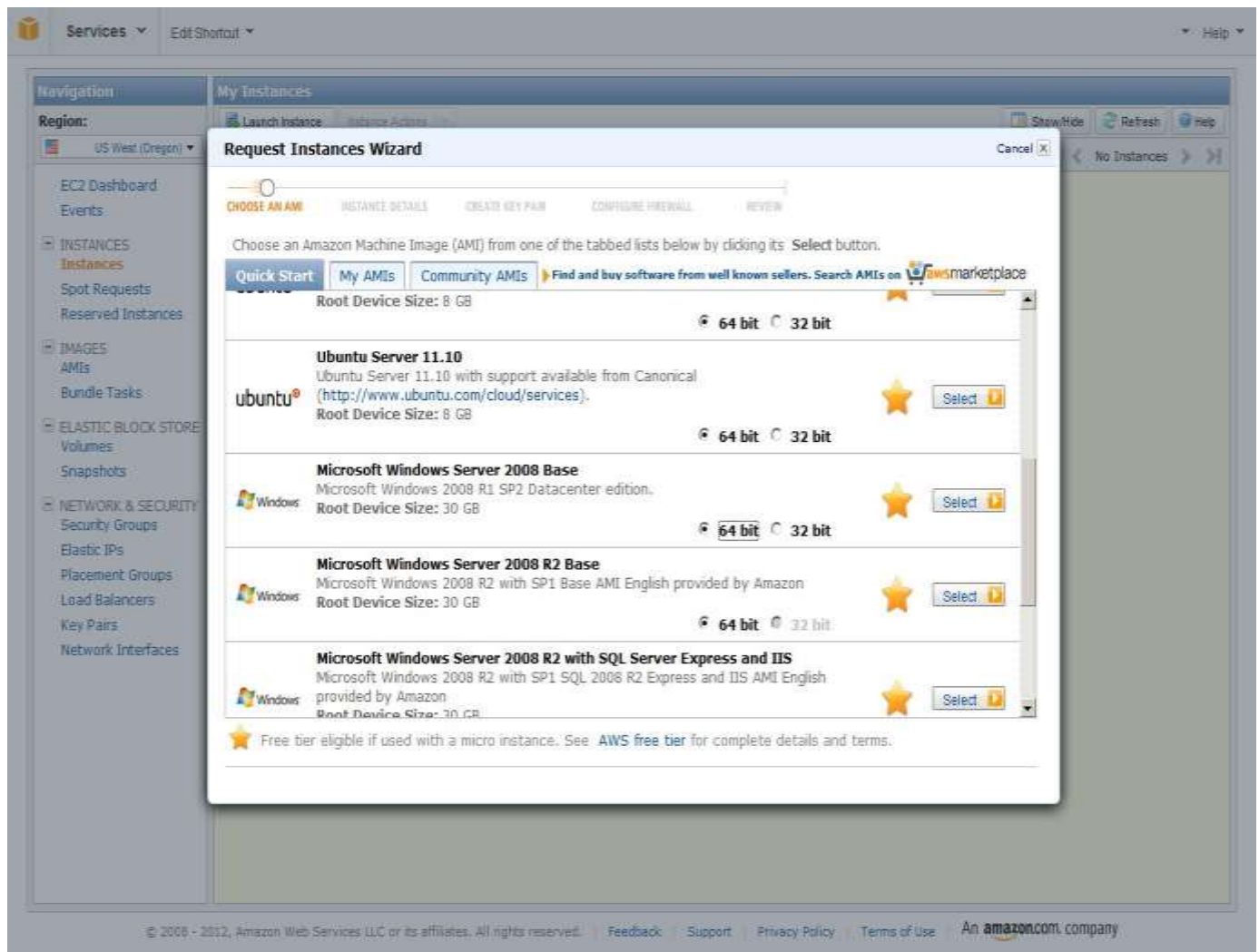
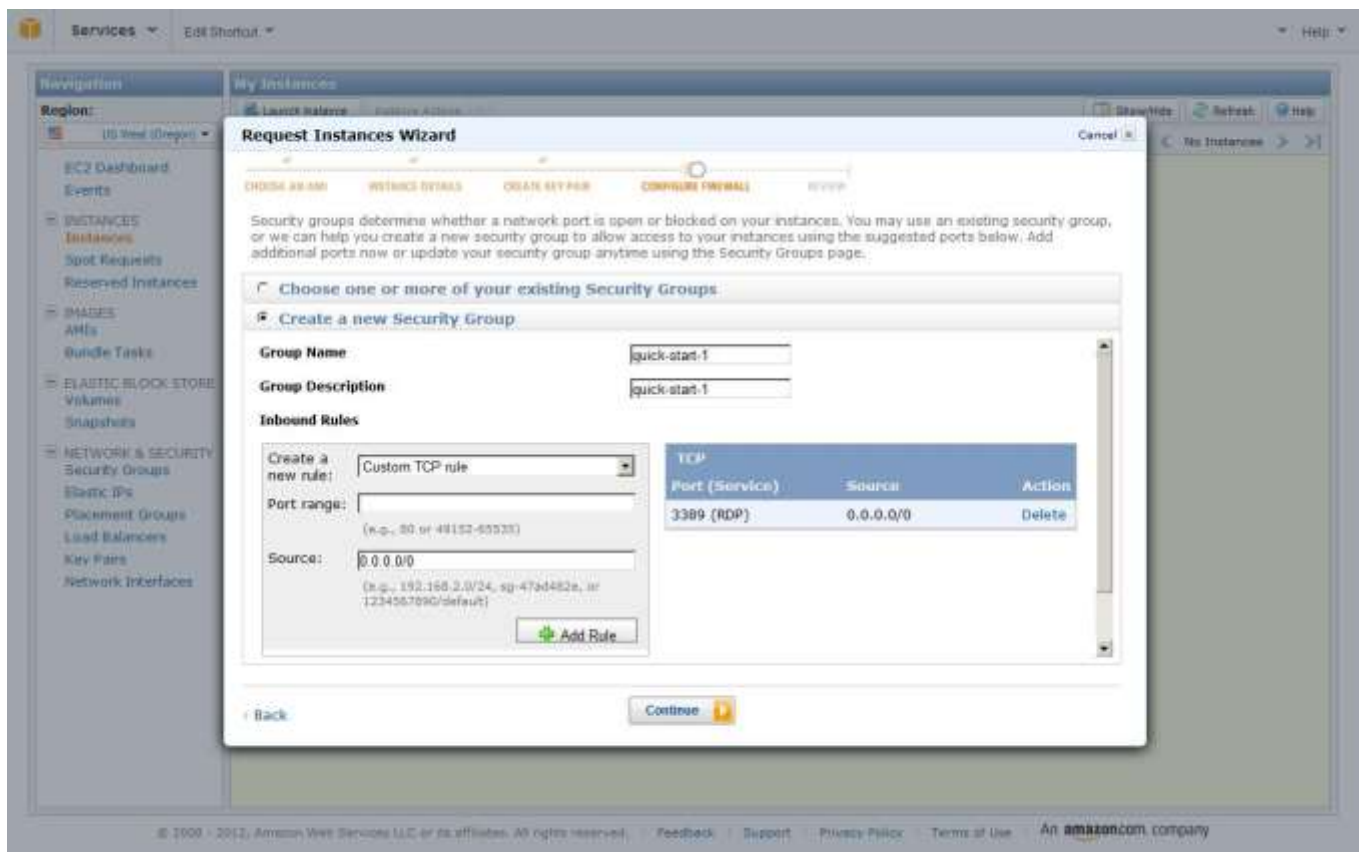


