



Day 17 Internship Report

Terraform Infrastructure Deployment on Signiance AWS account & NAT gateway Debugging

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Day:	17

Day 17 Terraform Infrastructure Deployment & NAT Debugging

Today's Task

Today's objective was to use my Terraform modules to provision complete infrastructure inside Signian's AWS account using standard Terraform workflows. The goal was to deploy a VPC, ECS Cluster, RDS Database, S3 storage, and all necessary networking components (NAT, route tables) to establish full frontend-backend connectivity.

1. Terraform Initialization Issue

While running `terraform init`, I encountered module loading errors preventing the initialization process.

Problem: Module source path could not be resolved.

Root Cause: I was using an incorrect relative path for the RDS module configuration.

```
# Incorrect Path
source = "../modules/rds"

# Corrected Path
source = "../../modules/rds"
```

Then Used:

```
terraform init
terraform plan
terraform apply
```

2. S3 Bucket Global Uniqueness Fix

During deployment, the creation of S3 buckets failed because the requested bucket names were already taken globally. S3 bucket names must be unique across all AWS accounts.

Solution: Implemented dynamic naming using the `random` provider.

```
resource "random_id" "bucket_suffix" {
  byte_length = 4
}

resource "aws_s3_bucket" "main" {
  bucket = "signian-app-${random_id.bucket_suffix.hex}"
}
```

This ensured every bucket name included a unique suffix, resolving the collision error.

3. Major Issue, NAT Gateway Failure

The most significant blocker of the day was the repeated failure of the AWS NAT Gateway resource.

Symptoms:

1. NAT Gateway entered "Pending" state.
2. Automatically transitioned to "Deleting" or "Failed".
3. Even manual creation via AWS Console failed immediately.

Investigation:

- Suspected Terraform state corruption; performed full cleanup (deleted `terraform.tfstate` and `.terraform/`).
- Verified Elastic IP allocation limits (Account was within limits).
- Checked tagging strategies. (User, Usage).

4. Temporary Workaround, NAT Instance

To bypass the NAT Gateway failure and restore internet access to the private subnets, I manually deployed a NAT Instance. This involves configuring a standard EC2 instance to route traffic.

Step-by-Step Implementation

1. Launch NAT EC2 Instance

- **AMI:** Amazon Linux 2 (Kernel 5.10)
- **Instance Type:** t3.micro
- **Subnet:** Public Subnet (Crucial for internet access)
- **Auto-assign Public IP:** Enabled
- **Security Group:**
 - Inbound: SSH (22) from My IP
 - Inbound: All Traffic from VPC CIDR (10.0.0.0/16)
 - Outbound: Allow All Traffic

2. Allocate & Attach Elastic IP

- Navigated to **EC2** → **Elastic IPs**.
- Allocated a new EIP and associated it with the `nat-instance-dev`.

CRITICAL STEP: Disabled Source/Destination Check

3. Enable IP Forwarding

SSH into the NAT instance and configure the kernel to allow packet forwarding.

```
# Enable immediately
sudo sysctl -w net.ipv4.ip_forward=1

# Make permanent
echo "net.ipv4.ip_forward = 1" | sudo tee -a /etc/sysctl.conf
```

4. Configure IPTables (NAT Masquerade)

Configure `iptables` to mask the source IP of outgoing traffic, making it look like it came from the NAT instance.

```
sudo yum install -y iptables-services

# Add NAT rule
sudo iptables -t nat -A POSTROUTING -o eth0 -j MASQUERADE
```

```
# Save and enable
sudo service iptables save
sudo systemctl enable iptables
```

5. Updated Private Route Table

- **VPC → Route Tables.**
- Select the **Private Route Table**.
- Edit Routes: Add 0.0.0.0/0 targeting **Instance** → **nat-instance-dev**.

5. Testing NAT Connectivity

To verify the workaround, I launched a test EC2 instance in the private subnet (which has no public IP) and attempted to reach the internet.

```
# SSH to Private Instance
ssh -i key.pem ec2-user@10.0.2.50
```

```
# Test Connectivity
ping google.com
```

✓ Result: PING google.com (142.250.x.x) 56(84) bytes of data.

Internet connectivity successfully established via NAT Instance.

6. ECS Backend & Database Setup

With networking resolved, the ECS tasks could now pull images and connect to AWS services.

- **Database:** RDS instance provisioned and endpoint retrieved.
- **ECS Task Definition:** Updated environment variables with RDS host, user, and password.
- **Deployment:** Service started without crash loops.

