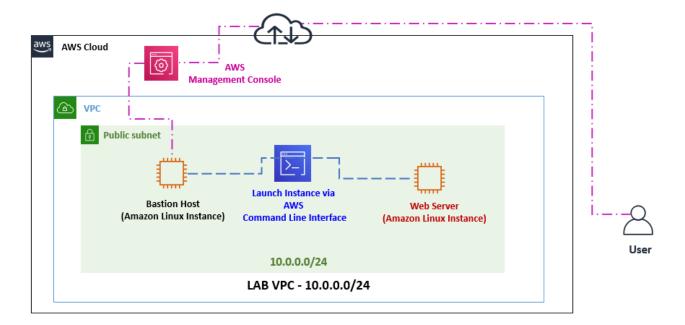
Creating Amazon EC2 Instances (Linux) (LAB-01)

Traditional methods of deploying servers and configuring security are complex and often involve multiple teams and long delays. Fortunately, it is quick and easy to deploy secure infrastructure in the cloud. As a Systems Operator, you can automate many of these processes using the AWS Command-Line Interface.

In this lab you will:

- Launch an Amazon EC2 instance using the management console.
- Launch an Amazon EC2 instance using the AWS Command-Line Interface (AWS CLI).



Task 1: Create VPC

Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (Amazon VPC) lets you provision a logically isolated section of the AWS Cloud where you can launch AWS resources in a virtual network that you define.

Note: We will discuss in details about **VPC** in upcoming module.

Step 1: Choose a Region Using the Console

1. Choose the **US East (N. Virginia)** region list to the right of your account information on the navigation bar.

Step 2: Deploy a VPC

AWS CloudFormation model and provision AWS resources in your cloud environment in automated way.



• In this task, CloudFormation provision Virtual Network, where you will deploy the resources.

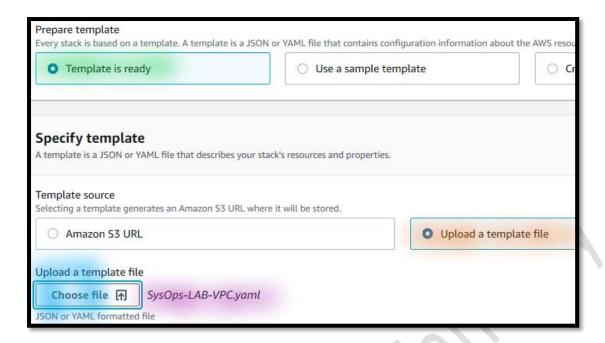
Note: We will discuss in details about **Cloud Formation** in upcoming module.

2. In the **AWS Management Console**, on the **Services** menu Search and Select CloudFormation.



- 3. Click Create stack and configure:
 - a. Prepare template: Select Template is ready.
 - b. **Template source**: Select **Upload a template file**.
 - c. **Choose file**: Click on **choose file** then select the **AWS-LAB-01-VPC**.yaml file.

Note: AWS-LAB-01-VPC.yaml template is provided with the lab manual.



- d. Click Next.
- 4. In the **Specify stack details** page:
 - a. Stack name: Write AWSLABVPC01.
 - b. Environment name: Write LAB VPC-01.

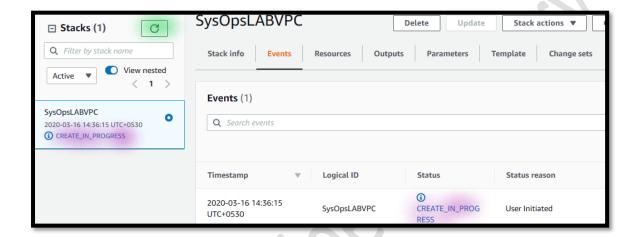
Note: Leave other details as default.



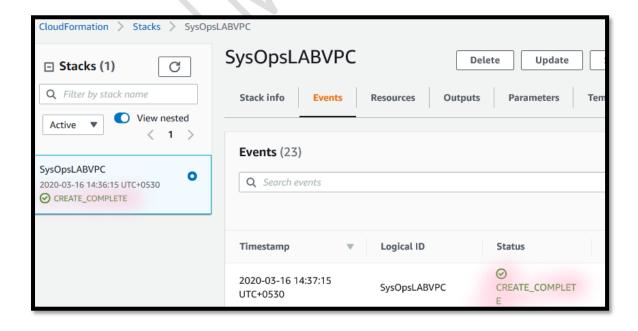
c. Click Next.

Note: Leave other details as default.

- d. Click Next.
- 5. In the **Review** page:
 - a. Click Create stack.
 - b. The stack status is showing as **CREATE_IN_PROGRESS**.

