Hands-On with AWS SNS (Simple Notification Service)

I recently explored **Amazon SNS (Simple Notification Service)** – a powerful **region-specific** messaging service used to send notifications automatically when an event occurs in your AWS infrastructure.

With **SNS**, we can send messages to subscribers through various protocols such as Email, SMS, HTTP, or AWS Lambda. In this hands-on guide, I walk you through how to create a topic, add subscriptions, and test notifications using **Email** as the endpoint.

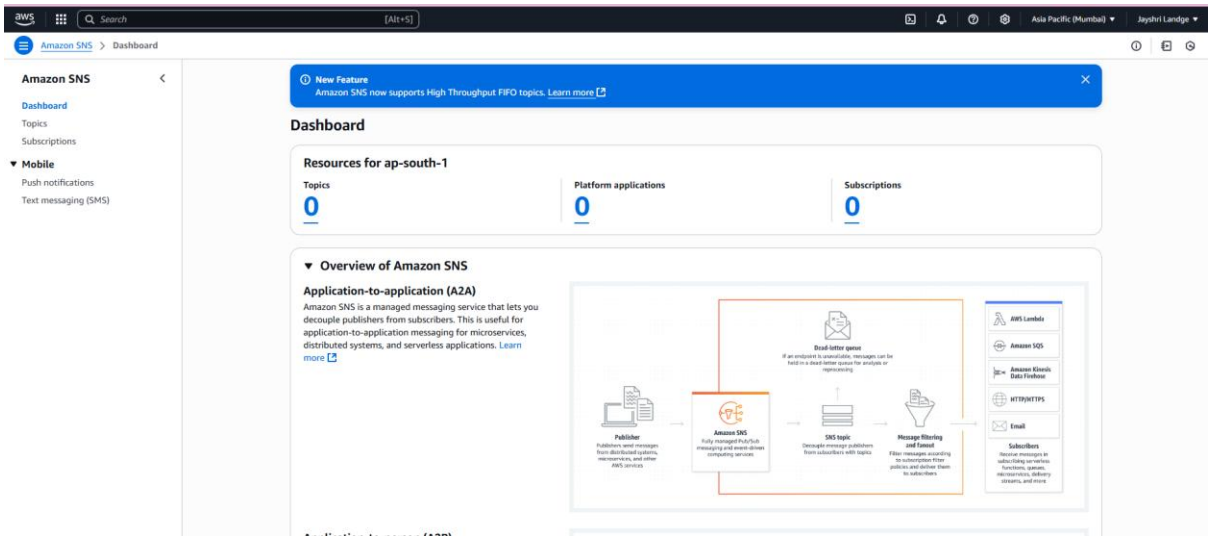
What is AWS SNS?

- **SNS** stands for **Simple Notification Service**
- It's a **fully managed**, **highly available**, and **scalable** messaging service
- **Region-specific**: Each configuration (topics, subscriptions) is bound to a specific AWS region
- Sends real-time notifications triggered by events (like EC2 state changes, CloudWatch alarms, etc.)

Steps to Configure AWS SNS with Email Notifications

Step 1: Navigate to the SNS Dashboard

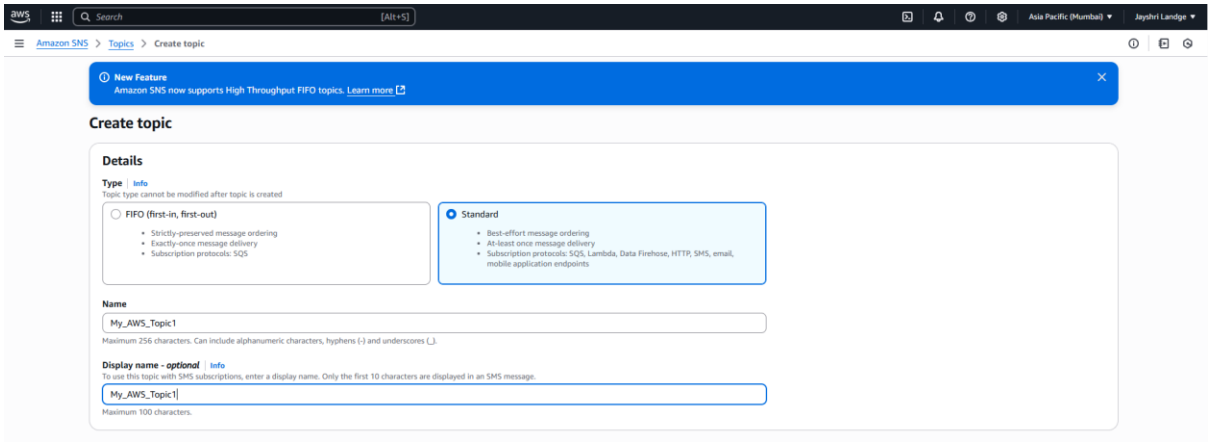
AWS Console → Services → Search for **SNS**



