

Deploying a WordPress Blog on an Amazon EC2 Windows Server Instance

Overview

We would be installing and deploying a WordPress blog on an EC2 instance running Windows Server.

Prerequisites

Before you get started, be sure that you do the following:

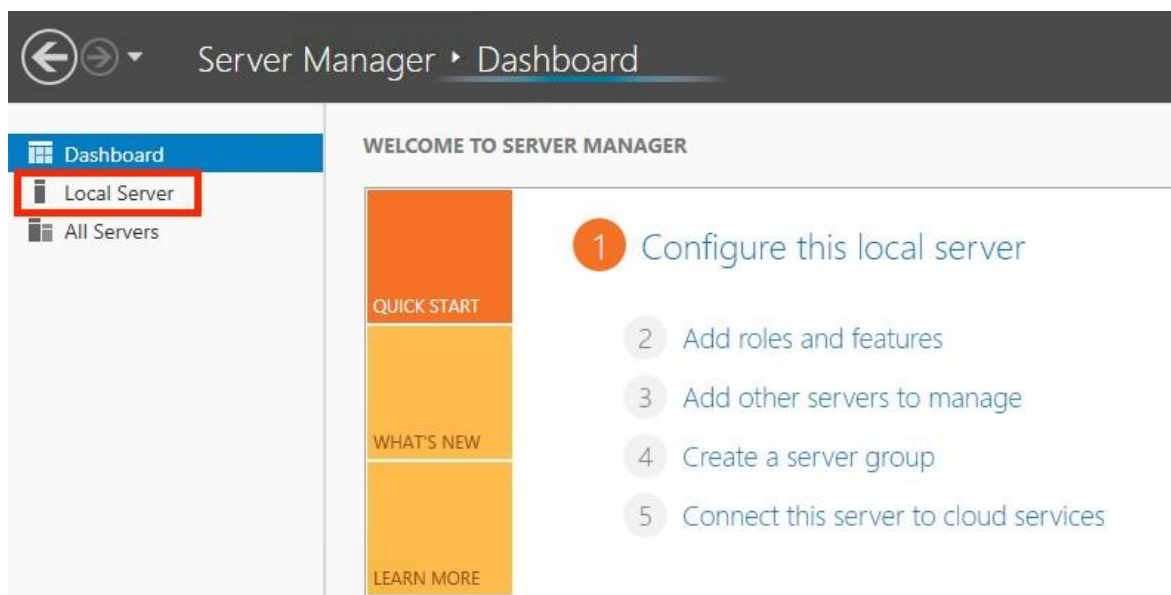
1. Launch an Amazon EC2 instance from the Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 base AMI
2. Ensure that the security group in which you're launching your instance has ports 80 (HTTP), 443 (HTTPS), and 3389 (RDP) open for inbound traffic. Ports 80 and 443 allow computers outside of the instance to connect with HTTP and HTTPS. If these ports are not open, the WordPress site can't be accessed from outside the instance. Port 3389 allows you to connect to the instance with Remote Desktop Protocol.
3. Connect to your instance.

