

Hands-On Labs

Lab: Benefits of IaC

Benefits of IaC

While there are many benefits of Infrastructure as Code, a few key benefits include the simplification of cloud adoption, allowing us to quickly adopt cloud-based services and offerings to improve our capabilities. Infrastructure as Code allows us to remove many of the manual steps required today for infrastructure requests, giving us the ability to automate approved requests without worrying about tickets sitting in a queue. We can also use Infrastructure as Code to provide capacity on-demand by offering a library of services for our developers, even publishing a self-service capability where developers and application owners can be empowered to request and provision infrastructure that better matches their requirements. Again, all of this is possible while driving standardization and consistency throughout the organization, which can drive efficiencies and reduce errors or deviations from established norms.

References

Infrastructure as Code in a Private or Public Cloud

Lab Instructions

You have been tasked with deploying some basic infrastructure on AWS to host a proof of concept environment. The architecture needs to include both public and private subnets and span multiple Availability Zones to test failover and disaster recovery scenarios. You expect to host Internet-facing applications. Additionally, you have other applications that need to access the Internet to retrieve security and operating system updates.

- Task 1: Create a new VPC in your account in the US-East-1 region
- Task 2: Create public and private subnets in three different Availability Zones
- Task 3: Deploy an Internet Gateway and attach it to the VPC
- Task 4: Provision a NAT Gateway (a single instance will do) for outbound connectivity
- **Task 5:** Ensure that route tables are configured to properly route traffic based on the requirements
- Task 6: Delete the VPC resources
- Task 7: Prepare files and credentials for using Terraform to deploy cloud resources
- Task 8: Set credentials for Terraform deployment
- Task 9: Deploy the AWS infrastructure using Terraform





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• Task 10: Delete the AWS resources using Terraform to clean up our AWS environment

The end state of the AWS environment should look similar to the following diagram:

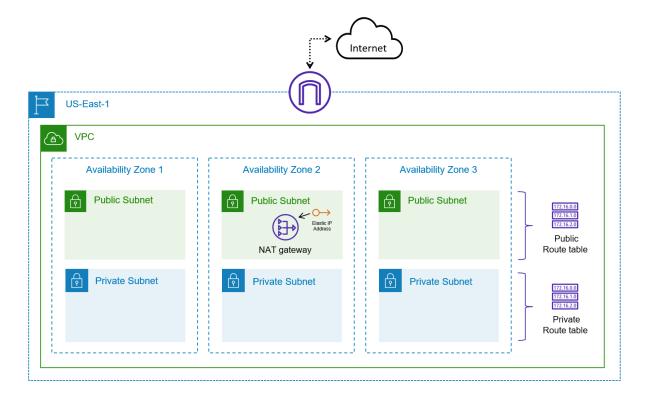


Figure 1: Desired Infrastructure

This lab will walk you through configuring the infrastructure step by step using a manual process. After manually completing the tasks, the lab will show you how Terraform can be used to automate the creation of the same infrastructure.

Task 1: Log into the AWS Console and create a VPC.

Step 1.1

In the VPC console, click **Create VPC**:





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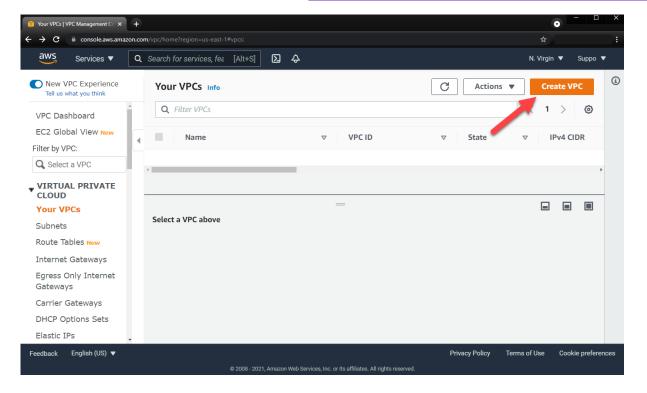


Figure 2: Create VPC

Step 1.2

Give the VPC a name of **demo-vpc** and set the IPv4 CIDR block to use **10.0.0.0/16**. Leave all of the other settings as default and select **Create VPC** at the bottom of the Create VPC screen.





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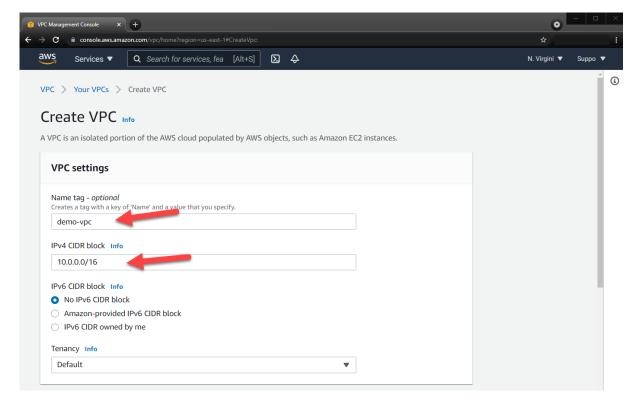


Figure 3: Configure VPC

Task 2: Create public and private subnets in three different Availability Zones.

