Problem:

Creating a file share & sync solution using ownCloud and AWS

Objective:

The objective of this project is to deploy infrastructure to deploy Owncloud application support with MYSQL database leveraging AWS capabilities.

Implementation Objective:

- The ownCloud app should be installed in the public subnet and MUST be configured to access a new database called owncloud-db in the private subnet.
- · Apache HTTP server should host ownCloud application in this subnet and must be configured with required PHP modules for ownCloud.
- The implementation will have two subnets (public and private) to separate web application server and database server.
- · Custom VPC (owncloud-vpc) will have CIDR 10.0.0.0/16
- · Public subnet will have CIDR 10.0.0.0/24 called owncloud-public-sn. Auto-assign IP address will be set as enabled.
- · Private subnet will have CIDR 10.0.1.0/24 called owncloud-private-sn.
- · Custom route tables (owncloud-public-rt) will be assigned to the Public subnet.
- · Default route table (owncloud-private-rt) will be assigned to the Private subnet.
- · owncloud-public-rt will have bi-directional internet route entry using Amazon internet gateway.

- · owncloud-private-rt will have NAT gateway route entry to facilitate internet connectivity to private subnet.
- Two T2.micro EC2 instances will be used with Ubuntu 20.04.* LTS Amazon machine images.
- · Two security groups will be created.
- . owncloud-private-sg for private security group with ports SSH: 22 & MYSQL: 3306.
- . owncloud-public-sg for public security group with ports SSH: 22 & HTTP: 80.

Proposed Solution:

ownCloud is an open source secure file sync and share solution which can help you gain control of this situation and enable you to create and deploy an enterprise scale file solution. ownCloud can run in our data centre or on a public cloud, with its servers, storage etc completely managed and controlled by your IT team and management in accordance with our company's governance and security requirements. We have decided to launch the ownCLoud service from AWS.

PHASE 1: ARCHITECTURE

Architecture Diagram Description:

Internet:

This represents the external network, including the public internet.

Router or Gateway:

This is the entry point to your Virtual Private Cloud (VPC), connecting your VPC to the Internet.

VPC (Virtual Private Cloud):

The VPC encompasses the entire cloud network environment.

Public Subnet:

This subnet is part of the VPC and is intended to be accessible from the Internet.

It hosts the ownCloud application and the Apache HTTP server.

ownCloud Application:

This component represents the ownCloud application, which provides file sharing and syncing services.

It's hosted on an EC2 instance within the public subnet.

Apache HTTP Server:

The Apache HTTP server runs on the same EC2 instance as the ownCloud application.

It serves web requests for the ownCloud application.

Private Subnet:

This subnet is also part of the VPC but is not directly accessible from the Internet.

It hosts the MySQL database.

MySQL Database:

This component represents the MySQL database used by ownCloud to store user data and configurations.

It's hosted on an Amazon RDS (Relational Database Service) instance within the private subnet.

Security Groups:

You would have security groups in place to control traffic flow between these components.

The security group for the MySQL database would only allow incoming traffic from the security group associated with the ownCloud application in the public subnet.

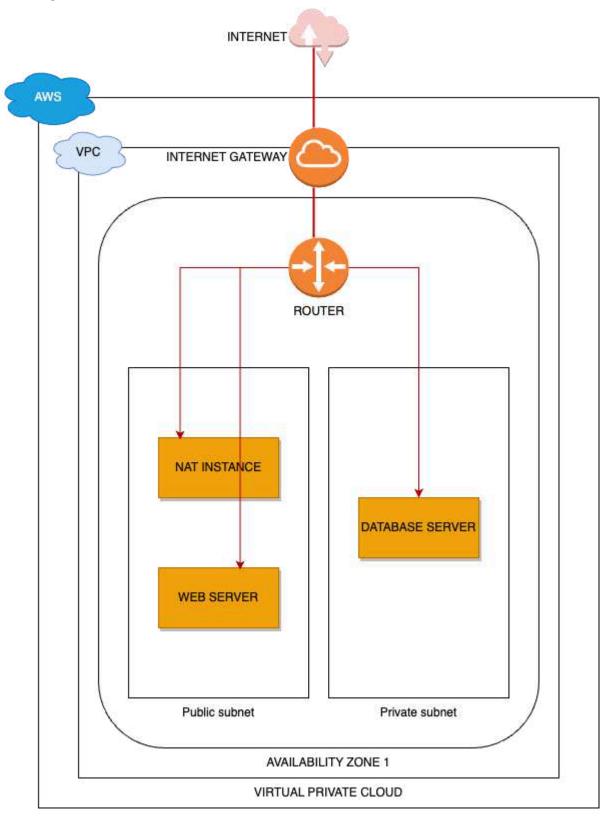
Communication Arrows:

Arrows indicate the flow of traffic between components.

The flow of the process:

```
[Internet]
   [Router]
   [Gateway]
  +----+
  | ownCloud|
  | App |
  +----
     | Private Subnet
  +----+
  | MySQL |
  |Database |
  +----+
Private | Public Subnet
Subnet | |
  +----+
  | Apache |
  |HTTP |
  |Server |
  +----+
```

Network Planning and design considerations: Basic plan:



MASTER PLAN:

High Level Deployment Architecture:

Our primary goal is to create a highly secure and resilient deployment architecture. We have achieved the same by deploying all the services/resources except the app service in a private subnet. Also, we have configured multiple rules in security groups to limit the access from the external world. As you can see below the MySQL instance in the private subnet can only be accessed via the public subnet and hence the external world does not have any access to it.

We have configured NAT Gateway in order to allow EC2 instances from private subnets to access the internet. Ideally, we shall temporarily allow this access until required packages are installed.

Here are the primary steps that I have followed.

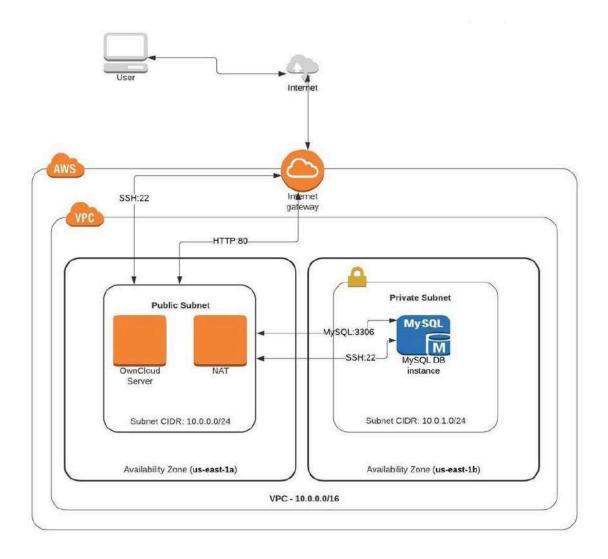
Keeping security in mind we have installed the MySQL server in EC2 instance in a private subnet.

In order to install the MySQL server the private EC2 instance needs outbound access to the internet. This is achieved by configuring NAT in the public subnet and then followed by adding it to the default route table.

Only two ports are open from My SQL server from the public subnet. Those ports are SSH: 22 and MySQL: 3306

OwnCLoud app server is installed in an EC2 instance in the public subnet. The app server has two ports exposed; SSH: 22 & HTTP: 80 NAT gateway is configured in the public subnet.

I could have created a NAT instance, but I tried to save the resources by using a NAT gateway.