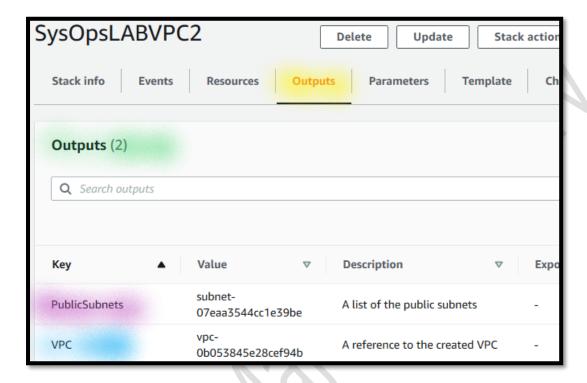


Note: Click on **Refresh** until status is turned into **CREATE_COMPLETE**.



c. Click the Outputs tab.

- d. A *CloudFormation stack* can provide **output information**, such as resources details. *You will see two outputs*:
 - i. PublicSubnets: The Id of the Public Subnet that was created.
 - ii. **VPC**: The Id of the VPC that was created.



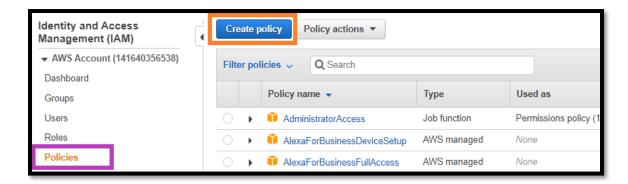
Task 2: Create IAM Role

You can use roles to delegate access to users, applications, or services that don't normally have access to your AWS resources.

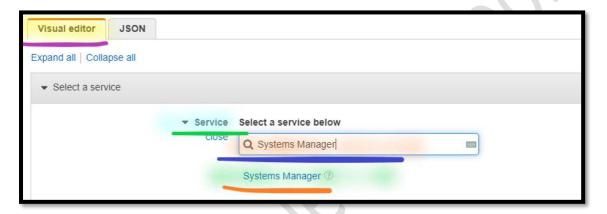
Note: We will discuss in details about IAM in upcoming module.

Step 1: Create IAM Policy for Amazon EC2 Server

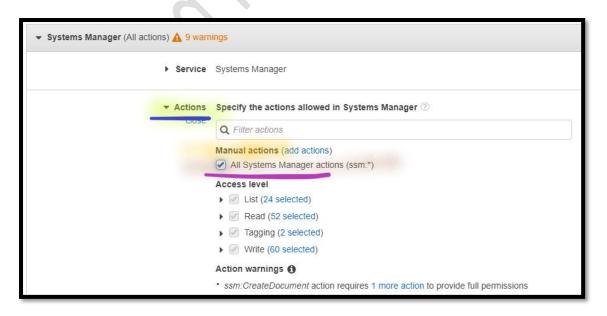
- 6. In the **AWS Management Console**, on the **Services** menu Search and Select **IAM**.
- 7. Select Policies.
- 8. Click on Create policy.



- a. Select the Visual editor, expand the Services.
 - i. Search and Select Systems Manager.

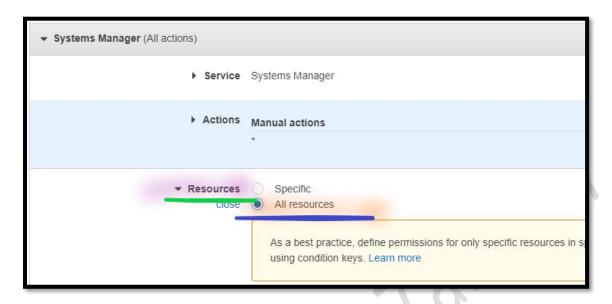


- b. **Expand** the **Actions**.
 - i. Select All Systems Manager actions under Manual actions.

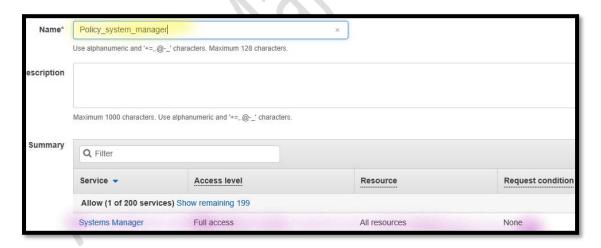


c. **Expand** the **Resources**.

i. Select All Resources.



- ii. Select Next: Tags.
- iii. Select Next: Review.
- d. In the **Review Policy** page:
 - i. Name: Write Policy_system_manager.

