

# Lambda and Python

Using AWS Lambda to run Python scripts

James Mitchell



# What is AWS Lambda?

*" AWS Lambda is a compute service that runs your code in response to events and automatically manages the compute resources for you... "*

- you do not provision the EC2 resources, the code "just runs"
- the code is executed in response to events on other AWS services, such as S3, SNS, DynamoDB etc..
- or executed by the Amazon API Gateway (⇐ choose this one!)
- only supports Java and Node.js ☹️

# Adding some Python

We can make it work by getting a node.js script to execute the Python script!

- WillyG - Python on AWS Lambda
- Tim Wagner - Using Python in an AWS Lambda Function
- Eric Hammond provides a wrapper function

# 1 - Hello World in Python

- sample code on Github
- accept a JSON object from the wrapper, write JSON to stdout
- use virtualenv to bundle in python and extra libraries

```
import sys
import json

def main(event):
    name = event.get('name', 'Mr. Eastwood')
    response = dict(greeting='Hello', name=name)
    print(json.dumps(response))

if __name__ == '__main__':
    argv = sys.argv[1:]
    event = json.loads(argv[0])
    main(event)
```

# 2.1 - Lambda Wrapper Script

- This script runs our Python script
- Communication is via "stringified" JSON

```
var spawn = require('child_process').spawn;
exports.handler = function(event, context) {
  var response = {};
  var error = null;
  var child = spawn('venv/bin/python', [
    'lambda-function.py',
    JSON.stringify(event, null, 2)
  ]);
  child.stdout.on('data', function (data) {
    console.log("stdout:\n"+data);
    response = JSON.parse(data);
  });
  child.stderr.on('data', function (data) {
    console.log("stderr:\n"+data);
    error = { error: true, message: data.toString('utf8') };
  });
  child.on('close', function (code) {
    if (error !== null ) { context.fail(error); }
    else {context.succeed(response); }
  });
};
```