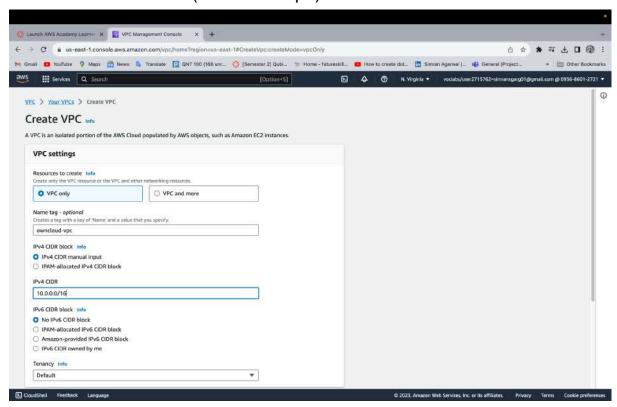
PHASE 2: IMPLEMENTATION

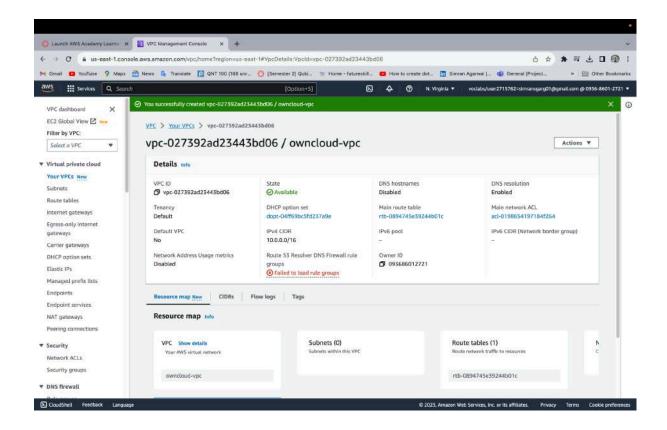
A. Create Custom VPC:

Create a custom VPC named "owncloud-vpc."

Implement two different subnets within this VPC: one public and one private. Define appropriate IP address ranges and routing tables for each subnet.

Create a custom VPC (owncloud-vpc) with CIDR 10.0.0.0/16

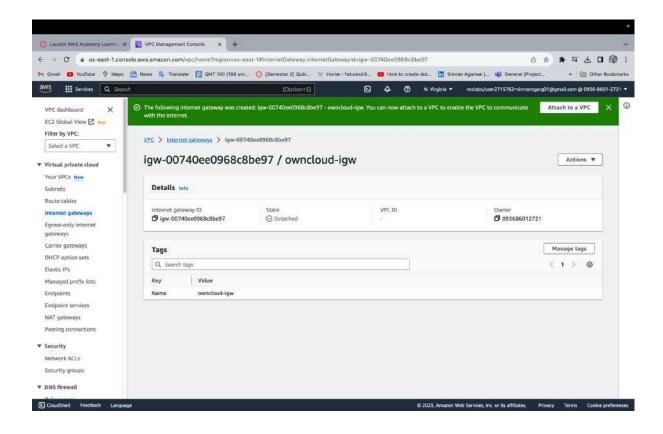




B.Internet Gateway:

An Internet Gateway is a fundamental component in Amazon Web Services (AWS) that enables communication between resources within a Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) and the internet. It acts as a horizontally scaled, highly available VPC component that allows traffic to flow between the VPC and the public internet.

Create an internet gateway (owncloud-igw) and attach it to the VPC (owncloud-vpc).



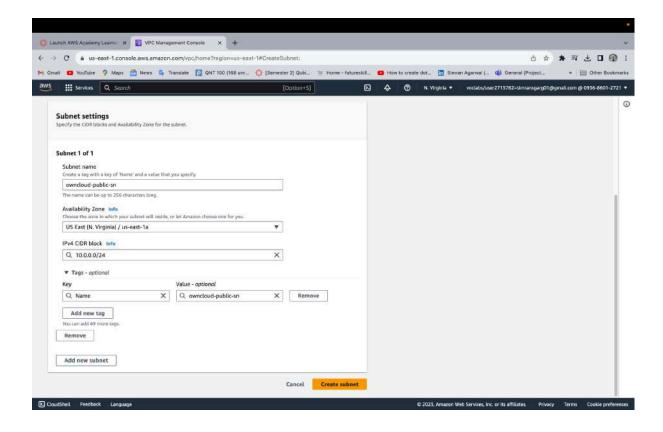
C. Subnets:

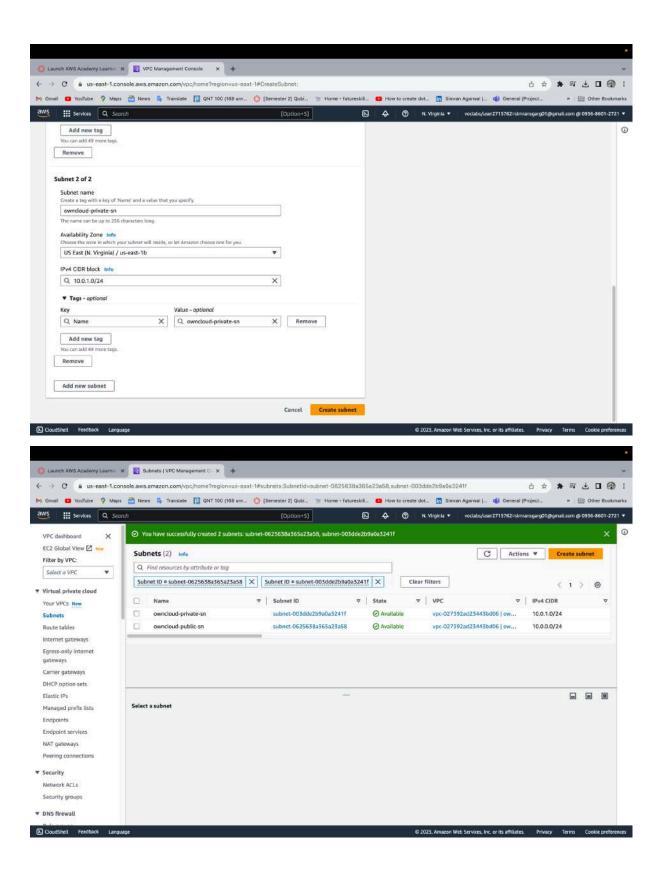
The two subnets - one public and one private - within the VPC.

Public subnet will have CIDR 10.0.0.0/24 called owncloud-public-sn.

Auto-assign IP address will be set as enabled.

Private subnet will have CIDR 10.0.1.0/24 called owncloud-private-sn.

