

# Amazon Services Setup

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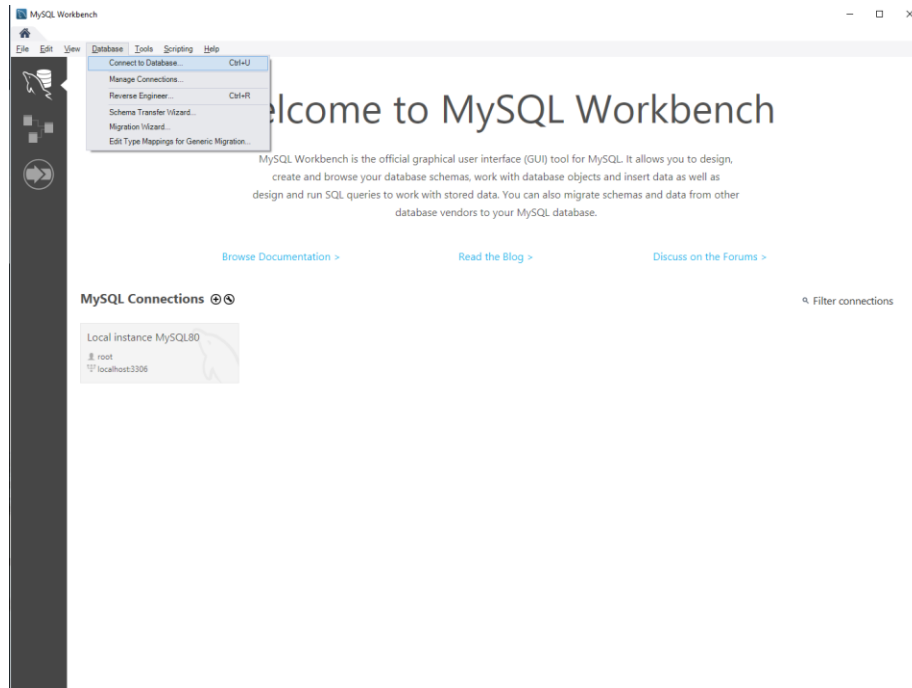
# Amazon RDS

## Step 1: Setting Up the Amazon RDS Instance

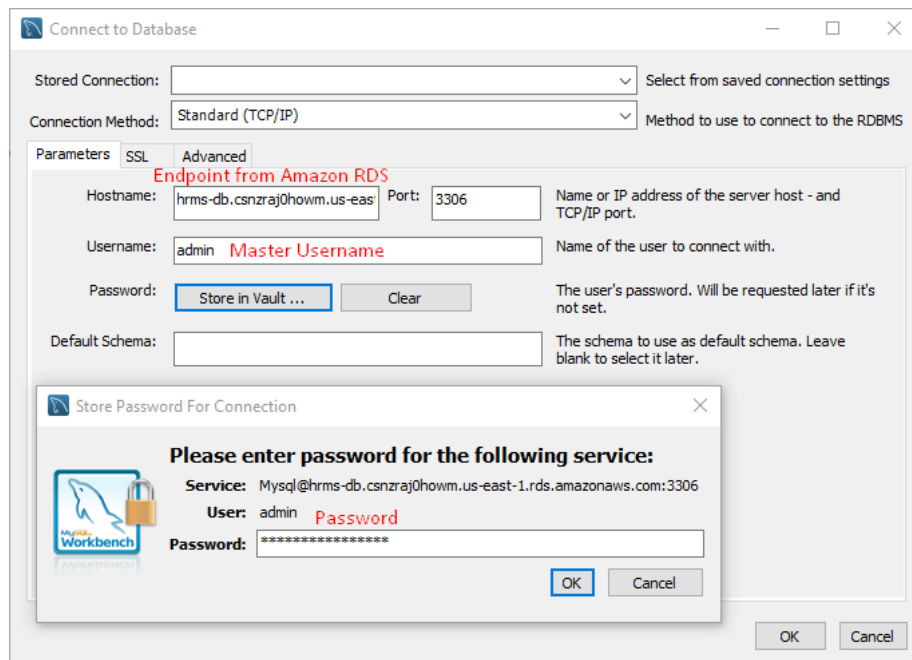
1. Launch the AWS Sandbox Environment. (Start Lab → AWS)
2. In the AWS Management Console, in the search box next to Services, search for and select RDS. In the left navigation pane, choose “Databases”, then select “Create database”.
3. Choose the following settings:
  - **Database Creation Method:** Standard create
  - **Engine Type:** MySQL
  - **Engine Version:** MySQL 8.0.40
  - **Templates:** Free Tier
  - **DB Instance Identifier:** HRMS-DB
  - **Master Username:** admin
  - **Credentials Management:** Self-Managed (unable to use AWS Secret Manager as it applies additional charges)
  - **Master Password:** k&Z(6F6A|9iy7Gs8
  - **Instance Configuration:** Burstable classes, db.t3.micro
  - **Storage:** General Purpose SSD (gp2) and 20GB, Enabled Storage Autoscaling.
  - **Public Access:** Yes
  - **VPC Security Group (Firewall):**
    - Create New
    - **New VPC Security Group Name:** HRMS-DB-SG
    - **Availability Zone:** No Preference
  - **Database Authentication:** Password Authentication
4. Click on “Create Database” and wait for the Status to turn to “Available”. After that, you can proceed to Step 2.

