11.2: AWS Overview

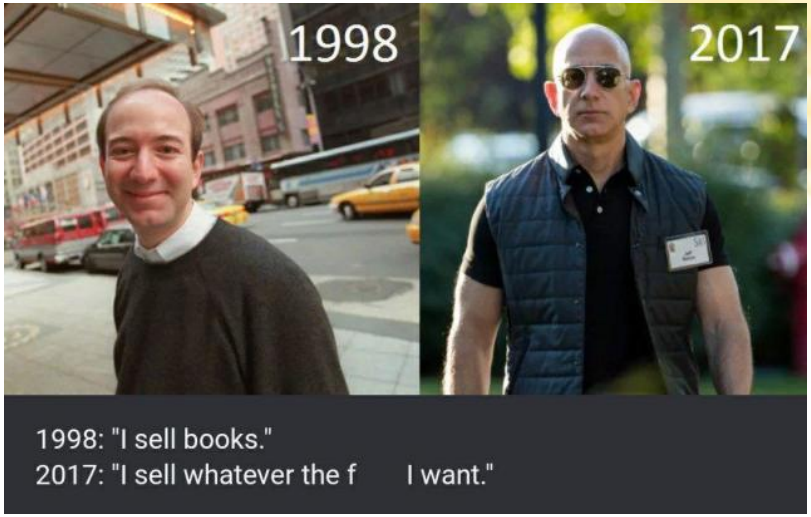
- **Instructor**: Dr. GP Saggese, gsaggese@umd.edu
- **References**:
  - Some basic info in the slides
  - Many tutorials on-line
  - Mastery
    - Amazon Web Services in Action 3rd Edition

Amazon Web Services (AWS)

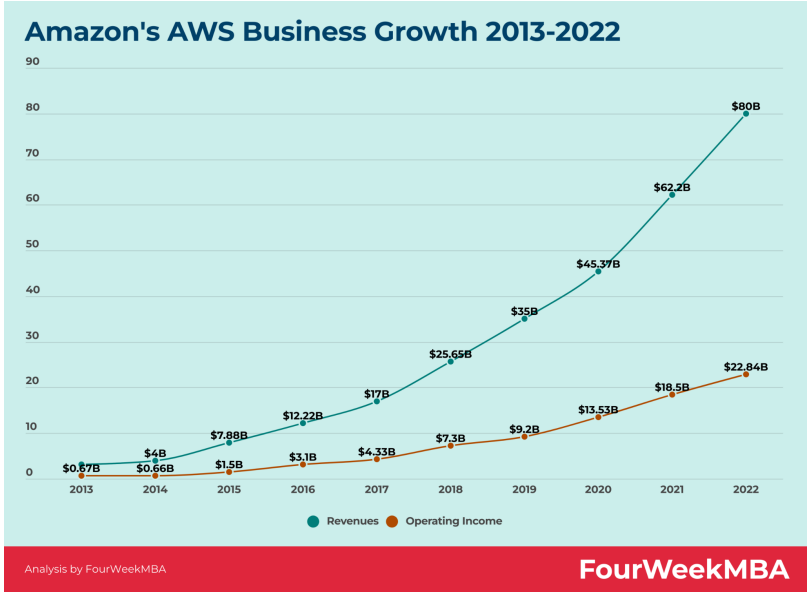
- **AWS is a platform offering complete cloud solutions**
  - Computing (e.g., EC2)
  - Storing (e.g., S3)
  - Networking
- **Offers different levels of abstractions**
  - IAAS, PAAS, SAAS
  - From virtual hardware to applications, e.g.,
    - Host websites
    - Run enterprise software
    - Run machine learning applications
- **Control services in different ways**
  - Web interface (console)
  - CLI: `aws` command
  - Programmatically
    - Language libraries, SDK (e.g., Python `boto3`)

AWS as Business

- Services charge pay-per-use pricing model
- Data centers distributed globally
  - US, Europe, Asia, South America
- 500 new services and features annually
- Insanely profitable
  - $91B/year in revenue (2023)
  - Grows 42% year-over-year
  - Controls 30% of cloud business



Beef Jezos

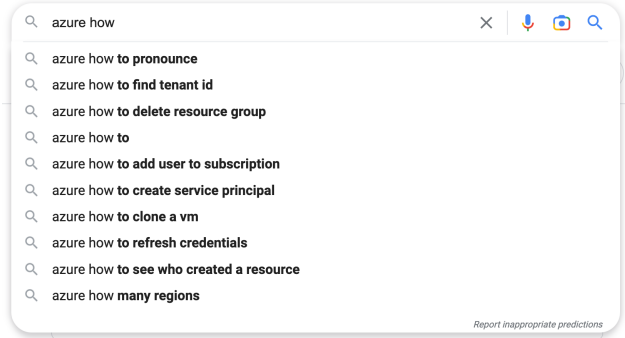


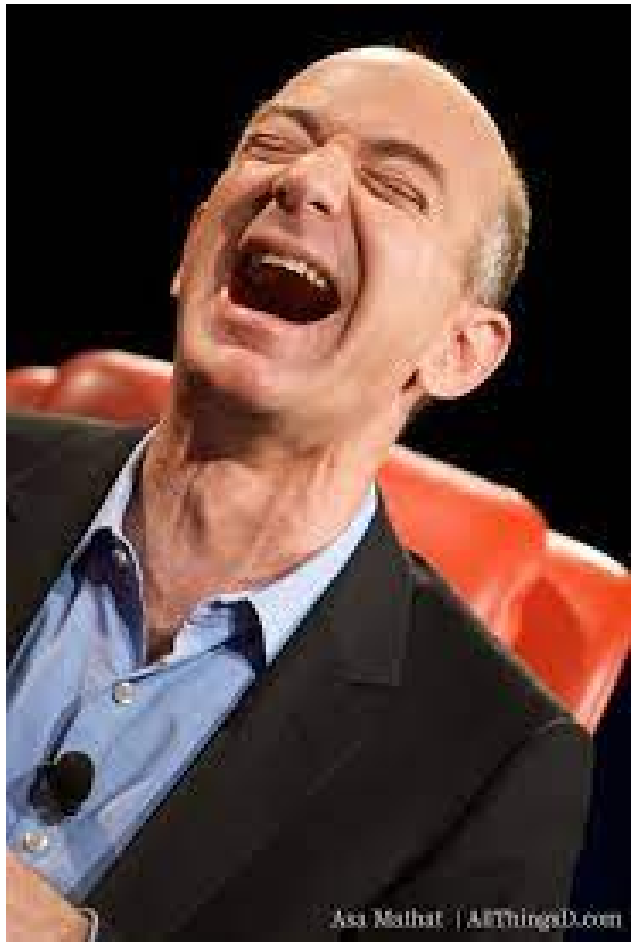
Types of Cloud Computing

- Cloud computing enables a shared pool of configurable computing resources
  - E.g., servers, storage, networks, applications, services
  - Accessible from anywhere
  - Convenient
  - On-demand
- Clouds can be:
  - *Public*: open to general public (e.g., AWS)
  - *Private*: virtualize and share IT infrastructure within one organization (e.g., government)
  - *Hybrid*: mix of public and private clouds

