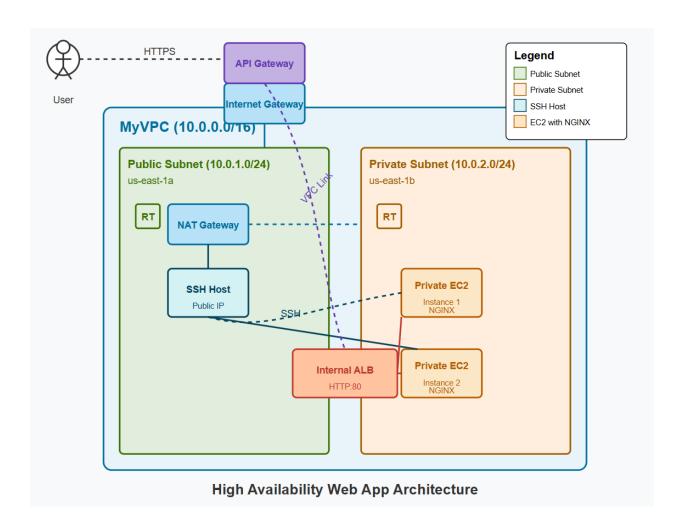
# High Availability Web App with Internal ALB, API Gateway, and SSH Host



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# High Availability Web App with Internal ALB, API Gateway, and SSH Host



## **Project Objective**

Deploy a highly available and secure web application on AWS that:

- Runs on private EC2 instances behind an internal Application Load Balancer (ALB)
- Is accessible publicly through API Gateway (HTTPS)

- Uses a publicly accessible SSH Host in a public subnet to securely access private EC2 instances
- Utilizes only AWS CLI (no root account or console access)

## **Pre-Requisites**

- AWS CLI configured
- IAM permissions to use EC2, VPC, IAM, ELB, SSM, and API Gateway
- RHEL shell running inside WSL on Windows

## 1. Create VPC

#### Command:

aws ec2 create-vpc --cidr-block 10.0.0.0/16 --tag-specifications 'ResourceType=vpc,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=MyVPC}]'

Where: RHEL shell with AWS CLI configured

Why: Creates an isolated virtual network for all infrastructure

Impact: All resources are deployed inside this VPC

#### 2. Create Route Tables Before Subnets

Command to create Private Route Table:

aws ec2 create-route-table --vpc-id <vpc-id> --tag-specifications 'ResourceType=route-table,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=PrivateRT}]'

Command to get the Main (Public) Route Table:

aws ec2 describe-route-tables --filters "Name=vpc-id,Values=<vpc-id>" -- query 'RouteTables[?Associations[?Main==`true`]].RouteTableId' --output text

[root@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 describe-route-tables --filters "Name=vpc-id,Values=vpc-02870049f6b4e3df8" --query 'RouteTables[?Associations[?Main==`true`]].RouteTableId' --output text rbb-079de18fc5ff6209a [root@rhelclient home]#

Where: RHEL shell

Why: Routing logic must be in place before subnet creation

Impact: Enables NAT vs IGW separation for traffic

#### 3. Create Subnets

Command for Public Subnet:

aws ec2 create-subnet --vpc-id <vpc-id> --cidr-block 10.0.1.0/24 -- availability-zone us-east-1a --tag-specifications 'ResourceType=subnet,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=PublicSubnet}]'

#### Command for Private Subnet:

aws ec2 create-subnet --vpc-id <vpc-id> --cidr-block 10.0.2.0/24 --availability-zone us-east-1b --tag-specifications 'ResourceType=subnet,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=PrivateSubnet}]'

Command to associate Private Subnet with Private Route Table:

aws ec2 associate-route-table --route-table-id <private-rt-id> --subnet-id <private-subnet-id>

