AWS Server Management Assignment — Combined README (Tasks 1–6)

This repository contains **all 7 tasks** in one bounded `README.md` file, including **screenshots** (stored under the `images/` folder).

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Docker Workflow (Container Lifecycle) – Explanation

This diagram represents the **Docker Container Lifecycle State Machine**, which explains how a Docker container moves between different states based on Docker commands and runtime events.

Container States

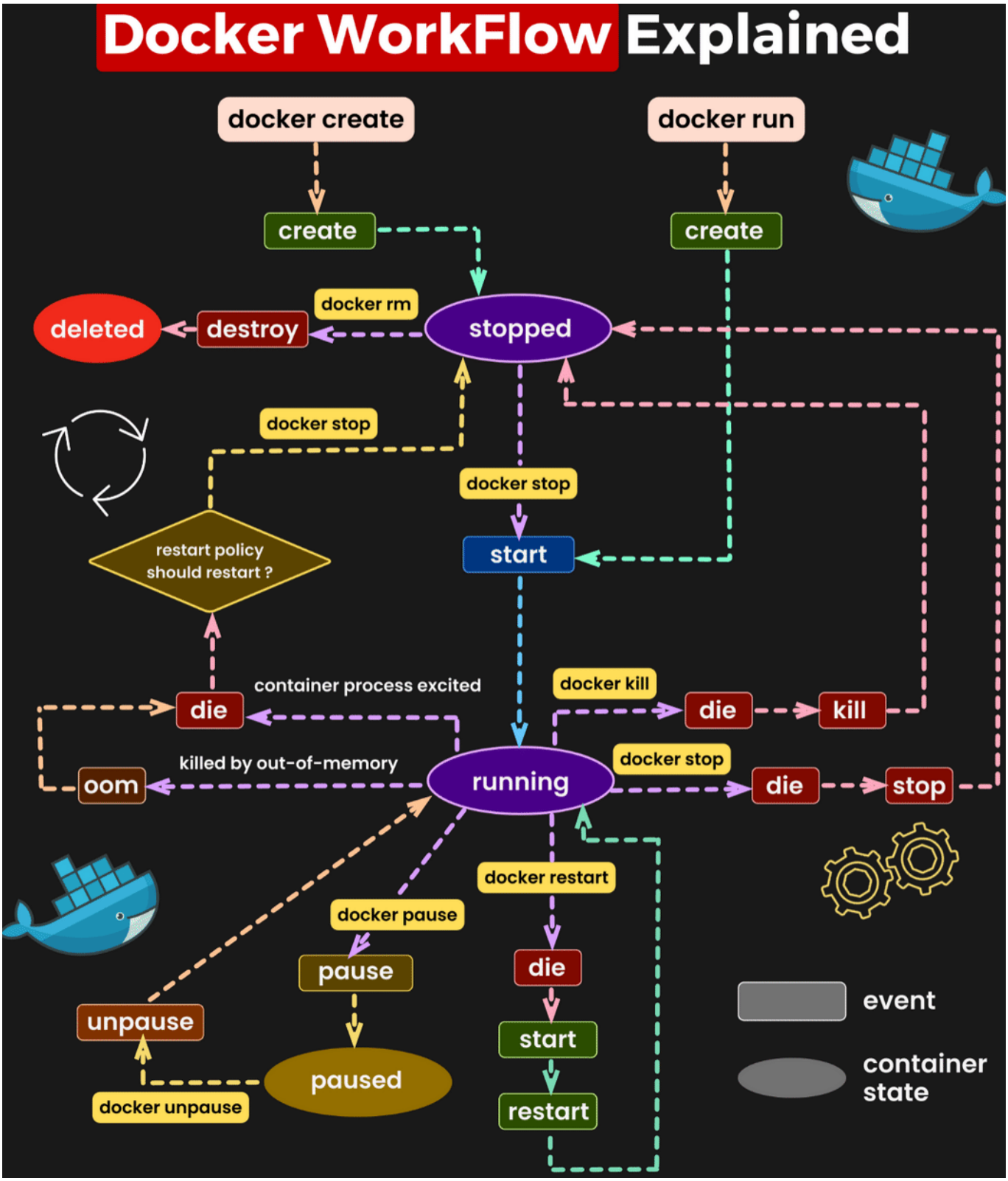
- **created** – Container is created but not started.
- **running** – Container is actively executing.
- **paused** – Container execution is temporarily frozen.
- **stopped** – Container has exited normally.
- **deleted** – Container is removed from the system.
- **die** – Container process has exited.
- **oom** – Container is killed due to Out Of Memory.

Key Docker Commands and Transitions

- `docker run` → Creates and starts a container (`created → running`)
- `docker stop` → Gracefully stops a container (`running → stopped`)
- `docker kill` → Forcefully stops a container (`running → die`)
- `docker start` → Starts a stopped container (`stopped → running`)
- `docker restart` → Stops and starts again (`running → die → running`)
- `docker pause` → Freezes container execution (`running → paused`)
- `docker unpause` → Resumes execution (`paused → running`)
- `docker rm` → Removes a stopped container (`stopped → deleted`)

Restart Policy

- If a container exits unexpectedly (`die` or `oom`), Docker checks the **restart policy**.
- If enabled, the container is automatically restarted.



This workflow shows how Docker manages container states internally and how user commands control container behavior. It helps understand container start, stop, crash handling, restart, and cleanup processes.

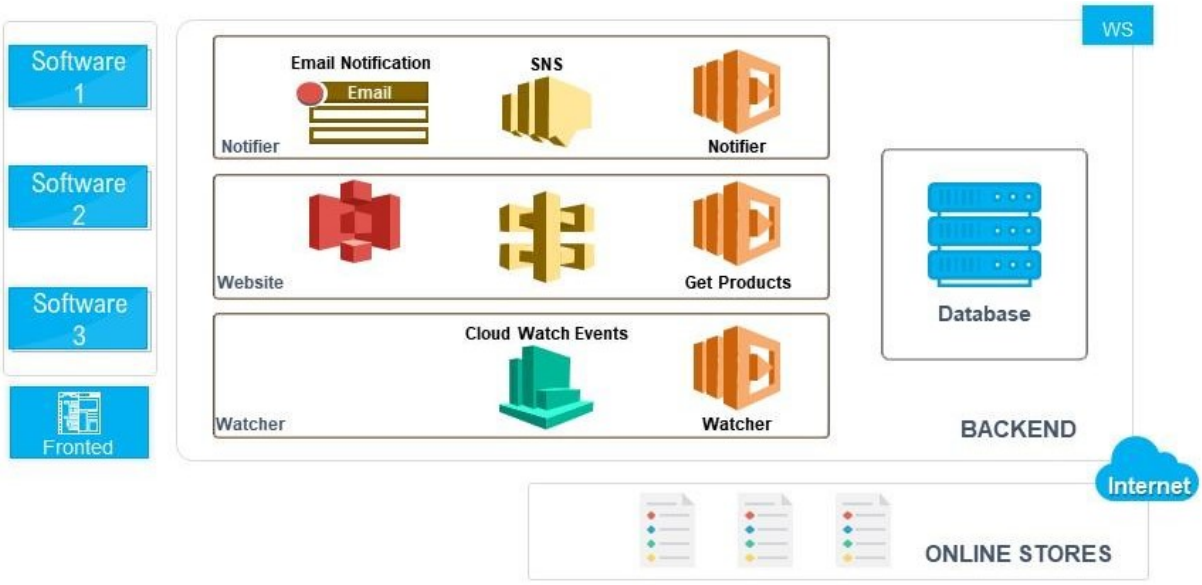
Task 1 — Simple Full Stack Application (Frontend + Backend + MySQL)

Project Overview

This project is a **simple full stack web application** developed as part of **Task 1**.
It demonstrates how a **frontend application communicates with a backend API**, which in turn **connects successfully to a MySQL database**.

The application allows users to **add, view, and delete student records** using a clean UI and REST-style backend.

Architecture



Tech Stack

Frontend

- HTML5
- Bootstrap 5
- JavaScript (Fetch API)

Backend

- PHP (REST-style API)

Database

- MySQL

Tools

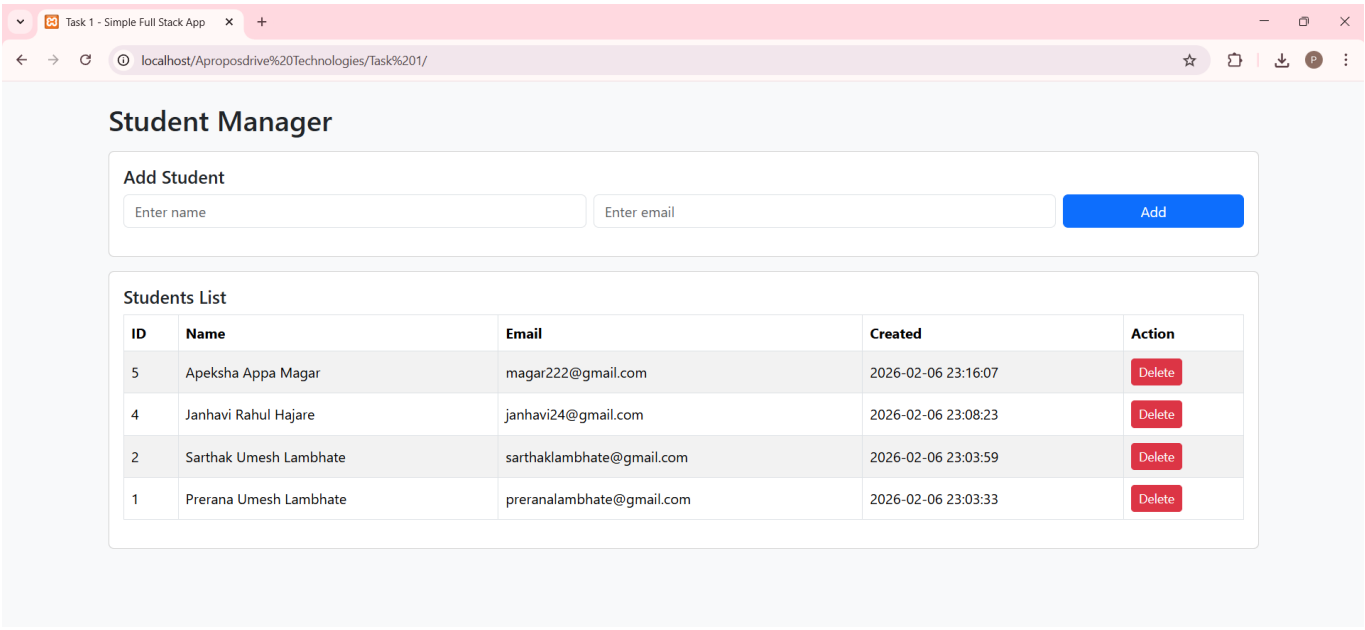
- XAMPP (Apache + MySQL)
- phpMyAdmin
- Web Browser

Application Features

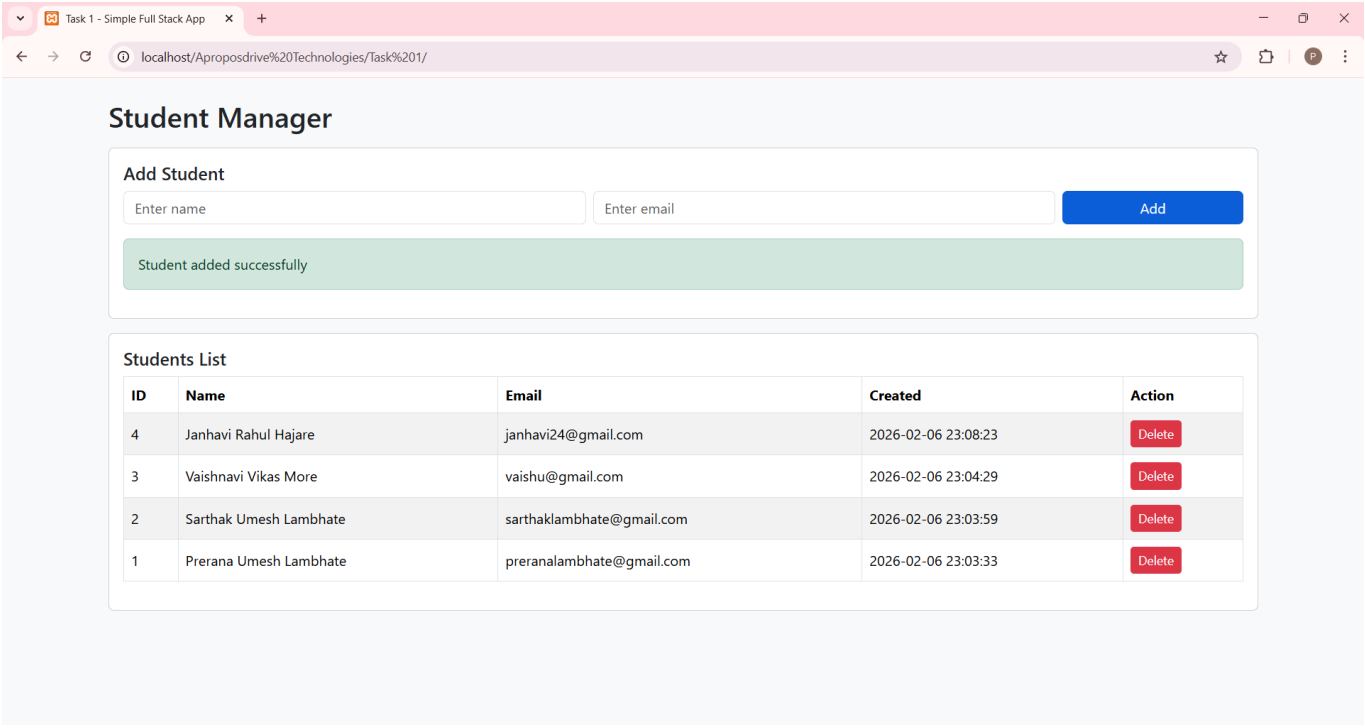
- Responsive frontend using Bootstrap
- Backend API using PHP

