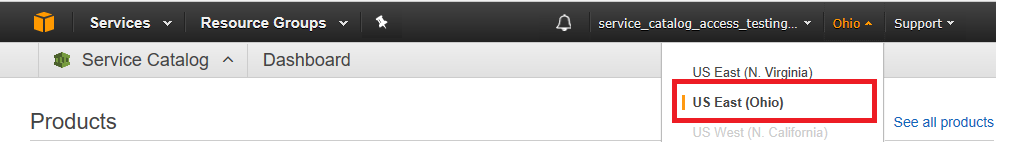
# Launching Stata/MP 14 Instances through the Northwestern Research Computing Services Cloud Software Catalog

1. Connect to the AWS Console

<https://us-east-2.console.aws.amazon.com/>

Your username and password should have been provided separately. Make sure you are accessing the “us-east-2” (Ohio) region:



2. Access the “Service Catalog” within the AWS Console

<https://us-east-2.console.aws.amazon.com/servicecatalog/home?region=us-east-2#/dashboard>

or click on the “Services” menu item on the top left, and either click on “Service Catalog” or search for it in the search box.

3. Launch the Stata/MP 14 product

Click the radio button for “Stata/MP 14” in the Products list, then click the blue “Launch Product” button.

You must enter a unique name for your “provisioned product”. Please enter your name or NetID for this field. Select the latest product version (currently v3 as of this writing). Then click the blue “Next” button.

On the next screen, choose an instance type. “t2.micro” is the default (for testing and development purposes) but it is far too small for actual usage. Select the r4.xlarge type for 30.5GB of RAM or the r4.2xlarge type for 61GB of RAM (if necessary). Then click the blue “Next” button.

On the “Tags” screen, please create a tag with a key of “Creator” and your NetID as the value (you will need to do this to find your instance later). Then click “Next”.

On the “Notifications” screen, click the “Next” button.

On the “Review” screen, click the “Launch” button.

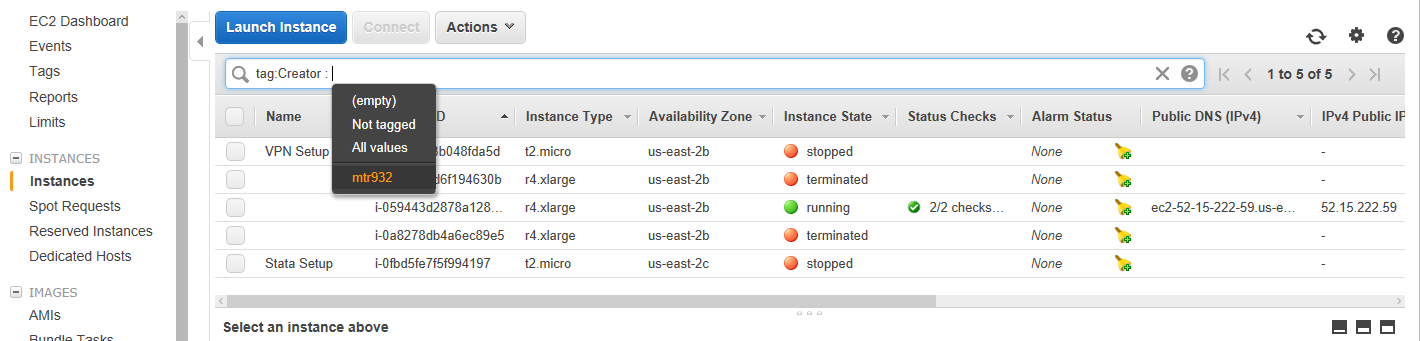
Your instance is now launching. Open the “Events” section and you can click the refresh button until the Status is “Available”.

4. Go to the EC2 Service and connect to your Instance

<https://us-east-2.console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/v2/home?region=us-east-2>

or click the “Services” menu item in the top left and click on “EC2” (under “Compute”) or search for it in the search box.

Click on “Instances” in the left navigation. This will take you to the current list of running instances. In the search box, start typing “Creator” to search by the Creator tag, then click on the NetID you entered when provisioning your instance (in the example below, only my NetID of mtr932 is shown):



Click on your instance in the list, then click the gray “Connect” button above the list. Click the “Download Remote Desktop File” button. Save and open the existing file and you will be prompted to connect to the instance (you must be on an NU network or on the VPN for this to work).

