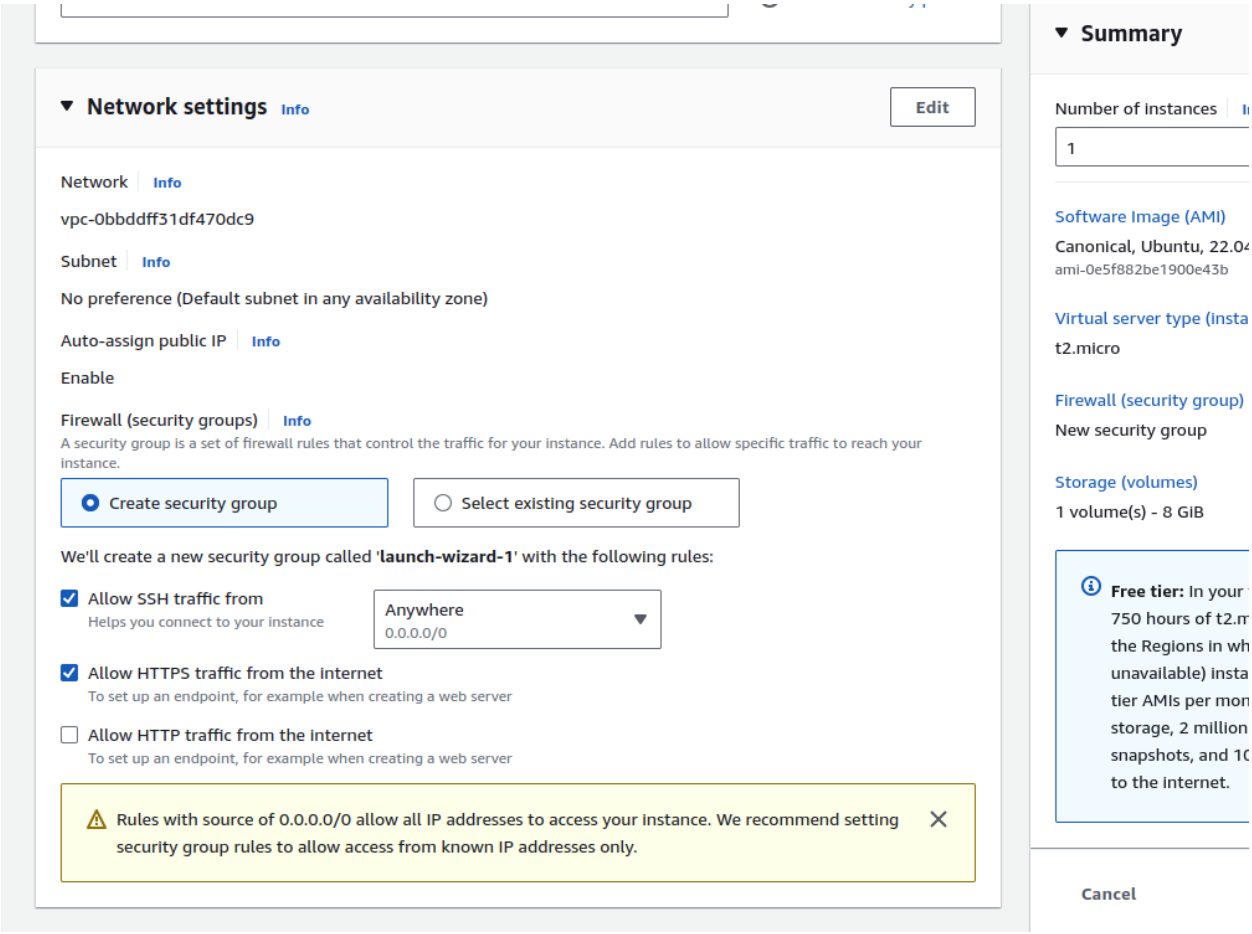
Server Provisioning:

1: Provision a Virtual Private Server (VPS) with a major cloud provider (e.g., AWS, Azure, Google Cloud, or DigitalOcean) to host the WordPress website.

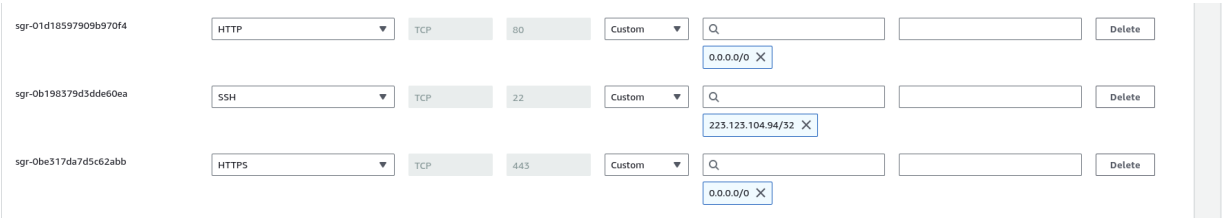
2. Configure the VPS with a secure Linux distribution (e.g., Ubuntu 22.04) and ensure that all necessary firewall rules are applied.

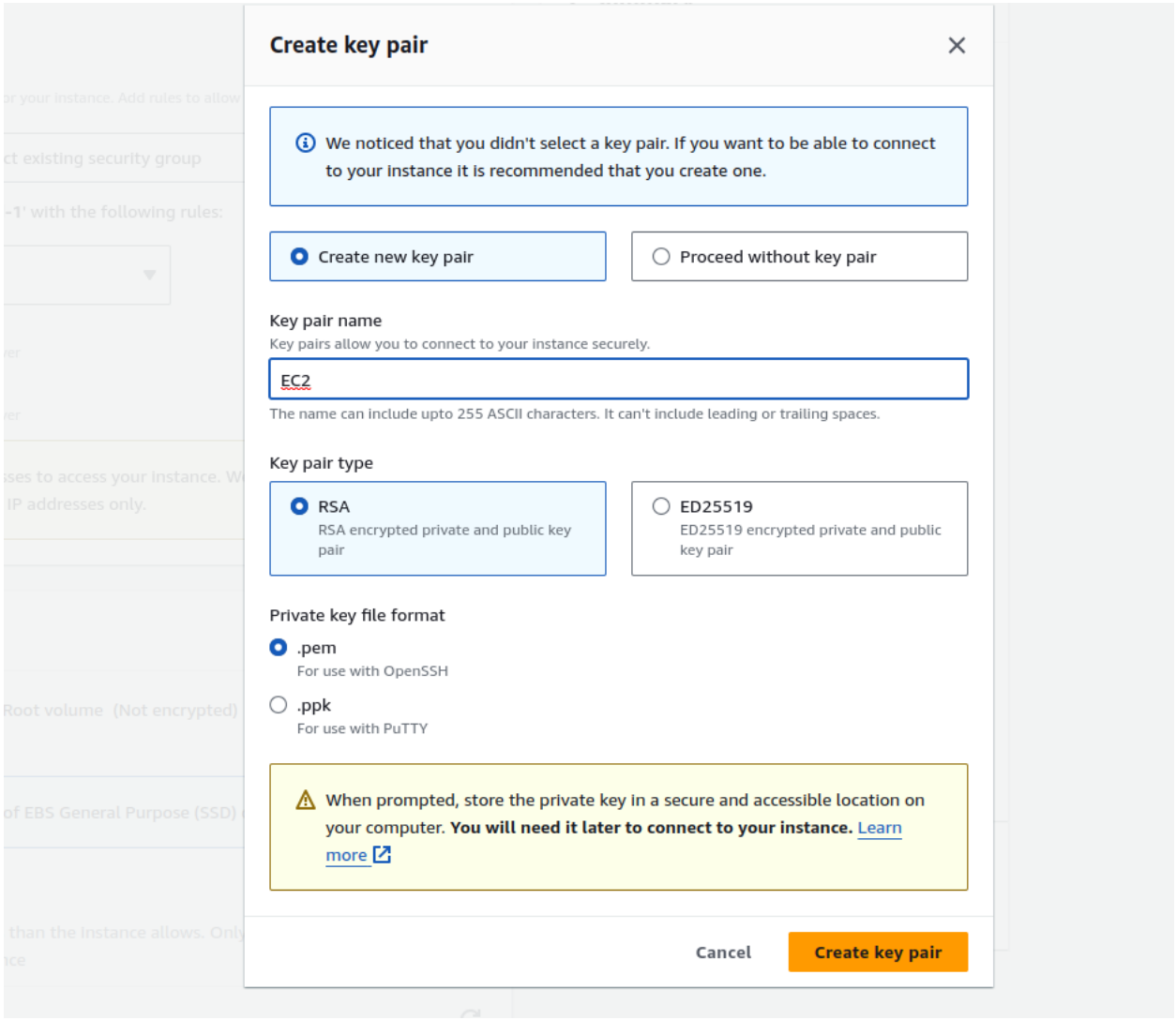
Created EC2 instance on AWS (Ubuntu server = 22.04 LTS)