## Step 2: Connecting to the Amazon RDS Database

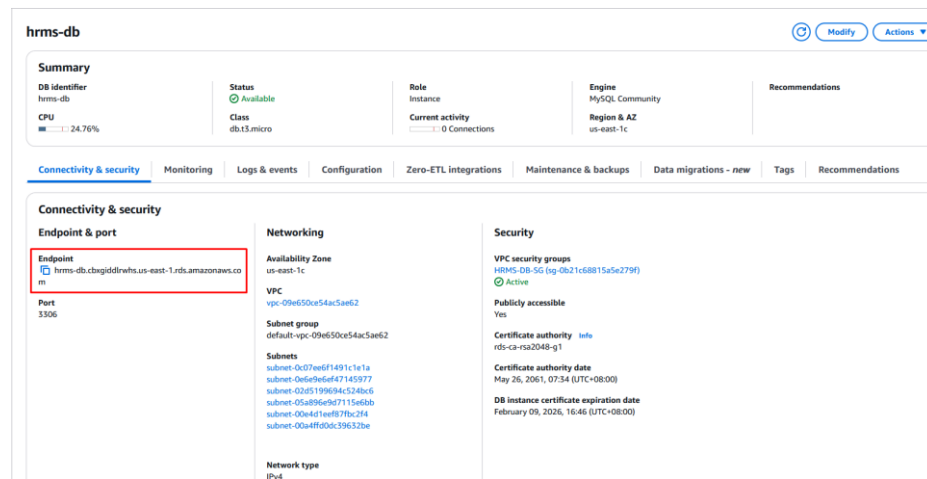
1. Open the MySQL Workbench
2. Click on Database → Connect to Database



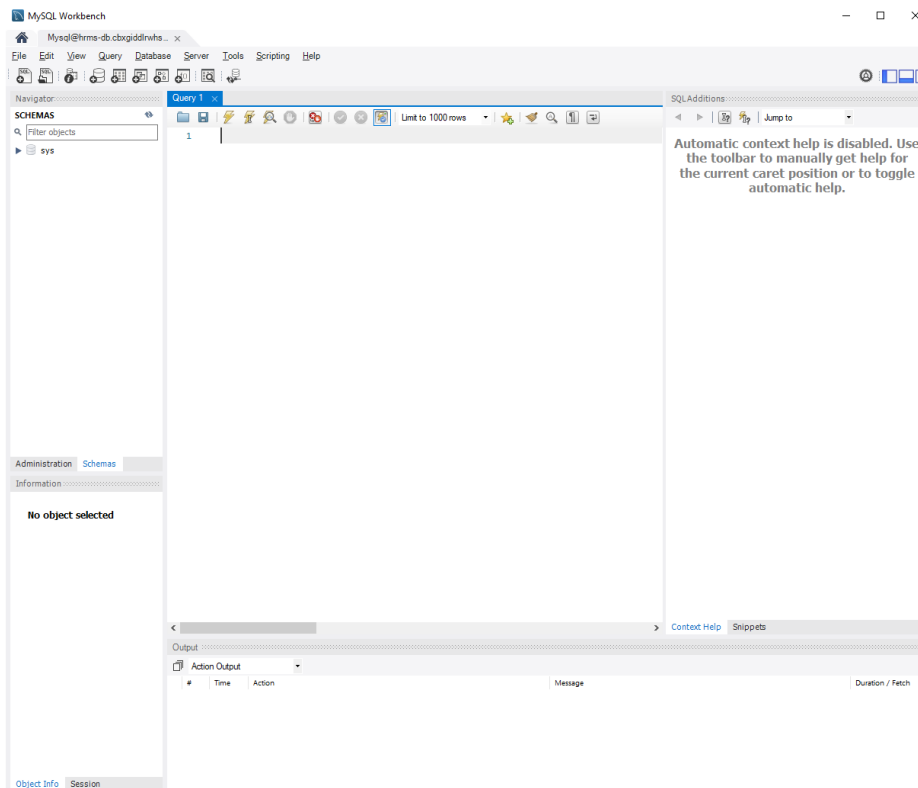
3. Fill in the details as follows and click on the Store in Vault. Paste the password “k&Z(6F6A|9iy7Gs8” into the field and click “OK”.



