Get started with Linux/Unix-based instances in Amazon Lightsail

Last updated: October 16, 2017

You can create a Linux/Unix-based Lightsail instance (a virtual private server) running an application like WordPress or a development stack like LAMP in seconds. After your instance starts running, you can connect to it via SSH without leaving Lightsail. Here's how.

To create a Windows-based instance, see Get started with Windows-based instances in Amazon Lightsail.

Create a Linux-based instance

1. On the home page, choose **Create instance**.

2. Select a location for your instance (an AWS Region and Availability Zone).

   Choose **Change Region and zone** to create your instance in another location.

3. Optionally, you can change the Availability Zone.

   Choose an Availability Zone from the dropdown list.

4. Choose the Linux platform.

5. Pick an application (**Apps + OS**) or an operating system (**OS Only**).

   To learn more about Lightsail instance images, see Choose an Amazon Lightsail instance image.

6. Choose your instance plan.

   You can try the $3.50 USD Lightsail plan free for one month (up to 750 hours). We'll credit one free month to your account. Learn more on our Lightsail pricing page.

7. Enter a name for your instance.

   Resource names:

   - Must be unique within each AWS Region in your Lightsail account.
   - Must contain 2 to 255 characters.
   - Must start and end with an alphanumeric character or number.
   - Can include alphanumeric characters, numbers, periods, dashes, and underscores.

8. Choose one of the following options to add tags to your instance:

   - **Add key-only tags** or **Edit key-only tags** (if tags have already been added). Enter your new tag into the tag key text box, and press **Enter**. Choose **Save** when you're done entering your tags to

add them, or choose **Cancel** to not add them.

○ **Create a key-value tag**, then enter a key into the **Key** text box, and a value into the **Value** text box. Choose **Save** when you're done entering your tags, or choose **Cancel** to not add them.

Key-value tags can only be added one at a time before saving. To add more than one key-value tag, repeat the previous steps.

Note

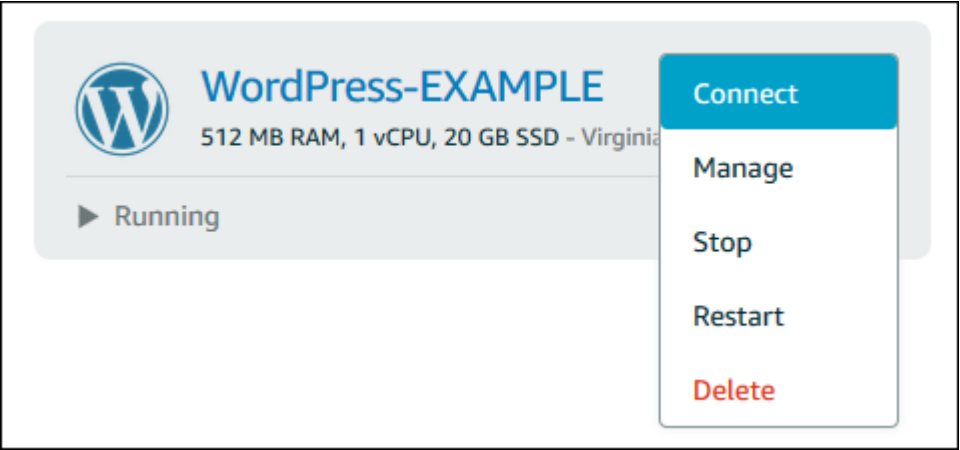For more information about key-only and key-value tags, see Tags in Amazon Lightsail.

9. Choose **Create instance**.

For advanced creation options, see Use a launch script to configure your Amazon Lightsail instance when it starts up or Set up SSH for your Linux/Unix-based Lightsail instances.
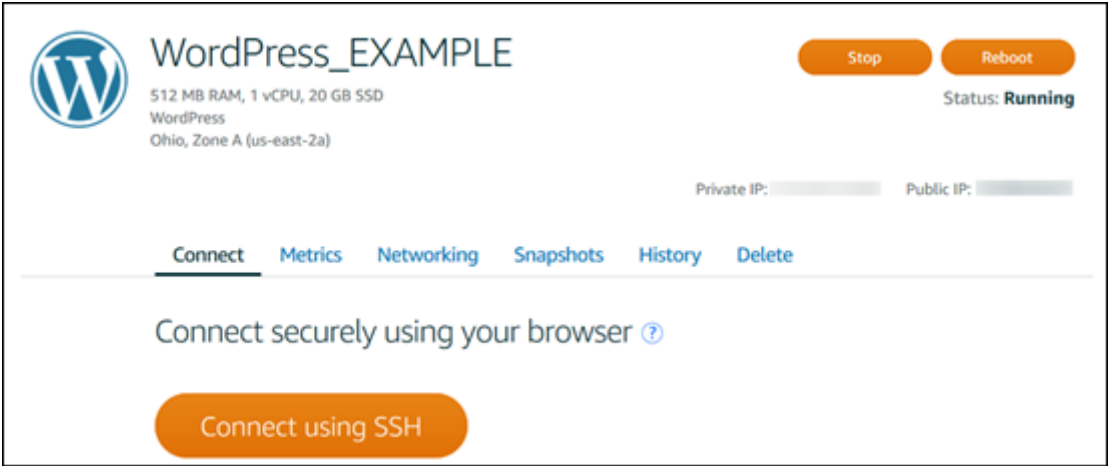
Within minutes, your Lightsail instance is ready and you can connect to it via SSH, without leaving Lightsail!