AWS vs Google Cloud vs Microsoft Azure

- **Similarities:**
  - Worldwide infrastructure
  - Provide IAAS (computing, networking, storage)
    - AWS EC2 / Google Compute Engine / Azure VMs
    - AWS S3 / Google Cloud Storage / Azure Blob storage
  - Pay-as-you-go pricing model
- **Differences:**
  - AWS
    - Market leader, mature, powerful
    - Utilizes open source technologies
  - Azure offers Microsoft stack in the cloud
  - Google focuses on cloud-native applications



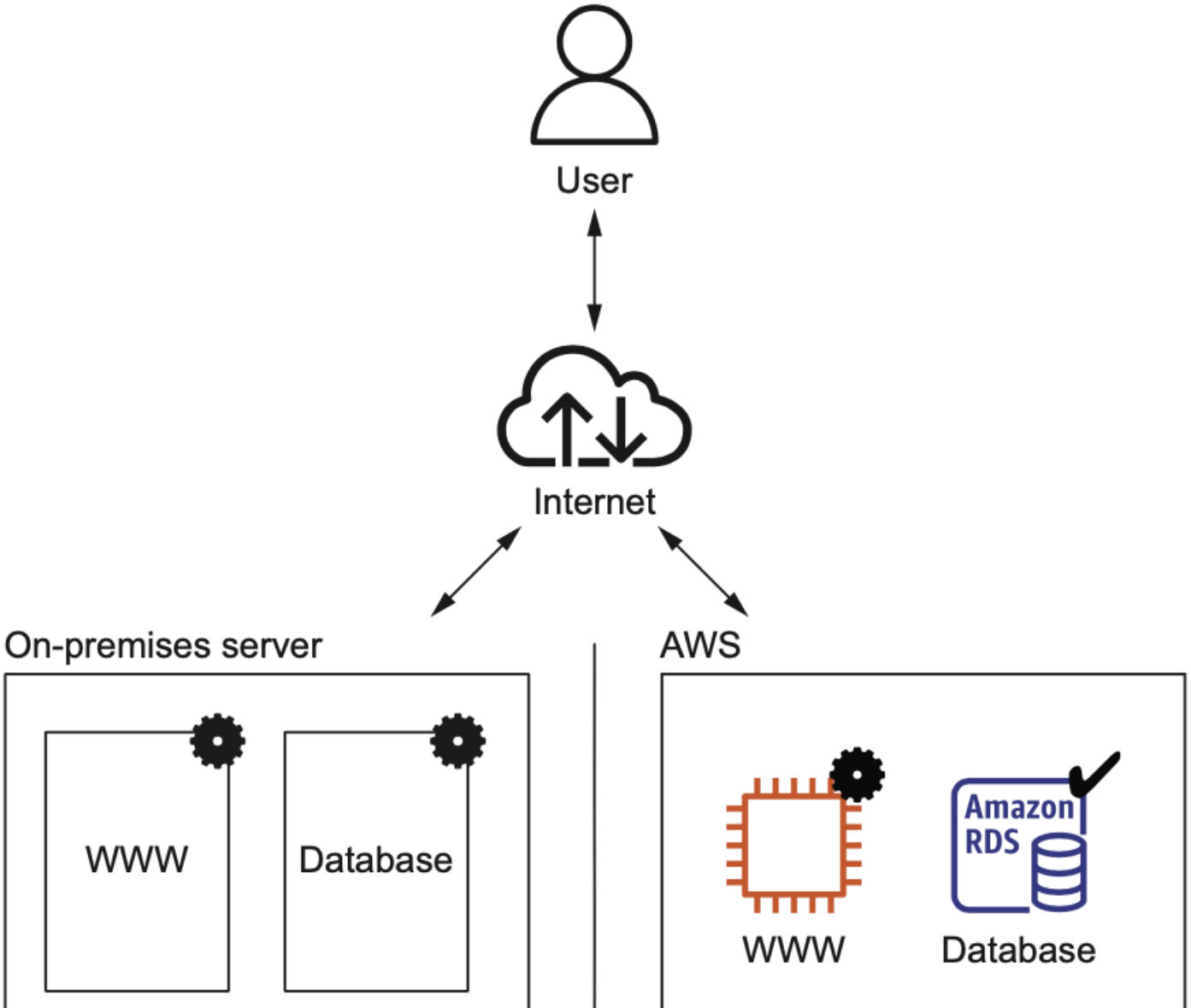


From On-premise to AWS

- **Aka "Cloud-transformation"**
- **Move a medium-sized e-commerce site from on-premise to the cloud**
- **Architecture**
  - **Web-server**: handle customer requests
  - **DB**: store product info and orders
  - **Static content** (e.g., JPEG image)
    - Delivered over CDN
    - Reduce load on services
  - **Dynamic content** (e.g., HTML pages)
    - E.g., products and prices
    - Delivered by web server