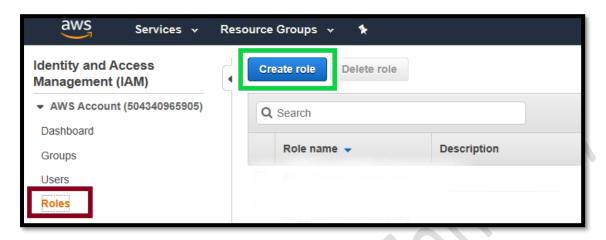


iv. Click on Create Policy.

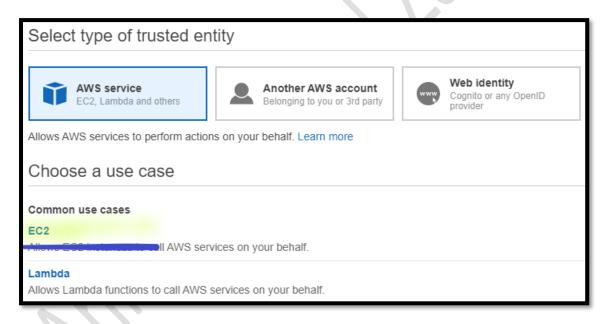
Note: You will get the message **Policy_system_manager** has been created.

Step 2: Create IAM Role for Amazon EC2 Server

- 9. Go to the left side, Select Roles.
- 10.Click on Create role.



i. Select EC2 under AWS service



- ii. Select Next: Permissions.
- iii. Write Policy_system_manager under Search.
 - Select Policy_system_manager.



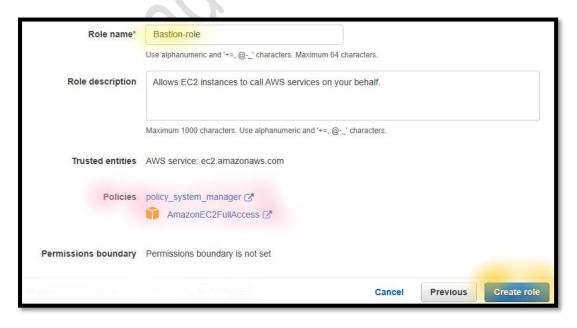
iv. In the **same window**, Search and Select AmazonEC2FullAccess.



- v. Select Next: Tags.
- vi. Select Next: Review.

Note: Here you will see **two policies**, you have selected in previous step.

vii. Role name: Write Bastion-role.



viii. Click on Create role.

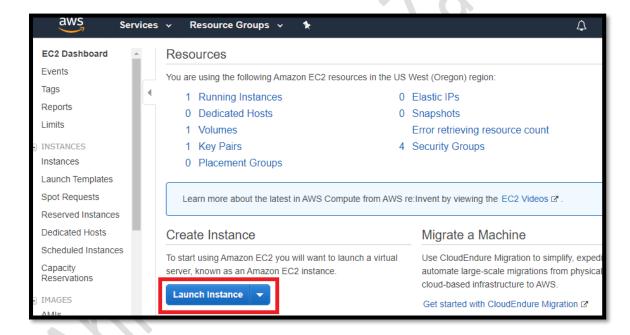
Note: You get the message "The role Bastion-role has been created".

Task 3: Launch an Amazon EC2 Instance using the Management Console

In this task, you will launch an Amazon EC2 instance using the management console. The instance will be a Bastion Server, from which you can use the AWS Command-Line Interface (AWS CLI).

Step 1: Launch Amazon Instance

- 11.In the AWS Management Console, on the Services menu, click EC2.
- 12. Click Launch Instance and Click Launch Instance.



Step 2: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)

This step allows you to choose an AMI, which contains a copy of the disk volume that will be used to launch the instance.

Your Bastion Server will use Amazon Linux 2.

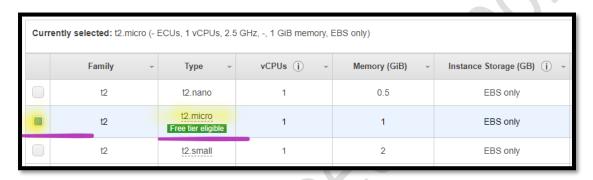
13. Beside the Amazon Linux 2 AMI (at the top), click Select.



Step 3: Choose an Instance Type

Your application will use a **t2.micro**, Instance Type, which is a small instance that can burst above baseline performance when it is busy. It is ideal for development, testing and for applications that have bursty workloads.

14.Select t2.micro.



15. Click Next: Configure Instance Details.

Step 4: Configure Instance Details

This step allows you to configure instance details, such as the number of instances to launch and the network configuration.

