



# **Amazon Web Services Hands on EC2**

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*December, 2012*

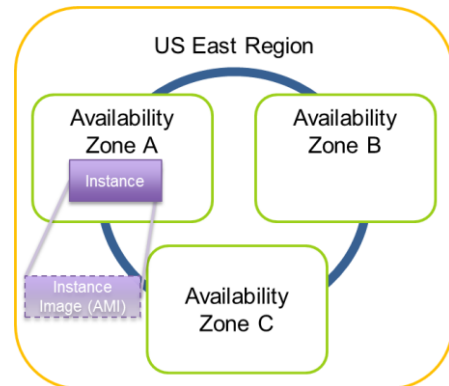
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### Overview

This lab will walk the user through launching, configuring, and customizing an EC2 virtual machine. The following is high-level overview of this lab:

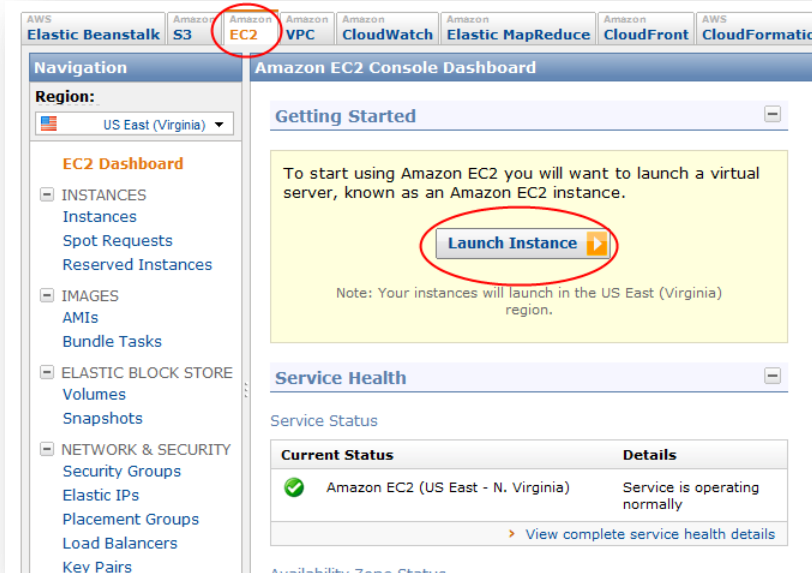
- Launch and Configure an Instance (Linux and Windows)
- Create a custom Amazon Machine Image (Linux and Windows)
- Assign a Fixed IP Address



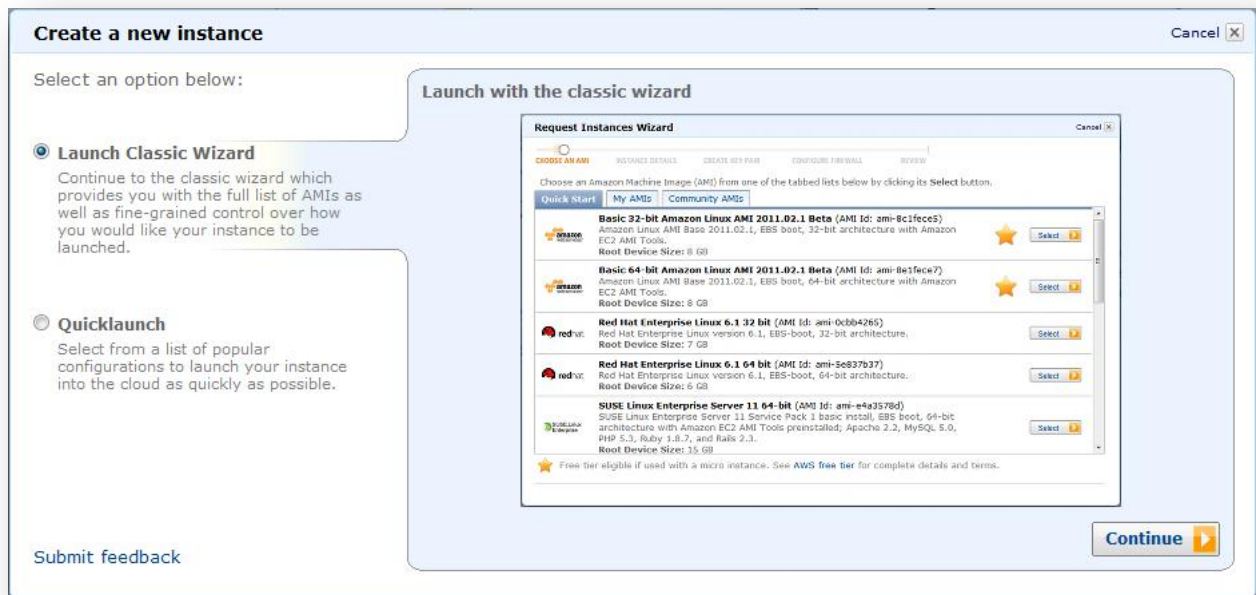
## Launch a Linux Instance

In this example we will launch a default Amazon Linux Instance with an Apache PHP web server installed on initialization.

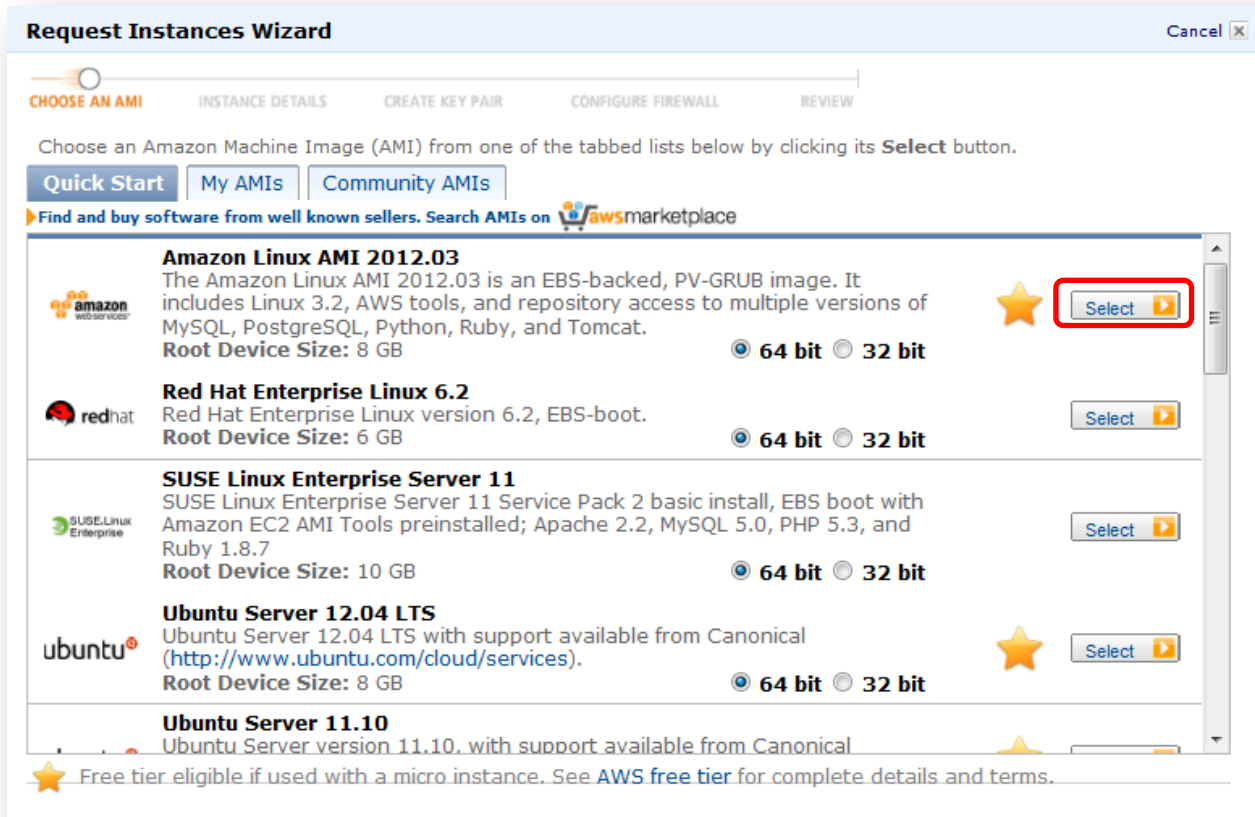
Navigate to the EC2 tab in the AWS Console and click on **Launch Instance**



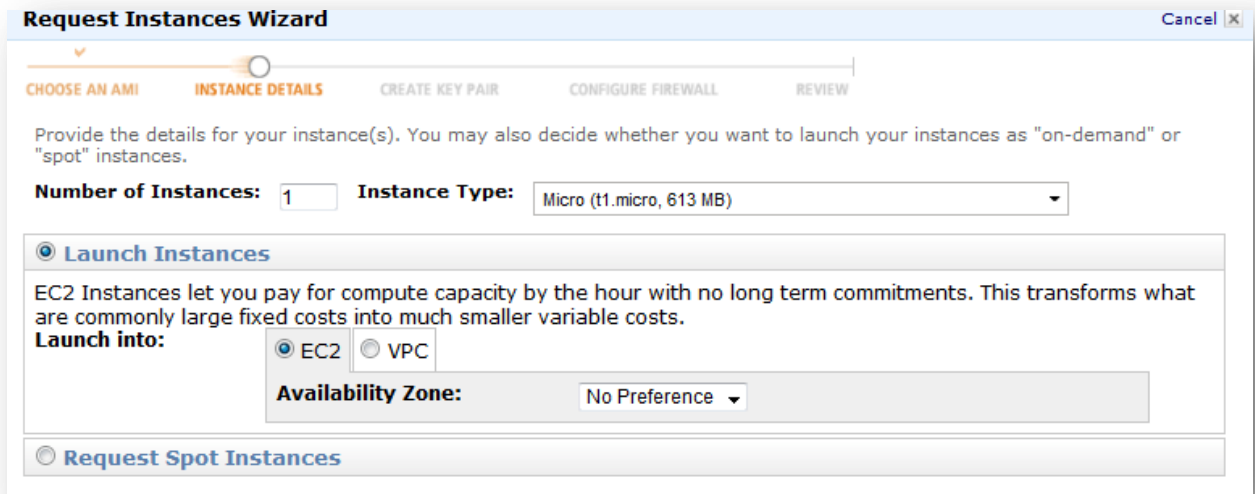
Select **Launch Classic Wizard** and click **Continue**



Select the Basic 64-bit Amazon Linux AMI



Select the **Micro (t1.micro)** instance size and click **Continue**



In the next screen, copy & paste the following initialization script (you may need to type this into Notepad and copy & paste the results) into the User Data field (this will automatically install and start Apache on launch) and click Continue:

```
#!/bin/sh
yum -y install httpd php
chkconfig httpd on
/etc/init.d/httpd start
```

**CHOOSE AN AMI** **INSTANCE DETAILS** CREATE KEY PAIR CONFIGURE FIREWALL REVIEW

**Number of Instances:** 1

**Availability Zone:** No Preference

**Advanced Instance Options**

Here you can choose a specific [kernel](#) or [RAM disk](#) to use with your instances. You can also choose to enable CloudWatch Detailed Monitoring or enter data that will be available from your instances once they launch.

**Kernel ID:** Use Default **RAM Disk ID:** Use Default

**Monitoring:** ☐ Enable CloudWatch detailed monitoring for this instance (additional charges will apply)

**User Data:**

☒ as text

☐ as file

☐ base64 encoded

**Termination Protection:** ☐ Prevention against accidental termination.

**Shutdown Behavior:** Stop Choose the behavior when the instance is shutdown from within the instance.

< Back Continue

Click **Continue** to accept the default Storage Device Configuration.

**Request Instances Wizard** Cancel

CHOOSE AN AMI **INSTANCE DETAILS** CREATE KEY PAIR CONFIGURE FIREWALL REVIEW

**Number of Instances:** 1  
**Availability Zone:** No Preference

**Storage Device Configuration**  
 Your instance will be launched with the following storage device settings. Edit these settings to add EBS volumes, instance store volumes, or edit the settings of the root volume.

Type	Device	Snapshot ID	Size	Volume Type	IOPS	Delete on Termination
Root	/dev/sda1	snap-b4f064ca	8GiB	standard		true

Edit

Back Continue

Next, choose a “friendly name” for your AMI. This name, more correctly known as a tag, will appear in the console once the instance launches. It makes it easy to keep track of running machines in a complex environment. We named ours “First Lab Instance”; however the only thing that matters is whether the name is meaningful to you. Then click **Continue**.

**Request Instances Wizard** Cancel

CHOOSE AN AMI **INSTANCE DETAILS** CREATE KEY PAIR CONFIGURE FIREWALL REVIEW

Add tags to your instance to simplify the administration of your EC2 infrastructure. A form of metadata, tags consist of a case-sensitive key/value pair, are stored in the cloud and are private to your account. You can create user-friendly names that help you organize, search, and browse your resources. For example, you could define a tag with key = Name and value = Webserver. You can add up to 10 unique keys to each instance along with an optional value for each key. For more information, go to [Using Tags](#) in the *EC2 User Guide*.

Key (127 characters maximum)	Value (255 characters maximum)	Remove
Name	First Lab Instance	<span>✖</span>
		<span>✖</span>

[Add another Tag](#). (Maximum of 10)

Then create a key pair, if one does not already exist on your local hard drive, and download it to c:\ec2. Per the example below, we named the key pair “Lab” in this example.