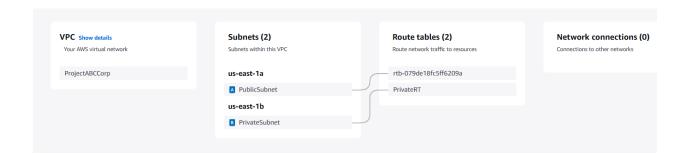
```
[root@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 associate-route-table --route-table-id rtb-0b4fa860bf0817f9c --subnet-id subnet-0a87ace1177174f0e
{
    "AssociationId": "rtbassoc-03fc364b4990afb00",
    "AssociationState": {
        "State": "associated"
    }
}
[root@rhelclient home]#
```

Where: RHEL shell

Why: Assigns public subnet to default RT and private to NAT-enabled RT

Impact: Private EC2s route through NAT only

On AWS console under Resource Map the diagram should look like this



## 4. Create and Attach Internet Gateway

#### **Create IGW:**

aws ec2 create-internet-gateway --tag-specifications 'ResourceType=internet-gateway,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=MyIGW}]'

## Attach IGW:

aws ec2 attach-internet-gateway --vpc-id <vpc-id> --internet-gateway-id <igw-id>

```
[root@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 attach-internet-gateway --vpc-id vpc-02870049f6b4e3df8 --internet-gateway-id igw-024eb9e7f96e6f9d
[root@rhelclient home]#
```

Where: CLI

Why: Needed for outbound internet access from public subnet

Impact: Required for NAT gateway and public IP traffic

## 5. Create NAT Gateway

Allocate Elastic IP:

aws ec2 allocate-address --domain vpc

```
[root@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 allocate-address --domain vpc
{
    "AllocationId": "eipalloc-08fda723eaea45b9e",
    "PublicIpv4Pool": "amazon",
    "NetworkBorderGroup": "us-east-1",
    "Domain": "vpc",
    "PublicIp": "3.223.8.252"
}
[root@rhelclient home]#
```

## Create NAT Gateway:

aws ec2 create-nat-gateway --subnet-id <public-subnet-id> --allocation-id <eip-alloc-id> --tag-specifications

'ResourceType=natgateway,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=MyNAT}]'

Where: CLI

Why: Enables private subnet to reach internet without public IP

Impact: Private EC2s can download packages, update OS, etc.

## **6. Update Route Tables**

Route for Public RT:

aws ec2 create-route --route-table-id <public-rt-id> --destination-cidr-block 0.0.0.0/0 --gateway-id <igw-id>

## **Route for Private RT:**

aws ec2 create-route --route-table-id <private-rt-id> --destination-cidr-block 0.0.0.0/0 --nat-gateway-id <nat-id>



Where: CLI

Why: Directs traffic from subnets to the correct egress point

Impact: Critical for network flow and internet access

On AWS console the Resource Map under PorjectABCCorp should look like this



## 7. Launch and Configure EC2 Instances with SSH Host

=> 7.1 Create an SSH Key Pair for EC2 Access

aws ec2 create-key-pair --key-name MyNewKeyPair --query "KeyMaterial" -- output text > MyNewKeyPair.pem && chmod 400 MyNewKeyPair.pem

```
[root@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 create-key-pair --key-name MyNewKeyPair --query "KeyMaterial" --output text > MyNewKeyPair.pem && chmod 400 MyNewKeyPair.pem
[root@rhelclient home]#
```

## => 7.2 Launch Private EC2 Instances (No Public IP, Private Subnet) Private Instance 1

aws ec2 run-instances --image-id ami-084568db4383264d4 --count 1 -instance-type t2.micro --key-name MyNewKeyPair --subnet-id <pri>privatesubnet-id> --no-associate-public-ip-address --tag-specifications
'ResourceType=instance,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=PrivateInstance1}]'

```
| Total Principle | Description | Total Continues | Description | Descri
```

#### Private Instance 2

aws ec2 run-instances --image-id ami-084568db4383264d4 --count 1 -- instance-type t2.micro --key-name MyNewKeyPair --subnet-id <pri>private-

subnet-id> --no-associate-public-ip-address --tag-specifications 'ResourceType=instance,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=PrivateInstance2}]'

```
| Proceedictions | Procedure |
```