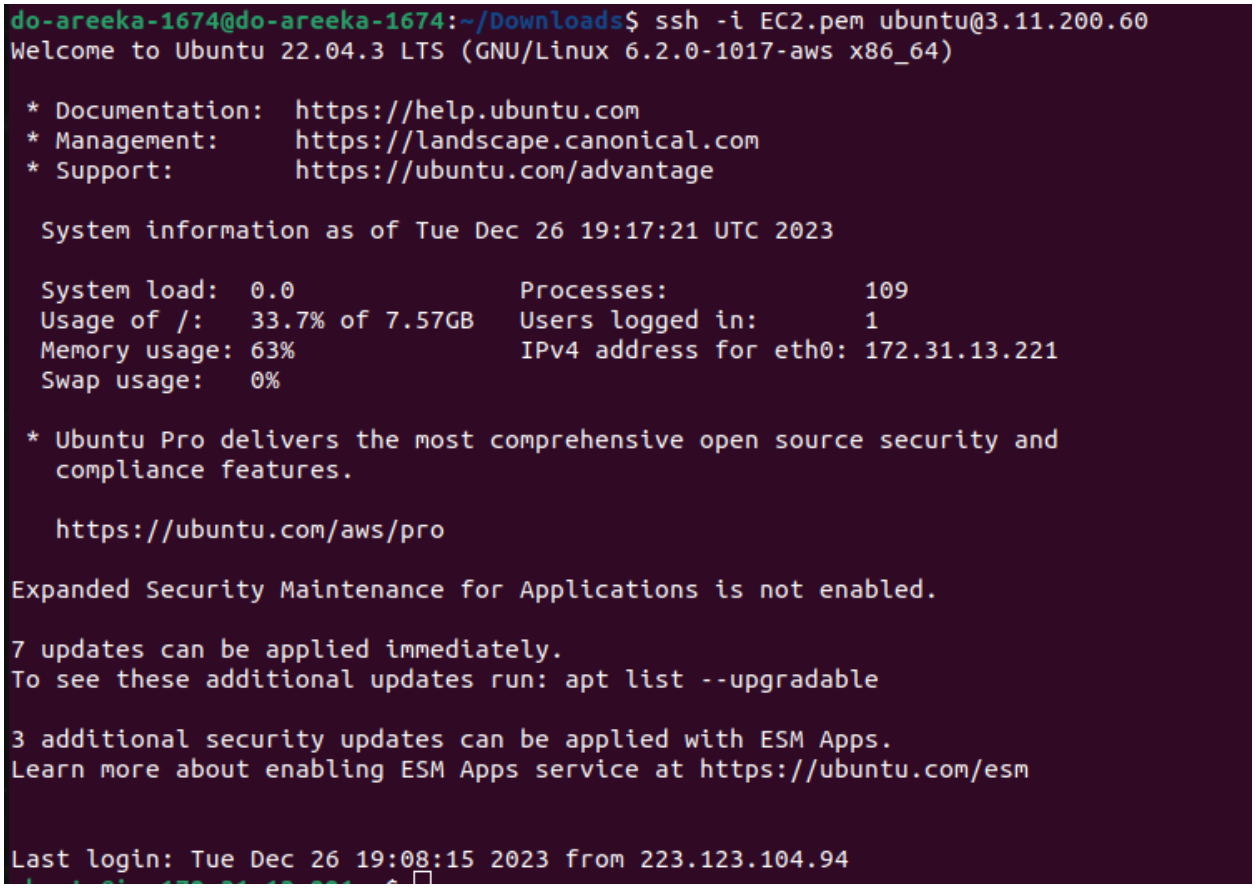




Later on modified SSH traffic to my IP only:



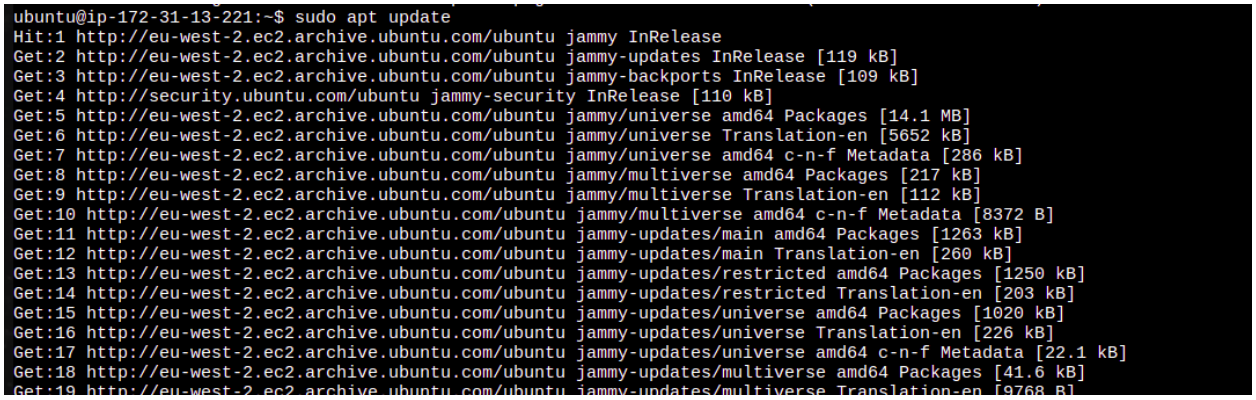

Create key pair
We noticed that you didn't select a key pair. If you want to be able to connect to your instance it is recommended that you create one.
Create new key pair
Proceed without key pair
Key pair name
Key pairs allow you to connect to your instance securely.
EC2
The name can include upto 255 ASCII characters. It can't include leading or trailing spaces.
Key pair type
RSA
RSA encrypted private and public key pair
ED25519
ED25519 encrypted private and public key pair
Private key file format
.pem
For use with OpenSSH
.ppk
For use with PuTTY
When prompted, store the private key in a secure and accessible location on your computer. You will need it later to connect to your instance. Learn more
Cancel
Create key pair


do-areeka-1674@do-areeka-1674:~/Downloads$ ssh -i EC2.pem ubuntu@3.11.200.60
Welcome to Ubuntu 22.04.3 LTS (GNU/Linux 6.2.0-1017-aws x86_64)
* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
* Management: https://landscape.canonical.com
* Support: https://ubuntu.com/advantage
System information as of Tue Dec 26 19:17:21 UTC 2023
System load: 0.0
Usage of /: 33.7% of 7.57GB
Memory usage: 63%
Swap usage: 0%
Processes: 109
Users logged in: 1
IPv4 address for eth0: 172.31.13.221
* Ubuntu Pro delivers the most comprehensive open source security and compliance features.
https://ubuntu.com/aws/pro
Expanded Security Maintenance for Applications is not enabled.
7 updates can be applied immediately.
To see these additional updates run: apt list --upgradable
3 additional security updates can be applied with ESM Apps.
Learn more about enabling ESM Apps service at https://ubuntu.com/esm
Last login: Tue Dec 26 19:08:15 2023 from 223.123.104.94