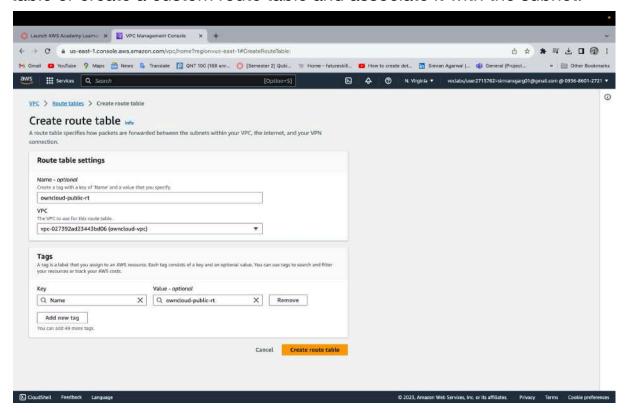


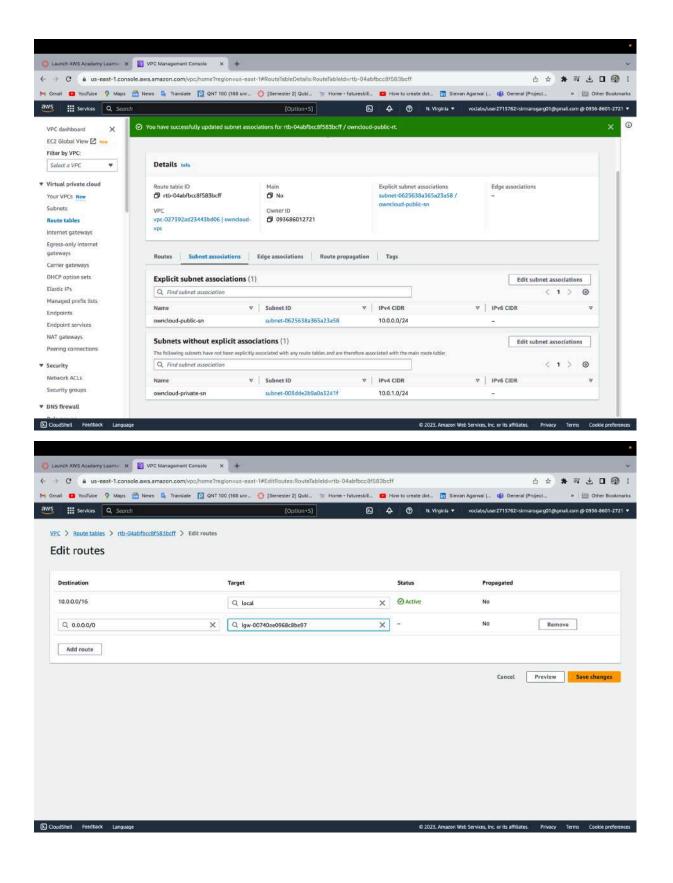


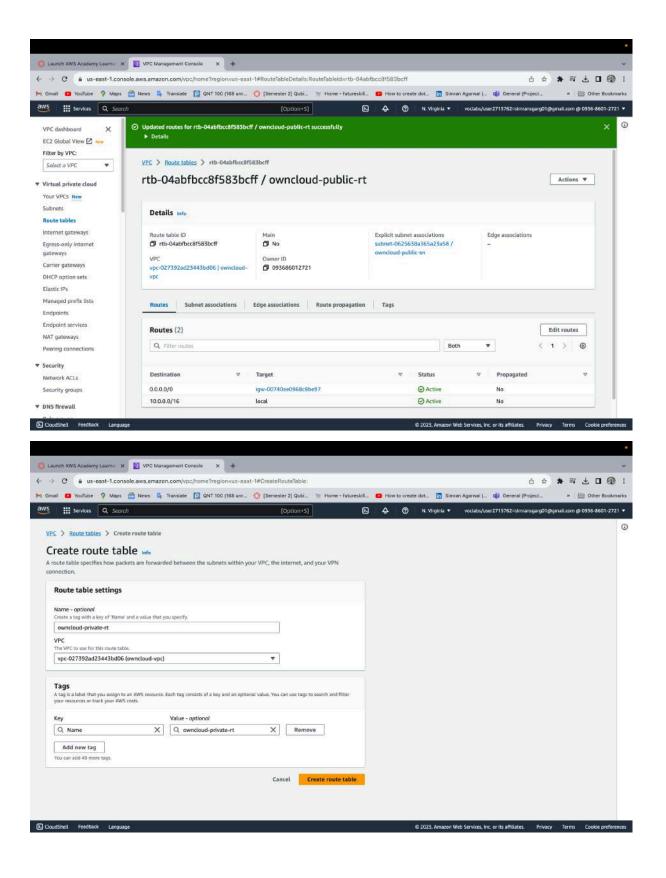
D. ROUTE TABLES:

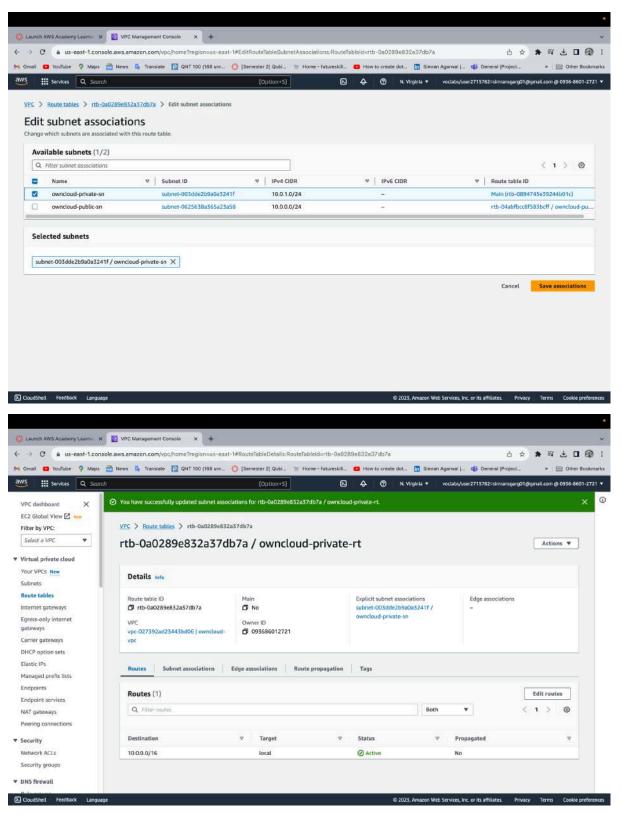
Route tables determine how traffic is directed within a VPC, and they are associated with one or more subnets.

Each subnet in a VPC must be associated with a specific route table. When you create a subnet, you can either choose the default VPC route table or create a custom route table and associate it with the subnet.









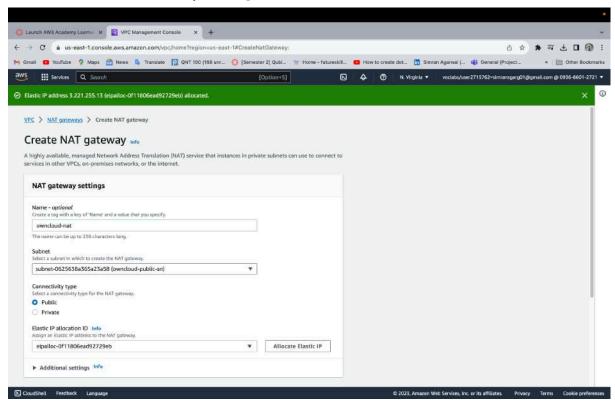
Private subnet needs to be connected to a public subnet in-order to establish a connection between the web application and the database. To establish this connection we will install the NAT Gateway on the Public Subnet and with the help of it we will route the connection to the

Private Subnet.

E. NAT GATEWAY:

NAT Gateways are primarily used for handling outbound traffic from private subnets within your VPC.