- MySQL database integration
- Add student records
- View all student records
- Delete student records
- JSON-based communication
- Database connection validation

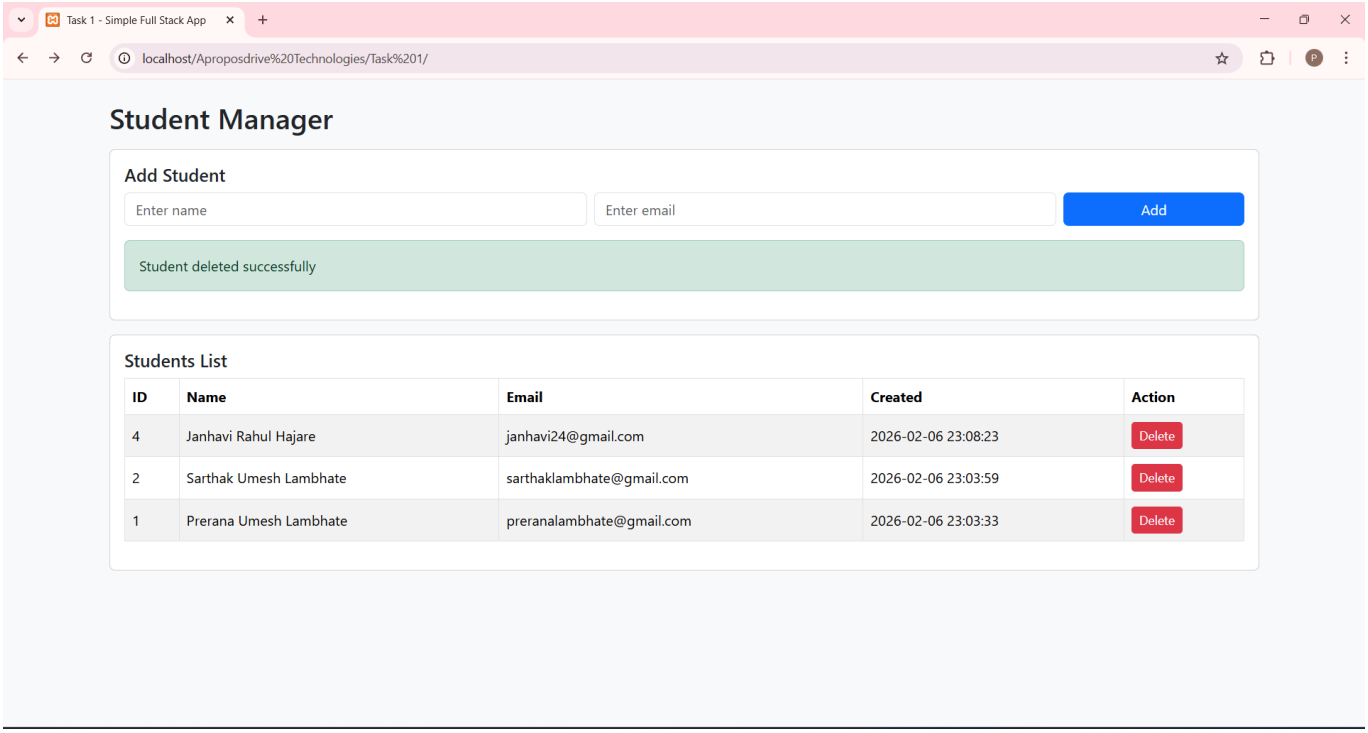
User Interface



Adding Student Successfully



Deleting Student Successfully

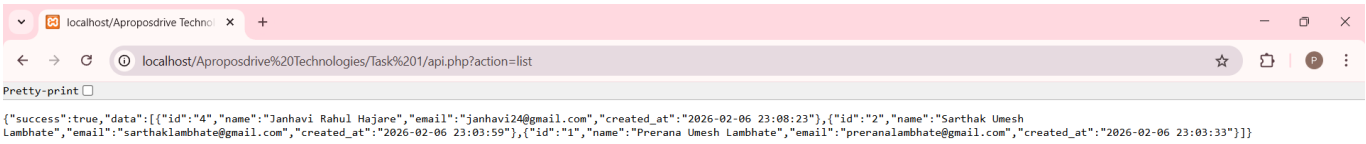


Database Design

Database Name : `task1_db`

Table Schema

```
CREATE TABLE students (
  id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
  name VARCHAR(100) NOT NULL,
  email VARCHAR(120) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
  created_at TIMESTAMP DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
);
```



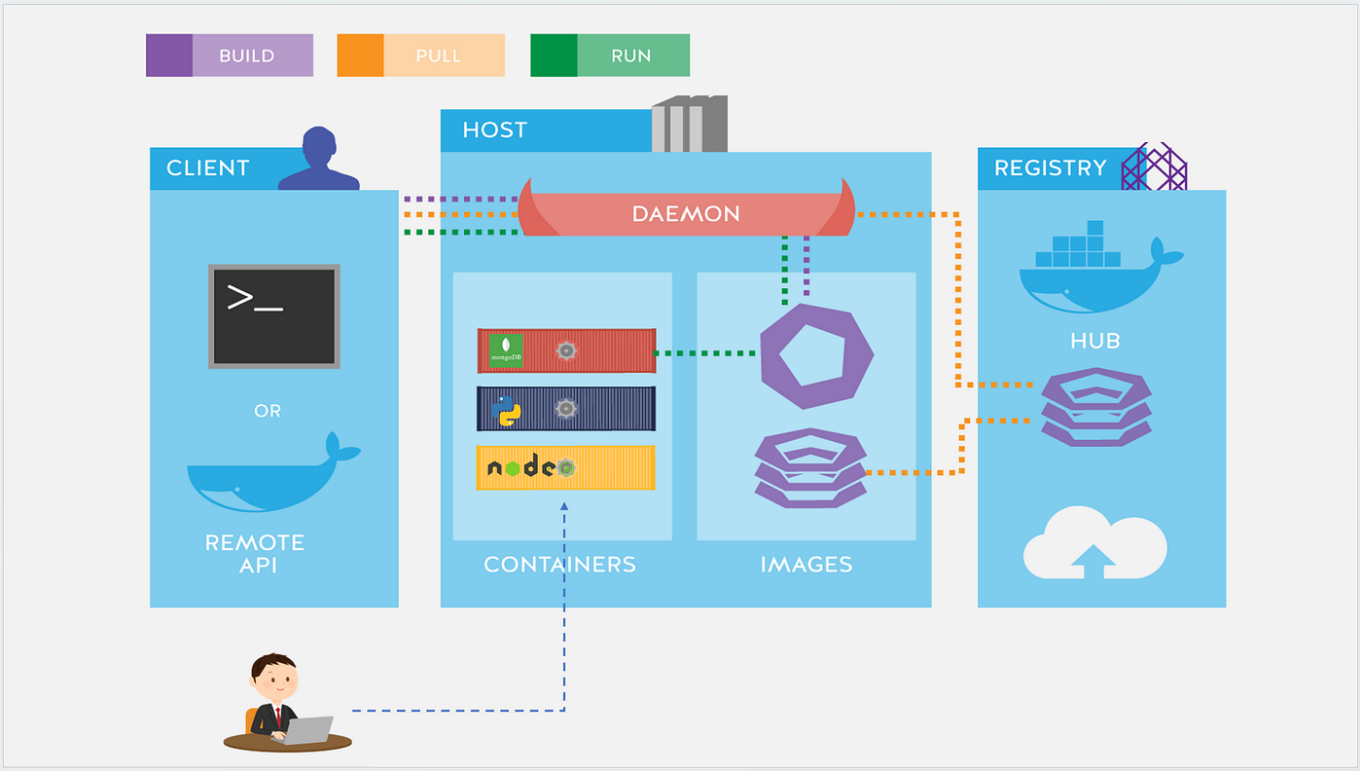
Task 2 — Docker Deployment on AWS EC2 (Amazon Linux)

Objective

- Create Dockerfile(s)
- Run app using Docker containers

- Expose required ports
- Ensure containers auto-start on EC2 reboot

Architecture



Technologies Used

- AWS EC2 (Amazon Linux 2 / Amazon Linux 2023)
- Docker
- Docker Compose
- PHP (Backend)
- MySQL (Database)
- Apache Web Server

Step 1: Launch AWS EC2 Instance

Instance configuration

- AMI: Amazon Linux 2 / Amazon Linux 2023
- Instance Type: t2.micro
- Security Group Inbound Rules:
  - SSH – Port 22
  - HTTP – Port 80
  - MySQL – Port 3306 (optional, for testing)

Connect

```
ssh -i key.pem ec2-user@<EC2_PUBLIC_IP>
```

```
prera@Prerana MINGW64 /c/prerana workspace/key-pairs
$ ssh -i "key-pair.pem" ec2-user@ec2-52-53-168-197.us-west-1.compute.amazonaws.c
om
** WARNING: connection is not using a post-quantum key exchange algorithm.
** This session may be vulnerable to "store now, decrypt later" attacks.
** The server may need to be upgraded. See https://openssh.com/pq.html
   ,     #_
   ~\_  ####_        Amazon Linux 2023
  ~~  \_#####\
  ~~     \###|
  ~~       \#/ ___   https://aws.amazon.com/linux/amazon-linux-2023
   ~~       V~' '->
    ~~~         /
      ~~._.   _/
         _/ _/
       _/m/'
Last login: Fri Feb  6 18:22:47 2026 from 103.252.53.110
[ec2-user@DOCKER ~]$
```

Step 2: Install Docker on Amazon Linux

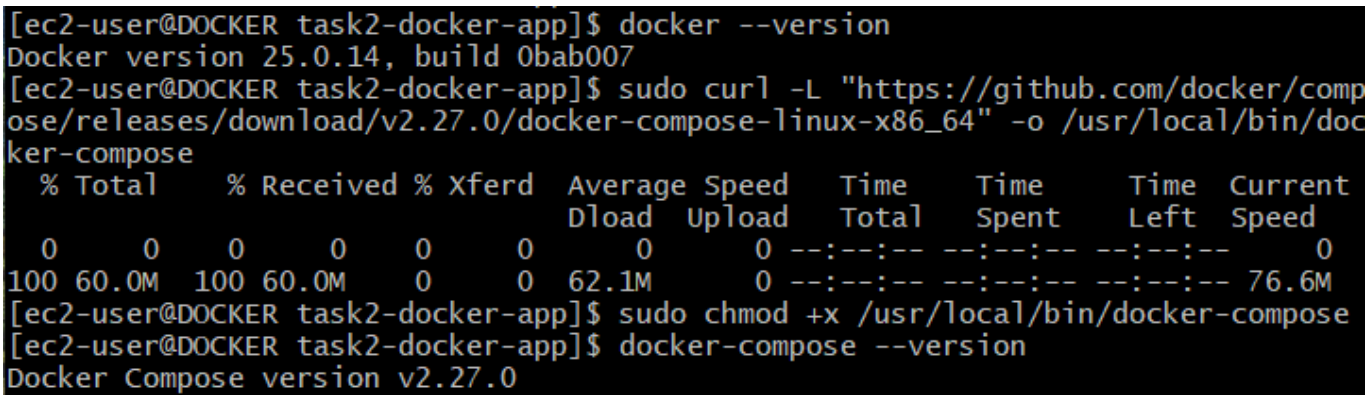
```
sudo yum update -y
sudo yum install docker -y
sudo systemctl start docker
sudo systemctl enable docker
sudo usermod -aG docker ec2-user
newgrp docker
docker --version
docker ps
```

Step 3: Install Docker Compose (Manual Method)

Amazon Linux may not support `docker-compose-plugin` via yum, so Docker Compose can be installed manually.

```
sudo curl -L "https://github.com/docker/compose/releases/download/v2.27.0/docker-
compose-linux-x86_64" -o /usr/local/bin/docker-compose
sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/docker-compose
docker-compose --version
```

Screenshot



Step 4: Create Project Directory

```
mkdir task2-docker-app
cd task2-docker-app
mkdir app
```

Step 5: Create Application File (PHP)

Create a PHP file (example: `app/index.php`) using `vim`:

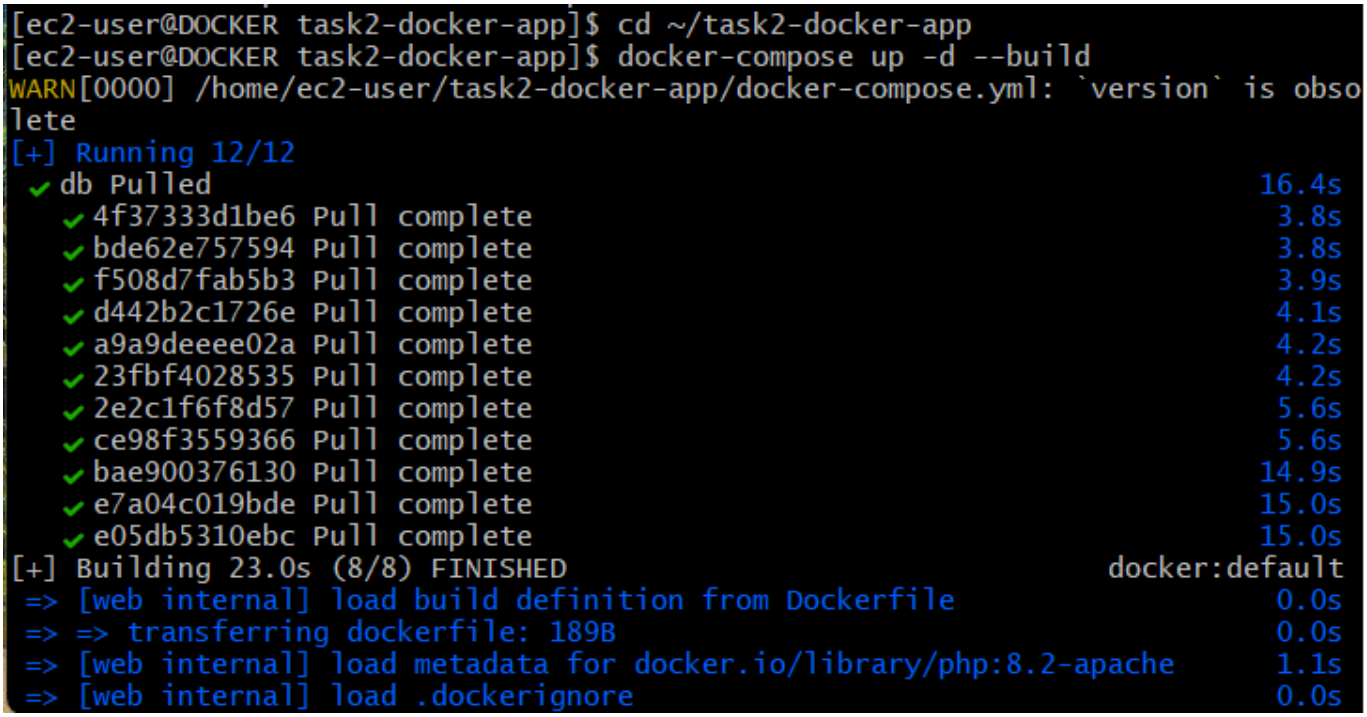
```
<?php
$host = getenv("DB_HOST") ?: "db";
$user = getenv("DB_USER") ?: "root";
$pass = getenv("DB_PASS") ?: "rootpass";
$name = getenv("DB_NAME") ?: "studentdb";

$conn = new mysqli($host, $user, $pass, $name);

if ($conn->connect_error) {
  die("Database connection FAILED: " . $conn->connect_error);
}

echo "<h2>Database Connected Successfully!</h2>";
?>
```

Step 6: Create Dockerfile

Create `Dockerfile`:

```
FROM php:8.2-apache
RUN docker-php-ext-install mysqli
```

```
COPY app/ /var/www/html/
EXPOSE 80
```



Step 7: Create docker-compose.yml

Create `docker-compose.yml`:

```
version: "3.9"
services:
  web:
    build: .
    container_name: php_web
    ports:
      - "80:80"
    environment:
      DB_HOST: db
      DB_USER: root
      DB_PASS: rootpass
      DB_NAME: studentdb
    depends_on:
      - db
    restart: always

  db:
    image: mysql:8.0
    container_name: mysql_db
    environment:
      MYSQL_ROOT_PASSWORD: rootpass
      MYSQL_DATABASE: studentdb
    volumes:
      - mysql_data:/var/lib/mysql
```

```
    restart: always

volumes:
  mysql_data:
```

Step 8: Build and Run Containers

```
docker-compose up -d --build
docker ps
```

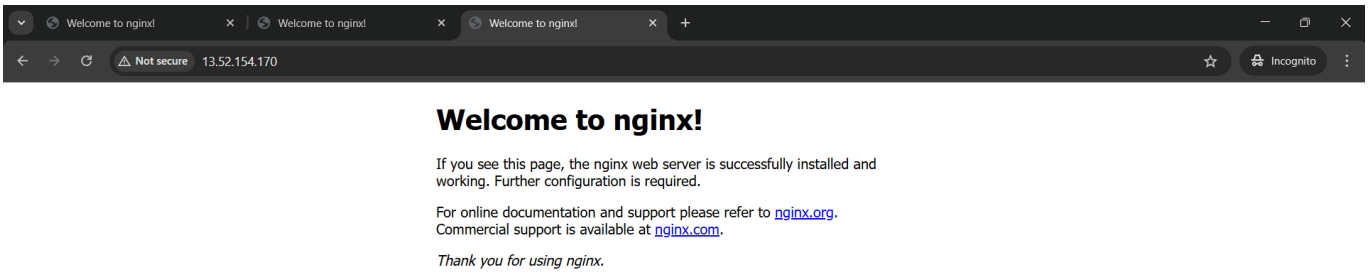
Step 9: Test Application

From EC2:

```
curl http://localhost
```

From browser:

```
http://<EC2_PUBLIC_IP>
```



Step 10: Auto-start Containers on Reboot

```
sudo systemctl enable docker
sudo reboot
# after reconnect
docker ps
```

```
[ec2-user@DOCKER task2-docker-app]$ docker ps
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE       COMMAND                  CREATED          STATUS
     PORTS                                                  NAMES
08cae722d721   mysql:8.0   "docker-entrypoint.s…"   21 seconds ago   Up 19 secon
ds   0.0.0.0:3306->3306/tcp, :::3306->3306/tcp, 33060/tcp   mysql_db
```

Conclusion

This task demonstrates:

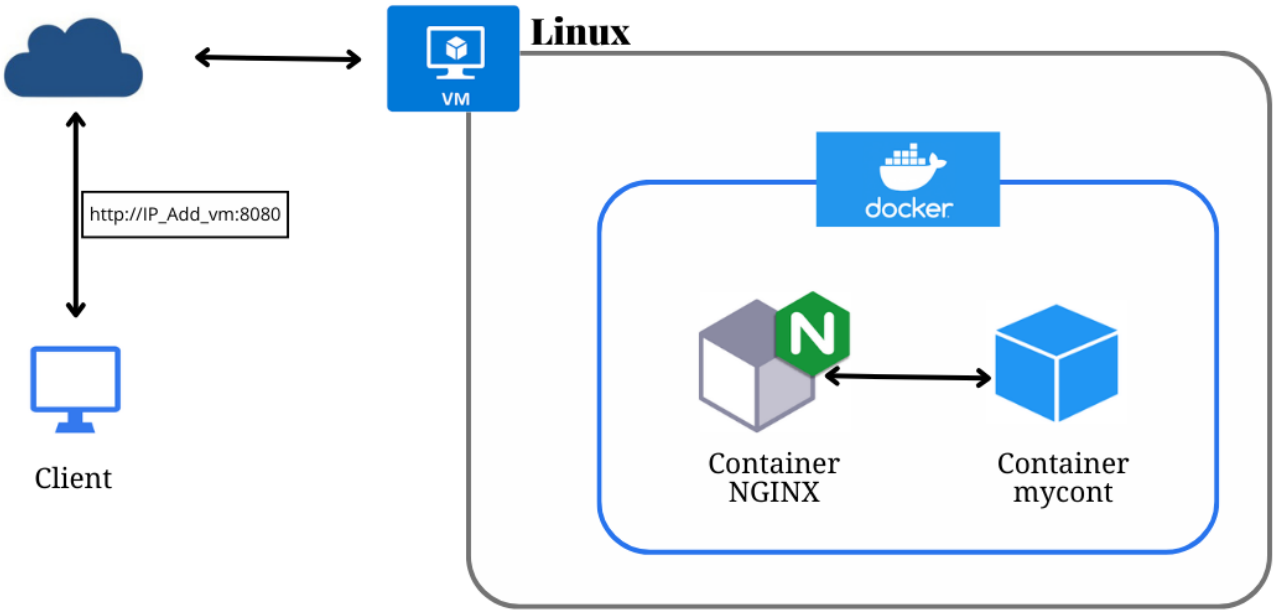
- Docker installation on AWS EC2
- Dockerfile creation
- Multi-container app using Docker Compose
- Port exposure
- Container auto-start on reboot

Task 3 — AWS EC2 Deployment using Docker (Nginx)

Objective

Deploy and run Docker containers on an AWS EC2 instance (Amazon Linux) and access the app publicly.

Architecture



Technologies Used

- AWS EC2
- Amazon Linux

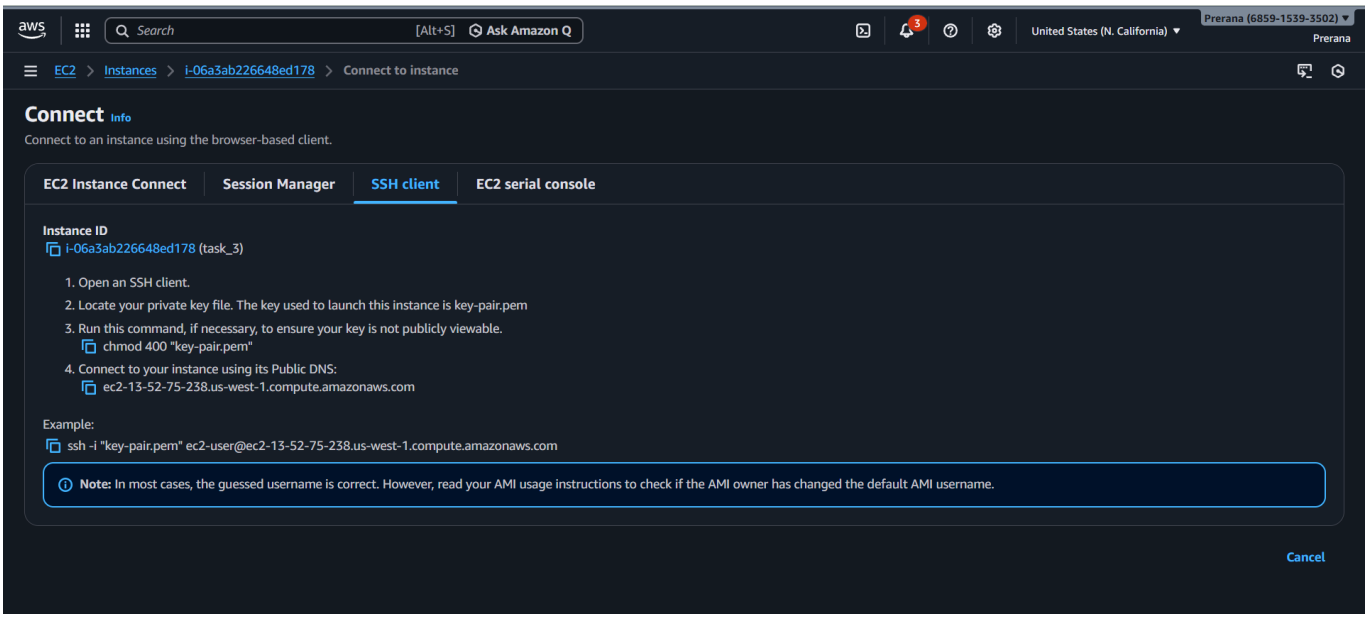
- Docker
- Nginx (Docker Container)

EC2 Instance Configuration

- Instance Type: t2.micro (Free Tier)
- Security Group:
  - SSH (22) – My IP
  - HTTP (80) – 0.0.0.0/0

Steps (with Screenshots)

Step 1: Launch EC2 Instance



Step 2: Connect to EC2

```
ssh -i "your-key.pem" ec2-user@<EC2_PUBLIC_IP>
```

```
prera@Prerana MINGW64 /c/prerana workspace/key-pairs
$ ssh -i "key-pair.pem" ec2-user@ec2-13-52-75-238.us-west-1.compute.amazonaws.co
m
** WARNING: connection is not using a post-quantum key exchange algorithm.
** This session may be vulnerable to "store now, decrypt later" attacks.
** The server may need to be upgraded. See https://openssh.com/pq.html
   ,     #_
   ~\_  ####_        Amazon Linux 2023
  ~~  \_#####\
  ~~     \###|
  ~~       \#/ ___   https://aws.amazon.com/linux/amazon-linux-2023
   ~~       V~' '->
    ~~~         /
      ~~._.   _/
         _/ _/
       _/m/'
Last login: Fri Feb  6 18:42:19 2026 from 103.252.53.110
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$
```

Step 3: Update System Packages

```
sudo yum update -y
```

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ sudo yum update -y
Last metadata expiration check: 0:44:59 ago on Fri Feb  6 18:45:41 2026.
================================================================================
WARNING:
  A newer release of "Amazon Linux" is available.