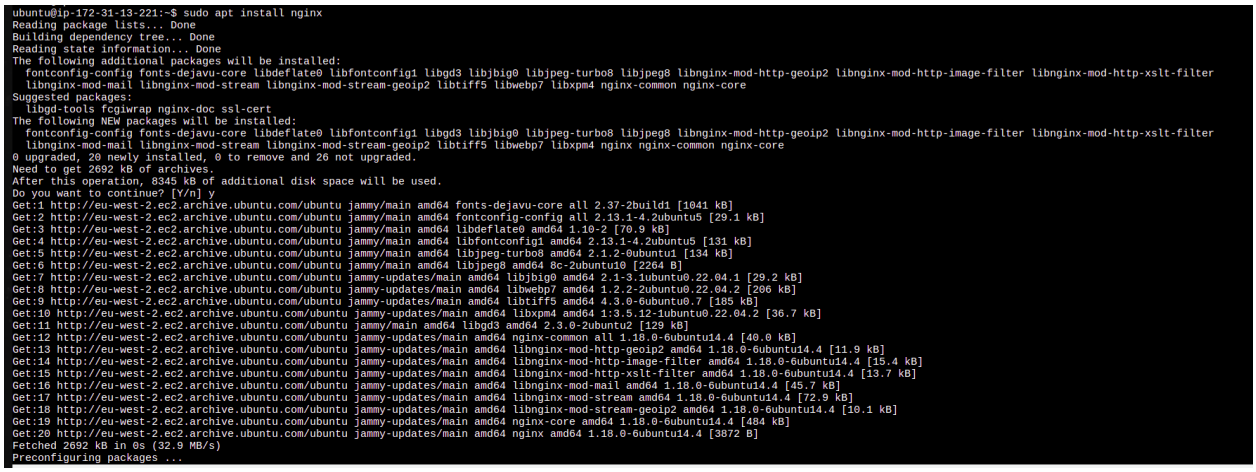
3: Install and configure Nginx as the web server, MySQL/MariaDB as the

database, and PHP for processing dynamic content.

Update packages



Install Nginx



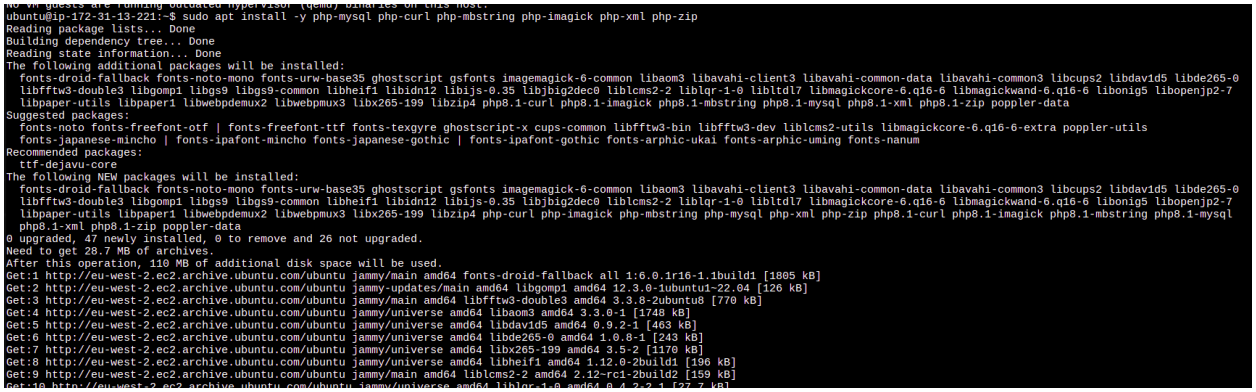
Install MySQL server

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:~$ sudo apt install -y mysql-server
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following additional packages will be installed:
  libcgi-fast-perl libcgi-pm-perl libclone-perl libencode-locale-perl libevent-pthreads-2.1-7 libfcgi-bin libfcgi-perl libfcgi0ldbl libhtml-parser-perl libhtml-tagset-perl libht
  libhttp-date-perl libhttp-message-perl libio-html-perl liblwp-mediatypes-perl libmecab2 libprotobuf-lite23 libtimedate-perl liburi-perl mecab-ipadic mecab-ipadic-utf8 mecab-ut
  mysql-client-8.0 mysql-client-core-8.0 mysql-common mysql-server-8.0 mysql-server-core-8.0
Suggested packages:
  libdata-dump-perl libipc-sharedcache-perl libbusiness-isbn-perl libwww-perl mailx tinyca
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  libcgi-fast-perl libcgi-pm-perl libclone-perl libencode-locale-perl libevent-pthreads-2.1-7 libfcgi-bin libfcgi-perl libfcgi0ldbl libhtml-parser-perl libhtml-tagset-perl libht
  libhttp-date-perl libhttp-message-perl libio-html-perl liblwp-mediatypes-perl libmecab2 libprotobuf-lite23 libtimedate-perl liburi-perl mecab-ipadic mecab-ipadic-utf8 mecab-ut
  mysql-client-8.0 mysql-client-core-8.0 mysql-common mysql-server mysql-server-8.0 mysql-server-core-8.0
0 upgraded, 28 newly installed, 0 to remove and 26 not upgraded.
Need to get 29.6 MB of archives.
After this operation, 243 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 mysql-common all 5.8+1.0.8 [7212 B]
Get:2 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 mysql-client-core-8.0 amd64 8.0.35-0ubuntu0.22.04.1 [2682 kB]
Get:3 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 mysql-client-8.0 amd64 8.0.35-0ubuntu0.22.04.1 [22.7 kB]
Get:4 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libevent-pthreads-2.1-7 amd64 2.1.12-stable-1build3 [7642 B]
Get:5 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libmecab2 amd64 0.996-14build9 [199 kB]
Get:6 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 libprotobuf-lite23 amd64 3.12.4-1ubuntu7.22.04.1 [209 kB]
Get:7 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 mysql-server-core-8.0 amd64 8.0.35-0ubuntu0.22.04.1 [17.6 MB]
Get:8 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 mysql-server-8.0 amd64 8.0.35-0ubuntu0.22.04.1 [1438 kB]
Get:9 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libhtml-tagset-perl all 3.20-4 [12.5 kB]
Get:10 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 liburi-perl all 5.10-1 [78.8 kB]
Get:11 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libhtml-parser-perl amd64 3.76-1build2 [88.4 kB]
Get:12 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libcgi-pm-perl all 4.54-1 [188 kB]
Get:13 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libfcgi0ldbl amd64 2.4.2-2build2 [28.0 kB]
Get:14 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libfcgi-perl amd64 0.82+ds-1build1 [22.8 kB]
Get:15 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libcgi-fast-perl all 1:2.15-1 [10.5 kB]
Get:16 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libclone-perl amd64 0.45-1build3 [11.0 kB]
Get:17 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libencode-locale-perl all 1.05-1.1 [11.8 kB]
Get:18 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libfcgi-bin amd64 2.4.2-2build2 [11.2 kB]
Get:19 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libhtml-template-perl all 2.97-1.1 [59.1 kB]
```

Install PHP

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:~$ sudo apt install -y php-fpm
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following additional packages will be installed:
  bzip2 mailcap mime-support php-common php8.1-cli php8.1-common php8.1-fpm php8.1-opcache php8.1-readline
Suggested packages:
  bzip2-doc php-pear
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  bzip2 mailcap mime-support php-common php-fpm php8.1-cli php8.1-common php8.1-fpm php8.1-opcache php8.1-readline
0 upgraded, 10 newly installed, 0 to remove and 26 not upgraded.
Need to get 5256 kB of archives.
After this operation, 21.7 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 bzip2 amd64 1.0.8-5build1 [34.8 kB]
Get:2 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 mailcap all 3.70+nmu1ubuntu1 [23.8 kB]
Get:3 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 mime-support all 3.66 [3696 B]
Get:4 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 php-common all 2:92ubuntu1 [12.4 kB]
Get:5 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 php8.1-common amd64 8.1.2-1ubuntu2.14 [1127 kB]
Get:6 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 php8.1-opcache amd64 8.1.2-1ubuntu2.14 [365 kB]
Get:7 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 php8.1-readline amd64 8.1.2-1ubuntu2.14 [13.6 kB]
Get:8 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 php8.1-cli amd64 8.1.2-1ubuntu2.14 [1834 kB]
Get:9 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/universe amd64 php8.1-fpm amd64 8.1.2-1ubuntu2.14 [1840 kB]
Get:10 http://eu-west-2.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/universe amd64 php-fpm all 2:8.1+92ubuntu1 [2838 B]
Fetched 5256 kB in 0s (42.2 MB/s)
Selecting previously unselected package bzip2.
(Reading database ... 65643 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../0-bzip2_1.0.8-5build1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking bzip2 (1.0.8-5build1) ...
Selecting previously unselected package mailcap.
Preparing to unpack .../1-mailcap_3.70+nmu1ubuntu1_all.deb ...
Unpacking mailcap (3.70+nmu1ubuntu1) ...
Selecting previously unselected package mime-support.
Preparing to unpack .../2-mime-support_3.66_all.deb ...
Unpacking mime-support (3.66) ...
Selecting previously unselected package php-common.
Preparing to unpack .../3-php-common_2%3a92ubuntu1_all.deb ...
Unpacking php-common (2:92ubuntu1) ...
Selecting previously unselected package php8.1-common
```

Installed the required PHP modules.



