Lambda: A first tutorial

Welcome, this walk through guides you to create a couple lambda functions. The first is a simple "Hello World" level function. The second, moves in the direction of using the DynamoDB AWS storage engine to collect data through the lambda function.

We will partially follow some existing AWS tutorials, with a little bit of deviation here and there for using Python 3 instead of Node.js or Python 2.

Step 1: Set Up an AWS Account and the AWS CLI

(Done is prior labs)

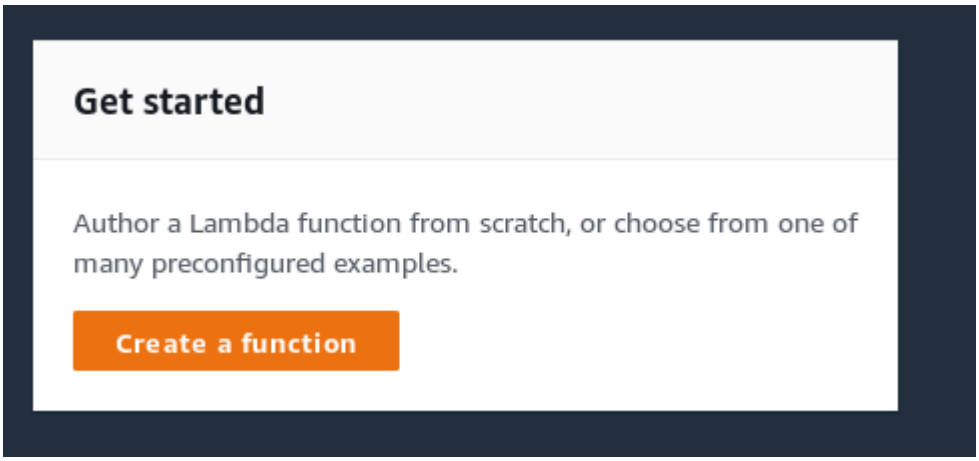
Log into the AWS Console

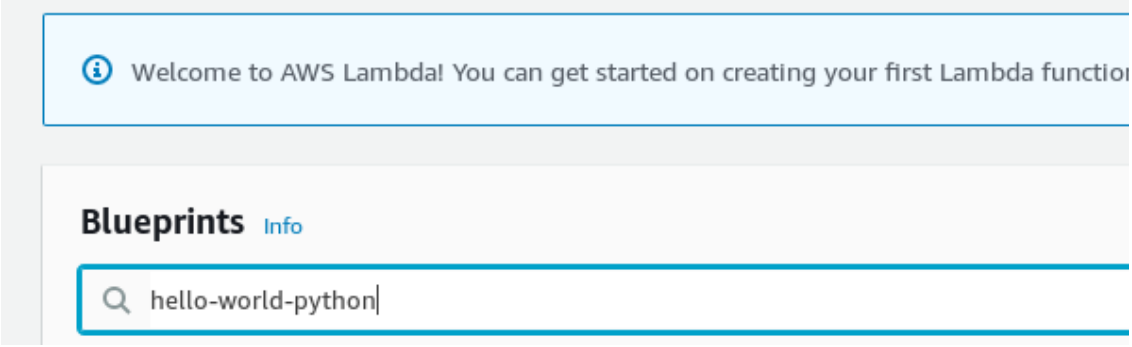
Step 2: Create a HelloWorld Lambda Function and Explore the Console

http://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/getting-started-create-function.html

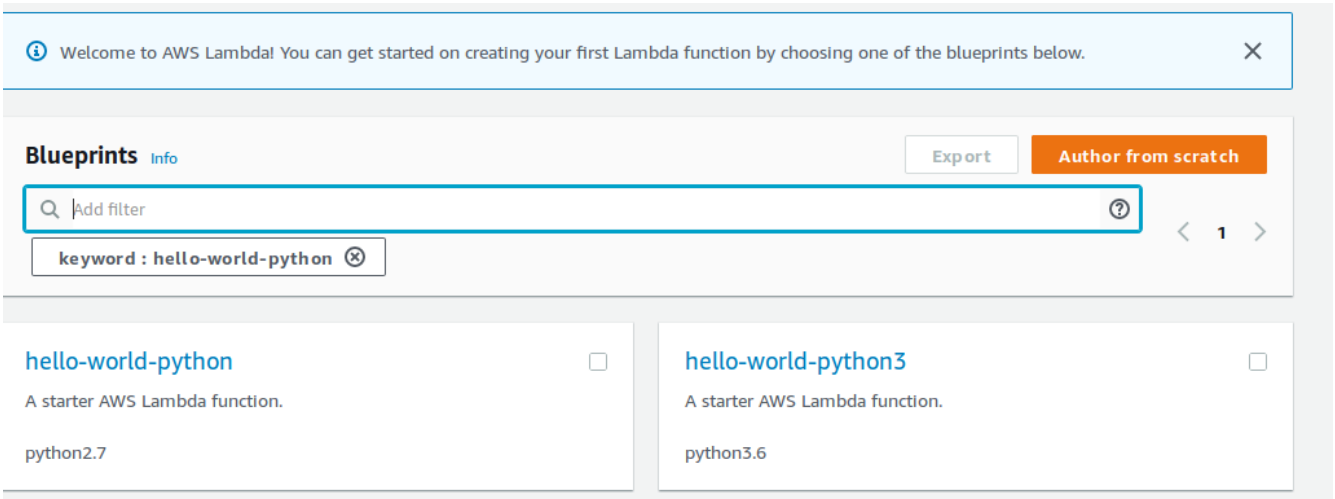
Step 2.1: Create a Hello World Lambda Function

https://console.aws.amazon.com/lambda/home?region=us-east-1#/home

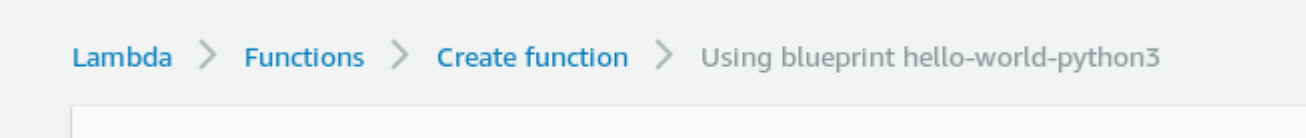




NOTE: We will be using Python 3, not 2.



SELECT the "hello-world-**python3**" blueprint



Basic information Info

Name*

my_first_dsa_lambda

Role*

Defines the permissions of your function. Note that new roles may not be available for a few minutes after creation. about Lambda execution roles.

Create new role from template(s)

Lambda will automatically create a role with permissions from the selected policy templates. Note that basic Lambc (logging to CloudWatch) will automatically be added. If your function accesses a VPC, the required permissions will

Role name*

Enter a name for your new role.

my_first_dsa_lambda_role

Policy templates

Choose one or more policy templates. A role will be generated for you before your function is created. Learn more at permissions that each policy template will add to your role.

Deviate from Tutorial: Choose Python 3, not 2

5. Under **Configuration** in the **Lambda function code** section, note the following

- **Runtime** is Python 2.7

Congratulations! Your Lambda function "my_first_dsa_lambda" has been successfully created. You can now change its code and configuration. Click on the "Test" button to input a test event when you are ready to test your function.

Configuration | Triggers | Monitoring

Function code

Code entry type: Edit code inline

Runtime: Python 3.6

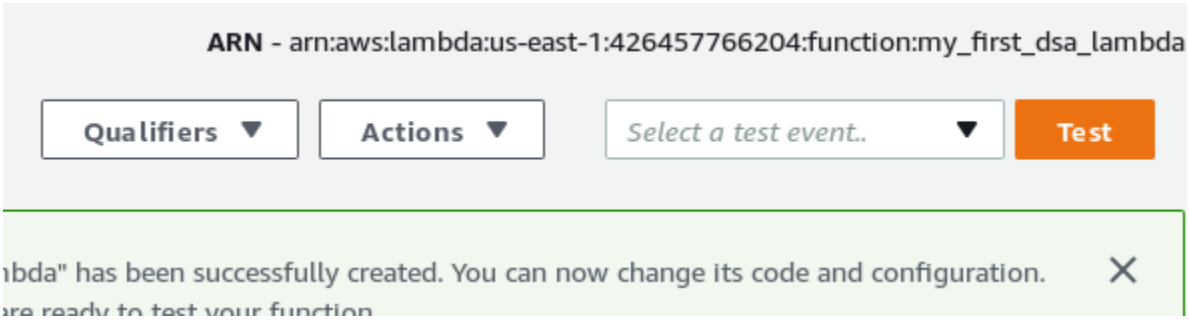
Handler Info: lambda_function.lambda_handler