Step 2.1

In the VPC console, select **Subnets** from the left navigation panel. Click **Create Subnet**.





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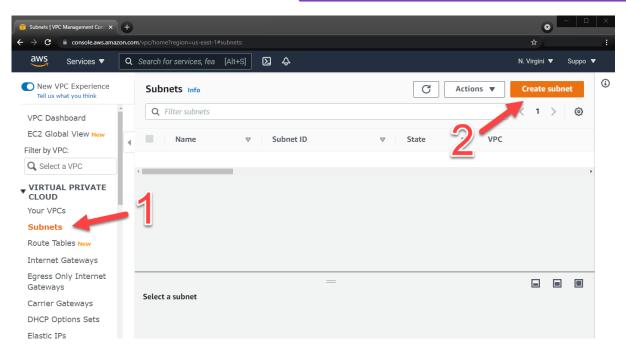


Figure 4: Select Subnet

Step 2.2

Select the VPC created in Step 1 from the dropdown list. Give the subnet the name **private**-subnet-1 and select us-east-1a from the dropdown list for the Availability Zone. Enter the IPv4 CIDR block of 10.0.0.0/24.





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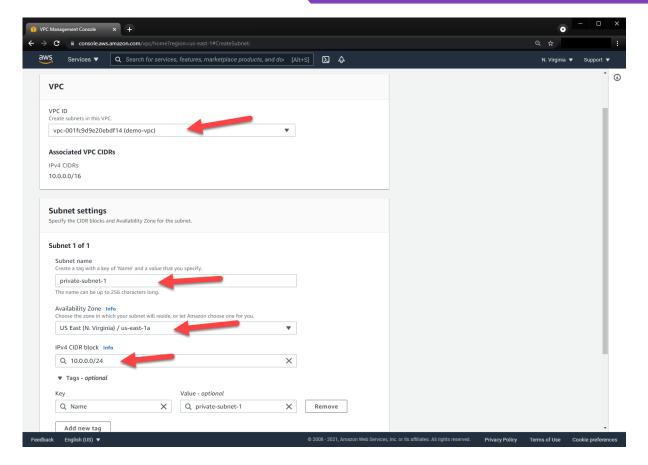


Figure 5: Create Subnets

Step 2.3

Repeat the previous step to create the additional subnets required to build out the required infrastructure, including 2 additional private subnets and the 3 public subnets. Use the following information to complete this step:

Subnet Name	Availability Zone	CIDR Block
private-subnet-2	us-east-1b	10.0.1.0/24
private-subnet-3	us-east-1c	10.0.2.0/24
public-subnet-1	us-east-1a	10.0.100.0/24
public-subnet-2	us-east-1b	10.0.101.0/24





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Subnet Name	Availability Zone	CIDR Block
public-subnet-3	us-east-1c	10.0.102.0/24

Task 3: Deploy an Internet Gateway and attach it to the VPC.

Step 3.1

In the VPC console, select Internet Gateways from the left navigation panel in the VPC console. Click the Create Gateway button in the top right of the AWS console.

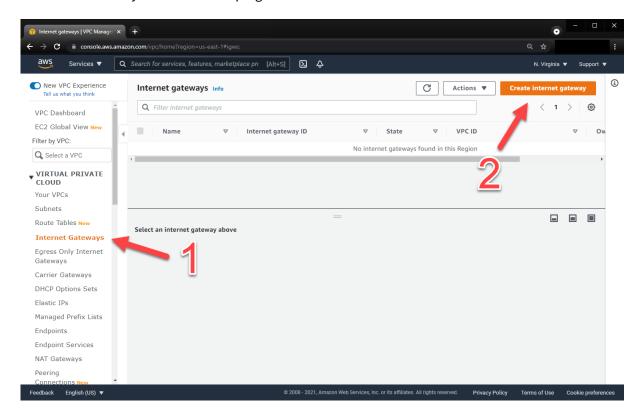


Figure 6: IGW

Step 3.2

Give the new Internet Gateway a name of **demo-igw** and click the Create internet gateway button.





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Note: The Internet Gateway can incur charges on your account. For the purposes of this lab, you will incur very minimal charges, likely a penny or two (US dollars). Don't fret...we will delete this resource shortly.