**Request Instances Wizard** [Cancel]

CHOOSE AN AMI INSTANCE DETAILS **CREATE KEY PAIR** CONFIGURE FIREWALL REVIEW

Public/private key pairs allow you to securely connect to your instance after it launches. To create a key pair, enter a name and click **Create & Download your Key Pair**. You will then be prompted to save the private key to your computer. Note, you only need to generate a key pair once - not each time you want to deploy an Amazon EC2 instance.

☐ Choose from your existing Key Pairs

☒ Create a new Key Pair

1. Enter a name for your key pair:\*  (e.g., jdoekey)

2. Click to create your key pair:\* **Create & Download your Key Pair**

Save this file in a place you will remember. You can use this key pair to launch other instances in the future or visit the Key Pairs page to create or manage existing ones.

☐ Proceed without a Key Pair

Create a security group, which will be your firewall rules. On the assumption that we are building out a Web server, we named this one “Lab Web Tier”, and opened ports 22 and 80.

**Request Instances Wizard** [Cancel]

CHOOSE AN AMI INSTANCE DETAILS CREATE KEY PAIR **CONFIGURE FIREWALL** REVIEW

Security groups determine whether a network port is open or blocked on your instances. You may use an existing security group, or we can help you create a new security group to allow access to your instances using the suggested ports below. Add additional ports now or update your security group anytime using the Security Groups page.

☐ Choose one or more of your existing Security Groups

☒ Create a new Security Group

**Group Name**

**Group Description**

**Inbound Rules**

Create a new rule: Custom TCP rule

Port range:  (e.g., 80 or 49152-65535)

Source:  (e.g., 192.168.2.0/24, sg-47ad482e, or 1234567890/default)

TCP	Port (Service)	Source	Action
	22 (SSH)	0.0.0.0/0	Delete
	80 (HTTP)	0.0.0.0/0	Delete

[< Back](#) [Continue >](#)



Review your choices, and then click **Launch**.

Request Instances Wizard

Cancel

CHOOSE AN AMI


INSTANCE DETAILS

CREATE KEY PAIR

CONFIGURE FIREWALL

REVIEW

Please review the information below, then click **Launch**.

**AMI:**  Amazon Linux AMI ID ami-31814f58 (i386)

**Name:** Basic 32-bit Amazon Linux AMI 2011.09

**Description:** Amazon Linux AMI 2011.09, EBS boot, 32-bit architecture with Amazon EC2 AMI Tools. [Edit AMI](#)

**Number of Instances:** 1

**Availability Zone:** No Preference

**Instance Type:** Micro (t1.micro)

**Instance Class:** On Demand [Edit Instance Details](#)

**Monitoring:** Disabled

**Termination Protection:** Disabled

**Tenancy:** Default

**Kernel ID:** Use Default

**RAM Disk ID:** Use Default


**User Data:** [Edit Advanced Details](#)

**Shutdown Behavior:** Stop

**Key Pair Name:** linuxkey [Edit Key Pair](#)

**Security Group(s):** sg-303d4a59 [Edit Firewall](#)

[Back](#)

**Launch** 

## EC2 Hands On Lab

Launch the instance and monitor it to make certain it's running.

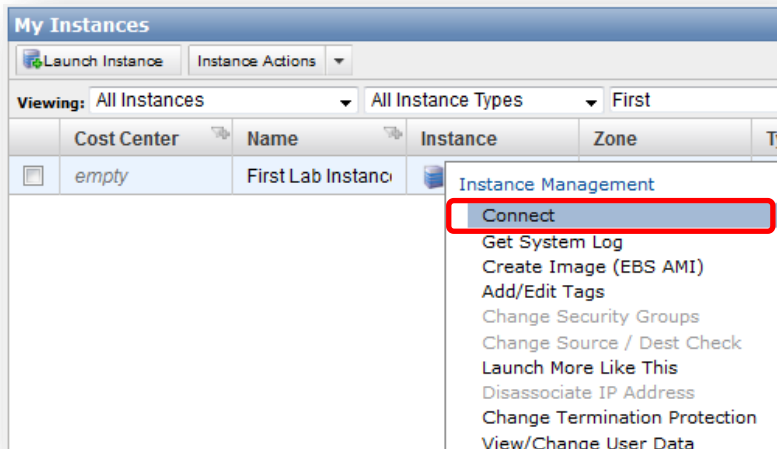
The screenshot displays the AWS Management Console interface for the EC2 service. The left-hand navigation pane shows the 'Instances' link highlighted with a red circle. The main content area, titled 'My Instances', shows a table of EC2 instances. The table has columns for Name, Instance, AMI ID, Root Device, Type, Status, and Security Groups. Three instances are listed: 'ec2.aws-lab.com' (status: running), 'Media Server' (status: stopped), and 'First Lab Instance' (status: running). The 'First Lab Instance' and its 'running' status are circled in red. Below the table, it indicates '0 EC2 Instances selected' and prompts to 'Select an instance above'. The footer shows the copyright notice for Amazon Web Services LLC and the Amazon logo.

Name	Instance	AMI ID	Root Device	Type	Status	Security Groups
ec2.aws-lab.com	i-d5b709bc	ami-e4698d8d	instance-store	m1.small	running	Windows
Media Server	i-3773a859	ami-d9e40db0	ebs	m1.xlarge	stopped	Windows
First Lab Instance	i-d356ddb0	ami-fe996697	ebs	t1.micro	running	Lab V

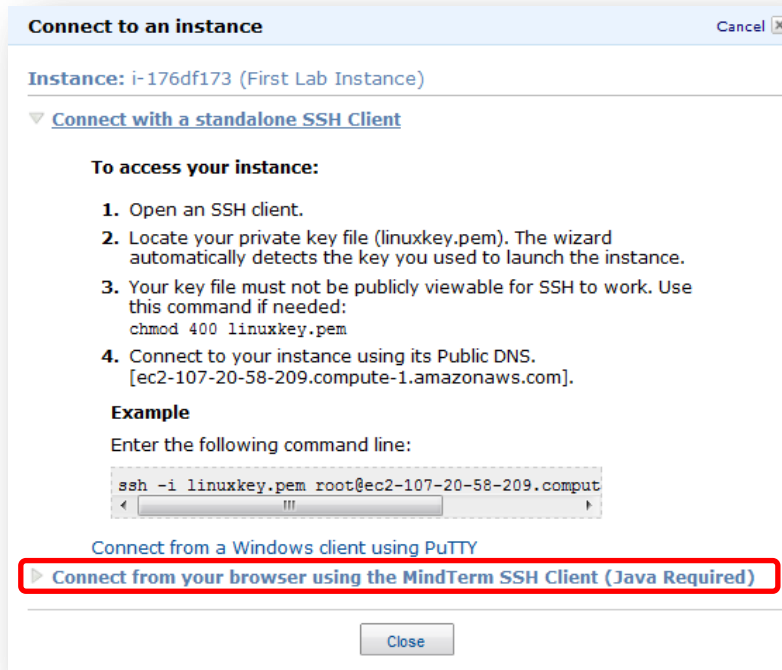
## Connect to the Linux Instance Using the Console (MindTerm)

These instructions require Java to launch the MindTerm SSH client through the console. If you do not have Java, or would prefer to use a stand alone SSH client, please see the Appendix for instructions on using PuTTY.

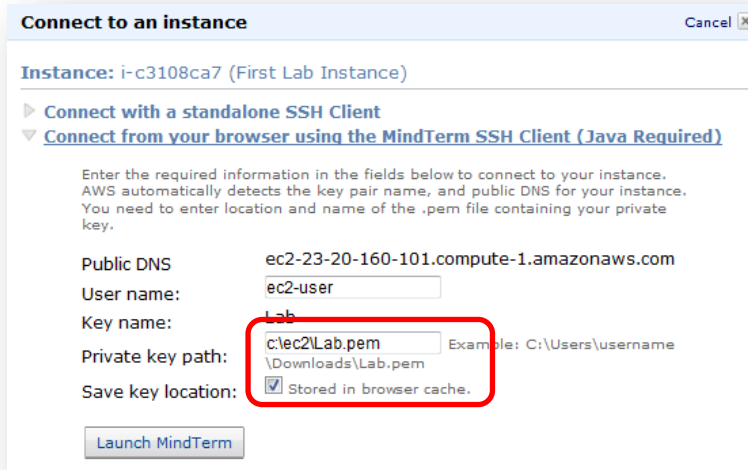
Once the instance is running, right-click on the instance and select “**Connect**”



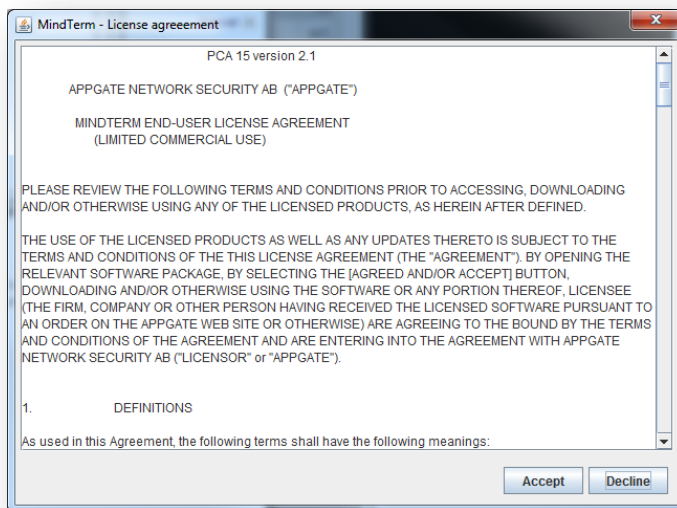
Next click on **Connect from your browser using the MindTerm SSH Client**



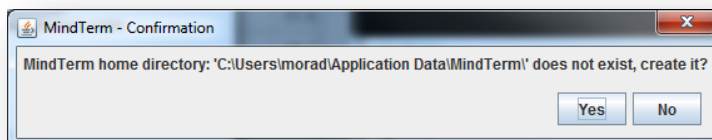
Make sure the User name is **ec2-user**, provide the location to your private key (C:\ec2\Lab.pem), and check the option to save the key location (not the key itself) in browser cache so you will not have to retype this location in every time you connect to EC2 instances. Then click on **Launch MindTerm**.



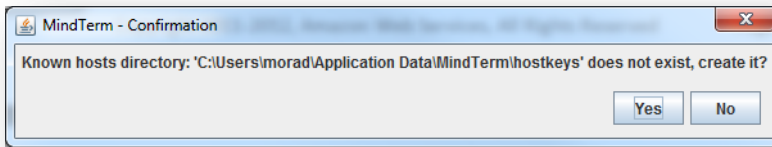
It can take some time for the MindTerm applet to download and run. If this is the first time you have used MindTerm, you will be prompted to accept the MindTerm EULA:



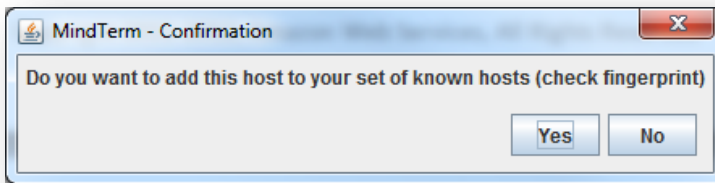
You will be asked to create a directory for MindTerm:



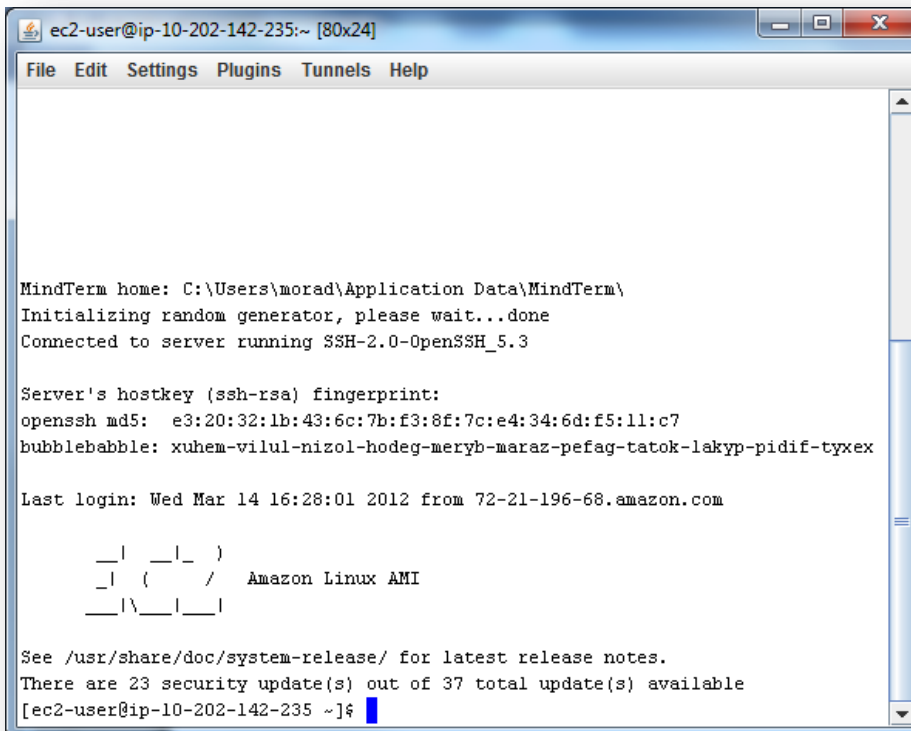
Next you will be asked to create a directory for MindTerm to use to store host keys:



And finally you will be asked if you want to store the host key for your Instance. At this point you have the option to verify the host key MindTerm is seeing with the host key provided by the AWS console to verify that you are connecting directly to your EC2 instance and not some third-party in the middle.