- The endpoint can be retrieved here:



4. Click on “OK” to connect into the database in Amazon RDS.



You should see something like this, and you can proceed to running the SQL script as shown in the SQL\_Script PDF file. All the queries can be paste inside the Query Tab and Executed by clicking on the Lightning Icon beside the “Save” button. After the steps in the “SQL\_Script.pdf” file has been followed, you can then proceed to setting up the [Amazon EC2](#).

# Amazon EC2

## Step 1: Setting Up the EC2 Instance

1. Launch an EC2 Instance
2. Go to EC2 Dashboard → Launch instance.
  - **Name:** HRMSWebServer
  - **AMI:** Amazon Linux 2 AMI (HVM)
  - **Instance Type:** t3.medium
  - **Key pair (login):**
    - Create new key pair
    - **Key pair name:** id\_rsa\_hrmswebserver
    - **Key pair type:** RSA (recommended for compatibility)
    - **Private key format:** .pem
    - Click on create and the file will be downloaded into your computer. Later this file will be moved to another folder.
  - **Network Settings:**
    - Click on Edit to access more settings. Leave other settings as it is, we will focus on the Firewall (security groups). Click on Create security group.
    - **Security Group Name:** HRMS-Web-Server-SG
    - **Inbound Security Rules**

SSH	TCP	22	My IP (x.x.x.x/32)	Secure admin access
HTTP	TCP	80	0.0.0.0/0 (Anywhere IPv4)	Allow web traffic
HTTPS	TCP	443	0.0.0.0/0 (Anywhere IPv4)	Secure web traffic

**Description - *required*** | [Info](#)

HRMS-Web-SG created 2025-02-09T09:23:59.525Z

**Inbound Security Group Rules**

▼ Security group rule 1 (TCP, 22, 180.75.232.91/32, Secure Admin Access) [Remove](#)

<b>Type</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Protocol</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Port range</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>
ssh ▼	TCP	22
<b>Source type</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Name</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Description - <i>optional</i></b>   <a href="#">Info</a>
My IP ▼	<input type="text" value="Add CIDR, prefix list or security group"/> 180.75.232.91/32 ✕	Secure Admin Access

▼ Security group rule 2 (TCP, 80, 0.0.0.0/0, Allow Web Traffic) [Remove](#)

<b>Type</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Protocol</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Port range</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>
HTTP ▼	TCP	80
<b>Source type</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Source</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Description - <i>optional</i></b>   <a href="#">Info</a>
Anywhere ▼	<input type="text" value="Add CIDR, prefix list or security group"/> 0.0.0.0/0 ✕	Allow Web Traffic

▼ Security group rule 3 (TCP, 443, 0.0.0.0/0, Secure Web Traffic) [Remove](#)

<b>Type</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Protocol</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Port range</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>
HTTPS ▼	TCP	443
<b>Source type</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Source</b>   <a href="#">Info</a>	<b>Description - <i>optional</i></b>   <a href="#">Info</a>
Anywhere ▼	<input type="text" value="Add CIDR, prefix list or security group"/> 0.0.0.0/0 ✕	Secure Web Traffic