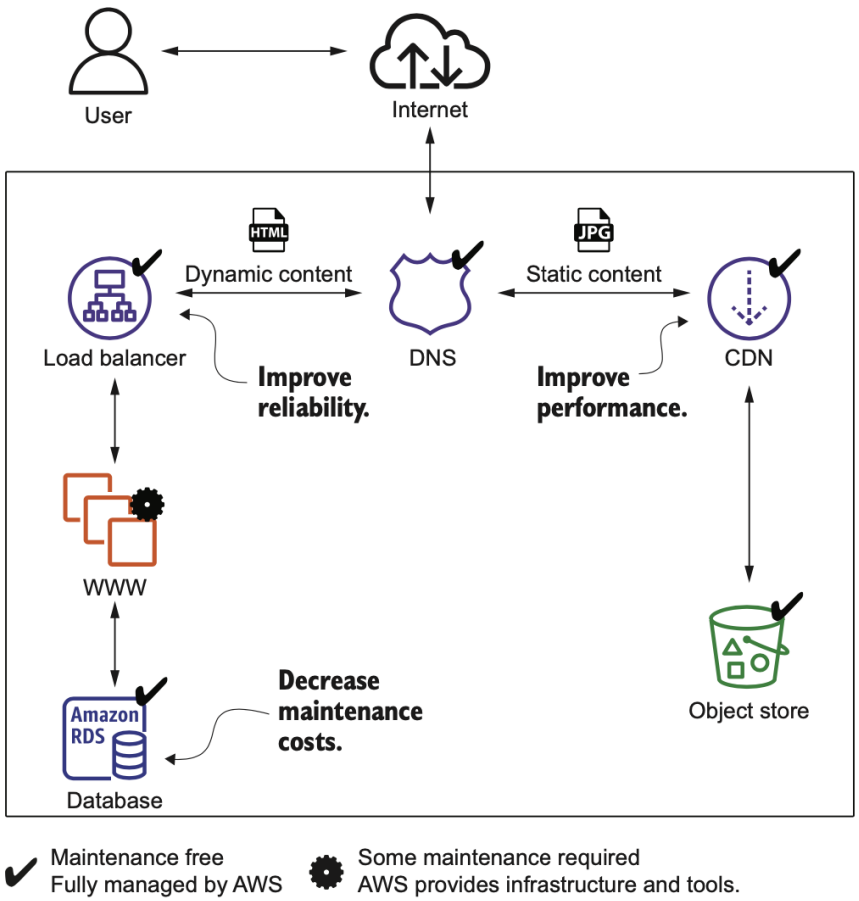
From On-premise to AWS

- **Step 1: Move to cloud**



From On-premise to AWS

- **Step 2: Design for the cloud**
  - DNS
  - Database
  - Object store (S3)
  - Managed solutions
  - Use multiple smaller virtual services with load balancer to increase reliability

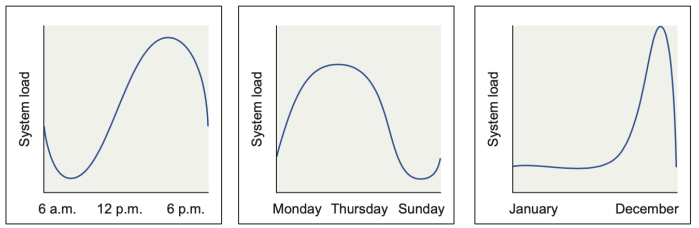


Low-Cost Batch Processing

- Lots of batch jobs run on a schedule
  - Analyze data daily
  - Generate reports from a DB
- Buy/allocate machine normally
- AWS bills VMs per minute
  - Pay only when running jobs
- AWS Batch
  - Offers spare capacity at a discount
  - Run when capacity is available, saving 50%
- AWS Lambda
  - Serverless

Capacity Scaling

- **No need to plan for capacity**
  - No need to predict capacity
  - Schedule capacity on-the-fly
  - No concern for rackspace, switches, power supplies
  - Add more VMs (1 to 1000) and storage (GB to PB) as needed
- **Handle seasonal traffic by scaling up/down**
  - Day vs night
  - Weekday vs weekend
  - Holiday
  - No test system needed when team is off
- **Worldwide presence**
  - AWS has many data centers
  - Deploy applications close to customers



Analytics	Application integration	AR and VR
AWS cost management	Blockchain	Business applications
Compute	Containers	Customer enablement
Database	Developer tools	End-user computing
Frontend web and mobile	Game Development	Internet of Things
Machine learning	Management and governance	Media services
Migration and transfer	Networking and content delivery	Quantum technologies
Robotics	Satellite	Security, identity, and compliance
Storage		

Pay-per-use

- **AWS bill**
  - Similar to an electric bill
  - Services billed based on usage:
    - Hours of virtual server (rounded up)
    - Used storage in GB (allocated or real)
    - Data traffic in GB or requests
- Free tier
  - Use some AWS services free for 12 months after signing up
  - Experience services (e.g., EC2, S3)
  - Exceed limits, start paying (without notice)
    - Set an alarm!

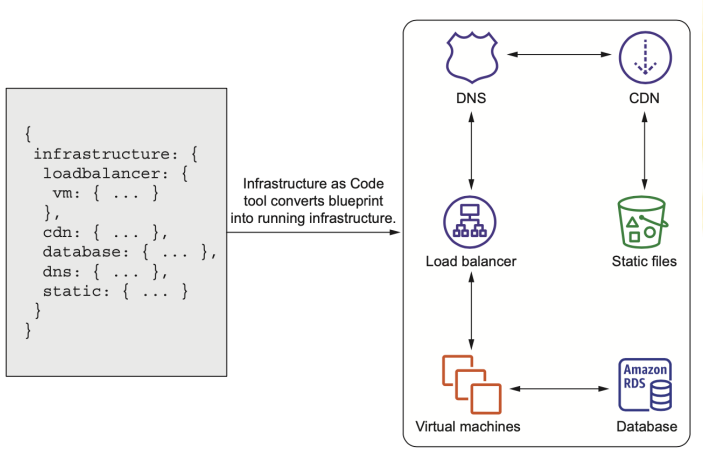
Service	January usage	February usage	February charge	Increase
Visits to website	100,000	500,000		
CDN	25 M requests + 25 GB traffic	125 M requests + 125 GB traffic	$115.00	$100.00
Static files	50 GB used storage	50 GB used storage	$1.15	$0.00
Load balancer	748 hours + 50 GB traffic	748 hours + 250 GB traffic	$19.07	$1.83
Web servers	1 virtual machine = 748 hours	4 virtual machines = 2,992 hours	$200.46	$150.35
Database (748 hours)	Small virtual machine + 20 GB storage	Large virtual machine + 20 GB storage	$133.20	$105.47
DNS	2 M requests	10 M requests	$4.00	$3.20
Total cost			***$472.88***	***$360.85***

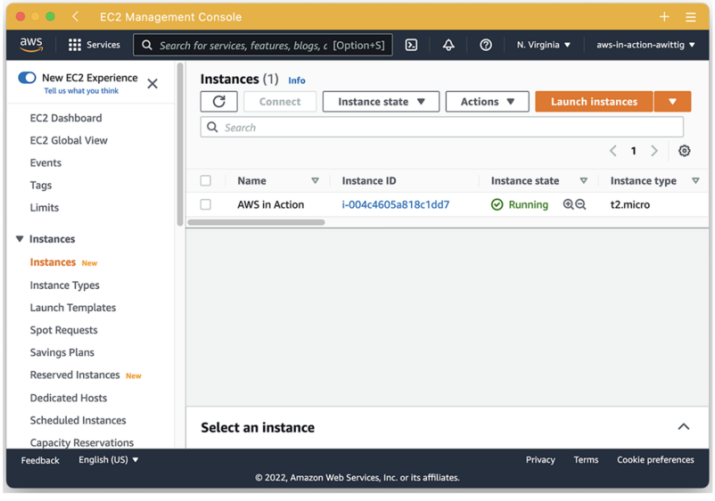
Pay-per-use

- **Advantages**
  - No upfront investments or commitment
  - Lower project startup cost
  - Easier to divide system into smaller parts
    - One big server or two smaller ones cost the same
  - Affordable fault tolerance/high performance
    - For scalable workload, buy 1 server for 1000 hours = buy 1000 servers for 1 hour