How to Share your Local Drive with an AWS Windows Instance

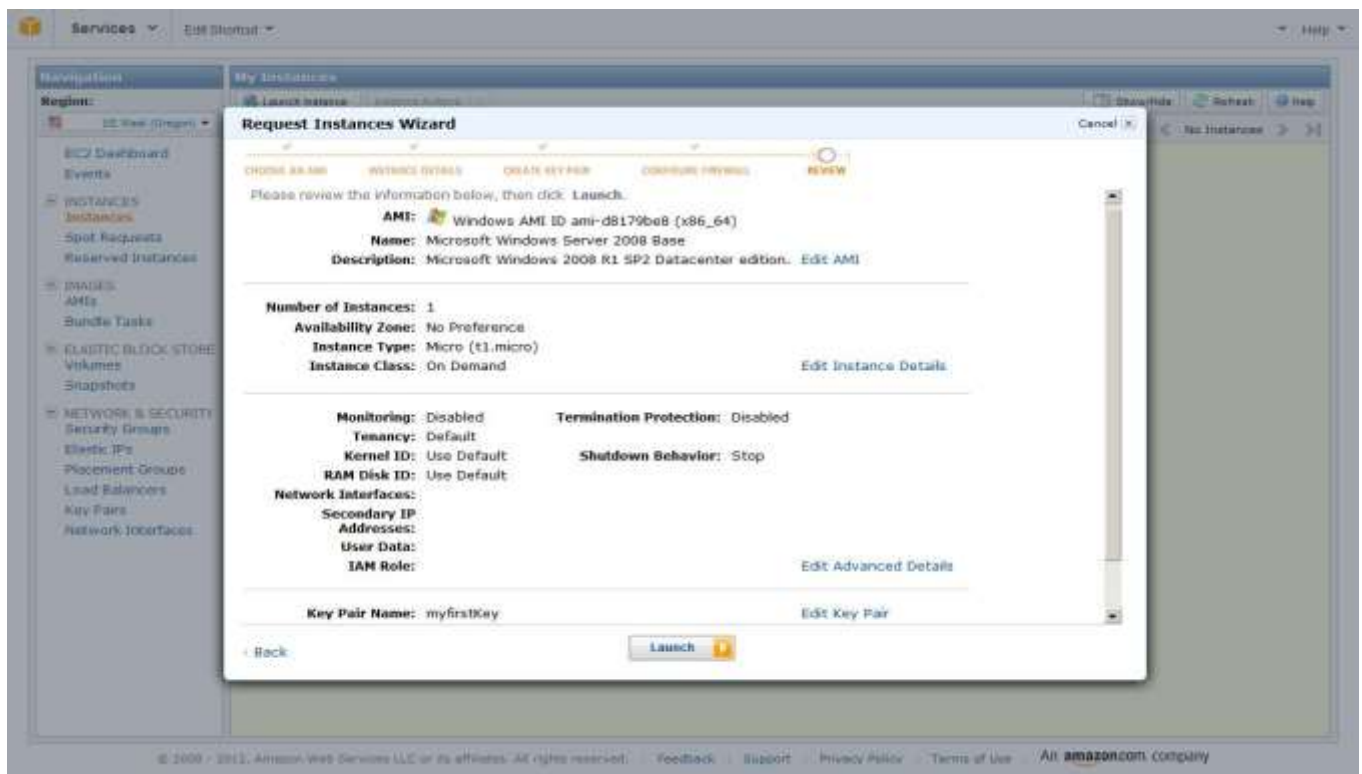
1. Launch a new Windows Instance.



