

## Interactive Start

### Your First Webapp

Let's get started. Your first goal is to set up your development environment and get a simple page online by following these steps:

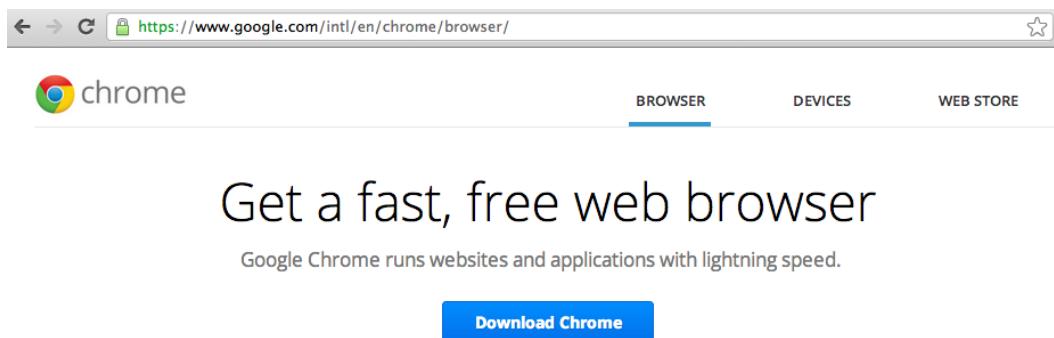
1. Set up Google Chrome and your terminal, and sign up for Amazon Web Services (AWS), Github, Heroku, and Gravatar.
2. Initialize and connect to an AWS cloud instance.
3. Clone code from [github.com/heroku/node-js-sample](https://github.com/heroku/node-js-sample), create a new Heroku app and get your page live on the web.

Even if you don't know what all the terms mean, just follow along with the screenshots. We'll cover things more formally after you get your page online.

### Setup and Signup

#### Install Google Chrome

Begin by installing the [Google Chrome web browser](#) and the [User Agent Switcher](#) extension, which you will use to make your browser mimic a smartphone or tablet. Chrome has a number of advanced tools for debugging websites which we will use later on in the class.



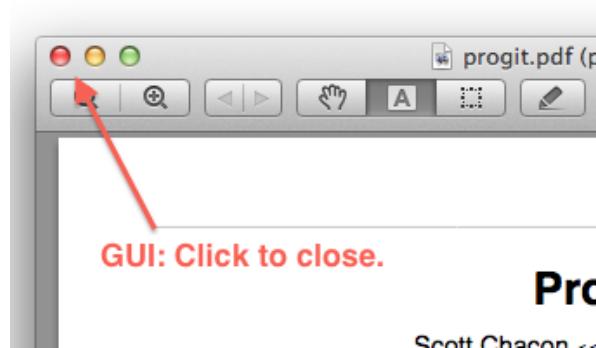
**Figure 1:** *Install Google Chrome.*



**Figure 2:** Install the *Chrome User Agent Switcher*, to mimic smartphones/tablets.

## Set up your terminal

A [command line interface](#) (CLI) is a way to control your computer by typing in commands rather than clicking on buttons in a [graphical user interface](#) (GUI). Most computer users are only doing basic things like clicking on links, watching movies, and playing video games, and GUIs are fine for such purposes.



**Figure 3:** Closing an application via the GUI requires a click.

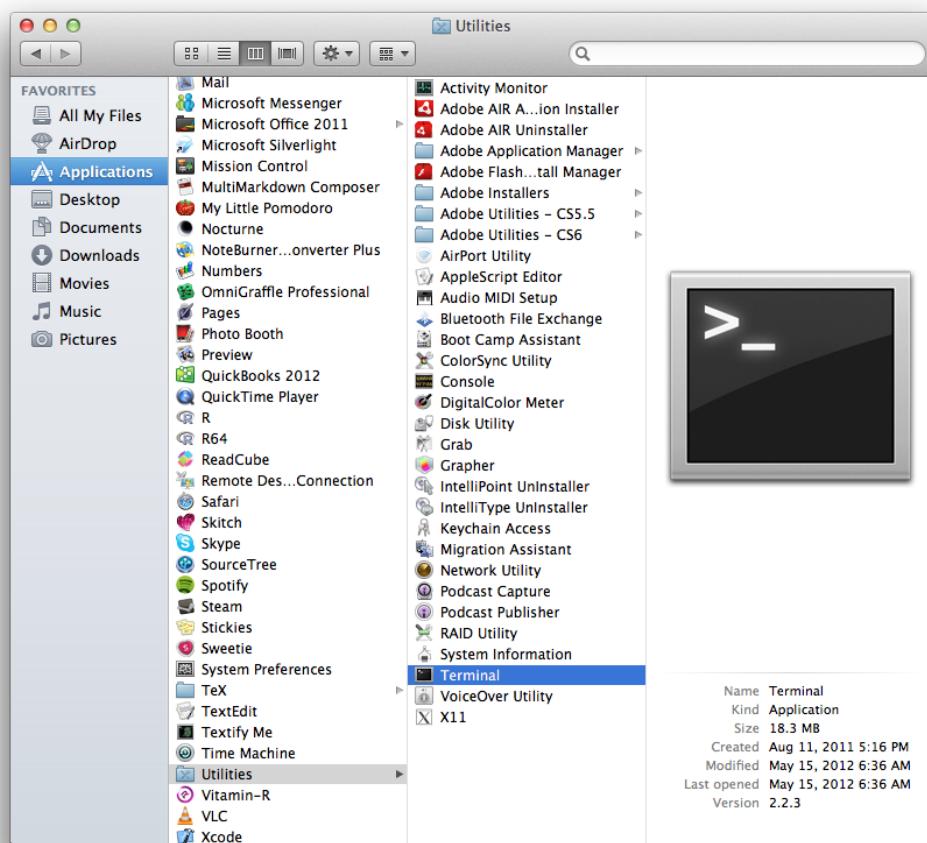
```
balajis@junit:~ - bash - 80x24 - %2
[balajis:~]$ ps xw | grep Preview
 2822 ?? S      1:12.53 /Applications/Preview.app,
_0_376924
 7766 s006 S+    0:00.00 grep Preview
[balajis:~]$ kill 2822   CLI: Type "kill" to close.
[balajis:~]$
```

**Figure 4:** Achieving the same task with the CLI by running `kill`.

But to do industrial strength programming - to analyze large datasets, ship a webapp, or build a software startup - you will need an intimate familiarity with the CLI. Not only can many daily tasks be done *more quickly* at the command line, many others can *only* be done at the command line, especially in non-Windows environments. You can understand this from an information transmission perspective: while a standard keyboard has 50+ keys that can be hit very precisely in quick succession, achieving the same speed in a GUI is impossible as it would require rapidly moving a mouse cursor over a profusion of 50 buttons. It is for this reason that expert computer users prefer command-line and keyboard-driven interfaces.

Much of the class will be spent connecting to a remote cloud computer and executing commands there, rather than executing commands on your local computer. However, to accomplish this you will still want to set up a basic command line on your local computer.

**Mac OS X: Terminal.app** Apple laptops are preferred by many Silicon Valley engineers because they run BSD Unix under the hood. We recommend getting a Mac if you wish to join a startup in the Valley; it is standard issue at this point. You can gain access to the Unix command line by on a Mac by opening up Terminal.app, located under /Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app



**Figure 5:** Double click /Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app.

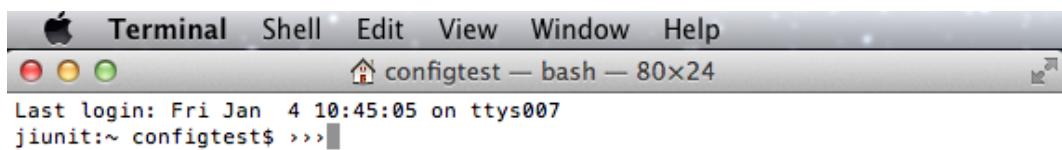


Figure 6: You should see a window like this pop up.

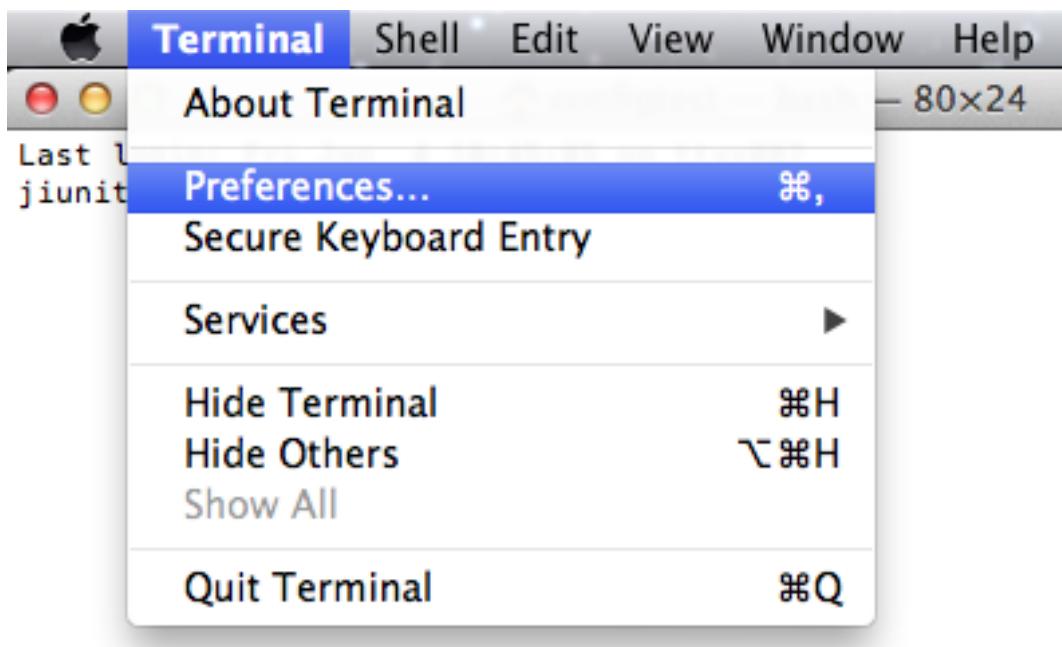
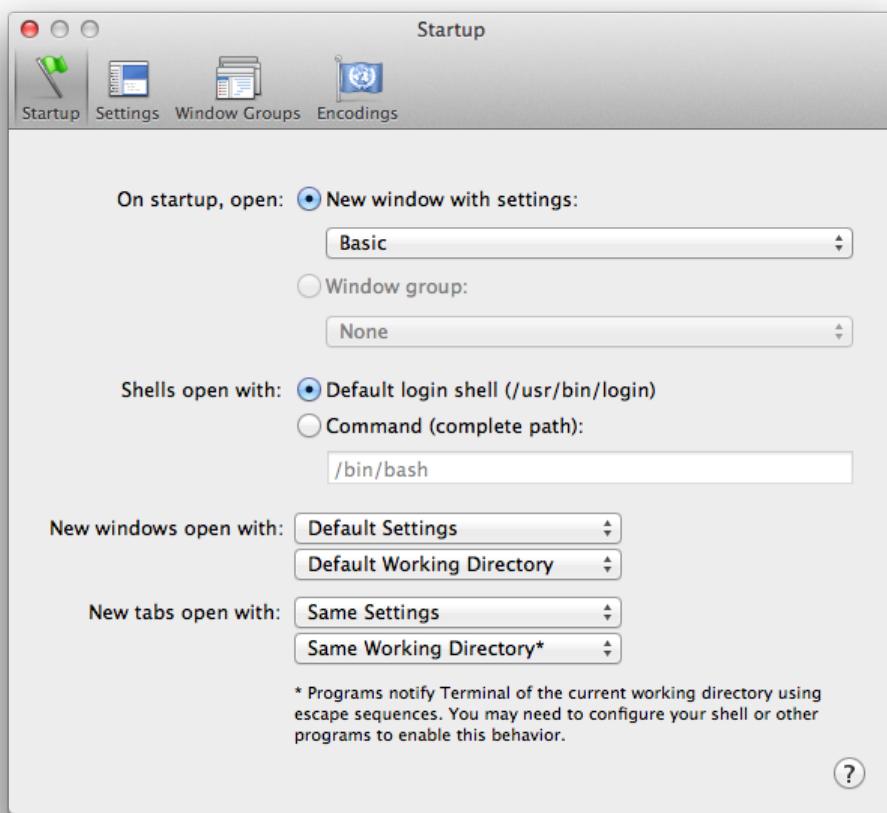
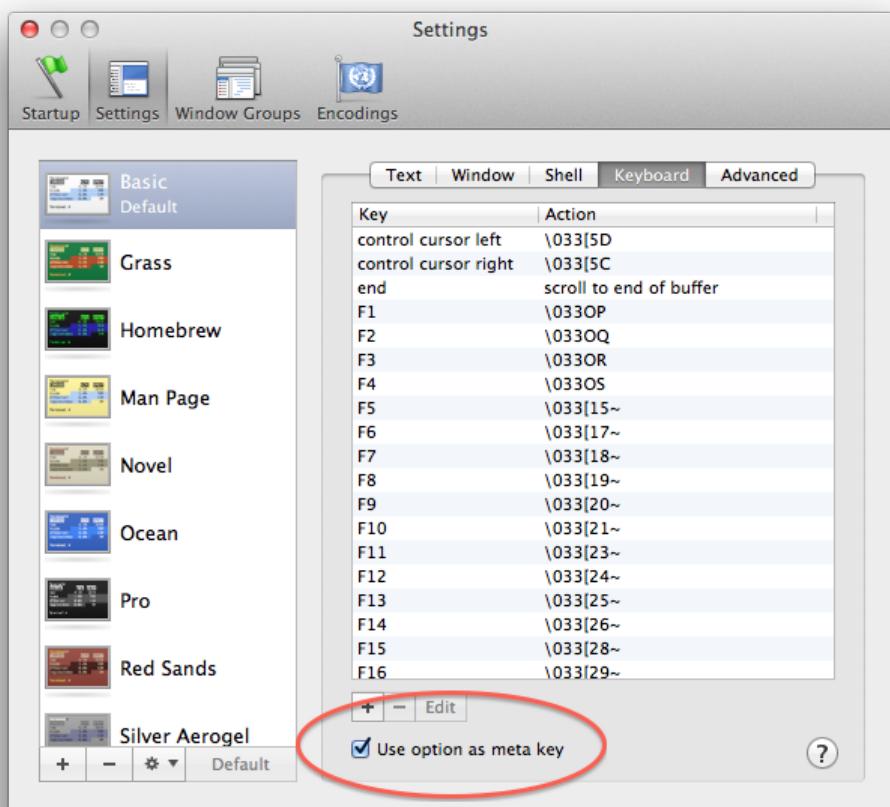


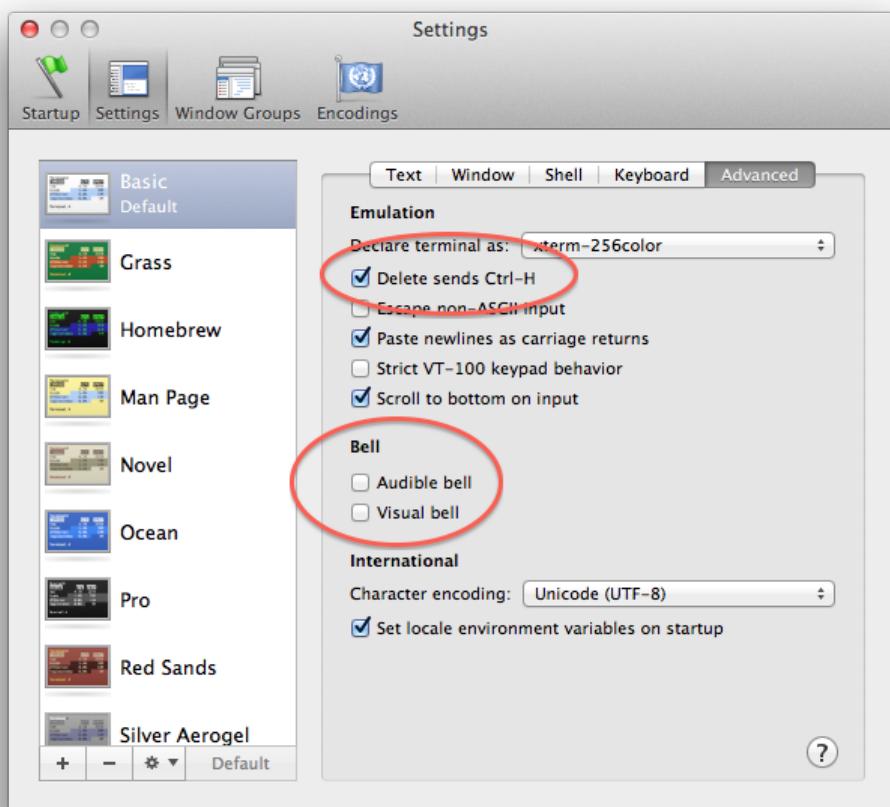
Figure 7: Go to Terminal -> Preferences in the top left.



**Figure 8:** Here's your preference window. There are only a few preferences we need to tweak.



**Figure 9:** Click *Settings* (in the top row of buttons) and then “Keyboard”. Click “Use option as meta key”. You’ll need this for `emacs`.



**Figure 10:** Now click Advanced and set the “Delete sends Ctrl-H” setting. This is useful for Ubuntu.

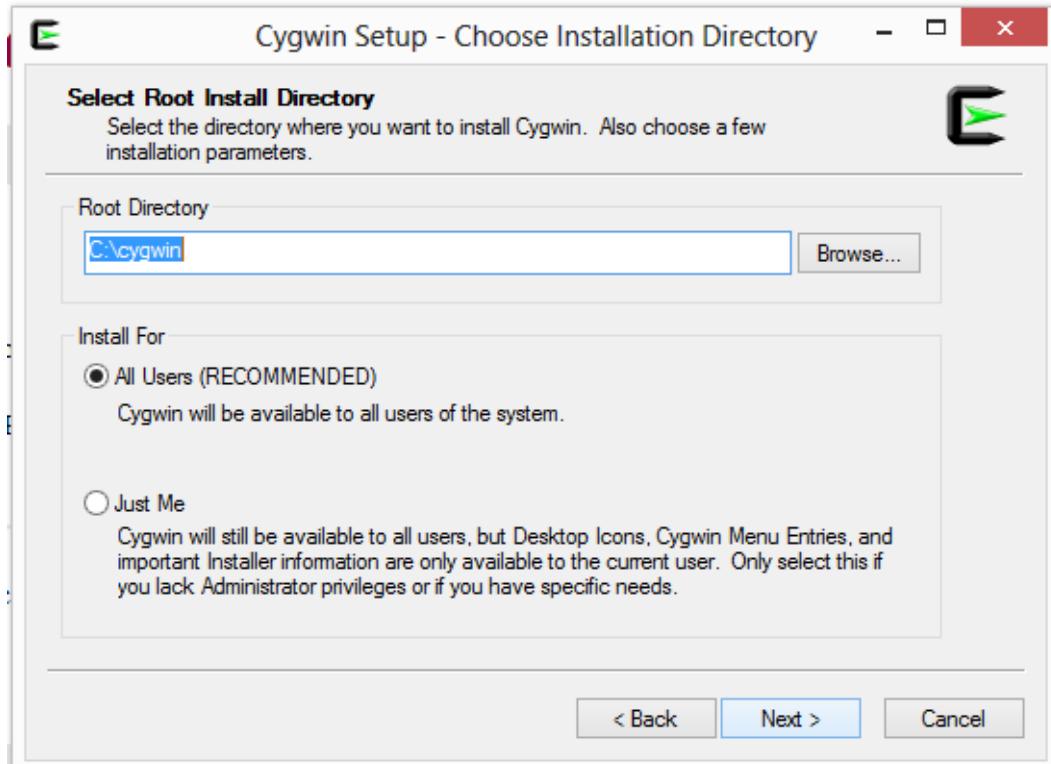
**Windows: Cygwin** Relatively few startups use Windows computers for their primary development machines, in part because command line support has historically been something of an afterthought. For the many students who still run Windows, for the purposes of this course we are recommending that you use Cygwin to get a Unix-like environment on your Windows computer. Install Cygwin from [cygwin.com/setup.exe](http://cygwin.com/setup.exe) as shown:



**Figure 11:** *Cygwin* provides a *Linux-like* command line environment on Windows.



**Figure 12:** Download [cygwin.com/setup.exe](http://cygwin.com/setup.exe) and double-click it.



**Figure 13:** Set up access for all users in the default directory `C:\cygwin`

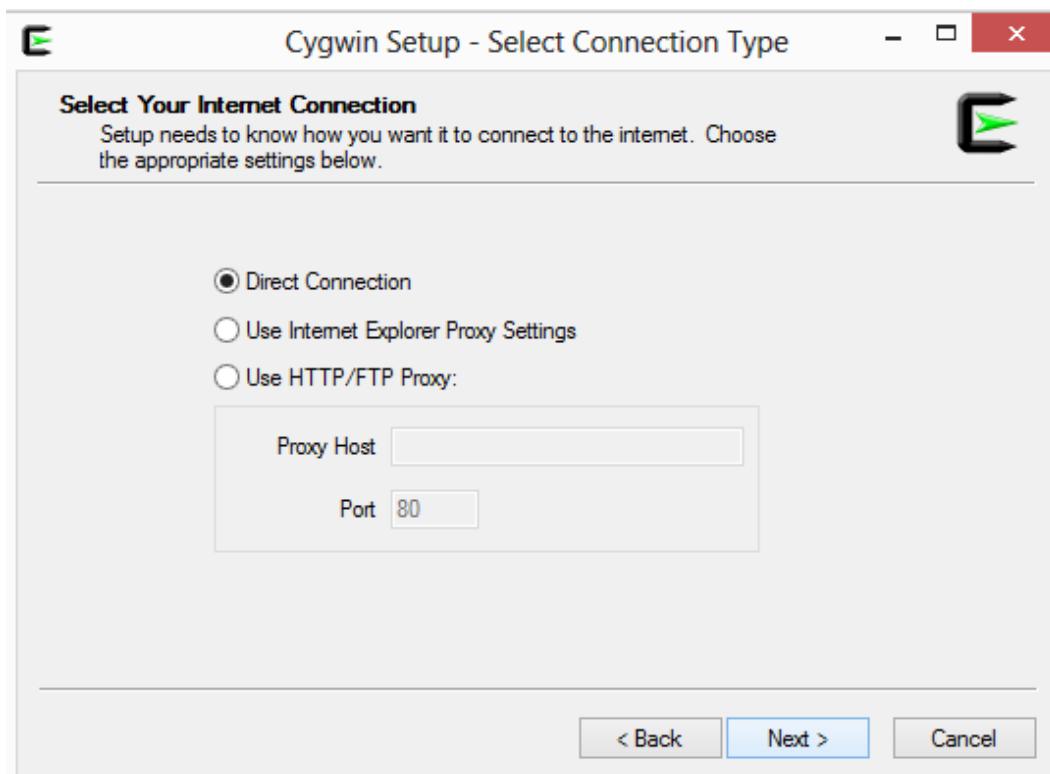


Figure 14: Select “Direct Connection”.