Configured Nginx

Inside of the existing `location /` block, let's adjust the `try_files` list. Comment out the default setting by prepending the line with a pound sign (`#`) and then add the highlighted line. This way, instead of returning a 404 error as the default option, control is passed to the `index.php` file with the request arguments.

This should look something like this:

```
        #
        # Self signed certs generated by the ssl-cert package
        # Don't use them in a production server!
        #
        # include snippets/snakeoil.conf;

        root /var/www/html;

        # Add index.php to the list if you are using PHP
#       index index.html index.htm index.nginx-debian.html;
index index.php index.html index.htm index.nginx-debian.html;
        server_name _;

        location / {
                # First attempt to serve request as file, then
                # as directory, then fall back to displaying a 404.
#               try_files $uri $uri/ =404;
try_files $uri $uri/ /index.php$is_args$args;
        }

        # pass PHP scripts to FastCGI server
        #
        #location ~ \.php$ {
```

Website Configuration:

1: Set up a WordPress website on the VPS and secure it following best practices(e.g., strong passwords, limited user privileges, etc.).

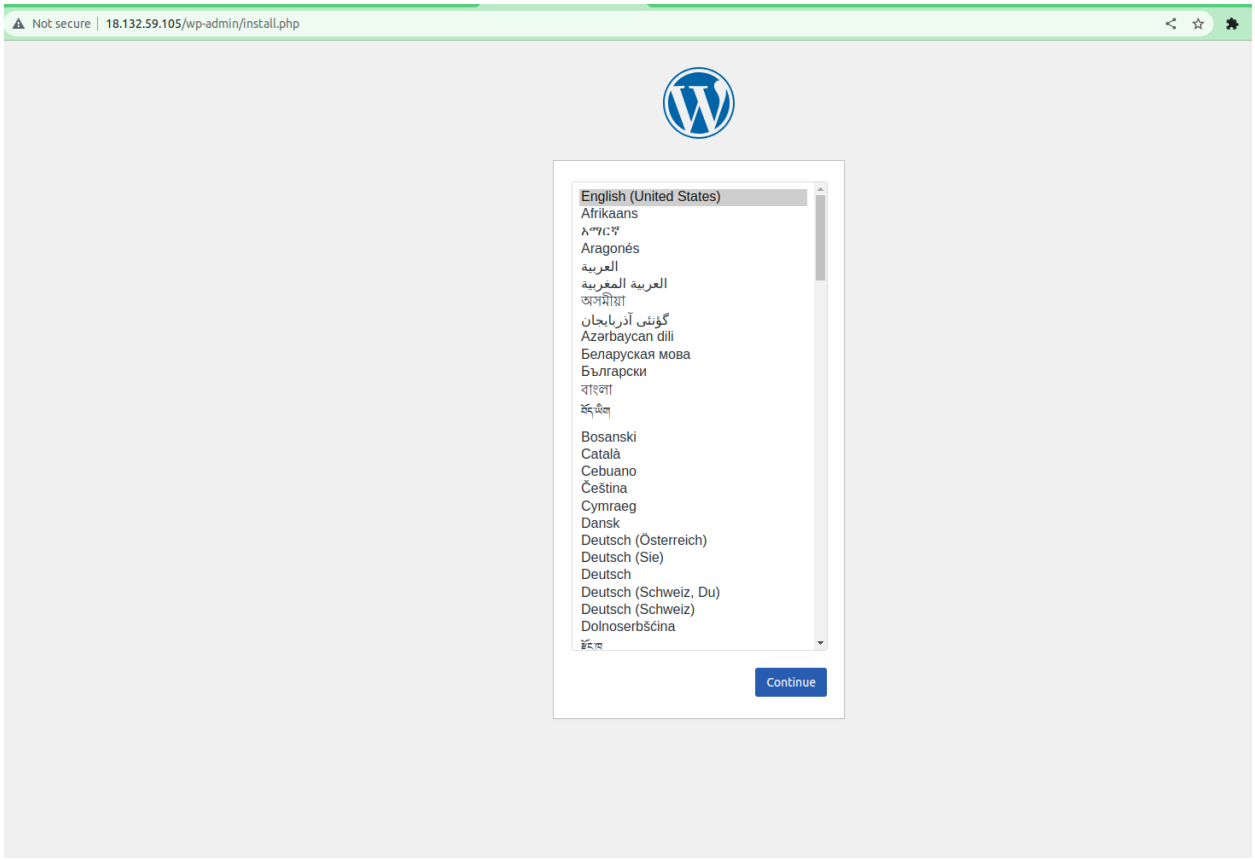
Domain is **linuxisfun.ddns.net**
Admin: http://linuxisfun.ddns.net/input
Username: areeka-nankani-CE
Password: YioVSKvNIlQaobhrp2

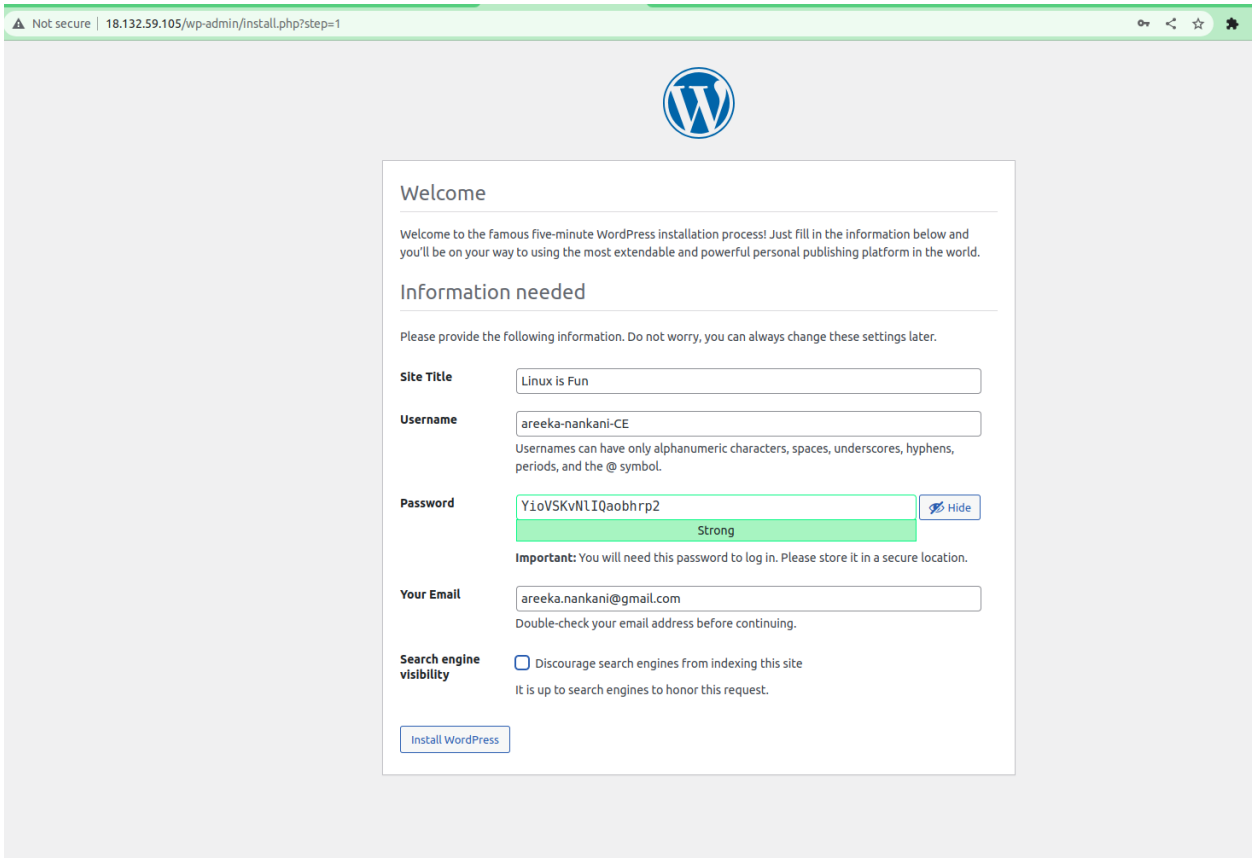
Created DB, setup admin rights and grant access