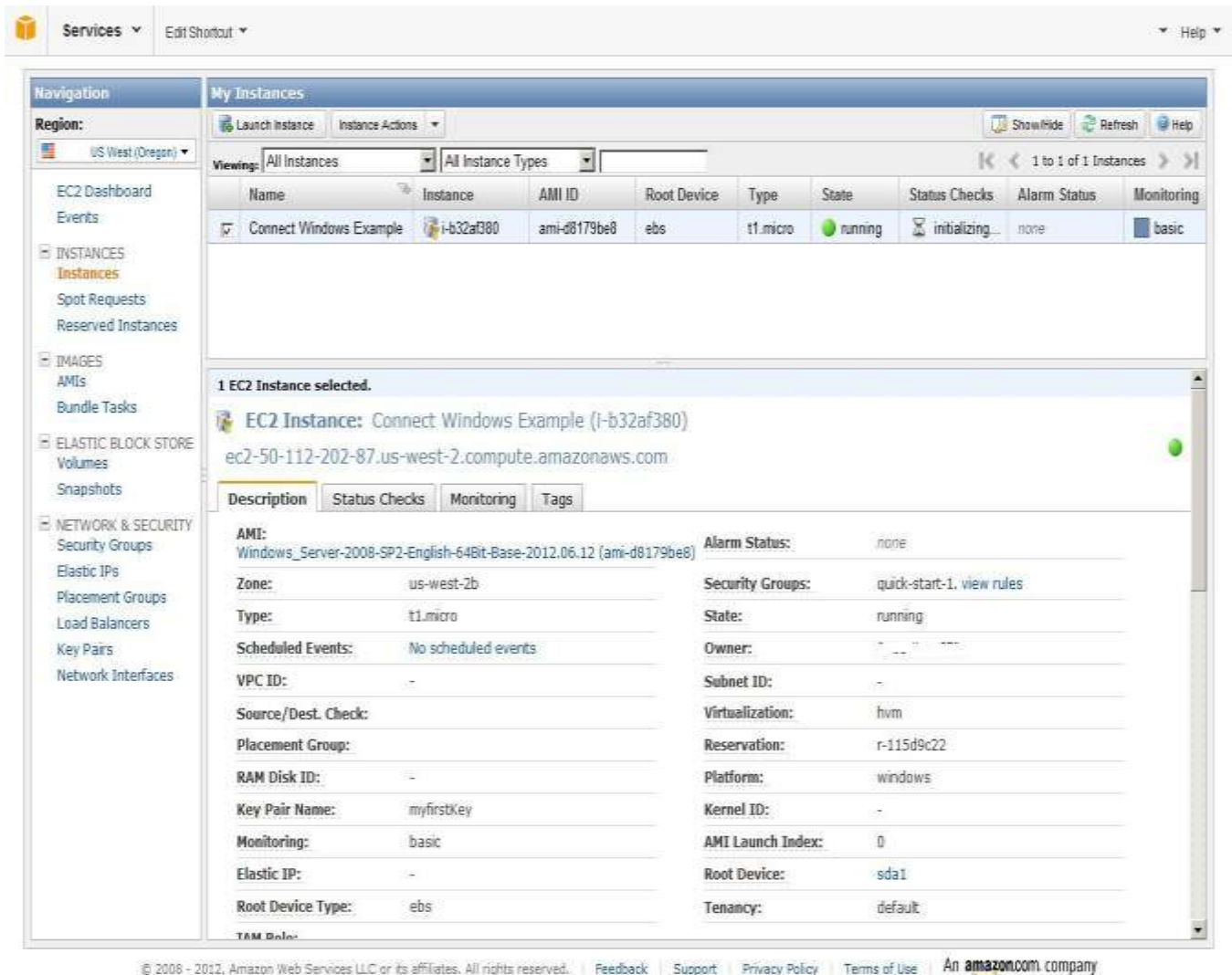
2. Ensure that you have opened the RDP port 3389 for connecting to Windows. In this example we opened it for all IP addresses but this is not best practice.



3. Verify all of the launch details.



4. Once you confirm the details, the instance is launched and displayed in the console as shown below. Make note of the public DNS of the instance.



The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console interface. On the left is a navigation pane with categories like EC2 Dashboard, INSTANCES, IMAGES, ELASTIC BLOCK STORE, and NETWORK & SECURITY. The main area is titled 'My Instances' and shows a table with one instance: 'Connect Windows Example' (Instance ID: i-b32af380, AMI ID: ami-d8179be8, Type: t1.micro, State: running). Below the table, a detailed view for the selected instance is shown, including its public DNS: 'ec2-50-112-202-87.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com'. The details are organized into sections: Description, Status Checks, Monitoring, and Tags. The footer contains copyright information and links to Feedback, Support, Privacy Policy, Terms of Use, and the Amazon logo.

Name	Instance	AMI ID	Root Device	Type	State	Status Checks	Alarm Status	Monitoring
Connect Windows Example	i-b32af380	ami-d8179be8	ebs	t1.micro	running	initializing...	none	basic

1 EC2 Instance selected.

EC2 Instance: Connect Windows Example (i-b32af380)
ec2-50-112-202-87.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com

Description | Status Checks | Monitoring | Tags

AMI: Windows_Server-2008-SP2-English-64Bit-Base-2012.06.12 (ami-d8179be8) | **Alarm Status:** none

Zone: us-west-2b | **Security Groups:** quick-start-1, view rules

Type: t1.micro | **State:** running

Scheduled Events: No scheduled events | **Owner:** [redacted]

VPC ID: - | **Subnet ID:** -

Source/Dest. Check: - | **Virtualization:** hvm

Placement Group: - | **Reservation:** r-115d9c22

RAM Disk ID: - | **Platform:** windows

Key Pair Name: myfirstKey | **Kernel ID:** -

Monitoring: basic | **AMI Launch Index:** 0

Elastic IP: - | **Root Device:** sda1

Root Device Type: ebs | **Tenancy:** default

TAM Role: -

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Next you will need to generate the password for this windows instance. This requires the .pem file that was created earlier and that was used to launch this instance.