And finally, you should be logged into your Instance:



Once logged in, we're going to modify the default web page to display information about this instance.

## Configure the Linux Instance

The AMI has already been customized with the installation of Apache and PHP from the script you entered as User Data when the instance was launched. Modify the web server by adding the following index.php file:

```
cd /var/www/html
sudo vi index.php
```

If you are an experienced Linux user, apologies for telling you how to use vi, the default text editor. For everyone else, vi is not an intuitive program.

Press **i**

Enter the following:

```
<?php
$url = "http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/instance-id";
$instance_id = file_get_contents($url);
echo "Instance ID: <b>" . $instance_id . "</b><br/>";
$url = "http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/placement/availability-zone";
$zone = file_get_contents($url);
echo "Zone: <b>" . $zone . "</b><br/>";
?>
```

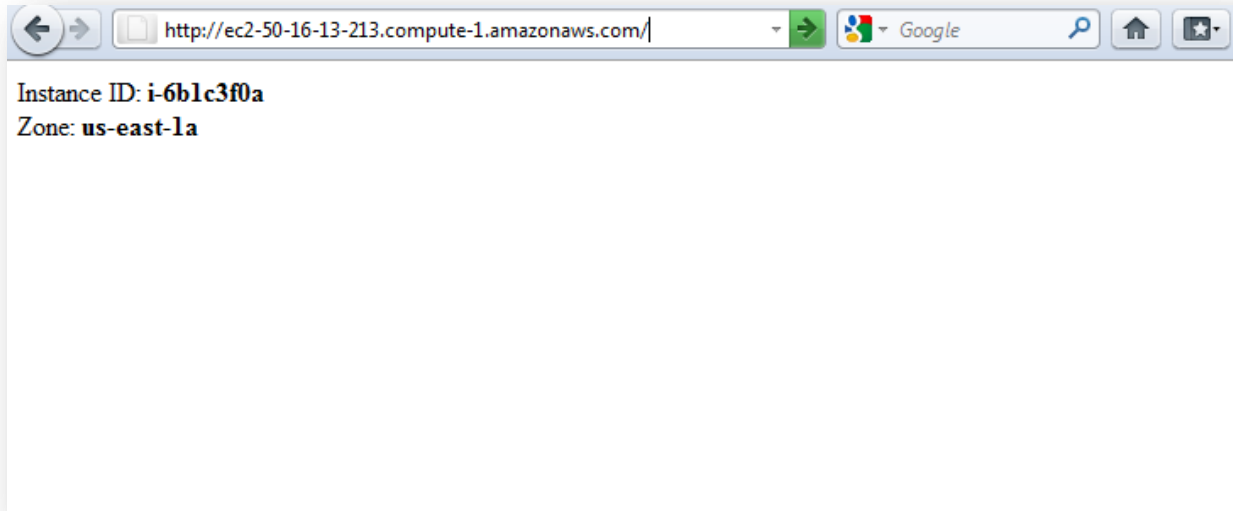
Press **escape**

Followed by **:wq**

This will save and quit after you add the PHP code above. This code will display the web server's ID and Availability Zone.

### Connect to the web server

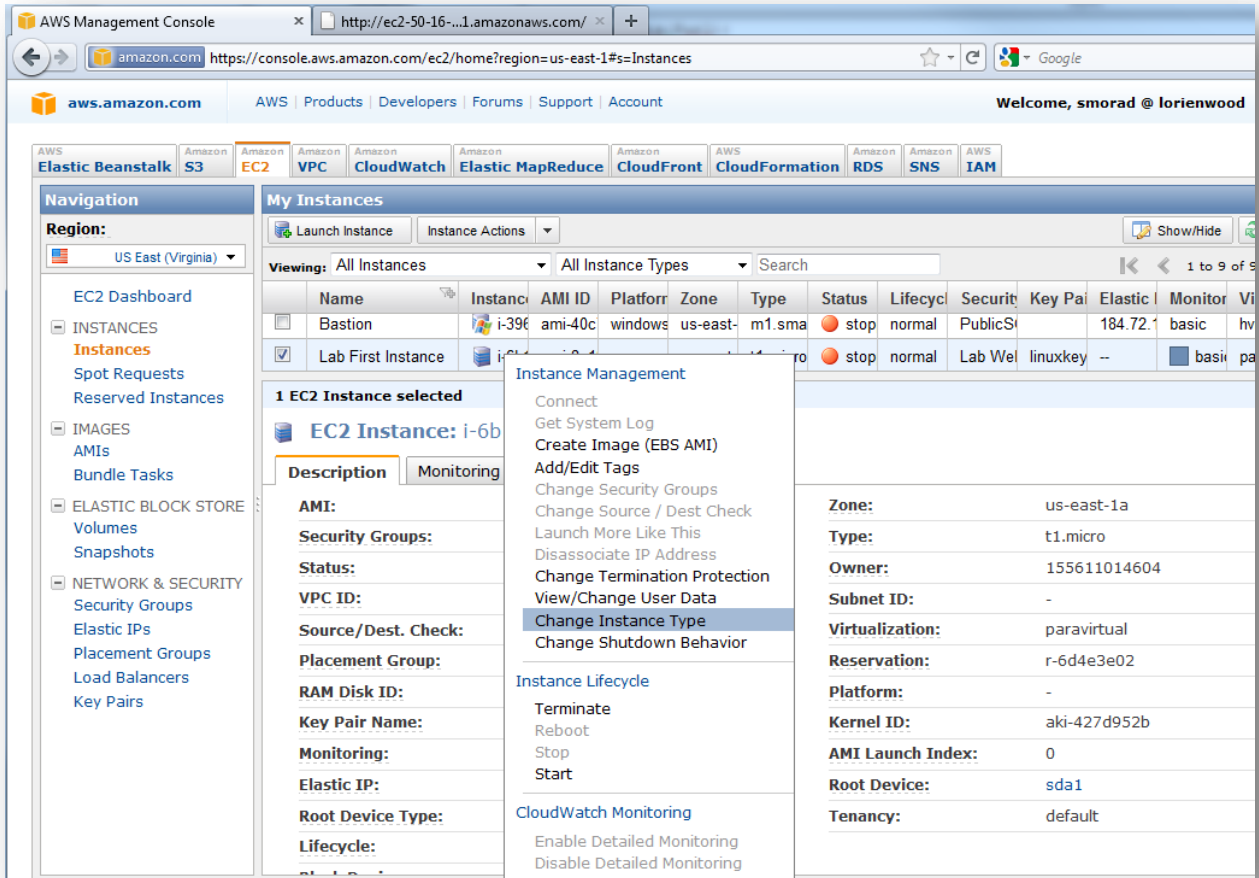
Enter the DNS name into the browser and connect to the server:



## Change the Instance Type

Did you know that you can change the instance type that an AMI is running on? This only works with EBS-backed instances (what we're running here). There is no particular reason to change the instance type in this lab, but the following steps outline how easy it is to do in AWS.

In the AWS Console, select your lab instance, then right-click on it and stop (NOT terminate!) the instance. After it has stopped, right-click on it again and select "Change Instance Type"



After going through the options and selecting your new instance type, right-click your lab instance and start it again.

Alternatively, you can use the EC2 command-line to script this change with the following command:

```
ec2-modify-instance-attribute <instance_id> -t <instance_type>
```

For example:

```
ec2-modify-instance-attribute i-c1202cad -t m1.small
```

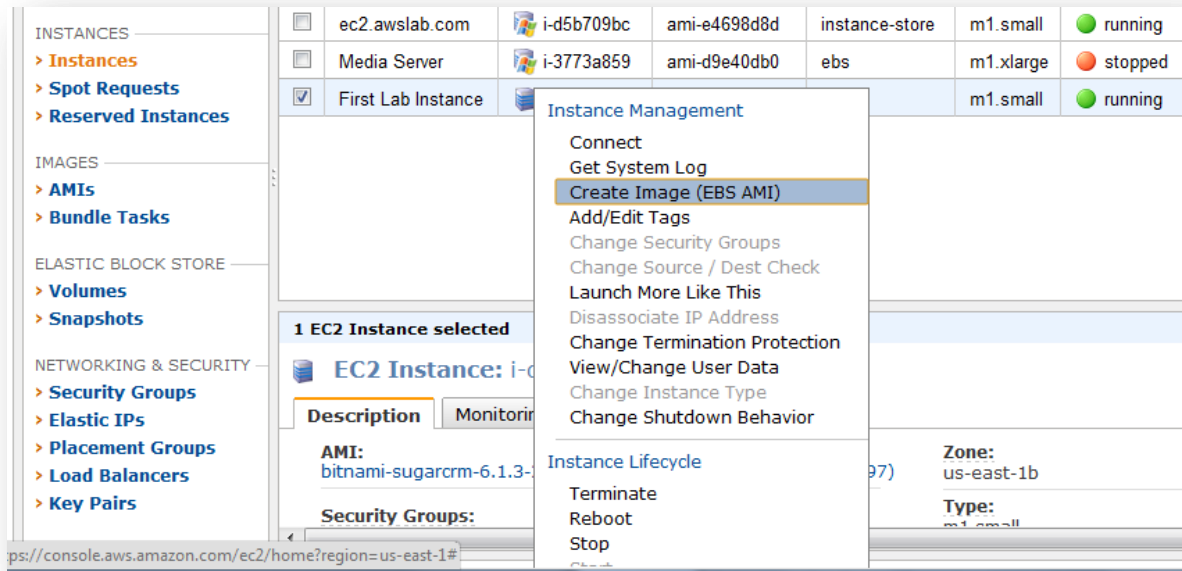


## Create a Custom AMI

We now have a fairly customized system, so we are going to create a custom AMI, visible only to us, that is a freeze-dried copy of what's running now. Then when we launch a new server, it will be preconfigured with all the changes that we've made.

### Bundle the Image

In the AWS Console, right-click on the instance and choose "Create Image (EBS AMI)".



Provide a name and image on the next screen, then click “Create This Image”. The instance will automatically be stopped (not terminated), and then a snapshot will be created. You’ll know when the process finishes, because the server will automatically restart and send you another email.

**Create Image** Cancel X

**Instance Id:** i-6b1c3f0a (Lab First Instance)

**Image Name\*:**

**Image Description:**

The instance you're using as a template for a new image has the following volumes:

- /dev/sda1, vol-dae836b0 (8 GiB), will delete on termination

Total size of EBS volumes: 8 GiB.

When you create an EBS image an EBS snapshot will also be created for each of the above volumes.

or [Cancel](#) \*Required Field

Note: If you use S3-backed images, the bundling process is significantly different. Accordingly, these instructions are only valid for EBS-backed images.

Once finished, there will be two new entries in the AWS Console. Under *Snapshots* you’ll see an entry for the snapshot (backup), and under AMIs owned by you there will be an AMI registered, based on the snapshot.

**Note:** it’s also possible to create a custom AMI from the command line with the `ec2-create-image` command. This command also gives you an advanced option to add a “`--no-reboot`” argument. It’s a very handy tool; however you’ll need to execute “`sudo sync`” in the Linux instance before you create the new image, in order to ensure all data is written to the disk. Otherwise the most recent files written to the disk may be 0 bytes long.

### Test the instance

Before we terminate the already-running instance, let’s make certain that the new one works. In the AWS Console, click on AMIs and your image should be listed under “Owned By Me”. Launch the instance, using the same keypair and security group as before. Use a new name, such as “Second Instance” in order that you can distinguish one from the other.

Make certain that both SSH and the Web Page work.

### Terminate the Original Instance

Well, not quite yet. Note that we now have two web servers. So we already have a scalable application! And if your new server started in a different availability zone than the first one, you also have redundancy.

Now terminate the original server. The instance and its local file system will be recycled back into the cloud.

### Assign a Fixed IP

How do you set up practical DNS names for your web server? Using an address such as <http://ec2-75-101-197-112.compute-1.amazonaws.com/> is not likely to win the day with your customers. Setting up a DNS record that points to <http://www.yourdomain.com> is easy enough – until you reboot the server and the underlying DNS name and IP address both change.

AWS offers Elastic IP Addresses, which are actually NAT addresses that operate at a regional level. That is, an Elastic IP Address works across Availability Zones, within a single region.

Assign one to your application as follows:

- Click on the Elastic IPs link in the AWS Console
- Allocate a new address
- Associate the address with a running instance. If you change instances, it's as simple as allocating the address to the new instance.
- If you have a domain name you can create a DNS "A" record in your own DNS server that points tt.mydomain.com to <<your elastic IP>>.