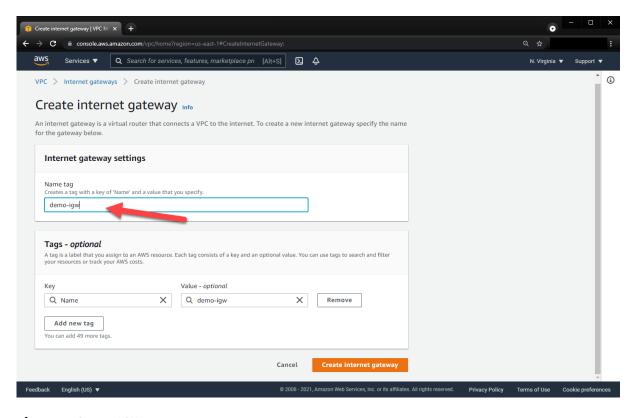


Figure 7: Create IGW

Step 3.3

In the Internet Gateway console, select the Actions menu and choose *Attach to VPC* from the dropdown list.





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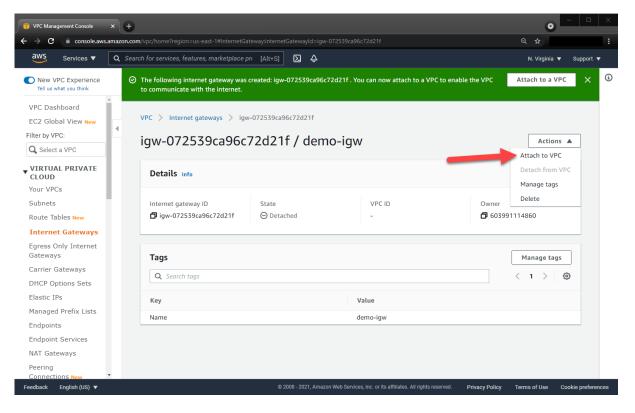


Figure 8: Attach IGW

Select the VPC created in Step 1 by clicking the text box and choosing the VPC. Click the **Attach internet gateway** button to complete the task.





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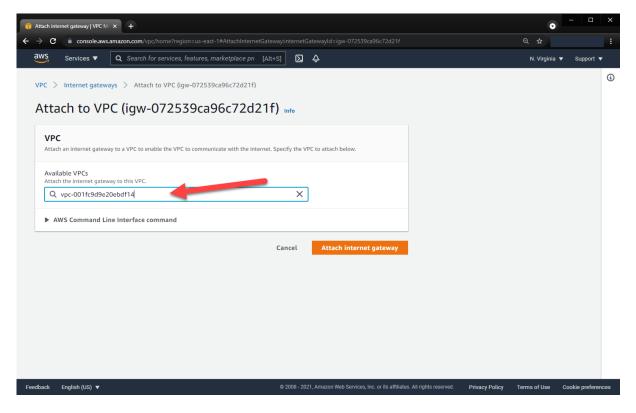


Figure 9: Attach IGW to VPC

Task 4: Provision a NAT Gateway (a single instance will do) for outbound connectivity.

Step 4.1

Back in the VPC Console, select **NAT Gateways** from the left navigation panel. Click the **Create NAT Gateway** button on the top right of the AWS console.





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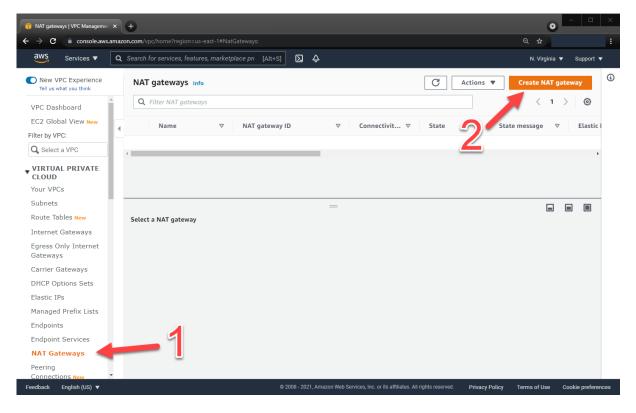


Figure 10: NAT Gateway Creation

Step 4.2

Provide the name *demo-nat-gateway* for the NAT Gateway. Select a subnet by choosing *public-subnet-2* from the dropdown list. Keep the Connectivity Type as *Public*. Click the *Allocate Elastic IP* button to automatically create and assign a new Elastic IP address for the NAT Gateway. Scroll down and click the *Create NAT Gateway* button to complete the task.





