Setting up the directory

First of all, go ahead and setup a working directory for our files. I chose a directory called “terransible” (a little play on words involving terraform and ansible), but you can choose whatever you want. I placed mine in the home directory, but since all paths we will use will be relative, it really doesn’t matter where you place the directory.

Now I’m going to create three files: main.tf, variables.tf, and terraform.tfvars. If you are using git or other versioning software, make sure you don’t send the tfvars file to any public repositories. Take it from me, you don’t want anyone getting ahold of your AWS keys.

Now open your main.tf file with your favorite text editor. I will be using VIM for this course.

First, we want to add a “provider”, which will be AWS.

Provider “aws” {

Region = “${var.aws\_region}”

Profile = “${var.aws\_profile}”

}

Now that we have added this, we need to make sure those variables go into our variables.tf file and tfvars. This process can become a little tedious and, if you prefer, you can specify the variables inline, but that will clutter up your script very quickly.

So let’s now go to our variables.tf file and add these variables.

A handy little trick is also just to type the colon, the exclamation point, then echo the variable into the variables.tf script to save time. I will do that now, but feel free to open the file manually or use the :split command to add them as well.

:! Echo aws\_region = {} && echo aws\_profile = {} You can also set a description here or even a default value if you wish to have it automatically choose. I recommend descriptions for things that are difficult to understand, but I prefer to keep my variables values in the tfvars file only.

Now that we’ve done that, open your terraform.tfvars file and enter those same variables with their appropriate values. In my case, they are:

Aws\_profile = “superhero”

Aws\_region = “us-east-1”

You can also create value maps that you can use to lookup values for multiple environments, but we are going to keep it simple for this course and focus on getting the job done for one environment. I advise you to look into this, however, and explore these options as they are excellent for creating a truly scalable and reusable environment.

Ok, now we have our required files created and our first variables! Join me on the next lesson as we start adding some real content and start modifying our environment!