  Available Versions:

  Version 2023.10.20260202:
    Run the following command to upgrade to 2023.10.20260202:

      dnf upgrade --releasever=2023.10.20260202

    Release notes:
     https://docs.aws.amazon.com/linux/al2023/release-notes/relnotes-2023.10.20260202.html

================================================================================
Dependencies resolved.
Nothing to do.
Complete!
```

Step 4: Install Docker

```
sudo yum install -y docker
```

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ sudo yum install -y docker
Last metadata expiration check: 0:46:20 ago on Fri Feb  6 18:45:41 2026.
Package docker-25.0.14-1.amzn2023.0.1.x86_64 is already installed.
Dependencies resolved.
Nothing to do.
Complete!
```

Step 5: Start and Enable Docker

```
sudo systemctl start docker
sudo systemctl enable docker
```

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ sudo systemctl start docker
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ sudo systemctl enable docker
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$
```

Step 6: Add User to Docker Group

```
sudo usermod -aG docker ec2-user
```

Step 7: Verify Docker

```
docker --version
```

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ docker --version
Docker version 25.0.14, build 0bab007
```

Step 8: Run Nginx Container

```
docker run -d --name web -p 80:80 nginx
```

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ docker run -d --name web -p 80:80 nginx
02009c4746459c3ef2faef738d262e5f255dedfd357fff615198bf4288658e08
```

Step 9: Verify Running Containers

```
docker ps
```

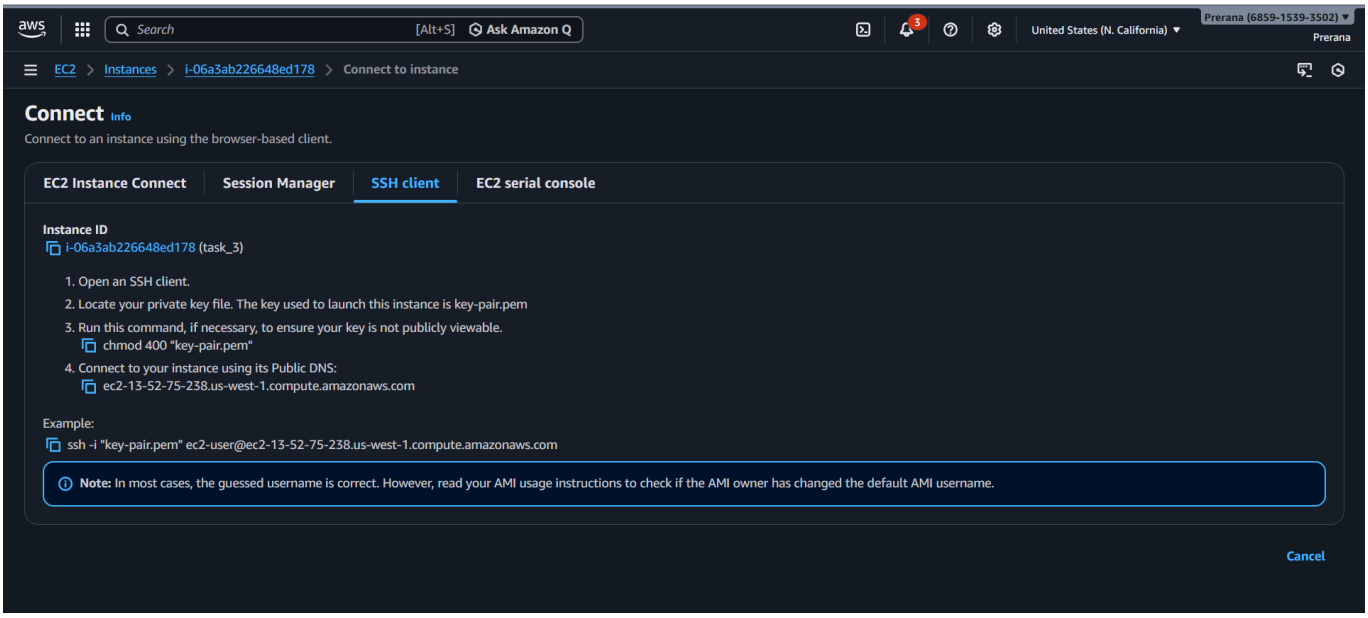
```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ docker ps
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE     COMMAND                  CREATED          STATUS          PORTS
                                  NAMES
02009c474645   nginx     "/docker-entrypoint.…"   47 seconds ago   Up 46 seconds   0.0.0.0:80
->80/tcp, :::80->80/tcp           web
b92950172ac6   nginx     "/docker-entrypoint.…"   36 minutes ago   Up 36 minutes   0.0.0.0:80
80->80/tcp, :::8080->80/tcp       elated_elbakyan
4b0ceb94be1e   mysql:8   "docker-entrypoint.s…"   38 minutes ago   Up 38 minutes   0.0.0.0:33
06->3306/tcp, :::3306->3306/tcp, 33060/tcp   mysql
```

Step 10: Test Inside EC2

```
curl http://localhost
```

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ curl http://localhost
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>Welcome to nginx!</title>
<style>
html { color-scheme: light dark; }
body { width: 35em; margin: 0 auto;
font-family: Tahoma, Verdana, Arial, sans-serif; }
</style>
</head>
<body>
<h1>Welcome to nginx!</h1>
<p>If you see this page, the nginx web server is successfully installed and
working. Further configuration is required.</p>

<p>For online documentation and support please refer to
<a href="http://nginx.org/">nginx.org</a>.<br/>
Commercial support is available at
<a href="http://nginx.com/">nginx.com</a>.</p>

<p><em>Thank you for using nginx.</em></p>
</body>
</html>
```

Step 11: Access from Browser



Step 12: View Logs

```
docker logs web
```

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ docker logs web
/docker-entrypoint.sh: /docker-entrypoint.d/ is not empty, will attempt to perform configurat
ion
/docker-entrypoint.sh: Looking for shell scripts in /docker-entrypoint.d/
/docker-entrypoint.sh: Launching /docker-entrypoint.d/10-listen-on-ipv6-by-default.sh
10-listen-on-ipv6-by-default.sh: info: Getting the checksum of /etc/nginx/conf.d/default.conf
10-listen-on-ipv6-by-default.sh: info: Enabled listen on IPv6 in /etc/nginx/conf.d/default.co
nf
/docker-entrypoint.sh: Sourcing /docker-entrypoint.d/15-local-resolvers.envsh
/docker-entrypoint.sh: Launching /docker-entrypoint.d/20-envsubst-on-templates.sh
/docker-entrypoint.sh: Launching /docker-entrypoint.d/30-tune-worker-processes.sh
/docker-entrypoint.sh: Configuration complete; ready for start up
2026/02/06 19:38:07 [notice] 1#1: using the "epoll" event method
2026/02/06 19:38:07 [notice] 1#1: nginx/1.29.5
2026/02/06 19:38:07 [notice] 1#1: built by gcc 14.2.0 (Debian 14.2.0-19)
2026/02/06 19:38:07 [notice] 1#1: OS: Linux 6.1.159-182.297.amzn2023.x86_64
2026/02/06 19:38:07 [notice] 1#1: getrlimit(RLIMIT_NOFILE): 32768:65536
2026/02/06 19:38:07 [notice] 1#1: start worker processes
2026/02/06 19:38:07 [notice] 1#1: start worker process 29
2026/02/06 19:38:07 [notice] 1#1: start worker process 30
172.17.0.1 - - [06/Feb/2026:19:40:05 +0000] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 615 "-" "curl/8.15.0" "-"
```

Step 13: Stop and Remove Container

```
docker stop web
docker rm web
```

Step 14: Cleanup

```
docker images
docker ps -a
```

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ docker images
REPOSITORY   TAG       IMAGE ID       CREATED        SIZE
mysql        8         c562866f17cc   22 hours ago   790MB
nginx        latest    5cdef4ac3335   44 hours ago   161MB
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-10-226 ~]$ docker ps -a
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE     COMMAND                  CREATED          STATUS          PORTS
                                 NAMES
b92950172ac6   nginx     "/docker-entrypoint.…"   40 minutes ago   Up 40 minutes   0.0.0.0:80
80->80/tcp, :::8080->80/tcp                      elated_elbakyan
4b0ceb94be1e   mysql:8   "docker-entrypoint.s…"   41 minutes ago   Up 41 minutes   0.0.0.0:33
06->3306/tcp, :::3306->3306/tcp, 33060/tcp   mysql
```

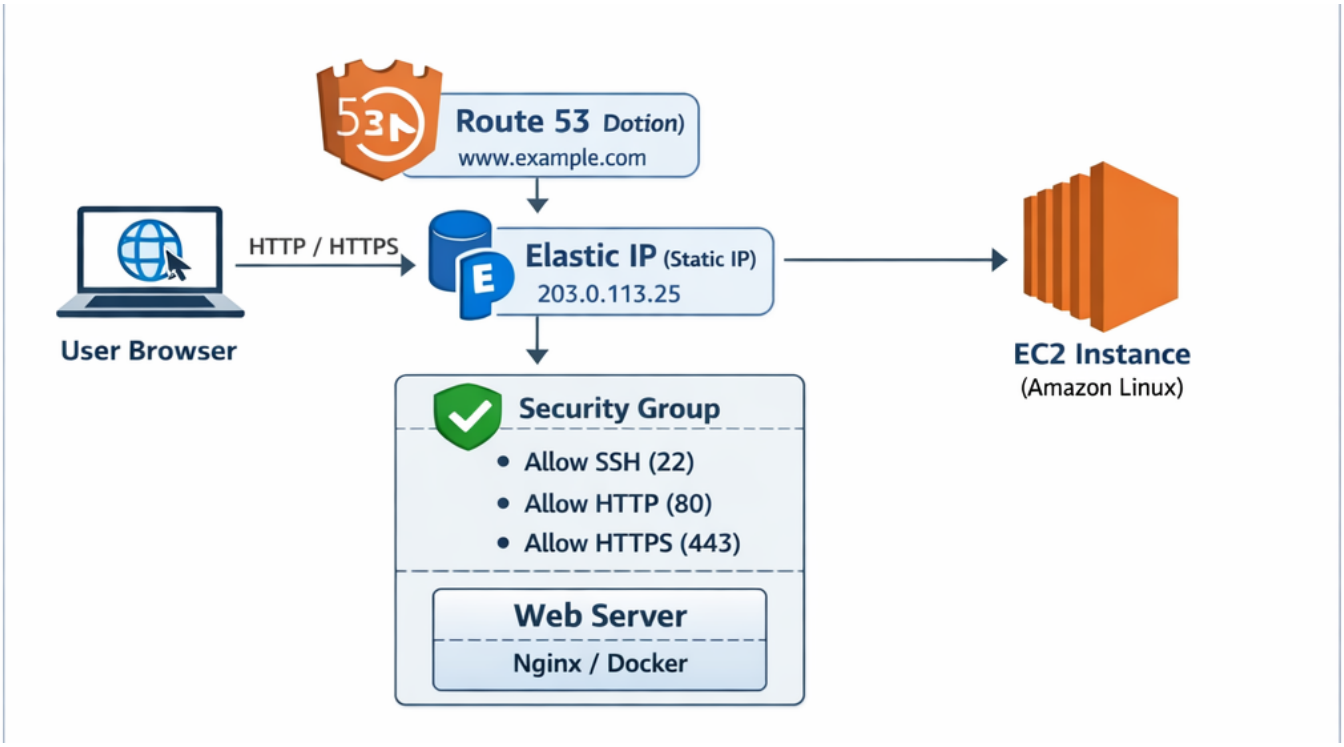
Task 4 — Application Access (Public IP / Elastic IP / Route 53)

Goal

Make the application accessible from a browser using:

- EC2 Public IP (temporary)
- Elastic IP (static / recommended)
- Route 53 domain (optional)

Architecture



Prerequisites

- App running on EC2 (Nginx/Docker)
- Security Group allows HTTP (80)

Step-by-Step (Amazon Linux)

1) Launch EC2 Instance

- AMI: Amazon Linux
- Type: t2.micro
- Inbound rules:
  - SSH 22 (My IP)
  - HTTP 80 (Anywhere)
  - HTTPS 443 (optional)

2) Connect using SSH

```
ssh -i your-key.pem ec2-user@EC2_PUBLIC_IP
```

3) Install and Run Nginx (example)

```
sudo yum update -y
sudo yum install nginx -y
sudo systemctl start nginx
```

```
sudo systemctl enable nginx
systemctl status nginx
```

