



Placement Empowerment Program

Cloud Computing and DevOps Centre

Host a Static Website on a Cloud VM Install Apache on your cloud VM and host a simple HTML website.

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Introduction

A static website serves pre-written HTML, CSS, and JavaScript files to the end user without requiring server-side processing. Hosting such websites on a cloud-based Virtual Machine (VM) has become a preferred choice for individuals and businesses due to its flexibility, scalability, and cost-effectiveness. By leveraging the cloud, developers can quickly deploy websites accessible from anywhere in the world.

Overview

Hosting a static website on a cloud VM involves the following key steps:

- **1. Provisioning a Cloud VM:** Setting up a virtual machine on a cloud provider (like AWS, Azure, or GCP).
- **2. Installing a Web Server:** Configuring a web server such as Apache to serve the website's static files.
- **3.** Uploading Website Files: Placing HTML, CSS, and JavaScript files in the web server's root directory.
- **4. Configuring Network Access:** Ensuring that the web server is accessible via HTTP (port 80) from anywhere.
- **5. Testing and Launching:** Verifying the functionality of the website to make it publicly accessible

Objectives

The primary objectives of hosting a static website on a cloud VM include:

1. Learning Cloud Computing Fundamentals: Understanding how virtual machines operate in a cloud environment.

- **2. Practical Web Hosting Skills:** Gaining hands-on experience in setting up and configuring web servers like Apache or Nginx.
- **3. Website Deployment:** Successfully deploying and making a static website live on the internet.
- **4. Understanding Networking Basics:** Learning about firewall rules, security groups, and HTTP protocol configurations.
- **5. Cost-Effective Hosting:** Exploring affordable methods to host lightweight websites without needing managed services.

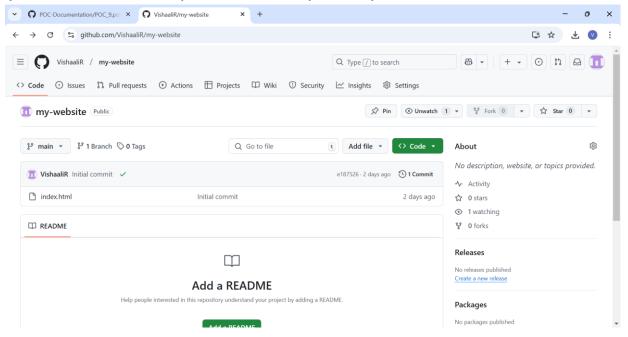
Importance

- **1. Hands-On Cloud Experience:** Hosting a static website on a cloud VM is an excellent starting point for understanding the capabilities of cloud platforms and virtual machine operations.
- **2. Scalability:** Cloud-based hosting provides flexibility to scale resources up or down as the traffic to the website grows.
- **3. Global Accessibility:** By deploying on the cloud, the website becomes accessible from any part of the world with minimal latency.
- **4. Customization and Control:** Cloud VMs allow complete control over the hosting environment, enabling advanced configurations and optimizations.
- **5. Foundation for Advanced Hosting:** It lays the groundwork for more advanced projects, such as hosting dynamic websites, APIs, or using load balancers.
- **6. Professional Development:** Learning to host websites on the cloud adds significant value to your skill set, making you proficient in real-world deployment scenarios.

Step-by-Step Overview

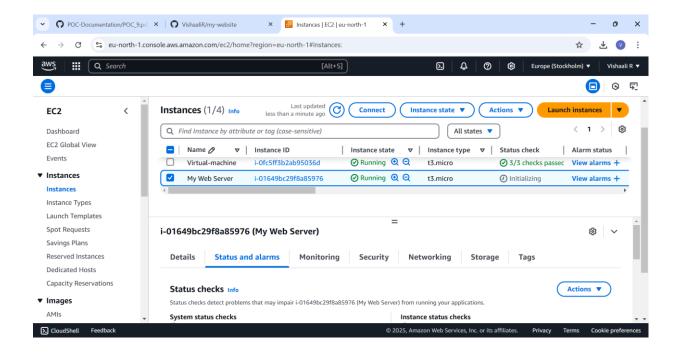
Step 1:

Have an HTML file (with any related assets like CSS/JavaScript) that you want to host in your GitHub repository



