

Quick Guide – Generating an EC2 key pair

Objective

This guide has been written to help you understand the purpose of EC2 key pairs and how to create them.

Background

In order to connect to an EC2 instance over SSH or RDP, it is necessary to assign it an EC2 key pair.

The key pair is assigned to the EC2 instance as you launch it but needs to be created in advance.

You can create an EC2 key pair per instance if you wish but that is pretty extreme and will prove unmanageable. You are more likely to create an EC2 key pair to use with multiple instances. E.g. one EC2 key pair for all of your web servers and perhaps another EC2 key pair for your database servers.

Further reading

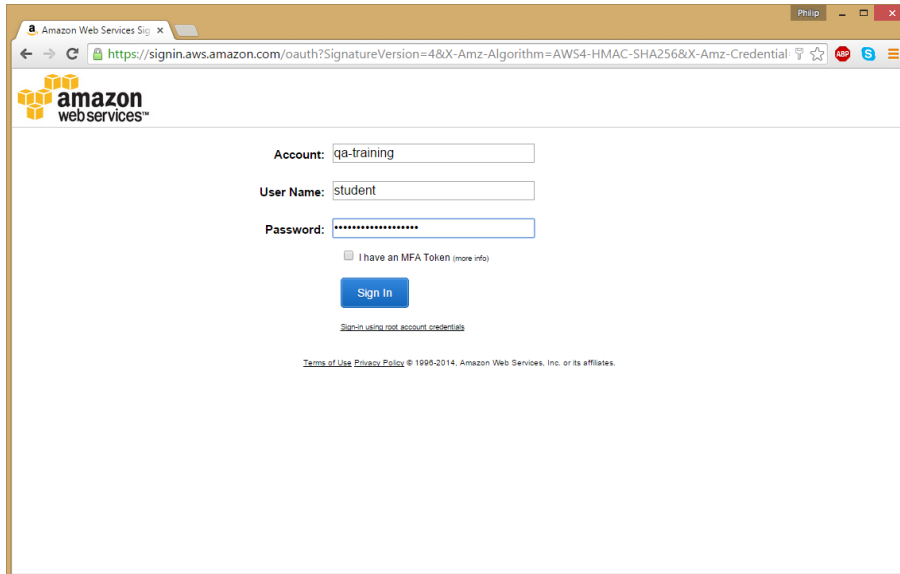
Should you require any further information, please refer to the following resource:

<http://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/ec2-key-pairs.html>

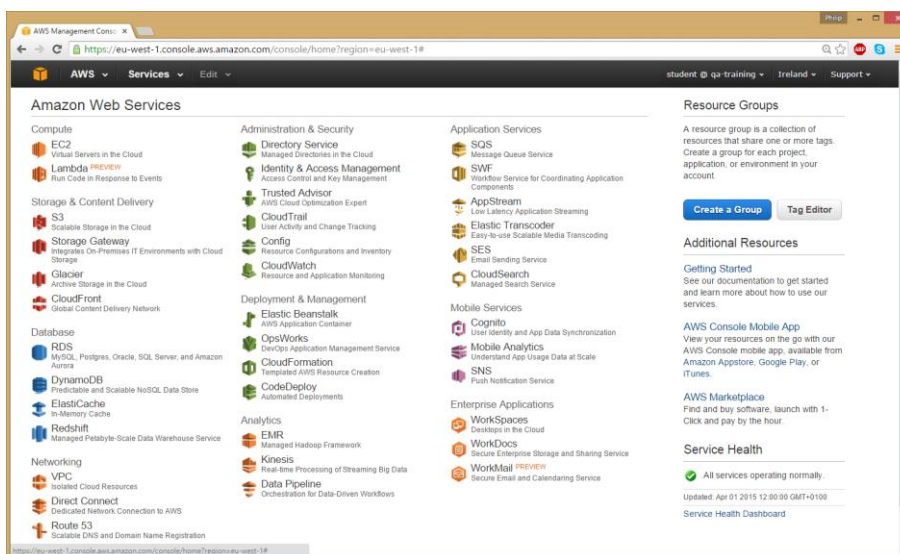
Note: If you find that some of the screen shots or steps are out of date, **please report them to your trainer.**

Stage 1 : Logging in to the AWS Console

- 1 Before you can create an EC2 key pair, you must first log into the **AWS Console**.