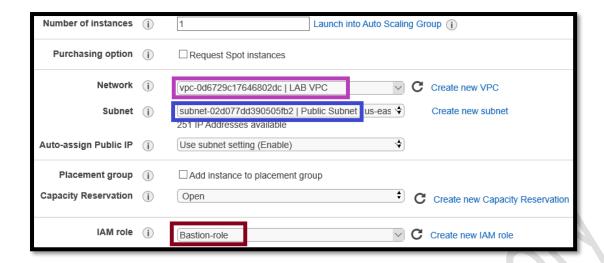
You will launch the instance in a public subnet within the *LAB VPC* network.

16. Configure these settings:

a. **Network**: Dropdown and select **LAB VPC-01**.

b. **Subnet**: Dropdown and select Public subnet.

c. **IAM role**: Dropdown and **Bastion-role**.



The **Bastion-Role** grants permission to applications running on the instance to make requests to the Amazon EC2 service. This is required for the second half of this lab, where you will use the AWS CLI to communicate with the EC2 service.

17. Click Next: Add Storage.

Step 5: Add Storage

This step can be used to add additional Amazon Elastic Block Store (EBS) disk volumes and configure their size and performance.

18.Click Next: Add Tags.

Step 6: Add Tags

Tags allow you to categorize your AWS resources in different ways, such as by purpose, owner, or environment. Each tag consists of a *Key* and a *Value*, both of which you define.

- 19.Click Add Tag then configure:
 - a. **Key**: Write Name.
 - b. Value: Write Bastion Linux Server.



This name will appear on the instance in the EC2 management console.

20.Click Next: Configure Security Group.

Step 7: Configure Security Group

You will create a new Security Group that permits SSH connections. This security group will allow you to log in to the Bastion Server via SSH.

- 21.**Configure** these **settings**:
 - a. Assign a security group: Select Create a new security group.
 - b. Security group name: Write Bastion Linux Security group.
 - c. **Description**: Write **Permit SSH connection**.

Permissions for inbound access via **SSH (port 22)** have already been configured by default.



22.Click Review and Launch.

Step 8: Review Instance Launch

This step displays a summary of the configuration for the instance you are about to launch.

23.Click Launch.

Note: A new window will popup.

- 24. In the **Key pair** page, Dropdown and select Create a new key pair.
 - a. **Key pair name**: Write **My-AWS-LAB-KP**.
 - b. Click on **Download the Key pair file** and **store** in safe place.
- 25.Click Launch Instances.
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Note: Your instance will now be launched.

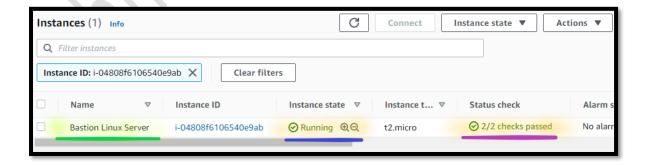
26.Click on View Instances.

Step 9: Check the EC2 Server Status

The Bastion Server will appear in a *pending state*, which means it is being launched. It will then change to *running*, which indicates that the instance has started booting.

- a. Wait for the **Instance State** to change to Running state.
- b. Wait for the Status check to change to 2/2 checks passed.

Note: Wait (~5 mnts.) for the Installation of Linux server.

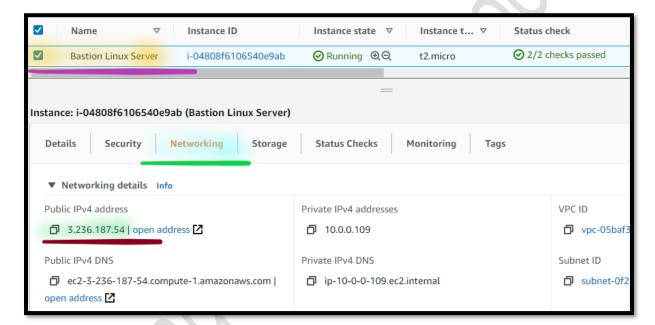


Task 4: Log into the Bastion Server

In this task, you will log into the Bastion Server that you just created.

Step 1: Copy to Linux Server Public IP address

- 27.In the AWS Management Console, on the Services menu, click EC2.
- 28.Click Instances.
- 29. Select Bastion Linux Server.
 - a. Click on **Networking**.
 - b. Copy the Public IP address.



Note: The following instructions now **vary** slightly depending on whether you are using **Windows or Mac/Linux**.