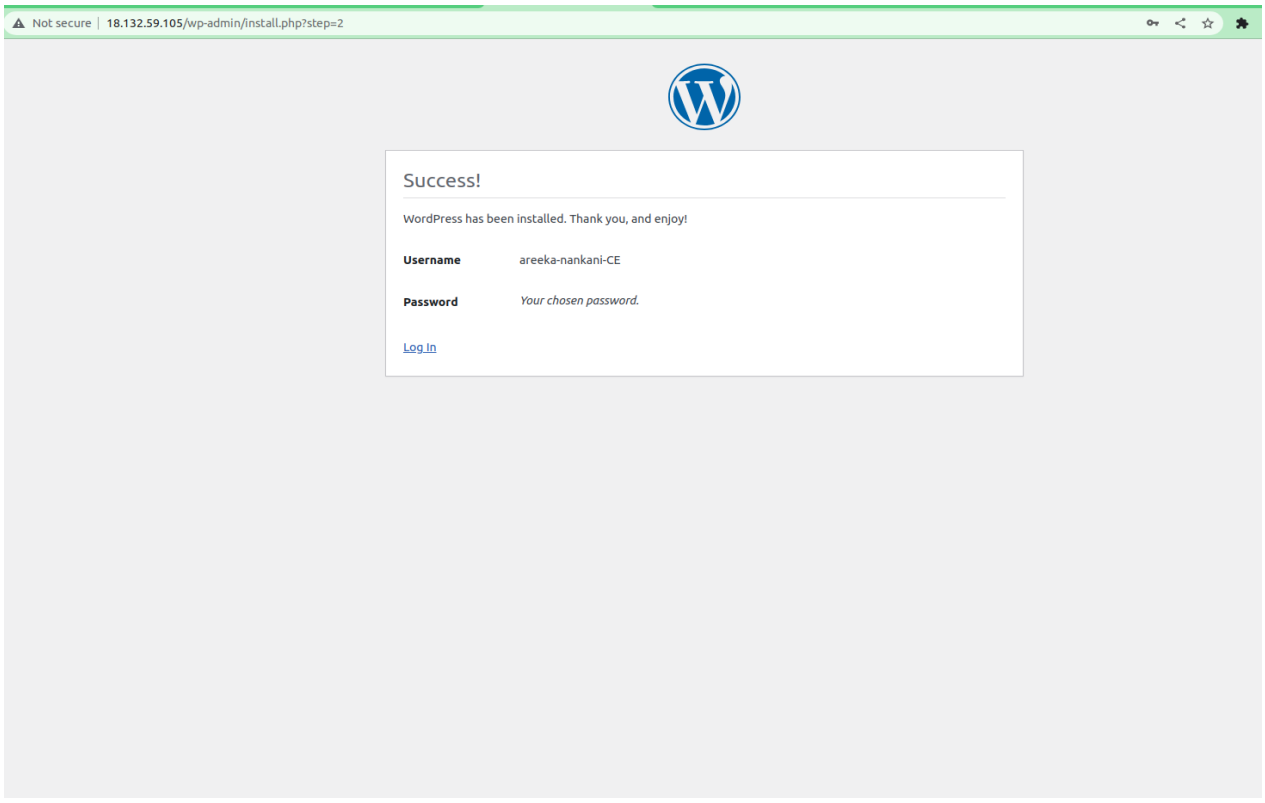
```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:~$ sudo mysqladmin create wordpress
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:~$ sudo mysql
Welcome to the MySQL monitor.  Commands end with ; or \g.
Your MySQL connection id is 9
Server version: 8.0.35-0ubuntu0.22.04.1 (Ubuntu)

Copyright (c) 2000, 2023, Oracle and/or its affiliates.

Oracle is a registered trademark of Oracle Corporation and/or its
affiliates. Other names may be trademarks of their respective
owners.

Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.

mysql> CREATE USER wordpress@localhost identified by 'wordpress123';
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.03 sec)

mysql> GRANT ALL on wordpress.* to wordpress@localhost;
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.00 sec)

mysql> exit
Bye
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:~$
```