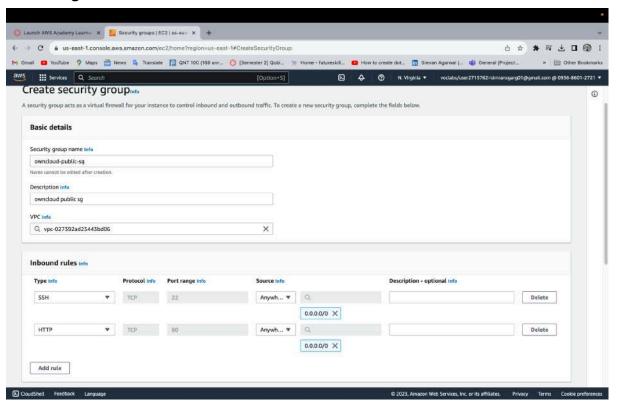
Resources like EC2 instances in private subnets can send requests to the internet via the NAT Gateway to access services, retrieve updates, or download software packages.



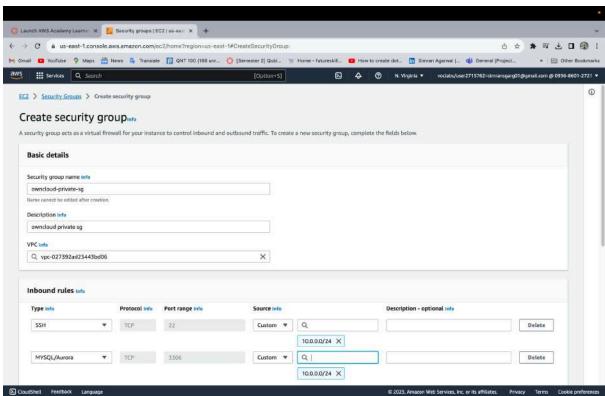
F. SECURITY GROUPS:

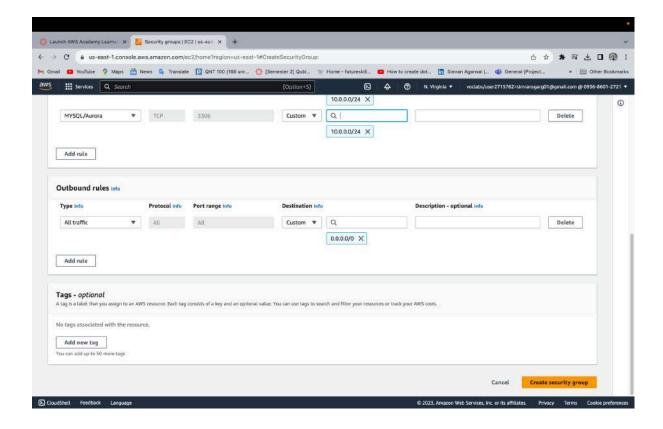
Security groups are rule-based, meaning you define rules that specify what traffic is allowed or denied. Each rule is associated with a specific security group.

Public sg:



Private sg:





G. EC2 INSTANCES:

CONNECTION AND CONFIGURATION (OWNCLOUD):

We will follow the following procedure to install and configure owncloud on Public Subnet and MySQL on Private Subnet.

G1. PUBLIC INSTANCE:

- 1. Connect to the public instance using SSH "sudo ssh -i keyx.pem ubuntu@3.81.73.98"
- Now update and Upgrade the Ubuntu instance "sudo apt update"
 "sudo apt full-upgrade"
- 3. Install the Apache using the following command, "sudo apt-get install apache2"

- Change the directory to /var/www/ "cd /var/www/"
- 5. Download and extract the owncloud files.

"sudo wget

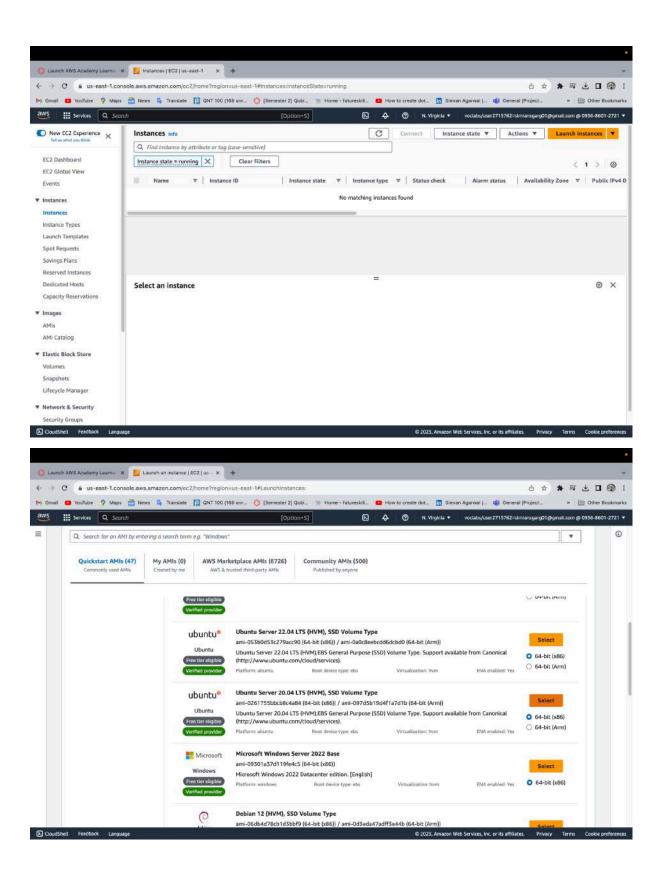
https://download.owncloud.com/server/stable/owncloud-complet e-latest.tar.bz2 && \

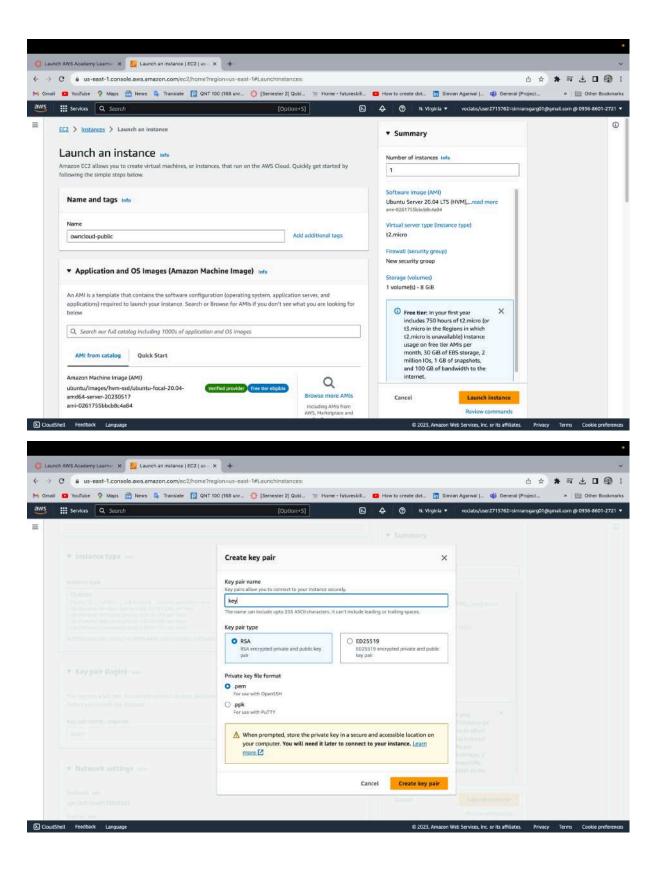
sudo tar -xjf owncloud-complete-latest.tar.bz2 && \ sudo chown -R www-data. Owncloud"