Step 2: Install PuTTy

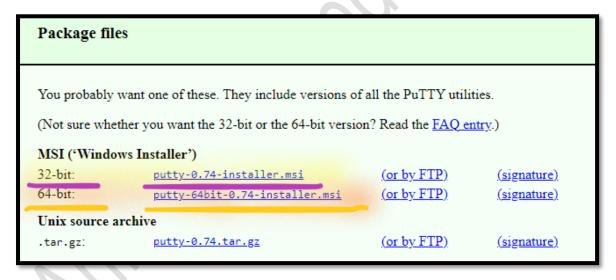
Note: If you are using Mac Operating System, go below to follow the Step 5.

PuTTY does not natively support the private key format (.pem) generated by Amazon EC2. PuTTY has a tool named PuTTYgen, which can convert keys to the required PuTTY format (.ppk). You must convert your private key into this format (.ppk) before attempting to connect to your instance using PuTTY.

- 30. Install PuTTY on Windows Operating System.
 - a. Browse www.putty.org.
 - b. Click on You can download PuTTY here under Download PuTTY.



c. **Download** the MSI Installer (32-bit or 64-bit as per your local desktop/ laptop OS version) under **Package files**.



d. Install the MSI Installer.

Note: You can also copy **PuTTY**.exe and **PuTTygen**.exe, which is also available with the Lab manual.

Step 3: Convert PEM file into PPK file

- 31. Convert Private Key using **PuTTYgen**.
 - a. In the *local Desktop/ Laptop* (Windows 10), right click on Start & Run

- b. In the open, write puttygen.exe generator
- c. In the **Parameters** section:
 - i. Select RSA.
 - ii. No. of bits in generated key should be 2048.
- d. Choose Load.

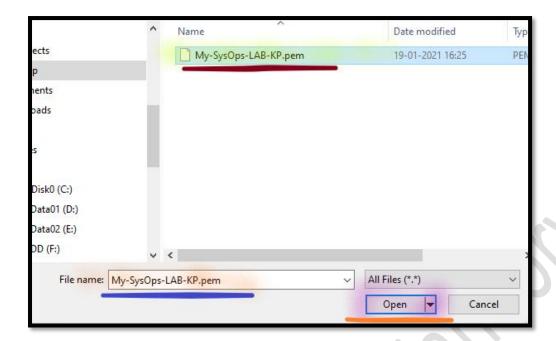


By default, PuTTYgen displays only files with the **extension .ppk**. To locate your .pem file.

i. **File extension**: Dropdown and Select All files, to locate your *pem* extension files.



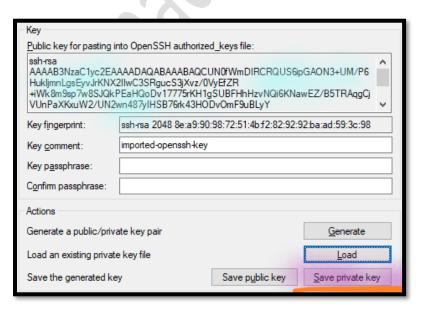
- ii. Navigate to the folder where you downloaded your key pair and select My-AWS-LAB-KP.pem file.
- iii. Select Open.



iv. Choose OK on the confirmation dialog box.



e. Choose Save private key to save the key in the format that PuTTY can use.



f. Choose Yes, when PuTTYgen *displays a warning* about saving the key without a passphrase.



- i. File name: Write My-AWS-LAB-KP.
- ii. Select Save. PuTTY automatically adds the .ppk file extension.



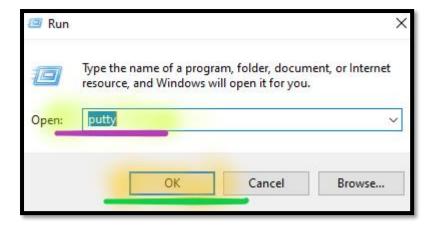
Your private key is now in the correct format for use with PuTTY. You can now connect to your instance using PuTTY's SSH client.

Step 4: Connect to Linux Server from Windows Operating System

32.From the Local Desktop/ Laptop (*Windows 10*), right click on Start & Run.

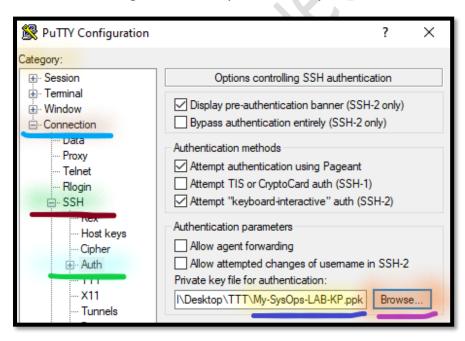


- 33.In the open, write putty.
- 34. Select Ok, it will open the PuTTY window.
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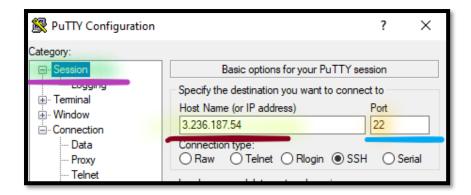


35.In the Category pane:

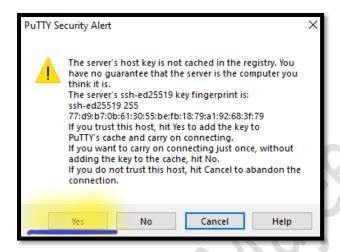
- a. Expand Connection.
- b. Expand SSH.
- c. Select Auth.
 - i. Select Browse.
 - ii. Navigate and Select the My-AWS-LAB-KP.ppk file that you generated in previous step.