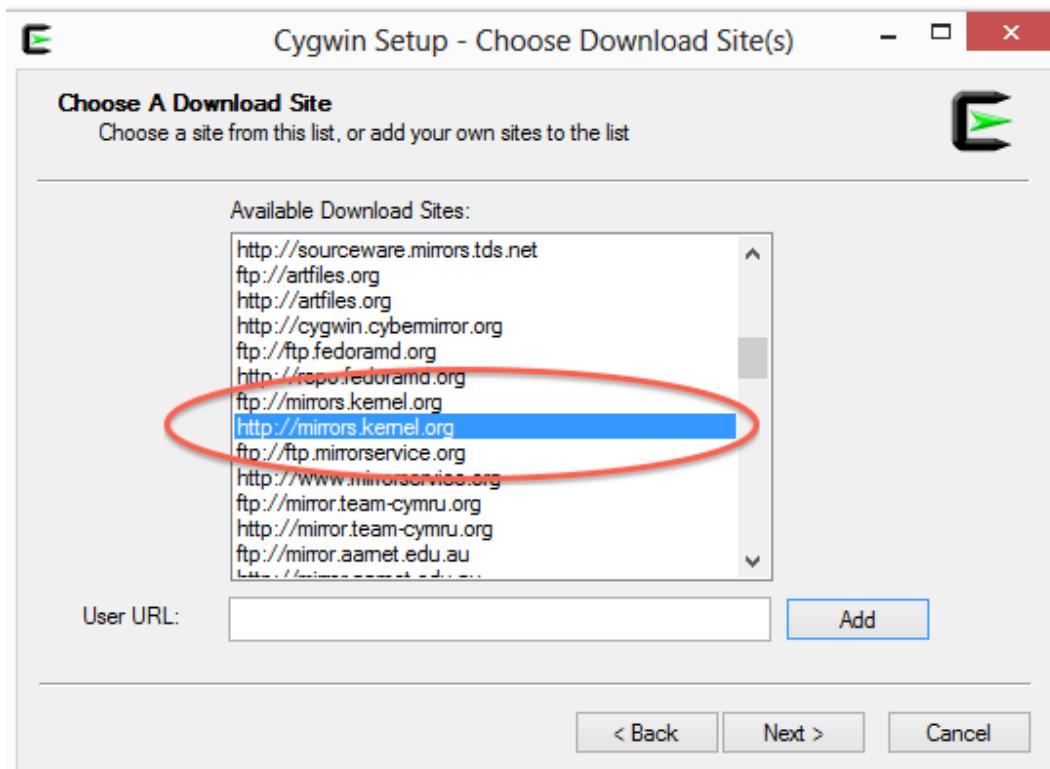


Figure 15: Use `http://mirrors.kernel.org` for fast downloading. This is the Linux Kernel site.

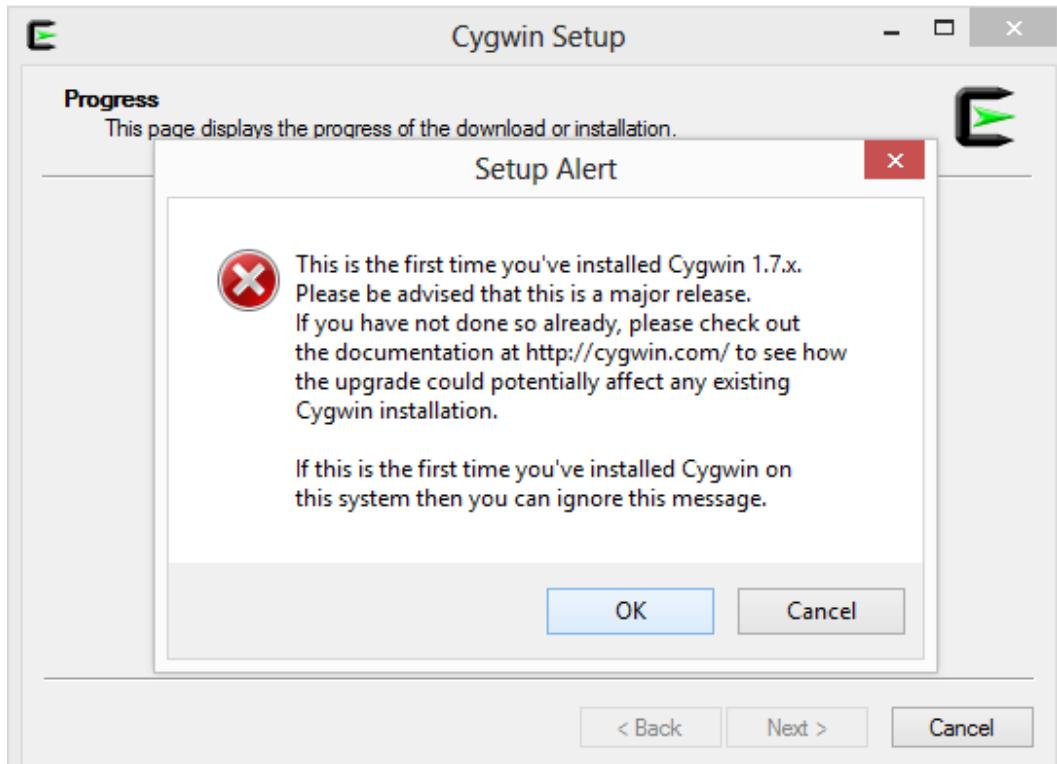


Figure 16: Click *OK* here.

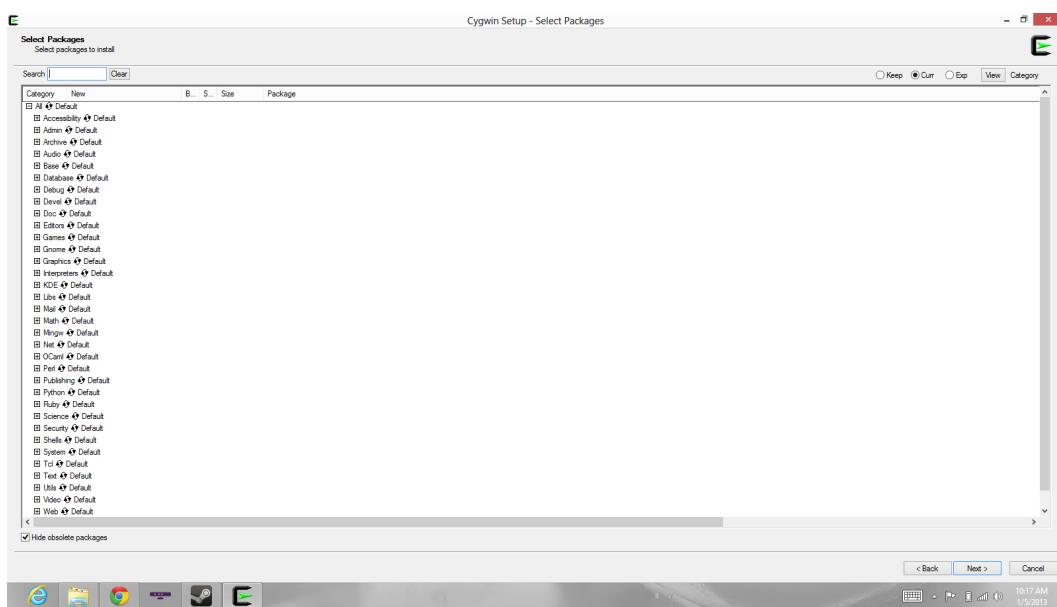


Figure 17: You now need to select some packages to install.

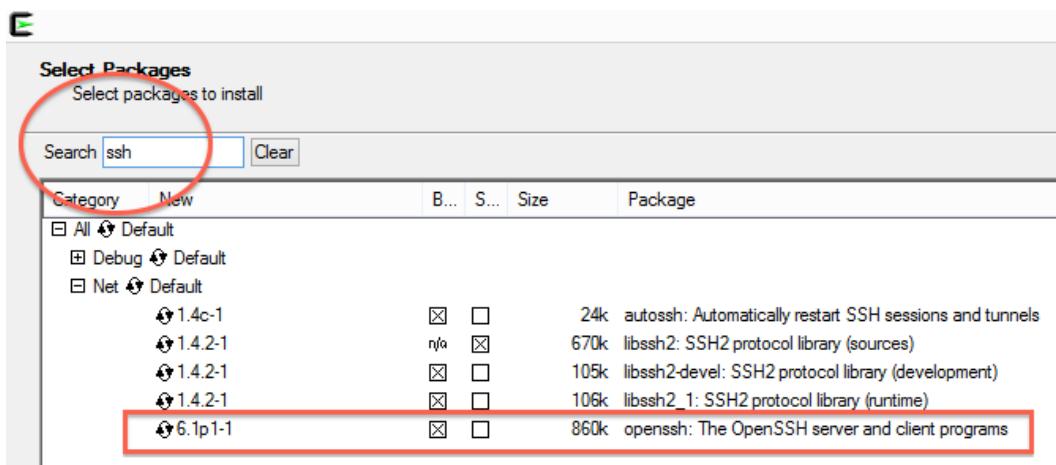


Figure 18: Type in *ssh* and select OpenSSH (what's shown is overkill but doesn't hurt).

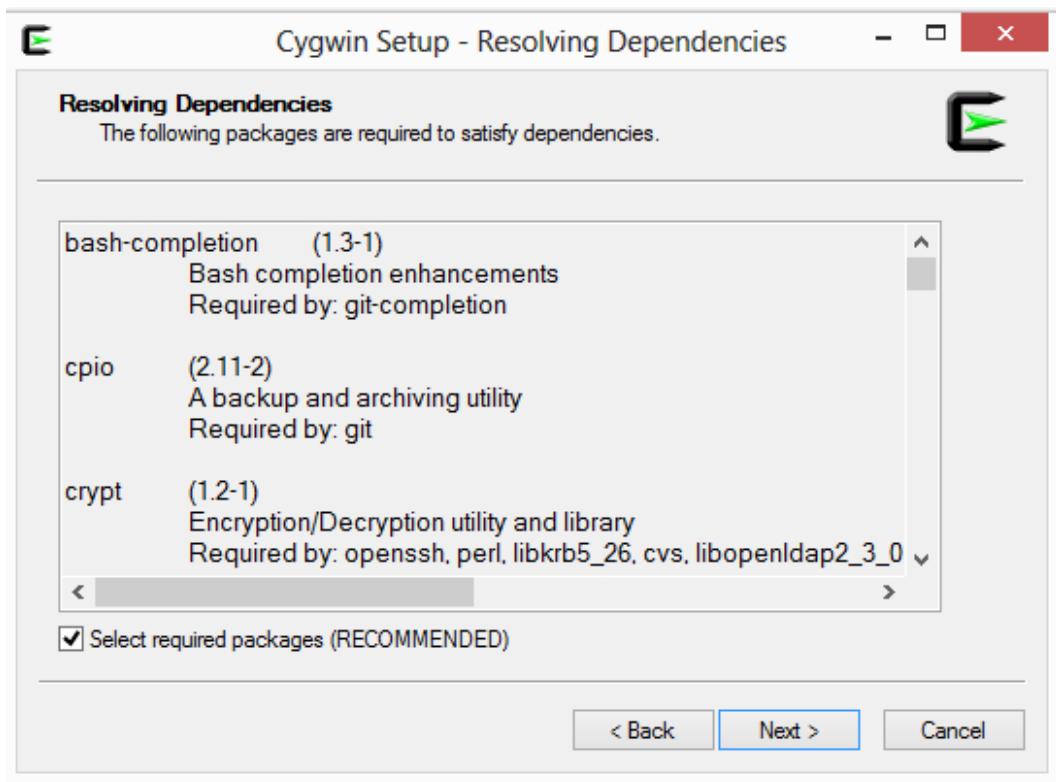


Figure 19: Go ahead to the next screen.

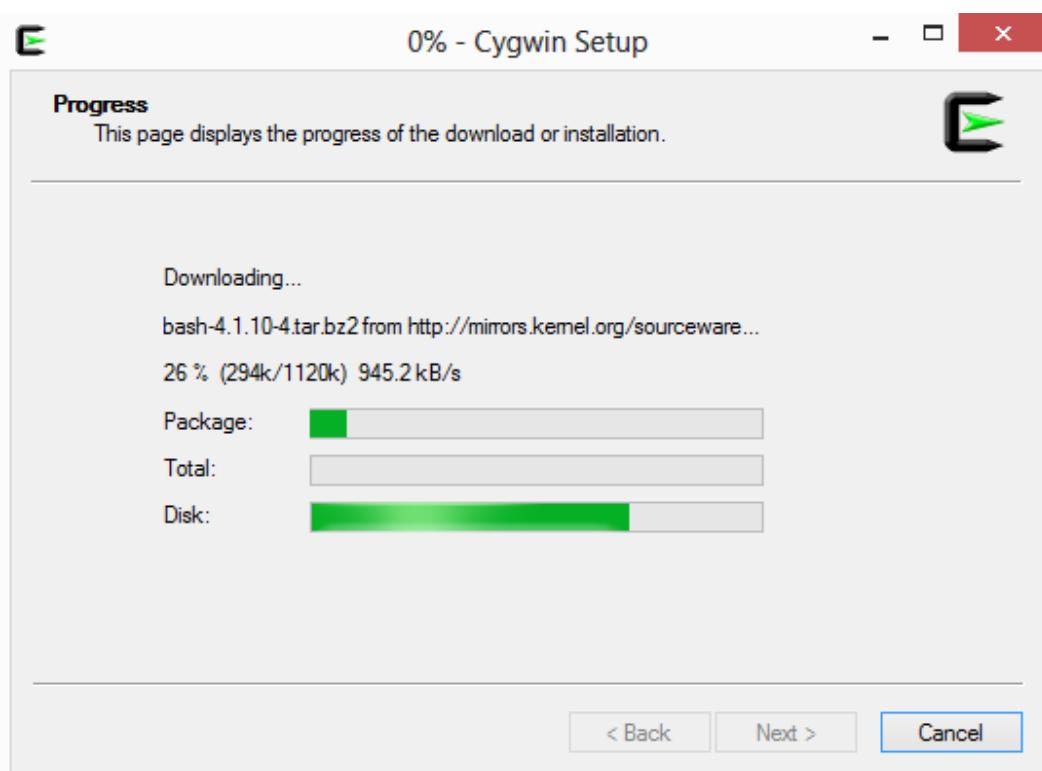


Figure 20: Wait for setup to complete.

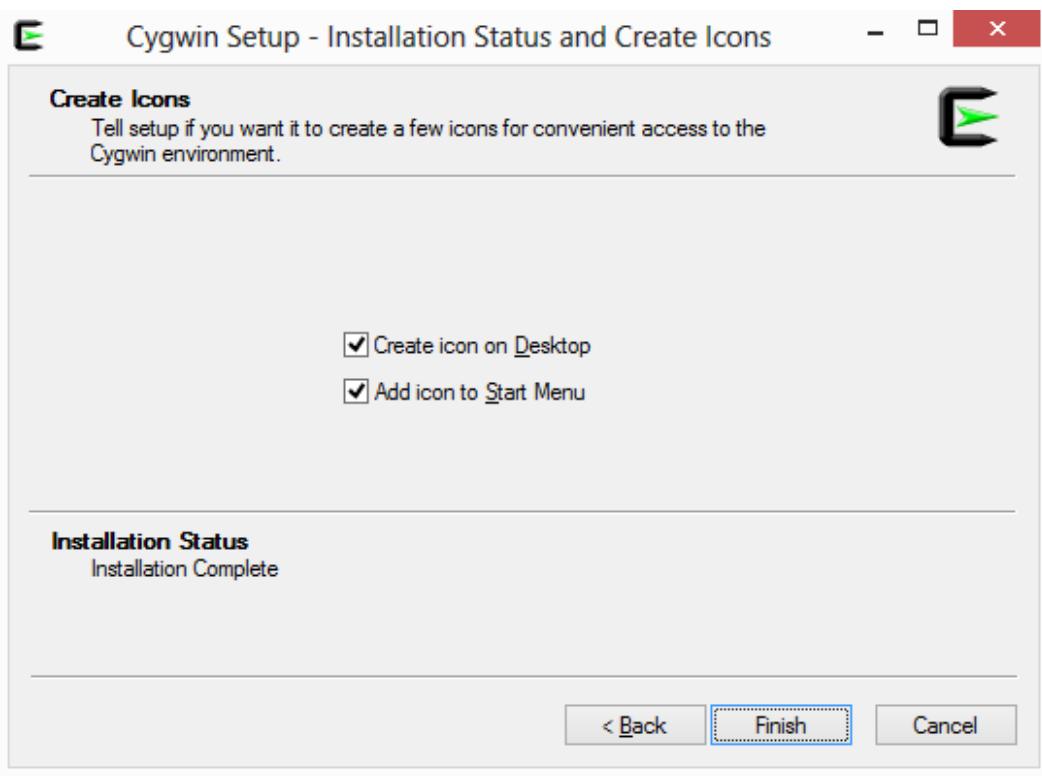


Figure 21: You now have a command-line interface on Windows. Double click the Desktop Cygwin icon to boot up a terminal.

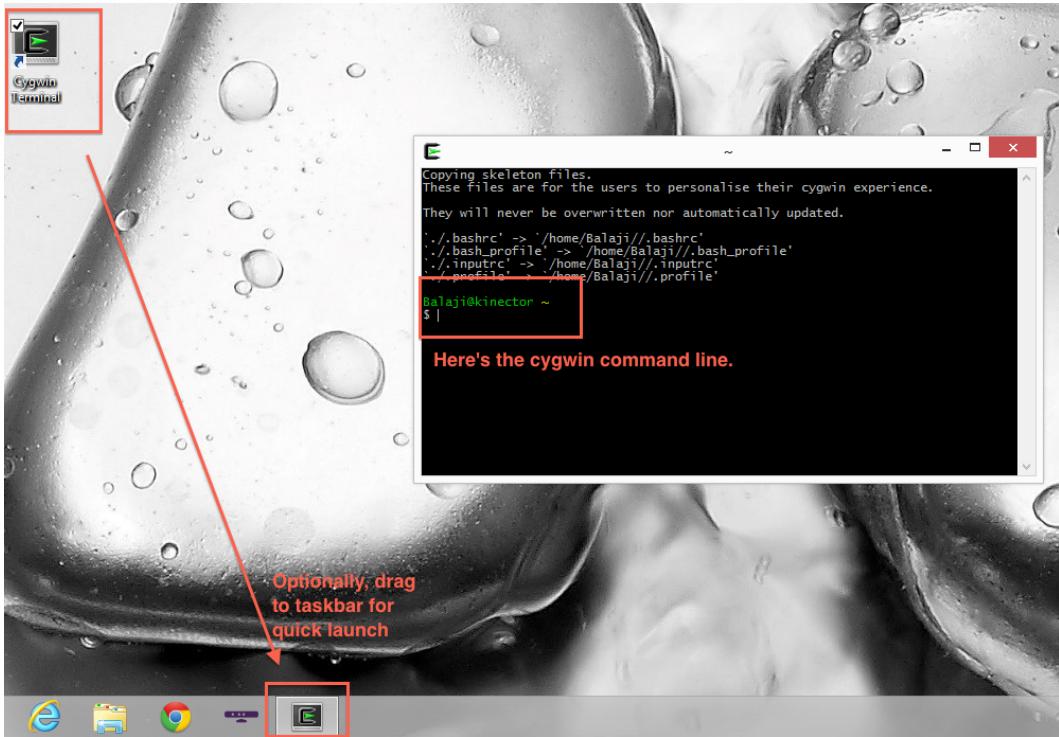


Figure 22: Upon first boot, your Cygwin terminal should show a message like this.

```
Balaji@kinector ~
$ ping google.com

Pinging google.com [74.125.227.105] with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 74.125.227.105: bytes=32 time=65ms TTL=51
Reply from 74.125.227.105: bytes=32 time=65ms TTL=51

Balaji@kinector ~
$
```

Figure 23: You can confirm it works by typing in `ping google.com` and seeing a Reply.

Besides Cygwin, it is also possible to use a pure SSH client like [Putty](#), a browser-based client like the [Chrome Secure Shell](#), or the native [Windows Powershell](#). The reason we prefer Cygwin is threefold. First, some commands are best done locally. Second, of these alternatives, the environment that Cygwin provides is closest to the environment on a real Unix box, so we don't need to change the instructions around too much for each platform. Third, the local Cygwin environment can be configured to be very similar to the remote environment on your AWS machine (though a Mac will get even closer).

**Linux: Terminal** If you are using Linux, you probably already know how to open up the Terminal. But just in case, here are [instructions for Ubuntu](#).

### Sign up for AWS, Gravatar, Github, and Heroku

Now that you have your browser (Chrome) and your terminal (Terminal.app or Cygwin), you will begin by signing up for four webservices:

- Github: [github.com](https://github.com)
- Gravatar: [gravatar.com](https://gravatar.com)
- Amazon Web Services: [aws.amazon.com](https://aws.amazon.com)
- Heroku: [heroku.com](https://heroku.com)

Over the course of this class, you will use Github to store code, Gravatar to identify yourself in public git commits and pull requests, AWS as a development environment for writing code, and Heroku for deploying your code on the web.

**AWS Signup** Let's begin by getting you set up with Amazon Webservices. You will need an email account, your cellphone, and your credit card with you to begin. *Please use the same email account/phone/credit card for all services used in this course; this will save you headaches related to service synchronization.* Note also that the credit card will only be billed if you exceed the free usage tier. We'll talk about this later, and Amazon has some checks in place to prevent you from using too much, but right now you won't be billed. Begin by going to <http://aws.amazon.com> and then following the sequence of screens as shown below:

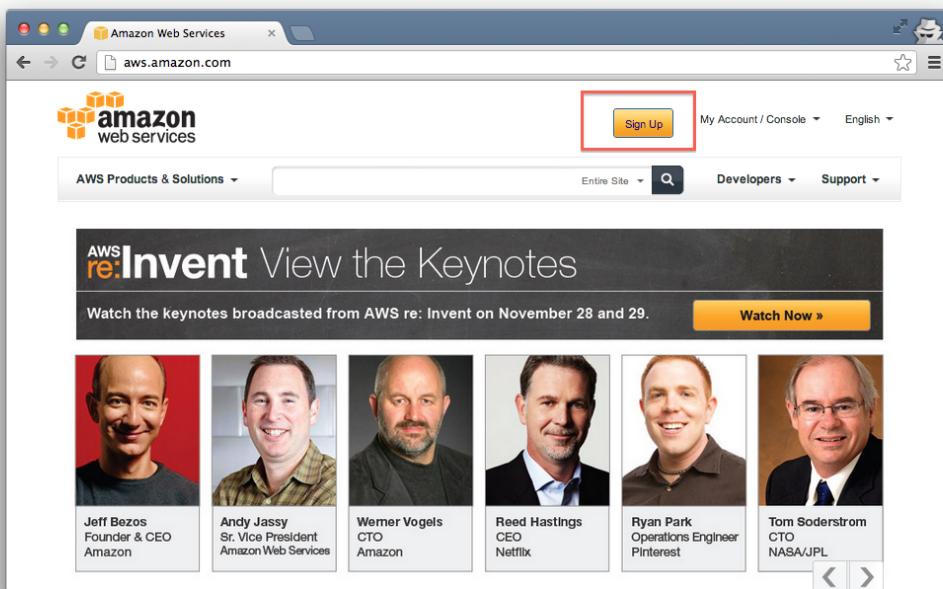


Figure 24: The AWS homepage. Click “Sign Up” at the top.

A screenshot of the AWS sign-in or sign-up form. The page title is "Amazon Web Services Sign In". It features a heading "Sign In or Create an AWS Account" and a sub-instruction "You may sign in using your existing Amazon.com account or you can create a new account by selecting "I am a new user."". There are two radio button options: "I am a new user." (unchecked) and "I am a returning user and my password is:" (checked). Below the checked radio button is a text input field. To the right of the input field is a "Sign in using our secure server" button with a magnifying glass icon. Below the button are links for "Forgot your password?" and "Has your e-mail address changed?". At the bottom of the form is a link "Learn more about AWS Identity and Access".