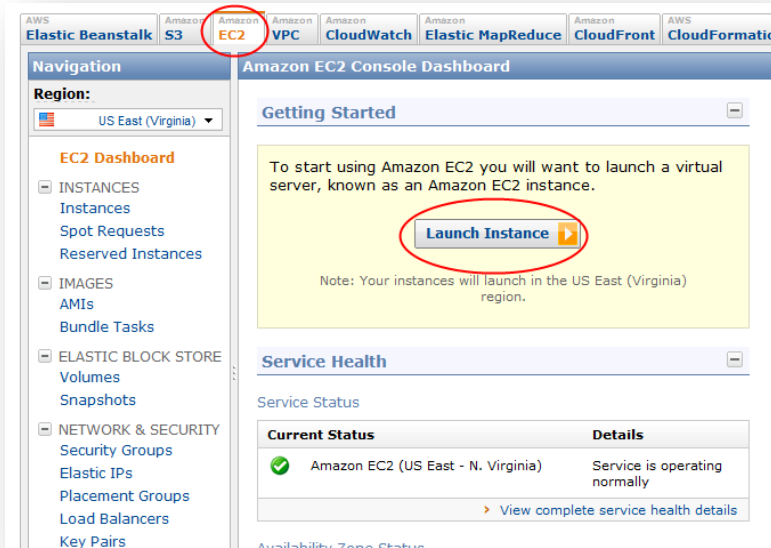
### Two Important Notes:

1. As long as an Elastic IP address is associated with a running instance, there is no charge for it. However an address that is not associated with a running instance costs \$0.01/hour. This prevents address hoarding; however it also means that you need to delete any addresses you create, or you will incur an ongoing charge.
2. Load balancing (covered in the next section) requires CNAME records instead of "A" records. So Elastic IP is not required for load-balanced applications.

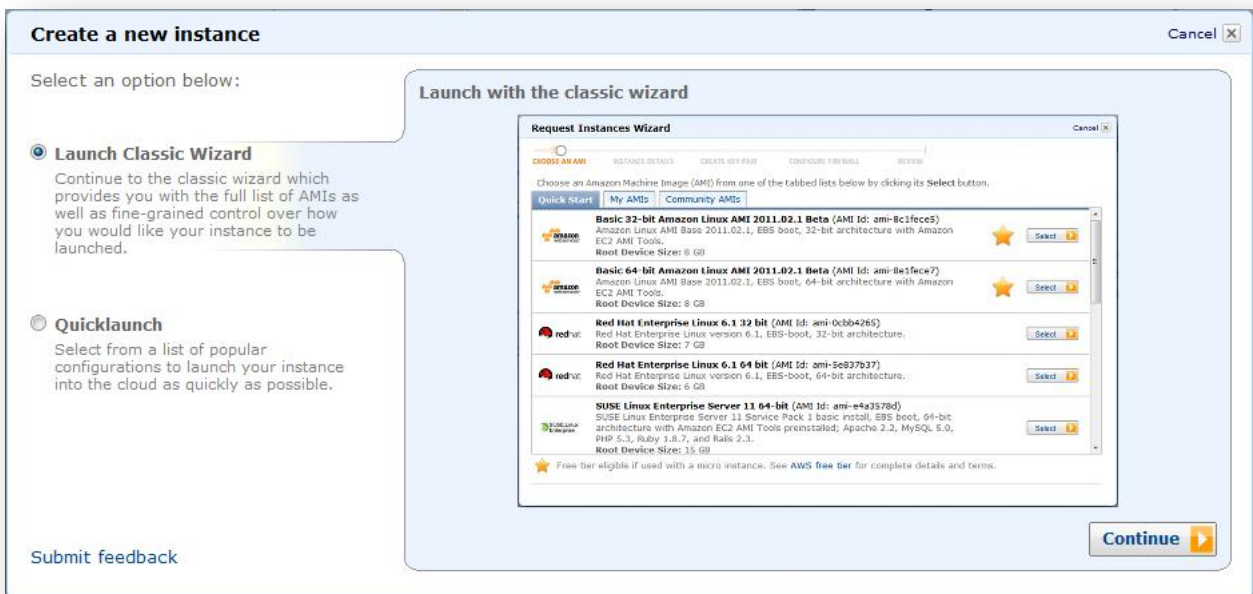
## Launch a Windows Instance

In this example we will launch a default Amazon provided Windows 2008 R2 instance with IIS preinstalled.

Navigate to the EC2 tab in the AWS Console and click on **Launch Instance**



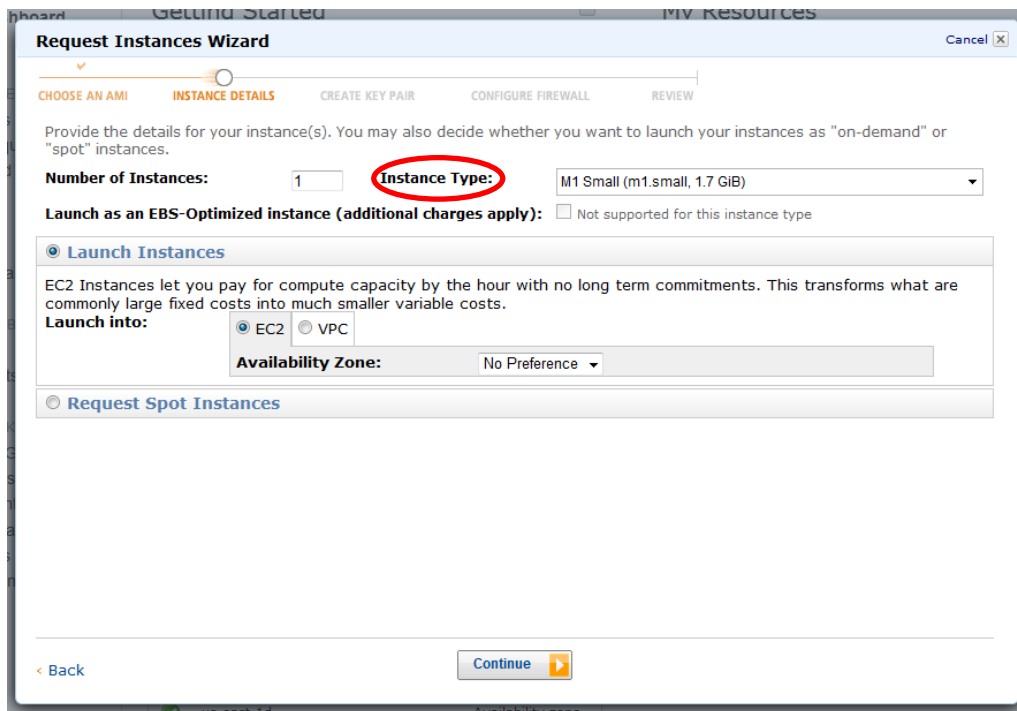
Select **Launch Classic Wizard** and click **Continue**



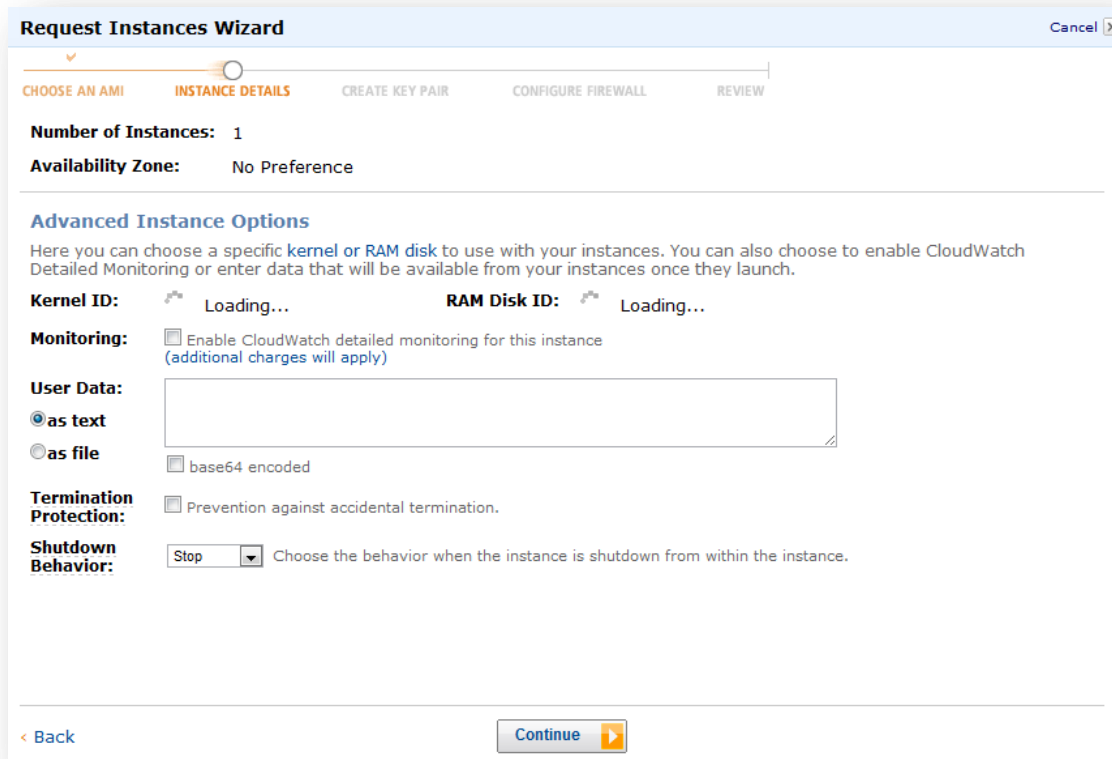
Scroll down and select **Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 with SQL Server Express and IIS**



Select M1 Small for the instance type, and let the system choose an availability zone (Microsoft does not recommend running Windows with the 613 MB of memory allocated to micro instances).



Also accept the defaults on the next screen by clicking **Continue**:



**Request Instances Wizard** [Cancel]

CHOOSE AN AMI | **INSTANCE DETAILS** | CREATE KEY PAIR | CONFIGURE FIREWALL | REVIEW

**Number of Instances:** 1  
**Availability Zone:** No Preference

**Advanced Instance Options**  
Here you can choose a specific [kernel](#) or [RAM disk](#) to use with your instances. You can also choose to enable CloudWatch Detailed Monitoring or enter data that will be available from your instances once they launch.

**Kernel ID:** Loading... **RAM Disk ID:** Loading...

**Monitoring:** ☐ Enable CloudWatch detailed monitoring for this instance (additional charges will apply)

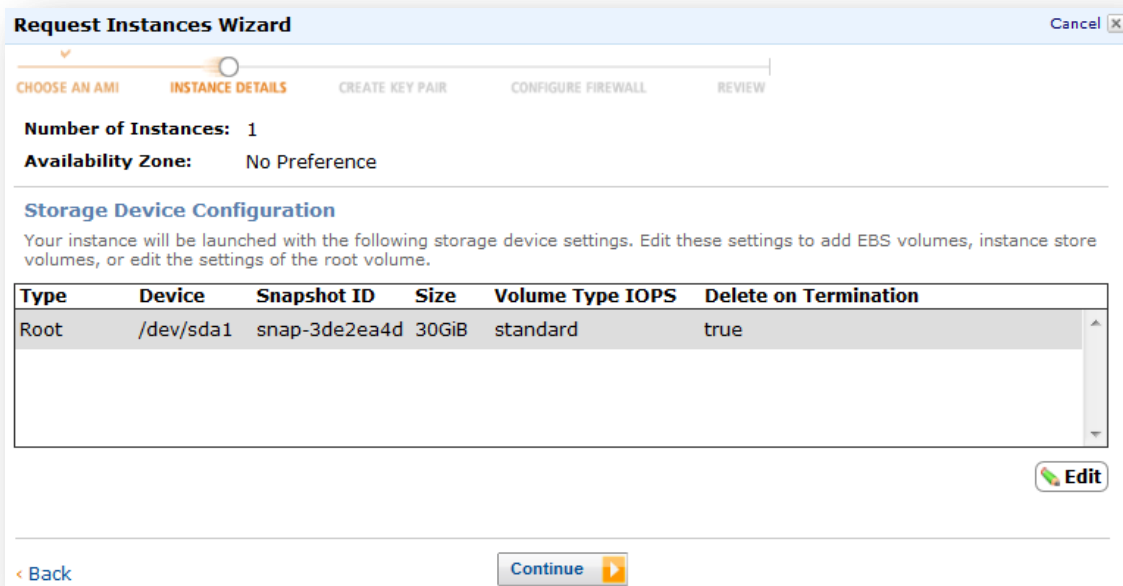
**User Data:**  
☒ as text  
☐ as file  
☐ base64 encoded

**Termination Protection:** ☐ Prevention against accidental termination.

**Shutdown Behavior:** Stop ▼ Choose the behavior when the instance is shutdown from within the instance.

< Back Continue ▶

Click **Continue** to accept the default Storage Device Configuration.



