Guided Lab: How to install CloudFormation helper scripts on Ubuntu

Description

CloudFormation helper scripts are essential tools provided by AWS to simplify and automate the setup and management of resources defined in CloudFormation templates. Unlike AWS-provided Linux AMIs, which come with pre-installed tools, an Ubuntu instance requires manual installation of these scripts. This guide will walk you through the process of installing CloudFormation helper scripts on Supported Ubuntu Versions.

- Ubuntu 16.04 LTS
- Ubuntu 18.04 LTS
- Ubuntu 20.04 LTS
- Ubuntu 22.04 LTS

Prerequisites

This lab assumes you have experience creating an Amazon EC2 Instance and has knowledge of basic fundamentals of the command line.

If you find any gaps in your knowledge, consider taking the following labs:

- Creating an Amazon EC2 instance (Linux)
- Setting up a Web server on an EC2 instance

Objectives

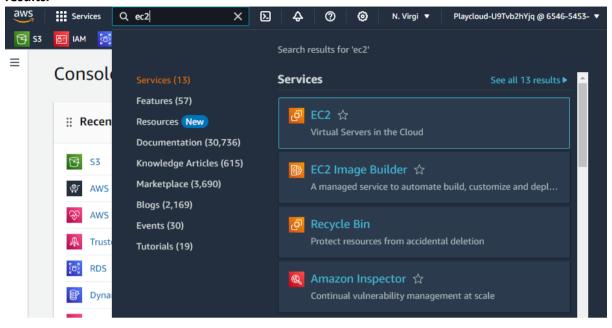
By the end of this guide, you will have successfully installed the AWS CloudFormation helper scripts on your Ubuntu instance, allowing you to leverage these tools for managing your CloudFormation stacks.

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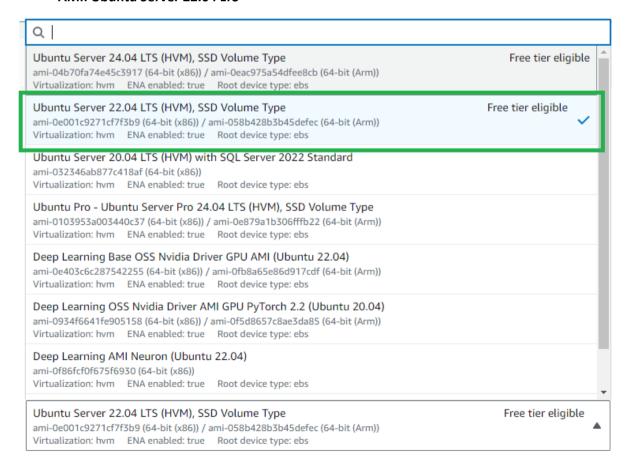
Lab Steps

Launching your EC2 Instance

1. Search 'ec2' in the AWS Management Console search bar. Click EC2 on the search results.



- 2. Launch EC2 instance with the following configurations.
 - Name: td-installing-cloudformation-helper
 - AMI: Ubuntu Server 22.04 LTS



Instance type: t2.micro

• Key pair:

Click on Create new key pair and name it myKeyPair
 Take note where you downloaded your keypair

• Network settings:

- Allow SSH traffic from: (In production environment, normally, you choose My IP for best practice. However, for simplicity of this lab lets choose Anywhere)
- o Auto-assign public IP: Enable

3. Click on Launch instance

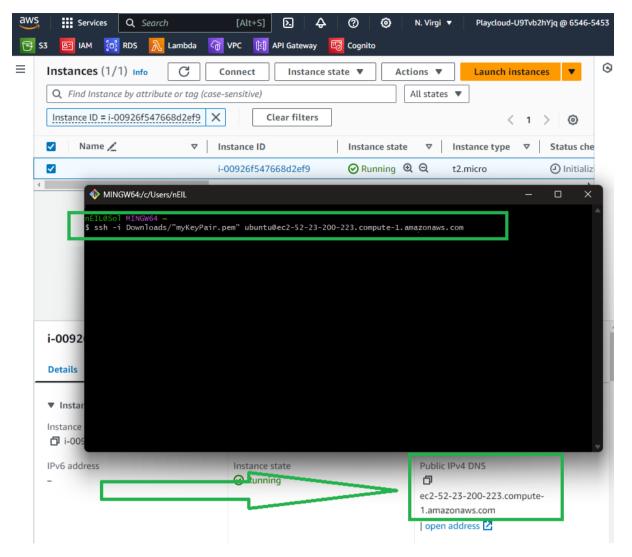
Installing the CloudFormation Helper Scripts