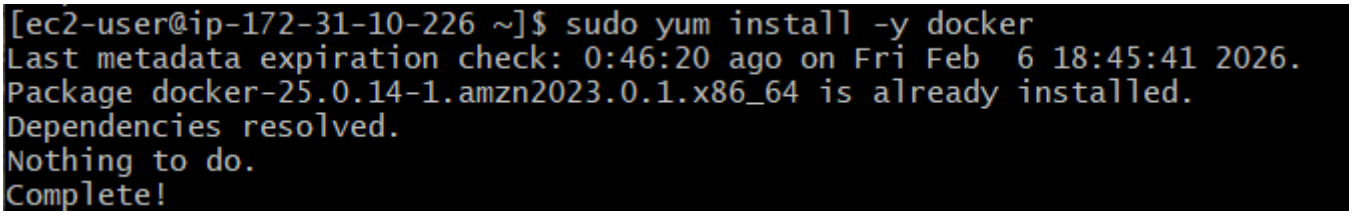
4) Access via EC2 Public IP

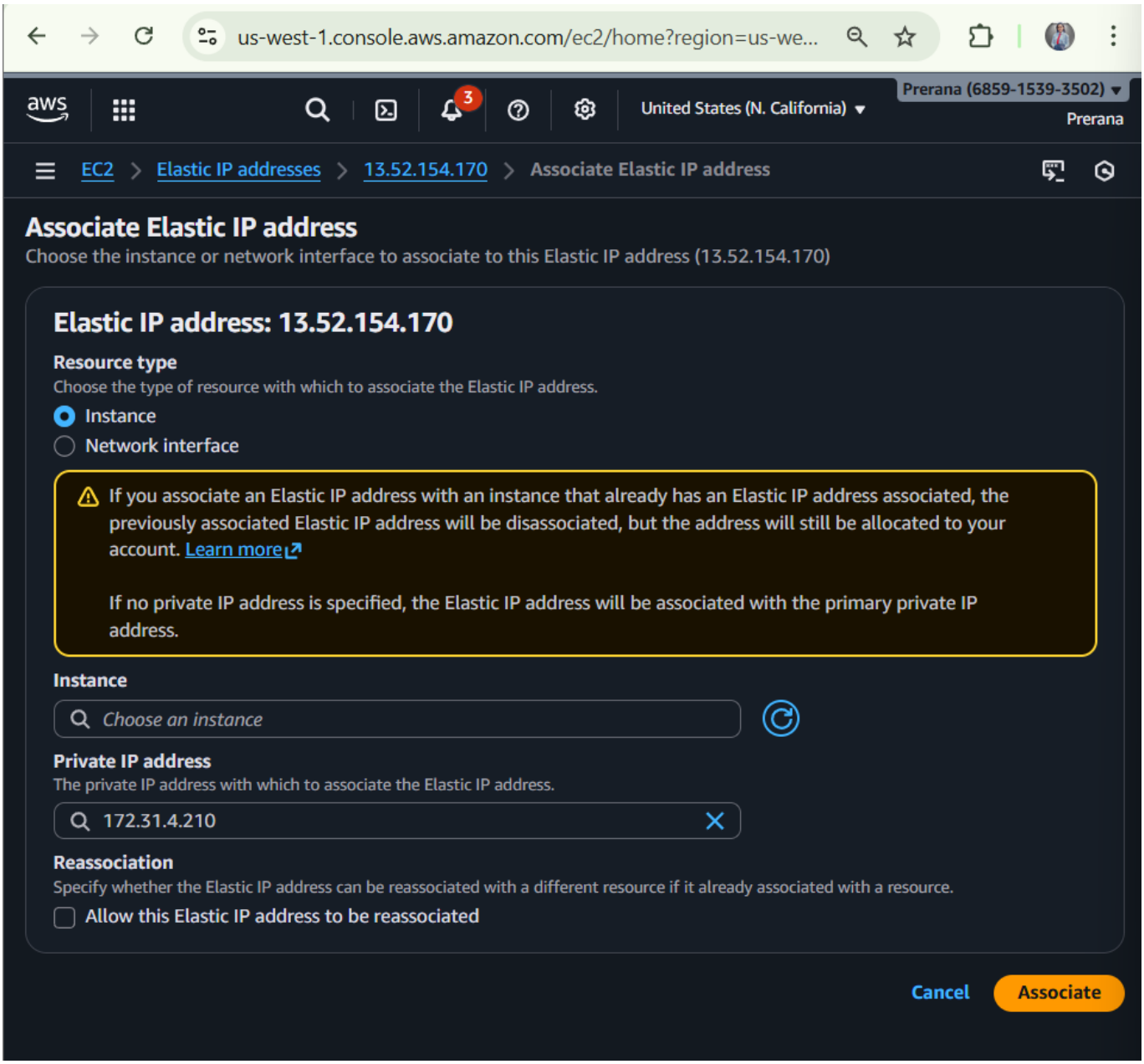
Open:

```
http://EC2_PUBLIC_IP
```

5) Allocate & Associate Elastic IP

EC2 → Elastic IPs → Allocate → Associate to instance



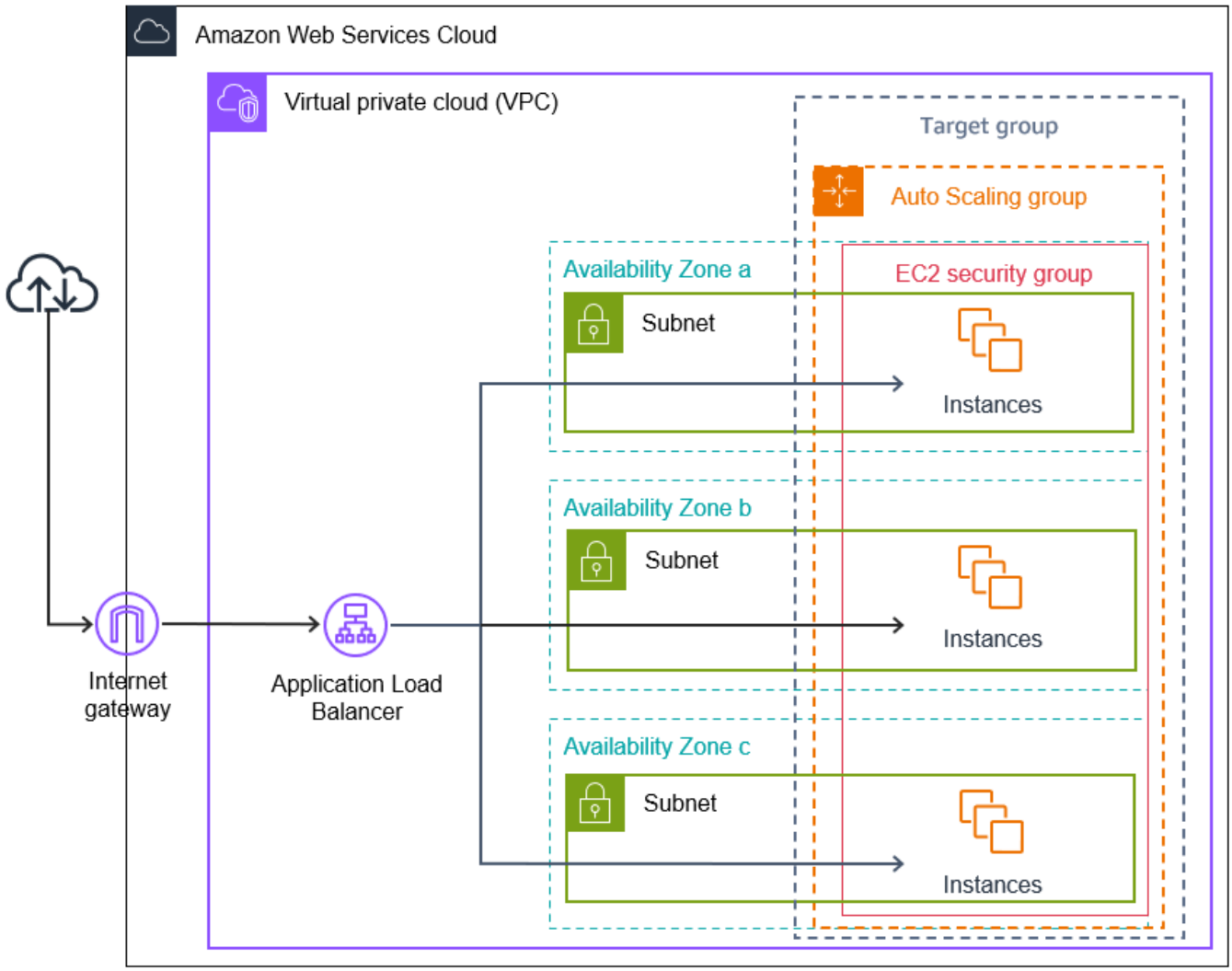


Task 5 — Load Balancer & Auto Scaling (ALB + ASG)

Objective

The objective of this task is to configure an Application Load Balancer (ALB) and attach it to an Auto Scaling Group (ASG) so that application traffic is distributed automatically and EC2 instances scale based on CPU utilization.

Architecture



Configure

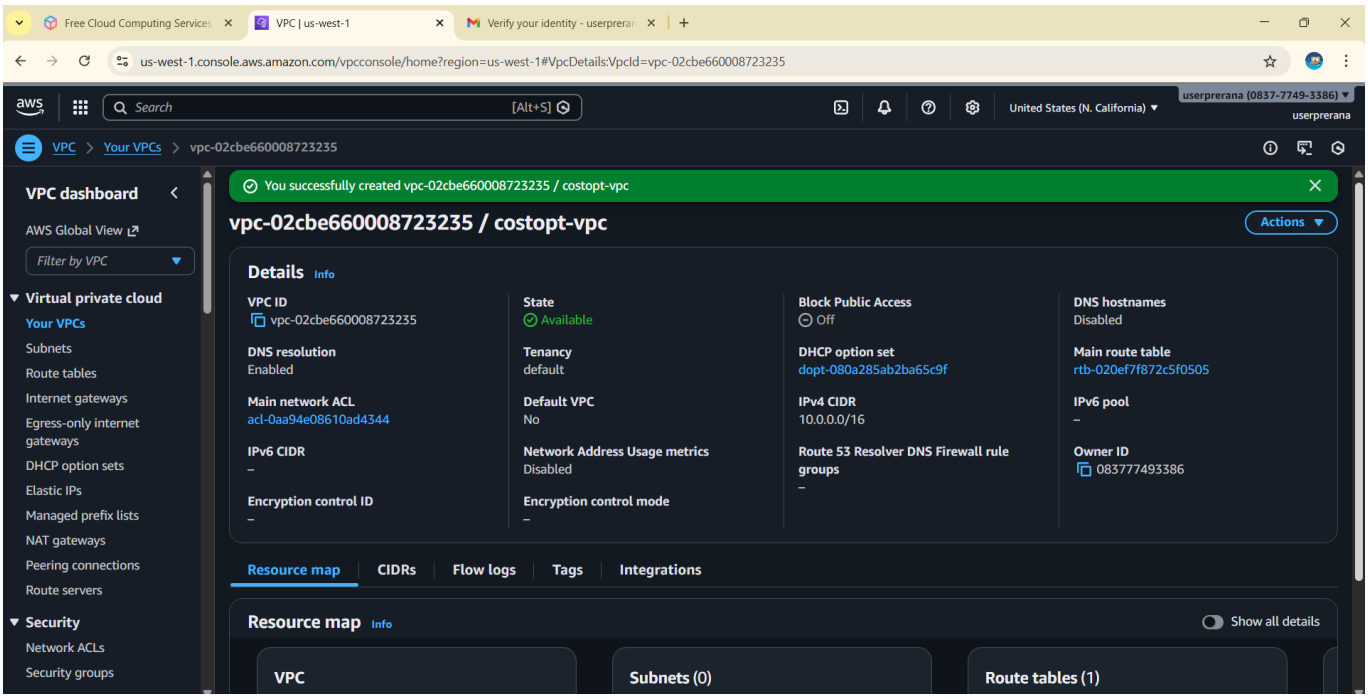
- Application Load Balancer (ALB)
- Auto Scaling Group (ASG)
- Scale based on CPU utilization

Region: us-west-1 (N. California)

Step-by-Step Implementation (with Screenshots)

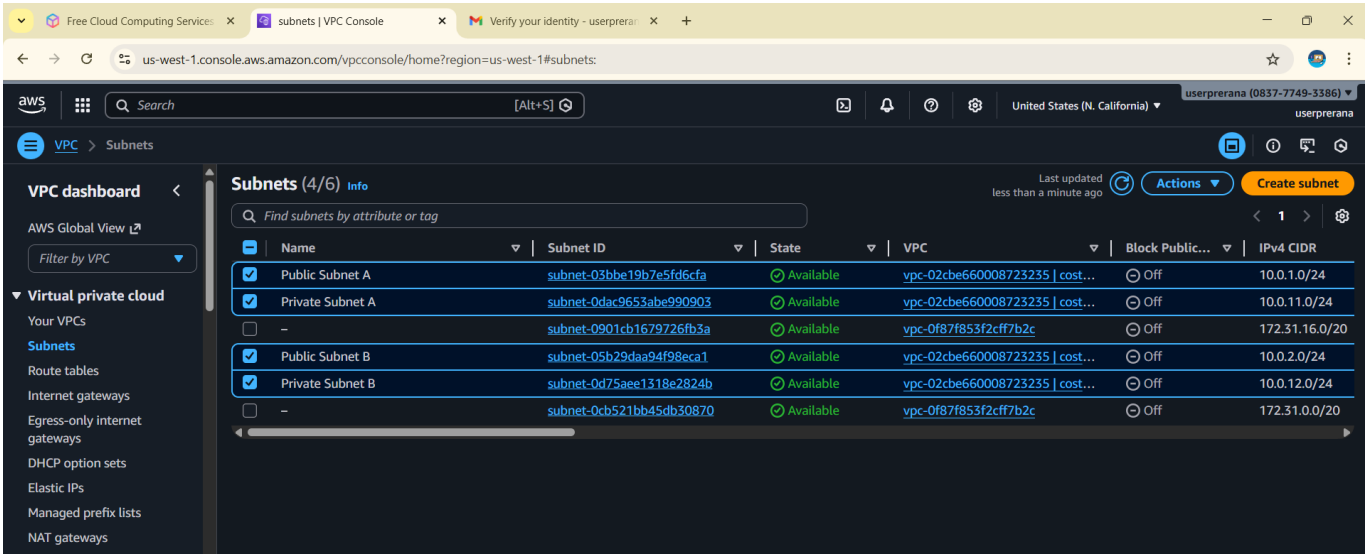
Step 1: VPC Setup

- VPC: `costopt-vpc`
- CIDR: `10.0.0.0/16`

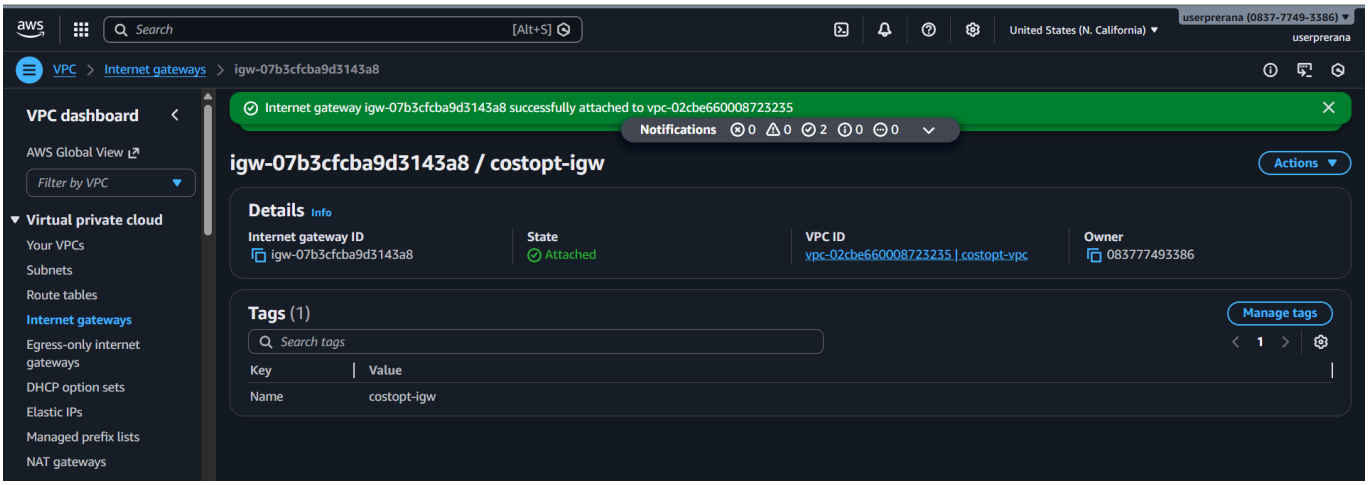


Step 2: Subnets

- Public A: 10.0.1.0/24
- Public B: 10.0.2.0/24
- Private A: 10.0.11.0/24
- Private B: 10.0.12.0/24