- d. Select Session, in the Category pane.
 - i. **Host name**: Write **Public IP Address** of Linux virtual machine, which you have copied from the previous step.
 - ii. Port: Write 22.
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- e. Select Open to start the PuTTY session.
 - i. Select Yes, once PuTTY displays a security alert dialog box.



Note: Linux terminal opens and you are connected to your instance.

f. Login as: Write ec2-user.

Note: Because you are using a key pair for authentication, you will not be **prompted for a password**.

Note: Go to the next step, But Don't close the Linux terminal.

Step 5: Connect to Linux Server from MAC/ Linux Operating System

Note: If you are using **Windows** Operating System, go above and follow the **Step 2**.

36. Copy this command to a text editor:

chmod 400 My-AWS-LAB-KP.pem ssh -i My-AWS-LAB-KP.pem ec2-user@**PUBLIC-IP-ADDRESS**

Note: Replace the Public IP Address with the Public IP address of the Linux virtual machine, which you have copied in the previous step.

- 37. Paste the command into the MAC/ Linux terminal window and run it.
 - a. Type Yes when prompted to allow a first connection to this remote SSH server.

Task 5: Create Security Group

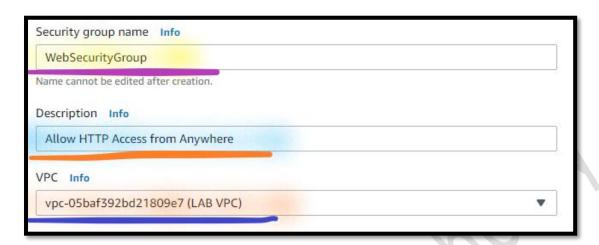
In this task, you will create Security group, which will be used in the Web Server launched via AWS CLI.

Step 1: Create Security group

- 38.In the AWS Management Console, on the Services menu, click EC2.
- 39. Go to the left navigation pane, click Security Groups under Network & Security.
- 40. Some **existing security groups will be displayed**. You will now create a new security group for the application servers.
 - a. Click Create security group and configure:
 - i. Security group name: Write WebSecurityGroup.

ii. Description: Write Allow HTTP Access from Anywhere.

iii. **VPC**: Dropdown and Select LAB VPC.



b. Click Add Rule under Inbound rules then configure:

i. **Type**: Dropdown and Select HTTP.

ii. **Source**: Dropdown and Select **Anywhere**.



Note: Don't do any changes in the **Outbound Security Rule**. Keep the default rules.

c. Click Create security group.

Task 6: Launch a Web Server using the AWS CLI

In this task, you will launch an Amazon EC2 instance using the AWS Command-Line Interface (CLI). The AWS CLI makes it easy to automate the provision and configuration of AWS resources.

The new instance will be configured as a Web Server.

Step 1: Launch web server using AWS CLI

- 41. Return to Bastion Linux Server.
- 42.**Obtain** the **AMI Id** to use:

One of the parameters required when launching an instance is the Amazon Machine Image (AMI), which will populate the boot disk of the instance. AMIs are continually patched and updated by AWS, so it is recommended to always use the latest AMI when launching instances.

You will use the **AWS Systems Manager Parameter Store** to obtain the ID of the most recent *Amazon Linux 2* AMI. AWS maintains a list of standard AMIs in the Parameter Store, making this task easy to automate.

a. Paste the below script into Linux terminal:

Set the Region

AZ=`curl -s http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/placement/availability-zone`

export AWS_DEFAULT_REGION=\${AZ::-1}

Obtain latest Linux AMI

AMI=\$(aws ssm get-parameters --names /aws/service/ami-amazon-linux-latest/amzn2-ami-hvm-x86_64-gp2 --query 'Parameters[0].[Value]' --output text) echo \$AMI

end

Note: You can also copy the Section 1 of the script from LAB-01_Script Launch Web Server using CLI.txt file provided with the LAB Manual.