1. Connect to Your EC2 Instance via SSH

• Open your terminal/Git bash and connect to your EC2 instance using SSH:

```
ssh -i <directory_of_your_keypair>/"myKeyPair.pem"
ubuntu@<your_ec2_instance_Public_IPv4_DNS>
```

Do not forget to change the placheolders <directory_of_your_keypair> and <your_ec2_instance_Public_IPv4_DNS>



You will receive a command response, saying:
 "Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])?"

•

○ Type "yes"

2. Switch to Root User

• Elevate your privileges by switching to the root user:

sudo -i

```
EIL@Sol MINGW64 ~
 ssh -i Downloads/"myKeyPair.pem" ubuntu@ec2-52-23-200-223.compute-1.amazonaws.com
elcome to Ubuntu 22.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 6.5.0-1017-aws x86_64)
 * Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
                        https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:
                        https://ubuntu.com/pro
  System information as of Fri Jur
                                              7 08:35:39 UTC 2024
  System load: 0.08007812
                                            Processes:
                                                                          97
  Usage of /:
                    20.5% of 7
                                  57GB
                                            Users logged in:
                                                                         0
  Memory usage: 21%
                                            IPv4 address for eth0: 192.168.5.40
  Swap usage:
 xpanded Security Maintena ce for Applications is not enabled.
 updates can be applied immediately.
Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status
The list of available uplates is more than a week old.
To check for new updates run: sudo apt update
The programs included with the Uburtu system are free software; the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the individual files in /usr/shure/do//*/copyright.
Jbuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO NARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.
To run a command as administrayor (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo_root" for details.
ubuntu@ip-192-168-5-40:~
                                sudo -i
-oot@ip-192-168-5-40:~#
```

3. Update Package Repository:

• Ensure that the package repository is up to date by running:

sudo apt-get update -y

```
FootBip-192-168-5-40:-# sudo apt-get update -y
Hit: Inttp://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates InRelease [128 k8]
Get:2 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-patapotts InRelease [128 k8]
Get:3 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-backports InRelease [128 k8]
Get:4 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-mackports InRelease [128 k8]
Get:5 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/universe amd64 Packages [14.1 M8]
Get:6 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/universe amd64 Packages [217 k8]
Get:7 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/universe amd64 C-n-f Metadata [286 k8]
Get:8 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/multiverse amd64 C-n-f Metadata [287 k8]
Get:9 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/multiverse amd64 C-n-f Metadata [287 k8]
Get:10 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 Packages [1712 k8]
Get:11 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main Translor-ner [316 k8]
Get:13 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main Translor-ner [36 k8]
Get:13 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/restricted amd64 Packages [1966 k8]
Get:13 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/restricted Translation-en [33 k8]
Get:14 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/restricted Translation-en [38 k8]
Get:15 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/universe amd64 Packages [105 k8]
Get:16 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/universe amd64 Packages [410 k8]
Get:19 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/universe amd64 Packages [410 k8]
Get:20 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/universe amd64 Packages [410 k8]
Get:21 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/universe amd64 Packages [410 k8]
Get:22 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-update
```

4. . Install Python3 and pip:

• CloudFormation helper scripts require Python3 and pip. Install them using the following command:

sudo apt-get -y install python3-pip

```
Set:30 http://ws-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-backports/multiverse amd64 c-n-f Metadata [116 8]
set:31 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-security/restricted amd64 Packages [1910 k8]
set:32 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-security/restricted amd64 Packages [1910 k8]
set:33 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-security/universe amd64 Packages [856 k8]
set:33 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-security/universe amd64 Packages [856 k8]
set:33 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-security/universe amd64 Packages [87.2 k8]
set:36 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-security/multiverse amd64 Packages [87.2 k8]
set:37 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-security/multiverse amd64 Packages [37.2 k8]
set:38 http:
```

If you receive a command response, just press ENTER.