lambda_function.py

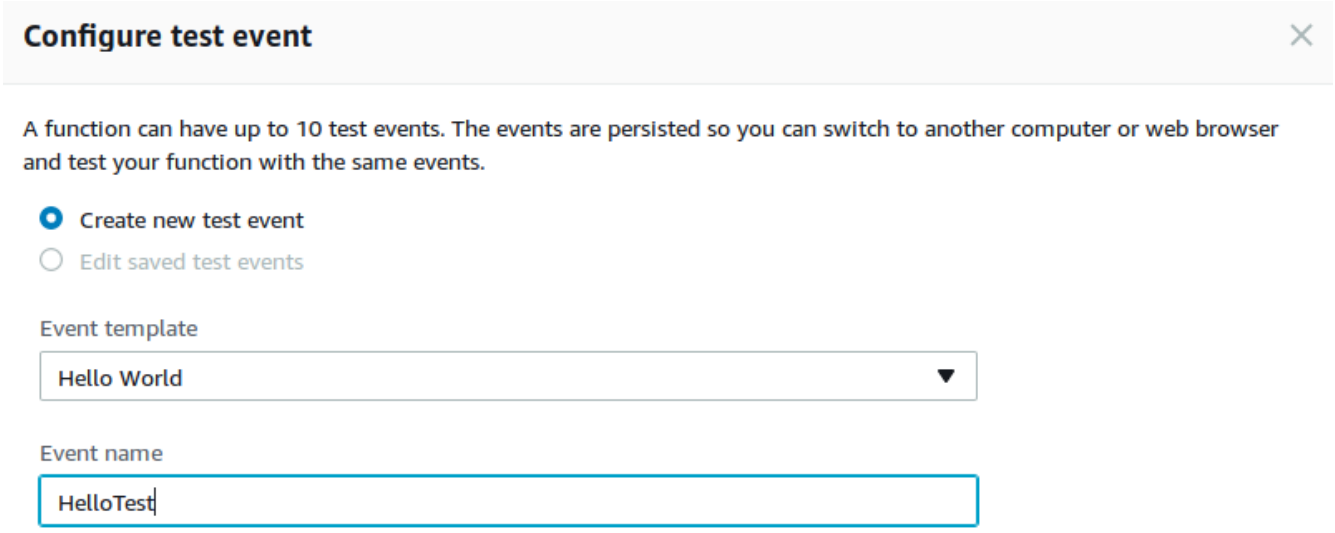
```
1  import json
2
3  print('Loading function')
4
5
6  def lambda_handler(event, context):
7      #print("Received event: " + json.dumps(event, indent=2))
8      print("value1 = " + event['key1'])
9      print("value2 = " + event['key2'])
10     print("value3 = " + event['key3'])
11     return event['key1']  # Echo back the first key value
12     #raise Exception('Something went wrong')
13
```

Step 2.2: Invoke the Lambda Function Manually and Verify Results, Logs, and Metrics

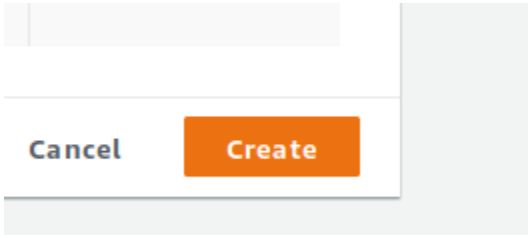
TESTING:



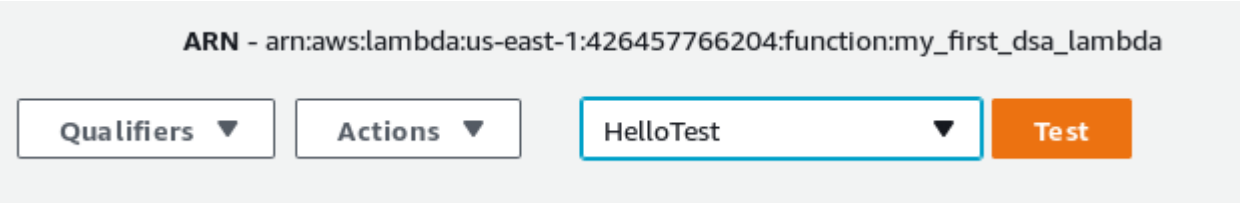
DEVIATE: Specify "Event name"



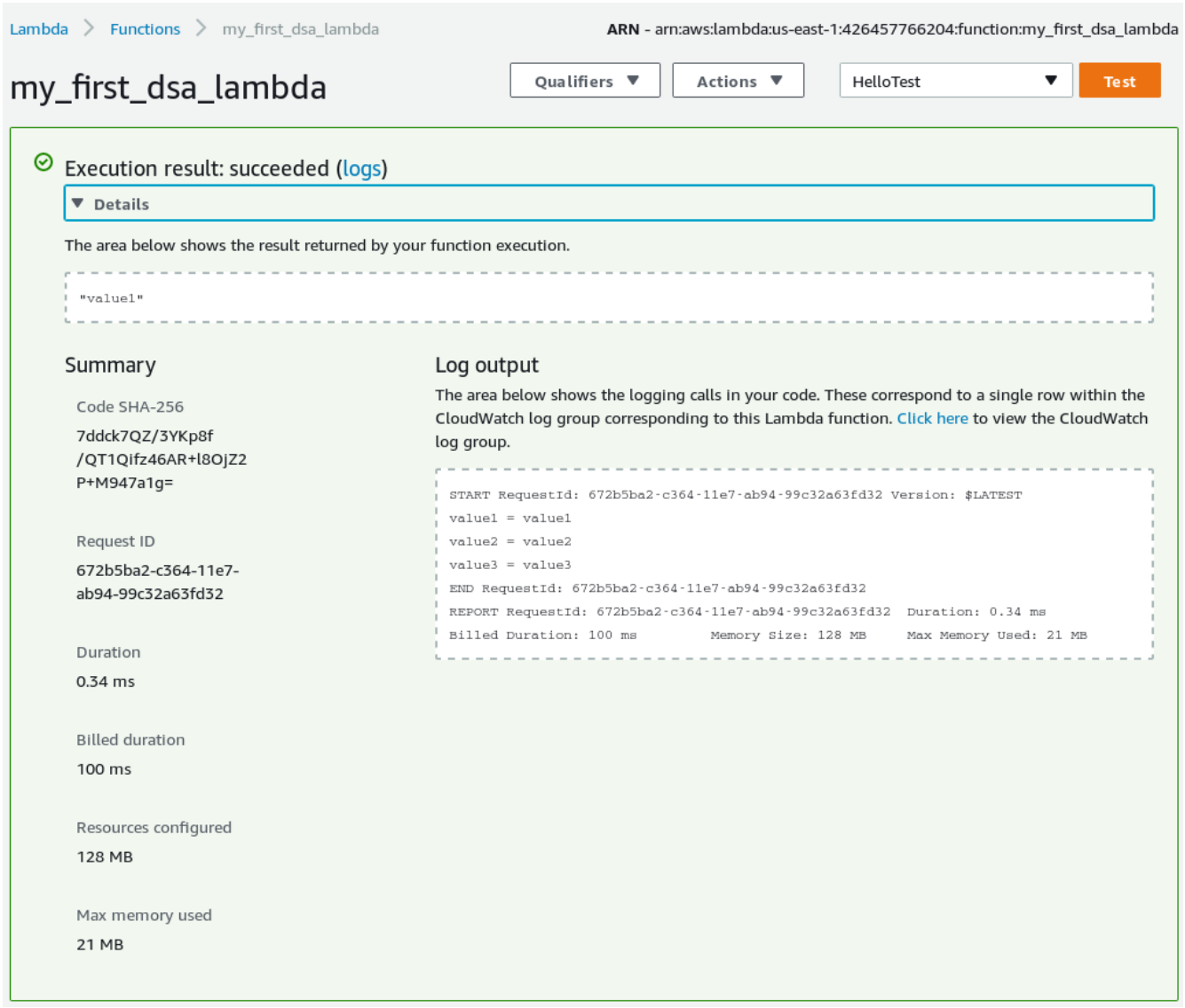
Then Create



We now have a test event



Click Test Again:



