



nextwork.org

Host a Website on Amazon S3



Leon Williams

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Nextwork website. At the top center is the Nextwork logo, which consists of a stylized 'NW' monogram inside a rounded rectangle. Below the logo, the tagline "EVERYONE SHOULD BE IN A JOB THEY LOVE" is displayed in large, bold, white and blue letters, accompanied by a small blue heart icon. Underneath the tagline is a horizontal row of twelve circular profile pictures of various animals, including a monkey, a deer, a squirrel, a giraffe, a bear, an owl, a penguin, a llama, a pineapple, and a dog. To the right of this row is a dark gray circle containing the text "You?". Below the animal row, the text "Building the best online learning experience to switch careers and upskill." and "Starting with AWS certifications." is visible. At the bottom of the page is a call-to-action bar with a white input field labeled "Enter your email" and a blue button labeled "Join waitlist".



Introducing Today's Project!

Tools and concepts

In this project, I learned key AWS services and concepts including Amazon S3 for object storage, configuring S3 buckets for static website hosting, managing Access Control Lists (ACLs) for permissions, and understanding which region to select.

Project reflection

It took me approximately 20 minutes to complete the project, including reviewing the material and troubleshooting the 403 Forbidden error.

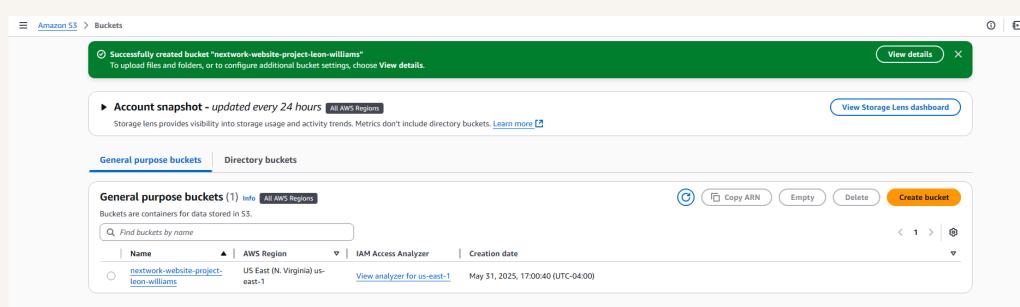


How I Set Up an S3 Bucket

It took me about 10 minutes to create the S3 bucket and review the material on why specific permissions are important to configure within the bucket.

I selected the N. Virginia (us-east-1) region for my S3 bucket because it's the closest region to my location, which can help reduce latency and improve performance.

S3 bucket names must be globally unique, meaning no other AWS account in the world can use the same name once it's created. This ensures that every bucket has a distinct identifier, so it's important to choose a unique name when creating one.