Figure 25: The signup form.

The screenshot shows a web browser window for the Amazon Web Services (AWS) sign-in page. The URL in the address bar is [https://www.amazon.com/ap/signin?openid.assoc\\_handle=aws&openid.return\\_to=https%3A%2F%2Fportal.aws.amazon....](https://www.amazon.com/ap/signin?openid.assoc_handle=aws&openid.return_to=https%3A%2F%2Fportal.aws.amazon....). The page features the Amazon Web Services logo at the top left. Below it, the heading "Sign In or Create an AWS Account" is displayed in orange. A sub-instruction below the heading reads: "You may sign in using your existing Amazon.com account or you can create a new account by selecting "I am a new user.\"" A text input field contains the email address "startup.stanford.edu@gmail.com". Below the input field are two radio button options: "I am a new user." (which is selected and highlighted with a red border) and "I am a returning user and my password is:". There is also a link "Sign in using our secure server" with a magnifying glass icon. At the bottom of the form, there are links for "Forgot your password?", "Has your e-mail address changed?", and "Learn more about AWS Identity and Access".

**Figure 26:** Register as a new user.

The screenshot shows a web browser window for the AWS login credentials setup page. The URL in the address bar is <https://www.amazon.com/ap/register?ie=UTF8&openid.ns.pape=http%3A%2F%2Fspecs.openid.net%2Fextensions%2Fp...>. The page features the Amazon Web Services logo at the top left. The heading "Login Credentials" is displayed in orange. A sub-instruction below the heading reads: "Use the form below to create login credentials that can be used for AWS as well as Amazon.com." The form contains four text input fields: "My name is:" with the value "Startup Stanford", "My e-mail address is:" with the value "startup.stanford.edu@gmail.com", "Type it again:" with the value "startup.stanford.edu@gmail.com", and "Enter a new password:" with the value "\*\*\*\*\*". Below the "Type it again:" field is a note: "note: this is the e-mail address that we will use to contact you about your account". There is also a "Type it again:" field with the value "\*\*\*\*\*". At the bottom of the form is a "Continue" button with a magnifying glass icon. At the very bottom of the page is a link "About Amazon.com Sign In".

**Figure 27:** Set up your login.

Amazon Web Services Sign Up

Contact Information

\* required fields

**Full Name\***: Startup Stanford

**Company Name**: Stanford University

**Country\***: United States

**Address Line 1\***: [REDACTED]  
Street address, P.O. box, company name, c/o

**Address Line 2**: [REDACTED]  
Apartment, suite, unit, building, floor, etc.

**City\***: [REDACTED]

**State, Province or Region\***: [REDACTED]

**ZIP or Postal Code\***: [REDACTED]

**Phone number\***: [REDACTED]

Security Check

Image:

Try a different image

Why do we ask you to type these characters?

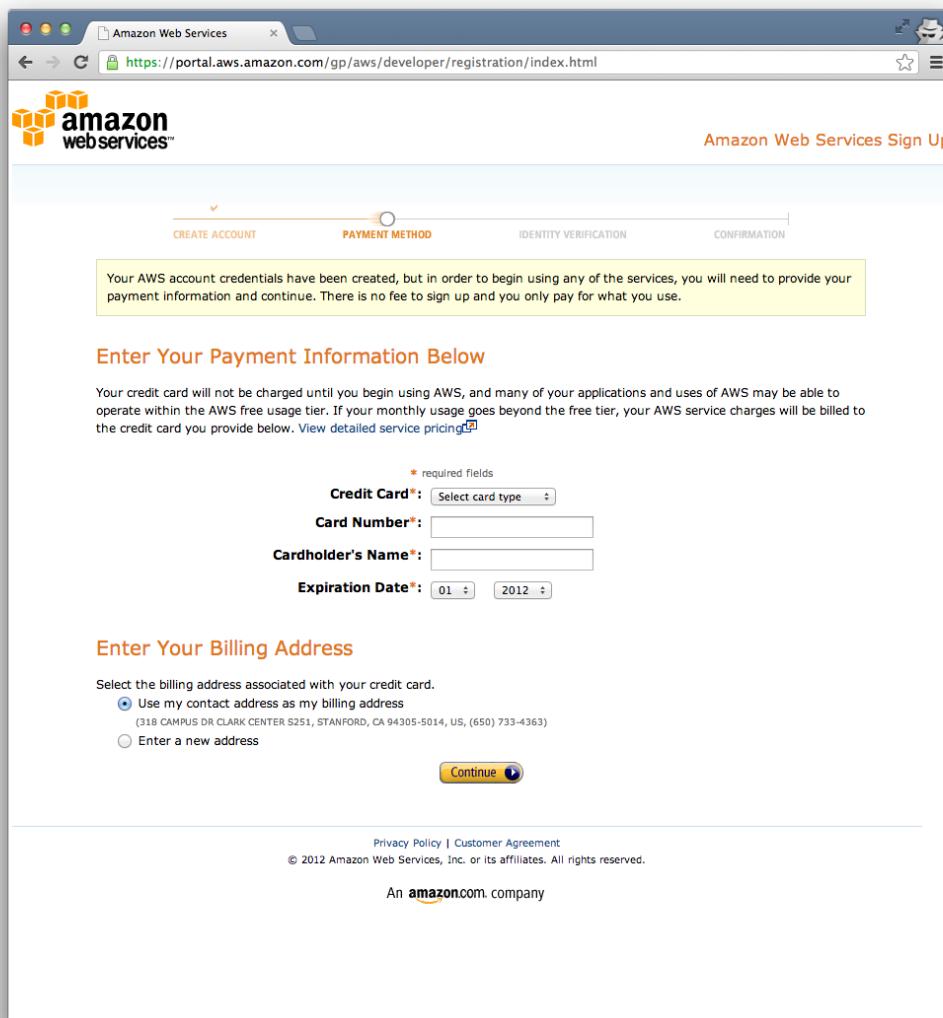
Type the characters in the above image\*: LHRPRT  
Having Trouble? Contact us.

AWS Customer Agreement

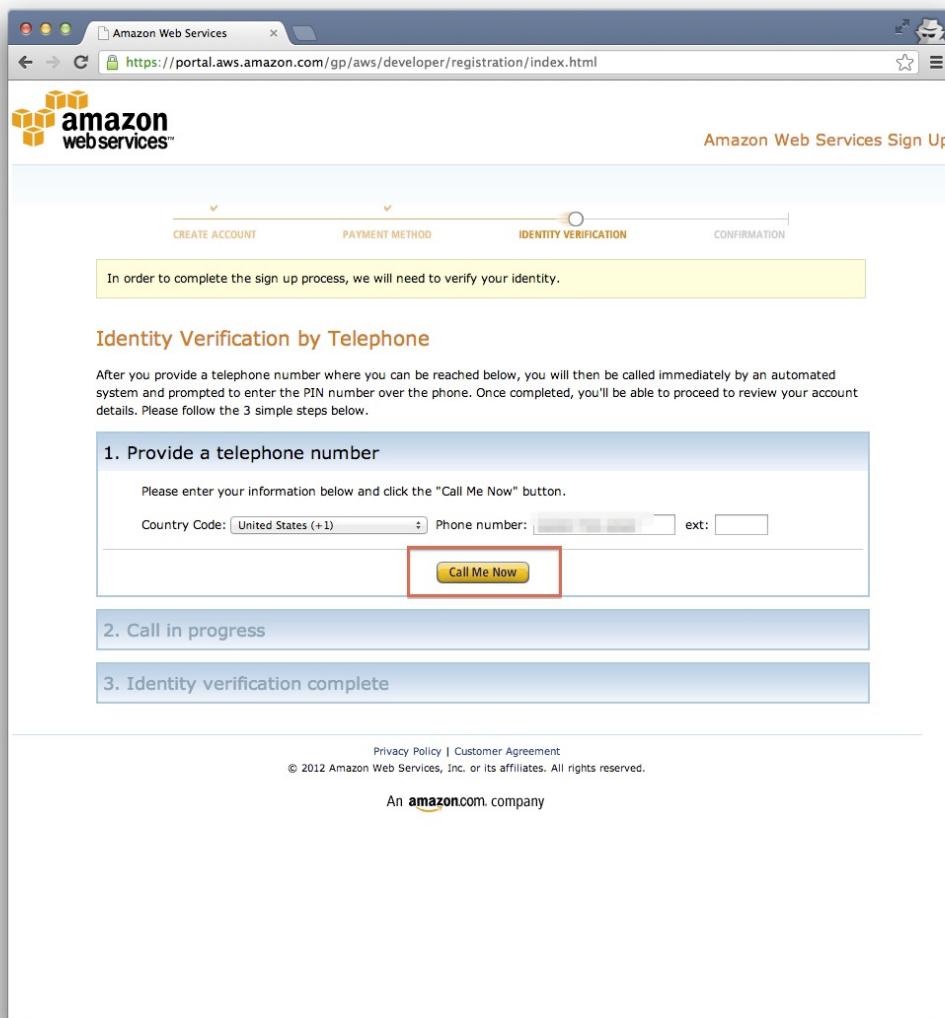
Check here to indicate that you have read and agree to the terms of the Amazon Web Services Customer Agreement. [\[link\]](#)

Create Account and Continue

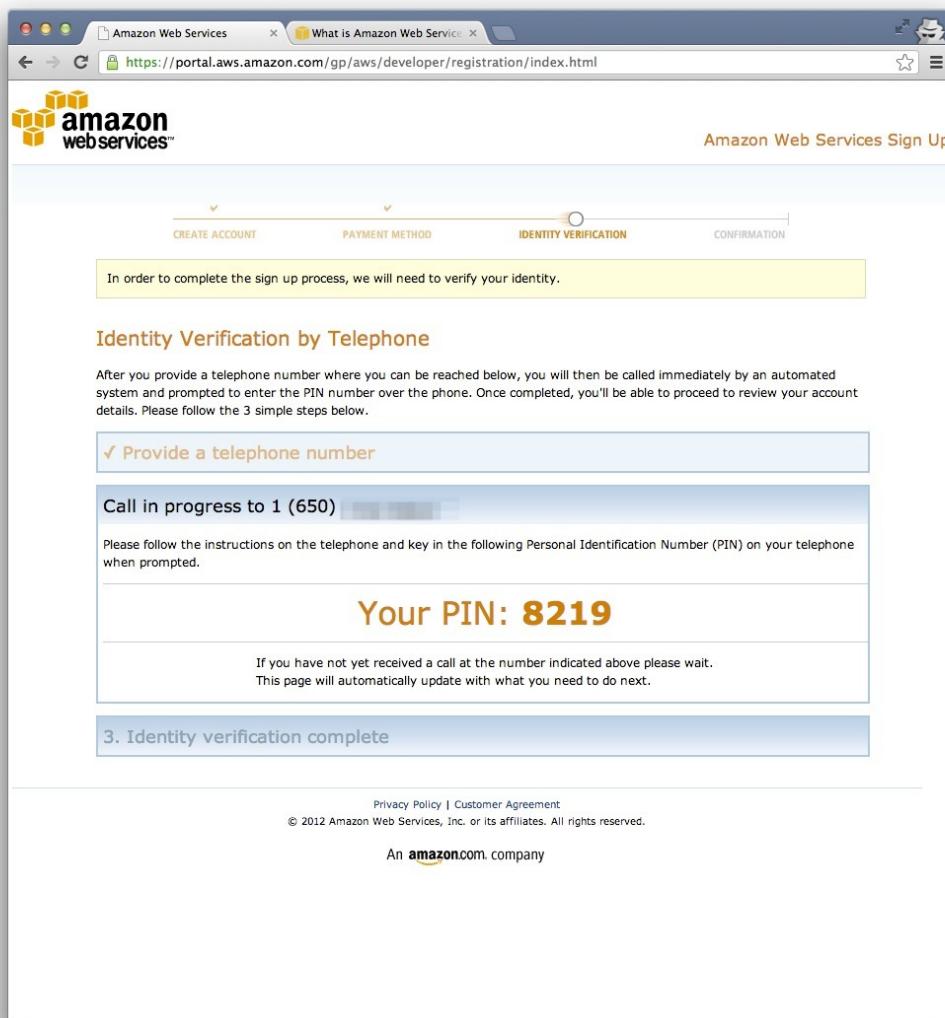
Figure 28: Enter address and complete CAPTCHA.



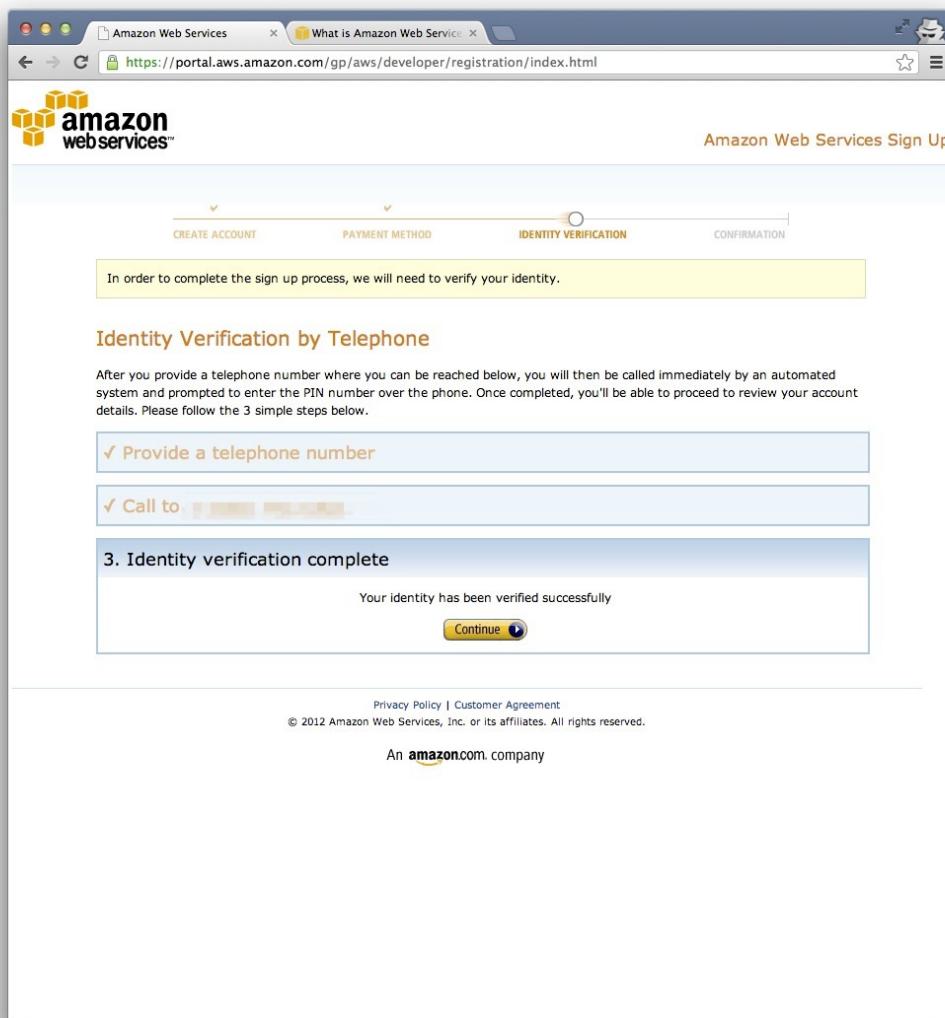
**Figure 29:** Set up your credit card.



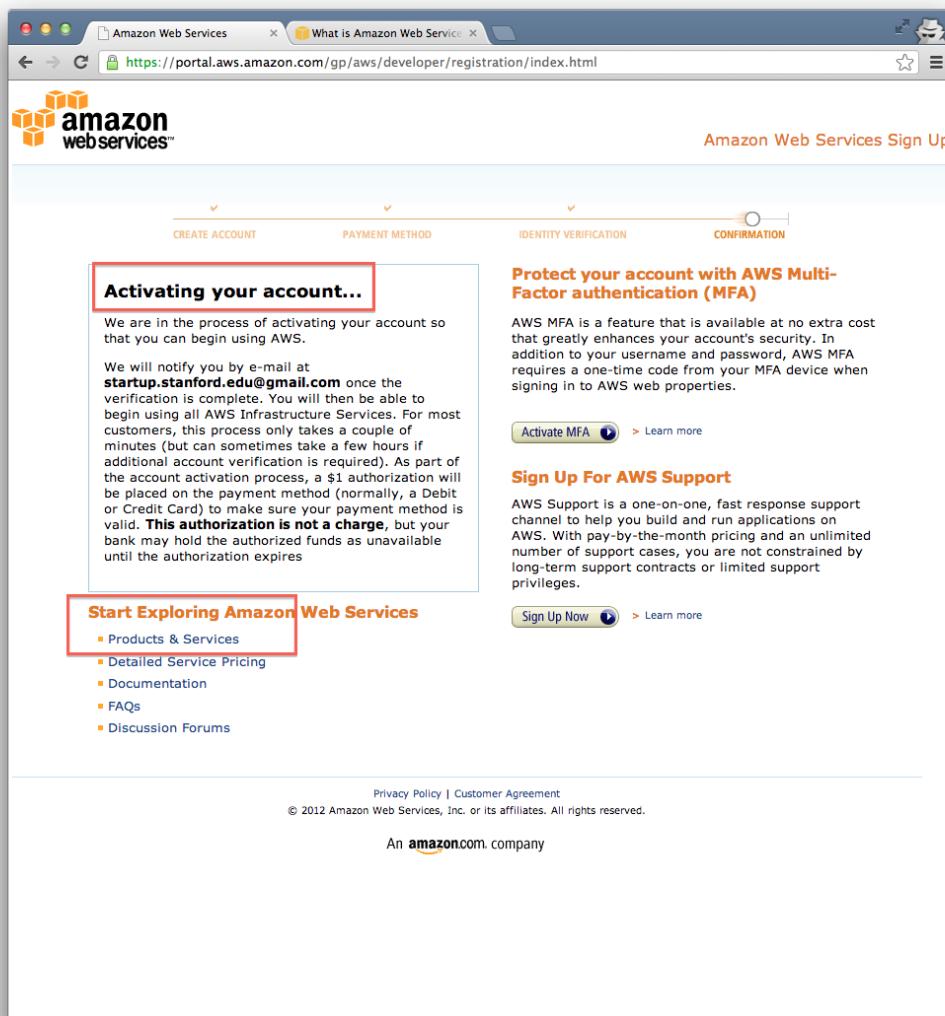
**Figure 30:** Begin phone verification.



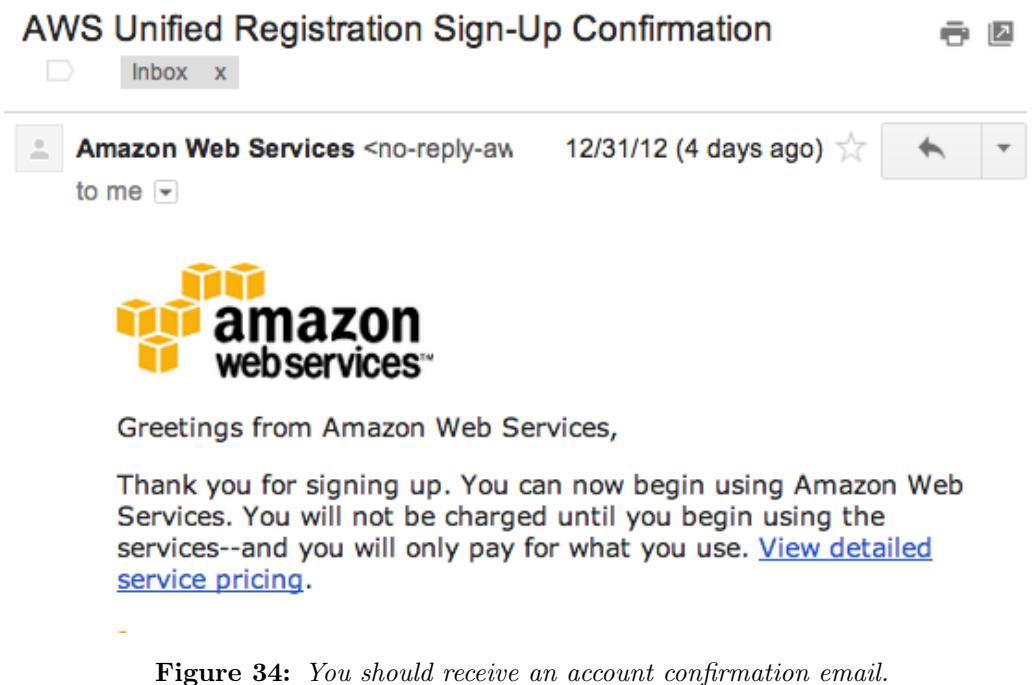
**Figure 31:** When called, enter in your PIN followed by an asterisk ('\*').



