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Assignment 2 - Part 2

AWS’ ec2 dashboard allows for users to create instances by only a few clicks of a button as they walk you through the steps to create your own ec2 instance. These steps are very useful to those who do not know what exactly they want out of their instance or just need a basic setup. When compared to my script it does not allow as much functionality to be put in place with a single step. The AWS console does not allow for the creation of anything internal to the instance (such as docker images). My script allows for more specification from the user; however, it requires the user to have knowledge on AWS ec2 instances prior to running the script.

Another feature AWS has for launching ec2 instances is CloudFormation. CloudFormation allows the user to create ec2 instances using a template much like my script. It allows for the installation of applications directly onto the ec2 instances without having to SSH into the instance. As well, it allows for the configuration of applications along with the ability to start them up. When compared to my program the functionality is very similar as if the user wants to install or start applications, they can add these steps into the bash script that they provide. The knowledge needed for both my script and CloudFormation is the same, one must know what they are selecting and what is required to start their ec2 instances correctly.

To monitor your ec2 instances one can use the AWS’ feature called CloudWatch. CloudWatch allows for the creation of alarms, events, and the ability see logs. This monitoring is much more advanced than the monitor script that I created, as it allows the user to see everything my script displays plus more on a nice console that guides the user in the creation of alarms and events. CloudWatch will show the user health status, instance state, instance metric details, volume metric details, and much more that auto update based on events that take place inside your instance.

Overall AWS has many different services that help the user in the creation and monitoring of their ec2 instances. The ec2 dashboard is helpful for a new user of AWS as it is the simplest to understand and use. CloudFormation is a great feature for a user who does not want to build their own script like mine. CloudFormation has many similarities to my launch script and both require the same knowledge of ec2 instances to use. Finally, CloudWatch monitoring is a great tool to see and check on your ec2 instances. It has a lot more features than my monitor script, plus it allows the user to make alarms so they can get notified if something has gone wrong with their instance.