Screenshot 1 : SNS Dashboard

Step 2: Create a Topic

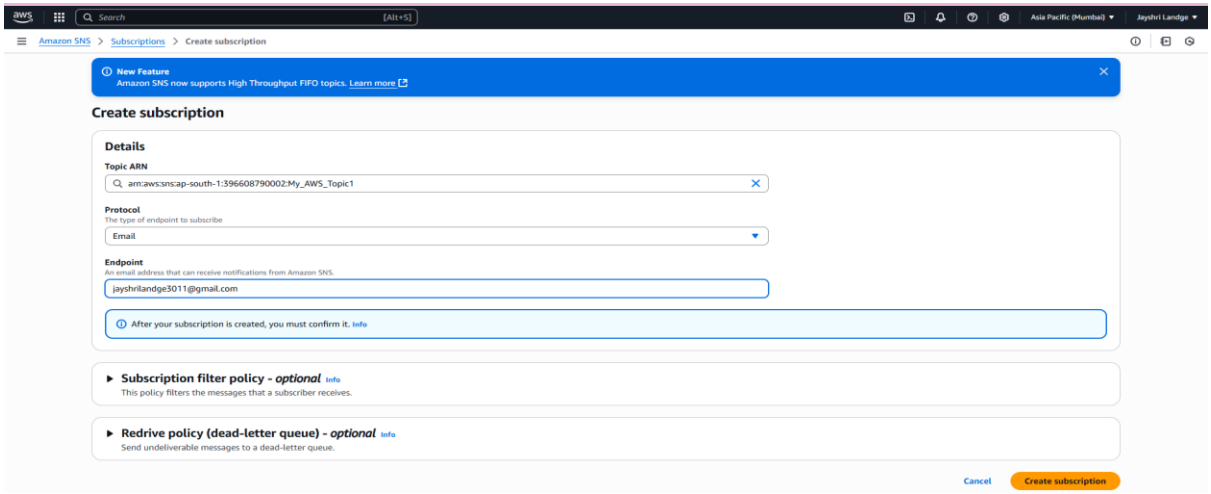
1. Click **“Create topic”**
2. Choose **Standard** type (for general notifications)
3. Set a **Topic name** (e.g., aws-activity-topic)
4. Click **“Create topic”**



Screenshot 2: Topic Creation Form

Step 3: Create a Subscription

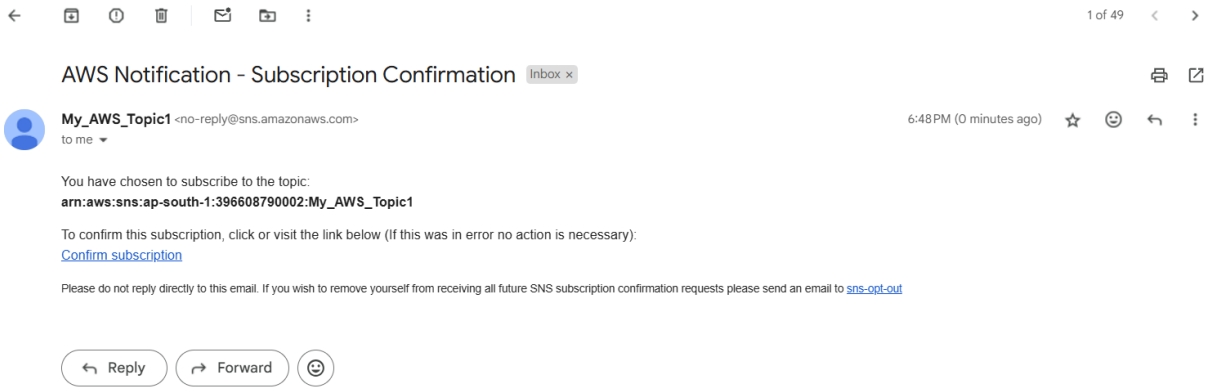
1. Open your created topic
2. Click **“Create subscription”**
3. Set **Protocol** to Email
4. Enter the **Email Endpoint** (e.g., example@gmail.com)
5. Click **“Create subscription”**