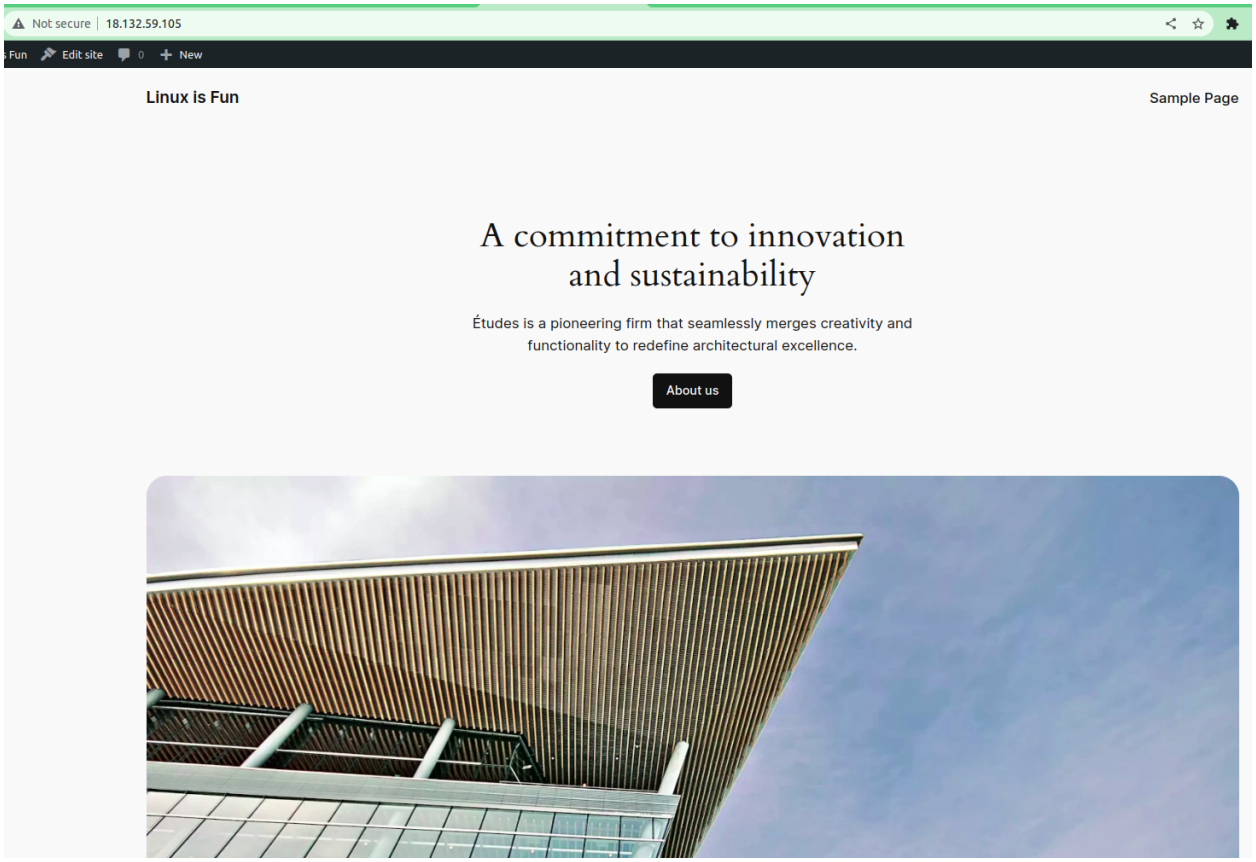
Install Wordpress

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:/etc/nginx/sites-available$ ls -al
total 23924
drwxr-xr-x 3 root   root        4096 Dec 22 16:28 .
drwxr-xr-x 8 root   root        4096 Dec 22 15:08 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 root   root        2520 Dec 22 16:19 default
drwxr-xr-x 5 nobody nogroup     4096 Nov  7 19:25 wordpress
-rw-r--r-- 1 root   root    24480560 Dec 22 16:26 wordpress-6.4.tar.gz
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:/etc/nginx/sites-available$ sudo mv wordpress/* /var/www/html
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:/etc/nginx/sites-available$ sudo chown -R www-data:www-data /var/www/htr
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:/etc/nginx/sites-available$
```


Not secure | 18.132.59.105/wp-admin/install.php
English (United States)
Afrikaans
አማርኛ
Aragonés
العربية
العربية المغربية
অসমীয়া
گؤنئی آذربایجان
Azərbaycan dili
Беларуская мова
Български
বাংলা
Bosanski
Català
Cebuano
Čeština
Cymraeg
Dansk
Deutsch (Österreich)
Deutsch (Sie)
Deutsch
Deutsch (Schweiz, Du)
Deutsch (Schweiz)
Dolnoserbšćina
Continue

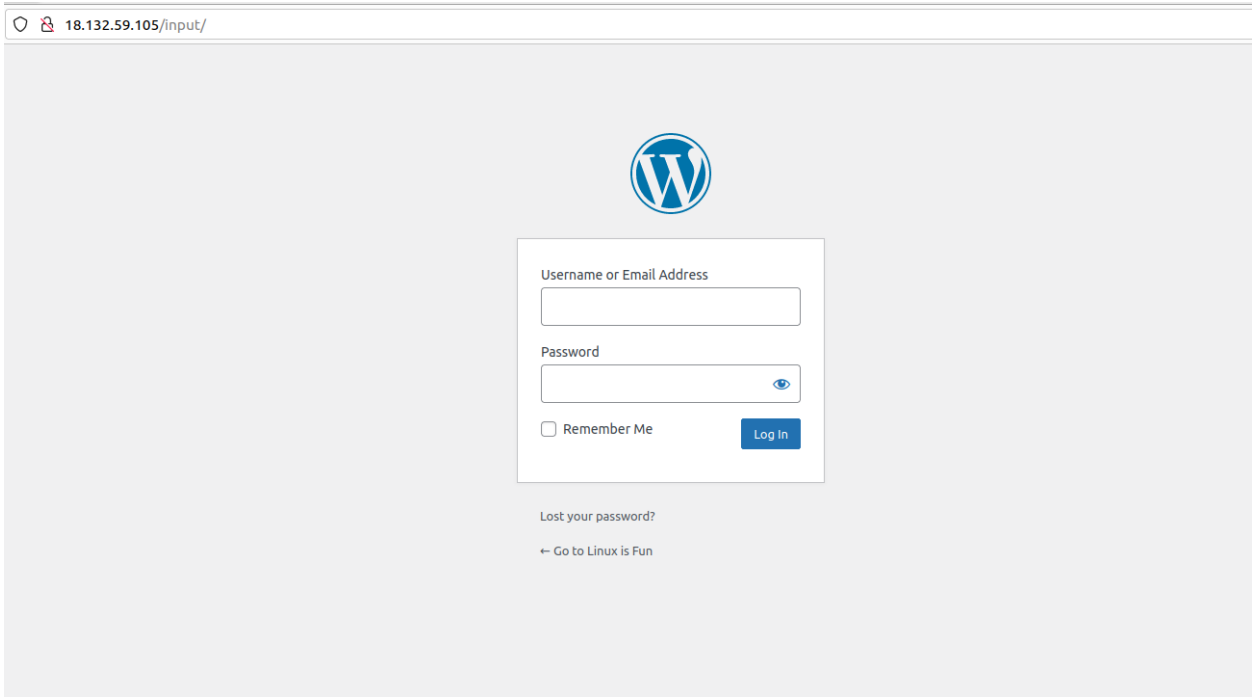

Not secure | 18.132.59.105/wp-admin/install.php?step=1
Welcome
Welcome to the famous five-minute WordPress installation process! Just fill in the information below and you'll be on your way to using the most extendable and powerful personal publishing platform in the world.
Information needed
Please provide the following information. Do not worry, you can always change these settings later.
Site Title
Linux is Fun
Username
areeka-nankani-CE
Usernames can have only alphanumeric characters, spaces, underscores, hyphens, periods, and the @ symbol.
Password
YioVSKvNlIQaobhrp2
Hide
Strong
Important: You will need this password to log in. Please store it in a secure location.
Your Email
areeka.nankani@gmail.com
Double-check your email address before continuing.
Search engine visibility
Discourage search engines from indexing this site
It is up to search engines to honor this request.
Install WordPress


Not secure | 18.132.59.105/wp-admin/install.php?step=2
Success!
WordPress has been installed. Thank you, and enjoy!
Username
areeka-nankani-CE
Password
Your chosen password.
Log In



- Installed security plugin, changed wp-admin url using wps-hide-login and setup difficult login details for security.
- While creating user, we can setup roles and privileges accordingly.
- For best practices we should keep plugins/themes/wordpress updated.
- wp-rocket cache plugin for better performance of site.

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:/var/www/html$ wp plugin list
+----------------------------+--------+--------+---------+
| name                       | status | update | version |
+----------------------------+--------+--------+---------+
| wordfence                  | active | none   | 7.11.0  |
| enhance-wp-rocket-loadcss  | active | none   | 1.5     |
| wps-hide-login             | active | none   | 1.9.10  |
```



To grab secure values from the WordPress secret key generator, type:

curl -s https://api.wordpress.org/secret-key/1.1/salt/

We will get back unique values that look something like this:

```
 */
#define( 'AUTH_KEY',         'put your unique phrase here' );
#define( 'SECURE_AUTH_KEY',  'put your unique phrase here' );
#define( 'LOGGED_IN_KEY',    'put your unique phrase here' );
#define( 'NONCE_KEY',        'put your unique phrase here' );
#define( 'AUTH_SALT',        'put your unique phrase here' );
#define( 'SECURE_AUTH_SALT', 'put your unique phrase here' );
#define( 'LOGGED_IN_SALT',   'put your unique phrase here' );
#define( 'NONCE_SALT',       'put your unique phrase here' );

define('AUTH_KEY',         'G/)V|gf|4}Be<qalbs+ZXJN:%N+6Y}OOgz29TJ8zseWe8lH7J)$Zu9]jnn;9J=g(');
define('SECURE_AUTH_KEY',  'n=j52X$@x){tPYrL?x>)!O$lp-JWiE=&Y#nUaj (mB$>Wc;4iC(nUnVcmKcMck$e');
define('LOGGED_IN_KEY',    '}slBo;|fK|GI`3+XZ<uc|c_~FL$?6^R0T_(4h>>VfR%4fywu~*J#XWYo0g4<=N$/');
define('NONCE_KEY',        '7HXo29$*uSt~C=l&p,%8w+Ng8^R>[=qFM*IbG~b6*0,.nvGd|d|QVd`a5GWg5-aW');
define('AUTH_SALT',        ' ulfFTh>-5+juam+t%J=|b1pTpM)=B+,bzfmO@.(V8ltG[&Y3j*|^En!() qC!m<');
define('SECURE_AUTH_SALT', '!@8mP$`|q5TmO`RkZ5|jc}fwW+z+Dm}!P;4 PgVH$|1+k7C!gxKH9T?j[igc%lA+');
define('LOGGED_IN_SALT',   'Jc`Q,-QOO]!y|{Q%L;-c+-aC[>Kt,$:W3e0^IsrLQyFsh;m$hM+h^co#t@#dmu-q');
define('NONCE_SALT',       'E4~&{ty![-HD:8p2dW1wEcyJn<edTw~>Wkr@^c( }$EPm `Nf`-3=;`;+LyCGAZ(');

/**#@-*/
```

2: Implement SSL/TLS certificate using Let's Encrypt for secure communication between the server and clients.