**Request Instances Wizard** [Cancel]

CHOOSE AN AMI | **INSTANCE DETAILS** | CREATE KEY PAIR | CONFIGURE FIREWALL | REVIEW

**Number of Instances:** 1  
**Availability Zone:** No Preference

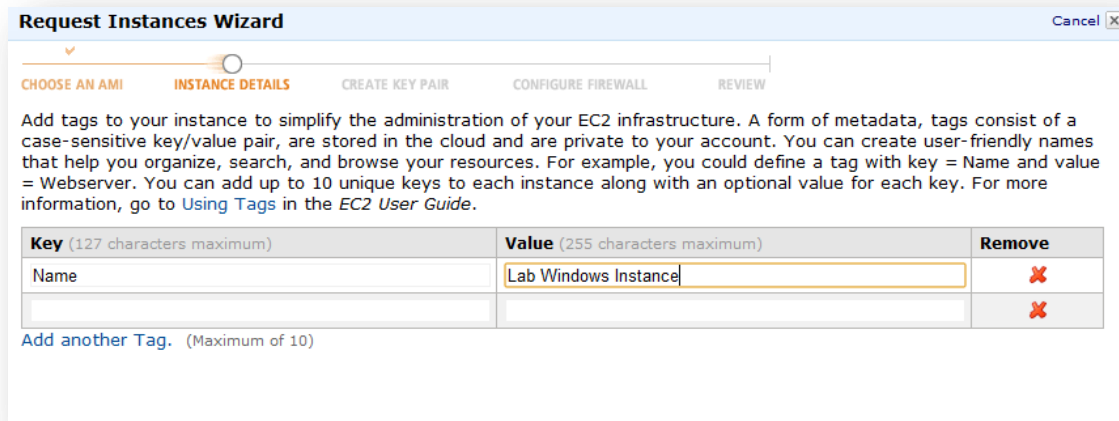
**Storage Device Configuration**  
Your instance will be launched with the following storage device settings. Edit these settings to add EBS volumes, instance store volumes, or edit the settings of the root volume.

Type	Device	Snapshot ID	Size	Volume Type	IOPS	Delete on Termination
Root	/dev/sda1	snap-3de2ea4d	30GiB	standard		true

Edit

< Back Continue ▶

Name the instance (e.g. Lab Windows Instance) if you wish, and click **Continue**.



**Request Instances Wizard** [Cancel]

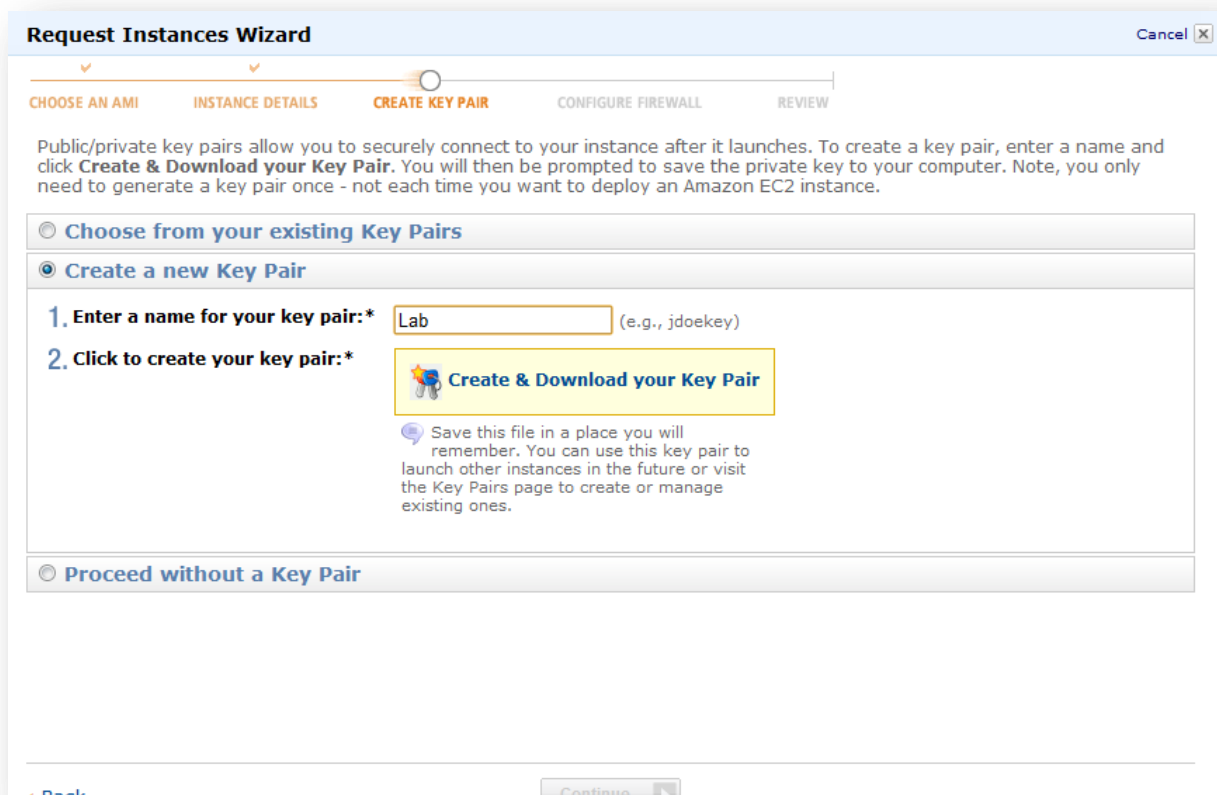
CHOOSE AN AMI | **INSTANCE DETAILS** | CREATE KEY PAIR | CONFIGURE FIREWALL | REVIEW

Add tags to your instance to simplify the administration of your EC2 infrastructure. A form of metadata, tags consist of a case-sensitive key/value pair, are stored in the cloud and are private to your account. You can create user-friendly names that help you organize, search, and browse your resources. For example, you could define a tag with key = Name and value = Webserver. You can add up to 10 unique keys to each instance along with an optional value for each key. For more information, go to [Using Tags](#) in the *EC2 User Guide*.

Key (127 characters maximum)	Value (255 characters maximum)	Remove
Name	Lab Windows Instance	✖
		✖

[Add another Tag.](#) (Maximum of 10)

Then create a key pair, if one does not already exist on your local hard drive, and download it to c:\ec2. Per the example below, we named the key pair “Lab” in this example. Be certain to create or select a key pair, because it’s the only way to retrieve the default Administrator password.



**Request Instances Wizard** [Cancel]

CHOOSE AN AMI | INSTANCE DETAILS | **CREATE KEY PAIR** | CONFIGURE FIREWALL | REVIEW

Public/private key pairs allow you to securely connect to your instance after it launches. To create a key pair, enter a name and click **Create & Download your Key Pair**. You will then be prompted to save the private key to your computer. Note, you only need to generate a key pair once - not each time you want to deploy an Amazon EC2 instance.

☐ Choose from your existing Key Pairs

☒ **Create a new Key Pair**

1. Enter a name for your key pair: \* Lab (e.g., jdoekey)

2. Click to create your key pair: \*

**Create & Download your Key Pair**

Save this file in a place you will remember. You can use this key pair to launch other instances in the future or visit the Key Pairs page to create or manage existing ones.

☐ Proceed without a Key Pair

[Back](#) [Continue](#)

Create a security group with the settings below. Each of these choices is pre-defined in the drop-down list on the left. Click “Add Rule” to add them one by one.

**Request Instances Wizard** Cancel

CHOOSE AN AMI INSTANCE DETAILS CREATE KEY PAIR **CONFIGURE FIREWALL** REVIEW

Security groups determine whether a network port is open or blocked on your instances. You may use an existing security group, or we can help you create a new security group to allow access to your instances using the suggested ports below. Add additional ports now or update your security group anytime using the Security Groups page.

☐ Choose one or more of your existing Security Groups

☒ Create a new Security Group

**Group Name**

**Group Description**

**Inbound Rules**

Create a new rule:

Port range:   
(e.g., 80 or 49152-65535)

Source:   
(e.g., 192.168.2.0/24, sg-47ad482e, or 1234567890/default)

TCP Port (Service)	Source	Action
80 (HTTP)	0.0.0.0/0	Delete
3389 (RDP)	0.0.0.0/0	Delete

[< Back](#) [Continue >](#)

Then launch the instance. Wait for 10-15 minutes for the Windows instance to initialize. This is required for Windows to allow sysprep to run, a random Administrator password to be created for you, and for Windows to initialize the first time.



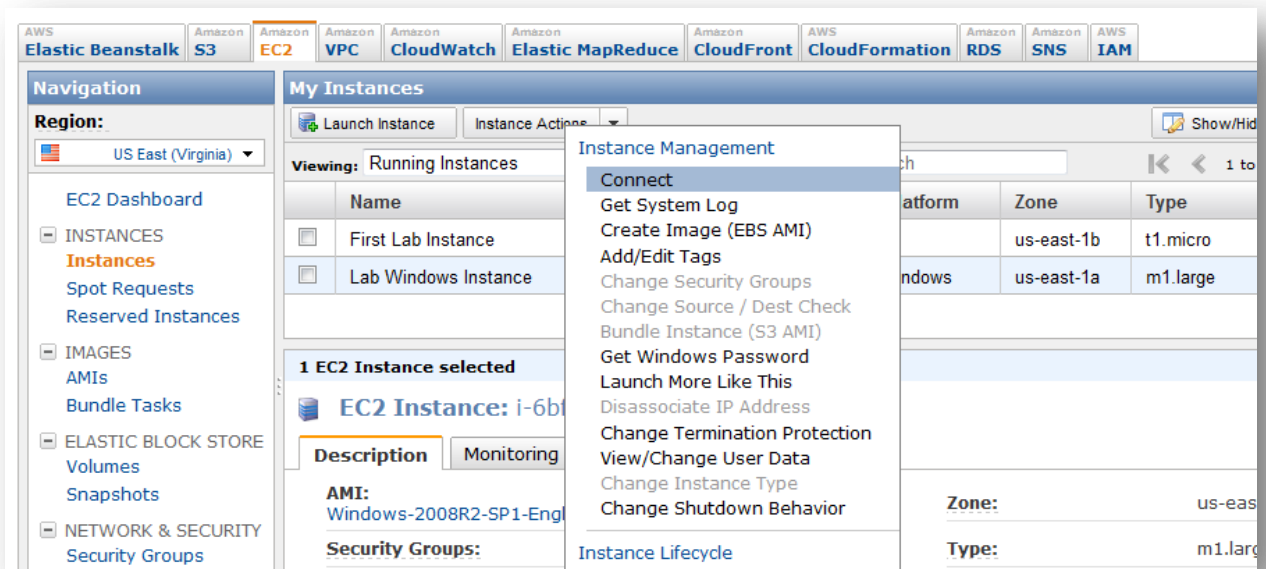
## Set Up Windows

### About Windows

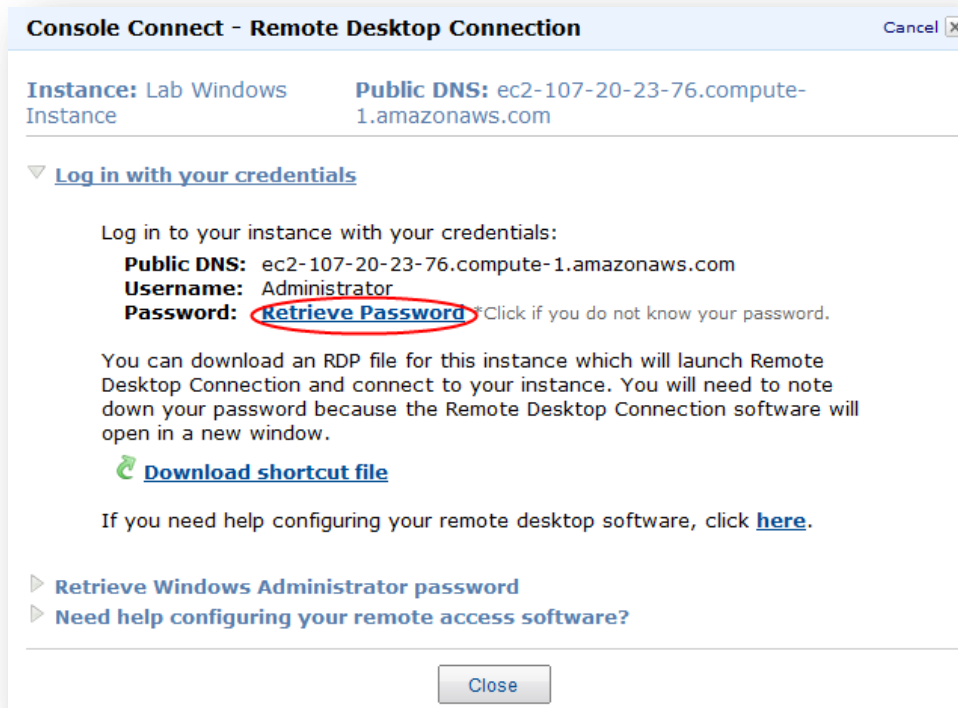
Amazon provided Windows instances automatically generated a random Administrator password the first time an instance is launched. This random password is encrypted using the public key specified at launch, and can only be retrieved after the instance has first booted. Once the instance is rebooted for the first time, this Administrator password can no longer be retrieved.

