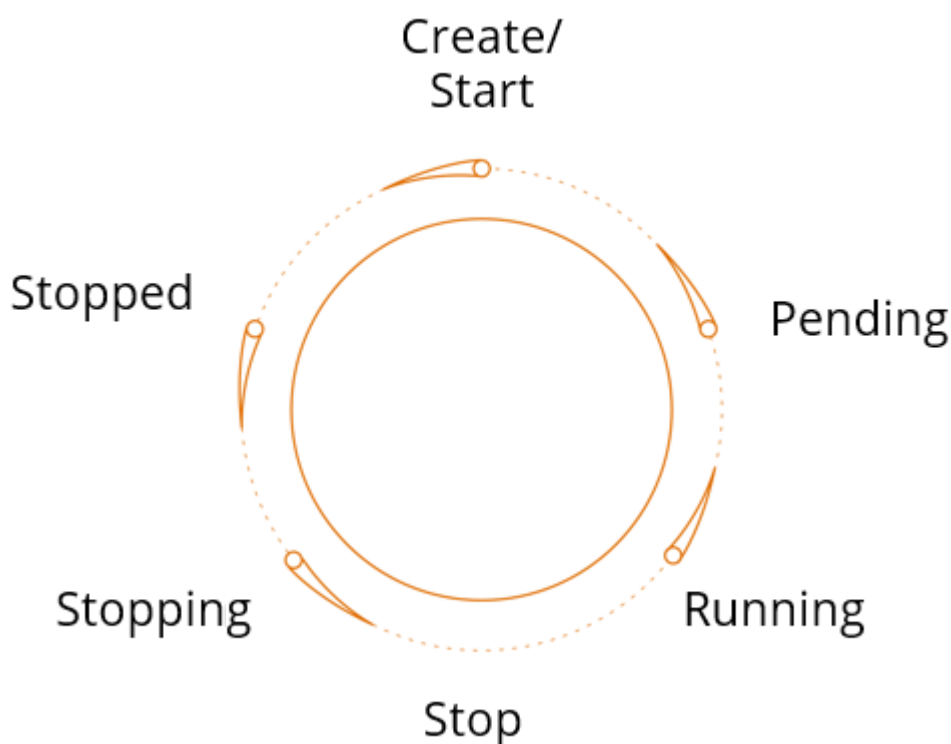# Start, stop, or restart your Amazon Lightsail instance

Last updated: October 16, 2017

When Lightsail creates your instance, your machine goes into a **Pending** state before it starts **Running**. After your instance is running, you can restart it or stop and then restart it. The cycle looks like this:

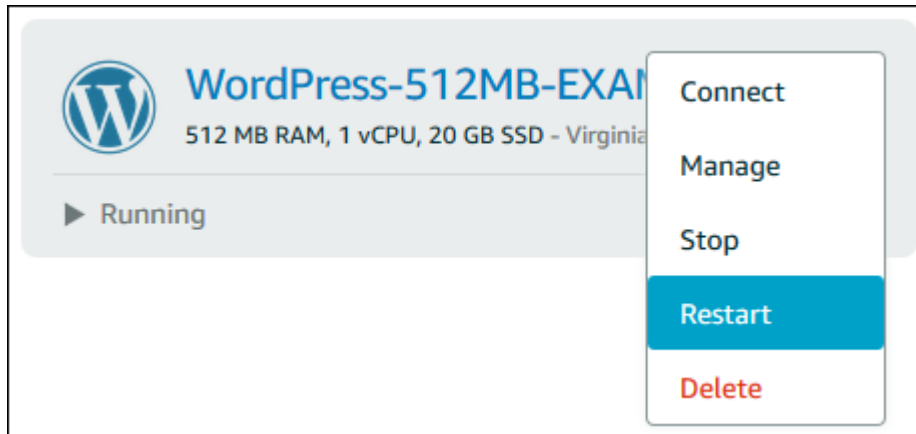You can see the instance state when you manage your instance or view your instance on the home page.

Important
If you stop or restart your instance without first creating a static IP address, you will lose your IP address when your instance restarts. It's always a good idea to create a static IP address for your instance. Here's how: Create a static IP address in Lightsail.

Restart your instance while it's running

- On the home page, choose the instance you want to restart, or choose **Restart** from the manage instance menu.
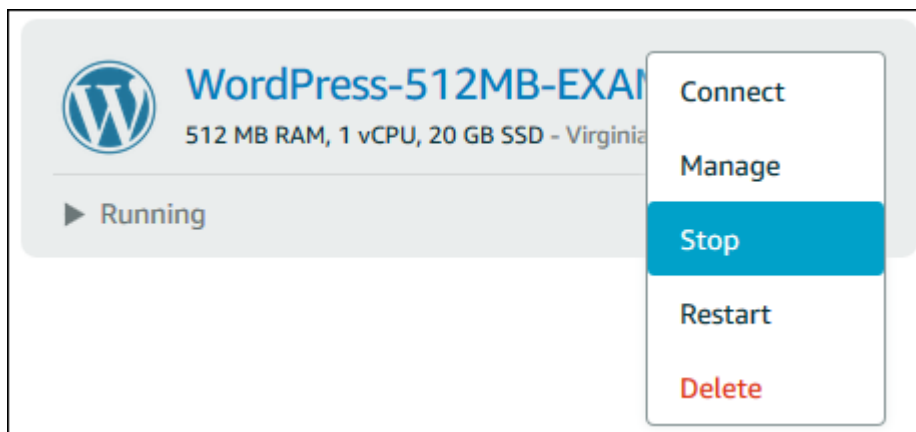
If you're viewing your instance from the instance management page, choose **Restart**, and then choose **Confirm** when prompted. **Note**
To **Restart** your instance, it must be in a **Running** state.

Stop a running instance

- On the home page, choose the instance you want to stop, or choose **Stop** from the manage instance menu.
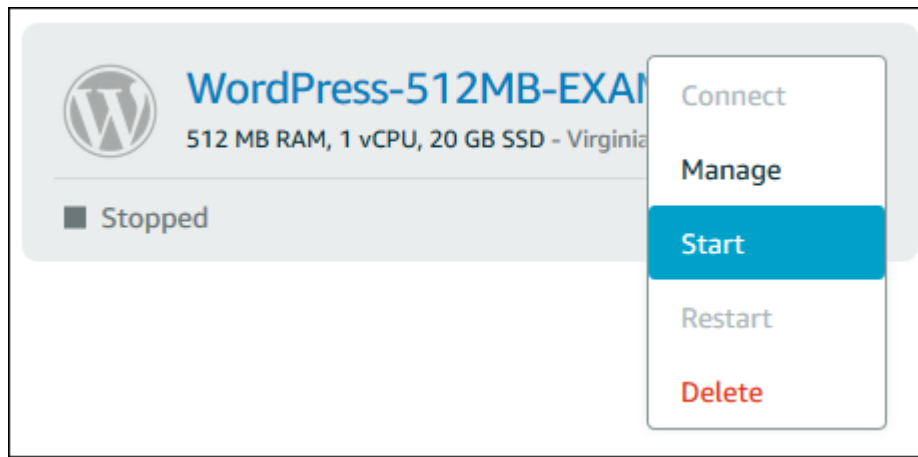

If you're viewing your instance from the instance management page, choose **Stop**, and then choose **Confirm** when prompted. **Note**
To **Stop** your instance, it must be in a **Running** state.

Start your instance after it's stopped

- On the home page, choose the instance you want to start, or choose **Start** from the manage instance menu.

If you're viewing your instance from the instance management page, choose **Start**. **Note** To **Start** your instance, it must be in a **Stopped** state.