5. Create Directory for CloudFormation Helper Scripts:

• Create a directory to store the CloudFormation helper scripts.

sudo mkdir -p /opt/aws/

```
**Prot@ip-192-168-5-40:** — *** A Setting up libpcc-11-dev:amd64 (11.4.0-lubuntu1-22.04) ... 
Setting up pcc-11 (11.4.0-lubuntu1) ... 
Setting up pcp (4:11.2.0-1ubuntu1) ... 
Setting up top (4:11.2.0-1ubuntu1) ... 
Setting up libc-fed-exiand64 (2.3.0-6ubuntu0.8) ... 
Setting up libtiffs:amd64 (3.3.0-6ubuntu0.8) ... 
Setting up libtiffs:amd64 (2.13.1-4.2ubuntu5) ... 
Setting up libtiffs:amd64 (2.13.1-4.2ubuntu5) ... 
Setting up libtiffs:amd64 (2.13.1-4.2ubuntu0.3) ... 
Setting up libtigd-exiand64 (2.13.1-4.2ubuntu0.3) ... 
Setting up libtigd-exiand64 (2.13.1-4.2ubuntu0.3) ... 
Setting up libtigd-exiand64 (2.11.2.11.dfsg-2ubuntu9.2) ... 
Setting up libtigd-exiand64 (2.11.2.11.dfsg-2ubuntu9.2) ... 
Setting up priblip-dev:amd64 (3.11.2-11.4.5-2ubuntu9.2) ... 
Setting up python3-dev:amd64 (3.10.12-1-22.04.3) ... 
Setting up python3-lo-dev:amd64 (3.10.12-1-22.04.3) ... 
Setting up python3-dev (3.10.12-1-22.04.3) ... 
Setting up python3-dev (3.10.6-1-22.04.3) ... 
Setting up lulid-essential (12.9ubuntu9) ... 
Setting up sython3-dev:amd64 (3.10.6-1-22.04) ... 
Setting up lulid-essential (12.9ubuntu9) ... 
Setting up lulid-essential (12.9ubuntu9) ... 
Setting up libpython3-dev:amd64 (3.10.6-1-22.04) ... 
Setting up libpython3-dev:amd64 (3.10.6-1-22.04) ... 
Setting up libpython3-dev:amd64 (3.10.6-1-22.04) ... 
Setting up lulid-essential (12.9ubuntu9) ... 
Setting up lulid-essential (12.9u
```

6. Install CloudFormation Helper Scripts:

• Use pip to install the CloudFormation helper scripts.

sudo pip3 install https://s3.amazonaws.com/cloudformation-examples/aws-cfn-bootstrap-py3-latest.tar.gz

```
🚸 root@ip-192-168-5-40: ~
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           estarting services...
 systemetl restart acpid.service chrony.service cron.service multipathd.service packagekit.service polkit.servi
systemetrics and approximation, some construction of the result of the r
 ervice restarts being deferred:
/etc/needrestart/restart.d/dbus.service
systemctl restart getty@tty1.service
 systemetl restart networkd-dispatcher.service
systemetl restart systemd-logind.service
systemetl restart unattended-upgrades.service
  systemctl restart user@1000.service
lo containers need to be restarted.
lo user sessions are running outdated binaries.
io VM guests are running outdated hypervisor (qemu) binaries on this host.
oot@ip-192-168-5-40:~# sudo mkdir -p /opt/aws/
oot@ip-192-168-5-40:~# sudo pip3 install https://s3.amazonaws.com/cloudformation-examples/aws-cfn-bootstrap-py
 -latest.tar.gz
  ollecting https://s3.amazonaws.com/cloudformation-examples/aws-cfn-bootstrap-py3-latest.tar.gz
Downloading https://s3.amazonaws.com/cloudformation-examples/aws-cfn-bootstrap-py3-latest.tar.gz (549 kB)
                                                                                                                                    549.6/549.6 KB 24.4 MB/s eta 0:00:00
   Preparing metadata (setup.py) ... done
 ollecting chevron
  Downloading chevron-0.14.0-py3-none-any.whl (11 kB)
 Downloading docutils-0.21.2-py3-none-any.whl (587 kB)
                                                                                                                                   587.4/587.4 KB 12.0 MB/s eta 0:00:00
 ollecting python-daemon<2.3,>=2.2.4
  Downloading python_daemon-2.2.4-py2.py3-none-any.whl (35 kB)
equirement already satisfied: setuptools in /usr/lib/python3/dist-packages (from aws-cfn-bootstrap==2.0) (59.6
O)
Collecting lockfile>=0.10
Downloading lockfile-0.12.2-py2.py3-none-any.whl (13 kB)
Building wheels for collected packages: aws-cfn-bootstrap
Building wheel for aws-cfn-bootstrap (setup.py) ... done
Created wheel for aws-cfn-bootstrap: filename=aws_cfn_bootstrap-2.0-py3-none-any.whl size=635465 sha256=e2cc4
iee000desfesc7f0327c6f35879ed65cb6f16539eb3191e332b24b4d813
 Stored in directory: /root/.cache/pip/wheels/9f/57/70/de12b2de17473e5b5e28bfbce4dd6e2317dc7a06cd64f1a447uccessfully built aws-cfn-bootstrap
 uccessiting built aws-chi-bootstrap
nstalling collected packages: lockfile, chevron, docutils, python-daemon, aws-cfn-bootstrap
uccessfully installed aws-cfn-bootstrap-2.0 chevron-0.14.0 docutils-0.21.2 lockfile-0.12.2 python-daemon-2.2.4
ARNING: Running pip as the 'root' user can result in broken permissions and conflicting behaviour with the sys
                                                                    is recommended to use a virtual environment instead: https://pip.pypa.io/warnings/
oot@ip-192-168-5-40:~#
```