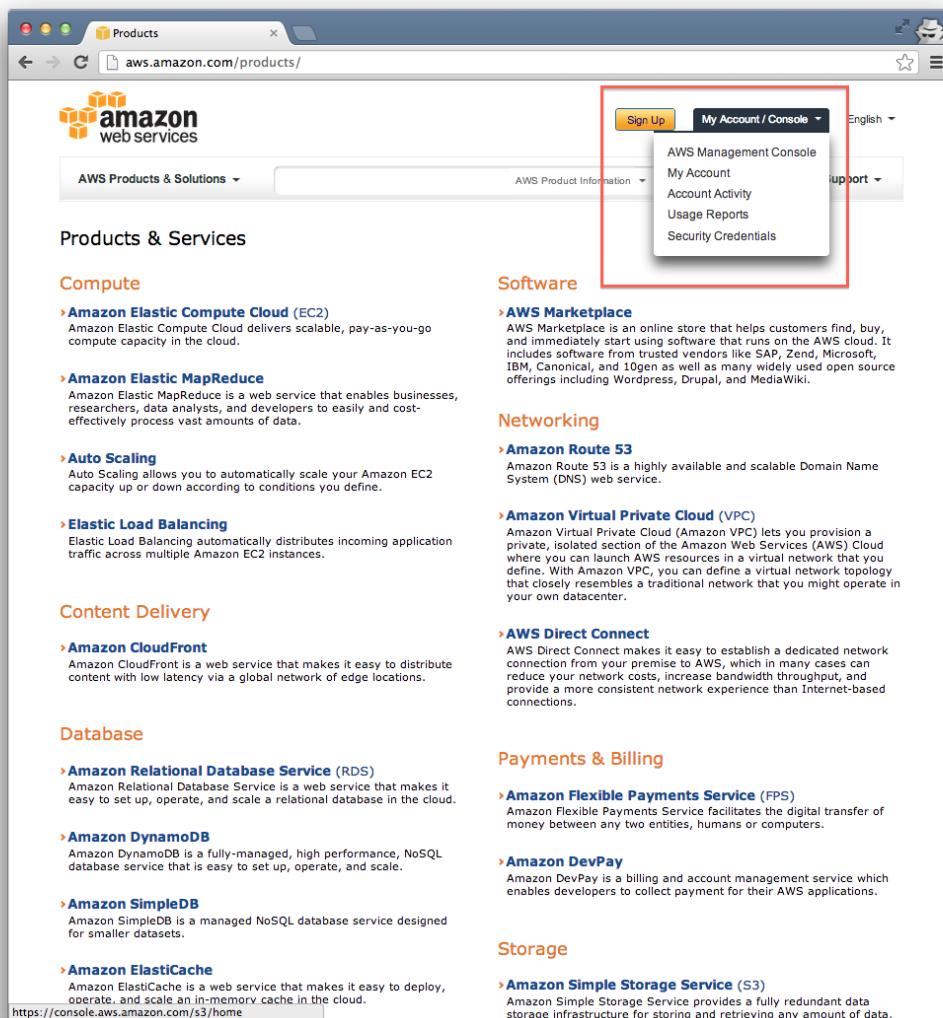
**Figure 32:** *Identity verification complete.*



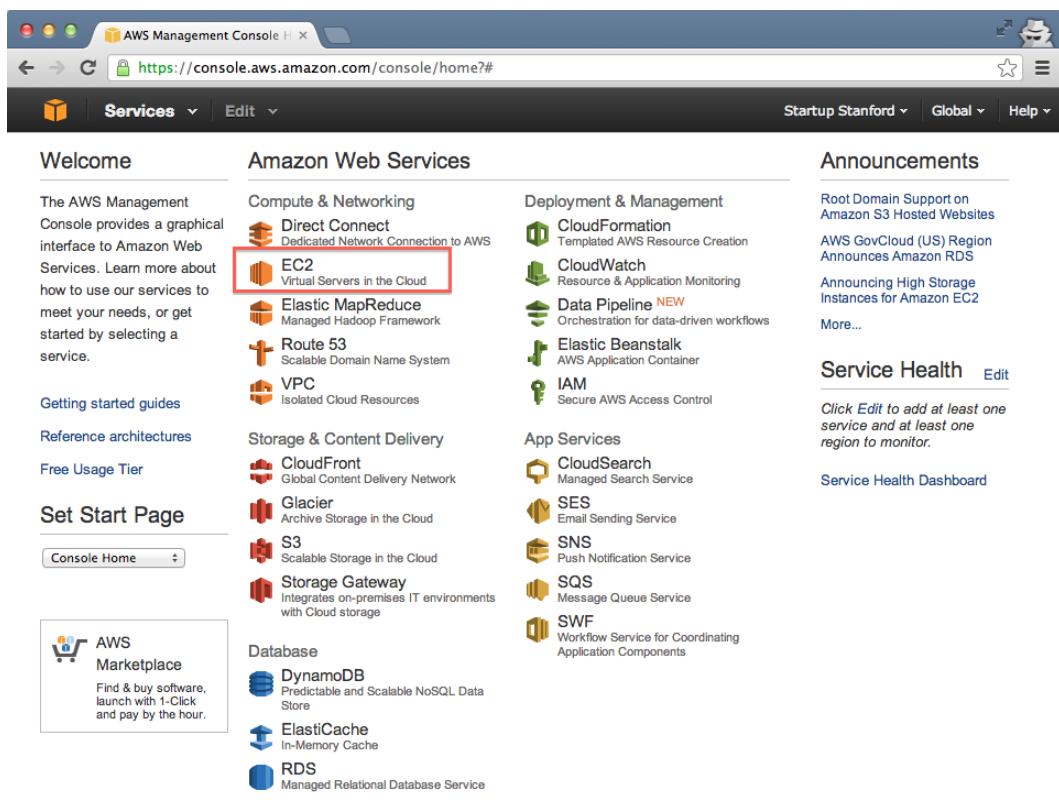
**Figure 33:** Account activation is now beginning. This may take a while.



**Figure 34:** You should receive an account confirmation email.



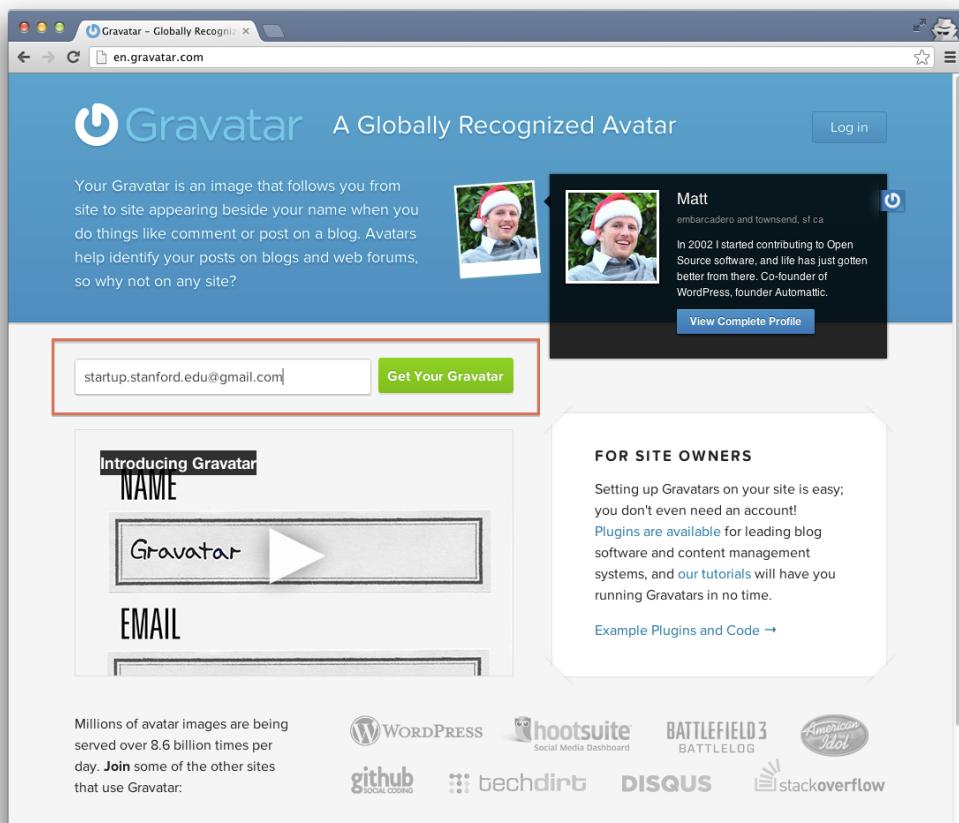
**Figure 35:** Go to [aws.amazon.com/products](https://aws.amazon.com/products/) and click ‘My Account Console’ to log in.



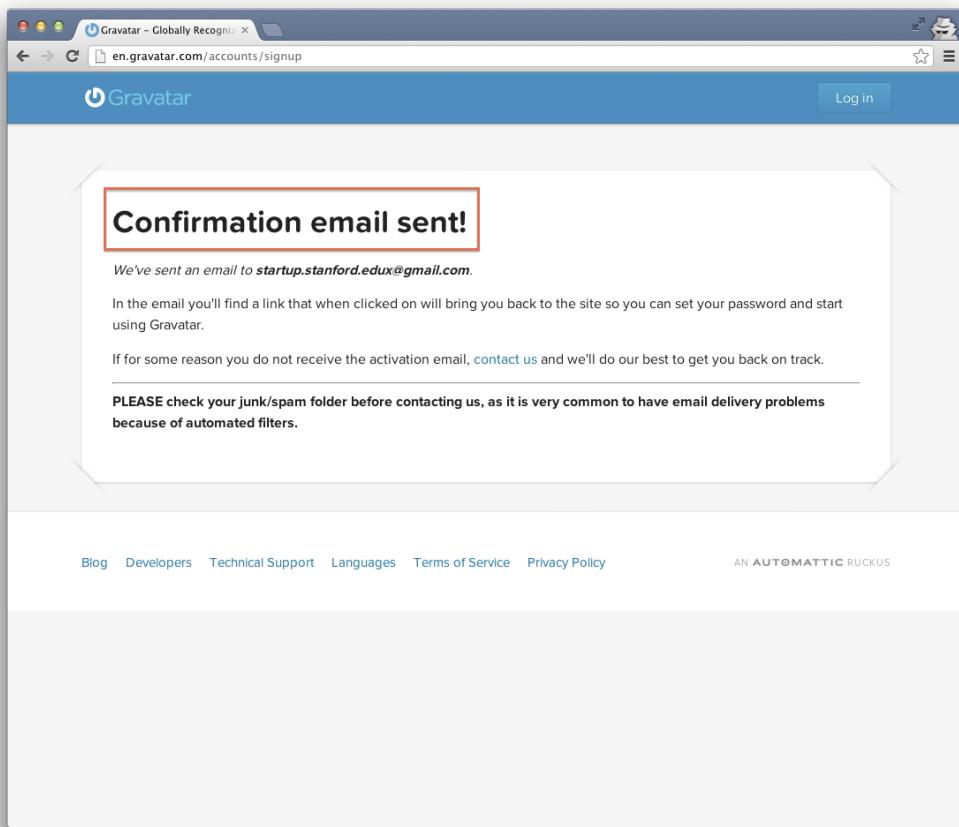
**Figure 36:** Now you have an active AWS dashboard. EC2 (boxed) will be of particular interest to us soon.

Fantastic. You now have access to a variety of AWS services. Let's keep going and we'll come back to this dashboard as the class progresses.

**Gravatar Signup** The next step is to get your Gravatar account set up, so that you have a *globally recognizable avatar* that will be used to identify your git commits. A Gravatar is very similar to the small image that appears next to your comments on Facebook, except that it is used by sites outside of Facebook - such as Github. In theory it's quite easy to set up, but I found the site to be quite buggy recently, so you might need to repeat some of the following steps after clearing your cookies on Chrome and logging out. Begin by going to <http://www.gravatar.com> and then work through the following steps:



**Figure 37:** Go to the gravatar homepage to get started.



**Figure 38:** After you see this page, go check your email.

Welcome to Gravatar

Inbox x

Gravatar <donotreply@gravatar.cc> 8:45 AM (0 minutes ago)

to me ▾

Welcome to Gravatar!

To activate your account, simply click on the link below or paste into the url field on your favorite browser:

<https://en.gravatar.com/accounts/activate/>

The activation link will only be good for 2 weeks, after that you will have to try again from the beginning. When you visit the above page, you'll be able to set your password and create as many gravatars as you like, all for free!

If you have any questions about the system, feel free to contact us anytime at [support@gravatar.com](mailto:support@gravatar.com).

The Gravatar Team,  
An Automattic joint.

Figure 39: Click the email confirmation in your inbox.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://en.gravatar.com/accounts/activate/>. The page has a blue header with the Gravatar logo and a 'Log in' button. The main content area has a large heading: "Finish creating your account by choosing your finishing touches!". Below it, a paragraph explains the purpose of choosing a username. There are four input fields: "Email:" with the value "startup.stanford.edu@gmail.com", "Username:" with the value "startupstanfordedu" and a "check" button, "Password:" with a masked value, and "Password (again):" with a masked value. A checkbox at the bottom left is checked, and the text next to it reads "I have read and agree to Gravatar's terms of service and privacy policy." At the bottom right is a "Signup" button.

Figure 40: Set up your account details.

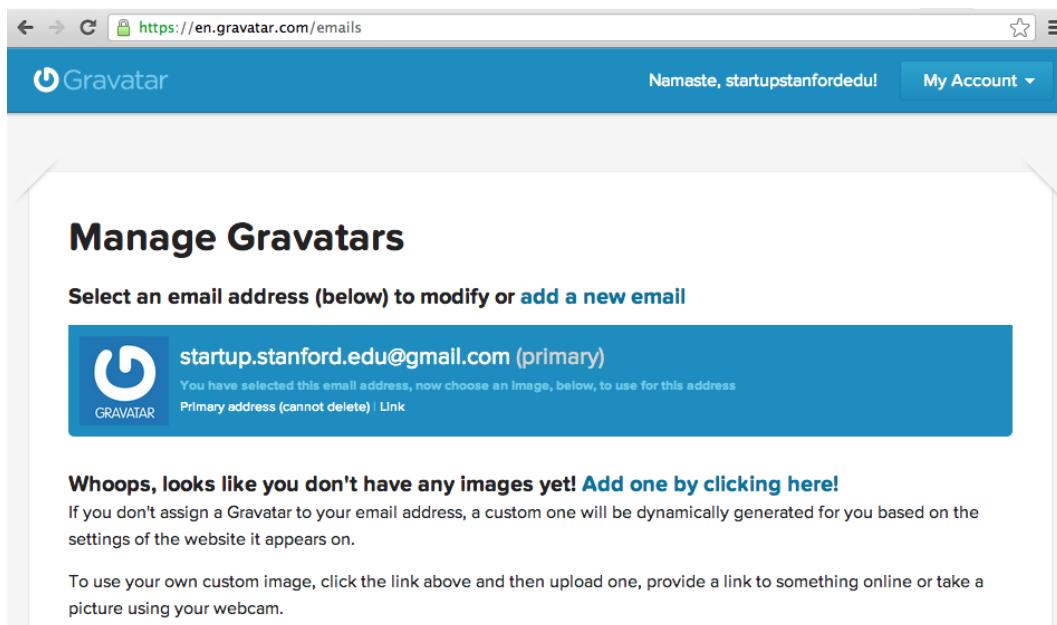


Figure 41: On [en.gravatar.com/emails](https://en.gravatar.com/emails), click “Add one by clicking here”.

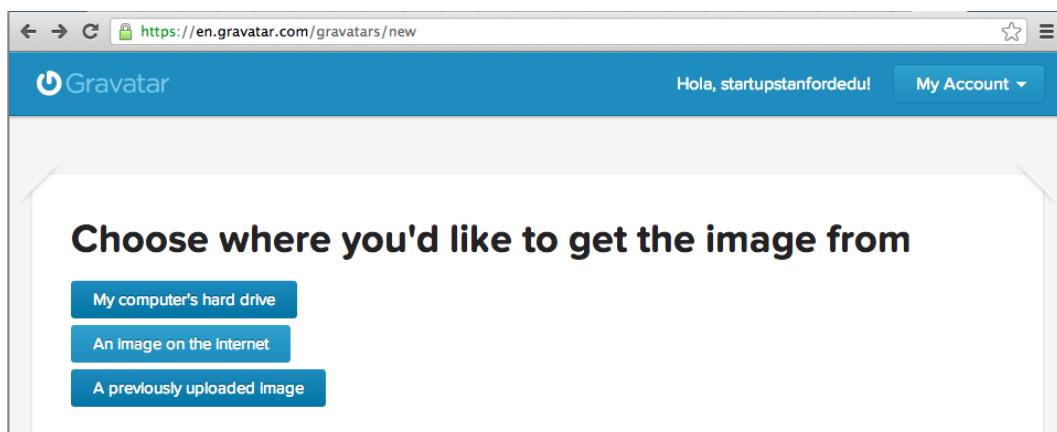
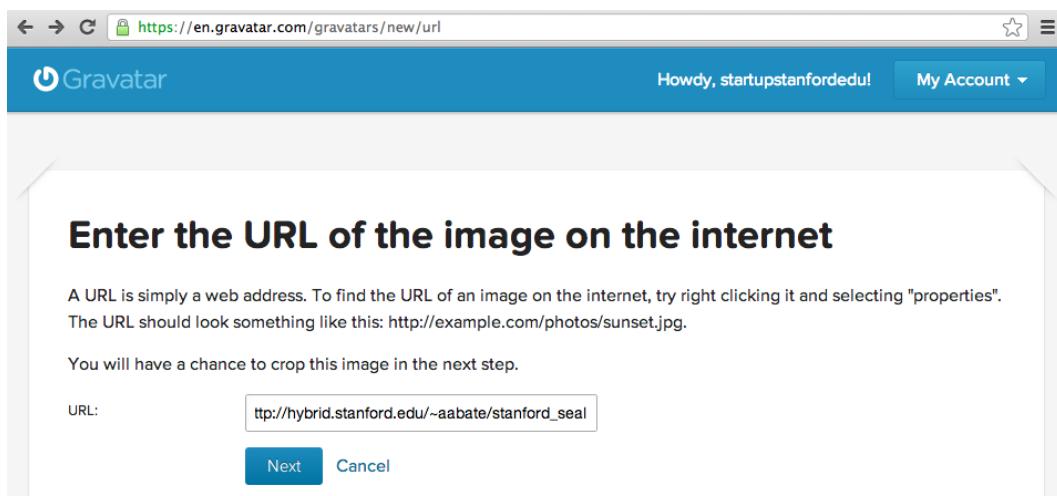
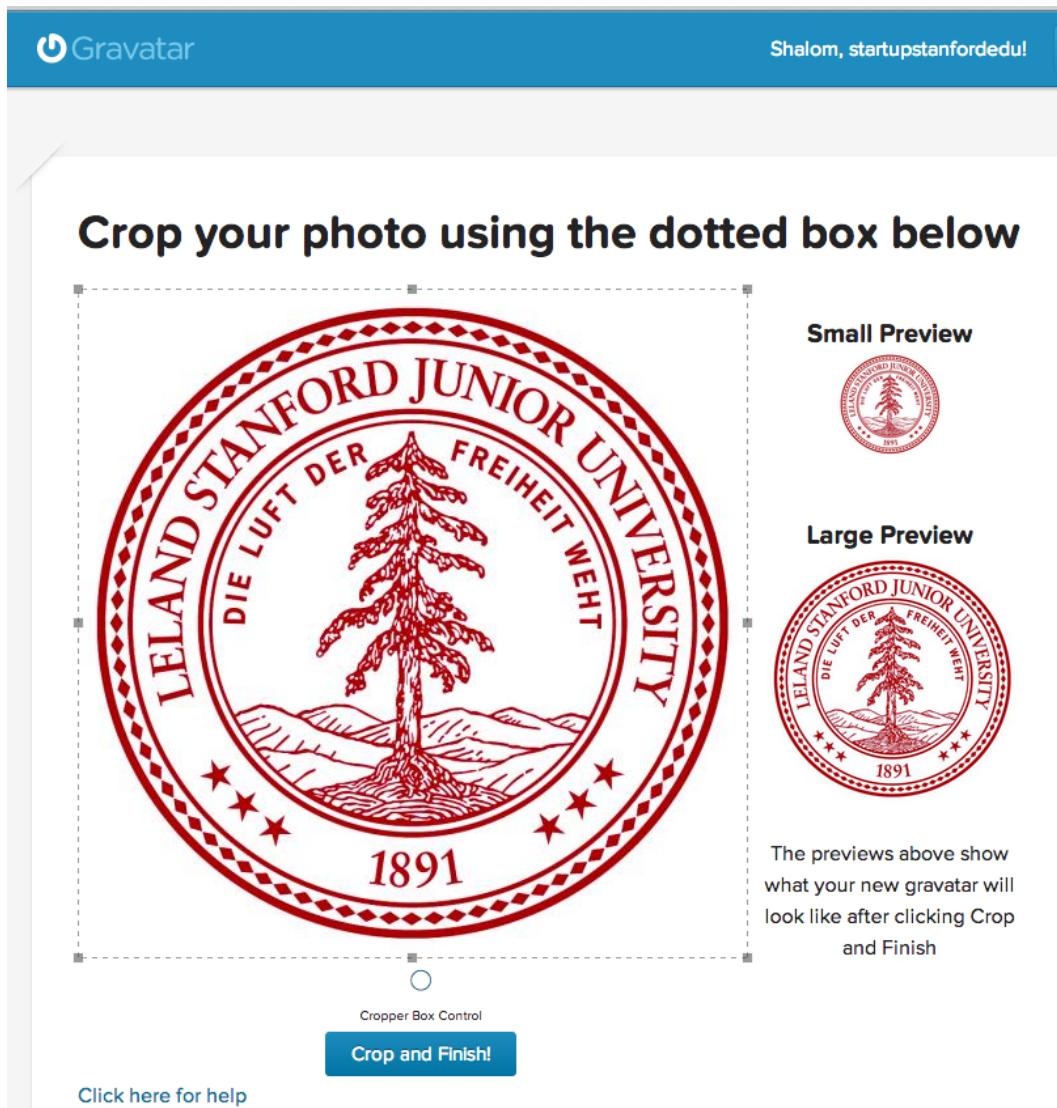


Figure 42: Choose the source of the image.



**Figure 43:** Here, we are using an online image.



**Figure 44:** *Crop the photo. This step is buggy and might need to be repeated after clearing cookies in Chrome, and logging in and logging out of Gravatar.*

# Choose a rating for your Gravatar



By clicking on one of these ratings



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**rated G** A G rated gravatar is suitable for display on all websites with any audience type.

**rated PG** PG rated gravatars may contain rude gestures, provocatively dressed individuals, the lesser swear words, or mild violence.

**rated R** R rated gravatars may contain such things as harsh profanity, intense violence, nudity, or hard drug use.

**rated X** X rated gravatars may contain hardcore sexual imagery or extremely disturbing violence.

**Figure 45:** Please use a G-rated photo.  
35

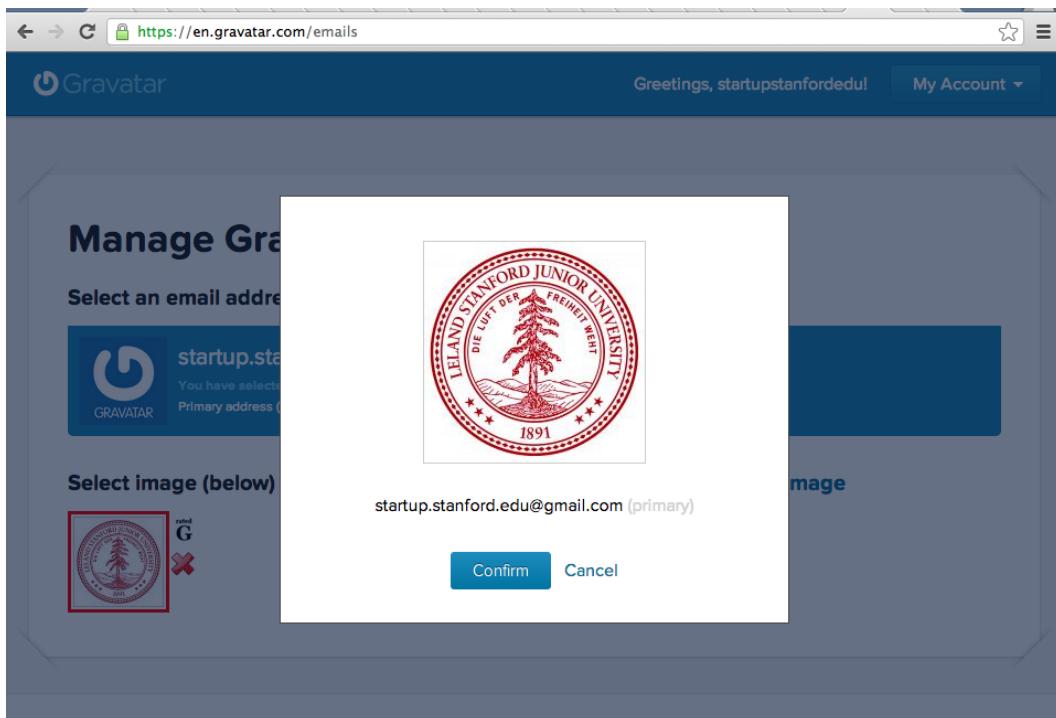


Figure 46: Return to <http://en.gravatar.com/emails> and confirm that this is your primary photo.