Installing the Microsoft Web Platform Installer

4. Disable Internet Explorer Enhanced Security Configuration.

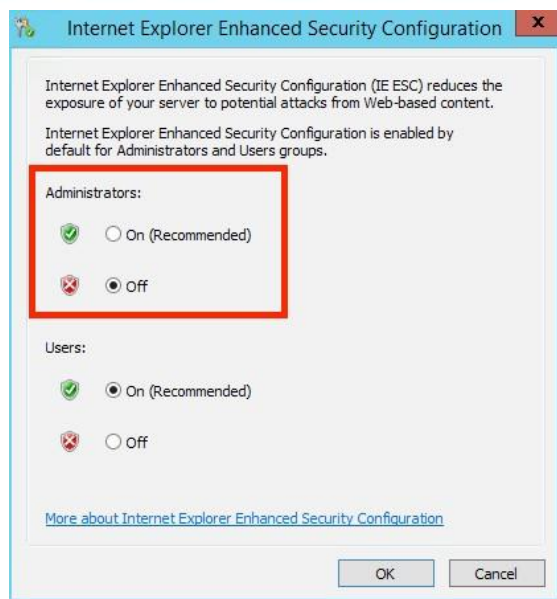
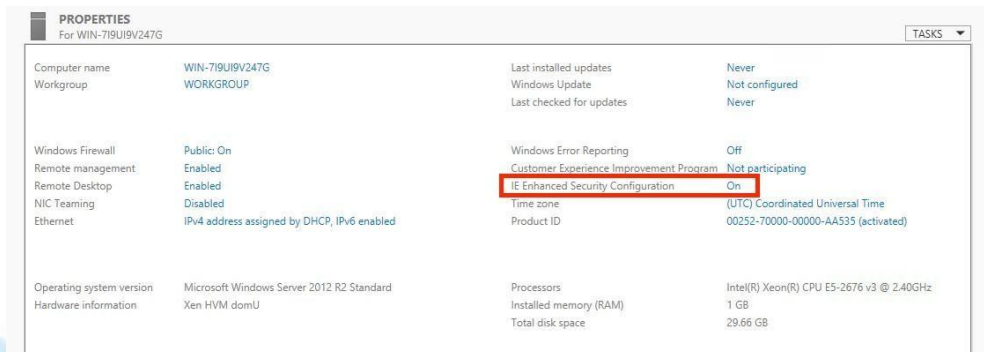
In your Windows instance, click on [Server Manager](#) icon right to Start menu.

Click [Local Server](#) on the left side in navigation pane



Look for **IE Enhanced Security Configuration** which is set to On. Click on **On**.

Under **Administrators**, click **Off** and click **OK**.



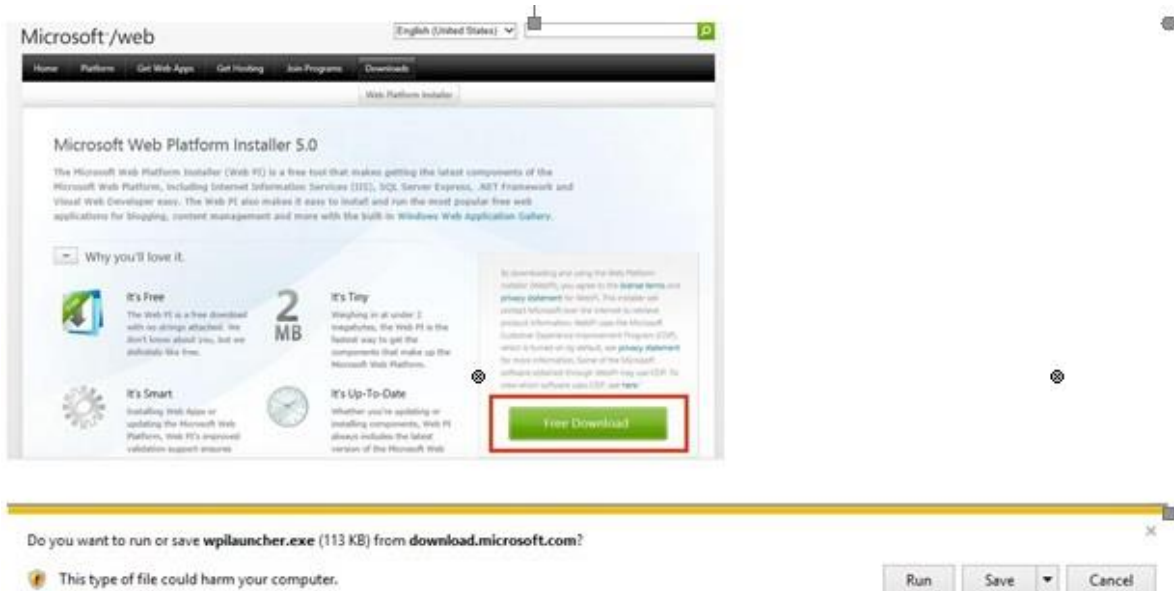
Close the **Server Manager** window.

5. In the Windows instance, download and install the latest version of Microsoft Web Platform Installer.

Paste the following URL into the Internet Explorer address bar:

<https://www.microsoft.com/web/downloads/platform.aspx>

Click the **Free Download** button on the Microsoft Web Platform Installer page to download the installer and then click **Run** to run the installer.