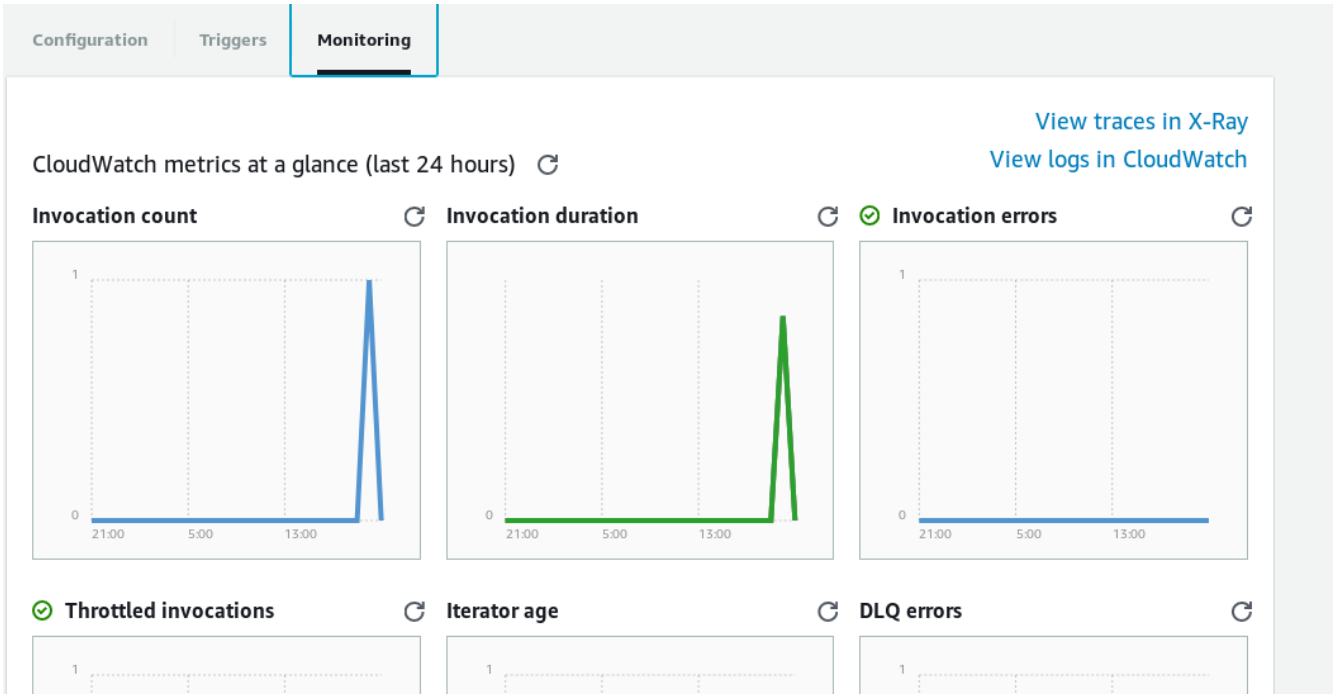
Clicking on **(logs)** takes you to CloudWatch:

CloudWatch > Log Groups > /aws/lambda/my_first_dsa_lambda > 2017/11/07/[$LATEST]ebff13e501f64c8cba81da840a940326

Filter events

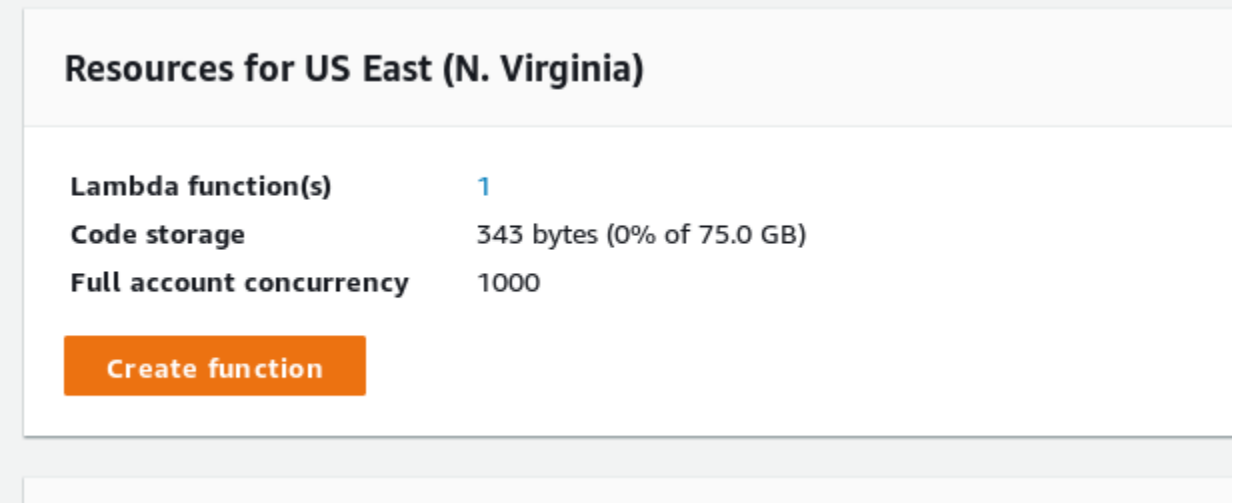
Time (UTC +00:00)	Message
2017-11-07	
	No older events found at the moment. Retry.
02:36:05	Loading function
02:36:05	START RequestId: 672b5ba2-c364-11e7-ab94-99c32a63fd32 Version: $LATEST
02:36:05	value1 = value1
02:36:05	value2 = value2
02:36:05	value3 = value3
02:36:05	END RequestId: 672b5ba2-c364-11e7-ab94-99c32a63fd32
02:36:05	REPORT RequestId: 672b5ba2-c364-11e7-ab94-99c32a63fd32 Duration: 0.34 ms Billed Duration: 100 ms Memory Size: 128 MB Max Memory Used: 21 MB
	No newer events found at the moment. Retry.

Additionally, the Monitoring Tab under the test output gets you plots of usage history.

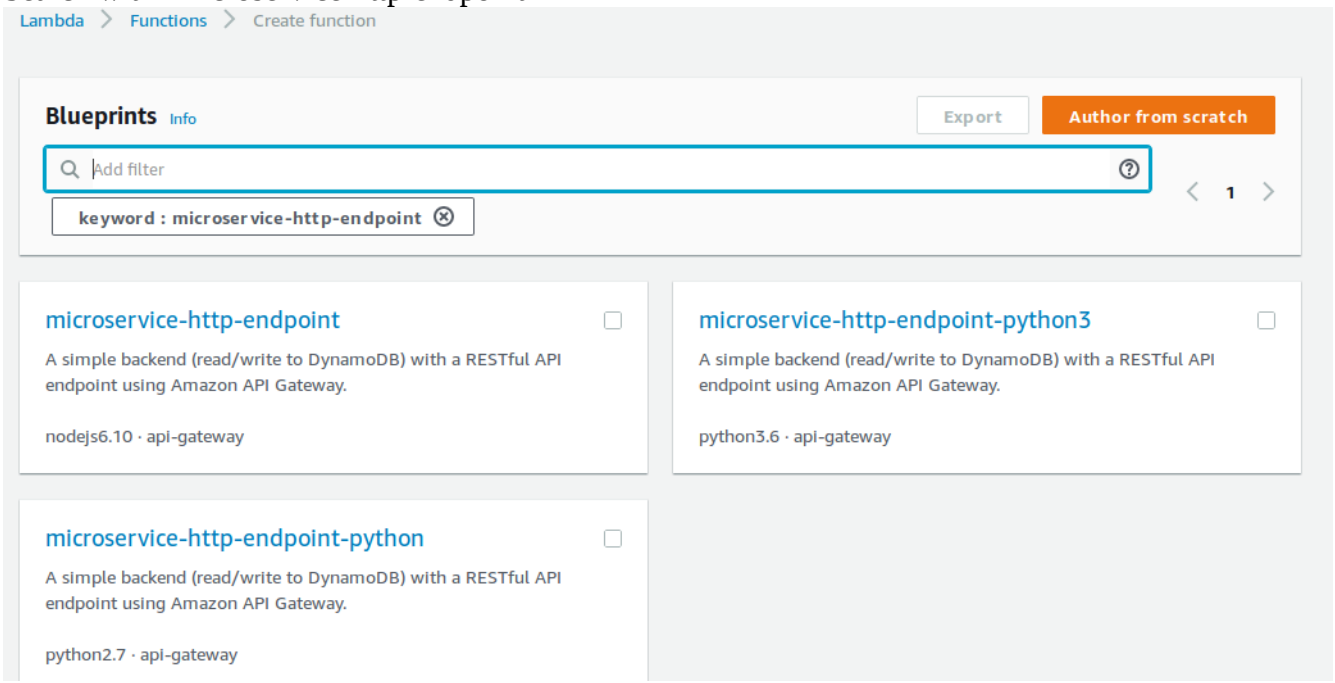


http://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/with-on-demand-https-example-configure-event-source_1.html