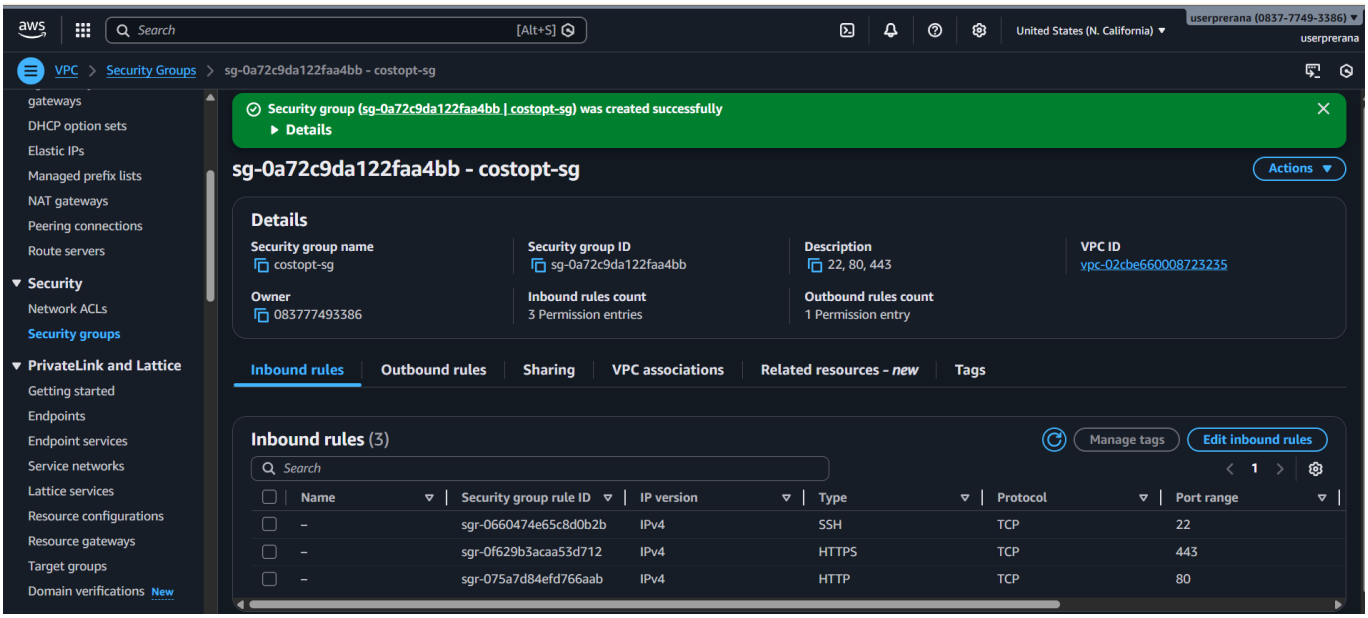
Step 3: Internet Gateway



Step 4: Security Group

Inbound:

- 22, 80, 443



Step 5: EC2 Access

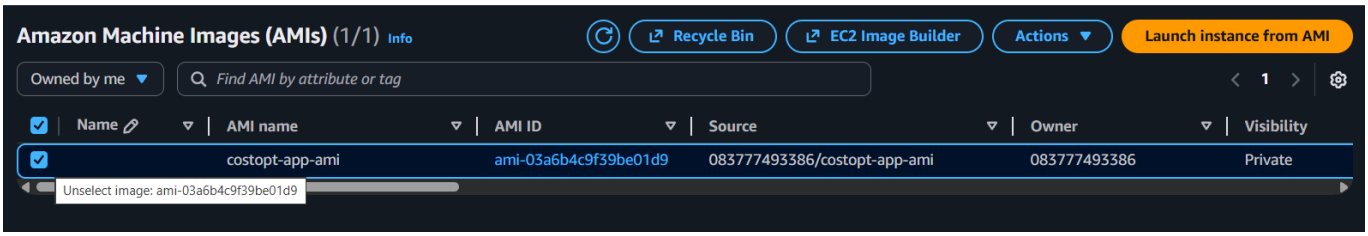
```
prera@Prerana MINGW64 /c/prerana workspace/key-pairs
$ ssh -i "task.pem" ec2-user@13.57.215.215
The authenticity of host '13.57.215.215 (13.57.215.215)' can't be established.
ED25519 key fingerprint is: SHA256:/jeZUXasZTjGFVN7W8CUbfm5ysqEiBAZv+y3j34UpaE
This key is not known by any other names.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '13.57.215.215' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts.
** WARNING: connection is not using a post-quantum key exchange algorithm.
** This session may be vulnerable to "store now, decrypt later" attacks.
** The server may need to be upgraded. See https://openssh.com/pq.html
   ,     #_
   ~\_  ####_        Amazon Linux 2023
  ~~  \_#####\
  ~~     \###|
  ~~       \#/ ___   https://aws.amazon.com/linux/amazon-linux-2023
   ~~       V~' '->
    ~~~         /
      ~~._.   _/
         _/ _/
       _/m/'
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-1-11 ~]$
```

Step 6: Docker Installation

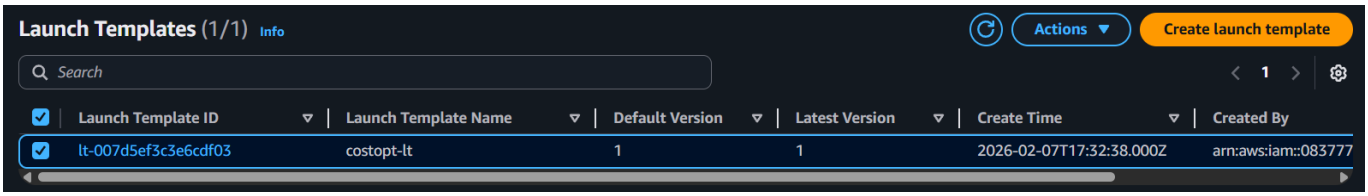
```
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-1-11 ~]$ docker --version
Docker version 25.0.14, build 0bab007
```

Step 7: Create AMI

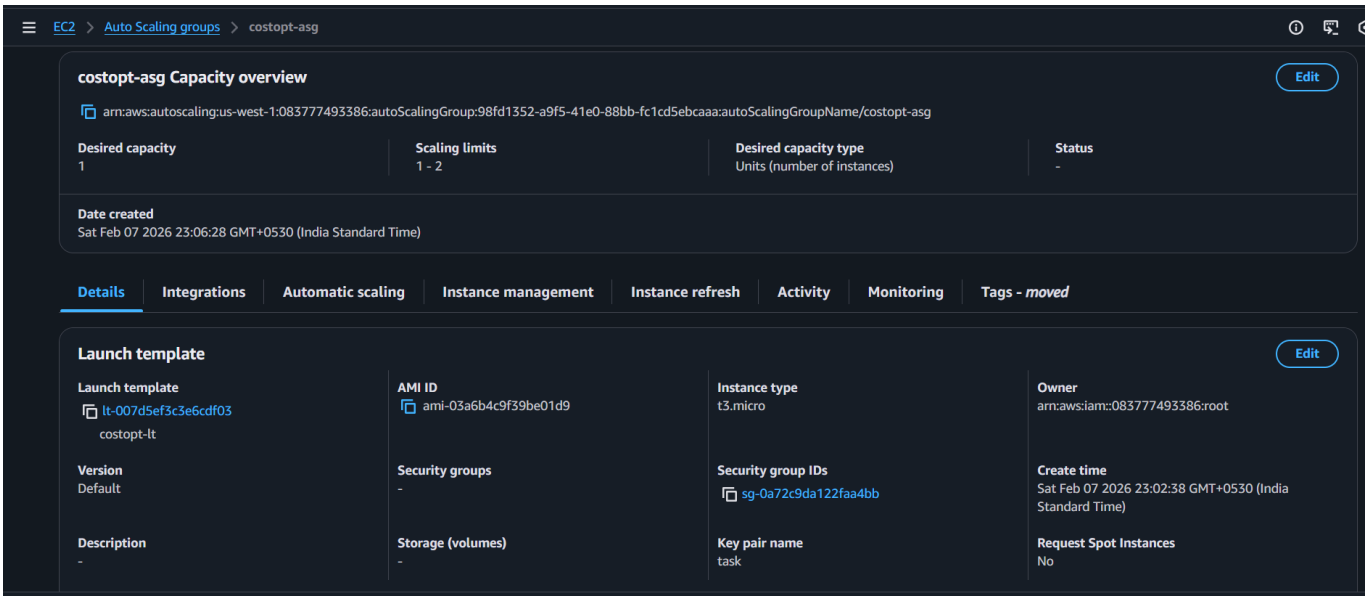
- AMI Name: costopt-app-ami
- AMI ID: ami-03a6b4c9f39be01d9



Step 8: Launch Template



Step 9: Auto Scaling Group



Step 10: CPU-Based Scaling Policy

- Target tracking: Average CPU utilization
- Target: 50%

Task 6 — Cost Optimization (Free-tier + Minimal + Auto Scaling)

Objective

Create a cost-optimized AWS setup by:

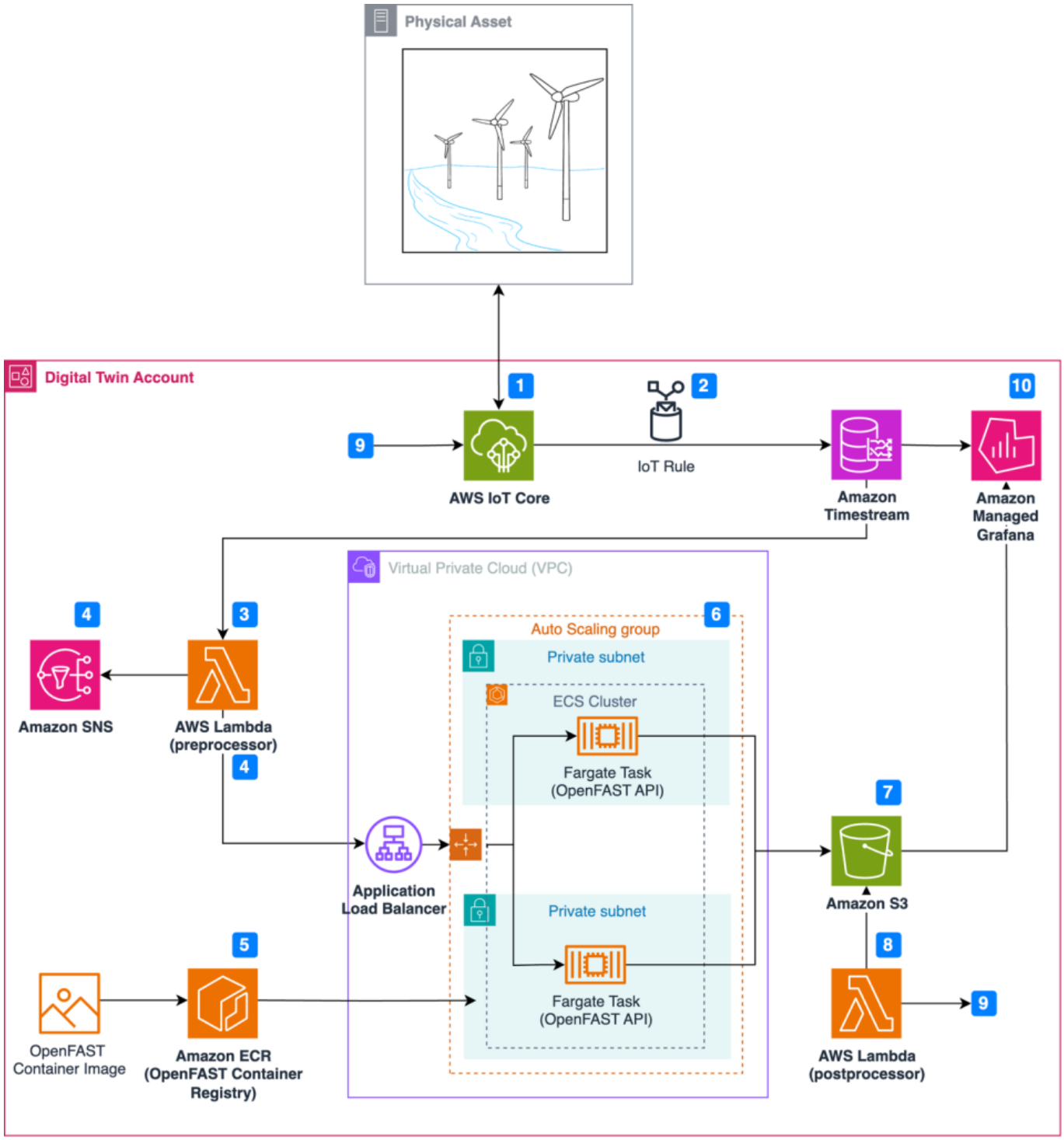
1. Using free-tier / low-cost EC2.
2. Keeping resources minimal (small instance, minimal storage, limited ports).
3. Auto Scaling based on CPU usage (avoid extra instances).