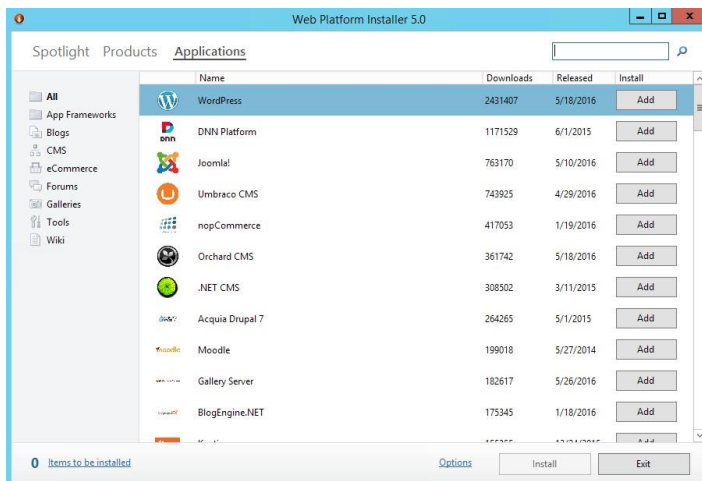
The installation would be initiated.

Installing WordPress

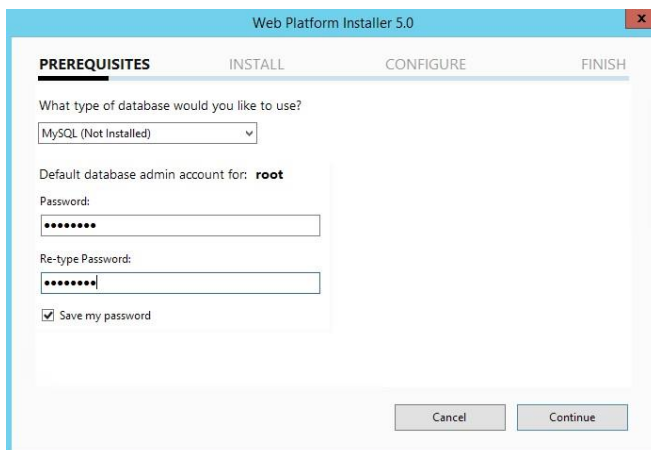
Now that the Web Platform Installer is installed, you can use it to install and configure WordPress on your server.

To install WordPress

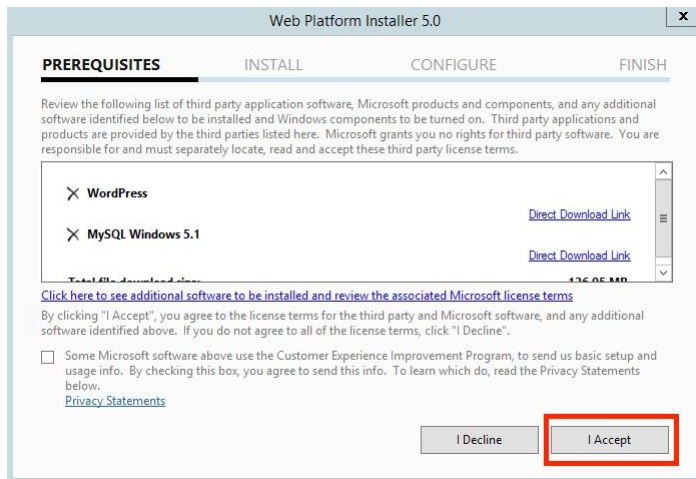
6. Open the [Web Platform Installer](#) and click [Applications](#).
7. Select [WordPress](#), click [Add](#), and then click [Install](#).