Step 3: Create a Simple Microservice using Lambda and API Gateway



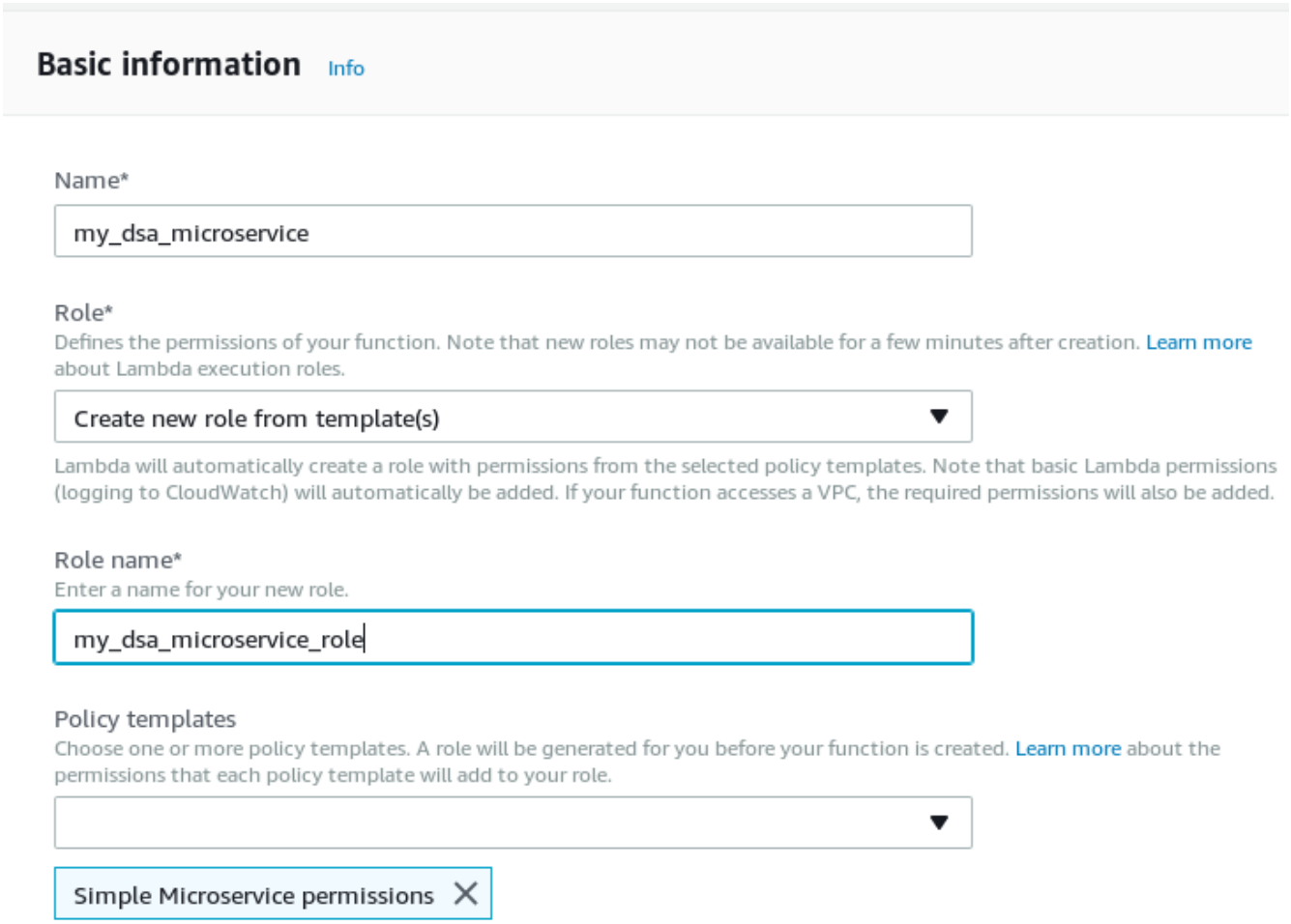
Search with “microservice-http-endpoint”



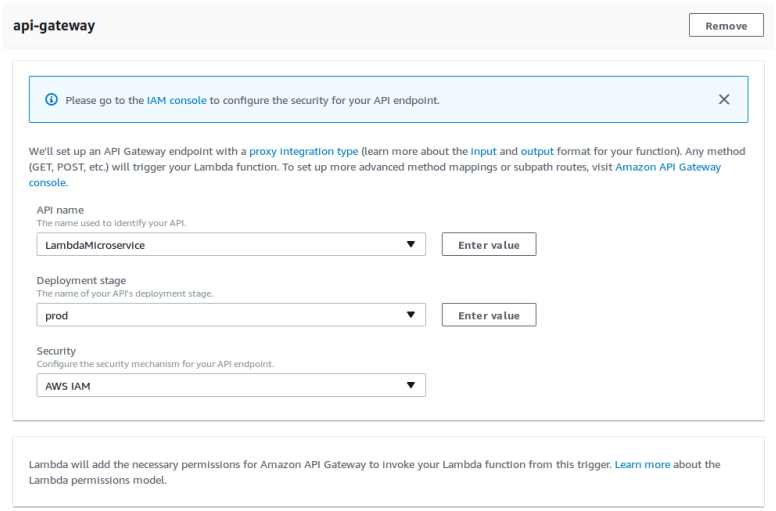
DEVIATE: We are going to choose the Python 3 version.

Name your function something unique and create a unique role name that is similar

Example:



Take note of the API gateway. There is a lot of customization and options here for your later real-world pipeline development.



Note some things in the Python Code:

1. it imports some Python Libraries,
2. instantiates the DynamoDB client object,
3. then defines a function.

```
import boto3   # You have seen this in prior labs
import json    # You have seen this in prior courses

print('Loading function')
dynamo = boto3.client('dynamodb')

# Respond forms up a response dictionary object,
#   which happens to mimic JSON syntax
def respond(err, res=None):
    return {
        'statusCode': '400' if err else '200',
        'body': err.message if err else json.dumps(res),
        'headers': {
            'Content-Type': 'application/json',
        },
    }
```

Then it defines the actual body of the request handler:

… Go to next page

I have added some extra comments into the code below …

```
def lambda_handler(event, context):
    # ...

    # These are the relevant HTTP client actions
    operations = {
        'DELETE': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.delete_item(**x),
        'GET': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.scan(**x),
        'POST': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.put_item(**x),
        'PUT': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.update_item(**x),
    }

    # Get the operation, typically referred to as “request method”
    operation = event['httpMethod']

    # Test if this is a known event operation
    if operation in operations:
        # if the request has query string parameters,
        #    load them into the payload variable
        payload = event['queryStringParameters'] if operation ==
'GET' else json.loads(event['body'])
        # otherwise, load the body of the request into the payload
        return respond(None, operations[operation](dynamo, payload))
    else:
        # If not an allowed operation, return error message
        return respond(ValueError('Unsupported method
"{}"'.format(operation)))
```

Wait a moment:

What are we doing with the data?

What we have done is created a dictionary where a key maps to a Python lambda function. Here, *lambda* means anonymous, not AWS Lambda.

```
Operations = {
          # Delete key returns an anonymous function
          #   which uses the dynamo object above, invokes delete
        'DELETE': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.delete_item(**x),
          #   etc., etc., etc. ...
        'GET': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.scan(**x),
        'POST': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.put_item(**x),
        'PUT': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.update_item(**x),
    }
```

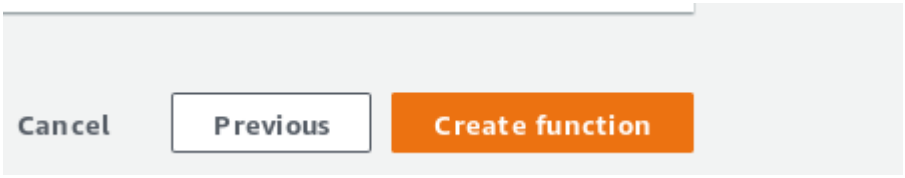
Ignore the configure function stuff related to Node