## => 7.3 Fetch Security Group IDs of Private Instances

aws ec2 describe-instances --filters
"Name=tag:Name,Values=PrivateInstance1,PrivateInstance2" --query
"Reservations[].Instances[].SecurityGroups[].GroupId" --output text

5g-029f6320d688ebd6e [root@rhelclient home]#

=> 7.4 Create Security Group for SSH Host

aws ec2 create-security-group --group-name SSHHostSG --description "Security group for SSH Host" --vpc-id <vpc-id>

```
[root@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 create-security-group --group-name SSHHostSG --description "Security group for SSH Host" --vpc-id vpc-02870049f6b4e3df8
{
    "GroupId": "sg-01832c06af2582c79",
    "SecurityGroupArn": "arn:aws:ec2:us-east-1:551899295811:security-group/sg-01832c06af2582c79"
}
[root@rhelclient home]#
```

=> 7.5 Allow SSH to SSH Host from Your Public IP

aws ec2 authorize-security-group-ingress --group-id <sshhost-sg-id> -- protocol tcp --port 22 --cidr <your-public-ip>/32

=> 7.6 Allow SSH from SSH Host to Private Instances

aws ec2 authorize-security-group-ingress --group-id <private-sg-id> --protocol tcp --port 22 --source-group <sshhost-sg-id>

## => 7.7 Launch SSH Host EC2 (Public Subnet with Public IP)

aws ec2 run-instances --image-id ami-084568db4383264d4 --count 1 -- instance-type t2.micro --key-name MyNewKeyPair --subnet-id <public-subnet-id> --associate-public-ip-address --security-group-ids <sshhost-sg-id> --tag-specifications

'ResourceType=instance,Tags=[{Key=Name,Value=SSHHost}]'

```
[confinicities | lower | lower
```

#### => 7.8 Fetch Instance IDs of All Created EC2s

aws ec2 describe-instances --filters
"Name=tag:Name,Values=PrivateInstance1,PrivateInstance2,SSHHost" -query "Reservations[].Instances[].InstanceId" --output text

-00ad8116af9e93d14 i-096e2a09b2f8a0a2e i-04fe370269772c283

#### => 7.9 Fetch Public IP of SSH Host

aws ec2 describe-instances --filters "Name=tag:Name,Values=SSHHost" -- query "Reservations[].Instances[].PublicIpAddress" -- output text

root@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 describe-instances --filters "Name=tag:Name,Values=SSHHost" --query "Reservations[].Instances[].PublicIpAddress" --output tex 8.81.229.221
root@rhelclient home]#

## => 7.10 Fetch Private IPs of the Private Instances

aws ec2 describe-instances --filters

"Name=tag:Name,Values=PrivateInstance1,PrivateInstance2" -- query

'Reservations[].Instances[].PrivatelpAddress' -- output text

## => 7.11 Transfer SSH Key to SSH Host

scp -i /home/MyNewKeyPair.pem /home/MyNewKeyPair.pem ubuntu@<sshhost-public-ip>:~/



Note: Since the present working directory for this project on RHEL Shell was /home so please make sure that you create the key in /home directory

=> 7.12 SSH Into SSH Host

ssh -i "MyNewKeyPair.pem" ubuntu@<sshhost-public-ip>

#### => 7.13 SSH Into PrivateInstance1 from SSH Host

ssh -i "MyNewKeyPair.pem" ubuntu@<private-instance-1-ip>

```
ubuntu@ip-10-0-1-78:~$ ssh -i "MyNewKeyPair.pem" ubuntu@10.0.2.50
ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:b4cdiK4MQkZj6WDCYehMvFlFMCaAJti0m4igjvSzdCs
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '10.0.2.50' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts.
                  https://ubuntu.com/pro
                                 IPv4 address for enX0: 10.0.2.50
 Memory usage: 20%
 updates can be applied immediately.
Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
The list of available updates is more than a week old.
The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.
Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
ubuntu@ip-10-0-2-50:~$
```