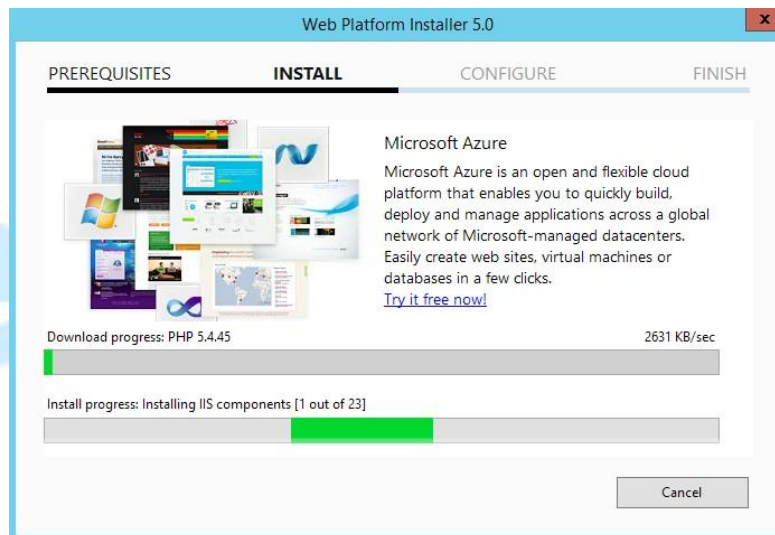
8. On the [Prerequisites](#) page, select [MySQL](#) for the database to use. Enter the desired administrator password for your MySQL database in the [Password](#) and [Re-type Password](#) boxes, and then click [Continue](#).



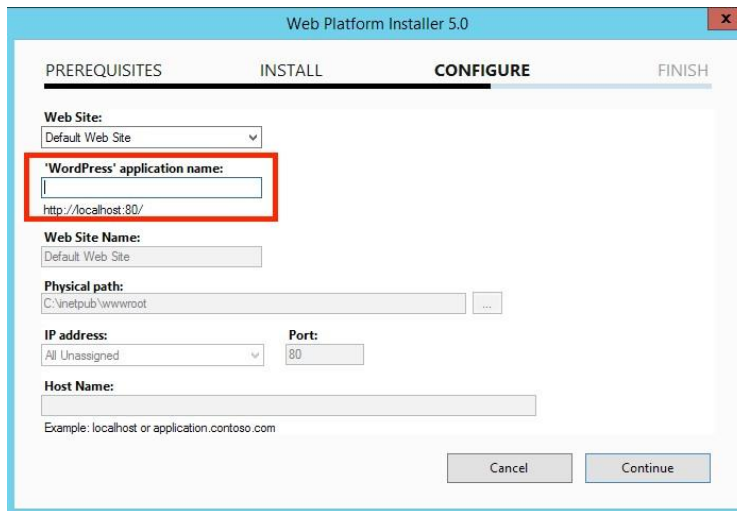
9. Click [I Accept](#) for the list of third-party application software, Microsoft products (including the IIS web server), and components. After the Web Platform Installer finishes installing the software, you are prompted to configure your new site.



The installation commences and would be completed in few minutes.



10. On the **Configure** page, clear the default application name in the **'WordPress'** **application name:** box and leave it blank, then leave the default information in the other boxes and click **Continue**.



Configuring Security Keys

WordPress allows you to generate and enter unique authentication keys and salts for your site. These key and salt values provide a layer of encryption to the browser cookies that WordPress users store on their local machines. Basically, adding long, random values here makes your site more secure.

To configure security keys

11. Visit <https://api.wordpress.org/secret-key/1.1/salt/> to randomly generate a set of key values that you can copy and paste into the installation wizard. The following steps will show you how to modify these values in Notepad to work with a Windows installation
12. Copy all of the text in that page to your clipboard. It should look similar to the example below.
13. Open a Notepad window by clicking [Start, All Programs, Accessories](#), and then [Notepad](#).
14. Paste the copied text into the Notepad window.



```
define('AUTH_KEY', '1#a, #:8Q5`7N+k_edTv-pZ*+.&Ub$d0iw4Zu1N0sKy!hc+;g=iE,nZb]Q-m8RzW');
define('SECURE_AUTH_KEY', 'q.8|RCq#>9p(1{9X77_ 5v$J+)nJPp<NdFmAqn.-hE_Yb(xs Qgd,7gRP# BQ1b#');
define('LOGGED_IN_KEY', 'e0[mD!v?2:SM3v1A:EEJ{#0,$Z<069<|C>6ycf=K4|R=oHdYoP4d3#wz#T$(bV-Z');
define('NONCE_KEY', 'xT2<j,HpH.j!Q1T3K2Qwy}^G(x*H[YG:~D%f-$~B{dq]eK+[ ]193!9N~1BY@NSTp');
define('AUTH_SALT', 'C k;*Aq92ka2/5s` Iz+o>lu8E0>5qhrHUXf1 }8oDUB0>%UQ^Tt7L-K9m)I([/L+');
define('SECURE_AUTH_SALT', 'mZxew>tsp:b<Ma58,8a1E.JRRa}x]-V[m/YzwR=P2[14Kr/nk>-$=Dt-NfItLI4o');
define('LOGGED_IN_SALT', '>XeGPG)=dGY`q=rFBX/P!03$H*;>N-Xa3`Y=mx*B@+{i?Fo3oxV4dc^Yn5VBn%!0');
define('NONCE_SALT', 'j-C@pUFR1`E 6(tn1HX>4[0yRb:<eXYP,zwkbk/x(*zc W`EfhYOz.8=XWb0&t%[');
```