Interacting with AWS

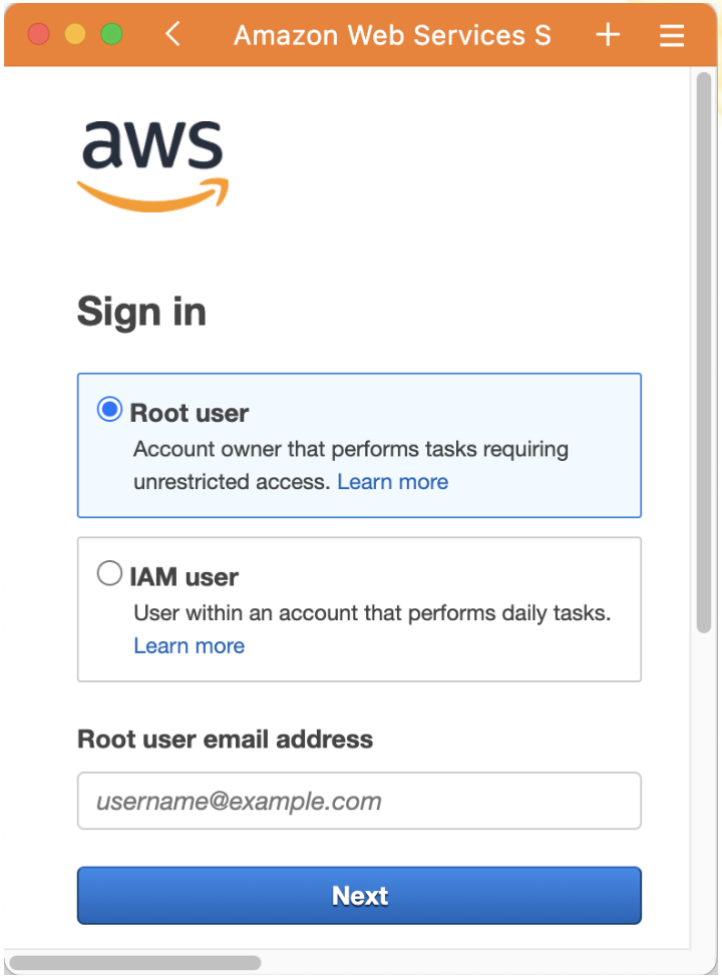
- **AWS internal API allows to interact with services**
- **GUI (Management Console)**
  - Start interacting with services easily
  - Set up cloud infrastructure for development and testing
- **Command-line tool (CLI)**
  - Manage and access AWS services
  - Automate recurring tasks
- **SDKs**
  - Use libraries in any language to interact with AWS
  - Integrate applications with AWS
  - E.g., `boto3` for Python
- **Blueprints**
  - Describe your system with all services and dependencies
  - Describe the system, not how to build it





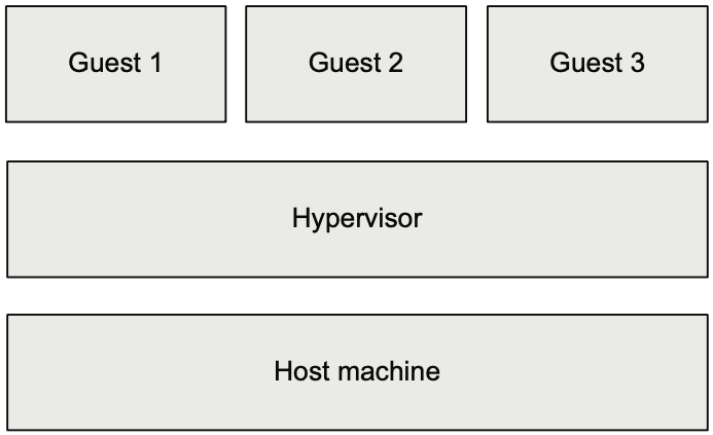
Accounts and Users

- **Users**
  - One root AWS account
  - Attach multiple users to an account
    - Different privileges
    - Isolate workloads
- **Be safe**
  - Never use root account to develop
  - Always use 2FA
  - Avoid costly mistakes
- **Key pair**
  - Create a key pair to access a virtual server
  - Public key (in AWS and on virtual servers)
  - Private key is your secret
    - Don't lose it; can't retrieve it