5. On the **Configure function** page, do the following:

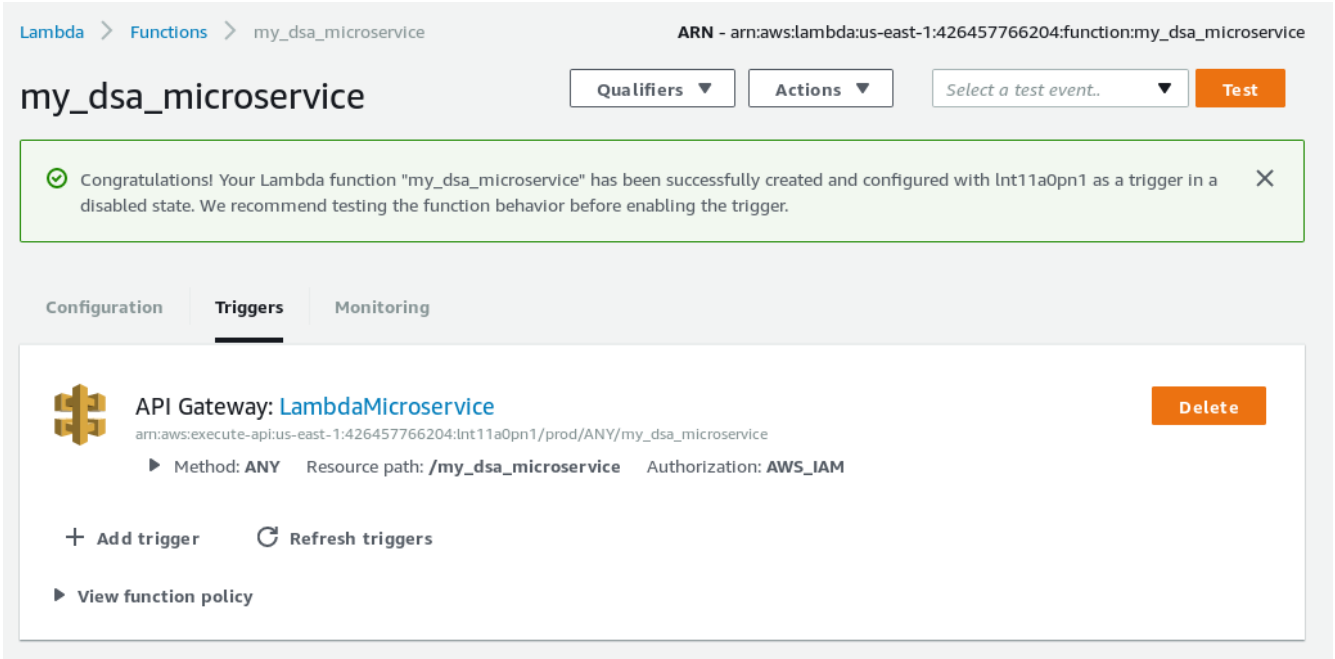
    a. Review the preconfigured Lambda function configuration information, including:

    - **Runtime** is `Node.js 6.10`

Finally, Create the function



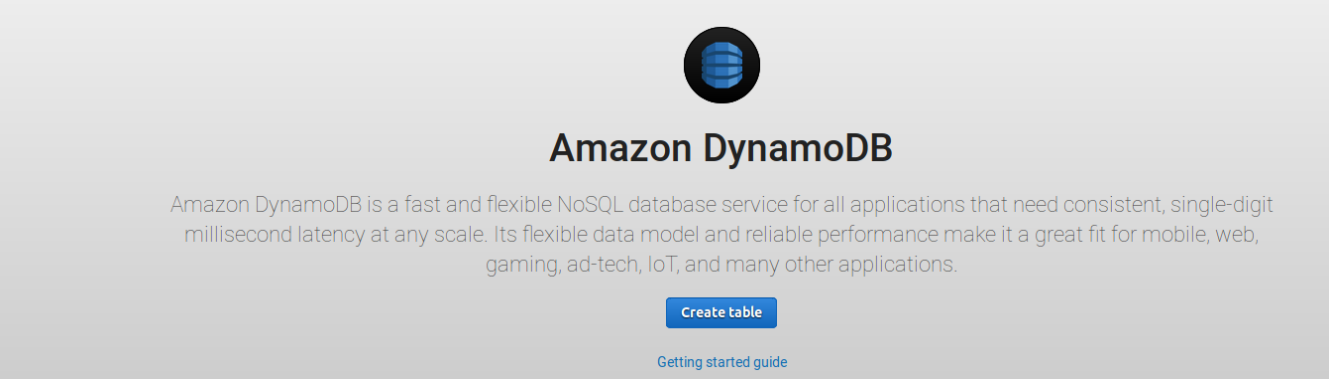
Now we have defined our Microservice function



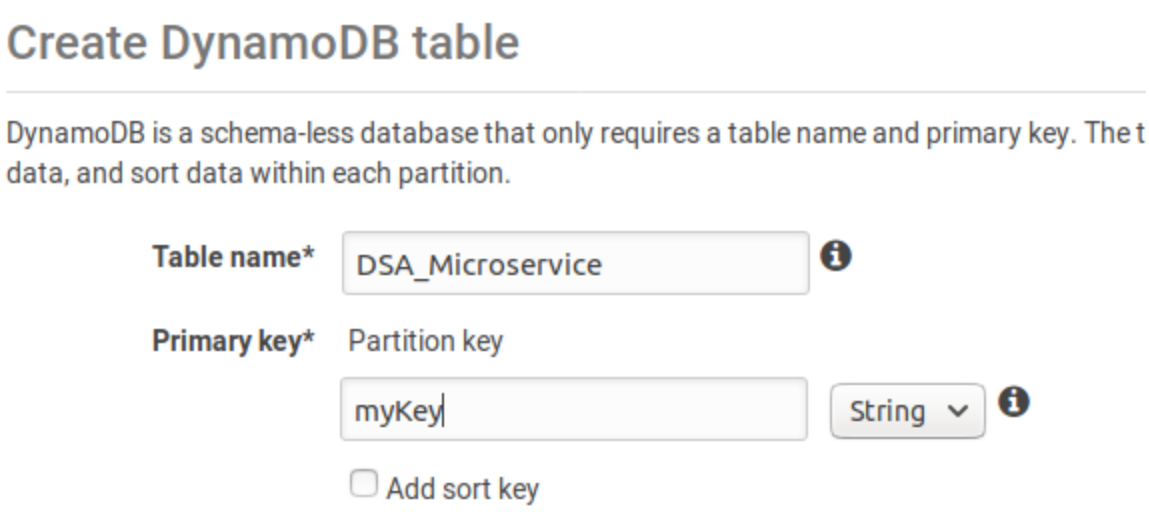
IN A NEW BROWSER TAB:

CREATE A DYNAMO DB Table

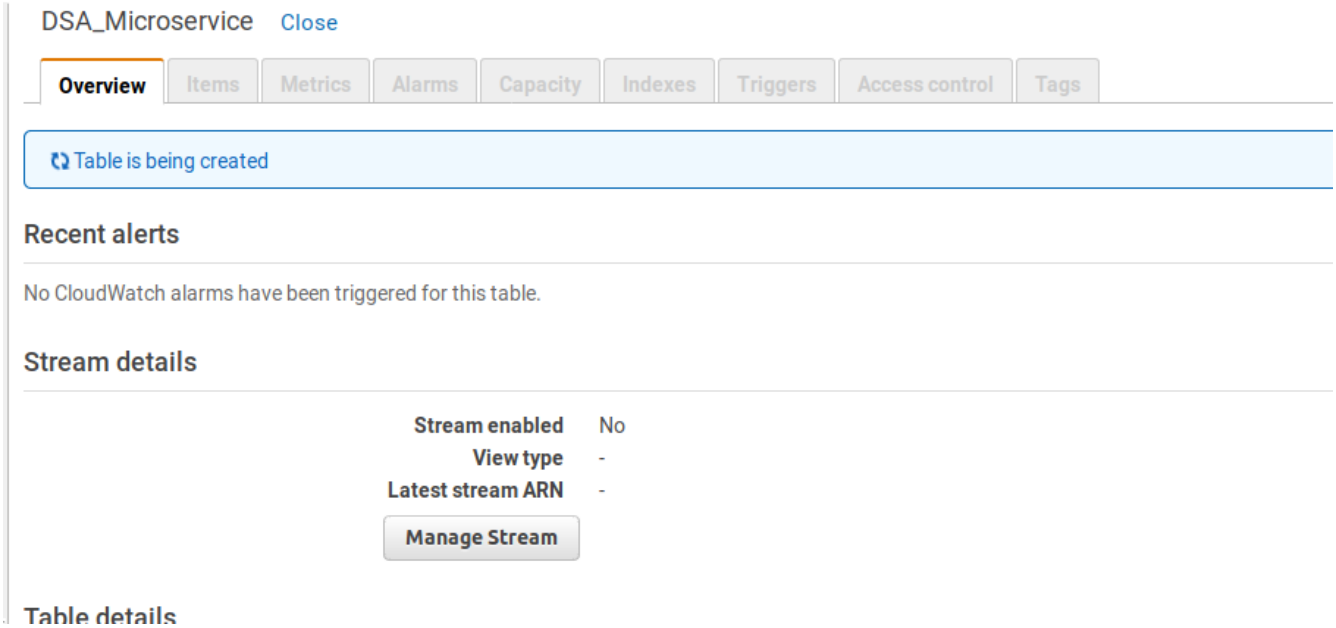
http://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/with-ddb-configure-ddb.html#with-ddb-create-buckets