15.Windows WordPress installations do not accept the dollar sign (\$) in key and salt values, so they need to be replaced with another character (such as S). In the Notepad window, click [Edit](#), then click [Replace](#).

16.In the Find what box, type \$.

17.In the Replace with box, type S.

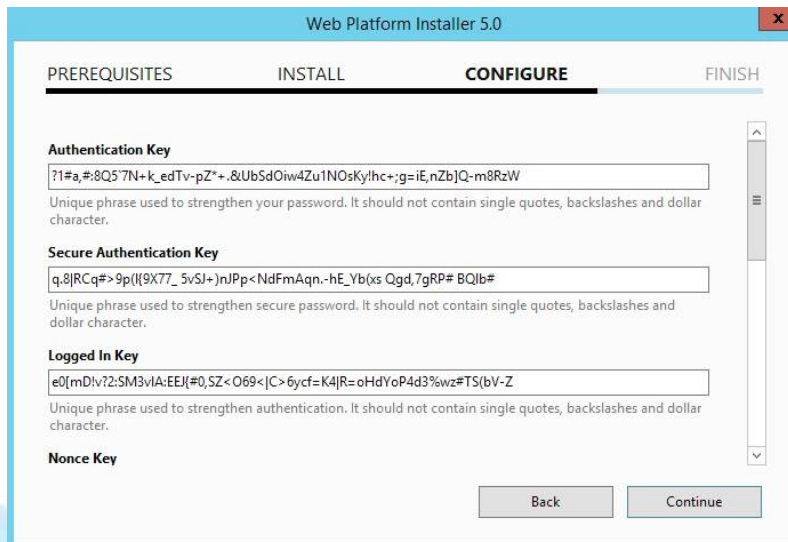
18.Click Replace All to replace all of the dollar signs with S characters.

19.Close the Replace window.

20.Paste the modified key and salt values from the Notepad window into their corresponding boxes in the installation wizard. For example, the AUTH_KEY value in the Notepad window should be pasted into the [Authentication Key](#) box in the wizard.

Do not include the single quotes or other text surrounding the values, just the actual value as in the example shown below.

21. Click **Continue** and **Finish** to complete the Web Platform Installer wizard.



The screenshot shows the 'CONFIGURE' step of the Web Platform Installer 5.0 wizard. It features four text input fields for keys, each with a descriptive label and a note about password strength. The 'Authentication Key' field contains a long alphanumeric string. The 'Secure Authentication Key' field contains another alphanumeric string. The 'Logged In Key' field contains a third alphanumeric string. The 'Nonce Key' field is empty. At the bottom right, there are 'Back' and 'Continue' buttons.

Web Platform Installer 5.0

PREREQUISITES INSTALL **CONFIGURE** FINISH

Authentication Key

?1#a, #8Q5'7N+k_edTv~pZ*+.&UbSdOiw4Zu1NOsKy!hc+;g=iE,nZb]Q-m8RzW

Unique phrase used to strengthen your password. It should not contain single quotes, backslashes and dollar character.

Secure Authentication Key

q.8]RCq#>9p{[(9X77_5vSJ+)nJPp<NdFmAqn.-hE_Yb(xs Qgd,7gRP# BQ]b#

Unique phrase used to strengthen secure password. It should not contain single quotes, backslashes and dollar character.