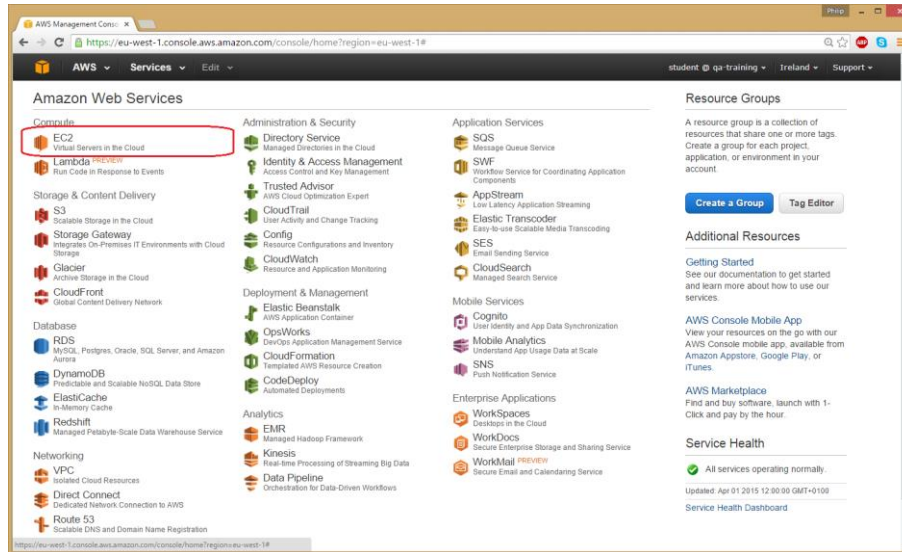


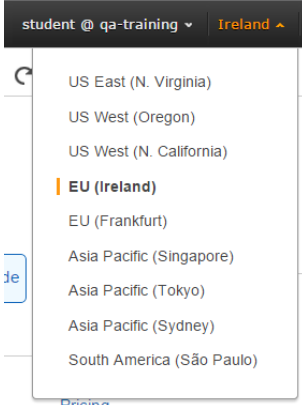
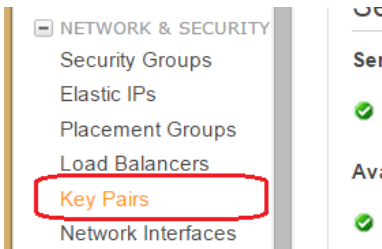
- 2 Once logged into the **AWS Console**, you should see most of the AWS services listed.

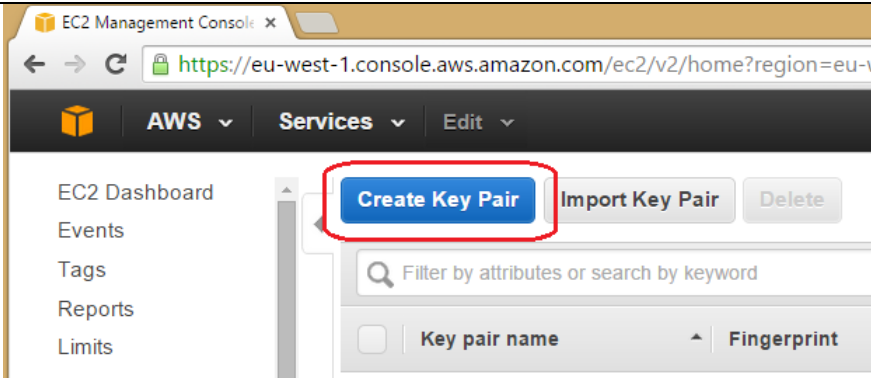
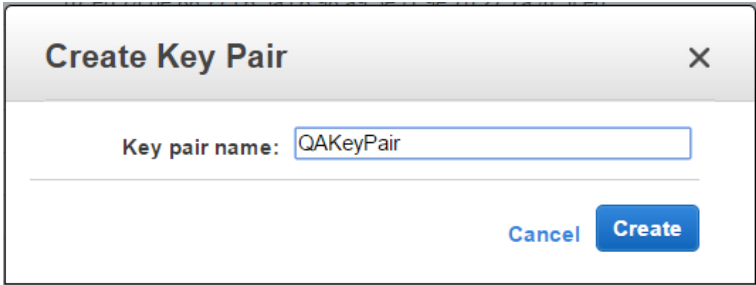
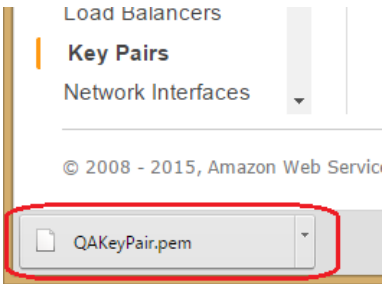