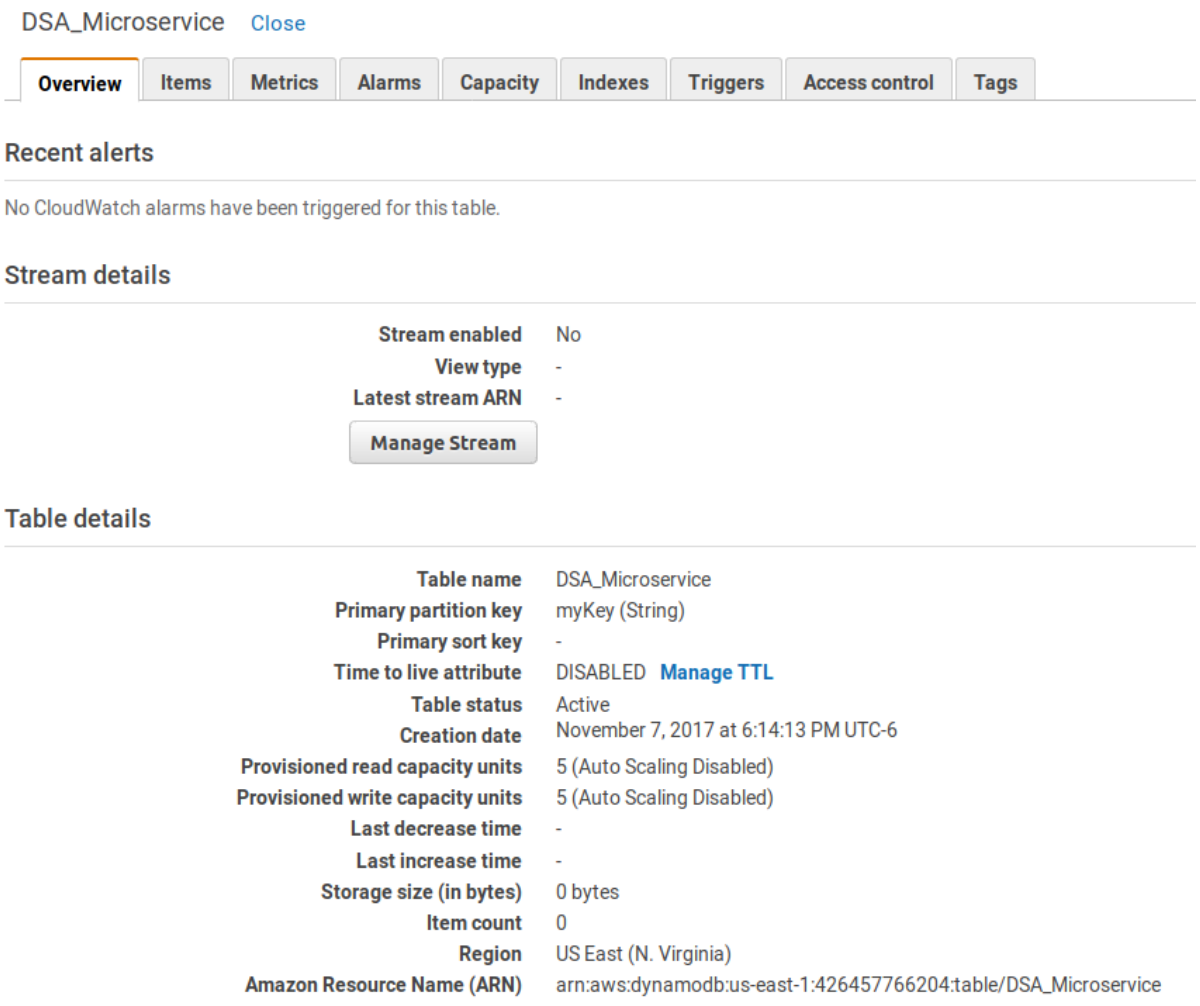
We will keep this simple for now:
Table: DSA_Microservice
Key: myKey



Then click the Create button.



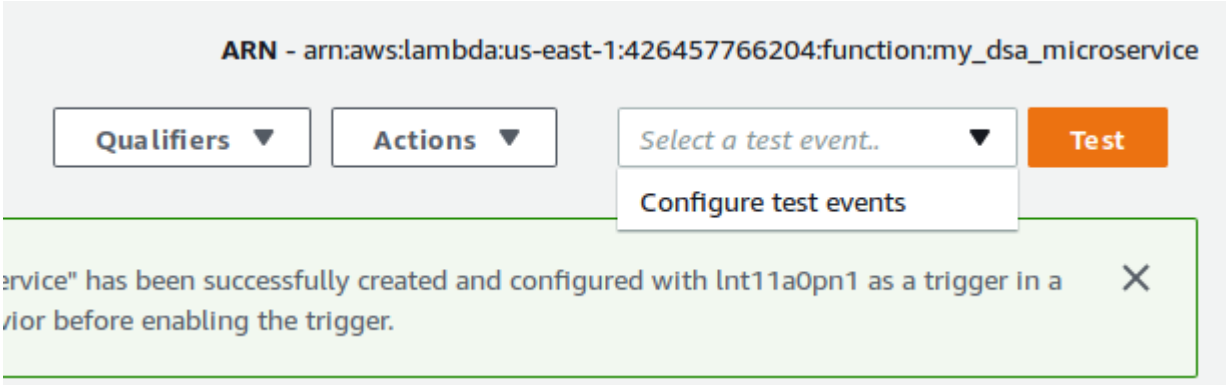
Once it is done being created:



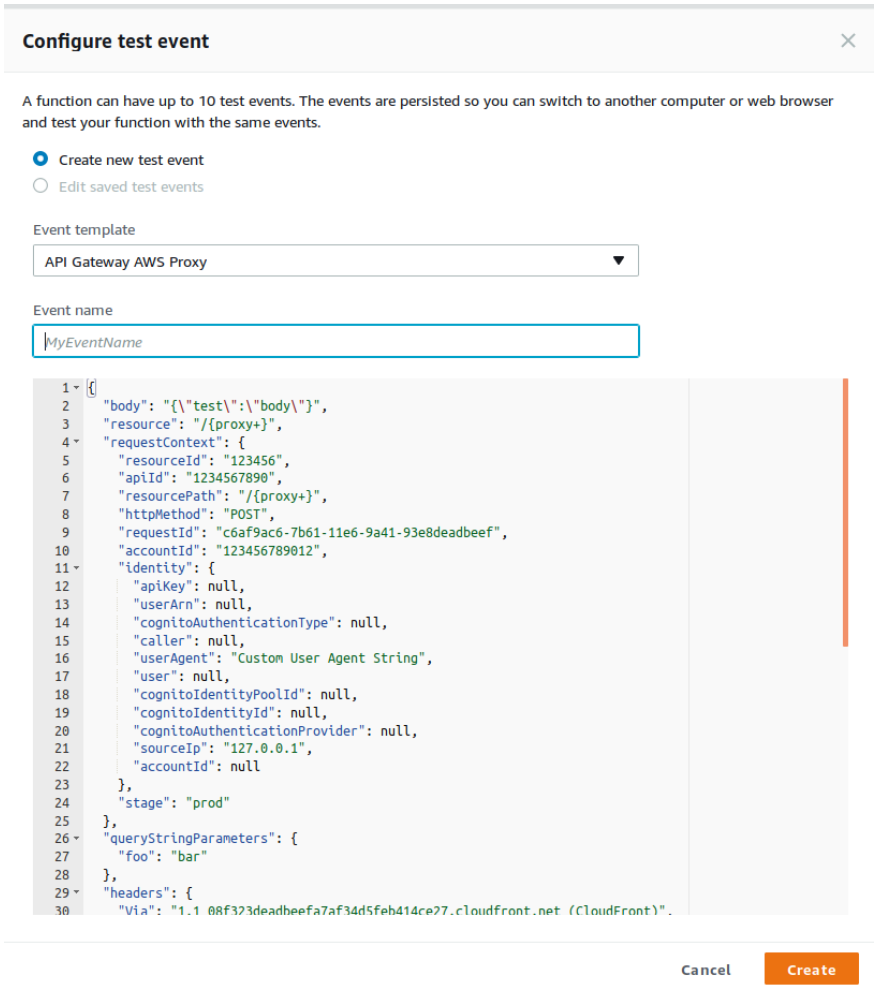
http://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/with-on-demand-https-example-configure-event-source-test-end-to-end_1.html