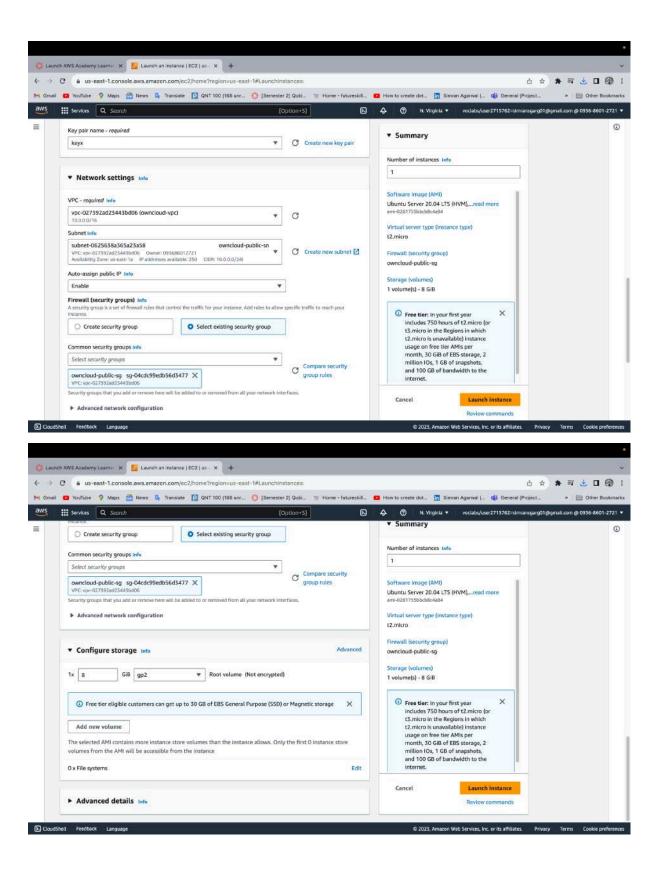
6. Now run the following command to install the php and some of its modules.

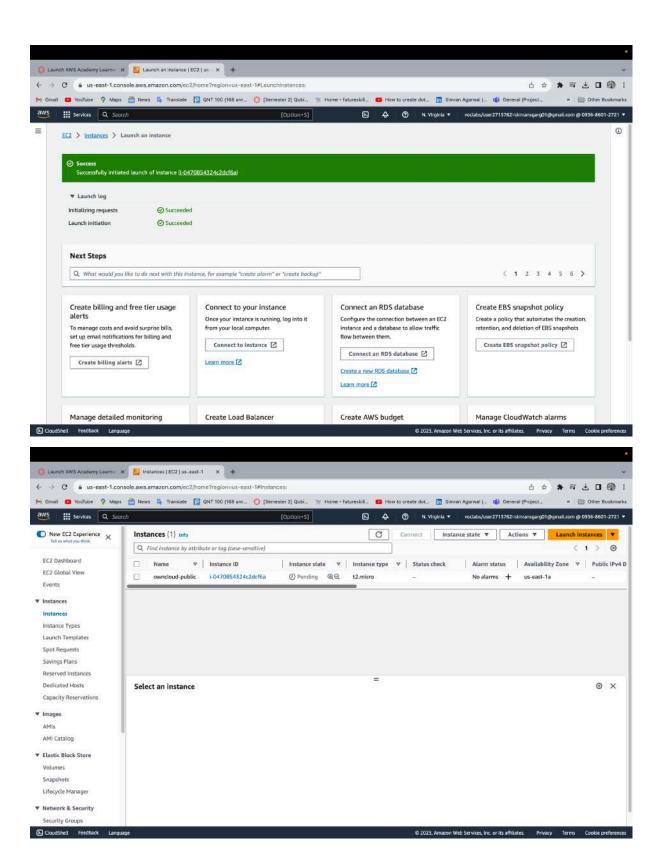
"sudo apt install php libapache2-mod-php php-mysql"

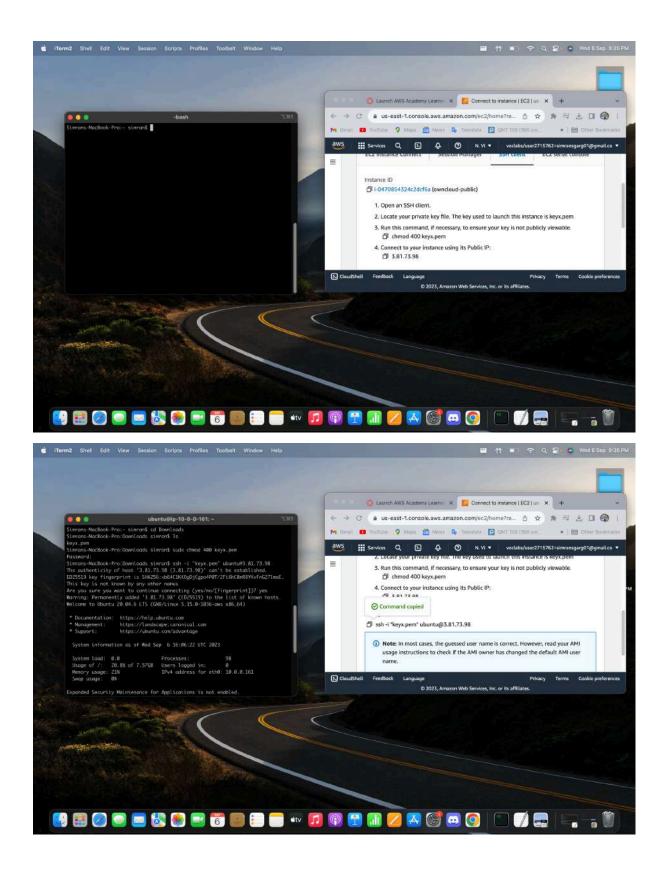
- 7. Make index.php as the default first load page by editing the /etc/apache2/mods-enabled/dir.conf file and make the sequence of index.php to be the first.
- 8. Now update the directory root path by editing edit /etc/apache2/sites-enabled/000-default.conf file and change /var/www/html to /var/www/owncloud.
- 9. Install the remaining modules of php "sudo apt install php-bz2 php-curl php-gd php-imagick php-intl php-mbstring php-xml php-zip"
- Restart the apache server "sudo systemctl reload apache2"
- 11. Now if you try opening the public ip of the public instance, it will load up the owncloud admin account creation page. But configuring the private instance is still pending, we need to install and configure mysql inorder to use the web application.

