

# Create an access key to use the Amazon Lightsail API or the AWS Command Line Interface

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To use the Lightsail API or the AWS Command Line Interface (AWS CLI), you need to create a new access key. The access key consists of an **Access Key ID** and a **Secret Access Key**. Use the following procedures to create the key and configure the AWS CLI to make calls to the Lightsail API.

## Step 1: Create a new access key

You can create a new access key in the AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) console.

1. Open **Your Security Credentials** in [the IAM console](#).
2. Choose **Access Keys (Access Key ID and Secret Access Key)**.
3. Choose **Create New Access Key. Note**  
You can have a maximum of two access keys (active or inactive) at a time.
4. Choose **Show Access Key** to see your **Access Key ID** and a **Secret Access Key**.

You can copy them from this screen or choose **Download Key File** to download a .csv file containing the access keys. **Important**

Keep your access keys in a safe place. You should name the file something like `MyLightsailKeys.csv` so that you don't struggle to find them later.

## Step 2: Configure the AWS CLI

If you haven't installed the AWS CLI, you can do that now. See [Installing the AWS Command Line Interface](#). After you install the AWS CLI, you need to configure it so you can use it.

1. Open a terminal window or command prompt.
2. Type `aws configure`.
3. Paste your **AWS Access Key ID** from the .csv file you created in the previous step.
4. Paste your **AWS Secret Access Key** when prompted.
5. Enter the AWS Region where your resources are located. For example, if your resources are primarily in Ohio, choose `us-east-2` when prompted for the **Default region name**.

For more information about using the AWS CLI `--region` option, see [General Options](#) in the *AWS CLI Reference*.

6. Choose a **Default output format**, such as `json`.

## Next steps

- [Install the SDK](#)
- [Configure the AWS Command Line Interface to work with Amazon Lightsail](#)
- [Read the API docs](#)