Note: If *command executed succesfully*, you can see the **AMI Id** in the response.

```
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ # Set the Region
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ AZ=`curl -s http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ export AWS_DEFAULT_REGION=${AZ::-1}
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ # Obtain latest Linux AMI
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ AMI=$(aws ssm get-parameters --names /aws/service/am
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ echo $AMI
ami-0be2609ba883822ec
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ # end
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ # end
```

This command did the following:

- Obtained the Region where the instance is running.
- Called the AWS Systems Manager (*ssm*) and used the **get-parameters** command to retrieve a value from the Parameter Store.
- The AMI requested was for Amazon Linux 2 (amzn2-ami).
- The AMI ID has been stored in an Environment Variable called AMI.

Note: If your **SSH** session disconnects, it will lose the information stored in environment variables. Once you reconnect, you will need to re-run all of the steps in this task, starting with the above commands to obtain the AMI ID..

43.**Obtain** the **Subnet Id** to use:

You will be launching the new instance in the Public Subnet. When launching an instance, the **SubnetId** can be specified.

The following command will retrieve the *SubnetId* of the PublicSubnet:

a. Paste the below script into Linux terminal:

```
# Obtain subnet Id

SUBNET=$(aws ec2 describe-subnets --filters 'Name=tag:Name,Values=Public
Subnet' --query Subnets[].SubnetId --output text)
echo $SUBNET
# end
```

This uses the AWS CLI to retrieve the Subnet Id of the subnet named *Public Subnet*.

Note: You can also copy the Section 2 of the script from LAB-01_Script Launch Web Server using CLI.txt file provided with the LAB Manual.

Note: If *command executed succesfully*, you can see the **Subnet Id** in the response.

44. **Obtain** the **Security Group Id** to use:

A Web Security Group has been created in the previous step, which allows inbound HTTP (Port 80) requests.

a. Paste the below script into Linux terminal:

```
# Obtain the security group Id

SG=$(aws ec2 describe-security-groups --filters Name=group-
name,Values=WebSecurityGroup --query SecurityGroups[].GroupId --output text)
echo $SG
# end
```

Note: You can also copy the Section 3 of the script from LAB-01_Script Launch Web Server using CLI.txt file provided with the LAB Manual.

Note: If *command executed succesfully*, you can see the **Security Group Id** in the response.

45. **Download** a **User Data** script:

You will be launching an instance that will act as a Web Server. To install and configure the web server, you will provide a **User Data script** that will be automatically executed when the instance launches.

a. Paste the below script into Linux terminal:

```
# Download the user data script
wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ahmadzahoory/awssysops/master/lab-
01-l-script.txt
# end
```

Note: You can also copy the Section 4 of the script from LAB-01_Script Launch Web Server using CLI.txt file provided with the LAB Manual.

Note: If *command executed succesfully*, you can see the **File downloaded** in to linux server.

46. **View** the **Contents** of the user data script:

You can **view** the user data **script** contents, that you will be using to install and deploy the web server and web application.

a. Paste the below script into Linux terminal:

```
# View the user data script content
cat lab-01-l-script.txt
# end
```

Note: You can also copy the Section 5 of the script from LAB-01_Script Launch Web Server using CLI.txt file provided with the LAB Manual.

Note: If *command executed succesfully*, you can see the **User data script** contents.

The script does the **following**:

- Installs a web server.
- Downloads a zip file containing the web application.
- Installs the web application.

47.**Launch** the **Instance**.

You now have all the necessary information require to launch the Web Server instance!

a. Paste the below script into Linux terminal:

```
# Launch the instance
INSTANCE=$(\
aws ec2 run-instances \
--image-id $AMI \
--subnet-id $SUBNET \
--security-group-ids $SG \
--user-data file:///home/ec2-user/lab-01-l-script.txt \
--instance-type t2.micro \
--tag-specifications 'ResourceType=instance,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=Linux Web Server}]' \
--key-name My-AWS-LAB-KP \
--query 'Instances[*].InstanceId' \
--output text \
)
echo $INSTANCE
# end
```

Note: You can also copy the Section 6 of the script from LAB-01_Script Launch Web Server using CLI.txt file provided with the LAB Manual.