7. Create Symbolic Link:

• Create a symbolic link for the CloudFormation helper scripts to ensure they are accessible.

sudo In -s /usr/local/init/ubuntu/cfn-hup /etc/init.d/cfn-hup

```
Successfully built aws-cfn-bootstrap
Installing collected packages: lockfile, chevron, docutils, python-daemon, aws-cfn-bootstrap
Successfully installed aws-cfn-bootstrap-2.0 chevron-0.14.0 docutils-0.21.2 lockfile-0.12.2 python-daemon-2.2.4
WARNING: Running pip as the 'root' user can result in broken permissions and conflicting behaviour with the sys
tem package manager. It is recommended to use a virtual environment instead: https://pip.pypa.io/warnings/venv
root@ip-192-168-5-40:~# sudo ln -s /usr/local/init/ubuntu/cfn-hup /etc/init.d/cfn-hup
root@ip-192-168-5-40:~# s
```

8. Verification:

To verify that the installation was successful, try running the following commands:

cfn-signal

```
root@ip-192-168-5-40: ~
                                                                                                                                                                                          П
root@ip-192-168-5-40:~# <mark>cfn-signal</mark>
Error: No WaitConditionHandle URL or logical resource id specified
Usage: cfn-signal [options] [WaitConditionHandle URL]
Options:

-h, --help show this help message and exit
-s SUCCESS, --success=SUCCESS

If true, signal success to CloudFormation; if false,
signal failure. Default: true

-i ID, --id=ID A unique ID to send with the signal
-e EXIT_CODE, --exit-code=EXIT_CODE
Derive success or failure from specified exit code
   AWS Credentials:
      Options for specifying AWS Account Credentials.
      -f CREDENTIAL_FILE, --credential-file=CREDENTIAL_FILE
A credential file, readable only by the owner, with
keys 'AWSAccessKeyId' and 'AWSSecretKey'
--role=IAM_ROLE An IAM Role
      --access-key=ACCESS_KEY
An AWS Access Key
--secret-key=SECRET_KEY
                                           An AWS Secret Key
   Proxy:
Options for specifying proxies. Format:
[scheme://][user:password@]host:port
       --http-proxy=HTTP_PROXY
      --https-proxy=HTTPS_PROXY
                                           An HTTPS proxy
   WaitConditionHandle Signal Options:
       -r REASON, --reason=REASON
                                          The reason for success/failure
       -d DATA, --data=DATA
                                           Data to include with the WaitCondition signal
   Resource Signal Options:
--stack=STACK_NAME A CloudFormation stack
--resource=LOGICAL_RESOURCE_ID
                                          A CloudFormation logical resource ID
The CloudFormation service URL. The endpoint URL must
match the region option. Use of this parameter is
       --url=ENDPOINT
                                           discouraged.
```