Registered domain, created elastic IP and associate it with EC2 instance.

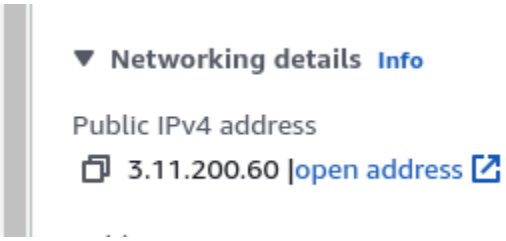
Step 1: Allocate an Elastic IP

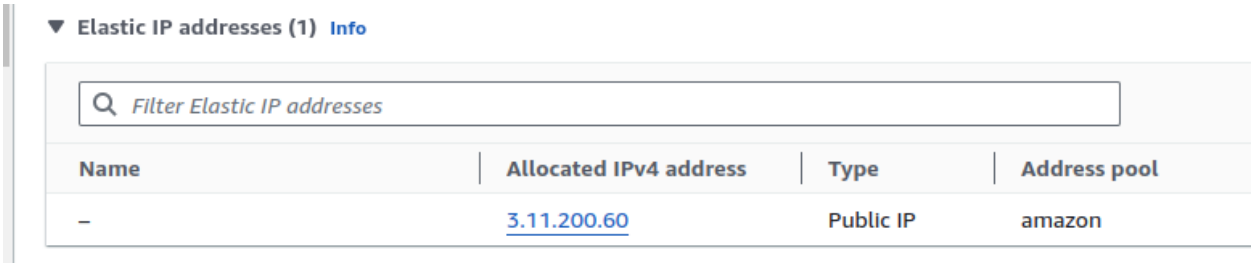
1. Go to the AWS Management Console and navigate to the EC2 Dashboard.
2. From the navigation bar, click on “Elastic IPs” under “Network & Security.”
3. Click on “Allocate new address” and choose “Amazon’s pool of IPv4 addresses.”
4. Click on “Allocate” to create a new Elastic IP.

Step 2: Associate the Elastic IP with your EC2 Instance

1. From the Elastic IPs list, select the newly allocated Elastic IP.
2. Click on “Actions” and choose “Associate IP address.”
3. In the “Associate Elastic IP address” dialog, select your EC2 instance from the drop-down menu.
4. Click on “Associate” to link the Elastic IP with your EC2 instance.

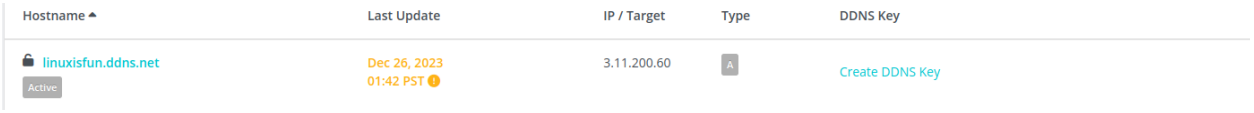
You will notice that IPv4 public address and elastic IP address will be the **same.**

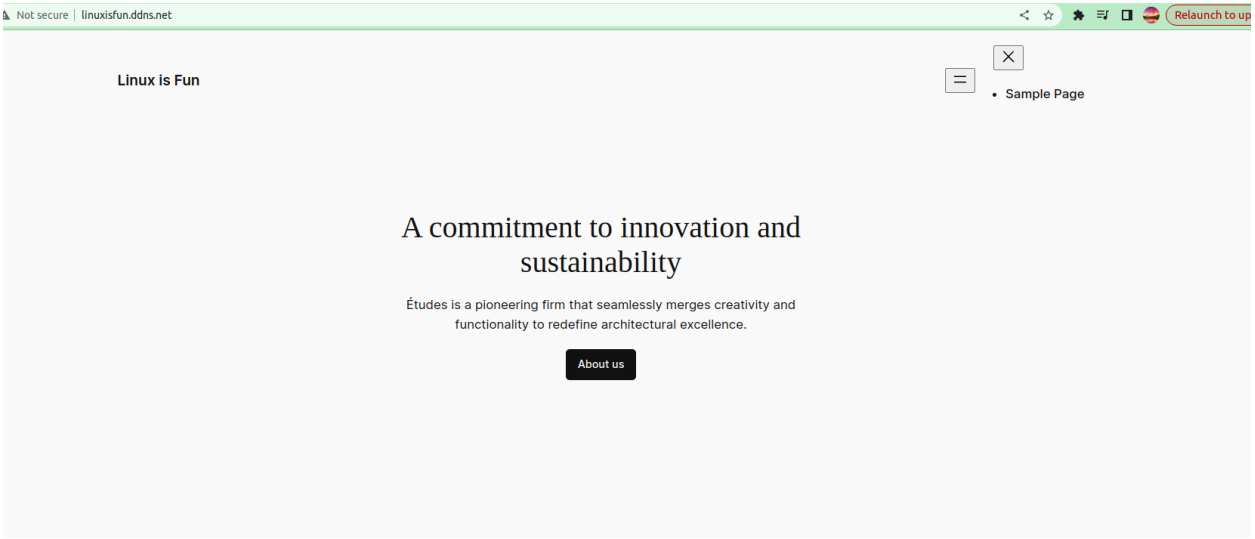




Step 3: Update DNS Records with Domain Registrar

1. Log in to your domain registrar's website (where you registered the domain).
2. Locate the DNS management settings for domain.
3. Add an "A" record with a blank or "@" hostname, pointing to the Elastic IP address you just associated with your EC2 instance.
4. Save the changes to update your DNS records.

