upgrade my EC2 Windows Server instance OS to a newer version

I want to upgrade my Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) Windows Server instance to a newer Windows version. How can I do that?

Resolution

For Windows Server 2012 R2 or later, you can choose between a server migration or an in-place upgrade.

For Windows Server 2008 R2, you can choose between a server migration or an automated upgrade.

To minimize downtime, plan your upgrade before you start. It's a best practice to maintain backups of your instances and data. Before you upgrade, consider creating an AMI or creating snapshots of your Amazon EBS volumes.

Server migration for EC2 Windows Server 2008 R2 or later

With a migration, you copy the data and configuration to a new server that's already running the desired version of Windows. This process can result in fewer upgrade errors or issues, but can take longer than an in-place upgrade.

For instructions, see Migrating roles and features in Windows Server on the Microsoft website.

In-place upgrade for EC2 Windows Server 2012 R2 or later

An in-place upgrade lets you keep your existing configuration and data. This process can be faster, but errors can occur due to software incompatibilities.

First, verify that all requirements are met to confirm that you are ready to upgrade. For in-place upgrade instructions, see Performing an in-place upgrade.

If you run into upgrade issues, see Troubleshooting an upgrade.

Automated upgrade for EC2 Windows Server 2008 R2 and SQL Server 2008 R2

You can use Systems Manager Automation documents to perform an automated upgrade. Two upgrade paths are available:

- Windows Server 2008 R2, 2012 R2, or 2016 to Windows Server 2012 R2, 2016, or 2019
- SQL Server 2008 R2 on Windows Server 2012 R2 to SQL Server 2016

For prerequisites and instructions, see Performing an automated upgrade.

1) Launch windows server 2012 os in any aws region

2) Create an ami image of the windows server 2012

3) Take a note of the instance id and the AZ

4) Check you have the latest network drives run ---> appwiz.cpl ---> Check whether it have the AWS PV Drivers option ---> uninstall the EC2Configservice (it will also uninstall the ssmagent) and replace with EC2Launch

5) Delete the files under the c:\programfiles\amazon\Ec2Configservice\SSM delete it and also in programdata

6) install the EC2Launch from the Latest version of EC2Lunch Site

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/WindowsGuide/ec2launch-download.html (install the Ec2Launch and also install install.ps1 file and run it)

7) install the ssm agent

8) now go back to the windows server 2012 AWS console go to the snapshots and choose the public snapshots select the owner and select the amazonimages type description:windows 2016 English installation media and select choose actions create volume choose the AZ same as windows server 2012 running

9) attach the volume in the 2012 server

10) goto diskmgmt.msc and activate the disk

11) gotopowershell cd d:\

./setup.exe /auto upgrade