cfn-get-metadata

```
discouraged.
The CloudFormation region. Default: us-east-1.
      --region=REGION
root@ip-192-168-5-40:~# cfn-get-metadata
Error: You must specify both a stack name and logical resource id
Usage: cfn-get-metadata [options]
Options:
-h, --help show this ho
-s STACK_NAME, --stack=STACK_NAME
                                      show this help message and exit
  A CloudFormation stack

-r LOGICAL_RESOURCE_ID, --resource=LOGICAL_RESOURCE_ID

A CloudFormation logical resource ID

-k KEY, --key=KEY Retrieve the value at <key> in the Metadata object;

must be in dotted object notation (parent.child.leaf)
   -u ENDPOINT, --url=ENDPOINT
                                      The CloudFormation service URL. The endpoint URL must match the region option. Use of this parameter is discouraged.
   --region=REGION
                                       The CloudFormation region. Default: us-east-1.
   -v, --verbose
                                      Enables verbose logging
   AWS Credentials:
      Options for specifying AWS Account Credentials.
      -f CREDENTIAL_FILE, --credential-file=CREDENTIAL_FILE
A credential file, readable only by the owner, with
keys 'AWSAccessKeyId' and 'AWSSecretKey'
--role=IAM_ROLE An IAM Role
      --access-key=ACCESS_KEY
An AWS Access Key
      --secret-key=SECRET_KEY
An AWS Secret Key
   Proxy:
     Options for specifying proxies. Format: [scheme://][user:password@]host:port
      --http-proxy=HTTP_PROXY
      A (non-SSL) HTTP proxy
--https-proxy=HTTPS_PROXY
                                       An HTTPS proxy
```

cfn-init

```
🏇 root@ip-192-168-5-40:
                                                                                                                                      --http-proxv=HTTP PROXY
                              A (non-SSL) HTTP proxy
   --https-proxy=HTTPS_PROXY
                              An HTTPS proxy
ot@ip-192-168-5-40:~# cfn-init
ror: You must specify an input source for metadata: a stack name and logical resource id, or a file
sage: cfn-init [options]
or: cfn-init [options] <filename>
or: cat <filename> | cfn-init [options] -
ptions:
-h, --help show this h
-s STACK_NAME, --stack=STACK_NAME
                             show this help message and exit
                             A CloudFormation stack
-r LOGICAL_RESOURCE_ID, --resource=LOGICAL_RESOURCE_ID
A CloudFormation logical resource ID
-c CONFIGSETS, --configsets=CONFIGSETS
                              An optional list of configSets (default: "default")
 -u ENDPOINT. --url=ENDPOINT
                             The CloudFormation service URL. The endpoint URL must
                             match the region option. Use of this parameter is
                             discouraged.
The CloudFormation region. Default: us-east-1.
  -region=REGION
                              Enables verbose logging
     --strict
                             ==SUPPRESS==
   Options for specifying AWS Account Credentials.
   -f CREDENTIAL_FILE, --credential-file=CREDENTIAL_FILE
A credential file, readable only by the owner, with
keys 'AWSAccessKeyId' and 'AWSSecretKey'
--role=IAM_ROLE An IAM Role
   --access-key=ACCESS_KEY
                              An AWS Access Kev
   --secret-key=SECRET_KEY
                              An AWS Secret Key
   Options for specifying proxies. Format: [scheme://][user:password@]host:port
   --http-proxy=HTTP_PROXY
   A (non-SSL) HTTP proxy
--https-proxy=HTTPS_PROXY
                              An HTTPS proxy
```

That's it. Now you can fully leverage the capabilities of your Ubuntu instance installed with CloudFormation helper scripts within your CloudFormation templates. One common use case is creating an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) out of this instance, which you can then utilize in your EC2 resource declarations. This ensures consistency and repeatability in your deployments.

Alternatively, you can integrate the manual steps we've performed here into your EC2 resource using User Data. By embedding these commands directly into your EC2 instance's User Data section, you can automate the setup process entirely within your CloudFormation template. This approach streamlines deployment and reduces manual intervention, enhancing the efficiency of your infrastructure management.

Whether you choose to create an AMI or utilize User Data, the installation of CloudFormation helper scripts empowers you to automate tasks, configure resources dynamically, and maintain a standardized deployment process across your AWS environment.

One last thing! It is a good practice to clean up the resources created during this lab. Not only will it make you a better professional, but you will also become a more organized person. Happy learning!