5. Right-click the instance and select **Get Windows Password**.

Services Edit Shortcut Help

Navigation

Region: US West (Oregon)

EC2 Dashboard

Events

INSTANCES

Instances

Spot Requests

Reserved Instances

IMAGES

AMIs

Bundle Tasks

ELASTIC BLOCK STORE

Volumes

Snapshots

NETWORK & SECURITY

Security Groups

Elastic IPs

Placement Groups

Load Balancers

Key Pairs

Network Interfaces

My Instances

Launch Instance Instance Actions Show/Hide Refresh Help

Viewing: All Instances All Instance Types 1 to 1 of 1 Instances

Name	Instance	AMI ID	Root Device	Type	State	Status Checks	Alarm Status	Monitoring
Connect Windows Example	i-b32af380	ami-d8179be8	ebs	t1.micro	running	initializing...	none	basic

Instance Management

Connect

Get System Log

Create Image (EBS AMI)

Add/Edit Tags

Change Security Groups

Change Source / Dest Check

Bundle Instance (instance store AMI)

Get Windows Password

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

Manage Private IP Addresses

Instance Lifecycle

Terminate

Reboot

Stop

Start

CloudWatch Monitoring

Enable Detailed Monitoring

Disable Detailed Monitoring

Add/Edit Alarms

IAM Role:

Example (i-b32af380)

Tags

Alarm Status: none

Security Groups: quick-start-1. view rules

State: running

Owner:

Subnet ID: -

Virtualization: hvm

Reservation: r-115d9c22

Platform: windows

Kernel ID: -

AMI Launch Index: 0

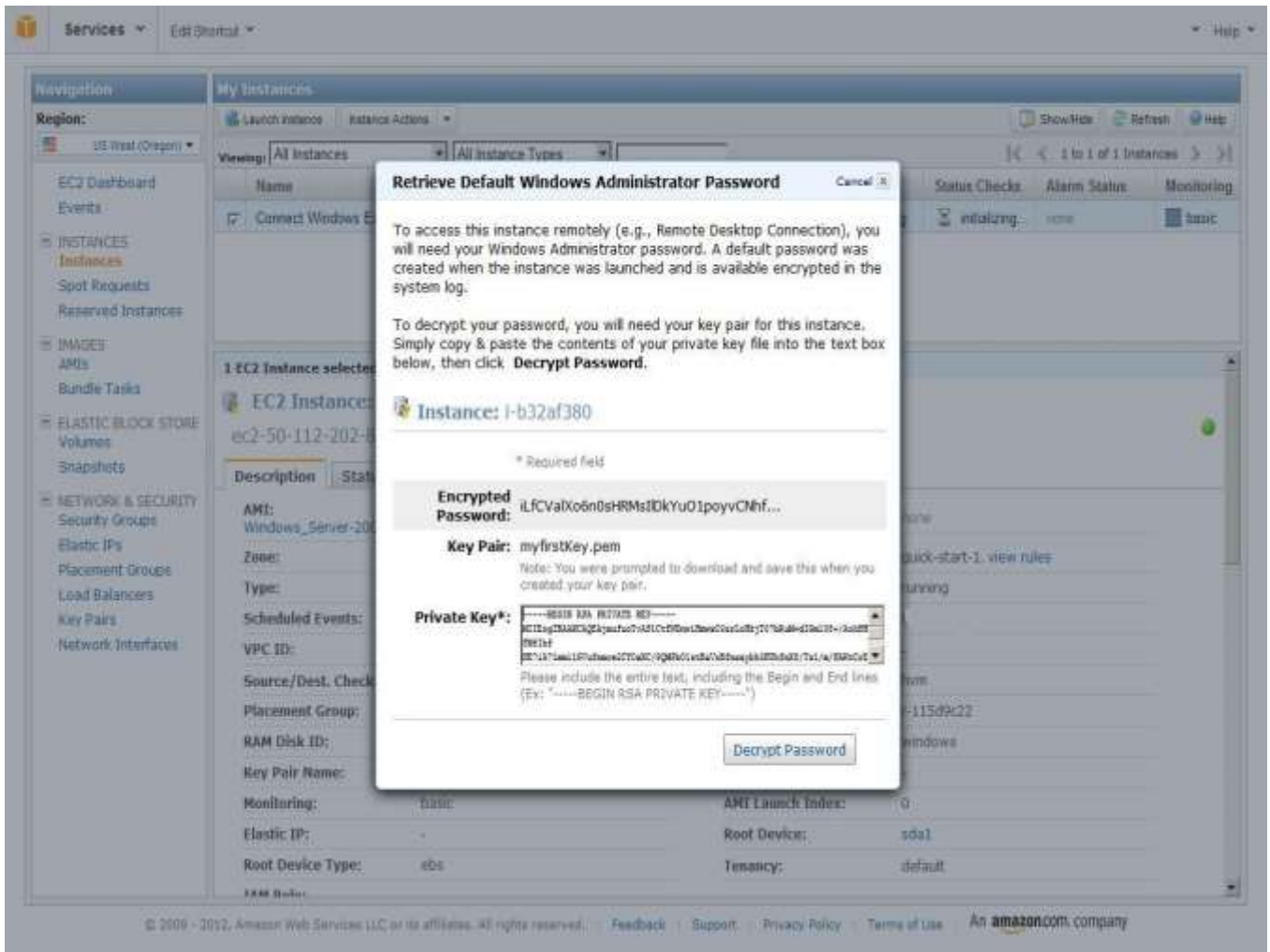
Root Device: sda1

Tenancy: default