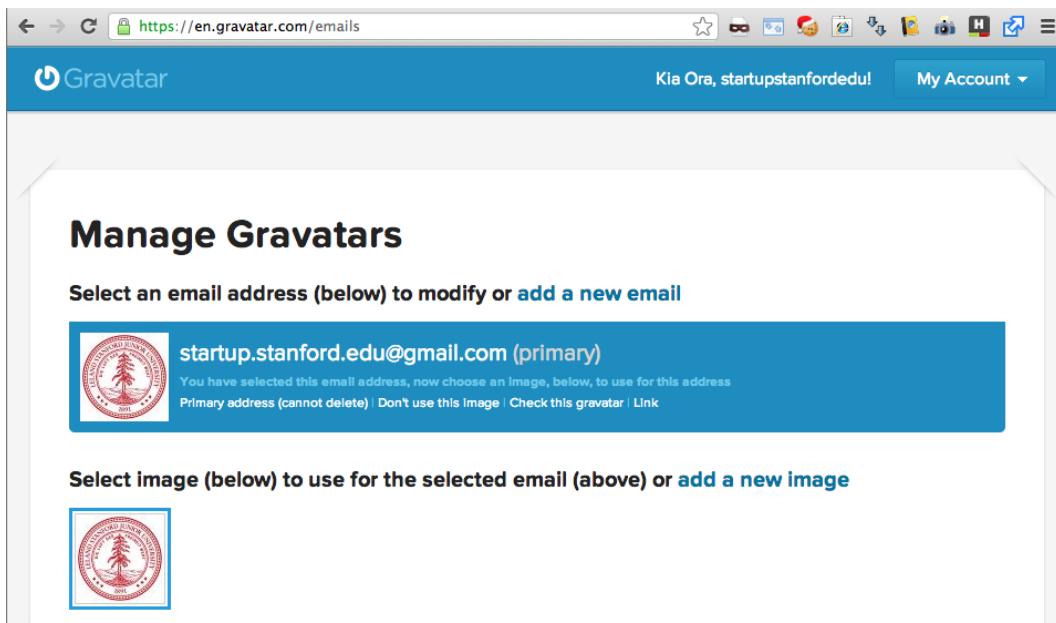
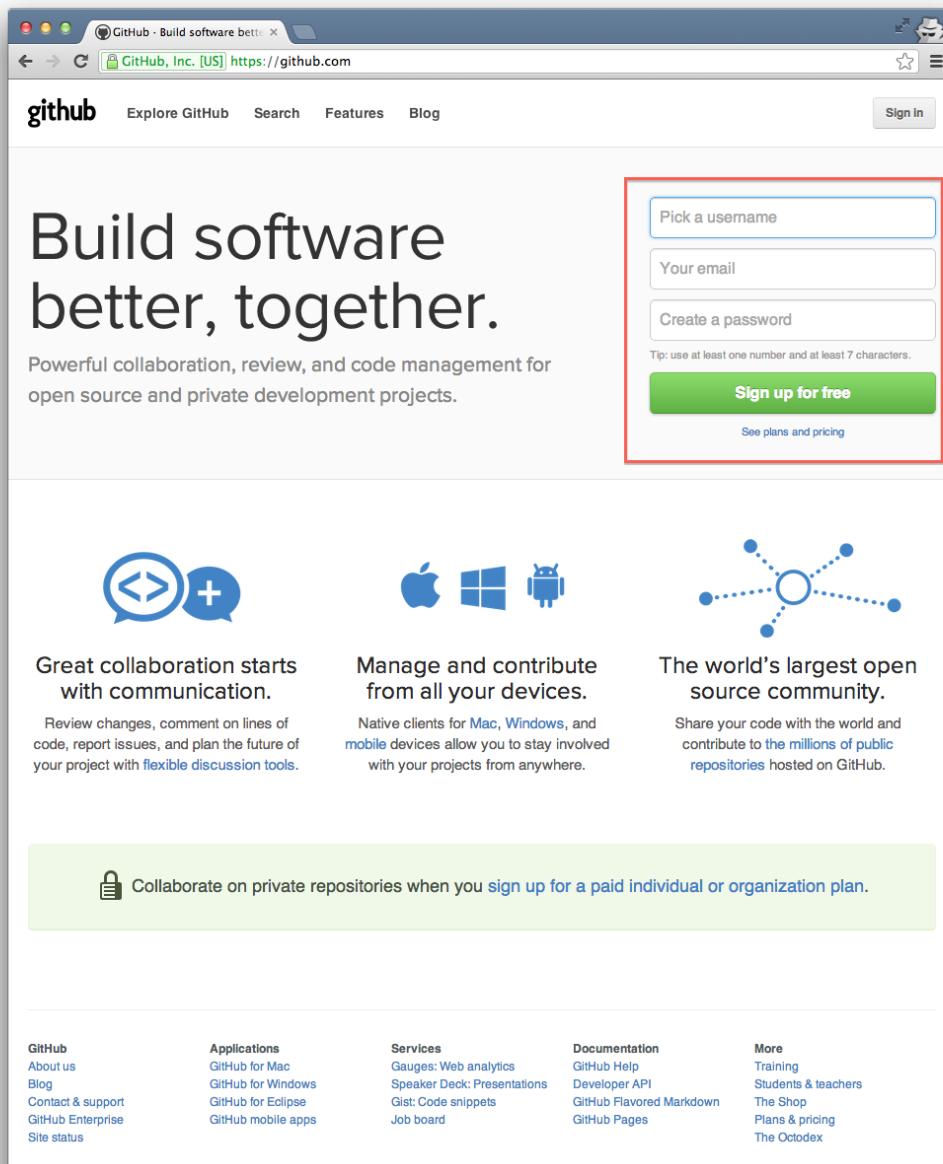


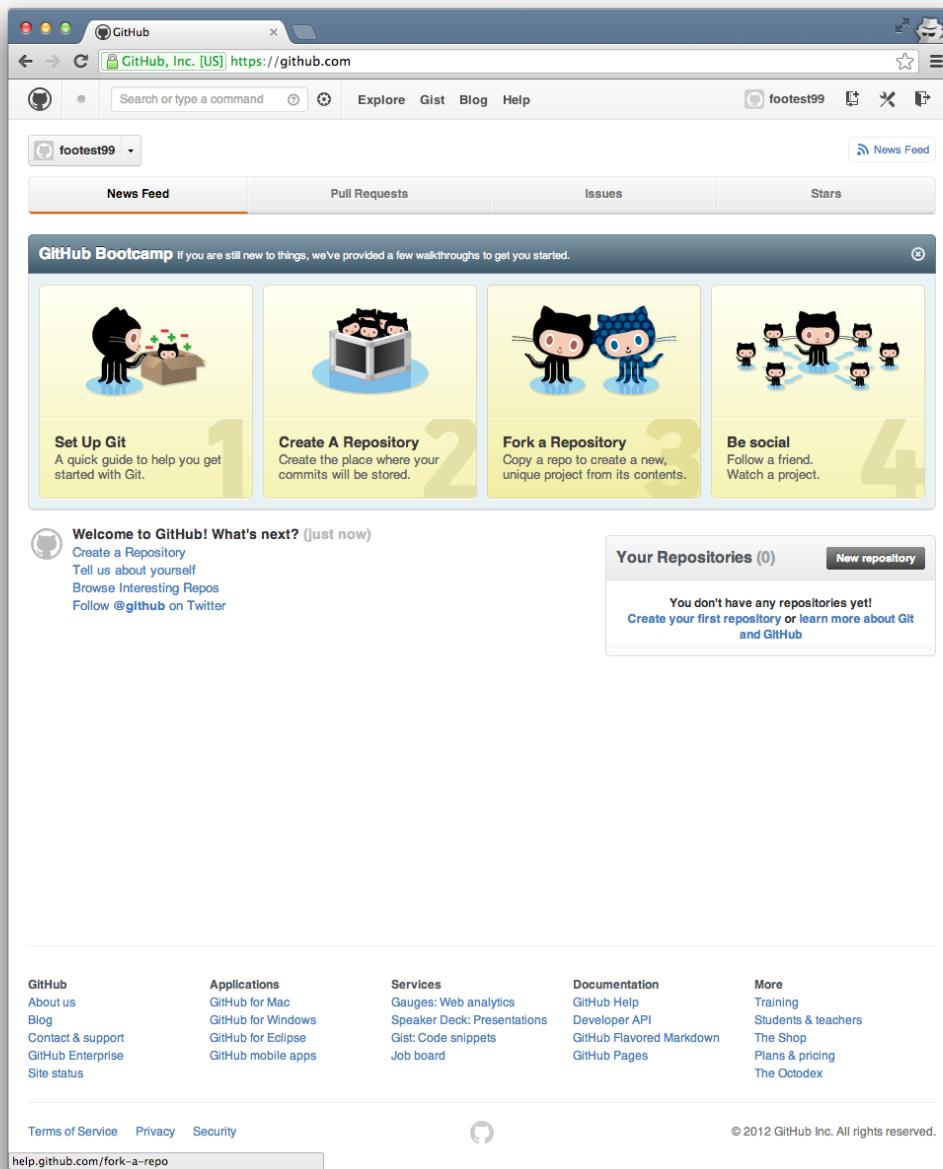
Figure 47: Once everything is set up, your page should look like this.

As noted, the Gravatar site is buggy and you may need to repeat some of the steps (particularly the cropping step and the “add a new image” step at the very end) a few times. Do this by logging out of Gravatar, clearing cookies in Chrome, logging back in and resuming where you left off.

**Github Signup** Github is one of the most important developments in software over the past five years. The site began in 2008 as a simple frontend for the open-source `git` distributed version control tool, which we will cover in much more detail later in the course. In this sense it was similar to code repositories like SourceForge, Google Code, or Bitbucket. But Github has transcended the category to become an institution in its own right. Features that it pioneered (like web-based pull requests and `README.md` files) are now crucial tools for any group software engineering work. Moreover, github.com is now the world’s largest and most dynamic repository of open-source code, and a strong Github account has become more important than your CV or formal education for the most cutting-edge technology companies. Let’s get started by navigating to <http://www.github.com>.



**Figure 48:** Sign up in the top right and confirm your account via email.



**Figure 49:** After signing in, you will see this page.

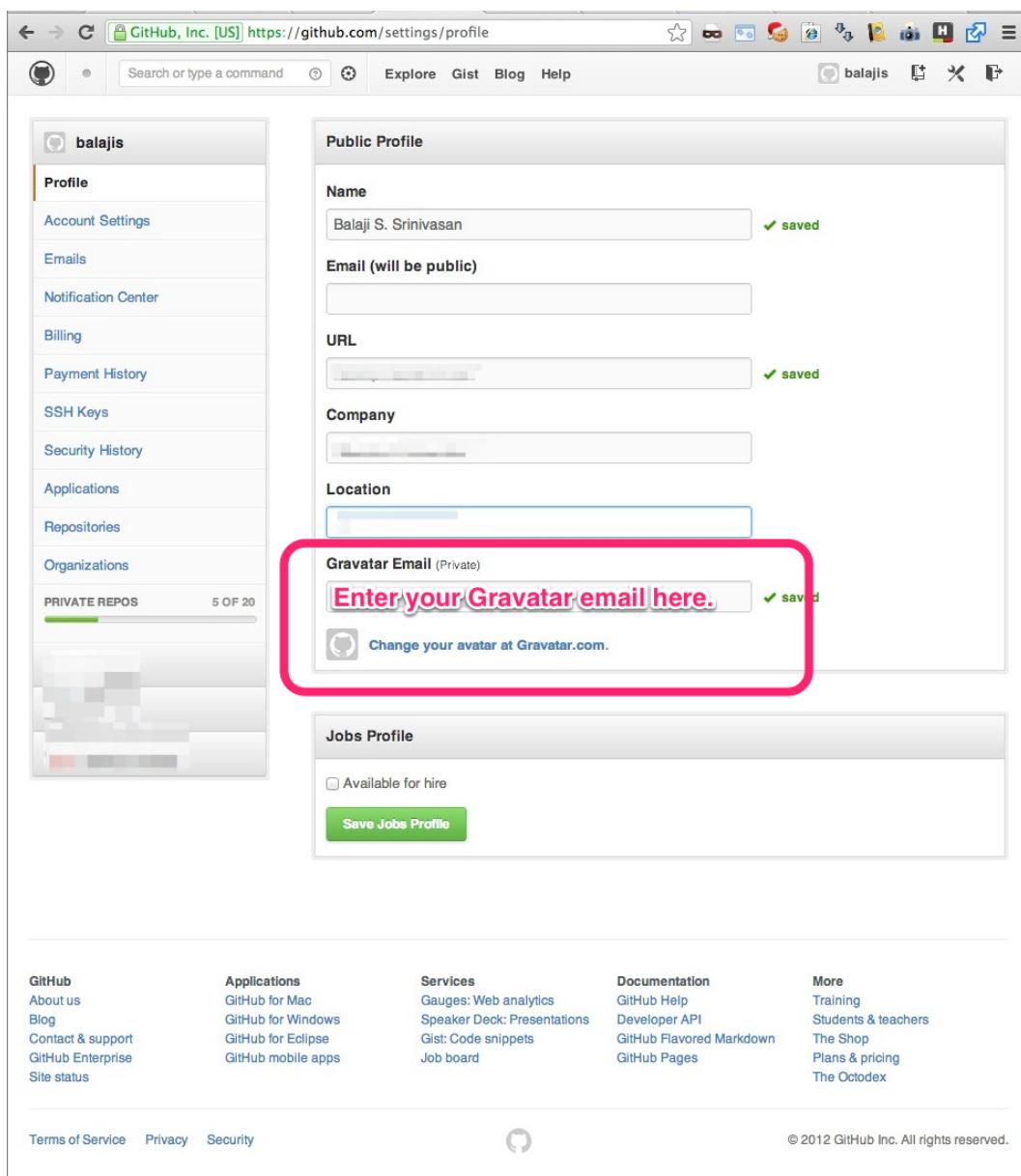
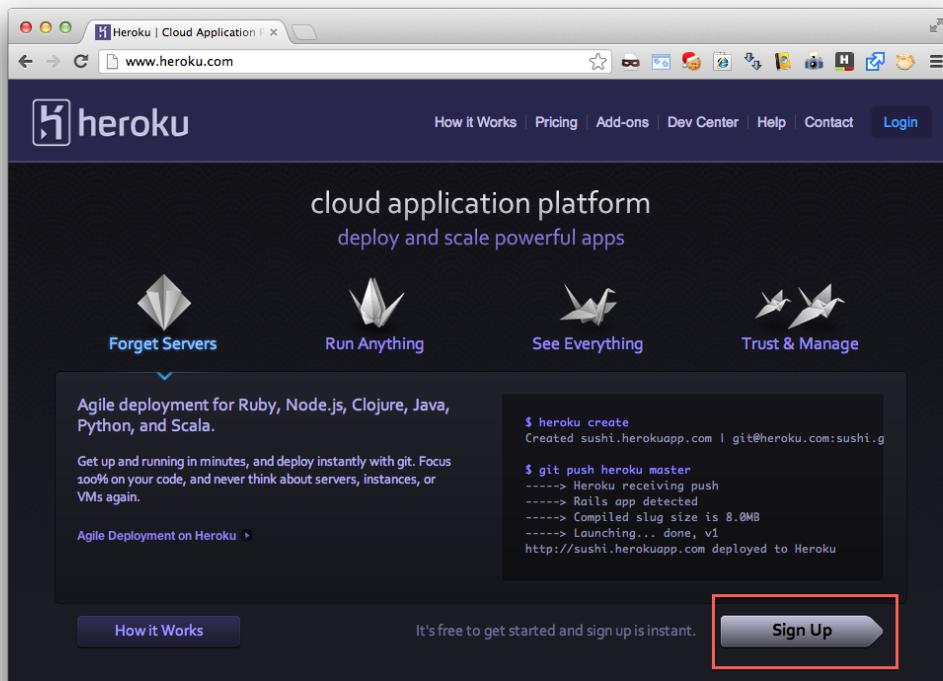


Figure 50: Navigate to `github.com/settings/profile` to enter your Gravatar email

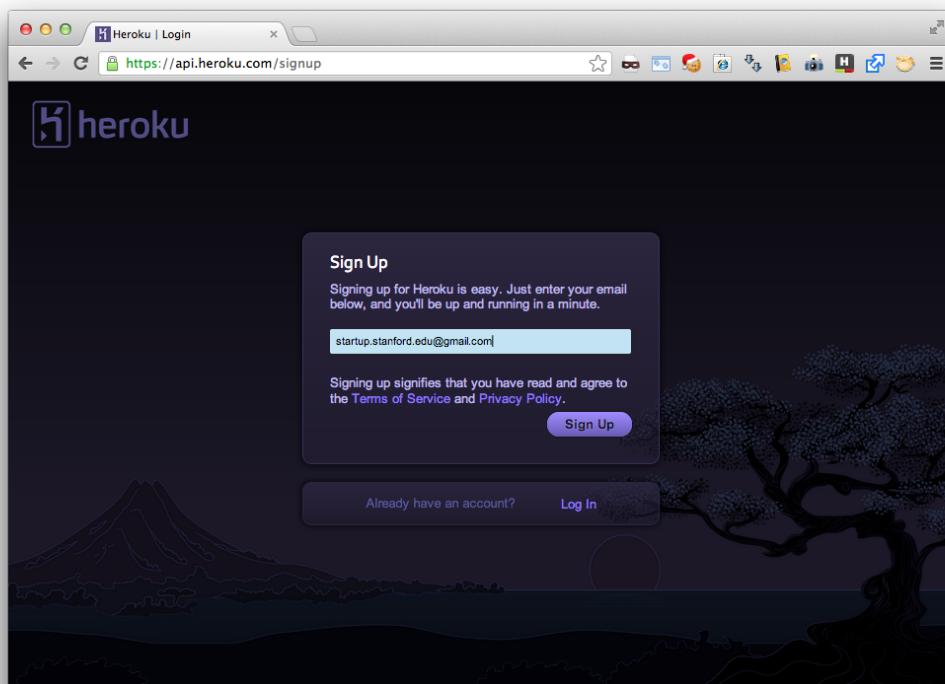
You now have a Github account, which you will use for hosting your sourcecode for this class and likely for future projects. Take a look at your [profile page](#) in particular.

Importantly, if you [fork](#) a repository, you can optionally submit a so-called *pull request* to the owner of the upstream repository to merge in your contributions. As an analogy, this is like making a copy of a book (forking), writing up a new chapter (editing), and then sending that chapter back to the original author to integrate into the main book should he deem it worthy (issuing a pull request, i.e. a request to pull your code back into the main book). We'll cover these concepts in more depth later in the class.

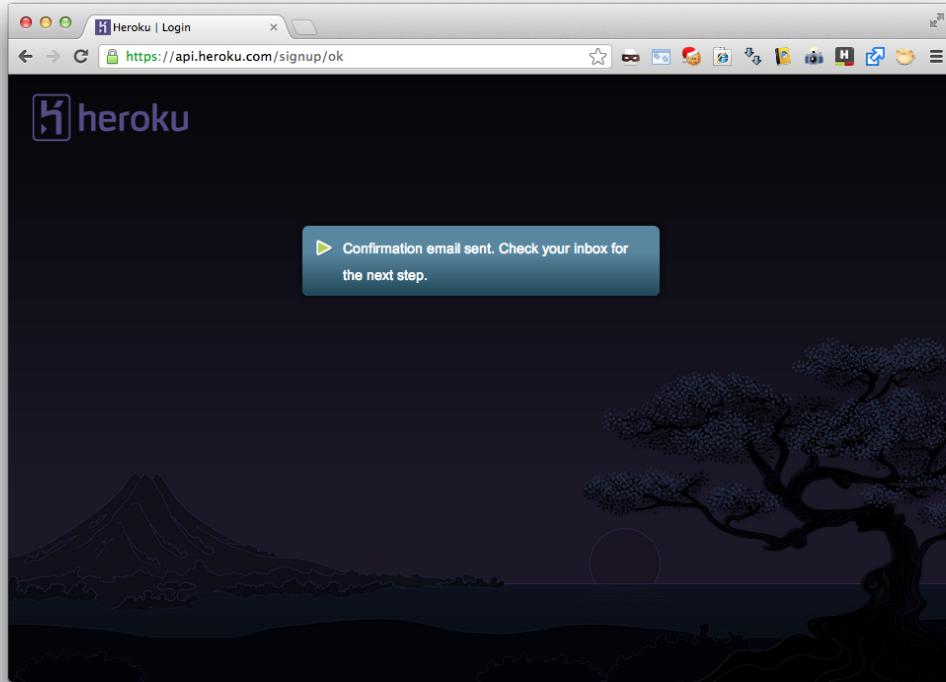
**Heroku Signup** The last account we want to get configured is on Heroku, which began as a layer on top of Amazon Web Services. While AWS focuses more on low-level hardware manipulations, [Heroku makes it easy to deploy a web/mobile application](#) (see [here for more](#)). Begin by going to <http://www.heroku.com>.



**Figure 51:** The Heroku homepage. Click “Sign Up” in the bottom right.



**Figure 52:** Enter your email.



**Figure 53:** You should see a confirm page.

Confirm your account on Heroku Inbox x

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 Heroku <bot@heroku.com> 4:05 PM (0 minutes ago) star back forward

to me ▾

Thanks for signing up with Heroku! You must follow this link to activate your account:

<https://api.heroku.com/signup/accept2/1>

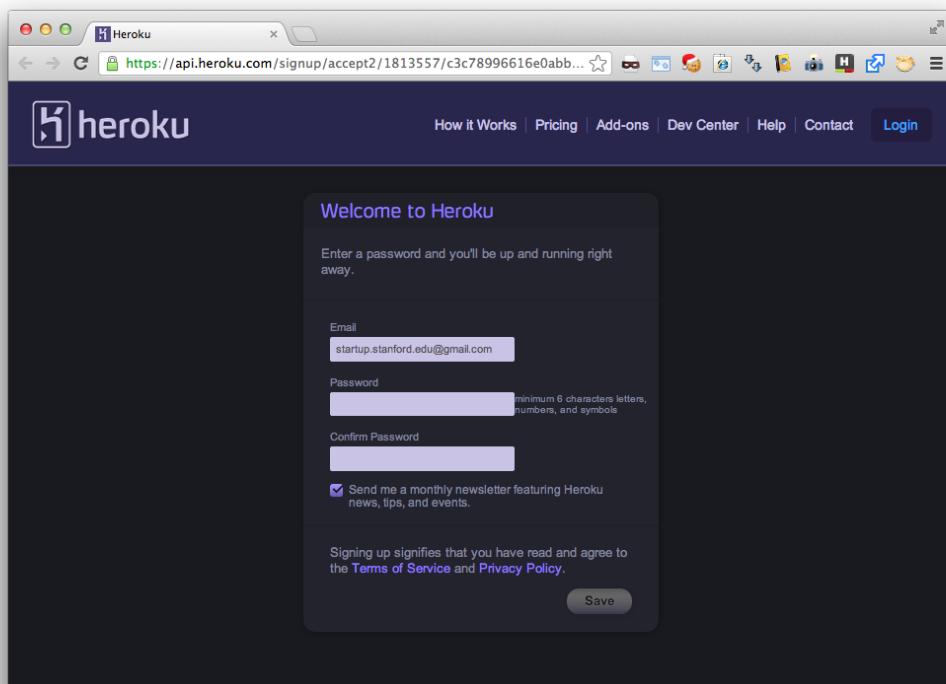
Have fun, and don't hesitate to contact us with your feedback.