Step 3.2: Test Sending an HTTPS Request

Configure a test



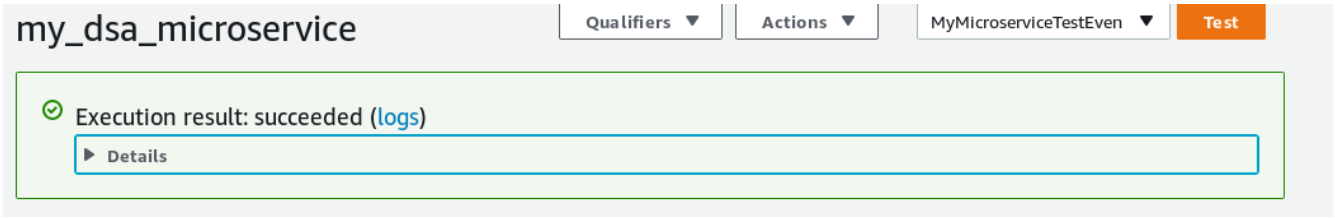
This brings you to the large JSON text



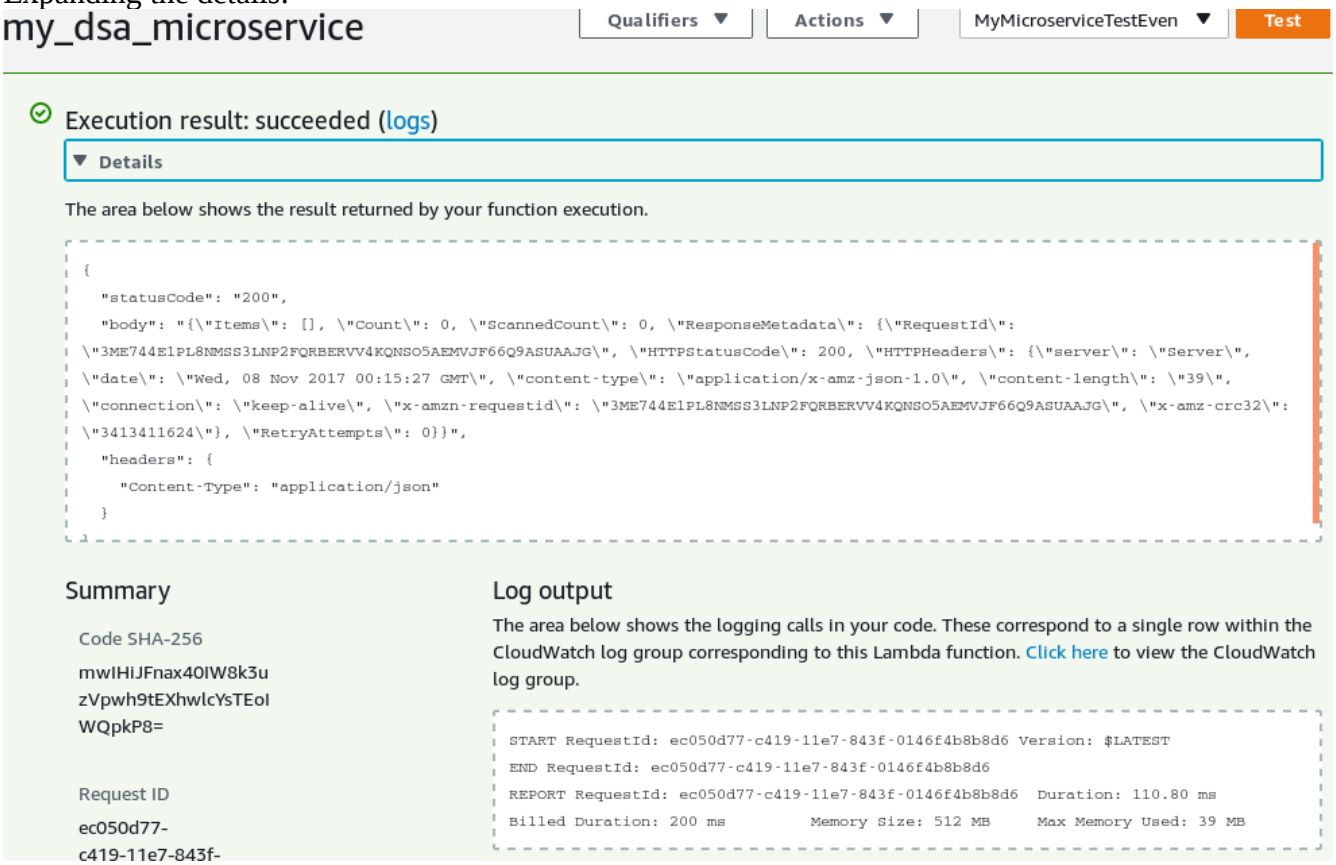
We must update the test JSON to match our DynamoDB table name (**DSA_Microservice**) and key name (**myKey**). The other parameters are just to get some additional data in the table.

```
{
  "httpMethod": "GET",
  "queryStringParameters": {
    "TableName": "DSA_Microservice"
  }
}
```

The Save the test, then click Test to execute it.



Expanding the details:



Note: Items = [] in the body response! This is an empty list.

Lambda Code revisited!

```
operations = {
    'DELETE': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.delete_item(**x),
    'GET': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.scan(**x),
    'POST': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.put_item(**x),
    'PUT': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.update_item(**x),
}
```

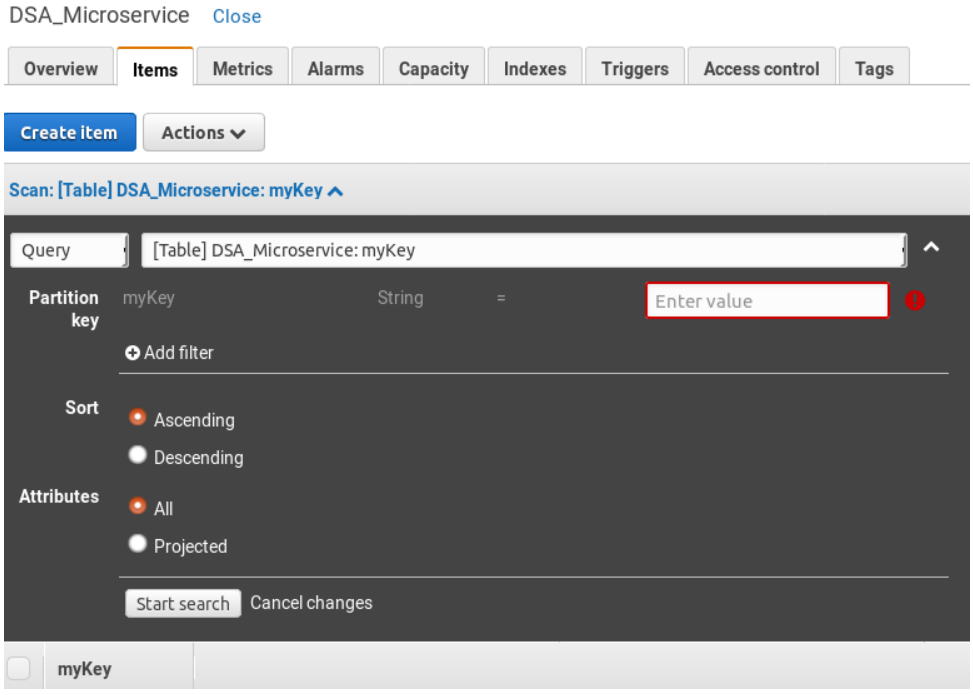
Review this link for actions on the DynamoDB:
http://docs.aws.amazon.com/amazondynamodb/latest/APIReference/API_Operations_Amazon_DynamoDB.html

Notice that we are doing one of four actions:

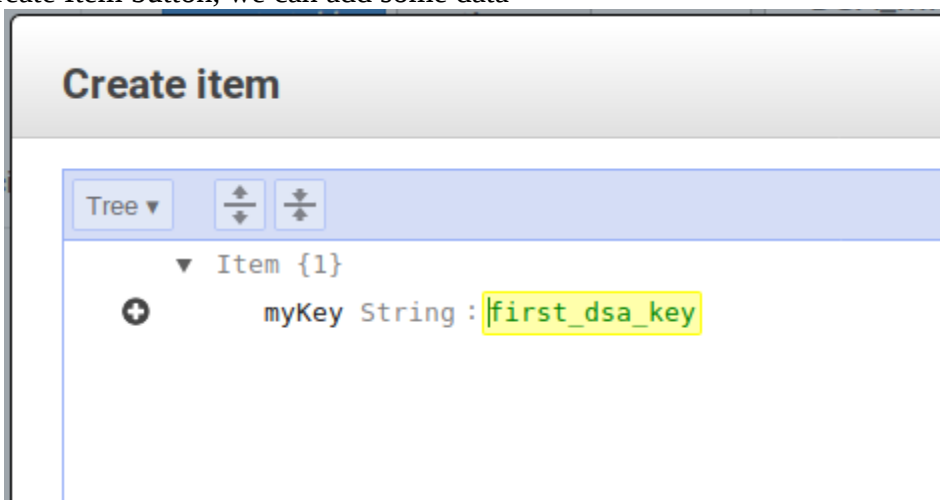
1. delete_item (x)
2. scan (x)
3. put_item (x)
4. update_item (x)