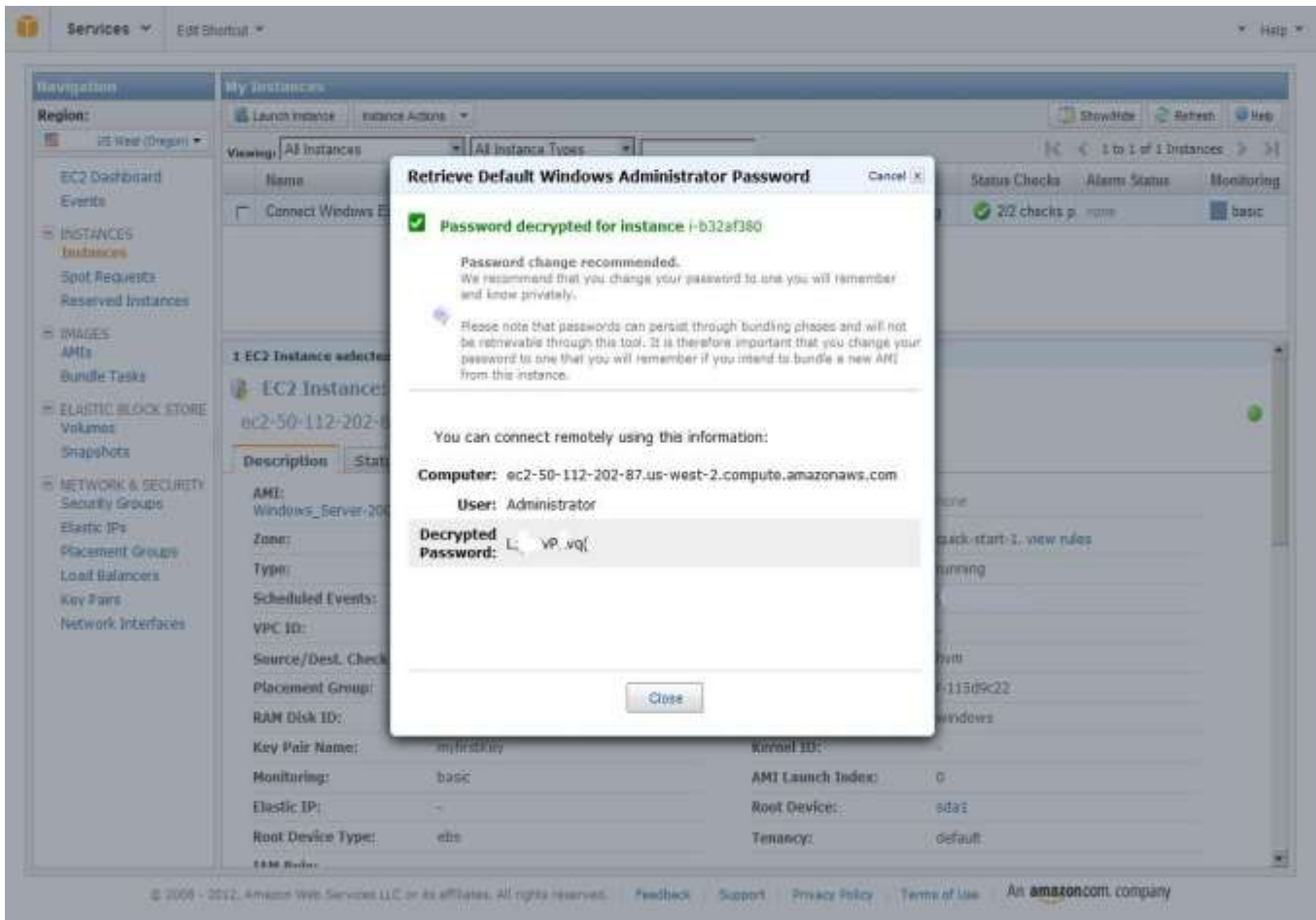
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https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/home?region=us-west-2#