- The Heroku Team  
<http://heroku.com/>

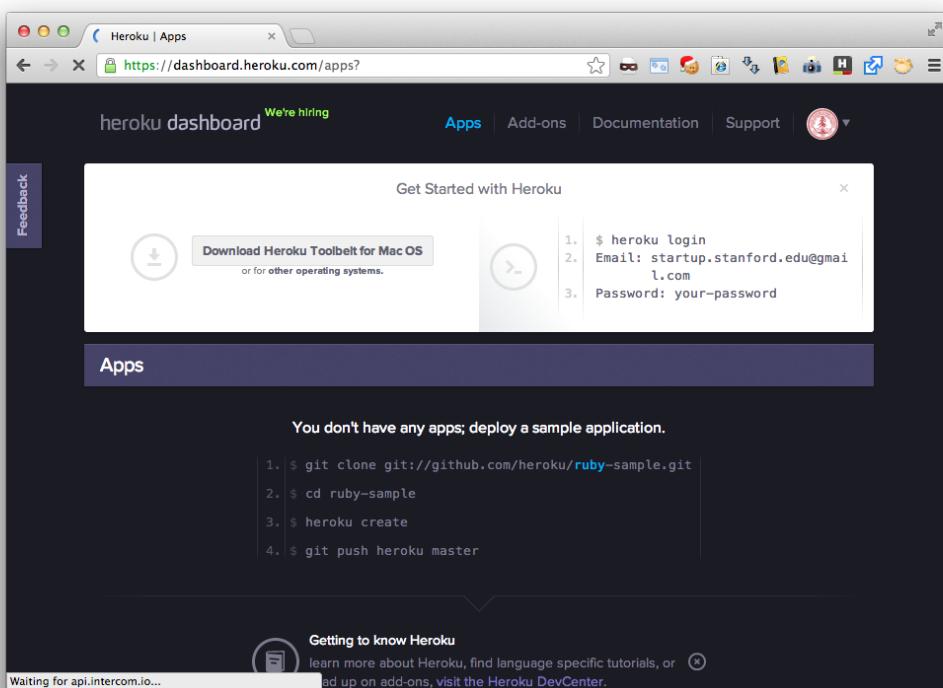
Heroku is the cloud platform for rapid deployment and scaling of web applications.  
Get up and running in minutes, then deploy instantly via Git.

To learn more about Heroku and all its features, check out the Dev Center:  
<http://devcenter.heroku.com/articles/quickstart>

**Figure 54:** Check your email and click the confirm link.



**Figure 55:** Now set up your password.



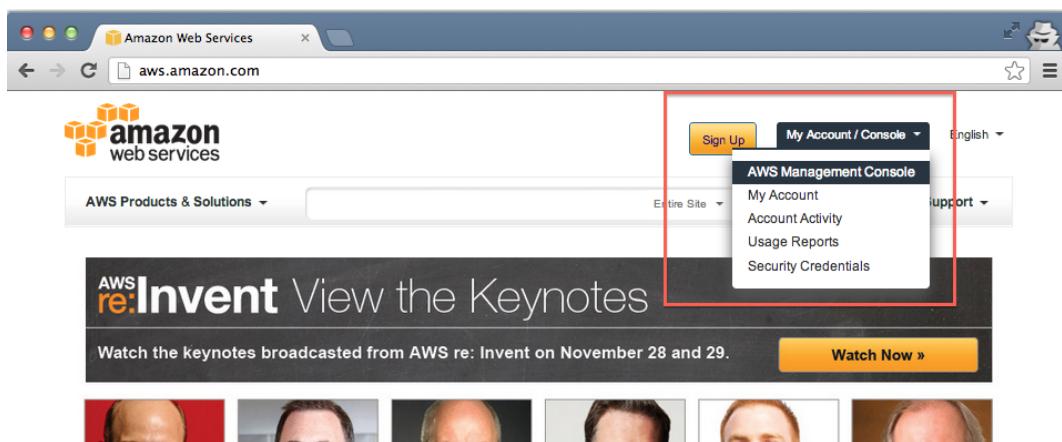
**Figure 56:** You now have a Heroku account. Ignore the instructions for now, we'll return to them later.

All right. At this point you should have your AWS, Gravatar, Github, and Heroku accounts all set up. Our next step will be to get an AWS instance running in the cloud as a development environment.

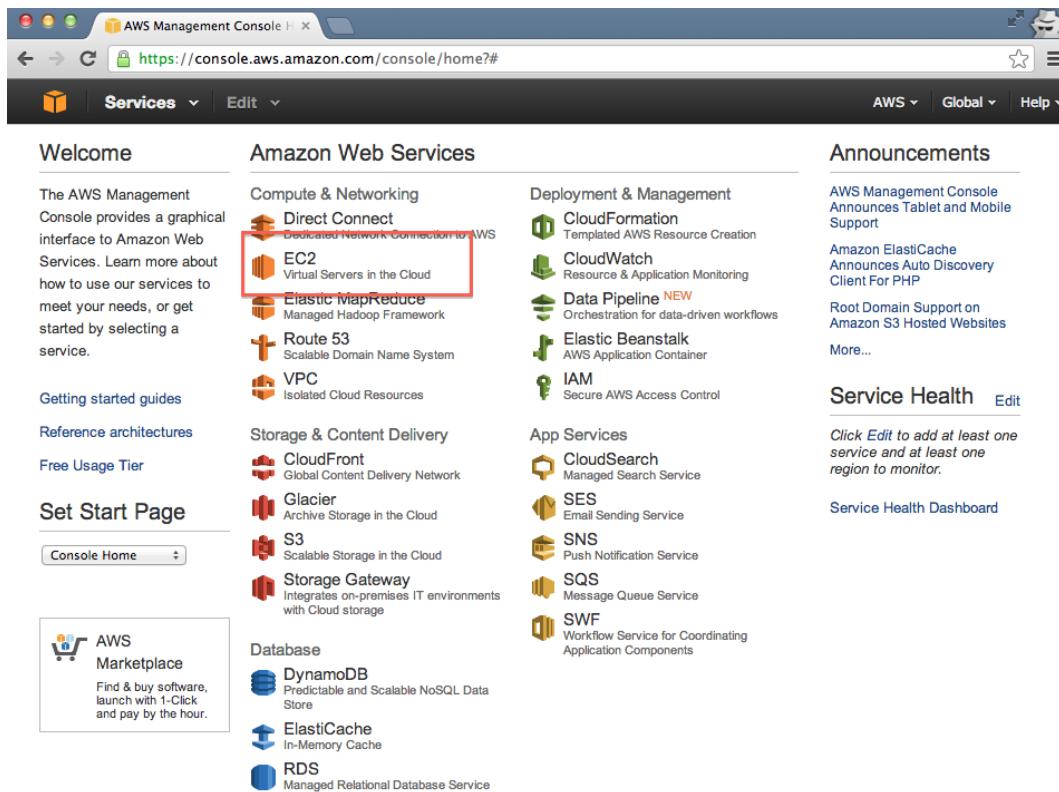
## Connect to a Cloud Computer

### Launch your EC2 Instance

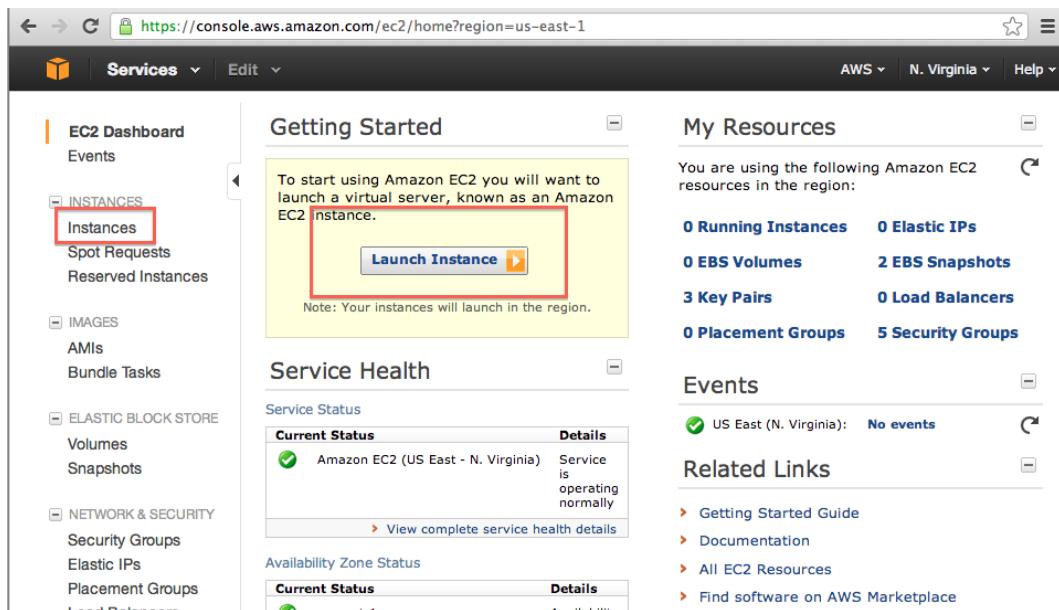
You are now going to launch and connect to an AWS cloud computer; you may find [Amazon's own instructions](#) useful as a supplement. We are going to initialize Amazon's smallest kind of cloud computer (a [t1.micro](#) instance) running [Ubuntu 12.04 LTS](#) (a popular Linux distribution) in its [us-east-1](#) region. Begin by returning to <http://aws.amazon.com> and log into the dashboard as shown.



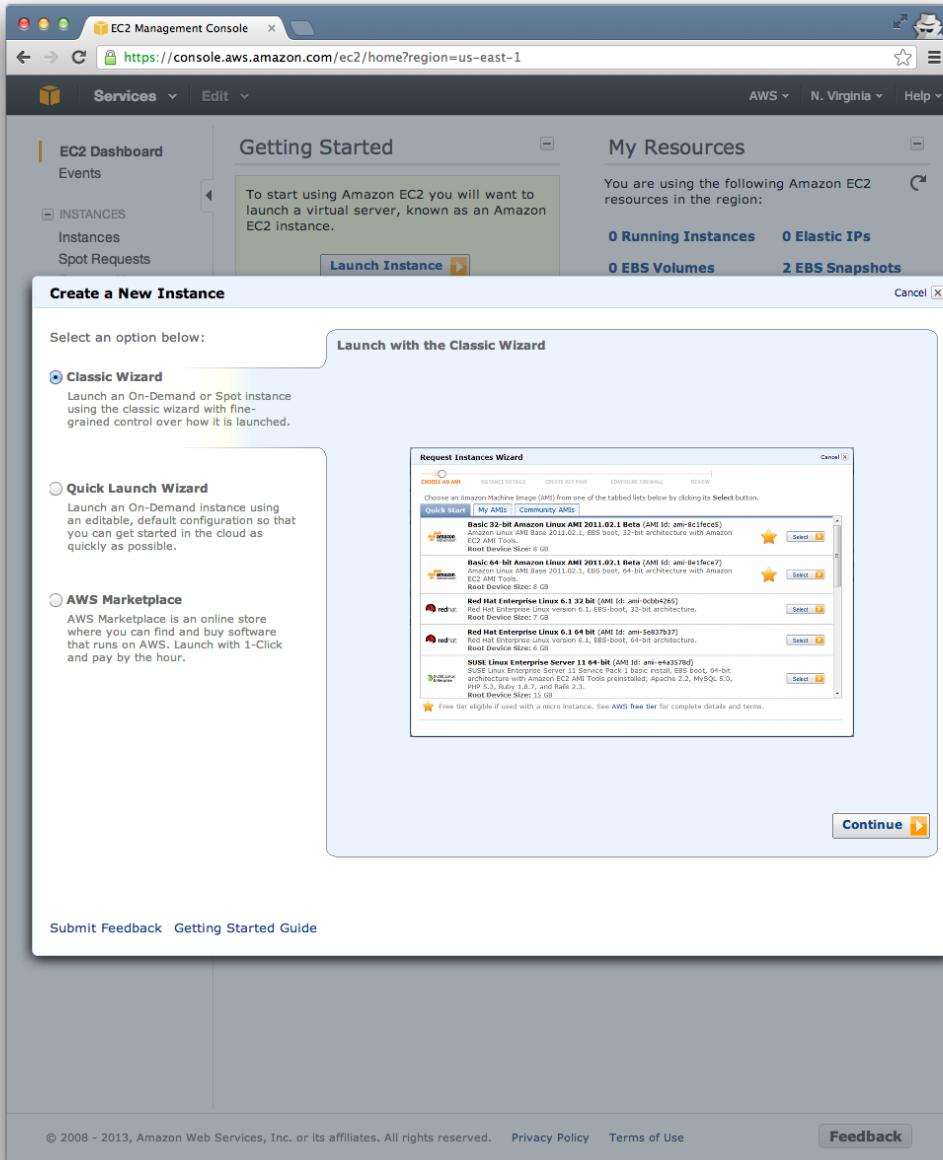
**Figure 57:** Log into your Management Console.



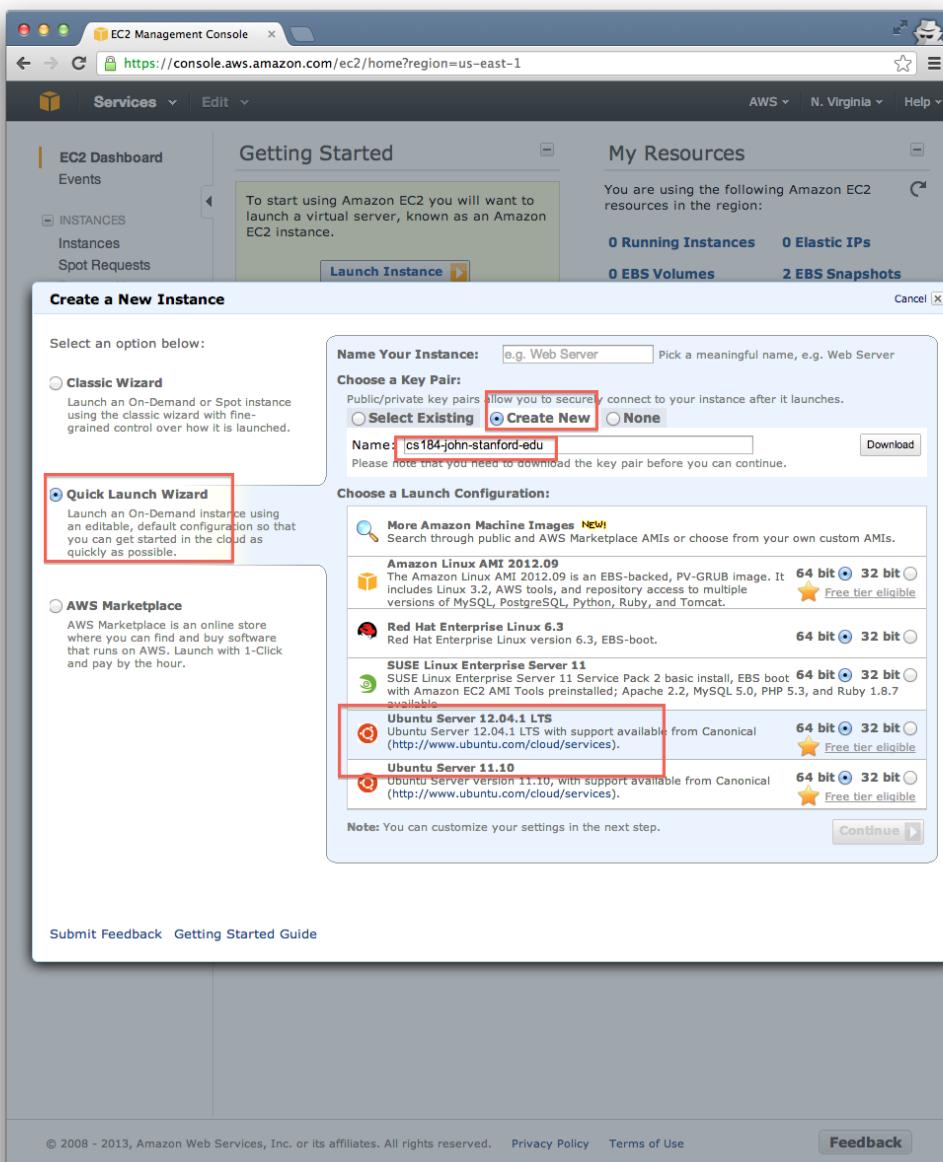
**Figure 58:** Click “EC2” on the AWS Dashboard.



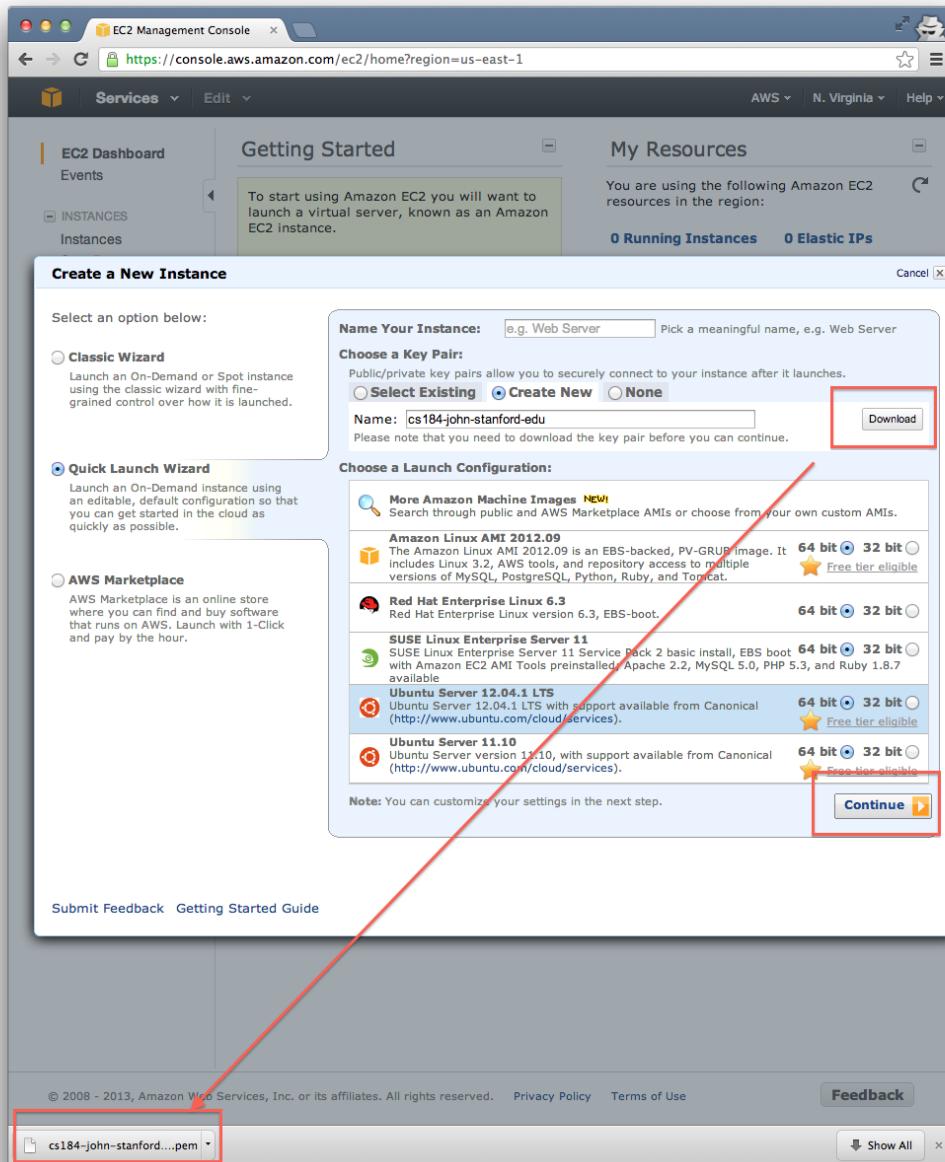
**Figure 59:** Click “Launch Instances”. Also note the “Instances” link (boxed) on the left hand side; you will need this in a bit.



**Figure 60:** You should see the Create a New Instance Wizard.



**Figure 61:** Select the *Quick Launch Wizard*, click the “*Create New*” radio button, enter “*cs184-\$EMAIL*” for your key name (e.g. *cs184-john-stanford-edu*), and select *Ubuntu Server 12.04.1 LTS* for the “*Launch Configuration*”.



**Figure 62:** Click Download and notice the .pem file which you just created. Then click Continue.

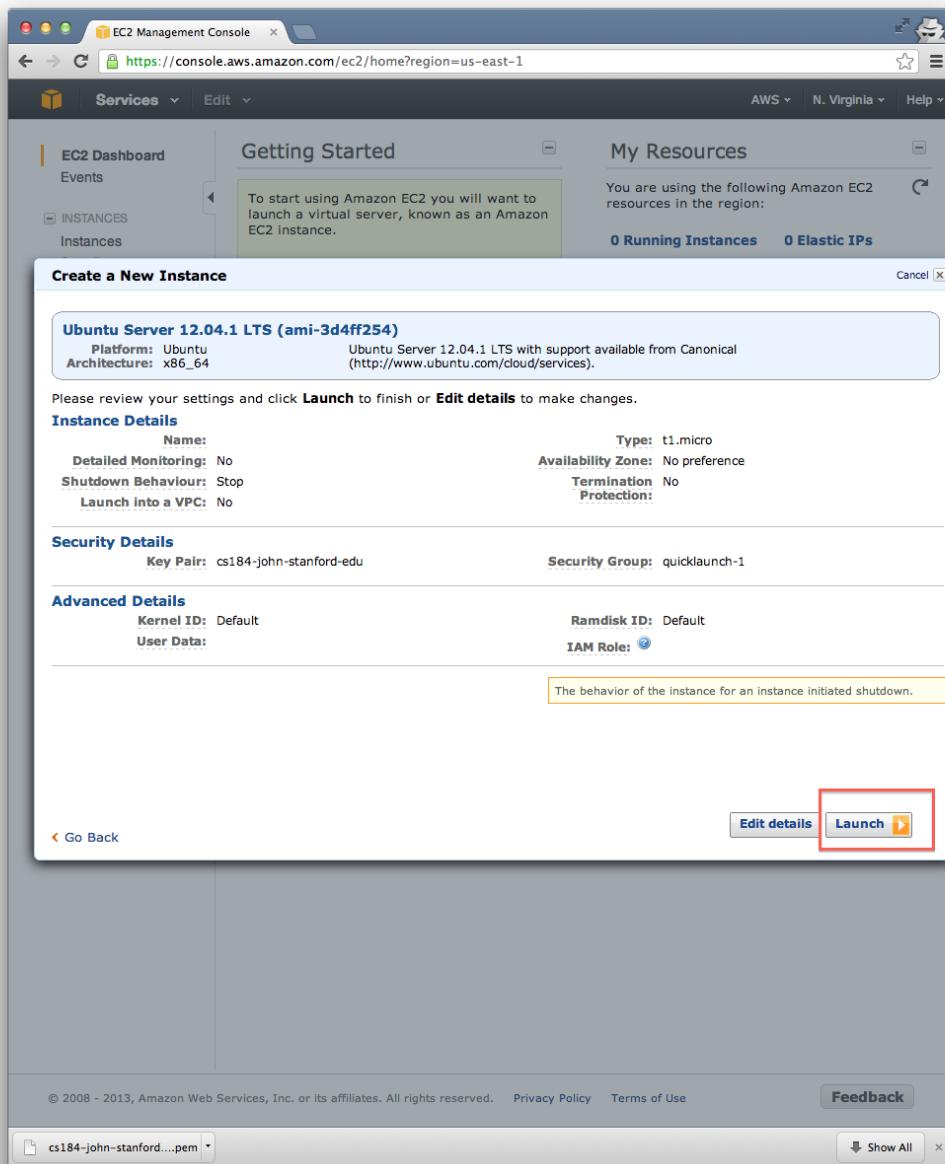
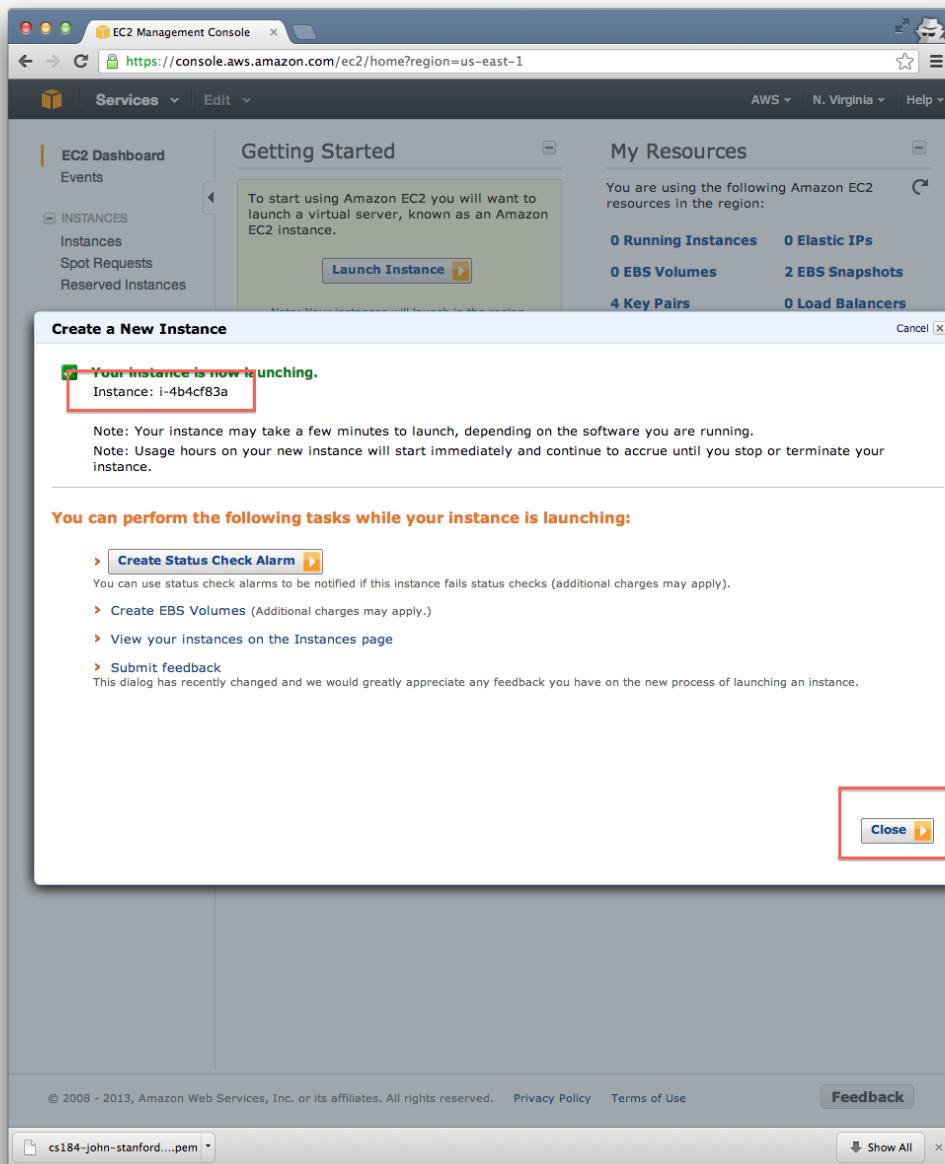


Figure 63: Launch the new instance.