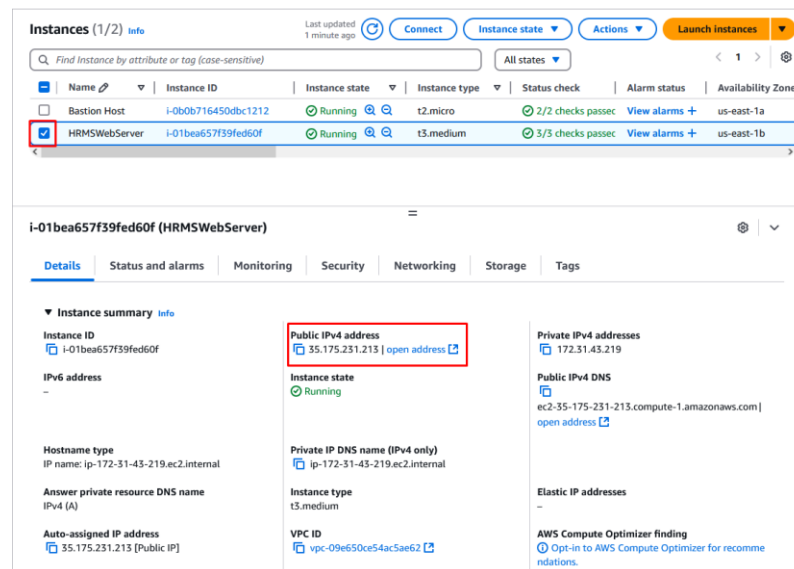
- **Storage Settings:**

- Click on Advanced to access more settings.
- Click on the arrow beside Volume 1 (AMI Root) (Custom).
- Change Encrypted settings to “Encrypted”.
- KMS Key to “Default”.
- Since we cannot create role, we will just assign it to LabRole, as given by the Sandbox Environment. To do this, click on Advanced Details → IAM Instance Profile → Lab Instance Profile.

3. Launch the instance and wait for the Status Check of that instance to complete. After it shows 3/3 Checks Passed, you may proceed to Step 2.

## Step 2: Connecting to the EC2 Instance via SSH

1. Create a folder (if you don't have) in C:\Users\your-username\.ssh and paste your id\_rsa\_hrmswebserver.pem file downloaded into this folder.
2. Go to AWS Console → EC2 → Instances → Select the HRMSWebServer EC2 Instance.
3. Copy the Public IPv4 Address of your instance.



4. On your local machine, run the Command Prompt as Administrator and paste the following command:

```
ssh -i ~/.ssh/id_rsa_hrmswebserver.pem ec2-user@your-ec2-public-ip
```

5. Type “yes” and you should see the following:

```
C:\Users\Kai Jun>ssh -i ~/.ssh/id_rsa_hrmswebserver.pem ec2-user@54.221.10.208
The authenticity of host '54.221.10.208 (54.221.10.208)' can't be established.
ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:vxqs4q3iq7C8Ljsnq5qq7OvXcTjlaHxxtJGaHQoQic.
This key is not known by any other names.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '54.221.10.208' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts.

#
#####
#          Amazon Linux 2
#          #####
#          AL2 End of Life is 2026-06-30.
#          #
#          A newer version of Amazon Linux is available!
#          #####
#          Amazon Linux 2023, GA and supported until 2028-03-15.
#          https://aws.amazon.com/linux/amazon-linux-2023/
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-46-125 ~]$
```

6. Proceed to Step 3.

## Step 3: Update and Install Required Software & Extensions (Run Everything in the Terminal)

1. Since we are running a PHP web app, Apache/Nginx, PHP, and MySQL client will be necessary.
2. **Update Command:**  

```
sudo yum update -y
```
3. **Required Dependencies and Extensions:**  

```
sudo yum install -y httpd  
sudo amazon-linux-extras enable php8.2  
sudo yum clean metadata  
sudo yum install -y php php-bz2 php-curl php-fileinfo php-gettext php-mbstring  
php-exif php-mysqli php-pdo php-pdo_mysql php-pdo_sqlite php-json php-xml  
unzip
```
4. **Start and Enable Apache Web Server:**  

```
sudo systemctl start httpd  
sudo systemctl enable httpd  
sudo setsebool -P httpd_can_network_connect on
```
5. Proceed to Step 4.