#### => 7.14 Install NGINX on PrivateInstance1

## sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade -y && sudo apt install nginx -y

```
et:10 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/multiverse amd64 Packages [269 kB]
et:11 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble/multiverse Translation-en [118 kB]
et:23 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-updates/restricted Translation-en [182 kB]
et:24 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-updates/restricted amd64 Components [212 B]
et:25 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-updates/restricted amd64 c-n-f Metadata [492 B]
et:40 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-backports/multiverse amd64 Components [212 B] et:41 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-backports/multiverse amd64 c-n-f Metadata [116 B]
et:42 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-security/main Translation-en [142 kB]
   [8 Components-amd64 store 0 B] [46 Translation-en 1131 B/180 kB 1%]
```

sudo nano /var/www/html/index.html

Paste your HTML and save using:

## CTRL+O → Enter → CTRL+X

## => 7.16 Validate NGINX Config

sudo nginx -t

```
ubuntu@ip-10-0-2-50:~$ sudo nginx -t
nginx: the configuration file /etc/nginx/nginx.conf syntax is ok
nginx: configuration file /etc/nginx/nginx.conf test is successful
ubuntu@ip-10-0-2-50:~$
```

## => 7.17 Restart NGINX

sudo systemctl restart nginx

```
ubuntu@ip-10-0-2-50:~$ sudo systemctl restart nginx
ubuntu@ip-10-0-2-50:~$
```

=> 7.18 Verify HTTP Listening (No net-tools) sudo ss -tuln | grep 80 && sudo nginx -T | grep "listen 80"

## 7.19 Repeat 7.13 to 7.18 for PrivateInstance2

## Why:

- Installing NGINX allows serving HTTP traffic.
- Replacing the default HTML lets you identify which backend served the request.
- nginx -t ensures the configuration is valid.
- ss confirms NGINX is listening (alternative to netstat).

## Impact:

Confirms the instance is correctly serving the site.

 Ensures NGINX is up, content is in place, and the app is ready for ALB forwarding.

## 8. Create Target Group and Internal ALB

#### Create TG:

aws elbv2 create-target-group --name MyTG --protocol HTTP --port 80 --vpc-id <vpc-id> --target-type instance

Copy the target group arn from the output

## Register EC2 Instances:

```
aws elbv2 register-targets --target-group-arn <tg-arn> --targets Id=<PrivateInstnace1-id> aws elbv2 register-targets --target-group-arn <tg-arn> --targets Id=<PrivateInstance2-id>
```

## Verify aws elbv2 describe-target-health --target-group-arn <target-group-arn-id>

Fetch Security Group IDs for Public and Private Subnet using their IDs

aws ec2 describe-instances --filters "Name=subnet-id,Values=subetid" -- query "Reservations[].Instances[].SecurityGroups[].GroupId" --output text

```
[nont@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 describe-instances --filters "Name=subnet-id,Values=subnet-0f331c41f2e7a8869" --query "Reservations[].Instances[].SecurityGroups[].GroupId" --output text sg-01832c6667582c79
[nont@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 describe-instances --filters "Name=subnet-id,Values=subnet-0a87ace1177174f0e" --query "Reservations[].Instances[].SecurityGroups[].GroupId" --output text sg-029f6320d688ebd6e
[nont@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 describe-instances --filters "Name=subnet-id,Values=subnet-0a87ace1177174f0e" --query "Reservations[].Instances[].SecurityGroups[].GroupId" --output text sg-029f6320d688ebd6e
[nont@rhelclient home]# aws ec2 describe-instances --filters "Name=subnet-id,Values=subnet-0a87ace1177174f0e" --query "Reservations[].Instances[].SecurityGroups[].GroupId" --output text sg-029f6320d688ebd6e
```