**Figure 64:** Your instance (in this case `i-4b4cf83a`) is now launching. Now go to the [Instances Dashboard](#).

When done initializing, you can connect to the EC2 instance.

Name	Instance	AMI ID	Root Device	Type	Status
empty	i-7dcfd602	ami-3d4ff254	ebs	t1.micro	terminated
empty	i-4b4cf83a	ami-3d4ff254	ebs	t1.micro	running

**Figure 65:** At the [Instances Dashboard](#), your instance (shown is *i-4b4cf83a* again) should be initializing. (Ignore the older terminated instance in this screenshot).

You should now have a local `.pem` file downloaded and the instance (in the above example `i-4b4cf83a`) should be in the process of initializing. You can monitor the status at this [dashboard](#).

Now you want to connect to the instance, which in this case has hostname `ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com` (yours will be different). For didactic purposes let's take a look at Amazon's instructions; we are going to modify these instructions slightly.

You can drag this pane upwards

Name	Instance	AMI ID	Root Device	Type	State	Status Checks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> empty	i-4b4cf83a	ami-3d4ff254	ebs	t1.micro	running	<span style="color: green;">✓ 2/2 checks passed</span>

**1 EC2 Instance selected.**

**EC2 Instance: i-4b4cf83a** ●  
ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com

Description	Status Checks	Monitoring	Tags
AMI: ubuntu/images/ebs/ubuntu-precise-12.04-amd64-server-20121001 (ami-3d4ff254)			
Zone:	us-east-1d		
Type:	t1.micro		
Scheduled Events:	No scheduled events		
VPC ID:	-		
Source/Dest. Check:			
Placement Group:			
RAM Disk ID:	-		
Key Pair Name:	cs184-john-stanford-edu		
Monitoring:	basic		
Elastic IP:	-		

Alarm Status:  
none

Security Groups:  
quicklaunch-1. [view rules](#)

State:  
running

Owner:  
896552222739

Subnet ID:  
-

Virtualization:  
paravirtual

Reservation:  
r-ca7b48b2

Platform:  
-

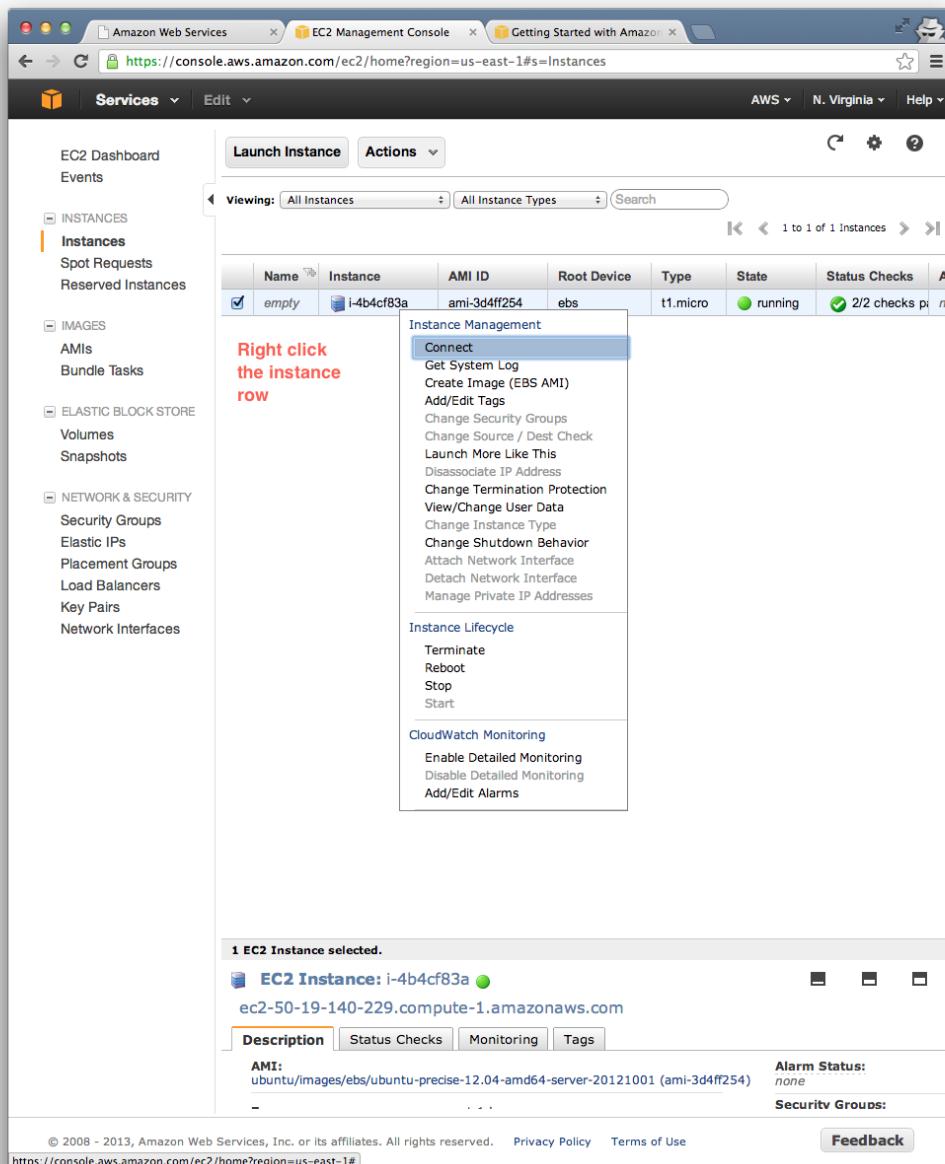
Kernel ID:  
aki-825ea7eb

AMI Launch Index:  
0

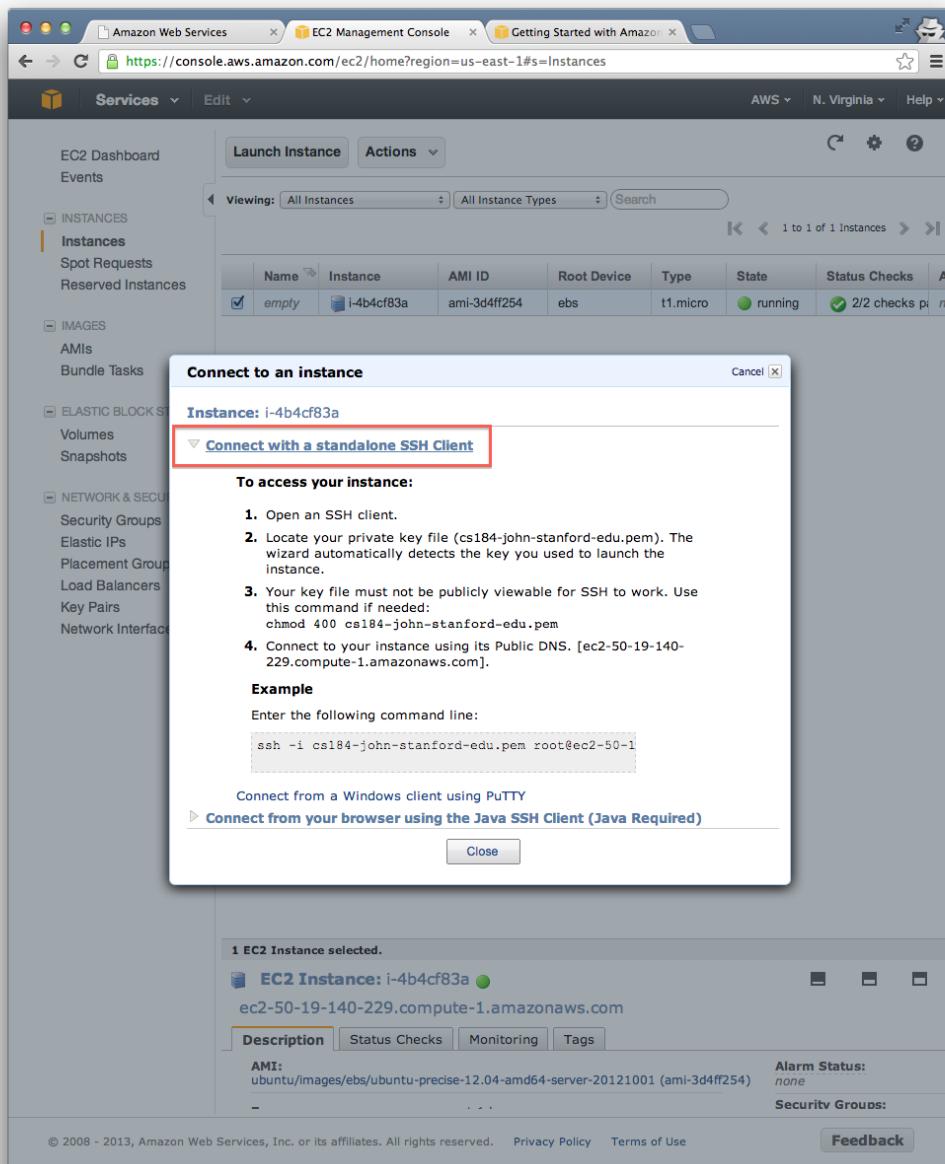
Root Device:  
sda1

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**Figure 66:** The *Instances Dashboard* will have a green check under “Status Checks” when the instance is live. Note that it is at this point that the hostname `ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com` is assigned.



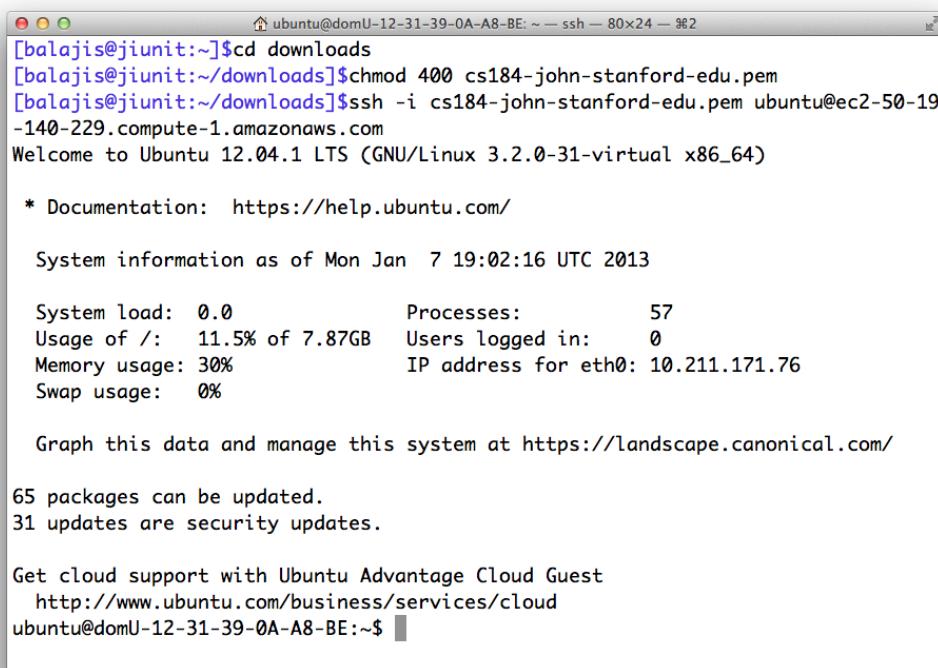
**Figure 67:** Right clicking on your instance and select ‘Connect’ from the dropdown.



**Figure 68:** Click ‘Connect with a standalone SSH client’ and read the instructions. In the next section, we are going to have to use slightly different commands.

## Mac: Connect to EC2 instance via Terminal.app

To connect to your EC2 instance via a Mac, type a modified version of the following commands into Terminal.app:



The screenshot shows a Mac OS X terminal window titled "ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE: ~ — ssh — 80x24 — 9%2". The terminal session starts with the user navigating to the "downloads" directory, changing file permissions for a PEM key, and then establishing an SSH connection to an EC2 instance. The session then displays standard Ubuntu system information, including load average, memory usage, and network configuration. It also provides links for package updates and cloud support.

```
[balajis@jiunit:~]$ cd downloads
[balajis@jiunit:~/downloads]$ chmod 400 cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem
[balajis@jiunit:~/downloads]$ ssh -i cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem ubuntu@ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com
Welcome to Ubuntu 12.04.1 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.2.0-31-virtual x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

 System information as of Mon Jan  7 19:02:16 UTC 2013

 System load:  0.0          Processes:      57
 Usage of '/': 11.5% of 7.87GB  Users logged in:   0
 Memory usage: 30%           IP address for eth0: 10.211.171.76
 Swap usage:   0%

 Graph this data and manage this system at https://landscape.canonical.com/

65 packages can be updated.
31 updates are security updates.

Get cloud support with Ubuntu Advantage Cloud Guest
http://www.ubuntu.com/business/services/cloud
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$
```

**Figure 69:** Connecting to your EC2 instance via Terminal.app on a Mac.

```

1 # Commands for Terminal.app on Mac OS X
2 $ cd ~/downloads
3 $ chmod 400 cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem
4 $ ssh -i cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem \
5   ubuntu@ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com

```

Here, we use the standard convention that lines prefixed with # are comments and with \$ are meant to be typed in literally. When a backslash \ appears at the end of a line, that is a command which extends over multiple lines. Note also that you will need to change the .pem file (cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem) and hostname (ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com) to match your own, and that we are logging in as ubuntu rather than root.

Note in particular the use of the chmod command to change the permissions of your file. In the event you are using a multiuser system (like cardinal.stanford.edu), this would keep other users from logging in as you.

### Windows: Connect to EC2 instance via Cygwin

To connect to EC2 via Cygwin on Windows, you need to handle two key idiosyncrasies. First, the Windows directory structure sits off the to the side from where Cygwin lives, so you need to address files in /cygdrive/c or /cygdrive/d to access files on the C:\ and D:\ drives, such as the .pem file you just downloaded. Second, Cygwin has a [permissions bug](#) which requires an extra command to fix. You will thus need to execute the following commands, replacing JohnSmith, cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem and ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com with your own variables.

```

1 # Commands for Cygwin on Windows
2 $ cd ~
3 $ cp /cygdrive/c/Users/JohnSmith/Downloads/cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem .
4 $ chgrp Users cs184-john-stanford-edu
5 $ chmod 400 cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem
6 $ ssh -i cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem \
7   ubuntu@ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com

```

Here is how all this looks when you launch Cygwin:

```

Balaji@kinector ~
$ pwd
/home/Balaji

Balaji@kinector ~
$ ls -alrth /cygdrive/c/Users/Balaji/Downloads/cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem
-r--r----- 1 Balaji None 1.7K Jan  6 13:11 /cygdrive/c/Users/Balaji/Downloads/cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem

Balaji@kinector ~
$ cp /cygdrive/c/Users/Balaji/Downloads/cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem .

Balaji@kinector ~
$ chgrp Users cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem

Balaji@kinector ~
$ chmod 0400 cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem

Balaji@kinector ~
$ ls -alrth cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem
-r----- 1 Balaji Users 1.7K Jan  6 13:32 cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem

Balaji@kinector ~
$ ssh -i cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem ubuntu@ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com
Welcome to Ubuntu 12.04.1 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.2.0-31-virtual x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/
System information as of Sun Jan  6 21:29:18 UTC 2013

System load:  0.0      Processes:           58
Usage of /:   9.6% of 7.87GB   Users logged in:        0
Memory usage: 7%
Swap usage:  0%
Graph this data and manage this system at https://landscape.canonical.com/
0 packages can be updated.
0 updates are security updates.

Get cloud support with Ubuntu Advantage Cloud Guest
http://www.ubuntu.com/business/services/cloud
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo_root" for details.

ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ hostname
domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$
```

**Figure 70:** Connecting to your EC2 instance via Cygwin for Windows.

```

Balaji@kinector ~
$ chgrp None cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem

Balaji@kinector ~
$ ssh -i cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem ubuntu@ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com
@@@@@@@@@@@WARNING: UNPROTECTED PRIVATE KEY FILE! @@@@
Permissions 0440 for 'cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem' are too open.
It is required that your private key files are NOT accessible by others.
This private key will be ignored.
bad permissions: ignore key: cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem
Permission denied (publickey).

Balaji@kinector ~
$ ls -alrth cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem
-r--r----- 1 Balaji None 1.7K Jan  6 13:32 cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem

Balaji@kinector ~
$ |
```

**Figure 71:** A public key error caused by incorrect permissions on the .pem file. Make sure you executed chmod and chgrp.

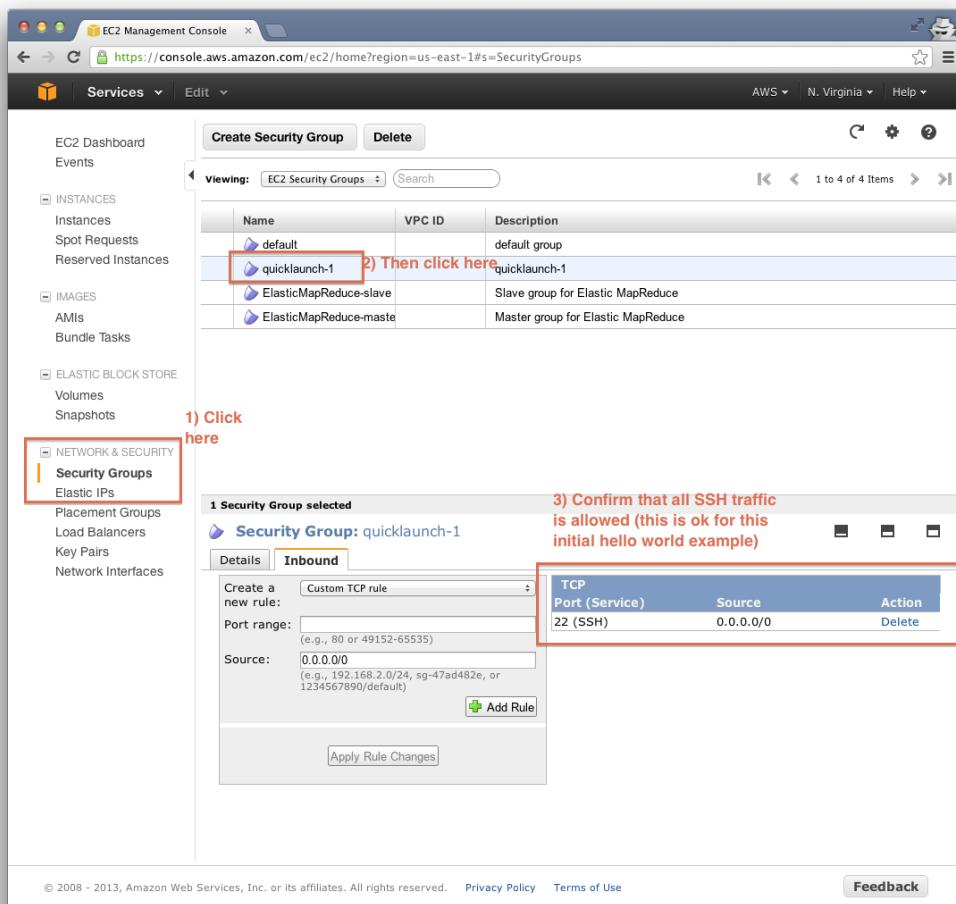
Unix permissions are a [deep topic](#), so you can just think of the above as an incantation for now that makes the files private to you. Note that if your permissions are incorrect (i.e. if you have not executed the `chmod 0400` and `chgrp Users` commands) you will get an error about public keys as shown above.

## Security Groups

If you have problems with the above commands, you might need to change your security groups to permit traffic on the SSH port.

The screenshot shows the AWS EC2 Management Console. In the left sidebar, under 'INSTANCES', the 'Instances' link is highlighted. The main pane displays a table of instances, with one row selected: 'empty' (Instance ID: i-4b4cf83a, AMI ID: ami-3d4ff254, Root Device: ebs, Type: t1.micro, State: running). Below the table, a message says '1 EC2 Instance selected.' and shows the instance ID 'i-4b4cf83a'. A red arrow points from the 'Instances' link in the sidebar to this message. Another red arrow points to the 'Security Groups' section in the detailed instance view, which is highlighted with a red box. The detailed view includes fields for AMI, Zone, Type, Scheduled Events, VPC ID, Source/Dest. Check, Placement Group, RAM Disk ID, Key Pair Name, Monitoring, Elastic IP, and Root Device Type. The 'Security Groups' field contains 'quicklaunch-1. view rules'. Other fields include Alarm Status (none), State (running), Owner (896552222739), Subnet ID, Virtualization (paravirtual), Reservation (r-ca7b48b2), Platform, Kernel ID (aki-825ea7eb), AMI Launch Index (0), Root Device (sda1), and Tenancy (default).