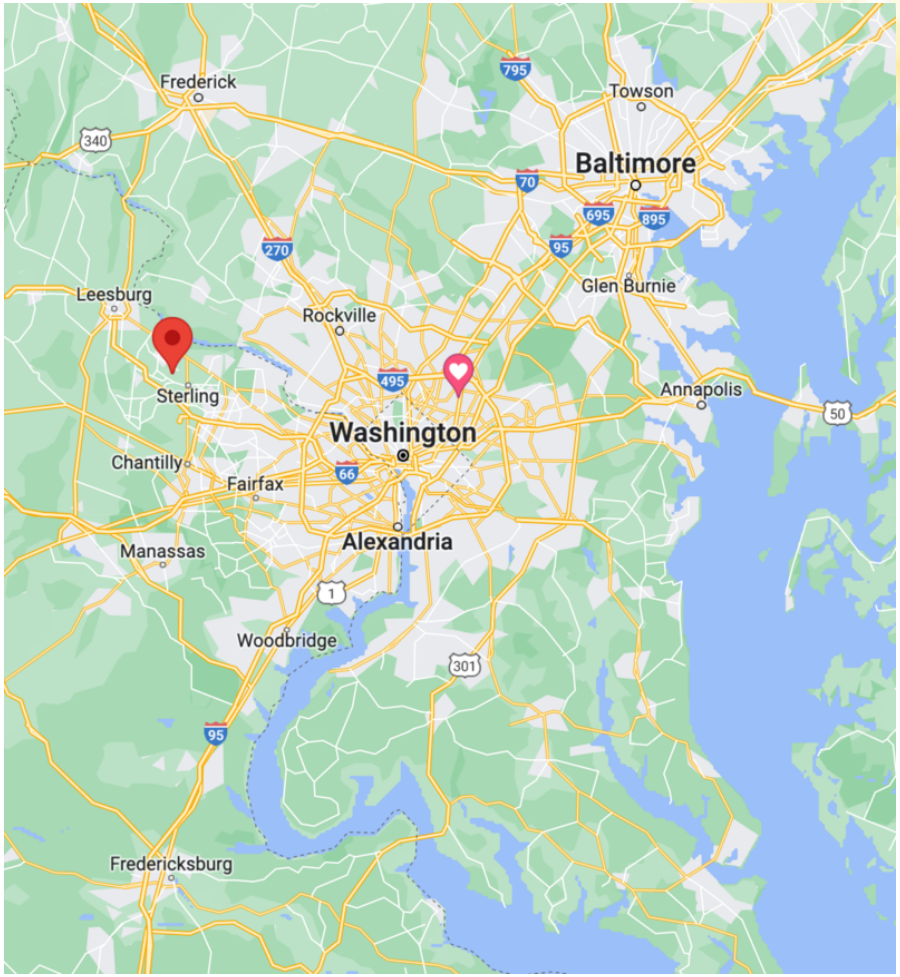
AWS VMs

- With virtualization, multiple VMs run on the same hardware
  - Start and stop VMs on-demand
- Physical server
  - Aka “host machine”, “bare metal”
  - Consists of CPUs, memory, networking interfaces, storage
- Hypervisor (software + CPU hardware)
  - Isolates guests
  - Schedules hardware requests
- Virtual servers (aka “guests”) are isolated on the same hardware
- AWS
  - Used Xen hypervisor (open-source)
  - Switched to AWS Nitro, hardware-assisted virtualization
    - Performance close to bare metal



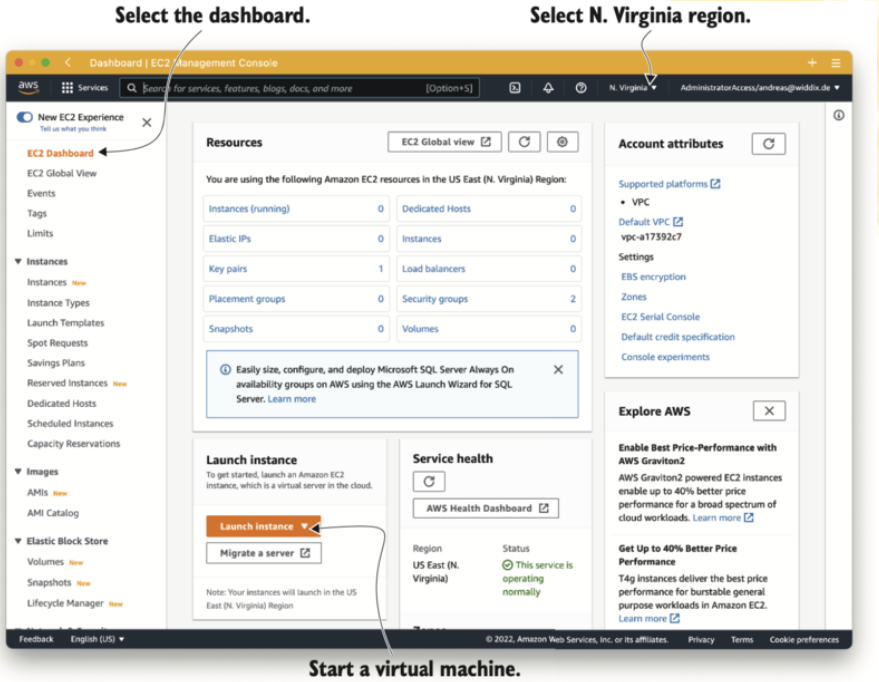
Starting an EC2 Instance

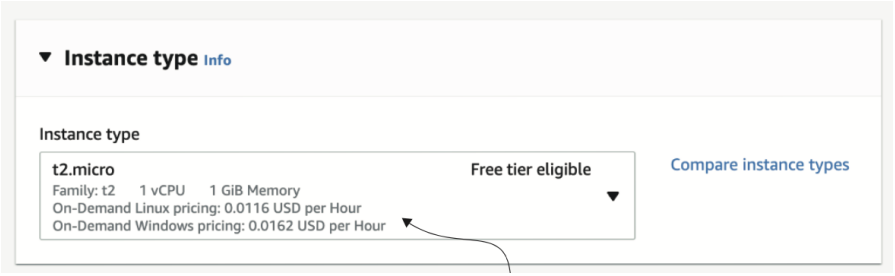
- **Select region**
  - E.g., `us-east-1`
  - Where is it?
    - 21155 Smith Switch Road, Ashburn, VA, USA

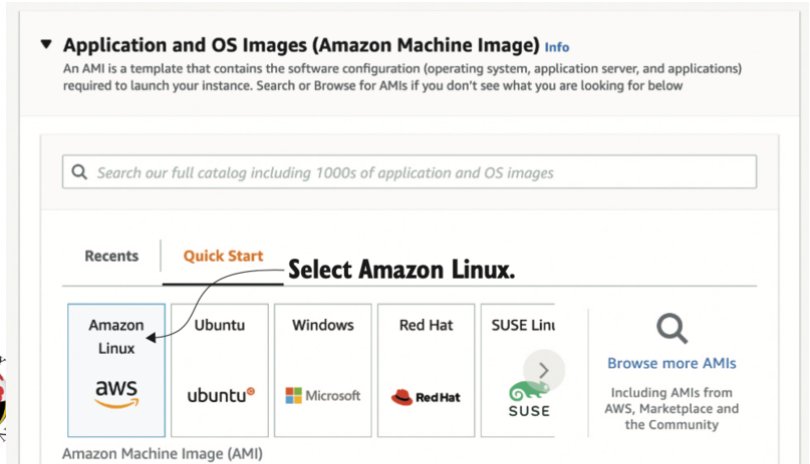


Starting an EC2 Instance

- **Select OS**
  - Amazon Machine Image (AMI)
  - Contains OS + pre-installed software
  - Saves time installing OS, packages, software
- **Choose instance parameters**
  - E.g., `t2.micro`
  - More info later
- **Configure instance**
  - Network, shutdown behavior, termination protection, monitoring







AWS Instance Type

- An "instance type" describes computing power
- https://aws.amazon.com/ec2/instance
- Instance family
  - `T`: cheap, baseline
  - `M`: general purpose
  - `C`: compute optimized
  - `R`: memory optimized
  - `D`: storage optimized for HDD
  - `I`: storage optimized for SSD
  - `F`: with FPGAs
  - `P, G, CG`: with GPUs
- E.g., `t2.micro`
  - `t`: instance family (small, cheap)
  - `2`: generation (second)
  - `micro`: size (1 vCPU, 1GB memory)
  - 0.013 USD/hr
- E.g., `m4.large`