#### Create ALB:

aws elbv2 create-load-balancer --name my-alb --subnets <public-subnet-id> <private-subnet-id> --security-groups <public-subnet-sg-id> <private-subnet-sg-id> --scheme internal --type application

Copy the Loadbalancer arn from the output

## **Create Listener:**

aws elbv2 create-listener --load-balancer-arn <alb-arn> --protocol HTTP --port 80 --default-actions Type=forward, Target Group Arn=<tg-arn>

Copy Listener ARN from the output

Health check for attached Instances aws elbv2 describe-target-health --target-group-arn <target-group-arn>

Where: CLI

Why: ALB distributes HTTP traffic across EC2s

Impact: Enables high availability

## 9. Public Access via API Gateway

## Create VPC Link:

aws apigatewayv2 create-vpc-link --name "PrivateALBLink" --subnet-ids <public-subnet-id> <private-subnet-id> --security-group-ids <public-subnet-sg-id> <private-subnet-sg-id>

```
[Foot@rhelclient home]8 ams apigatewnyv2 create-ypc-link —name "PrivateAlBLink" —submet-ids submet-0f331c41f2e7a8869 submet-0a8f3ce1177174f0e —security-group-ids sg-01832c06af2582c79 sg-029f6320688ebd6e"

"CreateODate": "826-304-13712:00:33+00:00",

"Mamer: "PrivateAlBLink":

"sg-01832c06af2582c79,

"sg-029f63206088ebd6e"

| "sg-029f63206088ebd6e"

| "submet-0f331c41f2e7a8860",

"submet-0f331c41f2e7a8860",

"submet-0f331c41f2e7a8860",

"ypcLinkStatus": "FERDING",

"ypcLinkStatus": sage: "UPC link is provisioning ENIS",

"ypcLinkStatus": sage: "UPC link is provisioning ENIS",

"ypcLinkStatus": "Sage: "UPC link is provisioning ENIS",

"ypcLinkStatus": "
```

Copy VPC Link ID from the output

#### Create API:

aws apigatewayv2 create-api --name "MyAPI" --protocol-type HTTP

```
[root@rhelclient home]# aws apigatewayv2 create-api --name "MyAPI" --protocol-type HTTP
{
    "ApiEndpoint": "https://4sfydjqk5i.execute-api.us-east-1.amazonaws.com",
    "ApiId": "4sfydjqk5i",
    "ApiKeySelectionExpression": "$request.header.x-api-key",
    "CreatedDate": "2025-04-13T12:04:14+00:00",
    "DisableExecuteApiEndpoint": false,
    "IpAddressType": "ipv4",
    "Name": "MyAPI",
    "ProtocolType": "HTTP",
    "RouteSelectionExpression": "$request.method $request.path"
}
[root@rhelclient home]#
```

## Copy API ID from the output

Fetch the DNS Name for Internal Application Load Balancer using the command mentioned below aws elbv2 describe-load-balancers --names my-alb --query "LoadBalancers[].DNSName" --output text

```
[root@rhelclient home]# aws elbv2 describe-load-balancers --names my-alb --query "LoadBalancers[].DNSName" --output text
internal-my-alb-5936426.us-east-1.elb.amazonaws.com
[root@rhelclient home]#
```

## **Create Integration:**

aws apigatewayv2 create-integration --api-id <api-id> --integration-type HTTP\_PROXY --connection-type VPC\_LINK --connection-id <vpc-link-id> --integration-method ANY --integration-uri <alb-listener-arn> --payload-format-version 1.0

Copy Integration ID from the output

#### **Create Route:**

aws apigatewayv2 create-route --api-id <api-id> --route-key "ANY /" --target integrations/<integration-id>

```
[root@rhelclient home]# aws apigatewayv2 create-route --api-id 4sfydjqk5i --route-key "ANY /" --target integrations/70pjonr
{
    "ApiKeyRequired": false,
    "AuthorizationType": "NONE",
    "RouteId": "8dwtc7q",
    "RouteKey": "ANY /",
    "Target": "integrations/70pjonr"
}
[root@rhelclient home]#
```