6. You are prompted to provide the details of your .pem file. Open your .pem file in notepad, copy all of the content (including – - - BEGIN RSA and – - - END RSA lines).



7. Click **Decrypt Password**. The decrypted password is displayed; you can use this password to connect to the Windows instance.



8. Store the password in a safe place, you will need to use it whenever you connect to the instance.

9. Now start the RDP (Remote Desktop Service) from the Windows machine as shown below. Run the **mstsc** command from the Run menu.



The Remote Desktop Connection window is displayed.



10. Click the **Options** button and then select the **Local Resources** tab.



11. In the Remote audio area, select **Settings** to configure the audio settings of your instance.



12. In the **Local Resource** tab, in the **Local devices and resources** area, click **More**. All the plug and play devices that can be available through network in the AWS EC2 server instance are listed, as well as the disk drives.



13. Select the devices and drives that you want to access from the Remote AWS EC2 server.

14. Once you have completed the above settings, provide the public DNS IP of your instance (obtained in step #4).

In the **Username** field, enter administrator.



15. Click **Connect**.



16. When prompted for confirmation, click **Connect** again. The process of connecting to the Remote Desktop (your EC2 instance running in AWS) begins. Once connected, you are prompted for the password.



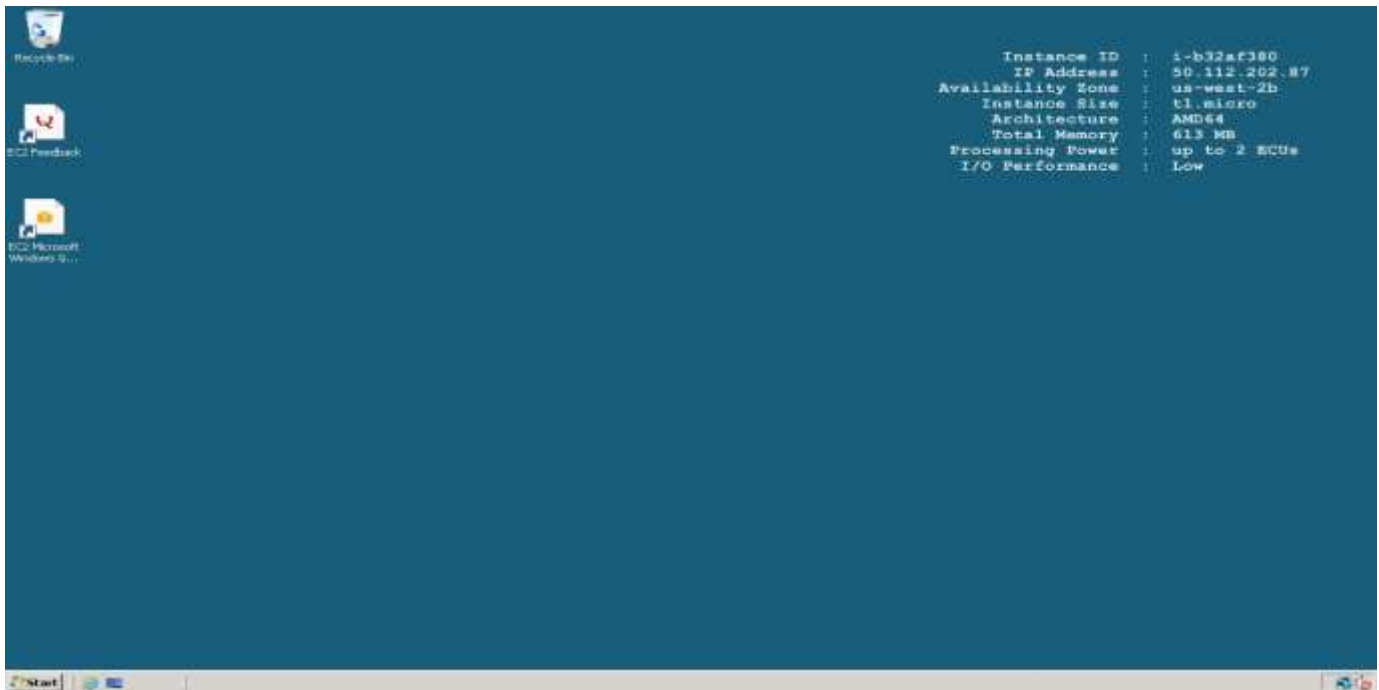
17. Provide the password you got in step#7. When you click **OK**, the password is verified and you are connected to your Windows instance.