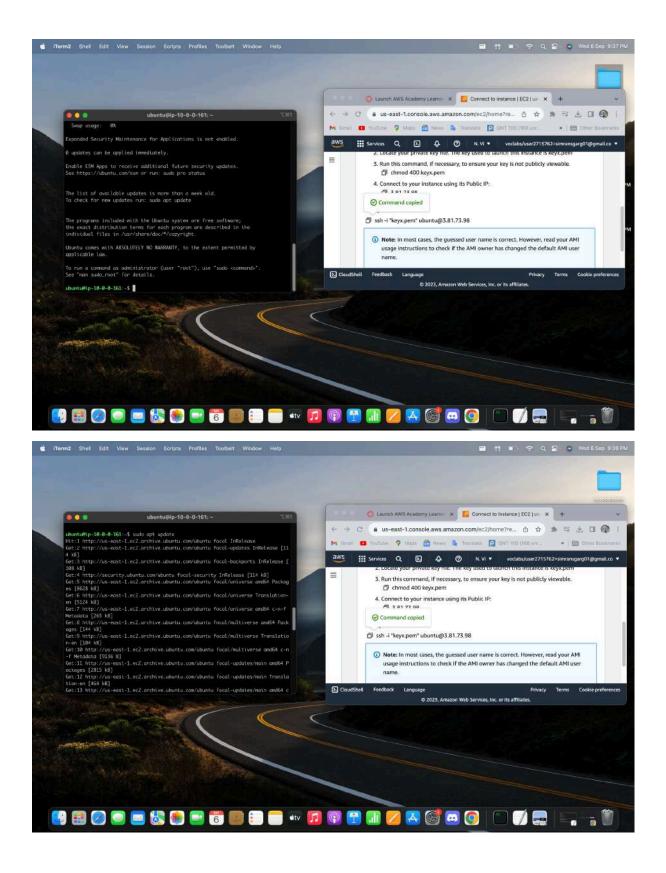


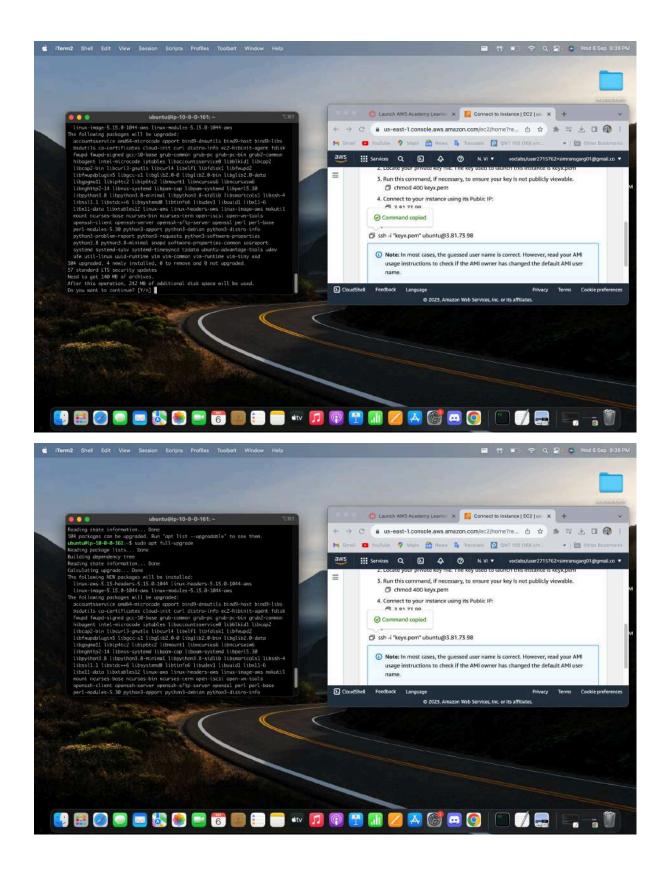


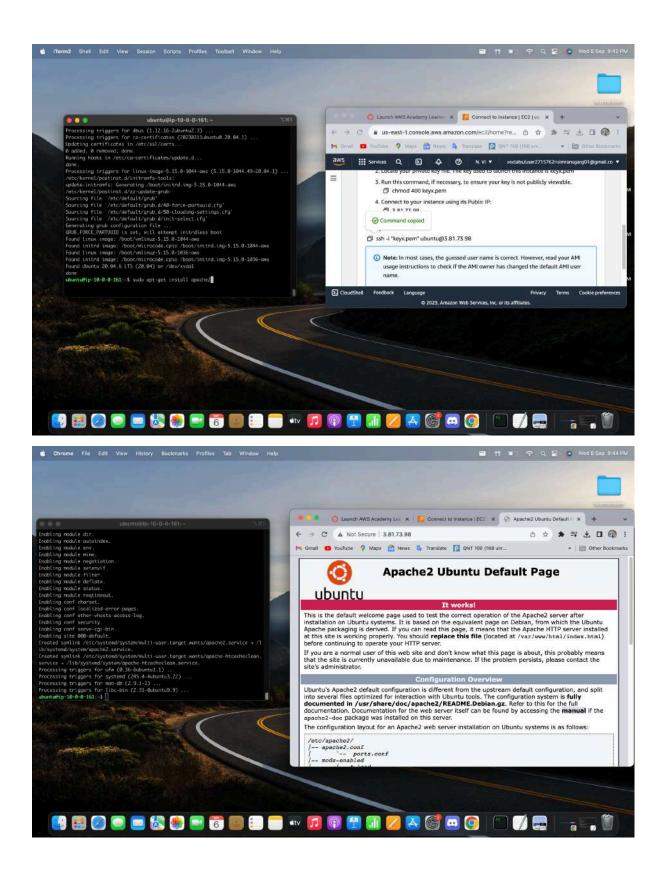


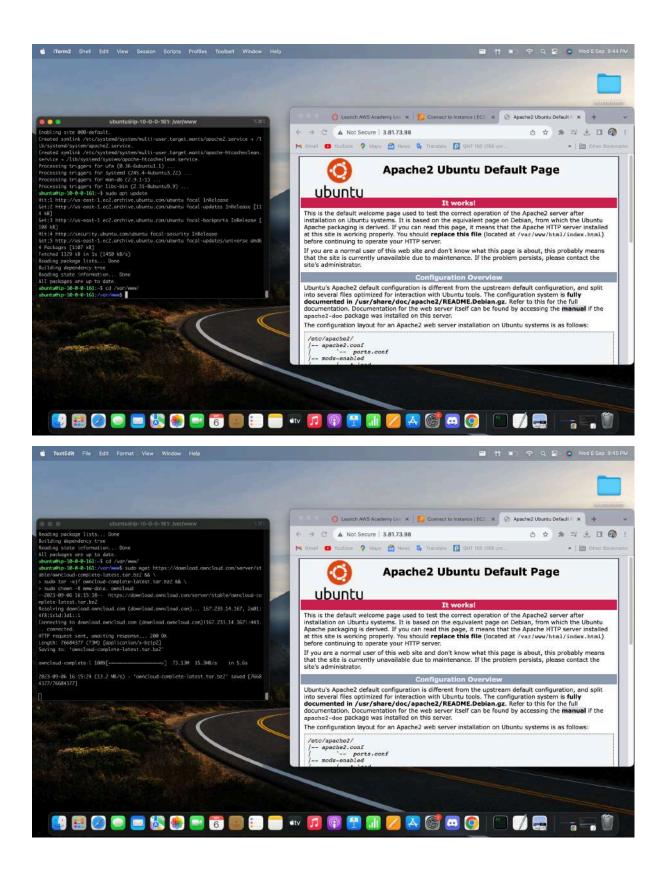


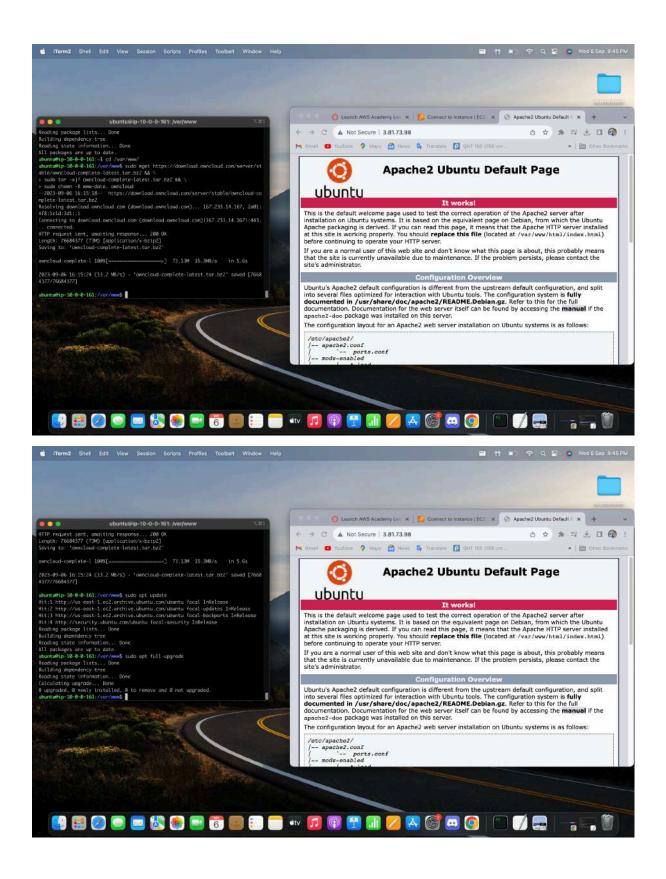


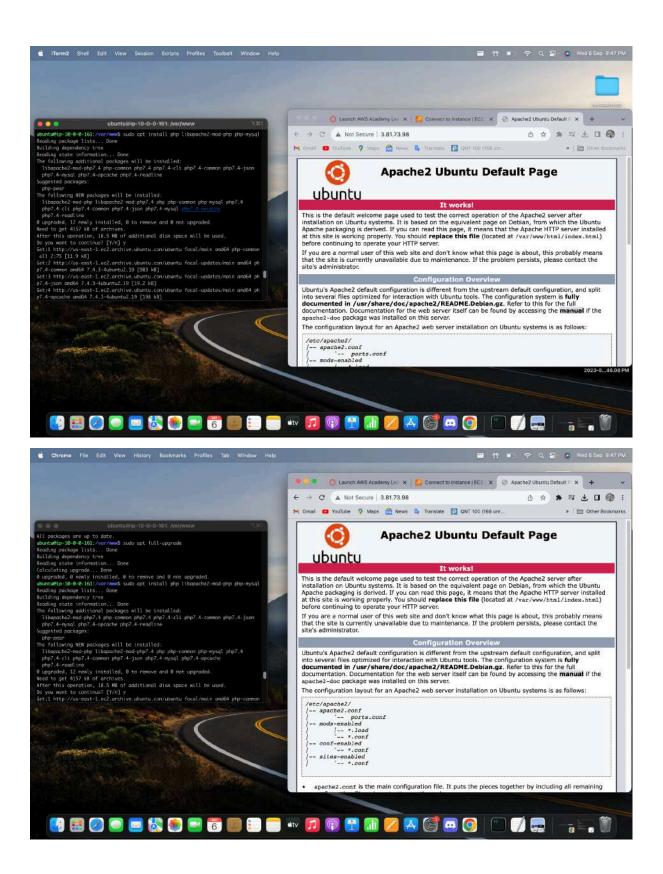


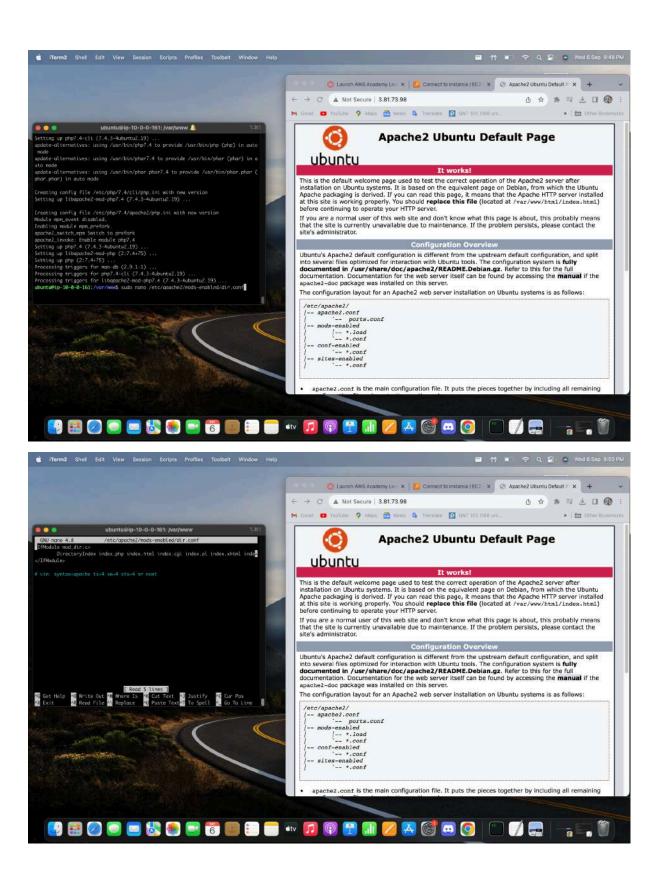


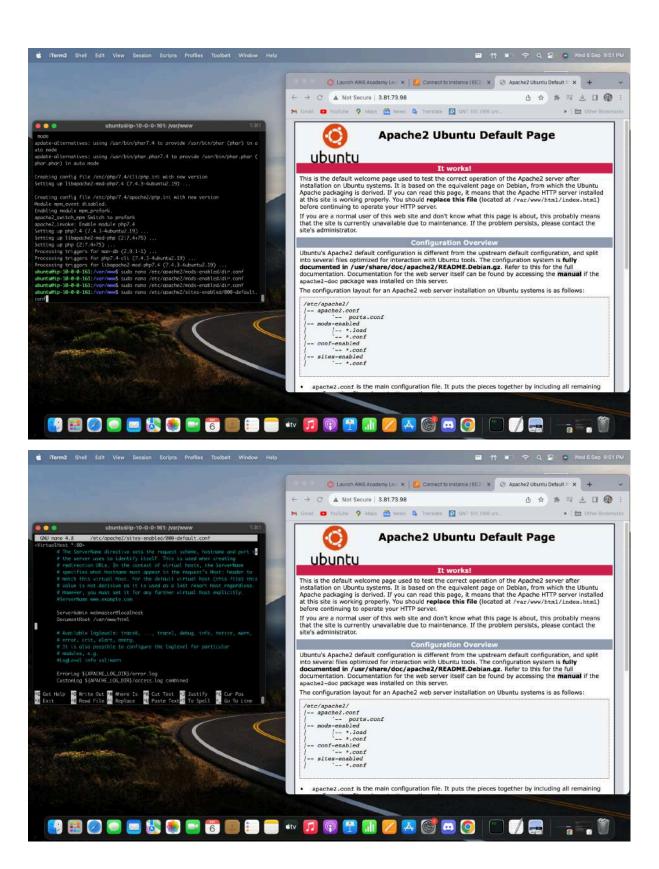


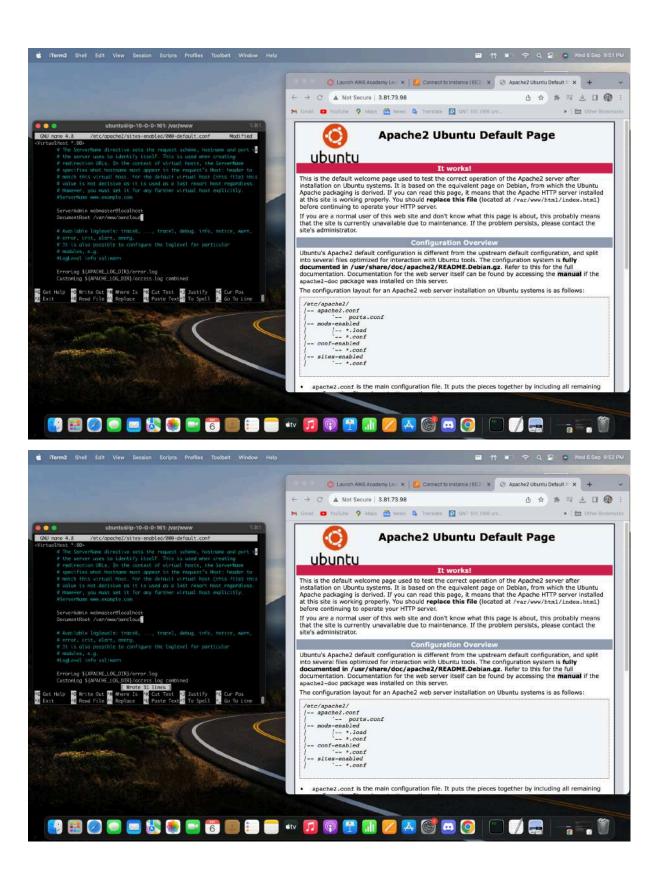


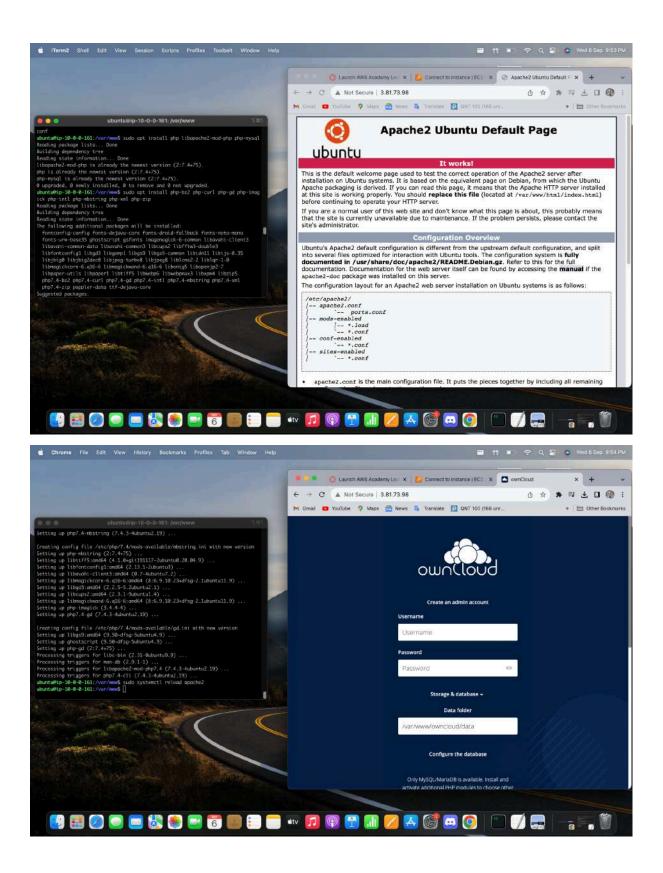












G2. PRIVATE INSTANCE:

- 12. Now to access the private instance, we cannot do it directly like we did for the public instance, this is because the private instance can only access the internet via the public instance with the help of NAT Gateway.
 - So we already are logged into the public instance, we will try connecting to the private instance through the public instance using the following steps.
