

AWS account setup

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Many of the labs in this course will use Amazon Web Services, or AWS. (Other cloud providers too - IBM, Google, Azure, others - this is not an endorsement of Amazon. Most of the ideas translate to the others.) To do the labs in this course, you will need an AWS account.

Almost all AWS services are chargeable. Many services have a time-limited free tier. AWS Academy has a number of resources including free credits so that labs exceeding the free tier don't incur charges.

1 AWS account setup

You will get a sign-up email for AWS Academy Learner Labs. Go ahead and create the account.

2 AWS account usage

Login to your account at:

<https://awsacademy.instructure.com/courses/8294/modules/items/794040>

2.1 AWS Console access

Click the AWS link on the left to be taken to the AWS console.

2.2 Cloud Shell

You can access the AWS CLI running on Bash on Linux directly from the AWS console. There are a few extra tools like `git` installed on this environment.

3 Setup AWS command-line interface

The AWS Command Line Interface is a client program that runs on your local PC to allow you to manage AWS resources from the command-line (PowerShell, Bash). We will use the command-line extensively in this module.

3.1 PowerShell execution policy

PowerShell by default will not allow scripts to run that were downloaded from online. The following command will change this behaviour:

```
Set-ExecutionPolicy -ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned -Scope CurrentUser
```

3.2 AWS CLI installation

If you're on a lab computer OR if you already have the AWS CLI installed, then skip ahead to subsection 3.3.

Install the command-line tools from <https://aws.amazon.com/cli/>

3.3 Access key setup

In the folder:

```
C:\Users\yourusername
```

create a file config (no extension) with the following content:

```
[default]
region = us-east-1
```

(There is a script file setup-config-file.ps1 that can do this for you.)

Needs to be done EVERY time you log in on a student account! NOT the case for regular accounts!

Log in to AWS academy. Go to <https://awsacademy.instructure.com/courses/8294/modules/items/794040>.

Hit the *AWS Details* button. Look for *Cloud Access* and *AWS CLI* on the right. Click *Show*. Copy and paste the contents into a file named EXACTLY

```
C:\Users\yourusername\.aws\credentials
```

(no .txt etc at the end).

To check that the AWS CLI is correctly configured, you can try running the command:

```
aws ec2 describe-instances
```

If it shows something similar to:

```
{
  "Reservations": []
}
```

then the AWS CLI is working OK.

4 Mac, Linux, UNIX users

Windows users can ignore this section.

Mac, Linux, Unix users will have no problems installing the AWS CLI, and the commands work identically to those on Windows.

The difference between Mac/Linux and Windows centres on the use of Bash/zsh by Mac/Linux/UNIX vs PowerShell on Windows. The AWS CLI is perfectly scriptable using Bash, particularly in conjunction with jq to parse JSON. However, some of the scripts you will be provided with in this module will be PowerShell only due to time constraints.

The good news is that PowerShell Core 7 can be installed easily on a Mac with no issues. You *do not* need a Windows VM on your Mac to use any of the PowerShell or AWS commands in *this* course. Please go to the PowerShell page on GitHub for instructions.

When you have PowerShell installed, open the Terminal app and type `pwsh` and you'll be at a PowerShell prompt. Repeat the `aws ec2 describe-instances` command to confirm that the `aws` command is available in PowerShell.

5 Check script

Run the `lab_checks.ps1` powershell script to confirm that your environment is set up correctly.