Note: If *command executed succesfully*, you can see the **Instance Id** in the response.

```
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 \sim]$ # Launch the instance
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ INSTANCE=$(\
> aws ec2 run-instances \
 --image-id $AMI \
 --subnet-id $SUBNET \
> --security-group-ids $SG \
> --user-data file:///home/ec2-user/lab-01-1-script.txt \
 --instance-type t2.micro \
 --tag-specifications 'ResourceType=instance,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=Linux Web Se
 --key-name My-SysOps-LAB-KP \
 --query 'Instances[*].InstanceId' \
> --output text \
ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ echo $INSTANCE
 -06a04b1a80a12aa05
                     09 ~]$ # end
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$
```

The command launches a new instance (*run_instances*) **using** these **parameters**:

- Image: Uses the AMI value obtained earlier from the Parameter store.
- **Subnet:** Specifies the *Public Subnet* obtained earlier and, by association, the VPC in which to launch the instance.
- **Security Group:** Uses the *Web Security Group* obtained earlier, which permits HTTP access.
- **User Data:** References the User Data script you downloaded, which installs the web application.
- **Instance Type:** Specifies the type of instance to launch.
- **Tags:** Assigns a *Name* tag with the value of *Web Server*.

The **query** parameter specifies that the command should return the *Instance ID* once the instance is launched.

The **output** parameter specifies that the output of the command should be in *text*. Other output options are *json* and *table*.

The Id of the new instance has been stored in the *INSTANCE* environment variable.

48. **Describe** the **details** of the instance:

You can monitor the status of the instance via the Management Console, but you can also query the status via the AWS CLI.

a. Paste the below script into Linux terminal:

```
# Describe the instance details
aws ec2 describe-instances --instance-ids $INSTANCE
# end
```

Note: You can also copy the Section 7 of the script from LAB-01_Script Launch Web Server using CLI.txt file provided with the LAB Manual.

Note: If *command executed succesfully*, you can see the **Instance details** in the response.

```
ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ # Describe the instance details
ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ aws ec2 describe-instances --instance-ids $INSTANCE
   "Reservations": [
           "Instances": [
                    "Monitoring": {
                       "State": "disabled"
                    "PublicDnsName": "ec2-3-231-102-188.compute-1.amazonaws.com"
                    "State": {
                        "Code": 16,
                       "Name": "running"
                    "EbsOptimized": false,
                   "LaunchTime": "2021-01-19T15:17:27.000Z",
                    "PublicIpAddress": "3.231.102.188",
                    "PrivateIpAddress": "10.0.0.41",
                   "ProductCodes": [],
"VpcId": "vpc-05baf392bd21809e7",
                    "CpuOptions": {
```

All information related to the instance will be displayed in JSON format. Amongst this information is the instance status.

The values for instance-state-code will all be in the range of the:

- 0: pending
- 16: running
- 32: shutting-down
- 48: terminated
- 64: stopping
- 80: stopped

Specific information can be obtained by using the **query** parameter.

b. Paste the below script into Linux terminal:

```
# Describe the instance state
aws ec2 describe-instances --instance-ids $INSTANCE --query
'Reservations[].Instances[].State.Name' --output text
# end
```

Note: You can also copy the Section 8 of the script from LAB-01_Script Launch Web Server using CLI.txt file provided with the LAB Manual.

Note: If *command executed succesfully*, you can see the **Instance State** in the response.

```
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ aws ec2 describe-instances --instance-ids $INSTANCE
--query 'Reservations[].Instances[].State.Name' --output text
running
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$
```

This is the same command but, rather than displaying all information about the instance, only displays the name of the instance *State*.

This will display a status of **pending** or **running**.

Repeat the above command until it returns a status of **running**.

```
49. Test the Web Server
```

You can now test that the web server is working. You can retrieve a URL to the instance via the AWS CLI.

a. Paste the below script into Linux terminal:

```
# Describe the instance dns & Ip address
aws ec2 describe-instances --instance-ids $INSTANCE --query
Reservations[].Instances[].[PublicDnsName,PrivateIpAddress,PublicIpAddress] --
output text
# end
```

Note: You can also copy the Section 9 of the script from LAB-01_Script Launch Web Server using CLI.txt file provided with the LAB Manual.

Note: If *command executed succesfully*, you can see the **Instance DNS**name, Private and Public IP address in the response.

```
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ # Describe the instance dns & Ip address
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ aws ec2 describe-instances --instance-ids $INSTANCE
ec2-3-231-102-188.compute-1.amazonaws.com 10.0.0.41 3.231.102.188
[ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$ [ec2-user@ip-10-0-0-109 ~]$
```

This returns the **DNS Name, Private and Public** IP Address of the instance.

50.**Copy** the **DNS** name that is displayed.

It should look similar to: ec2-35-11-22-33.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com

Task 7: Access a Web Server

The new instance will be configured as a Web Server. In this task, you will access the web server.

Step 1: Access the Web server

51.**Paste** the **DNS name** into a new **web browser** tab, then press Enter.

A web page should be displayed, demonstrating that the web server was successfully launched and configured.

You can also see the instance in the EC2 management console.





- Do not delete any resources you deployed in this lab.
- You will be using them in the next lab.