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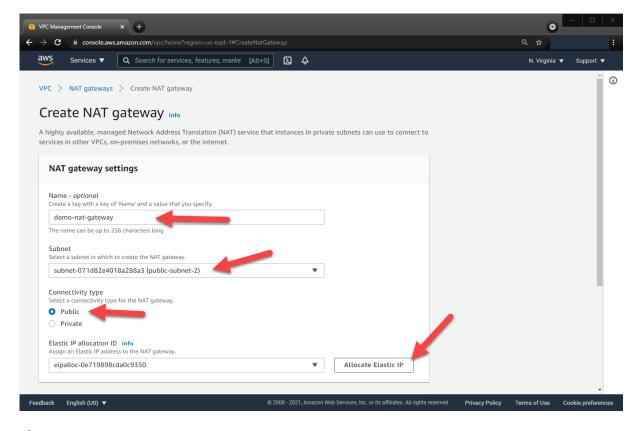


Figure 11: Create NAT Gateway

Task 5: Ensure that route tables are configured to properly route traffic based on the requirements.

Step 5.1

In the VPC console, select **Route Tables** from the left navigation panel. Click the *Create route table* button on the top right of the AWS console.

Provide the name **public**-rtb for the route table and select the VPC created in Step 1. Click the **Create route table** button to create your first route table.





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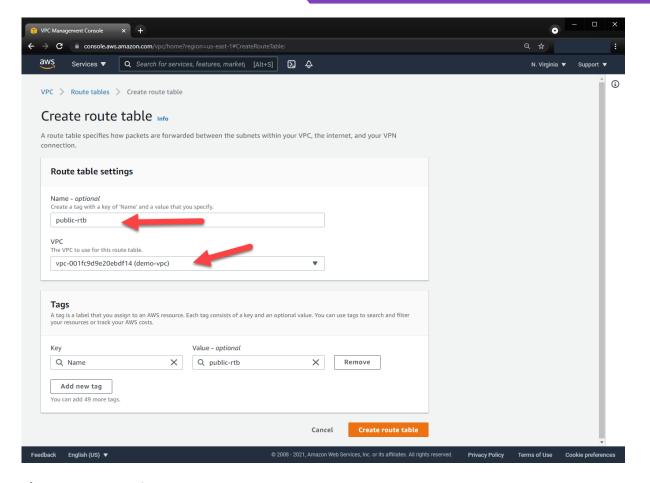


Figure 12: Create rtb

Repeat the above task to create a second route table. Name the second route table **private**-rtb. Select the same VPC created in Step 1. Click the **Create route table** button to create the second route table.

Step 5.2

From the Route Tables console, select the tick box next to the route table named **public**-rtb. In the bottom panel, select the **Subnet Associations** tab. Click the **Edit subnet associations** button.





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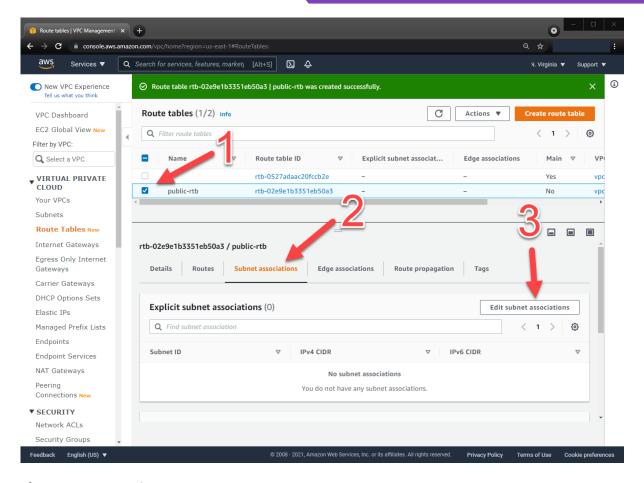


Figure 13: Create rtb

Select the three *public* subnets from the list of available subnets by checking the tick box next to the subnets. These are the same three subnets that you created in Step 2. Once you have selected the three subnets, click on the *Save associations* button to save your configuration.

Repeat this step for the **private**-rtb and selecting the 3 private subnets that were created in Step 2.





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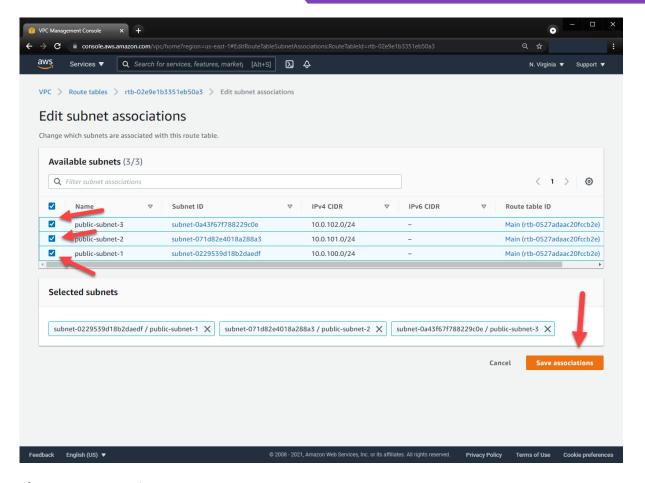


Figure 14: Create rtb

Step 5.3

Now that the subnets have been associated with the proper route table, we need to add the routes to ensure network traffic is routed correctly. From the Route Tables console, select the **public**-rtb again. In the bottom pane, select the **Routes** tab and click **Edit Routes**.