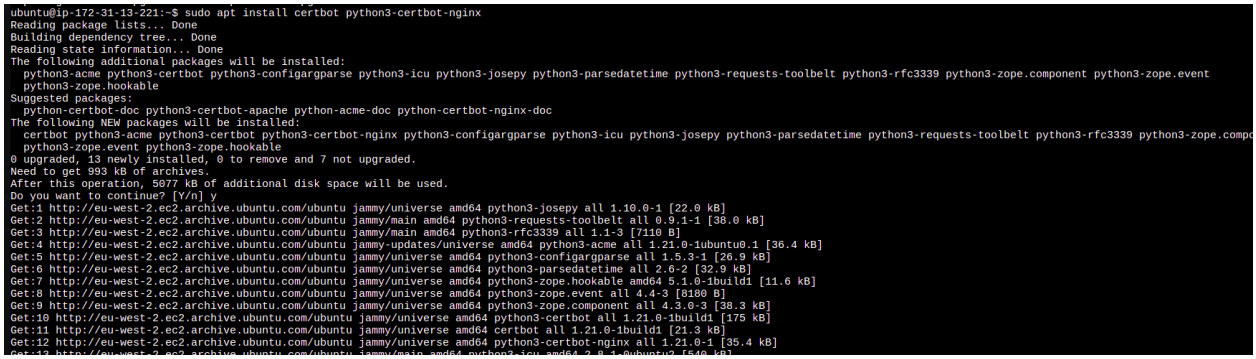


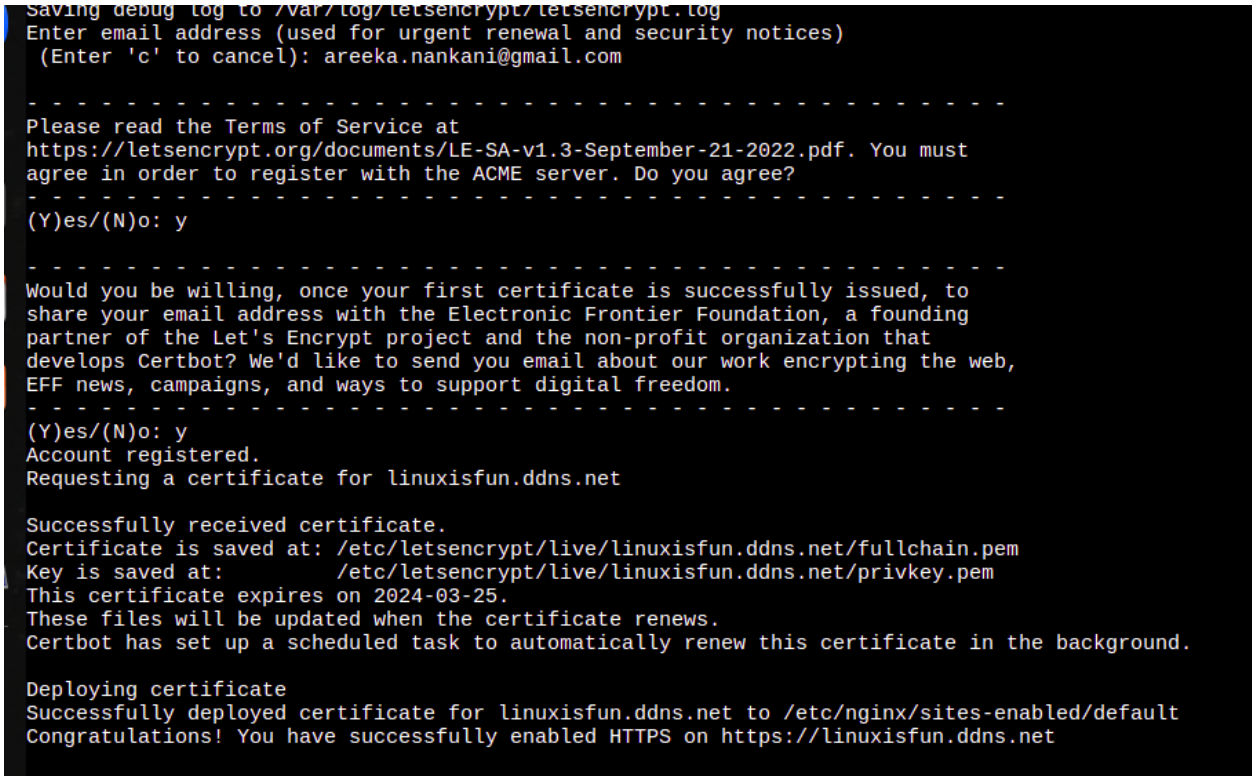


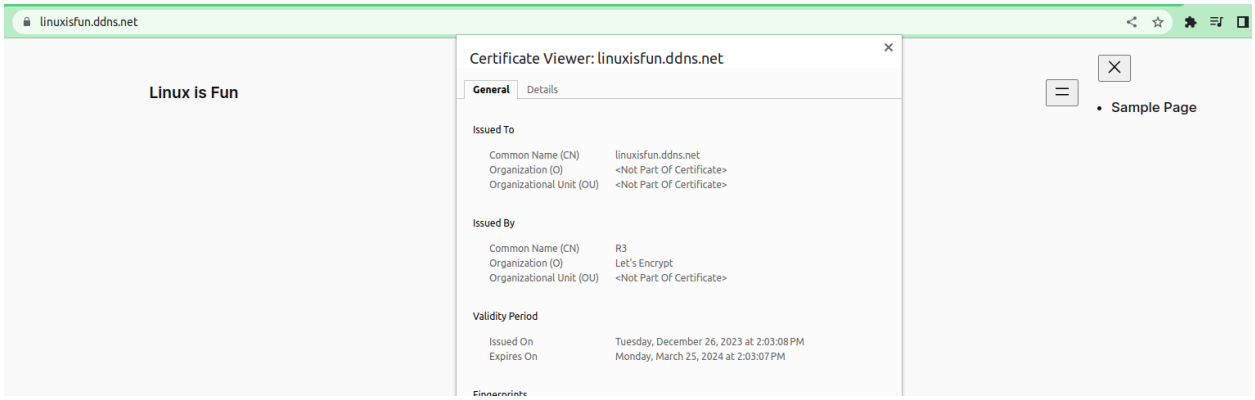
Installing Let's Encrypt certificate.

- Connect to your EC2 instance via SSH.
- Update package lists: **`sudo apt update`**
- Install Certbot: **`sudo apt install certbot python3-certbot-nginx`**

- **sudo certbot --nginx -d linuxisfun.ddns.net**
- Restart Nginx to apply changes: **`sudo systemctl restart nginx`**







3: Optimize the Nginx server configuration to enhance website performance (e.g., caching, gzip compression, etc.).

Added gzip compression

```
##
# `gzip` Settings
#
#
gzip on;
gzip_disable "msie6";

gzip_vary on;
gzip_proxied any;
gzip_comp_level 6;
gzip_buffers 16 8k;
gzip_http_version 1.1;
gzip_min_length 256;
gzip_types
  application/atom+xml
  application/geo+json
  application/javascript
  application/x-javascript
  application/json
  application/ld+json
  application/manifest+json
  application/rdf+xml
  application/rss+xml
  application/xhtml+xml
  application/xml
  font/eot
  font/otf
  font/ttf
  image/svg+xml
  text/css
  text/javascript
  text/plain
  text/xml;
```

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:/etc/nginx$ sudo vim nginx.conf
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:/etc/nginx$ sudo nginx -t
nginx: the configuration file /etc/nginx/nginx.conf syntax is ok
nginx: configuration file /etc/nginx/nginx.conf test is successful
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:/etc/nginx$ sudo systemctl restart nginx
ubuntu@ip-172-31-13-221:/etc/nginx$
```

linuxisfun.ddns.net

Results for: http://linuxisfun.ddns.net/

Redirects to: https://linuxisfun.ddns.net/

Gzip Is Enabled

Original Size:	81.97 KB
Gzip Size (compressed):	14.17 KB
Compression %:	**82.72% is compressed**
HTTP Status:	200
Request Time:	1.582 ms

Enable caching:

proxy_cache_path /var/cache/nginx levels=1:2 keys_zone=my_cache:10m max_size=1g inactive=60m use_temp_path=off;

This directive creates a cache with the following parameters:

- /var/cache/nginx: Cache storage location.
- levels=1:2: Cache directory structure.
- keys_zone=my_cache:10m: Cache zone and its size.
- max_size=1g: Maximum cache size.
- inactive=60m: Time after which unused cached content is removed.
- use_temp_path=off: Disable the use of a temporary path for cache storage.

proxy_cache my_cache;

proxy_cache_valid 200 30m;

proxy_cache_valid 404 1m;

add_header X-Proxy-Cache $upstream_cache_status;

These directives enable caching for your website with the following settings:

- proxy_cache my_cache: Use the previously defined cache zone.
- proxy_cache_valid 200 30m: Cache successful responses (HTTP 200) for 30 minutes.
- proxy_cache_valid 404 1m: Cache ‘not found’ responses (HTTP 404) for 1 minute.
- add_header X-Proxy-Cache $upstream_cache_status: Add a header to display the cache status in responses.

```
http {

proxy_cache_path /var/cache/nginx levels=1:2 keys_zone=my_cache:10m max_size=1g inactive=60m use_temp_path=off;

proxy_cache my_cache;
proxy_cache_valid 200 30m;
proxy_cache_valid 404 1m;
add_header X-Proxy-Cache $upstream_cache_status;
```

GitHub Repository Setup:

1: Create a GitHub repository and set up a GitHub Actions workflow for the automated deployment of the WordPress website to the VPS.

2:Ensure that the GitHub Actions workflow includes the necessary steps to install dependencies, build the project, and securely transfer files to the server.

3:Include a README.md file in the GitHub repository with clear instructions on how to set up the environment locally and deploy the website using the GitHub

Actions workflow.

Created repository: https://github.com/areekaa/wordpress-vps-deployment
Unfortunately issue persists yaml file as I do not have experience with on github actions. I have experience on AWS though but have been reading official documents and working on it while resolving errors one by one to make it work.