## Step 4: Upload the PHP Project to EC2

1. Using SCP (Secure Copy) from Your Local Machine.
2. Run Windows Powershell as Administrator. Copy-paste the code below into the Powershell, run and wait for the files to be transferred (5 to 10 minutes or longer).
3. 

```
scp -i your-key.pem -r /path/to/your/php-project ec2-user@your-ec2-public-ip:/home/ec2-user/
```

**For Me:**

```
scp -i "C:\Users\Kai Jun\.ssh\id_rsa_hrmswebserver.pem" -r "C:\xampp\htdocs\CCS6334-Assignment-2-Group-5" ec2-user@18.234.197.251:/home/ec2-user/
```
4. After you have done transferring the files, type exit on the Windows Powershell and proceed to Step 5.



## Step 5: Move Project Files to the Web Directory

1. Navigate to Apache's default web root directory

```
cd /var/www/html
```

2. Move the PHP project files to this directory

```
sudo mv /home/ec2-user/simple-hrms-main/* /var/www/html/
```

3. Change ownership and permissions:

```
sudo chown -R apache:apache /var/www/html
```

```
sudo chmod -R 755 /var/www/html
```

4. Proceed to Step 6.

## Step 6: Install Composer and phpdotenv

1. Paste the following code one by one into the Command Prompt:

```
sudo php -r "copy('https://getcomposer.org/installer', 'composer-setup.php');"
sudo php -r "if (hash_file('sha384', 'composer-setup.php') ===
'dac665fdc30fdd8ec78b38b9800061b4150413ff2e3b6f88543c636f7cd84f6db9189d43a8
1e5503cda447da73c7e5b6') { echo 'Installer verified'.PHP_EOL; } else { echo 'Installer
corrupt'.PHP_EOL; unlink('composer-setup.php'); exit(1); }"
sudo php composer-setup.php
sudo php -r "unlink('composer-setup.php');"
sudo mv composer.phar /usr/local/bin/composer
composer -V
sudo chown -R ec2-user:ec2-user /var/www/html
composer require vlucas/phpdotenv
```

2. Proceed to [Connecting to EC2 Instance](#).

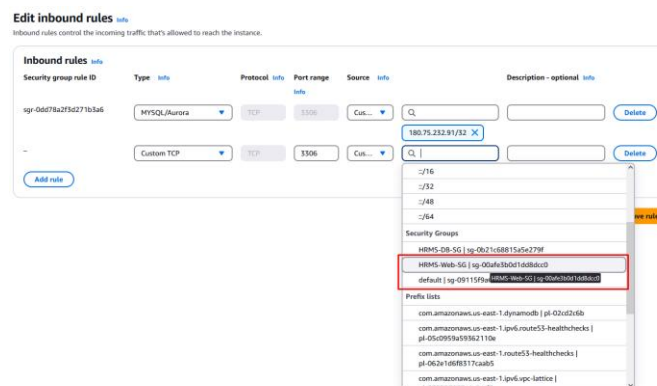
# Connecting to EC2 Instance

## Step 1: Get Your RDS Endpoint & Credentials

1. Go to AWS Console → RDS → Databases.
2. Click on your database.
3. Copy your Endpoint (e.g., yourdb.xxxxxxx.us-east-1.rds.amazonaws.com).
4. Note Down the:
  - Database Name
  - Master Username
  - Master Password
- For My Case:
  - **Database Name:** hrms-db
  - **Endpoint:** hrms-db.csnzraj0howm.us-east-1.rds.amazonaws.com
  - **Master Username:** admin
  - **Master Password:** k&Z(6F6A|9iy7Gs8

## Step 2: Allow EC2 to Connect to RDS

1. Go to AWS Console → EC2 → Security Groups.
2. Find the VPC Security Group attached to your RDS Instance.
3. Edit Inbound Rules, add:
  - **Type:** MySQL/Aurora
  - **Port:** 3306 (for MySQL)
  - **Source:** Your EC2 security group. (HRMS-Web-SG)



## Step 3: Test Connection

1. Install MySQL (in EC2 Instance):

```
sudo yum install -y mysql
mysql --version
```

2. Test Connection:

```
mysql -h yourdb.xxxxxxx.us-east-1.rds.amazonaws.com -u yourusername -p
```

### For My Case:

```
mysql -h hrms-db.cbxgiddlrwhs.us-east-1.rds.amazonaws.com -u admin -p
```

### Password:

```
k&Z(6F6A|9iy7Gs8 (Type it)
```

3. Type “SHOW Databases;” you should see. Type exit and proceed to Step 4.

## Step 4: Restart Apache

```
sudo systemctl restart httpd
```

## Step 5: Add the .env file in nano /var/www/html/.env

Copy the .env file from your VSCode .env file and write it into the .env file in EC2 Instance. After done writing, press Ctrl + O, then Enter. Exit with Ctrl + X. The .env file should be something like this:

```
DB_HOST=hrms-db.cbxgiddlrwhs.us-east-1.rds.amazonaws.com
DB_DATABASE=HRMS
DB_USERNAME=admin
DB_PASSWORD=k&Z(6F6A|9iy7Gs8
```