Click the “Connect” button, then when prompted for credentials, click “More choices” then click “Use a different account”. Enter these credentials:

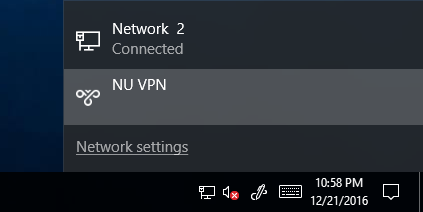
Username: Northwestern

Password: N0rthw3st3rn

Then click “Ok” and click to accept the unverified certificate if prompted. You should now be connected to the remote desktop.

5. Connect the VPN on the Instance

In the bottom right corner of the screen, click the network icon in the taskbar. Then click the “NU VPN” option.

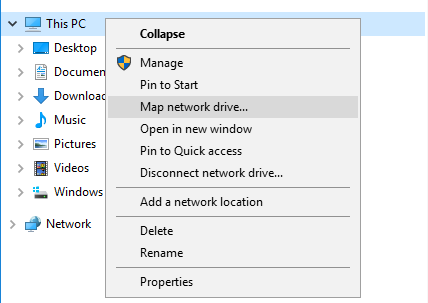


Then click “NU VPN” again in the window that appears and click the “Connect” button. Enter your NetID and password when prompted and then click “Ok” to connect.

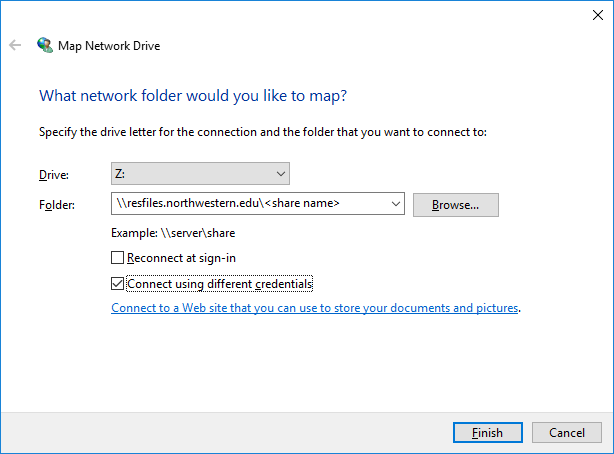
6. Connect to RDSS

Once the VPN is connected, you can connect to your share on RDSS.

Open an explorer window (you can click the Explorer icon in the task bar) and then right click on “This PC” and choose “Map network drive…”



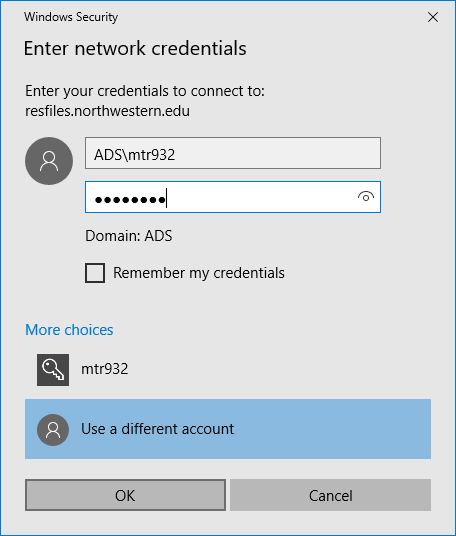
Then in the window that appears, enter the path to your share in the format \\resfiles.northwestern.edu\<share name>, replacing “<share name>” with the name of your share on RDSS. Uncheck the “Reconnect at sign-in” checkbox and check the “Connect using different credentials” checkbox. Then click “Finish”.



On the next screen, click “More choices”, then click “Use a different account”. Enter your credentials in this format:

Username: ADS\<netid>

Password: <your netid password>



Click “OK” and after a few moments you should see an explorer window appear with the contents of your RDSS share. **You should copy the data you want to work on to the local hard drive of the machine you are connected to.** It is safe to do this, as when you terminate the instance at the end of your session, all data on the instance will be destroyed. **Trying to access data directly from RDSS will be extremely slow.**

7. Launch Stata/MP

Double-click the icon on the desktop or in the task bar to launch Stata/MP and run your analysis.

8. Delete your instance when finished.

Running instances in AWS are charged by the hour. When you are done using your instance you must delete it. To do this, return to the Service Catalog: <https://us-east-2.console.aws.amazon.com/servicecatalog/home?region=us-east-2#/dashboard>

In the list of Provisioned Products at the bottom of the screen, click the one you have launched. Then click the gray “Terminate provisioned product” button and click the red “Terminate” button again to confirm.

In the future instances will be monitored and terminated automatically when not in use but initially we will rely on users to terminate their instances when done.