Scaling logic:

- CPU > 50% → add instance
- CPU < 50% → remove extra instance

Region: us-west-1 (N. California)

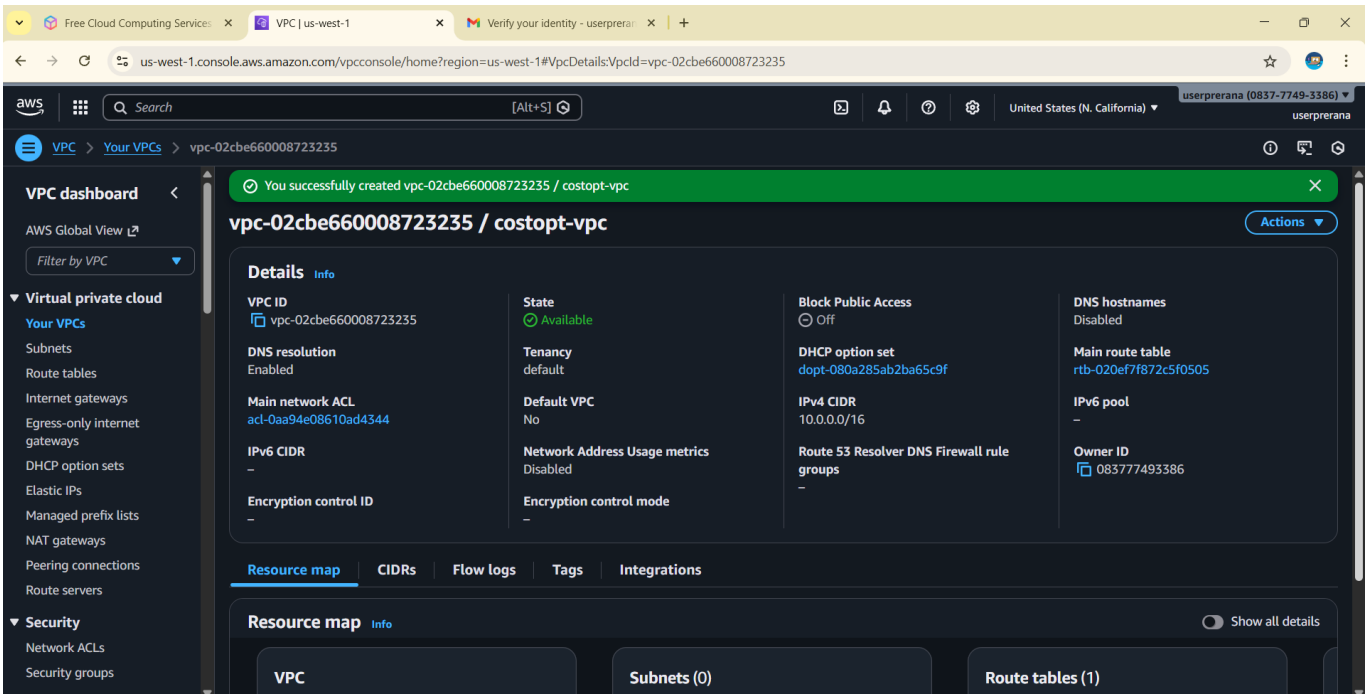
Architecture



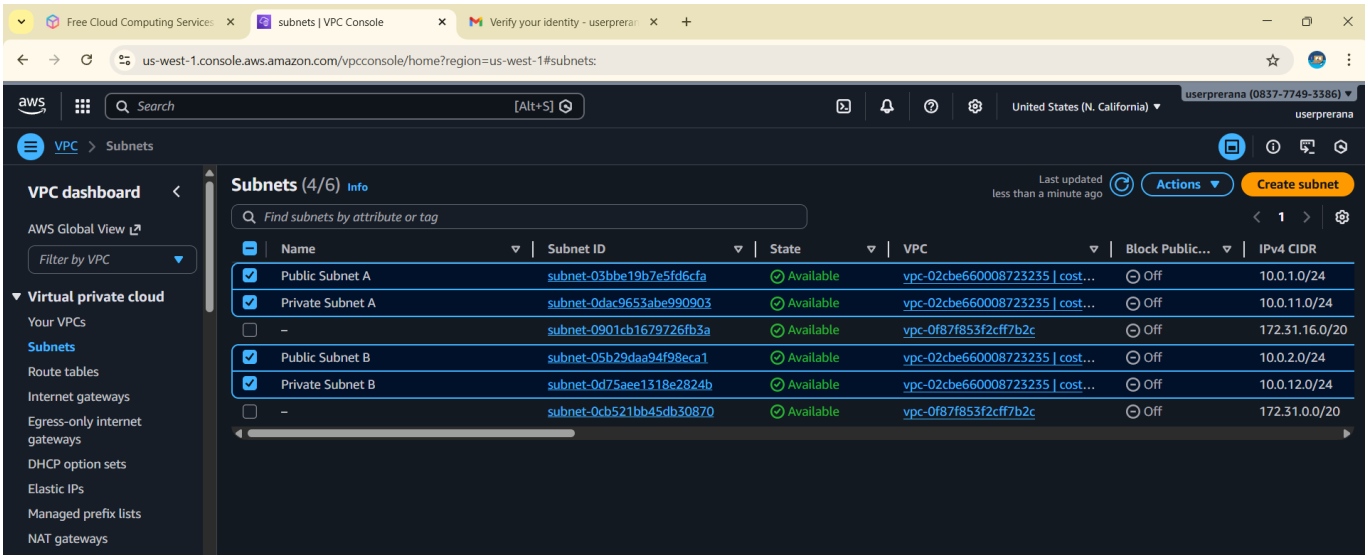
Step-by-Step Implementation (with Screenshots)

Step 1: Create VPC

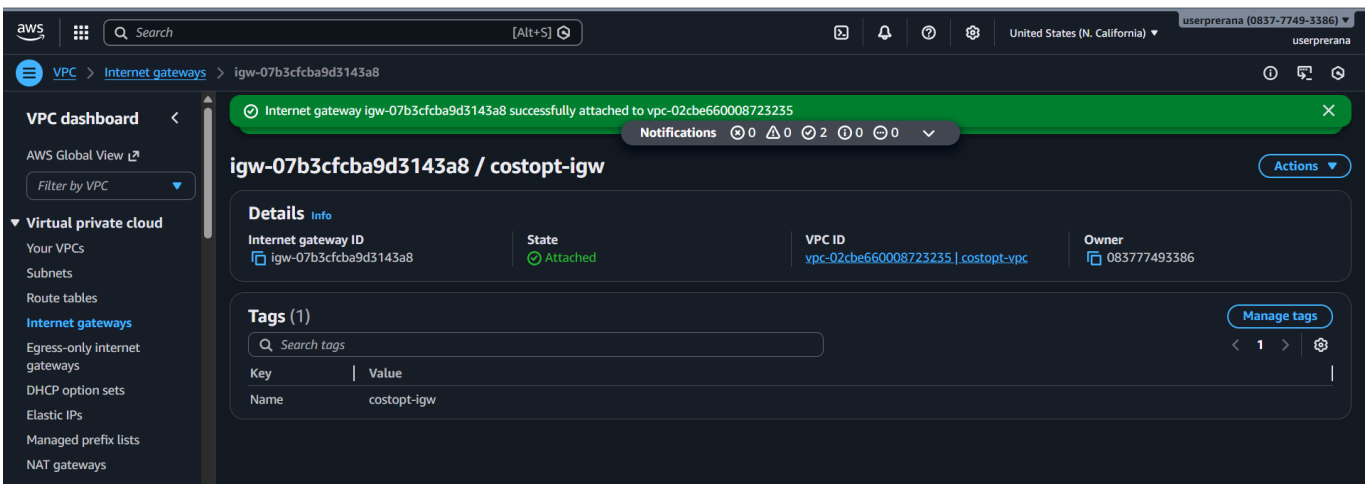
- VPC: `costopt-vpc`
- CIDR: `10.0.0.0/16`



Step 2: Create Subnets (No NAT Gateway to save cost)



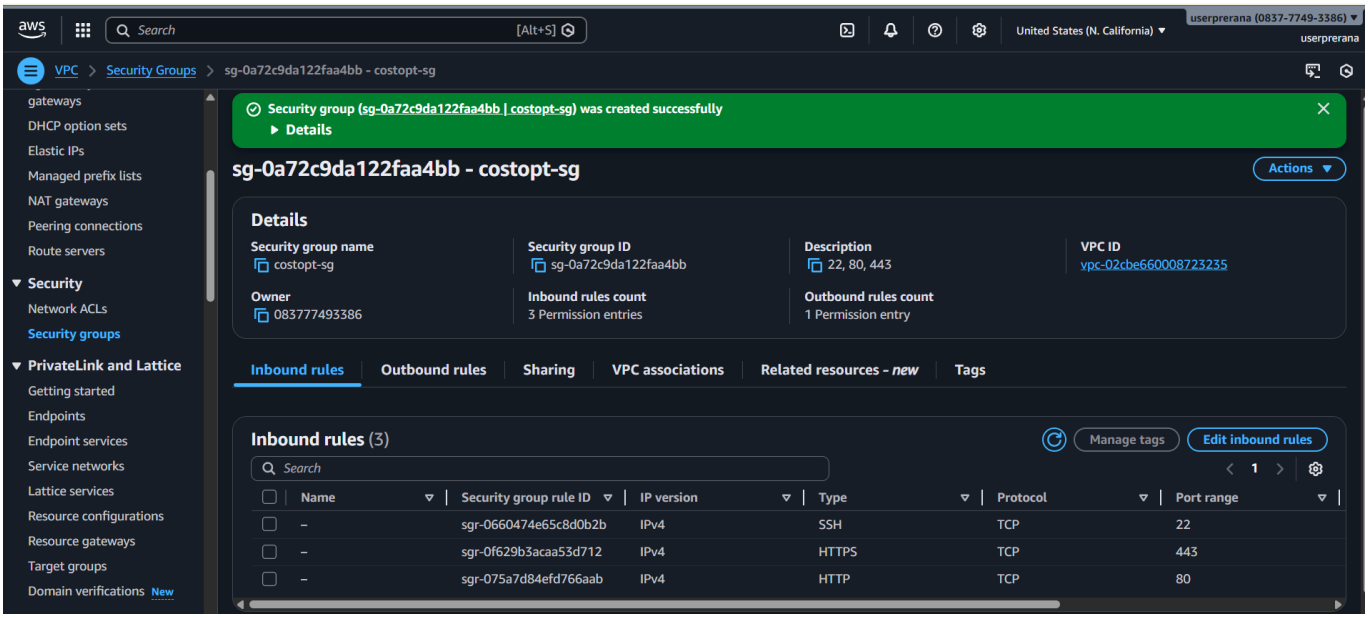
Step 3: Attach Internet Gateway



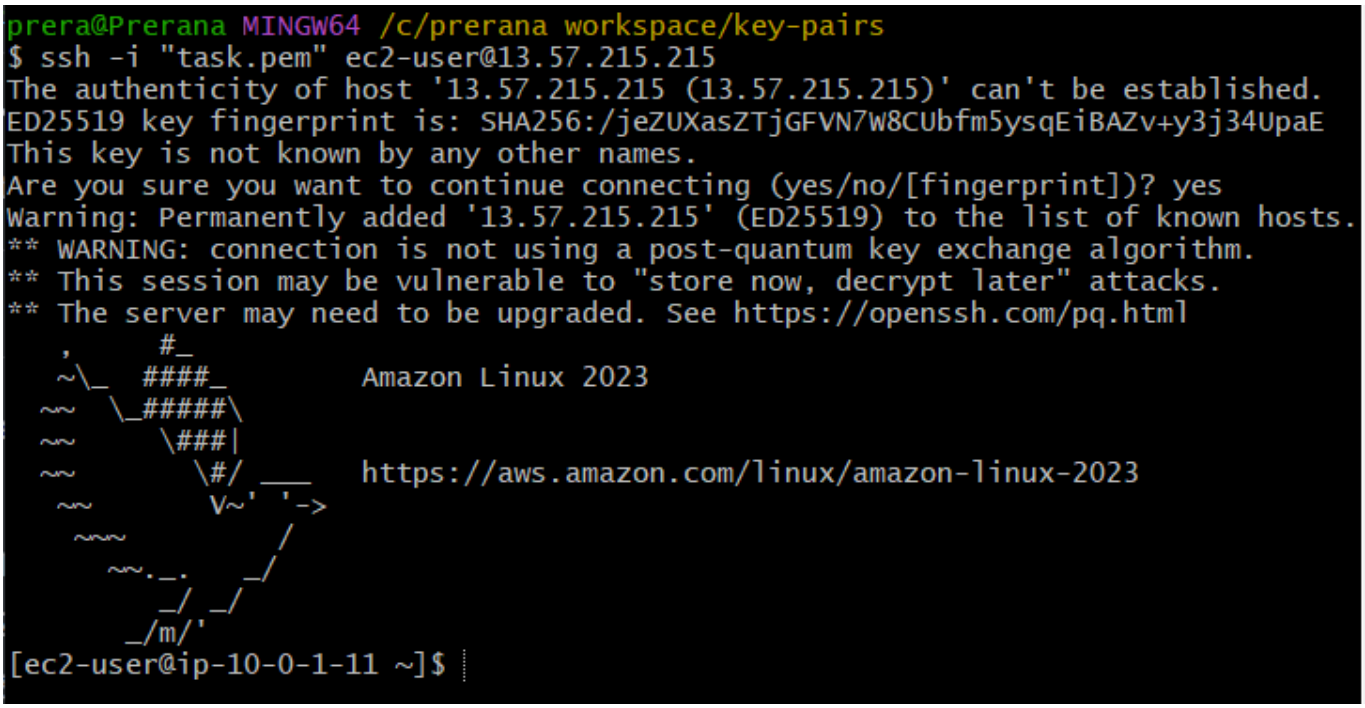
Step 4: Security Group (minimal ports)

Inbound:

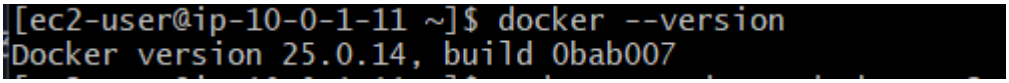
- 22, 80, 443 (optional)