M7g | Mac | M6g | M6i | M6in | M6a | M5 | M5n | M5zn | M5a | M4 | A1 | T4g | T3 | T3a | T2

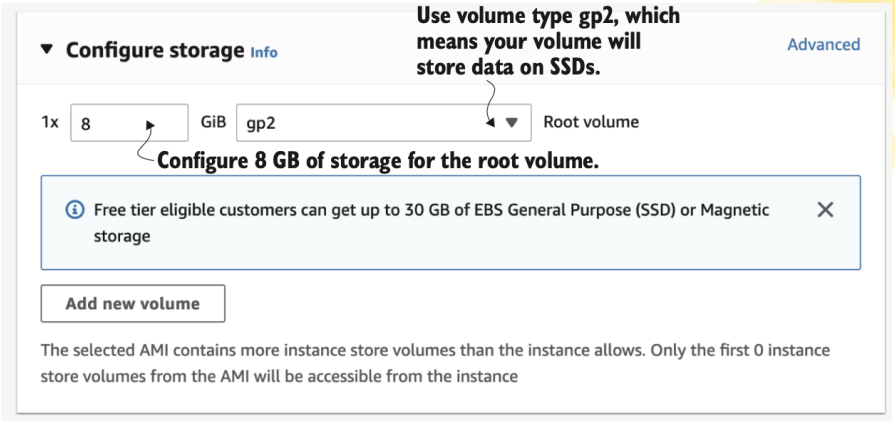
Instance	vCPU*	CPU Credits / hour	Mem (GiB)	Storage	Network Performance
t2.nano	1	3	0.5	EBS-Only	Low
t2.micro	1	6	1	EBS-Only	Low to Moderate
t2.small	1	12	2	EBS-Only	Low to Moderate
t2.medium	2	24	4	EBS-Only	Low to Moderate
t2.large	2	36	8	EBS-Only	Low to Moderate
t2.xlarge	4	54	16	EBS-Only	Moderate
t2.2xlarge	8	81	32	EBS-Only	Moderate

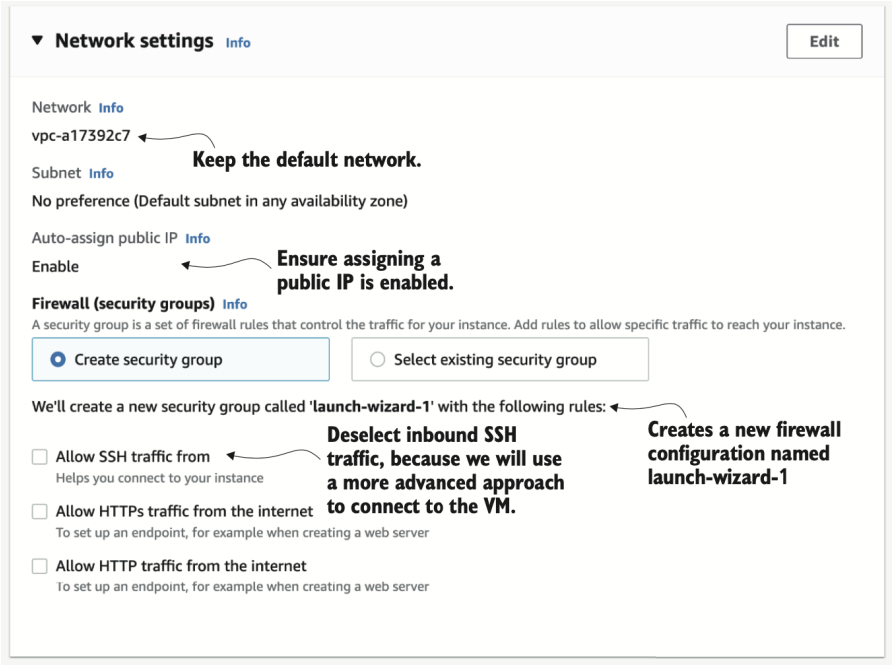
AWS Instance Type

- Price on AWS website is somehow unclear (duh really?)
  - Burst mode
  - vCPUs
  - Multi-tenancy
  - On-demand vs spot vs reserved vs pre-paid
  - 642 types of machines (as of 2023)
  - From 37 USD / yr to 1.91M USD / yr (500 CPUs and 24TB of mem)
- Alternative sites: https://instances.vantage.sh

Starting an EC2 Instance

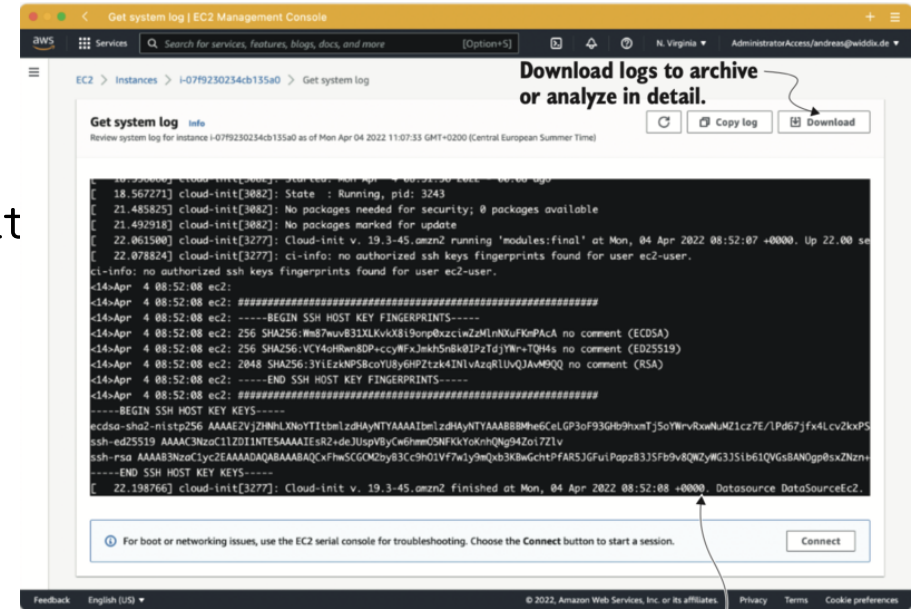
- Add storage
  - Volume size
  - Volume type (SSD or magnetic HDDs)
- Tag
- Configure firewall
  - How to access using SSH
  - Select key-pair
- How to monitor the instance
  - E.g. CloudWatch