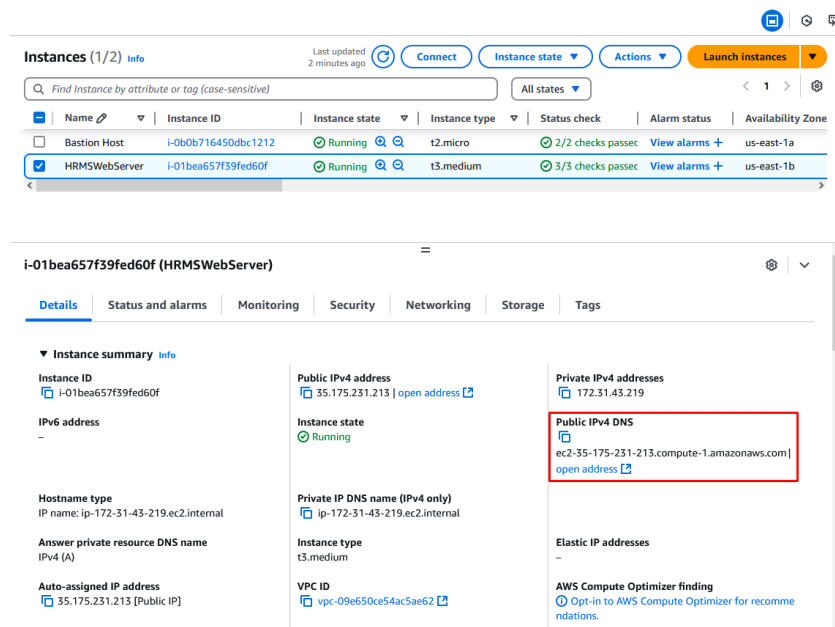
Type out “ls -a” and you should see the .env file.

**Reasoning:** We decided to choose Amazon Linux 2 as it comes with AWS CLI pre-installed, making it easier to interact with S3, RDS, and IAM. In addition, the Sandbox Environment only support Amazon provided Linux and Microsoft Windows AMIs. Moreover, Amazon Linux 2 is lightweight and optimized for performance in AWS. We decided to select t3.medium since the

HRMS system is a medium-traffic PHP app, better for MySQL. Moreover, it has good balance between cost and performance for PHP & MySQL workloads and burstable performance (saves cost when under low CPU usage). We wanted to use Amazon Route 53 to setup the DNS, however it wasn't allowed in the Sandbox Environment.

## Step 6: View the Website

1. Type **http://<public\_ipv4\_dns>/src/login.php** on your browser (MUST BE HTTP not HTTPS).



Due to the restrictions of the AWS Academy Cloud Foundations Sandbox Environment, HTTPS implementation was not feasible.

- The sandbox does not allow Route 53 domain registration, which prevents obtaining an FQDN required for SSL.
- AWS Certificate Manager (ACM) cannot issue certificates in this environment.
- Public IPv4 DNS cannot be used to obtain an SSL certificate from Let's Encrypt.