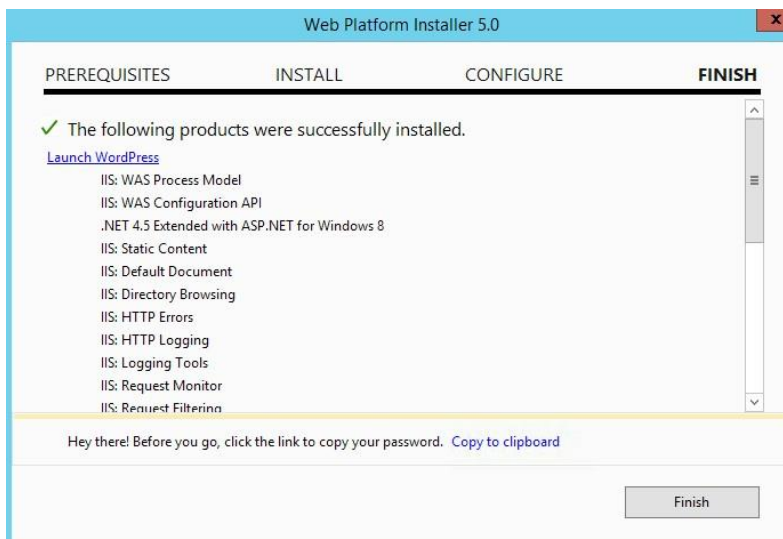
Logged In Key

e0{mDlv?2:SM3vIA:EEJ(#0,SZ<O69<|C>6ycf=K4|R= oHdYoP4d3%wz#TS(bV-Z

Unique phrase used to strengthen authentication. It should not contain single quotes, backslashes and dollar character.

Nonce Key

Back Continue



The screenshot shows the 'FINISH' step of the Web Platform Installer 5.0 wizard. It displays a green checkmark and a message stating that the following products were successfully installed. A list of installed products is shown, including IIS: WAS Process Model, IIS: WAS Configuration API, .NET 4.5 Extended with ASP.NET for Windows 8, IIS: Static Content, IIS: Default Document, IIS: Directory Browsing, IIS: HTTP Errors, IIS: HTTP Logging, IIS: Logging Tools, IIS: Request Monitor, and IIS: Request Filtering. A link to 'Launch WordPress' is provided. At the bottom, there is a 'Finish' button.

Web Platform Installer 5.0

PREREQUISITES INSTALL CONFIGURE **FINISH**

✓ The following products were successfully installed.

[Launch WordPress](#)

- IIS: WAS Process Model
- IIS: WAS Configuration API
- .NET 4.5 Extended with ASP.NET for Windows 8
- IIS: Static Content
- IIS: Default Document
- IIS: Directory Browsing
- IIS: HTTP Errors
- IIS: HTTP Logging
- IIS: Logging Tools
- IIS: Request Monitor
- IIS: Request Filtering

Hey there! Before you go, click the link to copy your password. [Copy to clipboard](#)

Finish

Configuring the Site Title and Administrator

When you complete the Web Platform Installer wizard, a browser window opens to your WordPress installation at <http://localhost/wp-admin/install.php>. On this page, you configure the title for your site and an administrative user to moderate your blog.

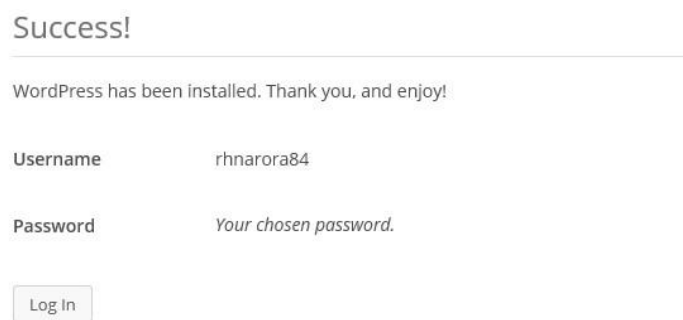
22. Choose your preferred language and click Continue.

23. On the WordPress Welcome page, enter Site Title, Username, Password and Your Email.

24. Click Install WordPress.

To complete the installation

25. Click [Log In](#).



The screenshot shows the WordPress installation success screen. At the top, it says "Success!" followed by a horizontal line. Below the line, it says "WordPress has been installed. Thank you, and enjoy!". Underneath, there are two rows of information: "Username" with the value "rhnarora84" and "Password" with the value "Your chosen password.". At the bottom, there is a "Log In" button.