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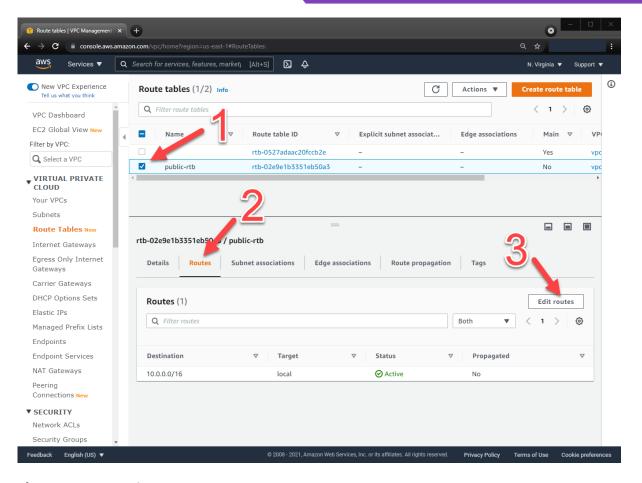


Figure 15: Create rtb

In the Edit Routes window, click the *Add route* button. Enter 0.0.0.0/0 in the **Destination** text box to define our new route destination. Click the text box for **Target**, select *Internet Gateway*, and select the Internet Gateway that was created in Step 3. It should be the only one listed. Click *Save changes* to save the new route configuration.





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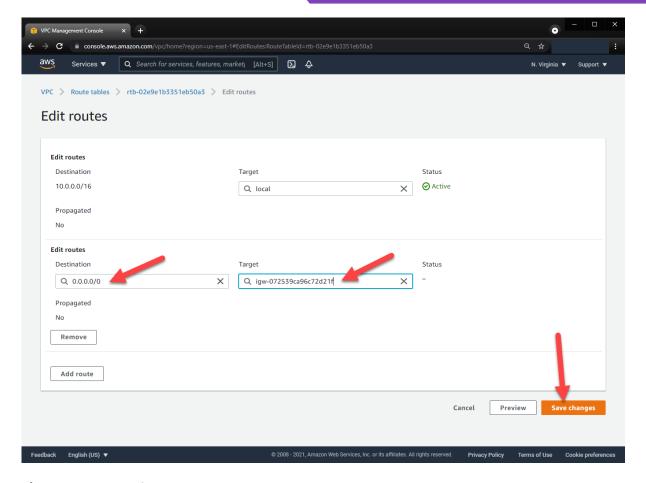


Figure 16: Create rtb

Repeat this step to add a route to the **private**-rtb. The Destination should be 0.0.0.0/0. Click the text box for **Target**, select **NAT Gateway**, and choose the NAT Gateway that was created in Step 4. It should be the only one listed. Click **Save changes** to save the new route configuration.

Congratulations, you have manually configured all of the resources and have an environment that now matches the desired configuration as stated by the requirements.

Wasn't that fun? While this example given in the lab isn't too bad, how would you feel repeating this process across 10s or 100s of AWS accounts in your orginalization? It would be extremely time





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consuming and a very monotomous task. Additionally, how confident would you be to repeast these tasks over and over without making a mistake that could impact production or the security of your infrastructure? That's where Infrastructure as Code (IaC) comes into the picture.

IaC allows us to easily replicate deployment tasks and take the human aspect out of repetitive tasks. By codifying your infrastructure, you can reduce or eliminate risks to the infrastructure running your applications. IaC makes changes idempotent, consistent, repeatable, and predictable. Plus, you can easily see how any modifications to your environment will impact your infrastructure before ever applying it.

Well, as much fun as that was, it's time to delete all of the resources that we just created. Note that normally you would need to delete the resources in a certain order since many of the resources are dependant on others. However, the VPC is unique in that you can delete the VPC and it will delete all associated resources if there aren't any other dependencies.

As you are deleting resources, note that manually deleting resources is sometimes risky, especially on a public cloud where forgotten resources could rack up a large bill. Additionally, leaving behind technical debt can't impact future deployments and cause confusion when deploying future workloads.

Task 6: Delete the VPC resources.

Step 6.1

In the VPC Console, select the VPC that we just created by checking the tick box next to the VPC. From the Actions menu, select **Delete VPC**. Confirm you wish to delete the VPC and related AWS resources by typing *delete* in the text box at the bottom on the prompt. Click the **Delete** button.