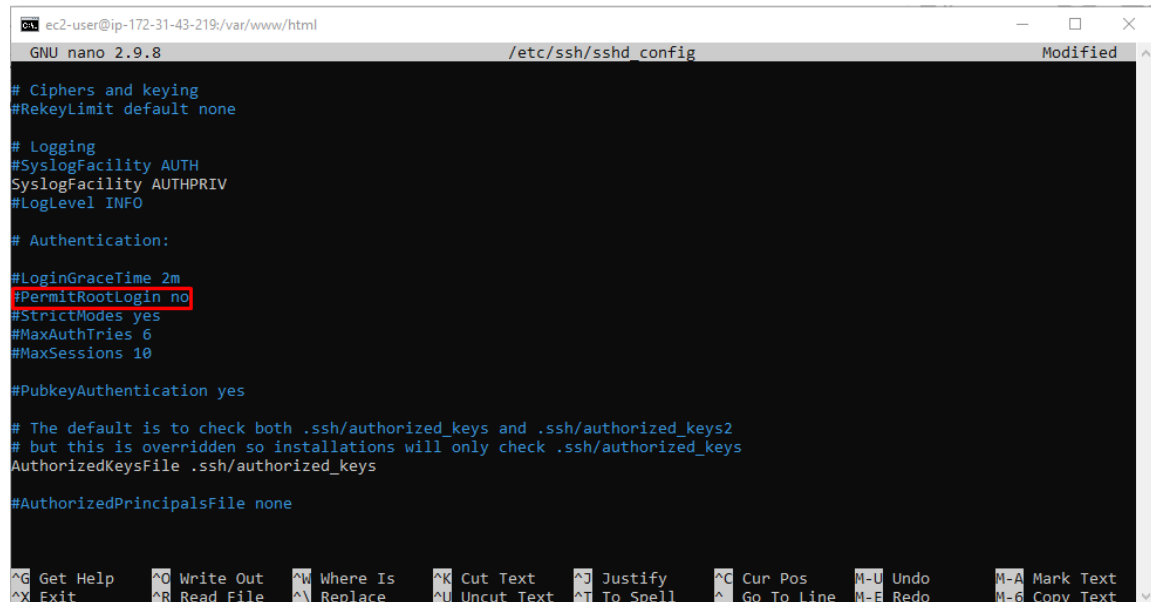
As a result, while security measures such as IAM role-based access control, security groups, and database authentication were implemented, HTTPS could not be configured. If deployed in a production environment, this issue could be resolved by registering a domain, enabling ACM, and configuring SSL/TLS with CloudFront or ELB.

## Step 7: Disable Root Login for SSH

1. Type the following commands:

```
sudo nano /etc/ssh/sshd_config
```

```
PermitRootLogin no
```



```
ec2-user@ip-172-31-43-219:/var/www/html$ sudo nano /etc/ssh/sshd_config
GNU nano 2.9.8 /etc/ssh/sshd_config Modified
# Ciphers and keying
#RekeyLimit default none

# Logging
#SyslogFacility AUTH
SyslogFacility AUTHPRIV
#LogLevel INFO

# Authentication:

#LoginGraceTime 2m
#PermitRootLogin no
#StrictModes yes
#MaxAuthTries 6
#MaxSessions 10

#PubkeyAuthentication yes

# The default is to check both .ssh/authorized_keys and .ssh/authorized_keys2
# but this is overridden so installations will only check .ssh/authorized_keys
AuthorizedKeysFile .ssh/authorized_keys

#AuthorizedPrincipalsFile none

^G Get Help  ^O Write Out  ^W Where Is   ^K Cut Text   ^J Justify    ^C Cur Pos    M-U Undo      M-A Mark Text
^X Exit      ^R Read File  ^_ Replace    ^U Uncut Text ^T To Spell   ^_ Go To Line  M-E Redo      M-G Copy Text
```

2. Press on Ctrl + O, then Enter, then Ctrl + X.
3. Type “sudo systemctl restart sshd” to restart Apache.
4. Proceed to [Setting Up Basic AWS CloudWatch for EC2 Instance](#).

## Setting Up Basic AWS CloudWatch for EC2 Instance

### Step 1: View Metrics in AWS CloudWatch Console

1. Go to AWS Console → CloudWatch → Metrics.
2. Navigate to CWAgent → EC2 Instance Metrics.
3. Look for CPU, Memory, Disk, and Network Usage.

### Step 2: Setup CloudWatch Alarms

1. Go to CloudWatch → Alarms → Create Alarm.
2. Setup for **CPUUtilization** to prevent server overload, ensuring the HRMS remains responsive. Threshold: 80% for 5 minutes.

## Specify metric and conditions

Alarm recommendations View details

**Metric**

Edit

**Graph**

This alarm will trigger when the blue line goes above the red line for 1 datapoints within 5 minutes.

Percent

80

40

0.089

12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30

CPUUtilization

**Namespace**

AWS/EC2

**Metric name**

CPUUtilization

**Instanceld**

i-0716bc57a7b1a842e

**Instance name**

HRMSWebServer

**Statistic**

Average

**Period**

5 minutes

**Conditions****Threshold type**

☒ Static  
Use a value as a threshold

☐ Anomaly detection  
Use a band as a threshold

**Whenever CPUUtilization is...**

Define the alarm condition.