18. On first time usage, your desktop is automatically set up when you connect.

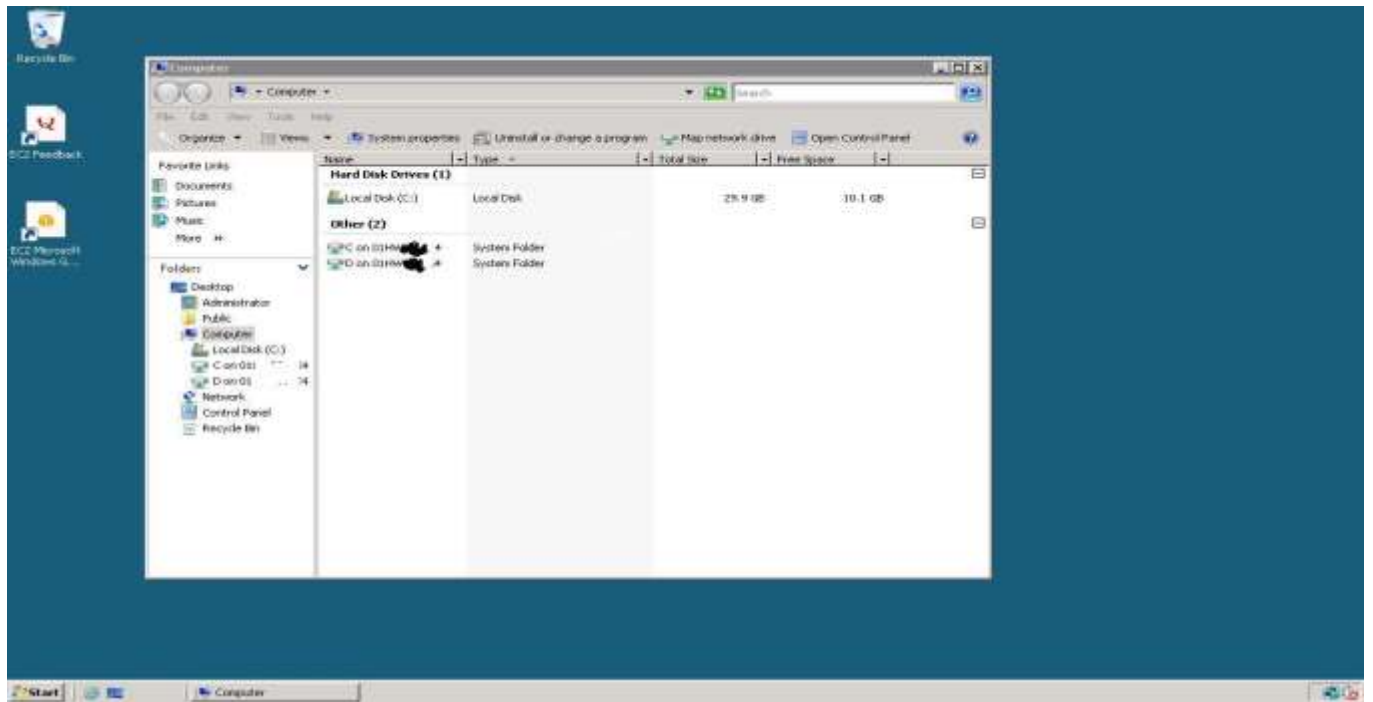


19. Once connected and setup, the desktop resembles the following:



20. Open the Windows Explorer or My Computer.

The local hard disk of your desktop/laptop in the EC2 server instance is listed.



As shown above, in Windows Explorer will show both the “C” & “D” drives of your local machine. (We have masked some characters for security reasons).