Success!	
WordPress has been installed. Thank you, and enjoy!	
Username	rhnarora84
Password	Your chosen password.
<input type="button" value="Log In"/>	

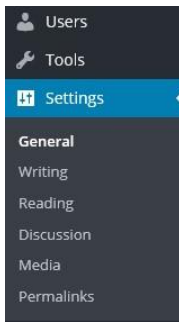
26. On the [Log In](#) page, enter your user name for [Username](#) and the site password you entered previously for [Password](#).

Making Your WordPress Site Public

Now that you can see your WordPress blog on your local host, you can publish this website as the default site on your instance so that other people can see it. The next procedure walks you through the process of modifying your WordPress settings to point to the public DNS name of your instance instead of your local host.

To configure the default settings for your WordPress site

27. Open the WordPress dashboard by opening a browser on your instance and going to <http://localhost/wp-admin>. If prompted for your credentials, enter your user name for the [Username](#) and your site password for [Password](#).
28. In the [Dashboard](#) pane, click [Settings](#)



29. On the [General Settings](#) page, enter the following information and click Save Changes.

WordPress address (URL)—The public DNS address of your instance.

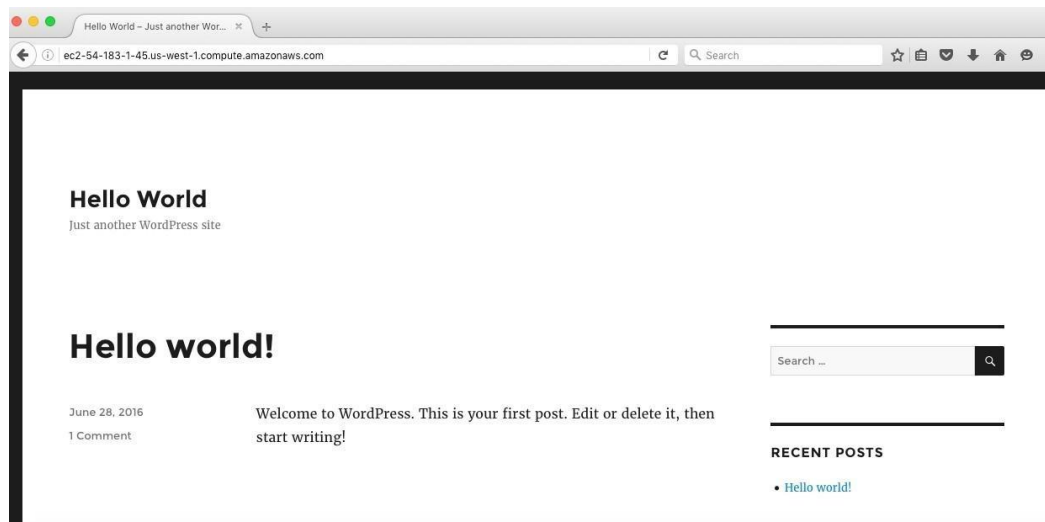
For example, your URL may look something like `ec2-54-183-1-45.us-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com`. You can get the public DNS for your instance using the Amazon EC2 console (select the instance and check the Public DNS column; if this column is hidden, click the [Show/Hide](#) icon and [select Public DNS](#)).

Site address (URL)—The same public DNS address of your instance that you set in [WordPress address \(URL\)](#).

General Settings

Site Title	<input type="text" value="Hello World"/>
Tagline	<input type="text" value="Just another WordPress site"/> <small>In a few words, explain what this site is about.</small>
WordPress Address (URL)	<input type="text" value="ec2-54-183-1-45.us-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com"/>
Site Address (URL)	<input type="text" value="ec2-54-183-1-45.us-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com"/> <small>Enter the address here if you want your site home page to be different from your WordPress installation directory.</small>

30. To see your new site, open a browser on a computer other than the instance hosting WordPress and type the public DNS address of your instance in the web address field. Your WordPress site appears.



Conclusion

Congratulations! You have just deployed a WordPress site on a Windows instance.