### Connecting to Windows Wizard

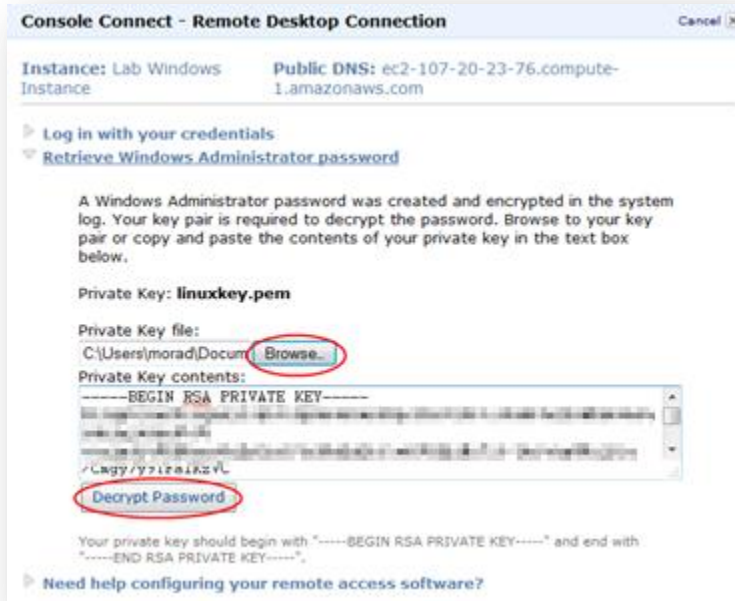
In the AWS Console, select the running Windows instance, then right-click and choose **“Connect”**.



Click on **Retrieve Password**. If you launched 15-30 minutes ago and you see a message that says “Windows password not available yet”, terminate the instance and launch a new one.



Click on “Browse”, locate your keypair that you downloaded. Use the .pem file extension.



Make a note of the login information and click on **Download shortcut file**. Open or save & launch the shortcut and use the decrypted password to log into the Windows Instance as Administrator.



### Manually Retrieve the Windows Administrator Password

In the AWS Console, you can manually retrieve the Windows Administrator password by selecting the running Windows instance, then right-click and choose “Get Windows Password”. If you launched 15-30

minutes ago and you see a message that says “Windows password not available yet”, terminate the instance and launch a new one.

The screenshot shows the Amazon Management Console interface. At the top, there are tabs for Amazon S3, Amazon EC2 (selected), Amazon Elastic MapReduce, Amazon CloudFront, and Amazon RDS. A welcome message "Welcome, Amazon Web Services Ev" is visible on the right.

The left sidebar contains a "Navigation" menu with sections: EC2 Dashboard, INSTANCES (with links to Instances, Spot Requests, AMIs, and Bundle Tasks), ELASTIC BLOCK STORE (with links to Volumes and Snapshots), and NETWORKING & SECURITY (with links to Elastic IPs, Security Groups, Key Pairs, and Load Balancers).

The main content area is titled "My Instances". It includes a "Launch Instance" button, "Instance Actions" dropdown, and "Reserved Instances" dropdown. Below these are filters for "Viewing: All Instances" and "All Instance Types".

A table lists three instances:

Instance	AMI ID	Root Device Type	Type	Status
i-d5b709bc	ami-e4698d8d	instance-store	m1.small	running
i-bfa86cd5	ami-c5e40dac	ebs	m1.small	running
i-d08391bb	ami-c5e40dac	ebs		

A context menu is open for the selected instance i-bfa86cd5. The menu is titled "Instance Management" and includes the following options:

- Connect
- Get System Log
- Create Image (EBS AMI)
- Bundle Instance (S3 AMI)
- Get Windows Password** (highlighted)
- Launch More Like This
- Disassociate IP Address

Below the table, a section titled "1 EC2 Instance selected" shows details for "EC2 Instance: i-bfa86cd5". It has tabs for "Description" and "Monitoring". The "Description" tab is active, showing:

- AMI ID: ami-c5e40dac
- Security Groups: Windows 2008
- Status: running

At the bottom of the console, there is a copyright notice: "© 2008 - 2009, Amazon Web Services LLC or its affiliates. All right reserved." and a "Feedback" link.

Paste in the contents of the keypair that you downloaded. Use the .pem file extension.

**Retrieve Default Windows Administrator Password** Cancel X

To access this instance remotely (e.g., Remote Desktop Connection), you will need your Windows Administrator password. A default password was created when the instance was launched and is available encrypted in the system log.

To decrypt your password, you will need your key pair for this instance. Simply copy & paste the contents of your private key file into the text box below, then click **Decrypt Password**.

**Instance:** i-9db672f7

\* Required field

**Encrypted Password:** NLig6MjvZUh1EmzwbB6103/lmNkr5H40y8d1+6Tih86...

**Key Pair:** Lab.pem  
Note: You were prompted to download and save this when you created your key pair.

**Private Key\*:**

```
-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
MIIEowIBAAKCAQEA1ZSMwq0c4e+8u 2VBBu
+ellnc/5BertGstt1-4corf418pde9qst h86
0Zm4886o
nbc79KOTXNjgu2i1wT>AKIykBzV9G94T6a
Please include the entire text, including the Begin
and End lines (Ex: "-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE
KEY-----")
```

**Decrypt Password**

### Manually Connect to the Instance Using Windows Remote Desktop

Click on Start -> Run and type in *mstsc*, which will start your local Microsoft Remote Desktop client. The server address will be the public DNS address of the server, which you can copy from the AWS Console. Once you've retrieved your password and logged in, we suggest changing the Administrator password to something more memorable – or at least writing it down. If you decide to stop the server and then restart it again later, there is no way to retrieve the password again.

## Configure the default Website

This AMI has already been configured with IIS installed and running. Modify the web server by using Notepad to create the following Default.asp file:

Create this file:

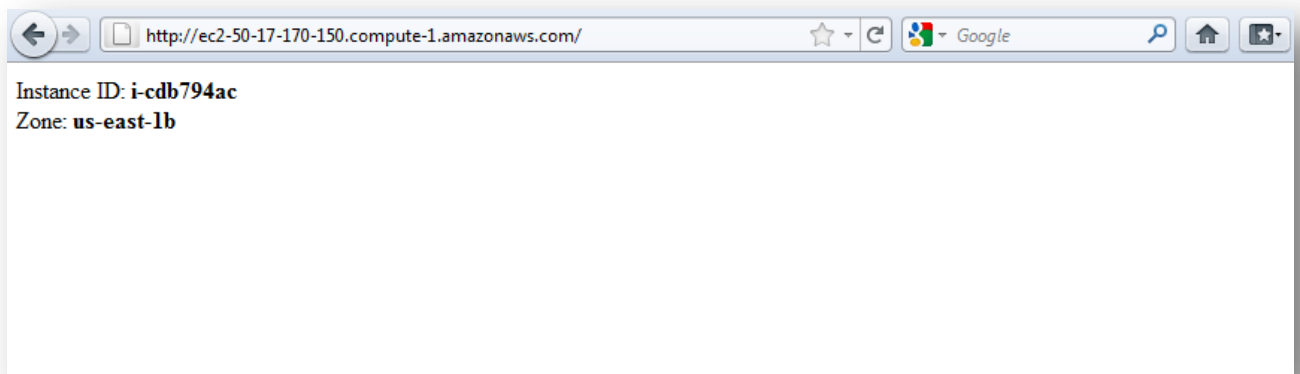
```
C:\inetpub\wwwroot\Default.asp
```

With this content:

```
<%  
set xmlhttp = CreateObject("MSXML2.ServerXMLHTTP")  
url = "http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/instance-id"  
xmlhttp.open "GET", url, false  
xmlhttp.send ""  
strHTML = xmlhttp.responseText  
Response.Write("Instance ID: <b>" & strHTML & "</b><br/>")  
url = "http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/placement/availability-zone"  
xmlhttp.open "GET", url, false  
xmlhttp.send ""  
strHTML = xmlhttp.responseText  
Response.Write("Zone: <b>" & strHTML & "</b><br/>")  
set xmlhttp = nothing  
%>
```

## Connect to the web server

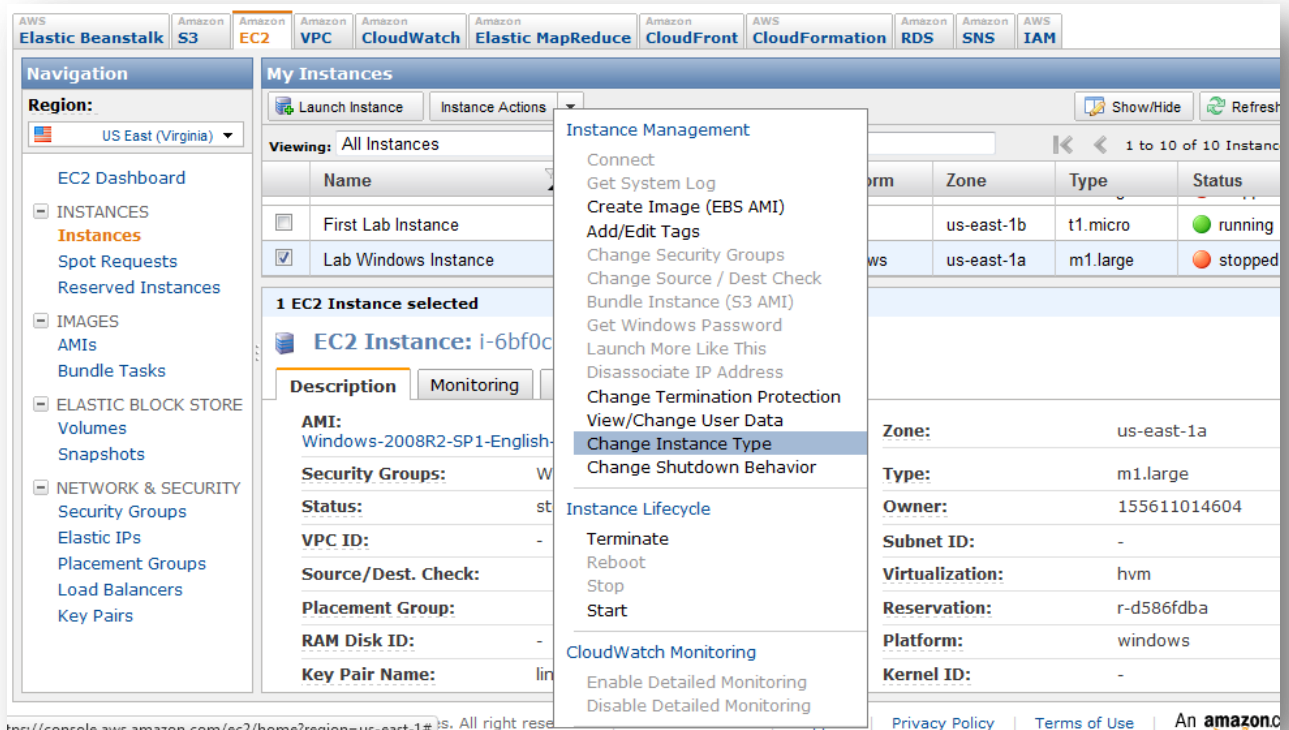
Enter the DNS name into the browser and connect to the server (if the default IIS 7 page displays instead of something similar to the screenshot below, make sure the Default.asp file was not saved with a .txt extension by Notepad).



## Change the Instance Type

Did you know that you can change the instance type that an AMI is running on? This only works with EBS-backed instances (what we're running here). There is no particular reason to change the instance type in this lab, but the following steps outline how easy it is to do in AWS.

In the AWS Console, select your lab instance, then right-click on it and stop (NOT terminate!) the instance. After it has stopped, right-click on it again and select "Change Instance Type"



After going through the options and selecting your new instance type, right-click your lab instance and start it again.

Alternatively, you can use the EC2 command-line to script this change with the following command:

```
ec2-modify-instance-attribute <instance_id> -t <instance_type>
```

For example:

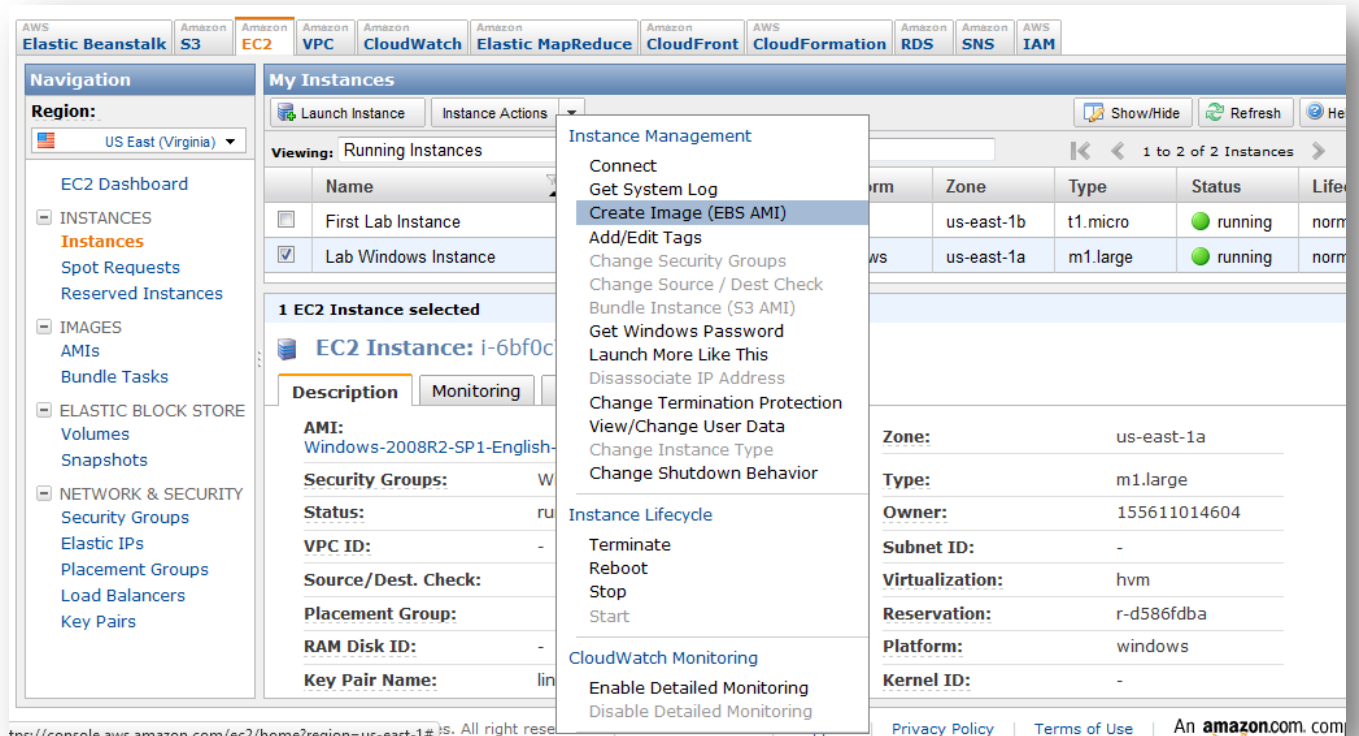
```
ec2-modify-instance-attribute i-c1202cad -t m1.small
```

## Create a Custom AMI

We now have a fairly customized system, so we are going to create a custom AMI, visible only to us, that is a freeze-dried copy of what's running now. Then when we launch a new server, it will be preconfigured with all the changes that we've made.