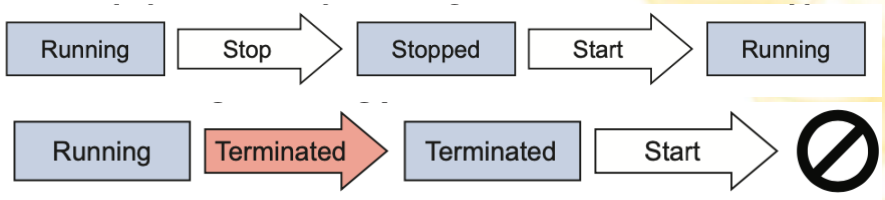
Starting an EC2 Instance

- Start instance
- Find public IP
- Connect to the machine
  - `> ssh -i $PATH/mykey.pem ubunt`
  - `> cat /proc/cpuinfo`
  - `> free -m`
  - `> sudo apt-get update`
  - `> sudo apt-get install ...`



States of a VM

- **Start**
  - Start a stopped VM
- **Stop**
  - Stopped VM not billed
  - Attached resources (e.g., network HDD) persist and incur charges
  - Data storage (local disk) does *not* persist
  - VM can restart later on a different host (different IP)
- **Reboot**
  - Attached resources persist
  - Data storage does *not* persist
  - Software remains installed after reboot
  - VM restarts on a different host
- **Terminate**
  - Means delete: cannot restart
  - Data storage wiped out
  - Attached volumes persist



Moving / Upgrading EC2 Instances

- **Scale up / down**
  - Increase VM size for more computing power
  - Stop VM
  - Change instance type (e.g., `m3.large`)
  - Start VM
  - IP addresses change
- **AWS regions**
  - Regions are collections of data centers
  - Regions are independent
  - No data transfer across regions
  - Some services (e.g., IAM, CDN, DNS) are global
- **Why move across AWS regions**
  - Proximity to users
  - Compliance
    - Data storage and processing permissions
  - Service availability
    - Some services unavailable in certain regions
  - Redundancy
  - Costs
    - Vary by region
  - **Often use Elastic IP for fixed public IP**

Optimizing Costs

- **On-demand instances**
  - Maximum flexibility, no restrictions
  - Start and stop VMs anytime
  - Pay by hour
- **EC2 / Compute saving plans**
  - 1 yr vs 3 yrs
  - Commit to a certain number of hours
  - Payment options: all, partial, no upfront
  - Discount: up to 3x cheaper than on-demand
  - Useful for dev servers
- **Capacity reservation**
  - Access machines even in peak hours
- **Spot instances**
  - Bid for unused capacity
  - Price based on supply/demand
  - Discount: up to 10x cheaper than on-demand
  - Useful for asynchronous tasks

Programming the Infrastructure

- On AWS *everything* can be controlled via an API over HTTPS
  - Start a VM
  - Create 1TB of storage
  - Start Hadoop cluster
- Jeff Bezos 2002 API mandate
  - An email worth $100B/yr
  - HackerNews
  - An eye-witness from Google about it
- You can use:
  - AWS console
  - HTTP requests to the API
  - CLI (Command Line Interface)
    - Call AWS API from your terminal
  - SDK (Software Development Kit)
    - Call AWS API from your code
  - CloudFormation: templates describe infrastructure state, translated into API calls

1. All teams will henceforth expose their data and functionality through service interfaces.
2. Teams must communicate with each other through these interfaces.
3. There will be no other form of interprocess communication allowed: no direct linking, no direct reads of another team's data store, no shared-memory model, no back-doors whatsoever. The only communication allowed is via service interface calls over the network.
4. It doesn't matter what technology they use. HTTP, Corba, Pubsub, custom protocols – doesn't matter.
5. All service interfaces, without exception, must be designed from the ground up to be externalizable. That is to say, the team must plan and design to be able to expose the interface to developers in the outside world. No exceptions.
6. Anyone who doesn't do this will be fired.
7. Thank you; have a nice day!

Jeff Bezos 2002 API mandate

Infrastructure-As-Code

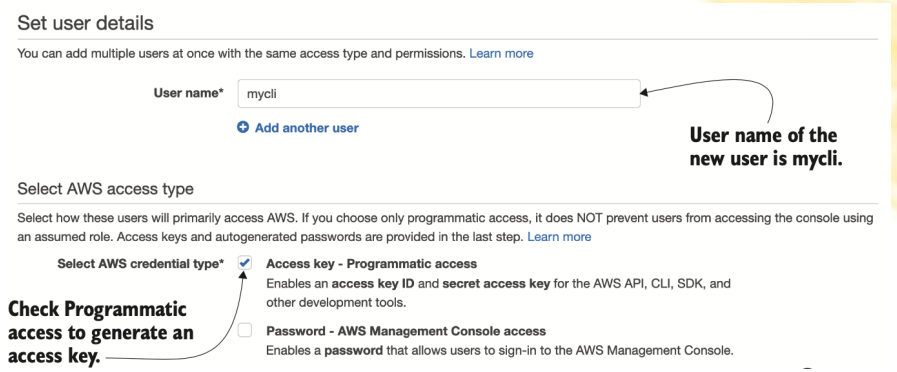
- **Use high-level programming language to control IT systems**
- Apply software development to infra
  - Code repository
  - Automated tests
  - Continuous integration
- **DevOps (SRE in Google parlance)**
  - Mix devs and ops in the same team
  - Use software to bring development and operations closer
  - Switch roles to experience each other's pain
    - Devs -> responsible for operational tasks (e.g., on-call)
    - Ops -> involved in software development, making system easier to operate
  - Foster communication and collaboration