☐ Greater  
> threshold

☒ Greater/Equal  
≥ threshold

☐ Lower/Equal  
≤ threshold

☐ Lower  
< threshold

**than...**

Define the threshold value.

80

Must be a number

**Additional configuration**

Cancel Next

### 3. Create a new topic and set the endpoints email who will receive the notification.

**Notification**

Remove

**Alarm state trigger**

Define the alarm state that will trigger this action.

☒ In alarm  
The metric or expression is outside of the defined threshold.

☐ OK  
The metric or expression is within the defined threshold.

☐ Insufficient data  
The alarm has just started or not enough data is available.

**Send a notification to the following SNS topic**

Define the SNS (Simple Notification Service) topic that will receive the notification.

☐ Select an existing SNS topic

☒ Create new topic

☐ Use topic ARN to notify other accounts

**Create a new topic...**

The topic name must be unique.

CloudWatch-Alarm-Notifications

SNS topic names can contain only alphanumeric characters, hyphens (-) and underscores (\_).

**Email endpoints that will receive the notification...**

Add a comma-separated list of email addresses. Each address will be added as a subscription to the topic above.

1221305394@student.mmu.edu.my

user1@example.com, user2@example.com

Create topic

Add notification

## Add name and description

### Name and description

Alarm name

Alarm description - optional [View formatting guidelines](#)

Edit

Preview

# This is an H1

**\*\*double asterisks will produce strong character\*\***

This is [an example](https://example.com/)(https://example.com/) inline link.

Up to 1024 characters (0/1024)

ⓘ

 Markdown formatting is only applied when viewing your alarm in the console. The description will remain in plain text in the alarm notifications.

Cancel

Previous

Next

4. Click “Next” then click on Create Alarm.

5. Setup for **StatusCheckFailed** to detects if the instance is unhealthy.

## Specify metric and conditions

☒ Alarm recommendations [View details](#)

### Metric

#### Graph

This alarm will trigger when the blue line goes above the red line for 1 datapoints within 1 minute.

Count

1

0.5

0

12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30

StatusCheckFailed

Namespace

AWS/EC2

Metric name

Instanceid

Instance name

HRMSWebServer

Statistic

Period

### Conditions

Threshold type

☒ Static  
Use a value as a threshold

☐ Anomaly detection  
Use a band as a threshold

Whenever StatusCheckFailed is...

Define the alarm condition.

☐ Greater  
> threshold

☒ Greater/Equal  
≥ threshold

☐ Lower/Equal  
≤ threshold

☐ Lower  
< threshold

than...

Define the threshold value.

Must be a number

► Additional configuration

Cancel

Next

Step 1 Specify metric and conditions  
Step 2 **Configure actions**  
Step 3 Add name and description  
Step 4 Preview and create

### Configure actions

**Notification**

**Alarm state trigger**  
Define the alarm state that will trigger this action.

☒ **In alarm**  
The metric or expression is outside of the defined threshold.

☐ **OK**  
The metric or expression is within the defined threshold.

☐ **Insufficient data**  
The alarm has just started or not enough data is available.

**Send a notification to the following SNS topic**  
Define the SNS (Simple Notification Service) topic that will receive the notification.

☒ **Select an existing SNS topic**

☐ Create new topic

☐ Use topic ARN to notify other accounts

**Send a notification to...**

CloudWatch-Alarm-Notifications

Only topics belonging to this account are listed here. All persons and applications subscribed to the selected topic will receive notifications.

**Email (endpoints)**  
1221305394@student.mmu.edu.my - [View in SNS Console](#)

[Add notification](#)

## Add name and description

**Name and description**

**Alarm name**

HRMS\_Status\_Failed\_Alarm

**Alarm description - optional** [View formatting guidelines](#)

**Edit** **Preview**

# This is an H1  
\*\*double asterisks will produce strong character\*\*  
This is [an example](https://example.com/) inline link.

Up to 1024 characters (0/1024)

[Markdown formatting is only applied when viewing your alarm in the console. The description will remain in plain text in the alarm notifications.](#)

[Cancel](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#)

- Click “Next” then click on Create Alarm.
- From the CloudWatch Overview, you should see the following after setting up the two alarms.