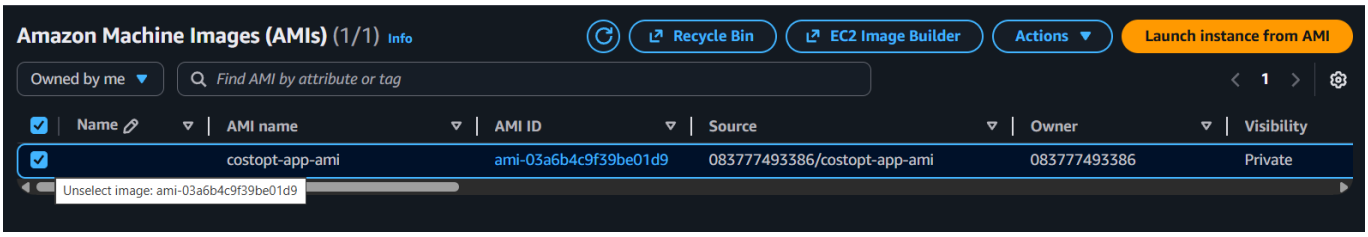
Step 5: Launch EC2 and Verify Access



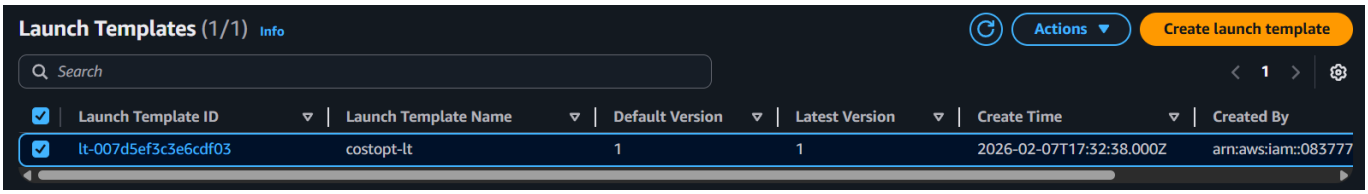
Step 6: Install Docker



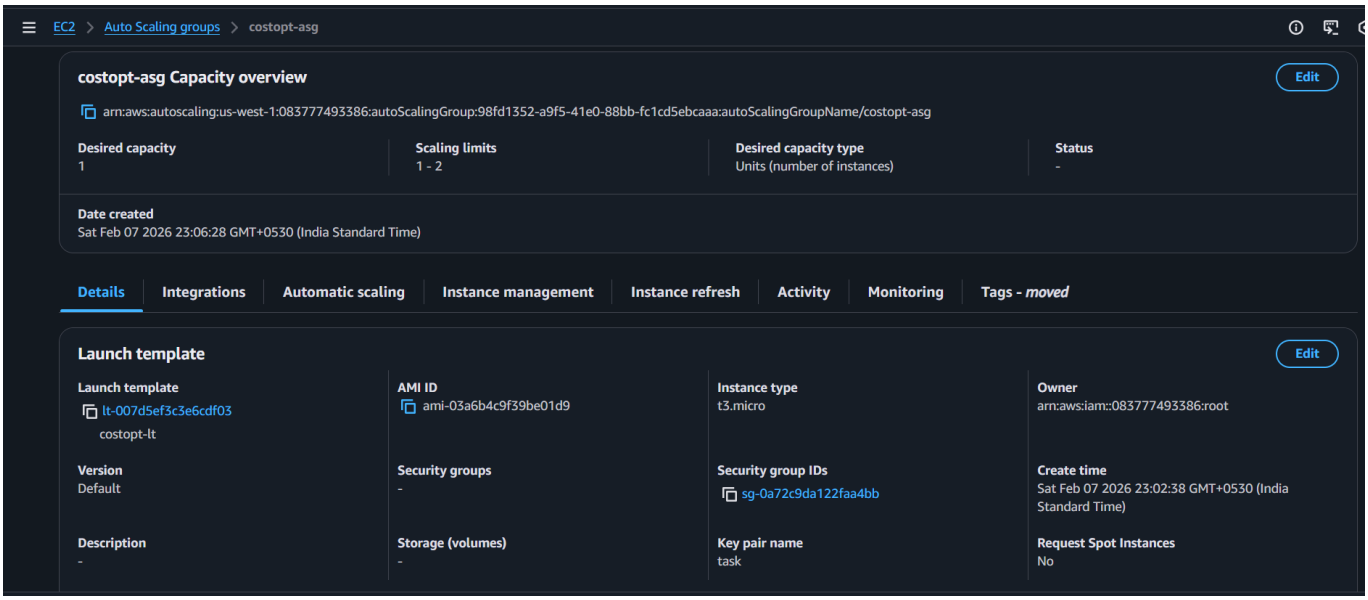
Step 7: Create AMI

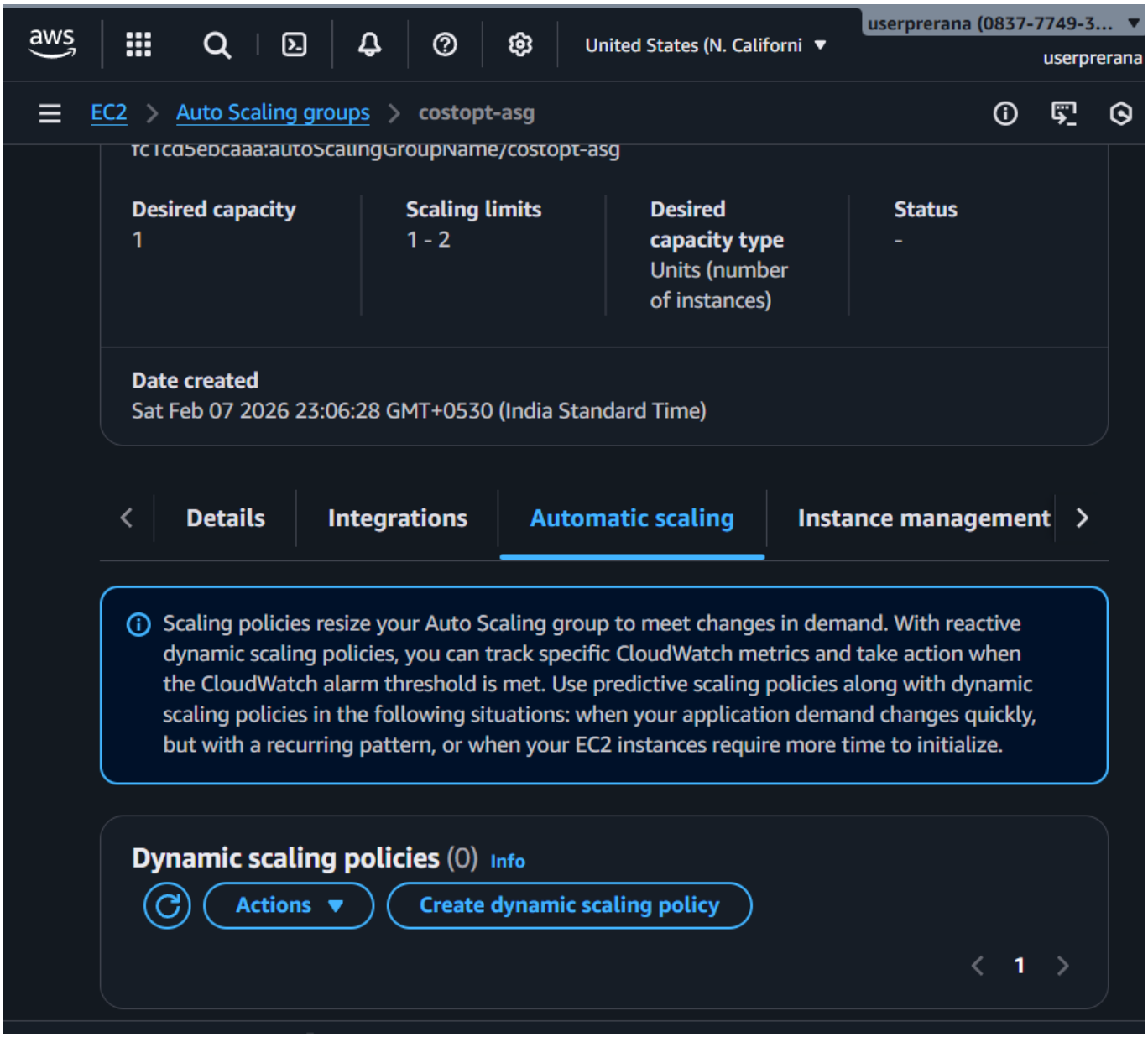


Step 8: Create Launch Template



Step 9: Create Auto Scaling Group





Step 10: CPU-Based Scaling Policy Screenshot (Required)

Add screenshot from: Auto Scaling Group → Automatic scaling → Dynamic scaling policies

---

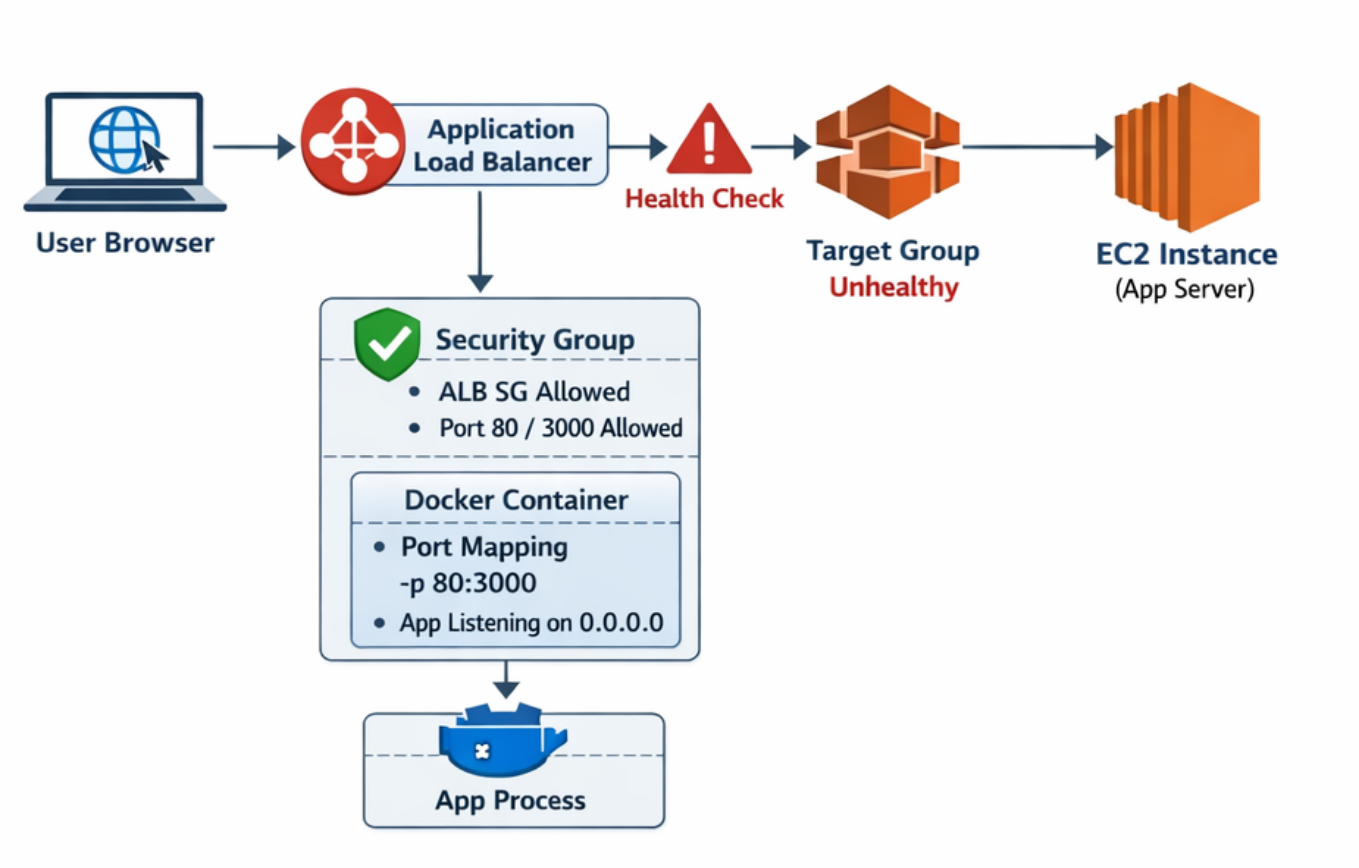
Final Notes

- Keep **all screenshots** inside `images/`
- Keep this file as **root** `README.md` for submission.

Task 7: Troubleshooting Guide

This guide explains common problems when deploying containerized applications and how to fix them in simple steps.

Architecture



1. App Not Accessible

Problem:
You open the application URL in the browser, but the page does not load.

What to check:

- **DNS / IP Address:**
  Make sure you are using the correct Load Balancer DNS name or EC2 Public IP.
- **Security Group Rules:**
  Check that inbound rules allow:
  - Port 80 (HTTP) or
  - Port 443 (HTTPS)
    from `0.0.0.0/0` or your IP address.
- **Internet Gateway:**
  If the instance is in a public subnet, ensure the VPC has an Internet Gateway attached.

---

2. Container Running but Port Not Reachable

Problem:
The Docker container status shows **running**, but the application is not accessible.

What to check:

- **Port Mapping:**
  Confirm correct port mapping. Example: -p 80:3000 This means port `80` on the host forwards to port `3000` inside the container.

- **Listening Address:**
  The application must listen on `0.0.0.0`, not `127.0.0.1`.
  If it listens on localhost, external traffic cannot reach it.
- **Container Logs:**
  Check logs to see if the app failed to start: docker logs <container_id>

---

3. ALB Health Check Failures

Problem:
The Application Load Balancer shows targets as **Unhealthy**.

What to check:

- **Health Check Path:**
  Ensure the ALB health check path matches your application endpoint.
  Example: `/` or `/health`
- **Success Response Code:**
  The app must return `200 OK`.
  Codes like `302` or `401` will cause health check failure.
- **Security Group Rules:**
  The EC2 instance security group must allow inbound traffic **from the ALB security group** on the application port.
- **Application Startup Time:**
  If the app takes time to start, increase:
- Health check interval
- Healthy threshold
  in the Target Group settings.

Conclusion

Most issues occur due to:

- Incorrect security group rules
- Wrong port mapping
- Application not listening on the correct address
- ALB health check misconfiguration

Fixing these usually resolves application access problems.