✓ Backend API Service: **RUNNING**

✓ Database Connection: **ESTABLISHED**

7. Frontend ↔ Backend Integration

The final step was ensuring the frontend application could communicate with the backend API.

- Updated frontend configuration to point to the ECS Load Balancer / API domain.
- Verified CloudFront distribution settings for HTTPS.
- Inspected browser Network tab to confirm 200 OK responses from API calls.

8. Key Learnings

Terraform State: State files referencing resources from previous deployments or different accounts can cause confusing failures. Always ensure a clean state when switching contexts.

Networking Debugging: Troubleshooting connectivity requires a checklist approach: Security Groups → Network ACLs → Route Tables → Source/Dest Checks → OS-level Firewalls.

```
Installing      : iptables-services-1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2.noarch          7/7
Running scriptlet: iptables-services-1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2.noarch          7/7
Verifying      : iptables-libs-1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64             1/7
Verifying      : iptables-nft-1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64             2/7
Verifying      : iptables-services-1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2.noarch          3/7
Verifying      : iptables-utils-1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64           4/7
Verifying      : libnetfilter_conntrack-1.0.8-2.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64     5/7
Verifying      : libnftnl-1.0.1-19.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64                6/7
Verifying      : libnftnl-1.2.2-2.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64                  7/7

Installed:
  iptables-libs-1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64      iptables-nft-1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64      iptables-services-1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2.noarch
  iptables-utils-1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64     libnetfilter_conntrack-1.0.8-2.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64  libnftnl-1.0.1-19.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64
  libnftnl-1.2.2-2.amzn2023.0.2.x86_64

Complete!
[ec2-user@ip-10-10-1-214 ~]$ sudo iptables -t nat -A POSTROUTING -o eth0 -j MASQUERADE
[ec2-user@ip-10-10-1-214 ~]$ sudo service iptables save
iptables: Saving firewall rules to /etc/sysconfig/iptables: [ OK ]
[ec2-user@ip-10-10-1-214 ~]$ sudo systemctl enable iptables
Created symlink /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/iptables.service → /usr/lib/systemd/system/iptables.service.
[ec2-user@ip-10-10-1-214 ~]$
```

```
#  
~\##### Amazon Linux 2023  
~~ \#####  
~~ \|###|  
~~ \|#/  
~~~~ V-'\>  
  
~~~~  
~~~~-. -.  
~~~~/_/\_/\_  
~~~~/m/'
```

```
[ec2-user@ip-10-10-1-214 ~]$ sudo systemctl -w net.ipv4.ip_forward=1  
net.ipv4.ip_forward = 1  
[ec2-user@ip-10-10-1-214 ~]$ echo "net.ipv4.ip_forward = 1" | sudo tee -a /etc/sysctl.conf  
net.ipv4.ip_forward = 1  
[ec2-user@ip-10-10-1-214 ~]$ sudo yum install -y iptables-services  
Amazon Linux 2023 Kernel Livepatch repository                               259 kB/s | 31 kB    00:00  
Dependencies resolved.
```

Package	Architecture	Version	Repository	Size
Installing:				
iptables-services	noarch	1.8.8-3.amzn2023.0.2	amazonlinux	18 k

terminal where IP forwarding is enabled (`net.ipv4.ip_forward=1`) and `iptables-services` package installation is initiated via yum.

aws [Search] [Alt+S] United States (N. Virginia) Significance Internal (8411-6270-6975) Arsalan

EC2 > Instances > i-0ce3922d4ce253e38

EC2

- Dashboard
- EC2 Global View
- Events
- ▼ Instances
 - Instances
 - Instance Types
 - Launch Templates
 - Spot Requests
 - Savings Plans
 - Reserved Instances
 - Dedicated Hosts
 - Capacity Reservations
 - Capacity Manager [New](#)
- ▼ Images

Instance summary for i-0ce3922d4ce253e38 (test-nat) [Info](#)

Updated less than a minute ago

[Connect](#) [Instance state](#) [Actions](#)

Instance ID i-0ce3922d4ce253e38	Public IPv4 address -	Private IPv4 addresses 10.10.101.89
IPv6 address -	Instance state Running	Public DNS -
Hostname type IP name: ip-10-10-101-89.ec2.internal	Private IP DNS name (IPv4 only) ip-10-10-101-89.ec2.internal	Elastic IP addresses -
Answer private resource DNS name -	Instance type t2.micro	AWS Compute Optimizer finding Opt-in to AWS Compute Optimizer for recommendations. Learn more
Auto-assigned IP address -	VPC ID vpc-0669c7b507a21d819 (contact-manager-dev-vpc)	Auto Scaling Group name -
IAM role -	Subnet ID -	

instance (**test-nat**) that i used to test NAT instance.