Connect to your instance

1. On the Lightsail home page, choose the menu on the right of your instance's name, and then choose **Connect**.
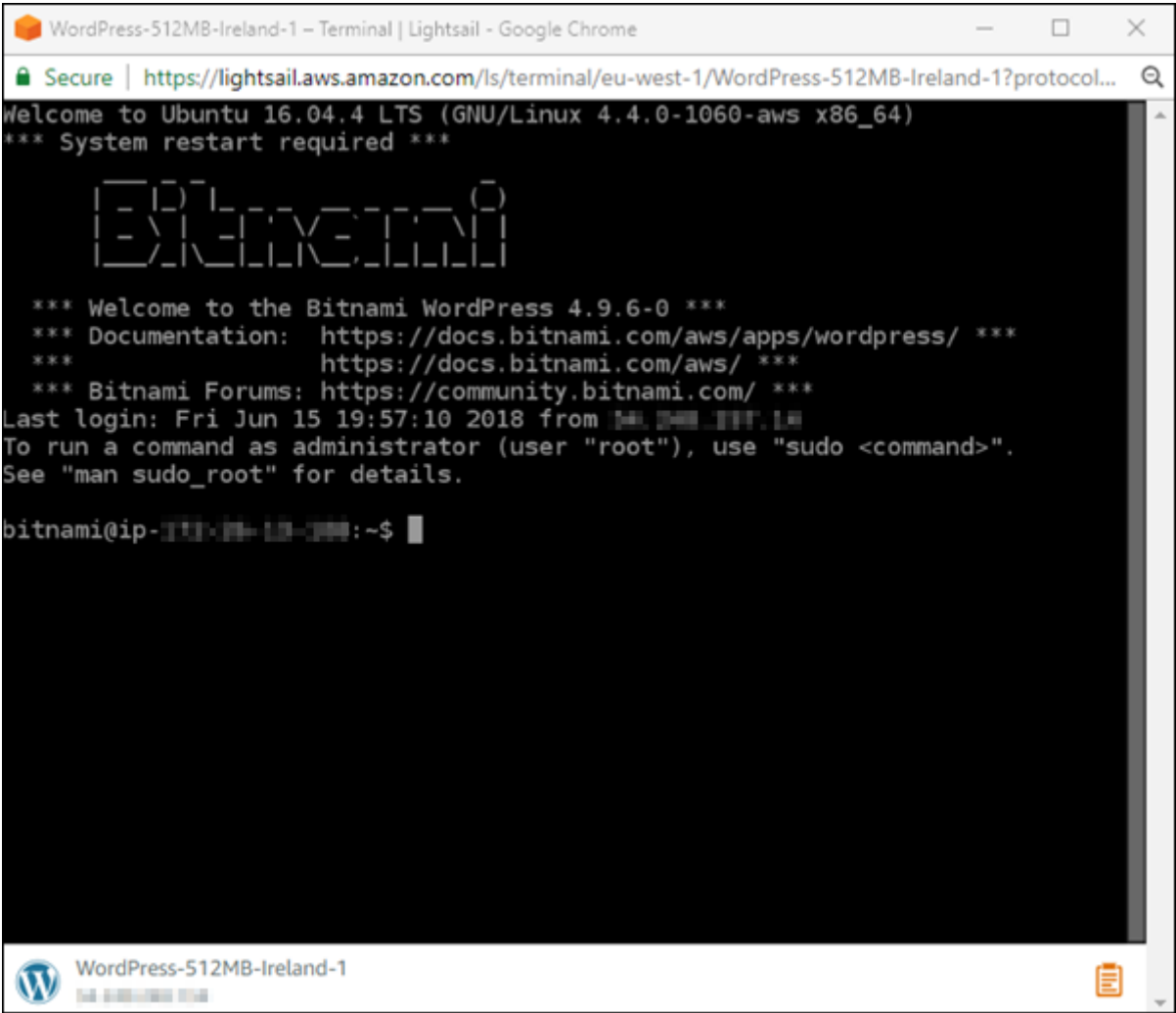
Alternately, you can open your instance management page and choose the **Connect** tab.

Note

To connect to your instance using an SSH client such as PuTTy, you can follow this procedure: Set up PuTTy to connect to your Lightsail instance.

2. Now you can type commands into the terminal and manage your Lightsail instance without setting up an SSH client.

Next steps

Now that you can connect to your instance, what you do next depends on how you plan to use it. For example:

- Get started with WordPress if you're connecting your blog.

- Create a static IP address for your instance to keep the same IP address each time you restart your Lightsail instance.
- Create a snapshot of your instance as a backup.