

Participant Preparation Guide

WiMLDS Sydney fast.ai Kick-off Event hosted by Amazon Web Services (AWS)

Thanks for signing up to the fast.ai study group hosted by WiMLDS! You will run the fast.ai course on Amazon SageMaker, a fully managed service that provides every developer and data scientist with the ability to build, train, and deploy machine learning (ML) models quickly. An AWS team will be available during the kick-off event to help you get started on Amazon SageMaker. In preparation for the kick-off event, we ask that you complete the steps described in this guide.

Sign up for an AWS account

Note: If you already have a personal AWS account, you can skip this step.

When you sign up for Amazon Web Services (AWS), your AWS account is automatically signed up for all AWS services, including Amazon SageMaker. You are charged only for the services that you use.

To create an AWS account

1. Open <https://portal.aws.amazon.com/billing/signup>
2. Follow the online instructions.
Part of the sign-up procedure involves receiving a phone call and entering a verification code on the phone keypad.

Create an administrator user

When you create an AWS account, you get a single sign-in identity that has complete access to all of the AWS services and resources in the account. This identity is called the AWS account *root user*. Signing in to the AWS console using the email address and password that you used to create the account gives you complete access to all of the AWS resources in your account.

We strongly recommend that you *not* use the root user for everyday tasks, even the administrative ones. Instead, adhere to the [Create Individual IAM Users](#), an AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) administrator user. Then securely lock away the root user credentials and use them to perform only a few account and service management tasks.

Create an administrator user in your AWS account. For instructions, see [Creating Your First IAM User and Administrators Group](#) in the *IAM User Guide*.

(Recommended) Configure multi-factor authentication

For increased security, we recommend that you configure multi-factor authentication (MFA) to help protect your AWS resources. You can enable MFA for IAM users or the AWS account root user. When you enable MFA for the root user, it affects only the root user credentials. IAM users in the account are distinct identities with their own credentials, and each identity has its own MFA configuration. For instructions, see [Using Multi-Factor Authentication \(MFA\) in AWS](#) in the *IAM User Guide*.

Request service limit increase

In its current state, the fast.ai course can only be completed on an `ml.p2.xlarge` instance (or greater). Amazon SageMaker quotas for new accounts might prevent access to the 'P' instance family. To ensure that you can complete the course, please request a service limit increase through the [AWS Support Center](#). Follow the steps below to submit the request.

1. In the Support Center, choose [Create case](#).
2. Choose 'Service limit increase'.
3. Search for 'SageMaker' in 'Limit type' under 'Case classification'.
4. In the 'Requests' section, under 'Request 1', enter the following values:
 - a. Region: US East (Ohio)
 - b. Resource Type: SageMaker Notebooks
 - c. Limit: ml.p2.xlarge Instances
 - d. New limit value: 1
5. In the 'Case description' field, use the following explanation:
I am participating in the fast.ai study group hosted by WiMLDS (Women in Machine Learning and Data Science) Sydney and sponsored by AWS. To complete the course, I need to run one SageMaker notebook on an ml.p2.xlarge instance. The kick-off event will take place on March 23rd in Sydney. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wimlds-sydney-fastai-kickoff-event-tickets-95058655999>
6. Complete the rest of the form according to your contact preferences.
7. Submit the form.

It will take some time to process the request. Please submit at least one week before the kick-off event, if possible.