```
PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8) 56(84) bytes of data.
^C
--- 8.8.8.8 ping statistics ---
14 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 13518ms

[ec2-user@ip-10-10-101-89 ~]$ curl https://google.com
^C
[ec2-user@ip-10-10-101-89 ~]$ ping google.com
PING google.com (142.251.111.102) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from bk-in-f102.1e100.net (142.251.111.102): icmp_seq=1 ttl=108 time=3.03 ms
64 bytes from bk-in-f102.1e100.net (142.251.111.102): icmp_seq=2 ttl=108 time=3.72 ms
64 bytes from bk-in-f102.1e100.net (142.251.111.102): icmp_seq=3 ttl=108 time=3.08 ms
64 bytes from bk-in-f102.1e100.net (142.251.111.102): icmp_seq=4 ttl=108 time=3.07 ms
64 bytes from bk-in-f102.1e100.net (142.251.111.102): icmp_seq=5 ttl=108 time=3.36 ms
64 bytes from bk-in-f102.1e100.net (142.251.111.102): icmp_seq=6 ttl=108 time=3.39 ms
64 bytes from bk-in-f102.1e100.net (142.251.111.102): icmp_seq=7 ttl=108 time=2.95 ms
64 bytes from bk-in-f102.1e100.net (142.251.111.102): icmp_seq=8 ttl=108 time=3.21 ms
^C
--- google.com ping statistics ---
8 packets transmitted, 8 received, 0% packet loss, time 7012ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 2.947/3.226/3.719/0.237 ms
[ec2-user@ip-10-10-101-89 ~]$ curl https://google.com
```

i-0ce3922d4ce253e38 (test-nat)

PrivateIPs: 10.10.101.89

Terminal showing initial failed ping to 8.8.8.8 followed by successful connectivity test to google.com, confirming outbound internet access after the outbound rule changed in sg of nat instance

Service Quotas

- Dashboard
- AWS services
- Quota request history

Organization

- Quota request template
- Automatic Management [New](#)

Resource type	Current value	Limit	Status	Account level
Gateway VPC endpoints per Region	20	20	Not available	Account level
Inbound or outbound rules per security group	60	60	Not available	Account level
Interface VPC endpoints per VPC	50	50	0	Account level
Internet gateways per Region	5	5	Not available	Account level
IPv4 CIDR blocks per VPC	5	5	Not available	Account level
IPv6 CIDR blocks per VPC	5	5	Not available	Account level
NAT gateways per Availability Zone	5	5	Not available	Account level
Network ACLs per VPC	200	200	Not available	Account level
Network Address Usage	64,000	64,000	Not available	Account level
Network interfaces per Region	5,000	5,000	Not available	Account level
Outstanding VPC peering connection requests	25	25	Not available	Account level

The screenshot shows the AWS Elastic Container Service (ECS) console. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Express Mode, Clusters, Namespaces, Task definitions, Account settings, Amazon ECR, Repositories, AWS Batch, and Online learning workshop. The main content area is titled 'Amazon Elastic Container Service' and shows the 'Tasks' tab for a cluster named 'contact-manager-dev-cluster'. The task list shows one task, 'contact-manager-dev-task-...', in an 'Unknown' state, created 3 hours ago. Below the task list, the 'Containers for task' section shows two containers: 'api' and 'adot-collector', both in a 'Running' state.

Amazon Elastic Container Service

Express Mode

Clusters

Namespaces

Task definitions

Account settings

Amazon ECR

Repositories

AWS Batch

Online learning workshop

Documentation

Tasks (1/1)

Filter tasks by property or value

Filter desired status: Any desired status

Filter launch type: Any launch type

Tasks table:

Status	Task definition	Health status	Created at	Started by	Started at	Container
Unknown	contact-manager-dev-task...	Unknown	3 hours ago	ecs-svc/72059667502...	3 hours ago	-

Containers for task 0d6421dd7f114936aeda10b7f58bbe2b

Container name	Container runtime ID	Image URI	Image Digest	Status	Health status
api	0d6421dd7f1149...	arsalansh...	sha256:ee...	Running	Unknown
adot-collector	0d6421dd7f1149...	public.ecr...	sha256:4...	Running	Unknown

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