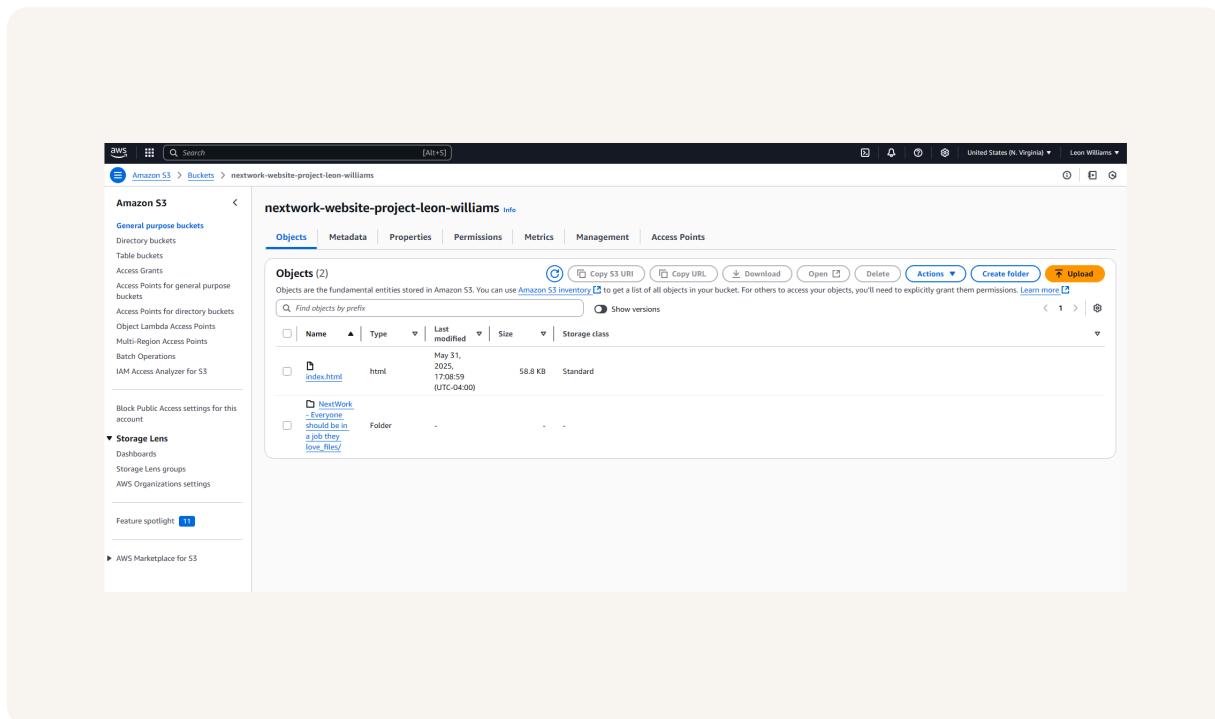


Upload Website Files to S3

index.html and image assets

The two files I uploaded to my bucket were an HTML file and a zip file containing images, which together make up the website content.

The HTML file serves as the structure and content of the website, while the zip file contains images that enhance the visual elements of the site. Both are needed to create a complete and functional website with text and visuals.





Static Website Hosting on S3

Website hosting makes your site publicly accessible by storing your files on a web server. Configuring an S3 bucket for hosting creates a URL that lets anyone view your uploaded HTML page.

I enabled website hosting through the Properties tab of my S3 bucket. By scrolling down to the Static Website Hosting section, I clicked Edit and then enabled the feature.

An Access Control List (ACL) is a set of permissions that defines who can access a resource and what actions they can perform. I enabled ACLs to have more granular control over who can access and interact with the website files stored in my Bucket.



The screenshot shows the 'Edit static website hosting' configuration page for an S3 bucket named 'nextwork-website-project-leon-williams'. The left sidebar includes sections for General purpose buckets, Storage Lens, and AWS Marketplace for S3. The main content area is titled 'Static website hosting' and contains the following settings:

- Static website hosting:** Enabled.
- Hosting type:** Host a static website.
- Index document:** Set to 'index.html'.
- Error document - optional:** Set to 'error.html'.
- Redirection rules - optional:** A table with one row, showing a redirection rule from '/' to '/'.

A note at the bottom of the page states: "For your customers to access content at the website endpoint, you must make all your content publicly readable. To do so, you can edit the S3 Block Public Access settings for the bucket. For more information, see [Using Amazon S3 Block Public Access](#)".



Bucket Endpoints

A bucket website endpoint URL is the web address that allows public access to the content hosted in your S3 bucket.

When I visited the bucket endpoint URL, I encountered a '403 Forbidden' error along with two access denied messages.

403 Forbidden

- Code: AccessDenied
- Message: Access Denied
- RequestId: 5MG85C71BDZF73NB
- HostId: pO0DHS0vN+NA0JVhDaQvvjVgLvnH6JVLkm0fmQfkhBZ8bmdaHojI9zqcNyDw76wSZ3IeN2g+aGE=

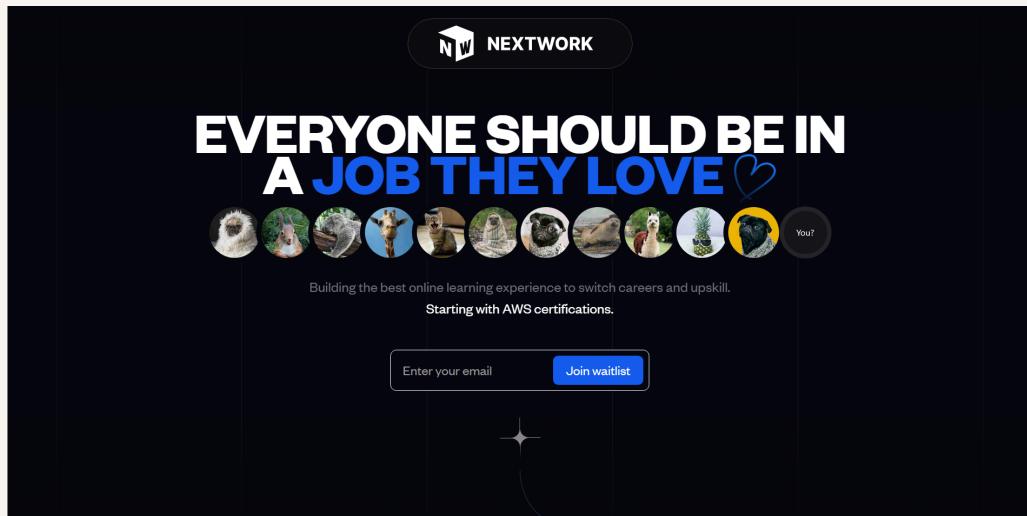


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Success!

I resolved the 403 Forbidden error by updating the Access Control List (ACL) settings to make the objects publicly accessible.





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