Screenshot 3: Subscription Form

Step 4: Confirm the Email Subscription

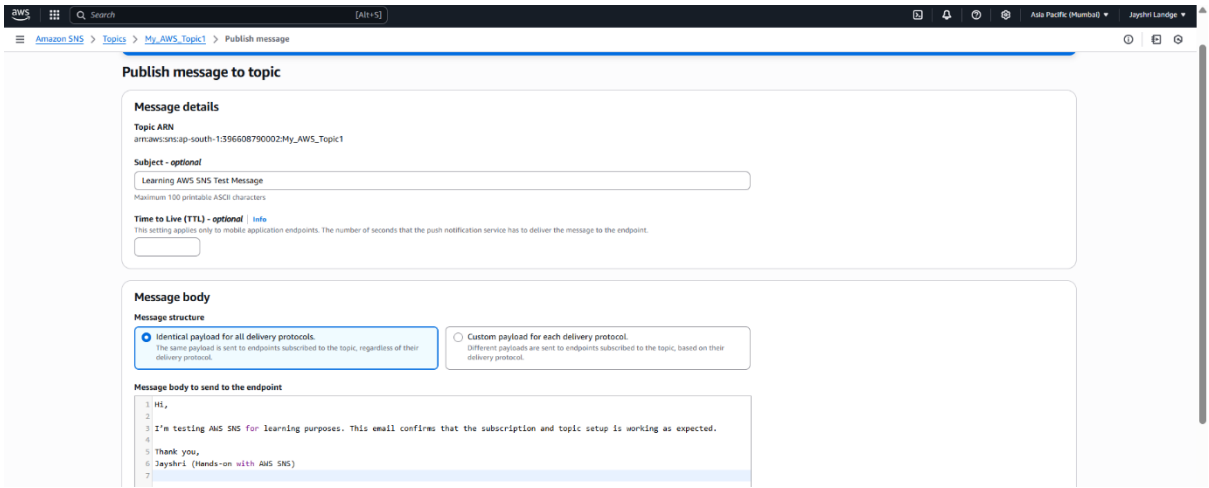
- Go to your email inbox
- Open the SNS confirmation email
- Click on **Confirm subscription** link



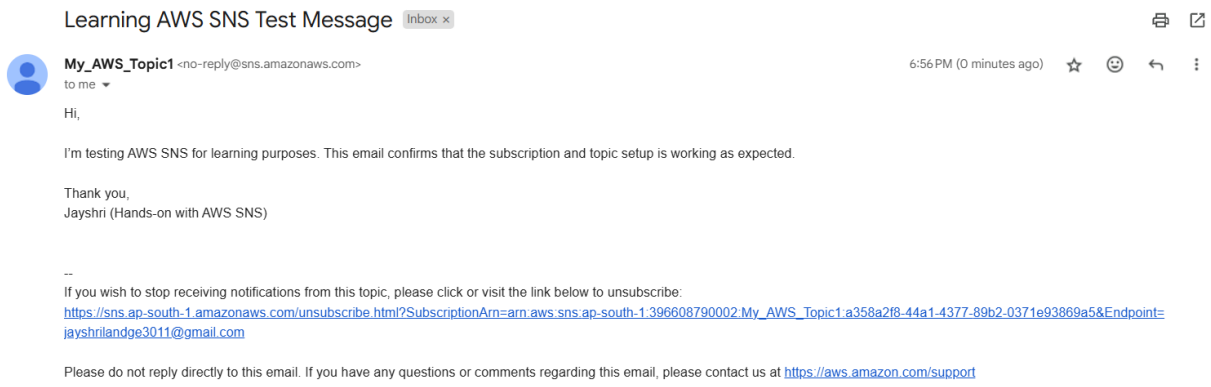
Screenshot 4 : Confirmation Email

Step 5: Publish a Test Message

1. Inside your topic, click **“Publish message”**
2. Enter a **subject** and **message body**
3. Click **“Publish”**
4. Check your email for the notification



Screenshot 5 : Publish Message Page



Screenshot 6 : Inbox Notification

Conclusion

This was a valuable learning experience in using AWS SNS for real-time alerting. I now feel more confident in integrating notification systems with other AWS services like EC2, CloudWatch, and Lambda. Looking forward to applying this in larger cloud-based setups!