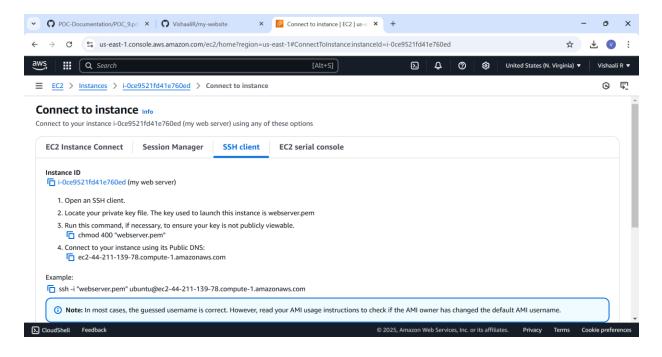
Step 2:

Launch an EC2 instance, select Ubuntu as the OS, configure security groups to allow all network traffic, create a key pair (e.g., new.pem), and download it for SSH access



Step 3:

Click the 'Connect' option on your launched instance, go to the SSH client section, and copy the command provided under the 'Example' section.



Step 4:

Open PowerShell, navigate to the 'Downloads' directory where the downloaded key pair is located using the **cd Downloads** command

PS C:\Users\hi> cd downloads

Step 5:

Paste the command copied from the EC2 Connect's SSH client section, replace the key pair name with your downloaded key (e.g., new.pem), press Enter, and type 'yes' when prompted.

PS C:\Users\hi\downloads> ssh -i "webserver.pem" ubuntu@ec2-13-48-193-160.eu-north-1.compute.amazonaws.com
The authenticity of host 'ec2-13-48-193-160.eu-north-1.compute.amazonaws.com (13.48.193.160)' can't be established.
ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:PtIqYBOspjK/wmNhAfTZ3TlJZJaPQznRaxmnTS+Ps6Y.
This key is not known by any other names.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes

Step 6:

Run the command sudo apt update to update the package list.

ubuntu@ip-172-31-35-39:~\$ sudo apt update

Step 7:

Run the command **sudo apt upgrade**, and press 'Y' to confirm and continue the upgrade process.

ubuntu@ip-172-31-35-39:~\$ sudo apt upgrade

Step 8:

Install the Apache server by running the command **sudo apt install apache2**, and press 'Y' to confirm the installation

ubuntu@ip-172-31-35-39:~\$ sudo apt install apache2

Step 9:

Insert your files by running the command **git clone** <**repository_link>** to clone your repository containing the website files

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-35-39:~$ git clone https://github.com/VishaaliR/my-website Cloning into 'my-website'... remote: Enumerating objects: 3, done. remote: Counting objects: 100% (3/3), done. remote: Compressing objects: 100% (2/2), done. remote: Total 3 (delta 0), reused 3 (delta 0), pack-reused 0 (from 0) Receiving objects: 100% (3/3), done.
```

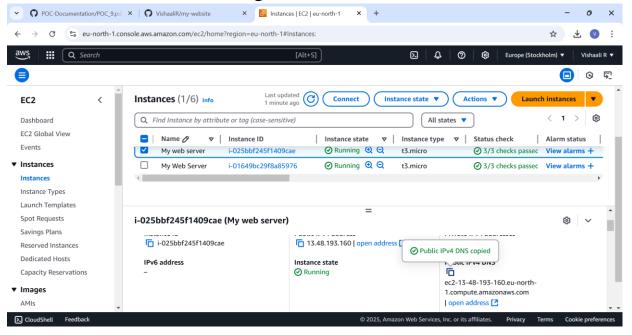
Step 10:

Run the command **cd /var/www/html** to navigate to the web server's root directory, then type ls to verify that your HTML files from the GitHub repository are present.

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-35-39:~$ cd /var/www/html ubuntu@ip-172-31-35-39:/var/www/html$ ls index.html ubuntu@ip-172-31-35-39:/var/www/html$
```

Step 11:

Copy the Public IPv4 DNS from the instance details page in the EC2 console, as shown in the image below.



Step 12:

Open Chrome and paste the copied Public IPv4 DNS in the address bar to view the content of your index.html file.

Welcome to My Website!

This is a static website hosted on GitHub Pages.

Outcome

By completing this PoC of deploying a static website using an EC2 instance, you will:

- 1. Launch and configure an EC2 instance with Ubuntu as the OS.
- 2. Install and configure Apache web server to serve your static website.
- 3. Clone your GitHub repository containing your static website files (HTML, CSS, JavaScript) onto your EC2 instance.
- 4. Upload and place the website files in the Apache root directory (/var/www/html).
- 5. Access your static website live on the web using the EC2 instance's Public IPv4 DNS.