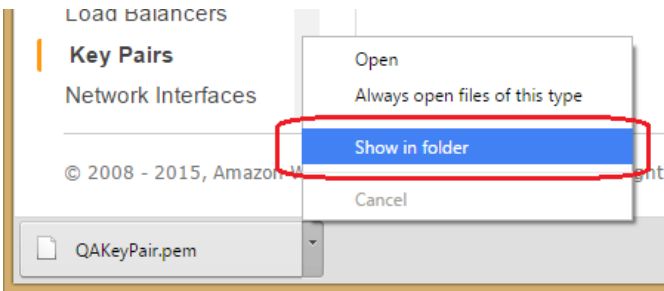
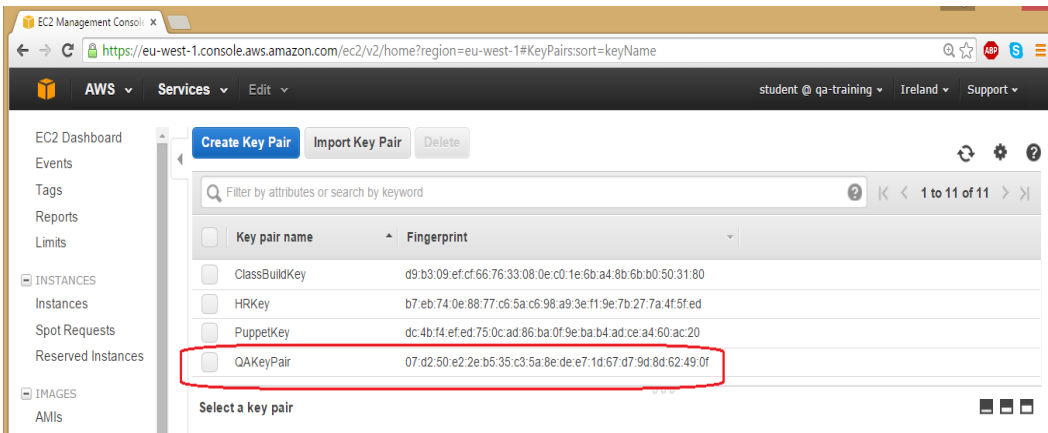
Stage 2 – Generate an EC2 key pair

- 3 Once logged in to the **AWS Console** you must click on the **EC2** link.



4	<p>EC2 key pairs are localised to a particular AWS Region so you must choose that first by selecting a region from the list in the top right hand corner of the AWS Console.</p>  <p>Note. They are called a key pair for a reason. You keep half and Amazon hold onto the other half. The half that Amazon retains is held in a region that you specify and can only be used with resources in that region.</p>
5	<p>Now that you have decided what region to create the EC2 key pair in, you must select Key Pairs from the side bar on the left hand side of the AWS Console.</p> 
6	<p>Click on the Create Key Pair button.</p>

	 <p>The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console for the EC2 service. The 'Create Key Pair' button is highlighted with a red box. The console interface includes a top navigation bar with 'AWS' and 'Services' menus, and a left sidebar with links to 'EC2 Dashboard', 'Events', 'Tags', 'Reports', and 'Limits'. The main content area shows the 'Create Key Pair' button, 'Import Key Pair', and 'Delete' buttons, along with a search bar and a table with columns for 'Key pair name' and 'Fingerprint'.</p>
7	<p>When prompted, enter a name for your EC2 key pair.</p>  <p>The screenshot shows the 'Create Key Pair' dialog box. The 'Key pair name' field is filled with 'QAKeyPair'. The dialog box has a 'Cancel' button and a 'Create' button.</p> <p>Note. You will refer to this EC2 key pair by name when assigning it to EC2 instances as you launch them.</p>
8	<p>When you click the Create button, you will notice that your browser downloads a pem file with the same name as your EC2 key pair.</p>  <p>The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console for the 'Key Pairs' section. The 'Key Pairs' section is selected in the left sidebar. The main content area shows a list of key pairs. At the bottom of the console, a download bar is visible, showing a file named 'QAKeyPair.pem' with a download icon.</p> <p>Note. This is your half of the EC2 key pair. You mustn't lose it or you will be unable to</p>

	connect to any EC2 instance over SSH or RDP that is launched with this EC2 key pair.										
9	<p>Locate the file and place it somewhere other than the Downloads folder where you can find it when necessary.</p> 										
10	<p>You will now see your EC2 key pair listed in the AWS Console. This is the copy retained by Amazon.</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Key pair name</th> <th>Fingerprint</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ClassBuildKey</td> <td>d9:b3:09:ef:cf:66:76:33:08:0e:c0:1e:6b:a4:8b:b0:50:31:80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HRKey</td> <td>b7:eb:74:0e:88:77:c6:5a:c6:98:a9:3e:f1:9e:7b:27:7a:4f:5f:ed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PuppetKey</td> <td>dc:4b:f4:ef:ed:75:0c:ad:86:ba:0f:9e:ba:b4:ad:ce:a4:60:ac:20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>QAKeyPair</td> <td>07:d2:50:e2:2e:b5:35:c3:5a:8e:de:e7:1d:67:d7:9d:8d:62:49:0f</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Key pair name	Fingerprint	ClassBuildKey	d9:b3:09:ef:cf:66:76:33:08:0e:c0:1e:6b:a4:8b:b0:50:31:80	HRKey	b7:eb:74:0e:88:77:c6:5a:c6:98:a9:3e:f1:9e:7b:27:7a:4f:5f:ed	PuppetKey	dc:4b:f4:ef:ed:75:0c:ad:86:ba:0f:9e:ba:b4:ad:ce:a4:60:ac:20	QAKeyPair	07:d2:50:e2:2e:b5:35:c3:5a:8e:de:e7:1d:67:d7:9d:8d:62:49:0f
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11	<p>Congratulations, you have successfully created an EC2 key pair. You will be able to use this key pair when launching EC2 instances and then (should you wish) connect to them over SSH or RDP.</p>										

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