## Bundle the Image

In the AWS Console, right-click on the instance and choose "Create Image (EBS AMI)".





Provide a name and image on the next screen, then click “Create This Image”. The instance will automatically be stopped (not terminated), and then a snapshot will be created. You’ll know when the process finishes, because the server will automatically restart and send you another email.

**Create Image** Cancel

**Instance Id:** i-6bf0c70a (Lab Windows Instance)

**Image Name\*:**

**Image Description:**

The instance you're using as a template for a new image has the following volumes:

- /dev/sda1, vol-5876d232 (35 GiB), will delete on termination

Total size of EBS volumes: 35 GiB.

When you create an EBS image an EBS snapshot will also be created for each of the above volumes.

or [Cancel](#) \*Required Field

Note: If you use S3-backed images, the bundling process is significantly different. Accordingly, these instructions are only valid for EBS-backed images.

Once finished, there will be two new entries in the AWS Console. Under *Snapshots* you’ll see an entry for the snapshot (backup), and under AMIs owned by you there will be an AMI registered, based on the snapshot.

**Note:** it’s also possible to create a custom AMI from the command line with the `ec2-create-image` command. This command also gives you an advanced option to add a “`--no-reboot`” argument. It’s a very handy tool; however the “`--no-reboot`” option is not recommended for Windows instances because a shutdown ensures the most recent files have been written to the disk and the Windows file system does not get corrupted.

### Test the instance

Before we terminate the already-running instance, let’s make certain that the new one works. In the AWS Console, click on AMIs and your image should be listed under “Owned By Me”. Launch the instance, using the same keypair and security group as before. Use a new name, such as “Second Windows Instance” in order that you can distinguish one from the other. Make certain that both RDP and the Web Page work.

### Terminate the Original Instance

Well, not quite yet. Note that we now have two web servers. So we already have a scalable application! And if your new server started in a different availability zone than the first one, you also have redundancy.

Now terminate the original server. The instance and its local file system will be recycled back into the cloud.

### Assign a Fixed IP

How do you set up practical DNS names for your web server? Using an address such as <http://ec2-75-101-197-112.compute-1.amazonaws.com/> is not likely to win the day with your customers. Setting up a DNS record that points to <http://www.yourdomain.com> is easy enough – until you reboot the server and the underlying DNS name and IP address both change.

AWS offers Elastic IP Addresses, which are actually NAT addresses that operate at a regional level. That is, an Elastic IP Address works across Availability Zones, within a single region.

Assign one to your application as follows:

- Click on the Elastic IPs link in the AWS Console
- Allocate a new address
- Associate the address with a running instance. If you change instances, it's as simple as allocating the address to the new instance.
- If you have a domain name you can create a DNS "A" record in your own DNS server that points tt.mydomain.com to <<your elastic IP>>.

### Two Important Notes:

3. As long as an Elastic IP address is associated with a running instance, there is no charge for it. However an address that is not associated with a running instance costs \$0.01/hour. This prevents address hoarding; however it also means that you need to delete any addresses you create, or you will incur an ongoing charge.
4. Load balancing (covered in the next section) requires CNAME records instead of "A" records. So Elastic IP is not required for load-balanced applications.

## Appendix – Using Native Client to Connect to Linux Instances

### Windows (PuTTY)

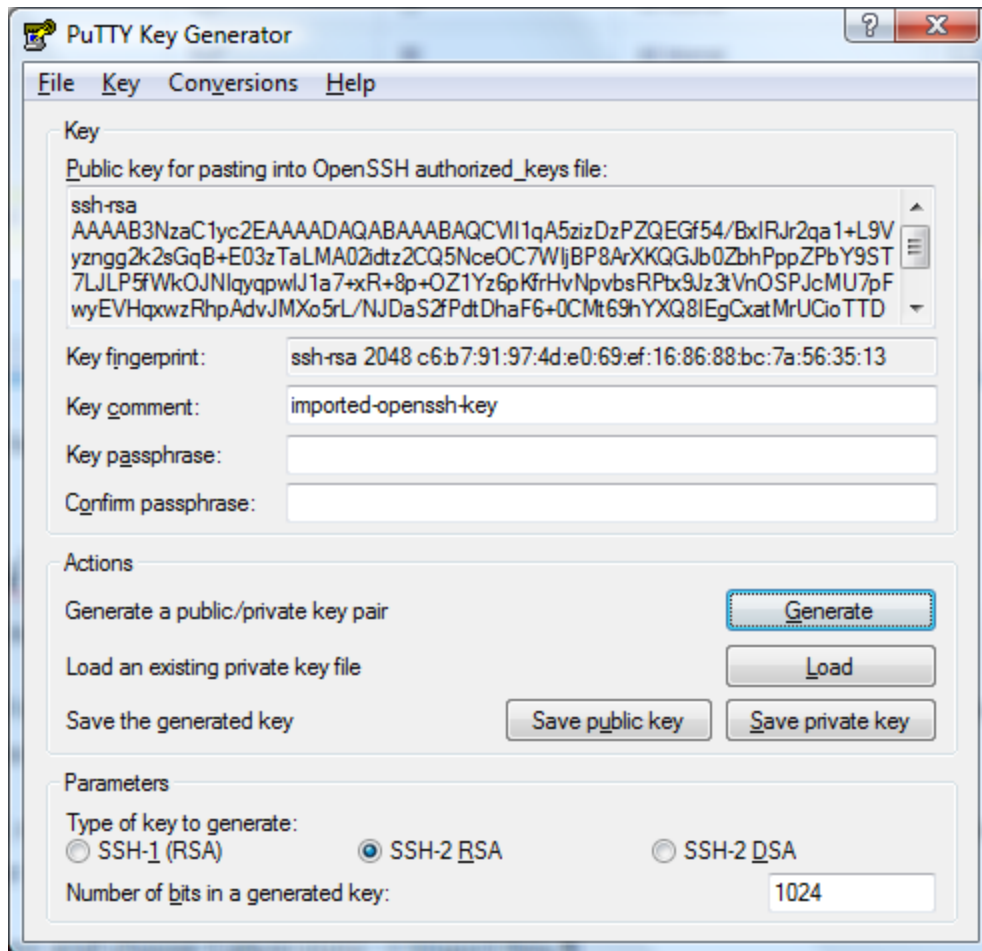
This is a Windows-only step, because other operating systems have SSH built in.

Download and install Putty. The single word “putty” in Google will return a list of download sites. Be certain that you install both Putty and PuttyGen, because you will need both.

Once installed, convert the key pair that you created when you launched the instance. Putty doesn’t understand the native key pair format.

Launch PuttyGen and choose Conversions -> Import Key.

Browse for Lab.pem, or whatever you named yours, and import the key. The result will look similar to this:

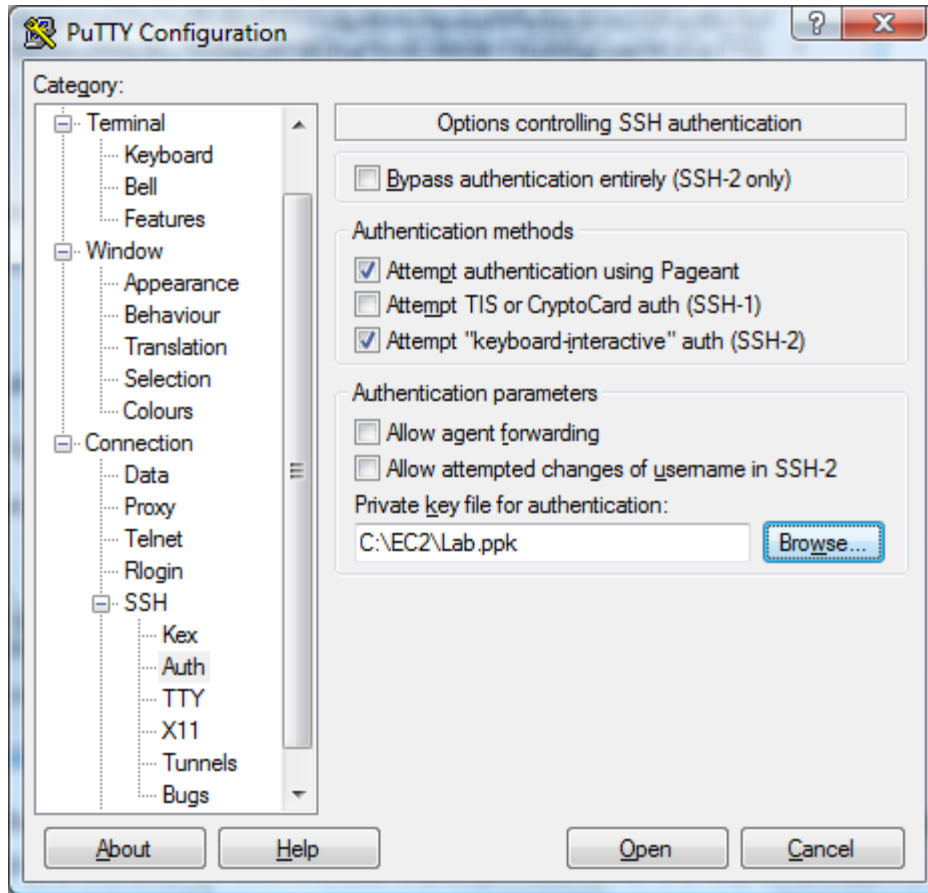


Save the key as the same file name with a .ppk extension. Click on File -> Save as Private Key. Ignore the dialog that asks if you want to do this without a passphrase. Save the key as Lab.ppk.

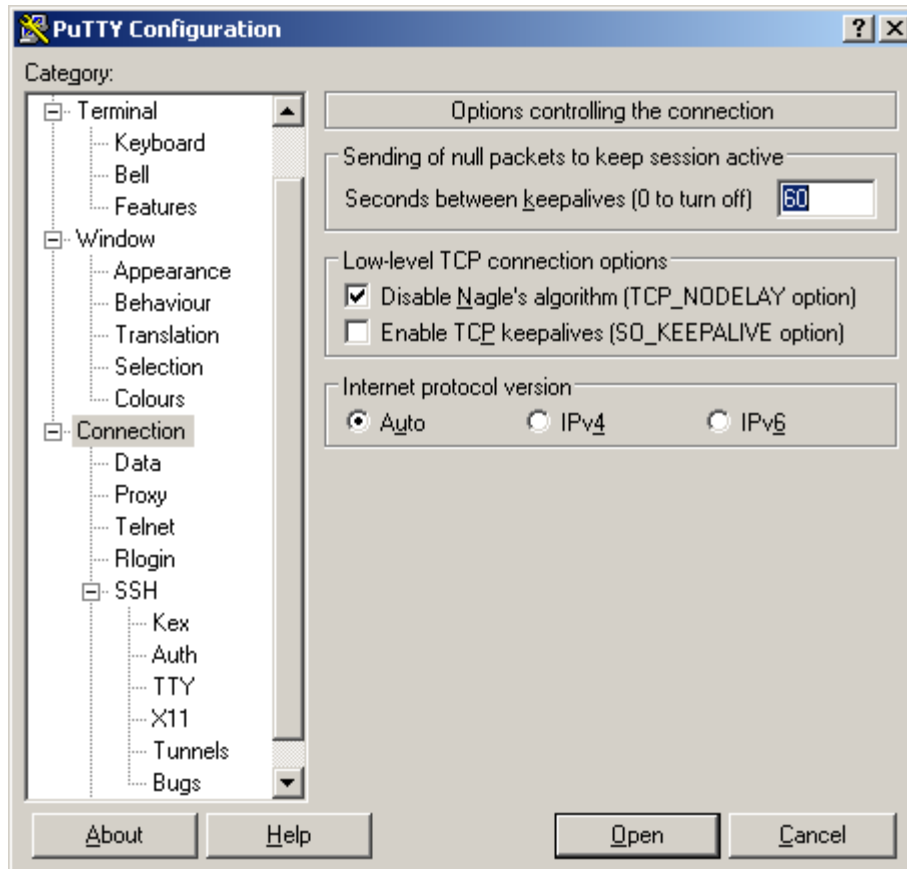
Close PuttyGen.