So, the GET request (test code: `"httpMethod": "GET") says to scan for ( x )`

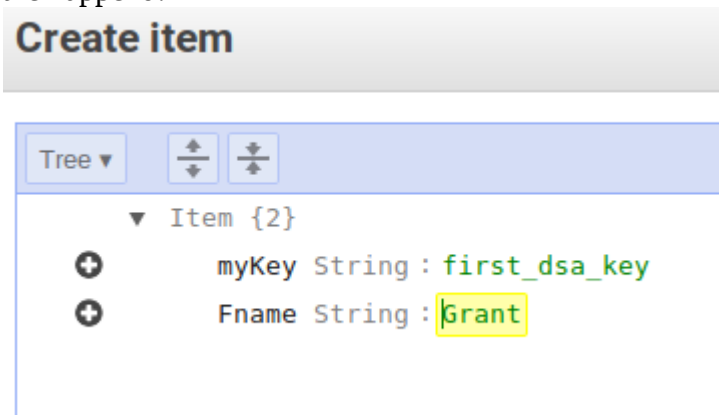
Add some data into the table:



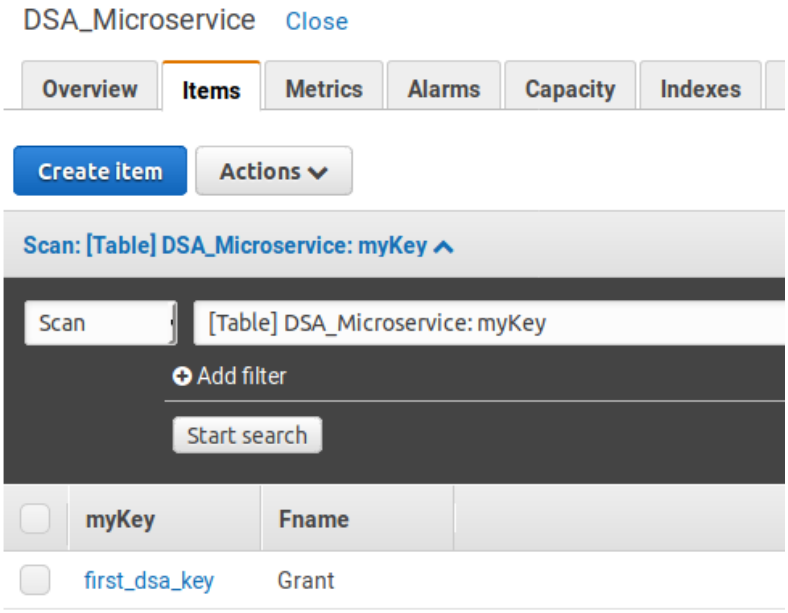
Clicking the Create Item button, we can add some data



Clicking the Plus-Sign, then append:



Then, Save this new record!



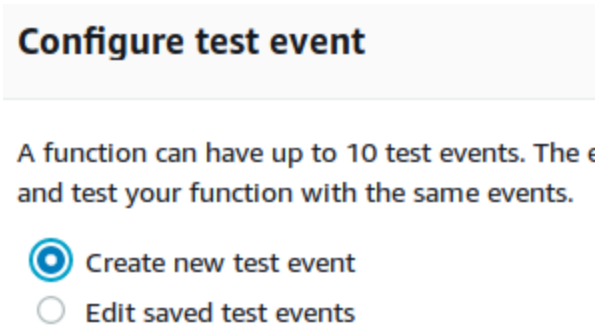
Now we can re-run our Lambda function test and we get the new row back!!!


```
{
  "statusCode": "200",
  "body": "{\"Items\": [{\"Fname\": {\"S\": \"Grant\"}, \"myKey\":
{\"S\": \"first_dsa_key\"}}], \"Count\": 1, \"ScannedCount\":
1, \"ResponseMetadata\":
{\"RequestId\": \"O2JRAOUCUPBTEHSKNEGRV6OR0FVV4KQNSO5AEMVJF66Q9ASUAAJG\", \"HTTPSt
atusCode\": 200, \"HTTPHeaders\": {\"server\": \"Server\", \"date\": \"Wed, 08 Nov
2017 00:41:27 GMT\", \"content-type\": \"application/x-amz-json-1.0\", \"content-
length\": \"92\", \"connection\": \"keep-alive\", \"x-amzn-
requestid\": \"O2JRAOUCUPBTEHSKNEGRV6OR0FVV4KQNSO5AEMVJF66Q9ASUAAJG\", \"x-amz-
crc32\": \"3103740141\"}, \"RetryAttempts\": 0}}",
  "headers": {
    "Content-Type": "application/json"
  }
```


So what does it take to add data to our table?

- 'POST': lambda dynamo, x: dynamo.put_item(**x),

Now we will create a new test event:



Event Name: MyDSAMicroserviceAddData
Body: (Bold change, Blue added)

```
{
  "httpMethod": "POST",
  "body": "{\"TableName\":\"DSA_Microservice\",\"Item\":{\"myKey\":
{\"S\":\"my_second_dsa\"}}}"
}
```

Then Save, and test!!!

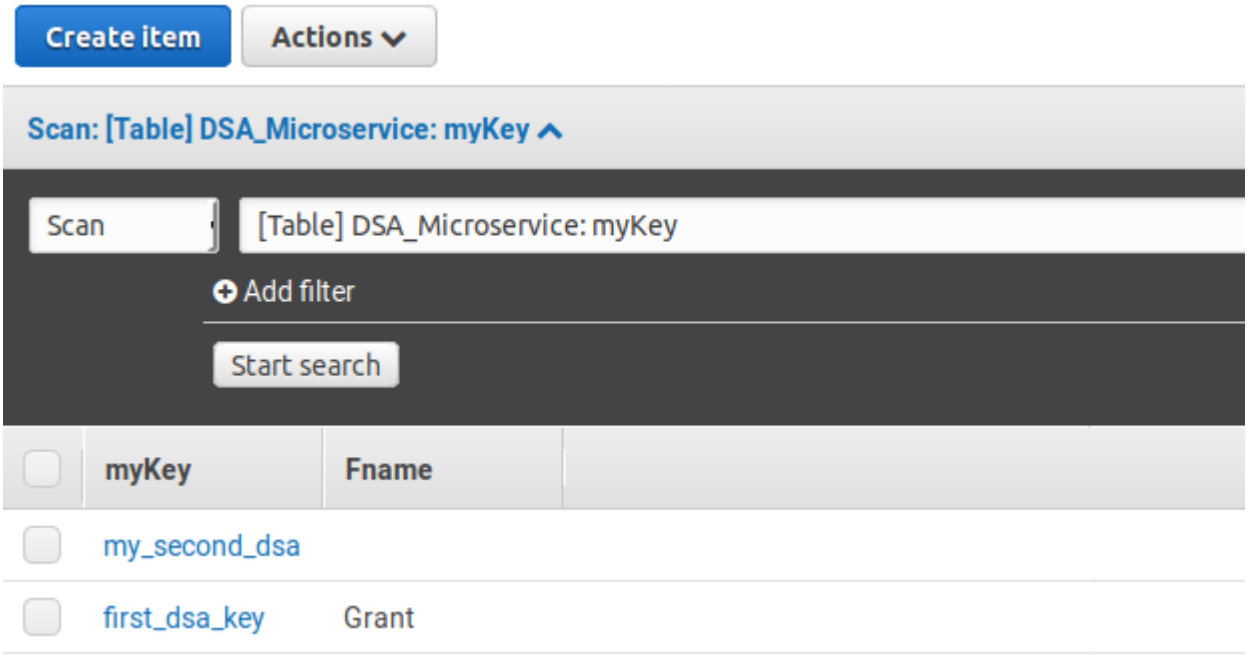
NOTE: In the body element, we have written a double quoted escaped version of

```
{
  "TableName":"DSA_Microservice",
  "Item":{
       "myKey":{"S":"my_second_dsa"}
  }
}
```

The {"S":"my_second_dsa"} is the JSON format of saying that myKey is a (S)tring, "my_second_dsa"

If we go back to our DynamoDB table and refresh!

We have the new data row!



That is it!

In this tutorial, you created two different lambda functions using Python 3. The latter of the two is an example of processing a request to load data into the NoSQL AWS, DynamoDB.

Image how this can be incorporated into data processing pipelines and integrated with S3 bucket events, DynamoDB or Redshift or in a model S3 → Lambda → S3 → ???