**Figure 72:** Select your instance and look at the pane on the lower right to see which security group you're running.



**Figure 73:** If necessary, click “Security Groups” in the lower left and add port 22 with allowed IPs 0.0.0.0/0 (i.e. any IP), just as shown. You wouldn’t do this in production, but it’s fine for now.

## Confirmation

From this point forward, for the duration of the class unless otherwise specified, we assume that all commands are executed on your remote AWS cloud instance. The idea here is to even out the dissimilarities between different computer setups and get an even (and reproducible) playing field for all students.

Going forward, note that conventionally the @ symbol is used to indicate where a command is being executed, to distinguish between remote vs. local machines. If you ever get confused, you can issue the command `hostname` to learn which machine you're on, as shown:

```
[balajis@jiunit:~/Downloads]$ ssh -i cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem ubuntu@ec2-50-19-140-2
29.compute-1.amazonaws.com
Welcome to Ubuntu 12.04.1 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.2.0-31-virtual x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

 System information as of Sun Jan  6 21:51:19 UTC 2013

 System load:  0.0          Processes:      57
 Usage of /:   9.6% of 7.87GB  Users logged in:  0
 Memory usage: 7%           IP address for eth0: 10.211.171.76
 Swap usage:   0%

 Graph this data and manage this system at https://landscape.canonical.com/

0 packages can be updated.
0 updates are security updates.

Get cloud support with Ubuntu Advantage Cloud Guest
  http://www.ubuntu.com/business/services/cloud
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo_root" for details.

ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ hostname
domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ echo "I am connected to a cloud instance."
I am connected to a cloud instance.
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ logout
Connection to ec2-50-19-140-229.compute-1.amazonaws.com closed.
[balajis@jiunit:~/Downloads]$hostname
jiunit
[balajis@jiunit:~/Downloads]$echo "I am now executing commands locally."
I am now executing commands locally.
[balajis@jiunit:~/Downloads]$
```

Figure 74

OK. You know that cloud thing everyone is talking about? You just did it. You rented a computer in the cloud and executed a few commands. On to the next step.

## Deploy your code

### Test out your Heroku account

We're now going to execute a series of commands that will deploy your first node.js app to heroku.

- First, you will SSH into your EC2 instance.
- Next, you'll install git and the heroku toolbelt.
- Next, login to heroku at the command line and set up SSH keys.
- Then, pull down a sample app, configure it as a heroku app, and push it live.
- Finally, view the app's URL in your browser.

That was in English. Here are the command lines to accomplish this:

```
1 # Execute these commands on your EC2 instance.
2 # Note that -q0- is not -q0-. 0 is the letter, 0 is the number.
3
4 # 1) Install heroku and git
5 $ sudo apt-get install -y git-core
6 $ wget -q0- https://toolbelt.heroku.com/install-ubuntu.sh | sh
7 $ which git
8 $ which heroku
9 # 2) Login and set up your SSH keys
10 $ heroku login
11 $ ssh-keygen -t rsa
12 $ heroku keys:add
13 # 3) Clone a sample repo and push to heroku
14 $ git clone https://github.com/heroku/node-js-sample.git
15 $ cd node-js-sample
16 $ heroku create
17 $ git push heroku master
```

Now let's go through the screenshots of how it looks when executing those commands. Again, begin by connecting to your EC2 instance.

The screenshot shows a terminal window on an Ubuntu 12.04.1 LTS system. The user has SSHed into their EC2 instance using a private key. The terminal output includes system information, package updates, and the execution of an apt-get command to install the 'git-core' package. A red box highlights the command 'sudo apt-get install git-core'. Another red box highlights the question '[Y/n]? Y' at the end of the command, with the text '3) Say yes' next to it. Red annotations provide context: '1) SSH into your EC2 machine' points to the initial SSH command, and '2) Use the apt-get package manager to Install git-core' points to the apt-get command.

```

[balajis@junit:~]$ls
[balajis@junit:~/downloads]$ssh -i cs184-john-stanford-edu.pem ubuntu@ec2-50-19-140-29.compute-1.amazonaws.com
Welcome to Ubuntu 12.04.1 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.2.0-31-virtual x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/
 
 System information as of Mon Jan  7 00:24:25 UTC 2013

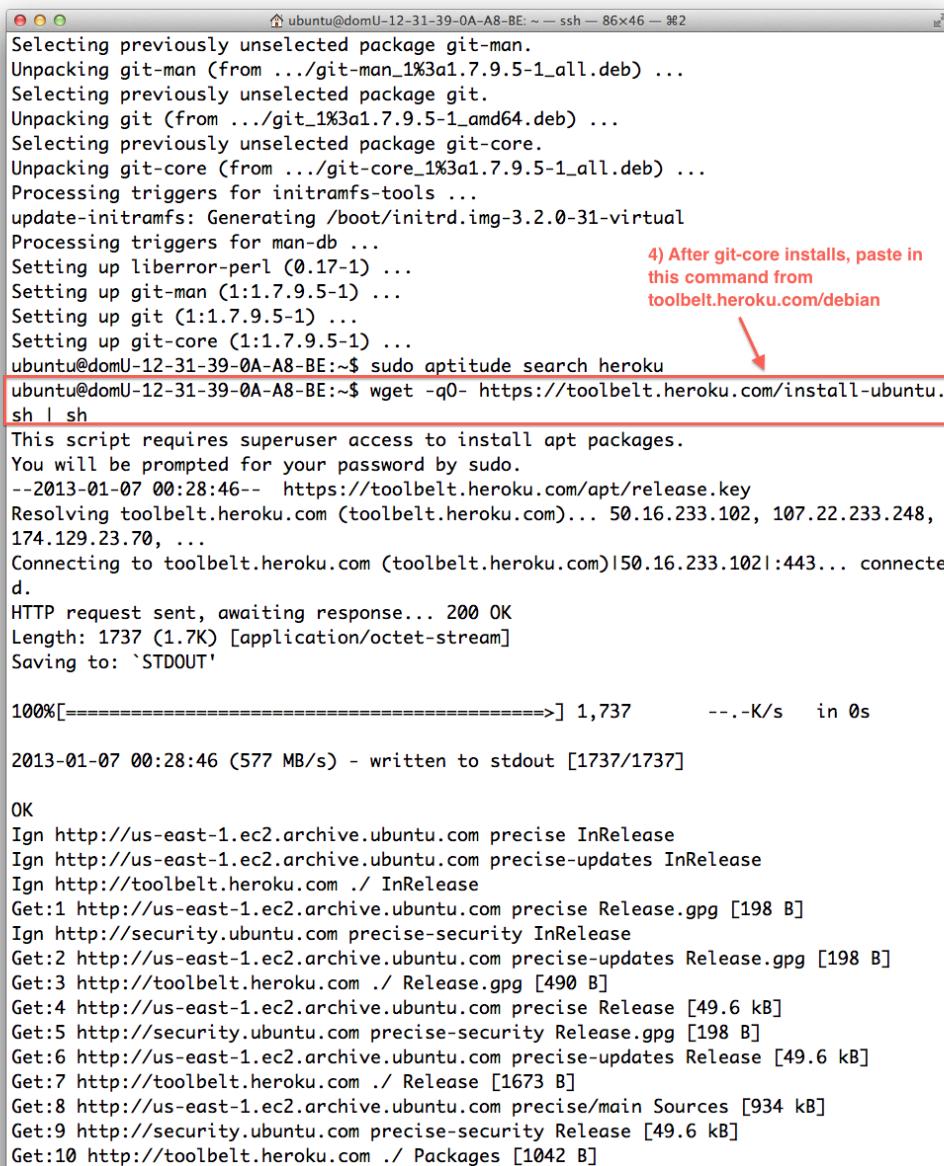
 System load:  0.0          Processes:      58
 Usage of /:   9.6% of 7.87GB  Users logged in:    0
 Memory usage: 7%           IP address for eth0: 10.211.171.76
 Swap usage:   0%
 
 Graph this data and manage this system at https://landscape.canonical.com/
 
 0 packages can be updated.
 0 updates are security updates.

 Get cloud support with Ubuntu Advantage Cloud Guest
 http://www.ubuntu.com/business/services/cloud
 To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
 See "man sudo_root" for details.

ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ which git
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ sudo aptitude search git-core
p  git-core                               - fast, scalable, distributed revision control
v  git-core:i386                            -
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ sudo apt-get install git-core
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following extra packages will be installed:
  git git-man liberror-perl
Suggested packages:
  git-daemon-run git-daemon-sysvinit git-doc git-el git-arch git-cvs git-svn
  git-email git-gui gitk gitweb
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  git git-core git-man liberror-perl
0 upgraded, 4 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
Need to get 6742 kB of archives.
After this operation, 15.3 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue [Y/n]? Y  3) Say yes

```

**Figure 75:** SSH into your EC2 instance and install `git-core` as shown. If you do `sudo apt-get install -y git-core` you won't have to type the `Y`.



The screenshot shows a terminal window on an Ubuntu system. The terminal output is as follows:

```

ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE: ~ ssh 86x46 9%2
Selecting previously unselected package git-man.
Unpacking git-man (from .../git-man_1%3a1.7.9.5-1_all.deb) ...
Selecting previously unselected package git.
Unpacking git (from .../git_1%3a1.7.9.5-1_amd64.deb) ...
Selecting previously unselected package git-core.
Unpacking git-core (from .../git-core_1%3a1.7.9.5-1_all.deb) ...
Processing triggers for initramfs-tools ...
update-initramfs: Generating /boot/initrd.img-3.2.0-31-virtual
Processing triggers for man-db ...
Setting up liberror-perl (0.17-1) ...
Setting up git-man (1:1.7.9.5-1) ...
Setting up git (1:1.7.9.5-1) ...
Setting up git-core (1:1.7.9.5-1) ...
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ sudo aptitude search heroku
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ wget -qO- https://toolbelt.heroku.com/install-ubuntu.sh | sh
This script requires superuser access to install apt packages.
You will be prompted for your password by sudo.
--2013-01-07 00:28:46-- https://toolbelt.heroku.com/apt/release.key
Resolving toolbelt.heroku.com (toolbelt.heroku.com)... 50.16.233.102, 107.22.233.248,
174.129.23.70, ...
Connecting to toolbelt.heroku.com (toolbelt.heroku.com)|50.16.233.102|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 1737 (1.7K) [application/octet-stream]
Saving to: `STDOUT'

100%[=====] 1,737      --.-K/s   in 0s

2013-01-07 00:28:46 (577 MB/s) - written to stdout [1737/1737]

OK
Ign http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com precise InRelease
Ign http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com precise-updates InRelease
Ign http://toolbelt.heroku.com ./ InRelease
Get:1 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com precise Release.gpg [198 B]
Ign http://security.ubuntu.com precise-security InRelease
Get:2 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com precise-updates Release.gpg [198 B]
Get:3 http://toolbelt.heroku.com ./ Release.gpg [490 B]
Get:4 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com precise Release [49.6 kB]
Get:5 http://security.ubuntu.com precise-security Release.gpg [198 B]
Get:6 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com precise-updates Release [49.6 kB]
Get:7 http://toolbelt.heroku.com ./ Release [1673 B]
Get:8 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com precise/main Sources [934 kB]
Get:9 http://security.ubuntu.com precise-security Release [49.6 kB]
Get:10 http://toolbelt.heroku.com ./ Packages [1042 B]

```

A red box highlights the command `sh | sh`. A red arrow points from the text "4) After git-core installs, paste in this command from [toolbelt.heroku.com/debian](https://toolbelt.heroku.com/debian)" to the highlighted command.

**Figure 76:** Once the installation of `git-core` completes, paste in the command from [toolbelt.heroku.com/debian](https://toolbelt.heroku.com/debian) to install the `heroku` command line tools.

```

ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ which git
/usr/bin/git
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ which heroku
/usr/bin/heroku
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ which foreman
/usr/bin/foreman
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ git --version
git version 1.7.9.5

```

5) You can confirm that *git* and *heroku* were installed properly by running the "which" command. It should produce the paths as shown.

**Figure 77:** Now confirm that *git* and *heroku* are installed and on your path. If they were not, then *which* would not print anything. If they are both installed, *which* will print the location of the programs, as shown they are both in */usr/bin*.

```

ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~/node-js-sample$ heroku login
Enter your Heroku credentials.
Email: balajis@stanford.edu
Password (typing will be hidden):
Authentication successful.

```

6) Log in at the command line with the same user/pass as heroku.com

**Figure 78:** Log in to heroku from the command line, using the same user/pass you set up at heroku.com.

```

ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ ssh-keygen -t rsa
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/ubuntu/.ssh/id_rsa):
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/ubuntu/.ssh/id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in /home/ubuntu/.ssh/id_rsa.pub.
The key fingerprint is:
5f:7b:87:19:0c:c8:23:aa:06:97:77:12:52:27:81:12 ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE
The key's randomart image is:
+--[ RSA 2048]--+
| E. .+.. |
| . . . o . . |
| . . . + . . |
| o o . . o |
| . o + S . o |
| o o o . . . + |
| o . . . + . |
| . . . . . |
+-----+
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$

```

7) Next we set up your SSH keys for talking to Heroku. Just type in this command and hit enter twice ("empty for no passphrase")

**Figure 79:** Here we are setting up your SSH keys for connecting to Heroku. Just hit enter twice when prompted for the passphrase.

```

ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ ssh-keygen -t rsa
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/ubuntu/.ssh/id_rsa):
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/ubuntu/.ssh/id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in /home/ubuntu/.ssh/id_rsa.pub.
The key fingerprint is:
5f:7b:87:19:0c:c8:23:aa:06:97:77:12:52:27:81:12 ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE
The key's randomart image is:
+--[ RSA 2048]----+
| E. .+.. |
| . . o . . |
| . . . + . |
| o o . . o |
| . o + S . o |
| o o o . . + |
| o . . . + . |
| . . . . . |
+-----+
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ heroku keys:add
Found existing public key: /home/ubuntu/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
Uploading SSH public key /home/ubuntu/.ssh/id_rsa.pub... done

```

8) After you've done the ssh-keygen step, now tell heroku about the new keys by typing in this command.

**Figure 80:** Now add the SSH keys you just generated to heroku (specifically you are sending the public key to heroku).

```

ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ git clone https://github.com/heroku/node-js-sample.git
Cloning into 'node-js-sample'...
remote: Counting objects: 277, done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (240/240), done.
remote: Total 277 (delta 9), reused 276 (delta 9)
Receiving objects: 100% (277/277), 191.16 KiB, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (9/9), done.
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ cd node-js-sample/
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~/node-js-sample$ heroku create
Enter your Heroku credentials.
Email: balajis@stanford.edu
Password (typing will be hidden):
Creating guarded-lake-3837... done, stack is cedar
http://guarded-lake-3837.herokuapp.com/ | git@heroku.com:guarded-lake-3837.git
Git remote heroku added
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~/node-js-sample$ 

```

8) Execute this command to pull down the sample nodejs app. Note the trailing t on the next line.

9) After the cloning completes, cd into the node-js-sample directory.

10) Enter this command to set up a heroku app with a random name (e.g. guarded-lake-3837 in this example) using the code in this git repository.

**Figure 81:** Type in the commands shown to pull down the sample nodejs codebase and create a corresponding heroku app for that codebase.

```

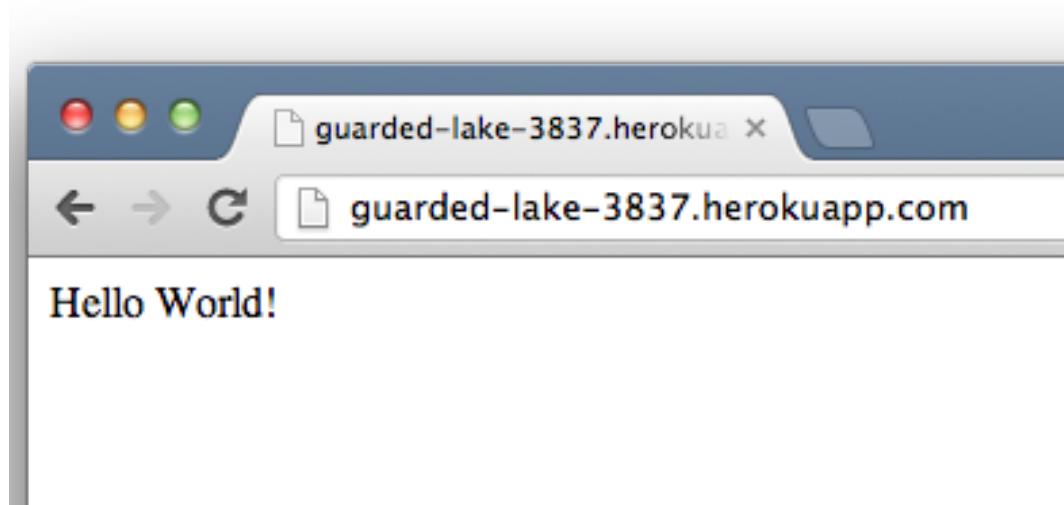
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~$ cd node-js-sample/
ubuntu@domU-12-31-39-0A-A8-BE:~/node-js-sample$ git push heroku master
Counting objects: 277, done.
Compressing objects: 100% (240/240), done.
Writing objects: 100% (277/277), 191.16 KiB, done.
Total 277 (delta 9), reused 277 (delta 9)
----> Node.js app detected
----> Resolving engine versions
      Using Node.js version: 0.8.14
      Using npm version: 1.1.65
----> Fetching Node.js binaries
----> Vendorizing node into slug
----> Installing dependencies with npm
      npm WARN package.json node-example@0.0.1 No README.md file found!
      npm WARN package.json node-example@0.0.1 No README.md file found!
      npm WARN package.json connect@1.9.2 No README.md file found!
      express@2.5.11 /tmp/build_2znwj0puqx52w/node_modules/express
      connect@1.9.2 /tmp/build_2znwj0puqx52w/node_modules/express/node_modules/connect@1.9.2
      qs@0.4.2 /tmp/build_2znwj0puqx52w/node_modules/express/node_modules/qs
      mime@1.2.4 /tmp/build_2znwj0puqx52w/node_modules/express/node_modules/mime
      formidable@1.0.11 /tmp/build_2znwj0puqx52w/node_modules/express/node_modules/connect/node_modules/formidable
      mkdirp@0.3.0 /tmp/build_2znwj0puqx52w/node_modules/express/node_modules/mkdirp
      Dependencies installed
----> Building runtime environment
----> Discovering process types
      Procfile declares types -> web
----> Compiled slug size: 3.8MB
----> Launching... done, v4
      http://guarded-lake-3837.herokuapp.com deployed to Heroku

```

11) Finally, enter this command, also within the node-js-sample directory, to push the code to the app you just created.

12) Awesome. We now have a URL up and live. You will see a different app name - go and enter this into your browser now.

**Figure 82:** Last step: type in `git push heroku master` and then confirm that a URL is printed at the end (something like `http://guarded-lake-3837.herokuapp.com`, but yours will be different.)



**Figure 83:** Your first heroku nodejs app is now online! Your URL will be similar to <http://guarded-lake-3837.herokuapp.com>, but you will have your own custom version.

Congratulations! You just launched a cloud computer via AWS' EC2, cloned code from Github, and deployed a very simple website on Heroku. The last thing you want to do is stop your EC2 instance so that it doesn't keep running. Stopping an instance is different from terminating; while terminating completely kills and frees up all resources, stopping an EBS-backed instances pauses billing for the computing portion but still charges for the storage. We'll get into this later, but read [here](#) and [here](#) for more.

The screenshot shows the AWS EC2 Instances Dashboard. On the left, there's a sidebar with links for EC2 Dashboard, Events, Instances (which is selected), Spot Requests, Reserved Instances, Images, AMIs, Bundle Tasks, Elastic Block Store, Volumes, Snapshots, and Network & Security. The main area has tabs for Launch Instance and Actions (with a dropdown for Viewing: All Instances, All Instance Types, and Search). A table lists one instance named 'empty'. A context menu is open over this instance, titled 'Instance Management'. It contains the following options: Connect, Get System Log, Create Image (EBS AMI), Add/Edit Tags, Change Security Groups, Change Source / Dest Check, Launch More Like This, Disassociate IP Address, Change Termination Protection, View/Change User Data, Change Instance Type, Change Shutdown Behavior, Attach Network Interface, Detach Network Interface, and Manage Private IP Addresses. Below this is a section titled 'Instance Lifecycle' with options: Terminate, Reboot, Stop (which is highlighted with a blue box), and Start. At the bottom is a section titled 'CloudWatch Monitoring' with options: Enable Detailed Monitoring, Disable Detailed Monitoring, and Add/Edit Alarms.

**Figure 84:** After you've gotten your Heroku app live, go to the [Instances Dashboard](#), right-click your instance, and select Stop (not Terminate or Reboot).



**Figure 85:** Click yes. Stopping the instance

### Post-mortem

In the interests of speed, we did a number of things in this interactive start that we would not normally do. For example, we worked with .pem files in the directory where they landed, rather than moving them into `~/.ssh`. And in practice you would want to put code through three stages: a dev, staging, and production branch before pushing to the web. You probably also want to read the Heroku documentation on [node.js](#) and [SSH keys](#) to understand some of the steps at the end. We'll cover things like this in more detail over the course of the quarter.

## Terminology

Whew! We flew through quite a bit there. Here are a few terms which we introduced that you should become familiar with:

- git: A tool for storing and manipulating the history of a program edited by many different users. Also known as a distributed version control system (DCVS).
- Github: A social network for programmers built around git.
- AWS: Amazon Web Services, a set of cloud services for programmers.
- Heroku: A layer on top of AWS that greatly simplifies the process of developing and deploying a web application.
- Gravatar: A simple site which provides a globally recognizable image that you can use in various social contexts, like git commits. Popular among programmers.
- EC2: Elastic Compute Cloud, a fleet of servers that you can rent at any time.
- Virtual machine: In practice, you are usually not renting a single physical computer, but rather a virtualized piece of a multiprocessor computer. Breakthroughs in operating systems research have allowed us to take a single computer with (say) eight processors and make it seem like eight independent computers, capable of being completely wiped and rebooted without affecting the others.

A good analogy for virtualization is sort of like taking a house with eight rooms and converting it into eight independent apartments, each of which has its own key and climate control, and can be restored to default settings without affecting the others.

While these “virtual computers” have reasonable performance, they are less than that of the native hardware. In practice, virtualization is not magic; extremely high workloads on one of the other “tenants” in the VM system can affect your room, in the same way that a very loud next door neighbor can overwhelm the soundproofing. Still, most of the time you don’t need an eight room home or an eight processor computer; you need just one room for the night.

- AMI: Amazon Machine Image, an operating system + default software package which you can use to initialize any instance.
- Availability Zone: the physical location of the instance.
- EC2 instance: a particular instance, e.g. i-2938408.
- IP address: a dotted address representing a machine on the internet, e.g. 171.65.1.2.
- Hostname: The name of a server, e.g. ec2-1234.amazon.com.
- DNS: The system which maps a hostname like ec2-1234.amazon.com to an IP address like 171.65.1.2.
- SSH: Secure Shell, a means of connecting to a remote computer and execute commands.

- Public Key: When you hand out your public key, it is like handing out a set of special envelopes. Any who has your public key can put their message in one of these envelopes, seal it, and send it to you. But only you can open that message with your private key. Both of the “keys” in this case are essentially long hexadecimal numbers. Github asks for your public key to confirm your identity in future interactions; essentially for all future communications they send you a message that only you can open (with your private key). By decrypting this message and sending it back to them, they know that you must have the private key and so they authorize the operation.
- RSA: A kind of [encryption algorithm](#) that generates both public and private keys. Always run this locally on your machine; anyone who knows your private key can decrypt messages encrypted with the corresponding public key and thereby pose as you.