Log in via SSH as follows:

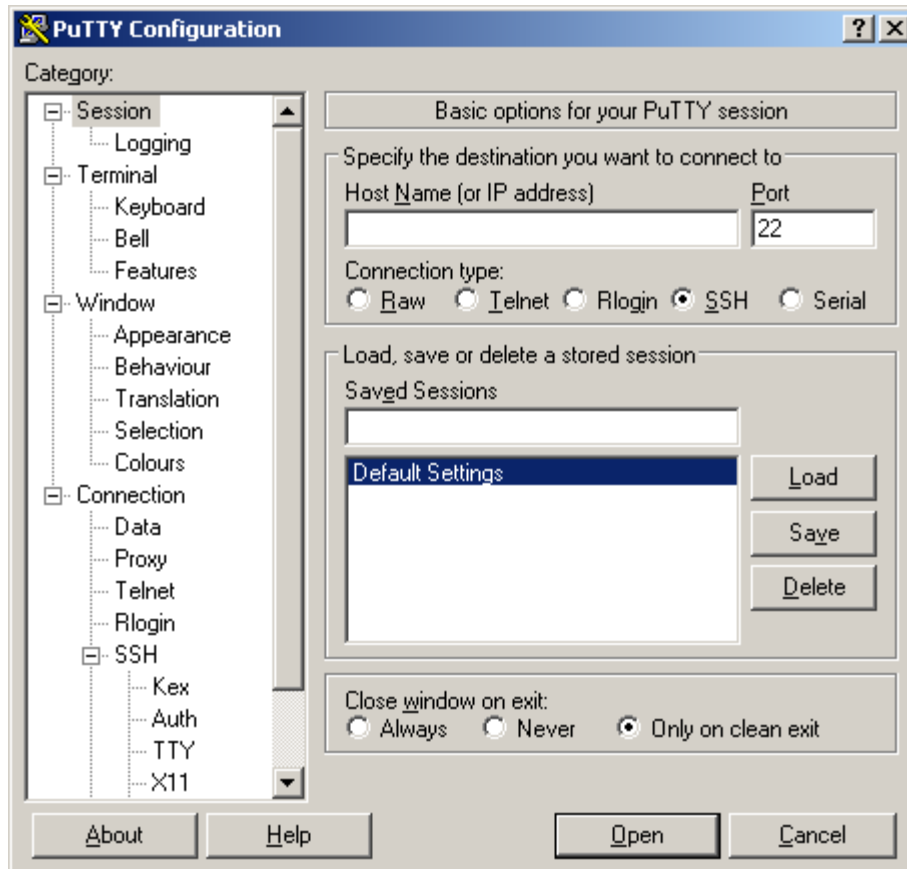
Launch Putty, then expand the SSH node and select the Auth sub-node. Enter Lab.ppk as the key name (shown below).



Make certain that *keepalive* has a value greater than zero. Otherwise your session will time out, which is annoying.



At this point (before entering the host address in the next step), it's a good time to save the settings. You can either highlight *Default* and update the settings, or pick a new name such as *Lab*.



## EC2 Hands On Lab

If you are not certain how to find the DNS name of the server; click on the running instance and look at the lower pane.

The screenshot displays the AWS Management Console interface for the EC2 service. The top navigation bar includes links for Elastic Beanstalk, S3, EC2, VPC, CloudWatch, and other AWS services. The left-hand navigation pane shows various categories like INSTANCES, IMAGES, ELASTIC BLOCK STORE, and NETWORKING & SECURITY. The 'INSTANCES' section is expanded, and the 'Instances' link is highlighted with a red circle. The main content area, titled 'My Instances', shows a table of instances. The 'First Lab Instance' is selected, indicated by a red circle around its checkbox. Below the table, the details for the selected instance are displayed. The 'Public DNS' field is circled in red, showing the value 'ec2-50-19-148-31.compute-1.amazonaws.com'.

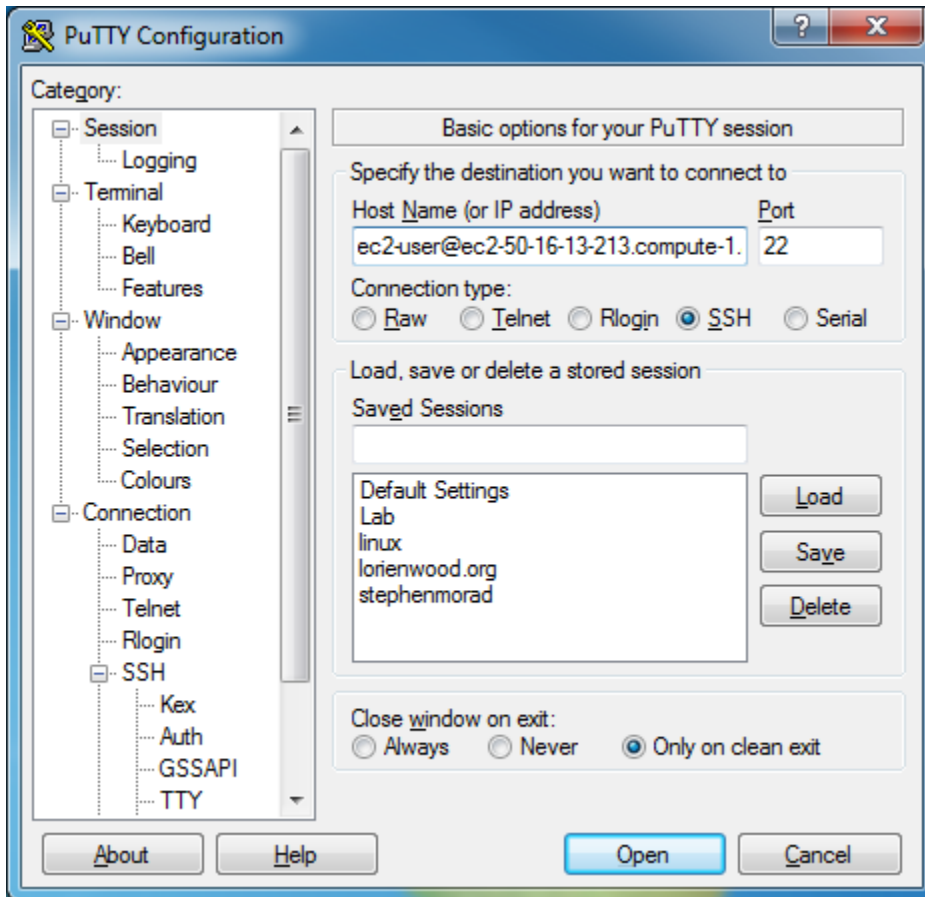
Name	Instance	AMI ID	Root Device	Type	Status	Security Groups
ec2.awslab.com	i-d5b709bc	ami-e4698d8d	instance-store	m1.small	running	Wind
Media Server	i-3773a859	ami-d9e40db0	ebs	m1.xlarge	stopped	Wind
First Lab Instance	i-d356ddb0	ami-fe996697	ebs	t1.micro	running	Lab V

**Instance Details:**

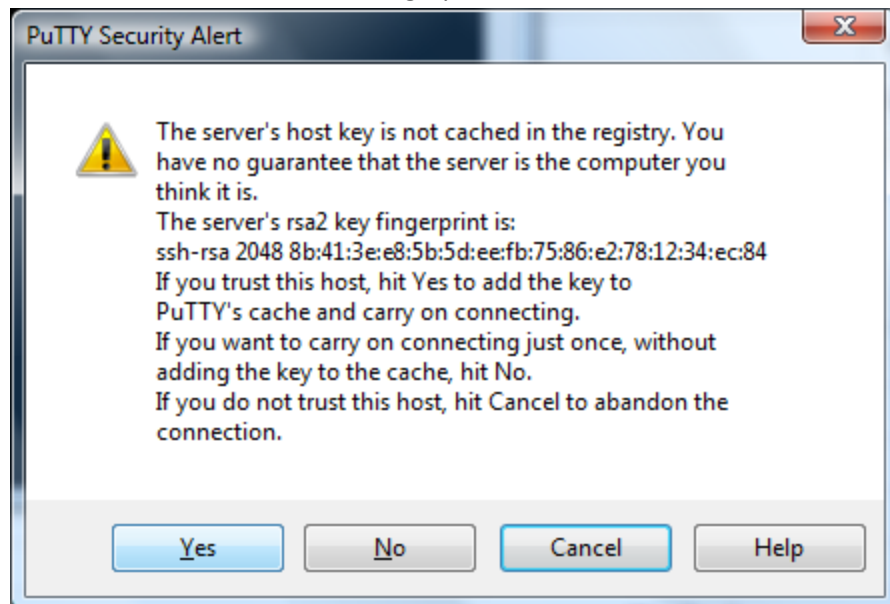
- Lifecycle: normal
- Block Devices: sda1
- Public DNS: ec2-50-19-148-31.compute-1.amazonaws.com**
- Private DNS: domU-12-31-39-02-72-39.compute-1.internal
- Private IP Address: 10.248.117.195
- Launch Time: 2011-06-06 08:22 PDT
- State Transition Reason:
- Termination Protection: Disabled

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Find the Session node (top one in the list) and enter `ec2-user@` followed by the DNS name of the running instance (you must initially login as “ec2-user” to Amazon Linux instances). Then click “Open” to connect. For example: `ec2-user@ec2-50-16-13-213.compute-1.amazonaws.com`



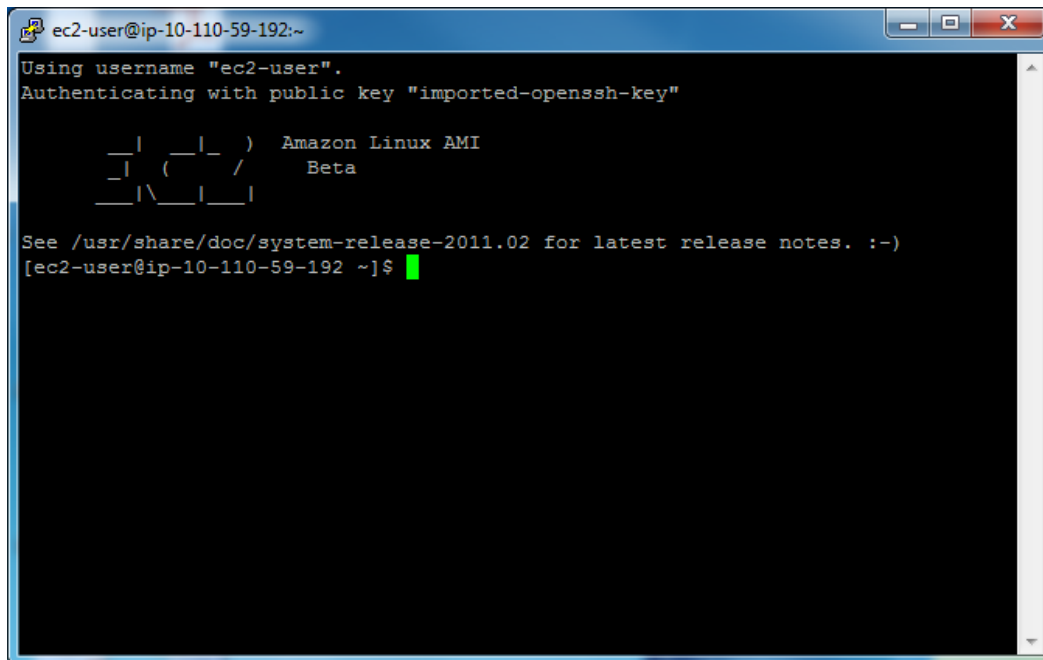
Click “Yes” to confirm that the fingerprint is OK.





Security Tip: The SSH fingerprint will eventually show up in the System Log and you can take that and compare it to protect against a Man in the middle attack.

You used the username "ec2-user". The file Lab.ppk contains your password, so there is no need to enter one.



```
ec2-user@ip-10-110-59-192:~  
Using username "ec2-user".  
Authenticating with public key "imported-openssh-key"  
  
  _|_  _|_  )  Amazon Linux AMI  
  _|_  (  _|_ /   Beta  
  _|_ \ _|_ | _|_ |  
  
See /usr/share/doc/system-release-2011.02 for latest release notes. :-)  
[ec2-user@ip-10-110-59-192 ~]$
```

## Mac OS X or Linux (OpenSSH)

By default, both Mac OS X and Linux operating systems ship with an OpenSSH client that you can use to connect to your EC2 Linux instances. To use the SSH client with the key you created, a few steps are required.

1. Ideally, put the private key you downloaded while launching your EC2 instance (Lab.pem) into the .ssh directory in your home directory. For example:

```
Prompt> mv Lab.pem ~/.ssh
```

2. Make sure your private key is only readable and writable by you (this assumes your private key was copied into your .ssh directory as described above):

```
Prompt> chmod 600 ~/.ssh/Lab.pem
```

3. Use your private key when connecting to the instance. The format of the ssh client is as follows:  
ssh -i <private\_key> <user name>@<host name>

Therefore connecting to your Amazon Linux instance will require a command similar to the following:

```
Prompt> ssh -i Lab.pem ec2-user@<EC2 Host Name or EIP>
```