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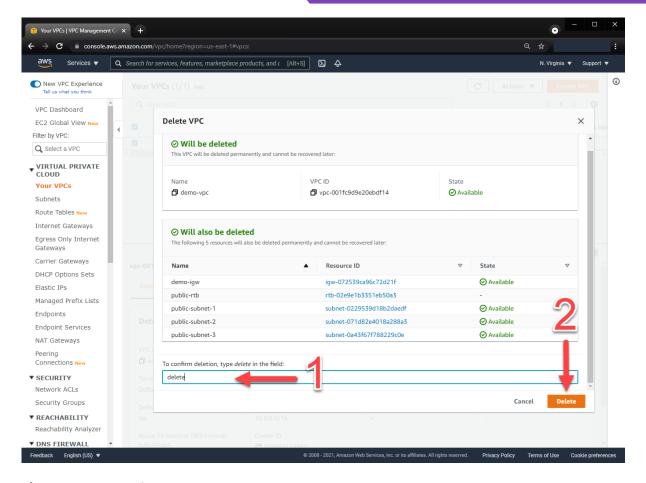


Figure 17: Create rtb

Task 7: Prepare files and credentials for using Terraform to deploy cloud resources.

Step 7.1

On your workstation, navigate to the /workstation/terraform directory. This is where we'll do all of our work for this training. Create a new file called main.tf and variables.tf.

In the variables.tf, copy the following variable definitions and save the file. Don't worry about understanding everything just yet, we'll learn all about variables in Objective 3.

```
variable "aws_region" {
  type = string
  default = "us-east-1"
}
```





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```
variable "vpc_name" {
 type = string
  default = "demo_vpc"
}
variable "vpc_cidr" {
 type = string
  default = "10.0.0.0/16"
variable "private_subnets" {
 default = {
    "private_subnet_1" = 1
    "private_subnet_2" = 2
    "private_subnet_3" = 3
 }
}
variable "public_subnets" {
  default = {
    "public_subnet_1" = 1
    "public_subnet_2" = 2
    "public_subnet_3" = 3
  }
}
```

In the main.tf file, copy the following Terraform configuration and save the file.

```
# Configure the AWS Provider
provider "aws" {
  region = "us-east-1"
}
#Retrieve the list of AZs in the current AWS region
data "aws_availability_zones" "available" {}
data "aws_region" "current" {}
#Define the VPC
resource "aws_vpc" "vpc" {
 cidr_block = var.vpc_cidr
 tags = {
   Name
              = var.vpc_name
    Environment = "demo_environment"
    Terraform = "true"
  }
}
#Deploy the private subnets
```





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```
resource "aws_subnet" "private_subnets" {
 for_each = var.private_subnets
 vpc_id
                  = aws_vpc.vpc.id
 cidr_block = cidrsubnet(var.vpc_cidr, 8, each.value)
 availability_zone = tolist(data.aws_availability_zones.available.names)[each.value]
 tags = {
   Name = each.key
   Terraform = "true"
 }
}
#Deploy the public subnets
resource "aws_subnet" "public_subnets" {
 for_each
                        = var.public_subnets
                      = aws_vpc.vpc.id
 vpc_id
 cidr_block
                        = cidrsubnet(var.vpc_cidr, 8, each.value + 100)
 availability_zone = tolist(data.aws_availability_zones.available.names)[each.val
 map_public_ip_on_launch = true
 tags = {
   Name = each.key
   Terraform = "true"
 }
#Create route tables for public and private subnets
resource "aws_route_table" "public_route_table" {
 vpc_id = aws_vpc.vpc.id
 route {
   cidr_block = "0.0.0.0/0"
gateway_id = aws_internet_gateway.id
   #nat_gateway_id = aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway.id
 }
 tags = {
           = "demo_public_rtb"
   Name
   Terraform = "true"
 }
resource "aws_route_table" "private_route_table" {
 vpc_id = aws_vpc.vpc.id
 route {
   cidr_block
   cidr_block = "0.0.0.0/0"
# gateway_id = aws_internet_gateway.internet_gateway.id
   nat_gateway_id = aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway.id
```





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```
tags = {
   Name = "demo_private_rtb"
   Terraform = "true"
 }
}
#Create route table associations
resource "aws_route_table_association" "public" {
 depends_on = [aws_subnet.public_subnets]
 route_table_id = aws_route_table.public_route_table.id
 for_each = aws_subnet.public_subnets
 subnet_id
              = each.value.id
}
resource "aws_route_table_association" "private" {
 depends_on = [aws_subnet.private_subnets]
 route_table_id = aws_route_table.private_route_table.id
 }
#Create Internet Gateway
resource "aws_internet_gateway" "internet_gateway" {
 vpc_id = aws_vpc.vpc.id
 tags = {
   Name = "demo_igw"
}
#Create EIP for NAT Gateway
resource "aws_eip" "nat_gateway_eip" {
           = true
 depends_on = [aws_internet_gateway.internet_gateway]
 tags = {
   Name = "demo_igw_eip"
 }
}
#Create NAT Gateway
resource "aws_nat_gateway" "nat_gateway" {
 depends_on = [aws_subnet.public_subnets]
 allocation_id = aws_eip.nat_gateway_eip.id
 subnet_id
             = aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_1"].id
 tags = {
   Name = "demo_nat_gateway"
  }
}
```





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Task 8: Set credentials for Terraform deployment

Step 8.1

Now that we have our Terraform files ready to go, the last step we need to complete is setting a few environment variables to set our AWS credentials and region used by Terraform. In AWS, generate an access key and secret key from an IAM user with Administrative privilges. If you need help, check out this link with a walk through.

Once you have credentials, set the following environment variables:

```
export AWS_ACCESS_KEY_ID="<YOUR ACCESS KEY>"
export AWS_SECRET_ACCESS_KEY="<YOUR SECRET KEY>"
```

Task 9: Deploy the AWS infrastructure using Terraform

Step 9.1

The first step to using Terraform is initializing the working directory. In your shell session, type the following command:

```
terraform init
```

As a response, you should see something like the following output (note that the provider version might change):

```
Initializing the backend...
Initializing provider plugins...
- Checking for available provider plugins...
- Downloading plugin for provider "aws" (hashicorp/aws) 3.37.0...

Terraform has been successfully initialized!

You may now begin working with Terraform. Try running "terraform plan" to see any changes that are required for your infrastructure. All Terraform commands should now work.

If you ever set or change modules or backend configuration for Terraform,
```



commands will detect it and remind you to **do** so **if** necessary.

rerun this command to reinitialize your working directory. If you forget, other



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Step 9.2

Now that our working directory is initialized, we can create a plan for execution. This will provide a preview of the changes to our AWS environment. To create a plan, execute the following command:

```
terraform plan
```

You should see an output similar to the one below. Note that the example below has been truncated for the sake of brevity:

```
Refreshing Terraform state in-memory prior to plan...
The refreshed state will be used to calculate this plan, but will not be
persisted to local or remote state storage.
data.aws_region.current: Refreshing state...
data.aws_availability_zones.available: Refreshing state...
An execution plan has been generated and is shown below.
Resource actions are indicated with the following symbols:
  + create
Terraform will perform the following actions:
   # aws_eip.nat_gateway_eip will be created
   + resource "aws_eip" "nat_gateway_eip" {
        + allocation_id = (known after apply)
+ association_id = (known after apply)
+ carrier_ip = (known after apply)
+ customer_owned_ip = (known after apply)
+ domain = (known after apply)
        + id
                                       = (known after apply)
        + instance = (known after apply)
        + network_border_group = (known after apply)
       + network_border_group = (known after apply)
+ network_interface = (known after apply)
+ private_dns = (known after apply)
+ public_dns = (known after apply)
+ public_ip = (known after apply)
+ public_ipv4_pool = (known after apply)
+ tags = {
        + tags
              + "Name" = "demo_igw_eip"
           }
        + vpc
                                         = true
     }
```





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```
Plan: 18 to add, 0 to change, 0 to destroy.

Note: You didn't specify an "-out" parameter to save this plan, so Terraform can't guarantee that exactly these actions will be performed if "terraform apply" is subsequently run.
```

Notice that Terraform will create 18 resources for us in our AWS environment, which includes all of the networking components we manually created in earlier steps.

Step 9.3

For our final step to create our AWS resources, we need to apply the configuration. An apply will instruct Terraform to create the resources in AWS that are defined in our configuration file(s). And as we saw in our plan, it will create 18 resources for us. To execute the Terraform, run the following command:

```
terraform apply -auto-approve
```

Note that we are using the -auto-approve flag for simplicity. You can leave it out, validate the changes to the environment, and type yes to validate you want to apply the configuration.

After running the above command, you should see output similar to the following:





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```
+ private_ip
                             = (known after apply)
      + public_dns
                             = (known after apply)
                             = (known after apply)
      + public_ip
      + public_ipv4_pool
                             = (known after apply)
      + tags
          + "Name" = "demo_igw_eip"
                             = true
      + vpc
aws_vpc.vpc: Creating...
aws_vpc.vpc: Still creating... [10s elapsed]
aws_vpc.vpc: Creation complete after 11s [id=vpc-05bf9e6a14d8ee736]
aws_subnet.private_subnets["private_subnet_2"]: Creating...
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_3"]: Creating...
aws_internet_gateway.internet_gateway: Creating...
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_1"]: Creating...
aws_subnet.private_subnets["private_subnet_1"]: Creating...
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_2"]: Creating...
aws_subnet.private_subnets["private_subnet_3"]: Creating...
aws_subnet.private_subnets["private_subnet_3"]: Creation complete after 2s [id=subnet-09
aws_subnet.private_subnets["private_subnet_2"]: Creation complete after 2s [id=subnet-0e
aws_internet_gateway.internet_gateway: Creation complete after 3s [id=igw-09460c69ff2efd
aws_eip.nat_gateway_eip: Creating...
aws_route_table.public_route_table: Creating...
aws_subnet.private_subnets["private_subnet_1"]: Creation complete after 3s [id=subnet-0c
aws_eip.nat_gateway_eip: Creation complete after 1s [id=eipalloc-0834ec4c7cb0ff0d1]
aws_route_table.public_route_table: Creation complete after 2s [id=rtb-0f354a5a7facfe6f1
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_1"]: Still creating... [10s elapsed]
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_2"]: Still creating... [10s elapsed]
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_3"]: Still creating... [10s elapsed]
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_3"]: Creation complete after 13s [id=subnet-09b
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_2"]: Creation complete after 14s [id=subnet-0fd
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_1"]: Creation complete after 15s [id=subnet-0a1
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Creating...
aws_route_table_association.public["public_subnet_3"]: Creating...
aws_route_table_association.public["public_subnet_1"]: Creating...
aws_route_table_association.public["public_subnet_2"]: Creating...
aws_route_table_association.public["public_subnet_2"]: Creation complete after 0s [id=rt
aws_route_table_association.public["public_subnet_3"]: Creation complete after 0s [id=rt
aws_route_table_association.public["public_subnet_1"]: Creation complete after 0s [id=rt
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Still creating... [10s elapsed]
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Still creating... [20s elapsed]
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Still creating... [30s elapsed]
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Still creating... [40s elapsed]
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Still creating... [50s elapsed]
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Still creating... [1m0s elapsed]
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Still creating... [1m10s elapsed]
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Still creating... [1m20s elapsed]
```





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```
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Still creating... [1m30s elapsed]
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Creation complete after 1m35s [id=nat-037dd8aec387c4069]
aws_route_table.private_route_table: Creating...
aws_route_table.private_route_table: Creation complete after 3s [id=rtb-0d564cf66b5ca113
aws_route_table_association.private["private_subnet_3"]: Creating...
aws_route_table_association.private["private_subnet_1"]: Creating...
aws_route_table_association.private["private_subnet_2"]: Creation complete
aws_route_table_association.private["private_subnet_3"]: Creation complete
aws_route_table_association.private["private_subnet_2"]: Creation complete
aws_route_table_association.private["private_subnet_1"]: Creation complete
after 1s [id=
aws_route_table_association.private["private_subnet_1"]: Creation complete
after 2s [id=
```

At this point, Terraform has created new resources in our AWS account that match the requirements stated at the beginning of the lab. Feel free to log into the AWS console and browse around. You should see the new VPC, subnets, route tables, NAT Gateway, and Internet Gateway. These should look just like our configuration, but completely automated by Terraform.

Task 10: Delete the AWS resources using Terraform to clean up our AWS environment

Step 10.1

The final step is to destroy all of the resources created by Terraform. By using Terraform to destroy the resources, you will ensure that every single resource deployed with Terraform is destroyed from your account. This ensures you don't leave anything behind that could incur costs or leave behind technical debt.

To destroy your resources, execute the following command in the terminal. You should see Terraform refresh the state of each resource and subsequently destroy it in the proper order.

```
terraform destroy -auto-approve
```

You should an output similar to the following:

```
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Destroying... [id=nat-037dd8aec387c4069]
aws_route_table.public_route_table: Destruction complete after 3s
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Still destroying... [id=nat-037dd8aec387c4069,
aws_nat_gateway.nat_gateway: Destruction complete after 56s
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_3"]: Destroying... [id=subnet-09b2418caea54512eaws_eip.nat_gateway_eip: Destroying... [id=eipalloc-0834ec4c7cb0ff0d1]
```





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```
aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_2"]: Destroying... [id=subnet-0fd89ea15770c4658 aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_1"]: Destroying... [id=subnet-0a1c c28bb3bb0d318 aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_2"]: Destruction complete after 1s aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_3"]: Destruction complete after 1s aws_subnet.public_subnets["public_subnet_1"]: Destruction complete after 1s aws_eip.nat_gateway_eip: Destruction complete after 1s aws_internet_gateway.internet_gateway: Destroying... [id=igw-09460c69ff2efdaa7] aws_internet_gateway.internet_gateway: Still destroying... [id=igw-09460c69ff2efdaa7, 10 aws_internet_gateway.internet_gateway: Destruction complete after 12s aws_vpc.vpc: Destroying... [id=vpc-05bf9e6a14d8ee736] aws_vpc.vpc: Destruction complete after 1s

Destroy complete! Resources: 18 destroyed.
```

Congratulations, you've reached the end of this lab.