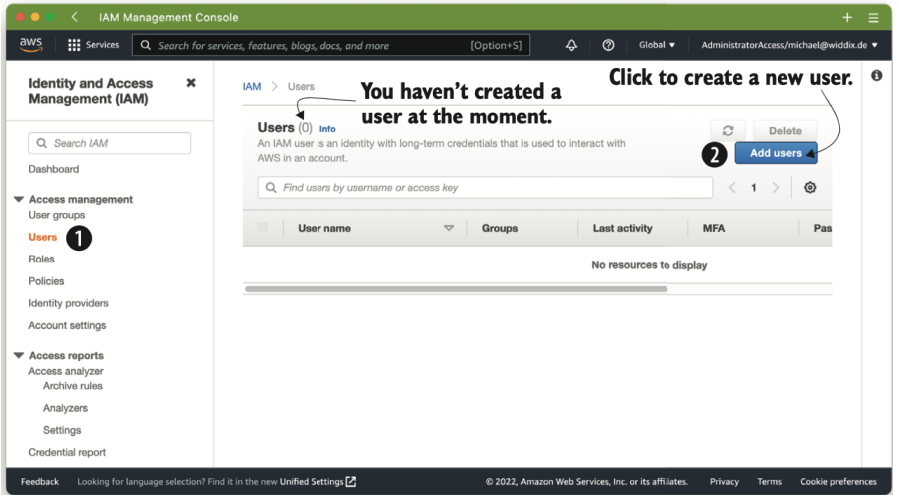
Infrastructure-as-Code: Advantages

- **Save time**
  - Reuse scripts or blueprints
  - Automate regular tasks
  - Copy-paste vs click-click-click
- **Fewer mistakes**
  - Push button flow
- **Consistency of actions**
  - Multiple deploys per day
- **Deployment pipeline**
  - Commit changes to source code
  - Build application from source
  - Automatic tests (e.g., integration tests)
  - Build testing environment
  - Run acceptance tests in isolation
  - Propagate changes to production
  - Monitor production
- **The script is detailed documentation**
  - Explains what and how, not why (not a design document)

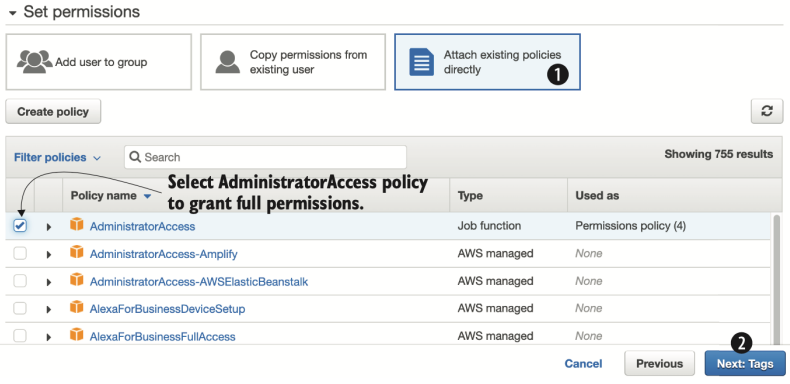
Create User Account

- Avoid using AWS root account for development
- Create a new user
  - IAM: Identity and Access Management
- Access key ID + secret access key
- Access control
  - Enable programmatic access
  - Enable console access
  - Limit user actions through policies





Bad idea!



AWS Command Line Interface (CLI)

- Provide unified interface to all AWS services
- Output is in JSON format

  ```
  > apt-get install awscli
  ```

- Authenticate

  ```
  > aws configure
  ```

  - AWS access key ID
    - E.g., `AKIAIR...D7ZCA`
  - AWS secret access key
    - E.g., `SSKIng7jkA...enqBj7`
  - Default region name
    - E.g., `us-east-1`

- Execute command

  ```
  > aws <service> <action> --key value
  ```

Software Development Kit (SDK)

- SDK is a library calling AWS API from your programming language
  - E.g., python, Go, Ruby, C++, JavaScript
- **Pros:** handles
  - Authentication
  - Retry on error
  - HTTPS communication
  - XML / JSON de-/serialization
- **Cons**
  - Imperative approach
  - Deal with dependencies

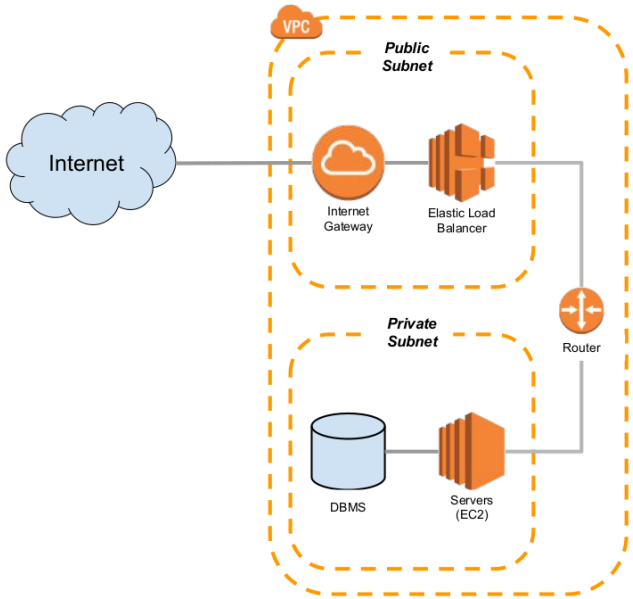
```python
import boto3

# Get the service resource.
dynamodb = boto3.resource('dynamodb')

# Create the DynamoDB table.
table = dynamodb.create_table(
    TableName='users',
    KeySchema=[
        {
            'AttributeName': 'username',
            'KeyType': 'HASH'
        },
        {
            'AttributeName': 'last_name',
            'KeyType': 'RANGE'
        }
    ],
    AttributeDefinitions=[
        {
            'AttributeName': 'username',
            'AttributeType': 'S'
        },
        {
            'AttributeName': 'last_name',
            'AttributeType': 'S'
        },
    ],
    ProvisionedThroughput={
        'ReadCapacityUnits': 5,
        'WriteCapacityUnits': 5
    }
)

# Wait until the table exists.
table.wait_until_exists()
```

AWS CloudFormation

- **Use templates (e.g., JSON, YAML) to describe infrastructure**
- **Declarative vs imperative approach**
  - Declare the system, not the steps to build it
- **AWS Stacks processes CloudFormation templates**
- **Pros**
  - Consistent infrastructure description
  - Handle dependencies
  - Customizable
    - Inject parameters to customize templates
  - Testable
    - Create infra from a template, test, shut down
  - Updatable
    - Update template, Stacks applies changes automatically
  - Serves as documentation
    - Use as code in source control

Securing Your System

- **Always install software updates**
  - Fix new security vulnerabilities daily
- **Restrict access to AWS account**
  - Use different AWS accounts for individuals and scripts
  - Apply "least privilege": grant only necessary permissions
- **Restrict network traffic**
  - Open only essential ports
    - E.g., 80 for HTTP, 443 for HTTPS
  - Close all others
  - Encrypt traffic and data
- **Create a private network**
  - Use subnets not reachable from the Internet



AWS Shared-responsibility Principle

- AWS is responsible for:
  - Protect network through monitoring Internet access
    - E.g., prevent DDoS attacks
  - Ensure physical security of data centers
  - Decommission storage devices after end of life
- You are responsible for:
  - Restrict access using IAM
  - Encrypt network traffic (e.g., HTTPS)
  - Configure firewall for VPN
  - Encrypt data
  - Update OS (kernel, libs) and software