## Deploy Stage:

aws apigatewayv2 create-stage --api-id <api-id> --stage-name prod --auto-deploy

```
[root@rhelclient home]# aws apigatewayv2 create-stage --api-id 4sfydjqk5i --stage-name prod --auto-deploy
{
    "AutoDeploy": true,
    "CreatedDate": "2025-04-13T12:18:54+00:00",
    "DefaultRouteSettings": {
        "DetailedMetricsEnabled": false
    },
    "LastUpdatedDate": "2025-04-13T12:18:54+00:00",
    "RouteSettings": {},
    "StageName": "prod",
    "StageVariables": {},
    "Tags": {}
}
[root@rhelclient home]#
```

#### Get Public URL:

aws apigatewayv2 get-apis --query "Items[?ApiId=='<api-id>'].ApiEndpoint" -- output text

```
[root@rhelclient home]# aws apigatewayv2 get-apis --query "Items[?ApiId=='4sfydjqk5i'].ApiEndpoint" --output text
https://4sfydjqk5i.execute-api.us-east-1.amazonaws.com
[root@rhelclient home]#
```

#### access the link like this:

https://4sfydjqk5i.execute-api.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/prod/

## 10. Fixing 404 Error



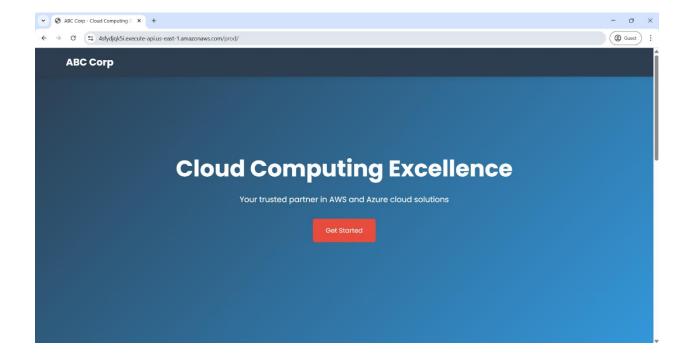
To resolve this error we need to fix the NGINX route SSH into both of the Instances using the SSH Host

Make sure API Gateway matches NGINX route:

sudo mkdir -p /var/www/html/prod && sudo cp /var/www/html/index.html /var/www/html/prod/index.html && sudo systemctl restart nginx



Reload or use the link fetched earlier for API Gateway into a new tab



#### 11. To Simulate Failover

You can test HA by stopping NGINX on one instance:

sudo systemctl stop nginx

```
ubuntu@ip-10-0-2-50:~$ sudo systemctl stop nginx ubuntu@ip-10-0-2-50:~$
```

Then hit the API Gateway URL again:

https://4sfydjqk5i.execute-api.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/prod/

You should still get a response — served by the second instance. If you refresh multiple times or constantly you will get the error for 502 Bad Gateway but once you get error refresh the webpage and it should show the index.html stored on nginx

Note: When using API Gateway → VPC Link → Internal ALB → EC2 Instances (NGINX), a 502 Bad Gateway error can occur temporarily in the following scenario:

## **During Failover**

- When one EC2 instance becomes unreachable (e.g., NGINX service stopped or instance fails), the ALB health check takes a few seconds to detect the failure.
- During that window, API Gateway may route a request to the nowunhealthy instance.

• Since the backend doesn't respond correctly (or at all), the ALB returns a 502 Bad Gateway, and that error is passed to API Gateway → Client.

Where: CLI

Why: Provide HTTPS access to internal ALB

Impact: Secure public endpoint for external users

#### **Final Outcome**

- EC2s are private, secured
- Internal ALB handles backend traffic
- API Gateway exposes public endpoint with HTTPS
- Routing is logically isolated
- All infrastructure built and controlled via CLI