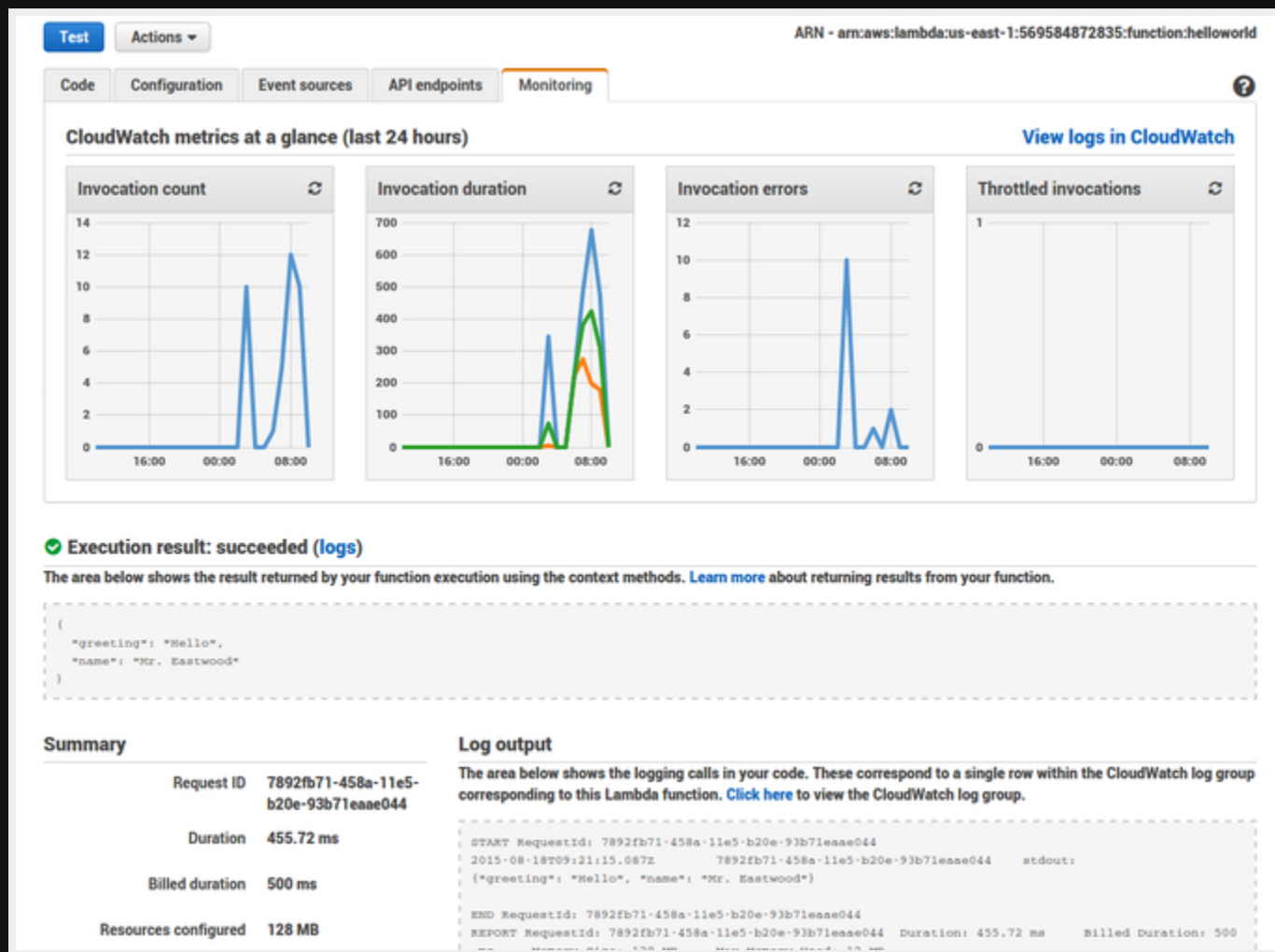
## 2.1 - Lambda Function

- upload a ZIP of the directory to S3 bucket
- ...this takes a while to upload 39Mb of Python
- make an IAM role for executing the function
- create the Lambda function

```
$ aws lambda create-function \
--region us-east-1 \
--function-name helloworld \
--code S3Bucket=maungawhau.lambda,S3Key=hello-lambda.zip \
--role arn:aws:iam::569584872835:role/lambda_basic_execution \
--handler lambda-function-wrapper.handler \
--runtime nodejs
```

# 2.3 – AWS Lambda Console

Once it is running, use the console to check logs and number of calls.



# 5.1 – API Gateway

Configure a new API on AWS, with a resource that executes the Lambda function.

The screenshot displays the Amazon API Gateway console interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes the Amazon API Gateway logo, followed by tabs for 'APIs', 'Hello Python API', and 'Resources'. A 'Deploy API' button is located next to the 'Resources' tab. The main content area is divided into two panels. The left panel, titled 'Resources', shows a tree view with a root resource '/' and a child resource '/greeting'. Under '/greeting', there are two methods: 'GET' and 'POST'. The 'POST' method is currently selected and highlighted. The right panel, titled '/greeting - POST - Setup', contains the configuration options for this method. It starts with the instruction 'Choose the integration point for your new method.' followed by two radio button options: 'Lambda Function' (which is selected) and 'HTTP Proxy'. Below these options is a link that says 'Show advanced'. Further down, there is a 'Lambda Region' dropdown menu set to 'us-east-1' and a 'Lambda Function' text input field containing the value 'helloworld'. A 'Save' button is positioned at the bottom right of the configuration panel. A 'Delete Method' button is also visible in the top right corner of the right panel.

Amazon API Gateway | APIs | Hello Python API | Resources

**Resources** | Deploy API

▼ /

▼ /greeting

- GET
- POST**

**/greeting - POST - Setup** | Delete Method

Choose the integration point for your new method. ⓘ

Integration type

- ☒ Lambda Function
- ☐ HTTP Proxy

[Show advanced](#)

Lambda Region: us-east-1

Lambda Function: helloworld

Save



## 5.2 - Say “Hello” to my little friend

```
$ curl -X GET https://hostname/test/greeting  
{"name": "Mr. Eastwood", "greeting": "Hello"}  
  
$ curl -X POST -d '{"name": "Clint"}' https://hostname/test/greeting  
{"name": "Clint", "greeting": "Hello"}
```

# 5.3 - Again... with Pictures

The screenshot displays the Amazon API Gateway console interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes the Amazon API Gateway logo, 'APIs', 'Hello Python API', and 'Resources'. The main content area is titled 'Resources' and features a 'Deploy API' button. On the left, a tree view shows the resource hierarchy: '/' expanded to show '/greeting', which is further expanded to show 'POST' (selected) and 'GET'. The right pane is titled 'Method Execution /greeting - POST - Method Test' and includes a 'Delete Method' button. It contains instructions to 'Make a test call to your POST method. Provide the value of the input parameters for your API call.' Below this, it shows 'POST » /greeting' and a 'Request Body' section with a text input field. A 'Test' button is located to the right of the input field. The test results are displayed below, showing 'Request: /greeting', 'Status: 200', and 'Latency: 311 ms'. The 'Response Body' section is expanded, showing a JSON object: 

```
{  "name": "Clint",  "greeting": "Hello"}
```

. Other sections like 'Response Headers' and 'Logs' are visible but collapsed.

Amazon API Gateway APIs Hello Python API Resources

Resources Deploy API

Method Execution /greeting - POST - Method Test Delete Method

Make a test call to your POST method. Provide the value of the input parameters for your API call.

POST » /greeting

Request Body

Test

Request: /greeting  
Status: 200  
Latency: 311 ms

Response Body

```
{  "name": "Clint",  "greeting": "Hello"}
```

Response Headers

Logs

# Conclusions

- no EC2 instance, no server maintenance
- FREE - first million requests per month
- then \$0.20 per 1 million requests
- great for a simple endpoint, reacting to an event
- terrible for a Django app