 - a. First, we will copy the key of the private instance into the public instance.
 - b. We will change the permission of that key to 400 (read-only). "sudo chmod 400 keyx.pem"
 - c. Now we will try to connect to the private instance using the following command
 - "sudo ssh -i keyx.pem ubuntu@10.0.1.200"
- 13. After successfully connecting to the private instance, we will update and upgrade the system first.
 - "sudo apt update"
 - "sudo apt full-upgrade"
- 14. Now that we have updated and upgraded our private instance, we will install the mysql server with the following command "sudo apt install mysql-server"
- 15. Now for creating the database and the users and granting them the privileges we need to follow the below steps.
 - "sudo mysql"
 - "CREATE DATABASE owncloud;"
 - "CREATE USER 'owncloud'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'password';"
 - "CREATE USER 'owncloud'@'%' IDENTIFIED BY 'password';"

```
"GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON *.* TO 'owncloud'@'localhost' with GRANT OPTION;"

"GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON *.* TO 'owncloud'@'%' with GRANT OPTION;"

"FLUSH PRIVILEGES;"

"EXIT"
```

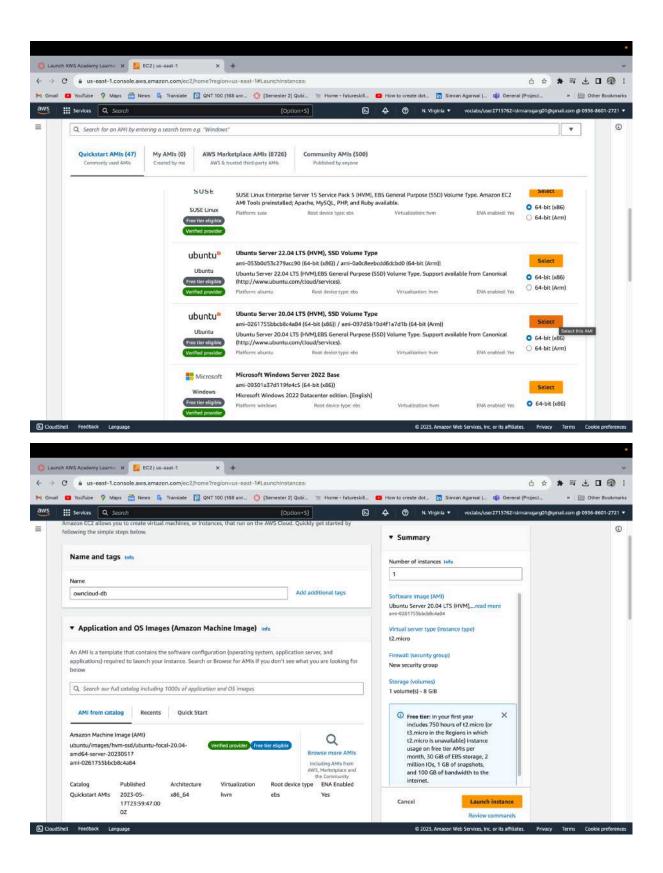
- 16. We have successfully created the database (owncloud) and the user (owncloud) with the password (password).
- 17. In-order for the public instance to connect and access the database in the private instance we have to configure the bind address in the sql configuration. To do that type the following command

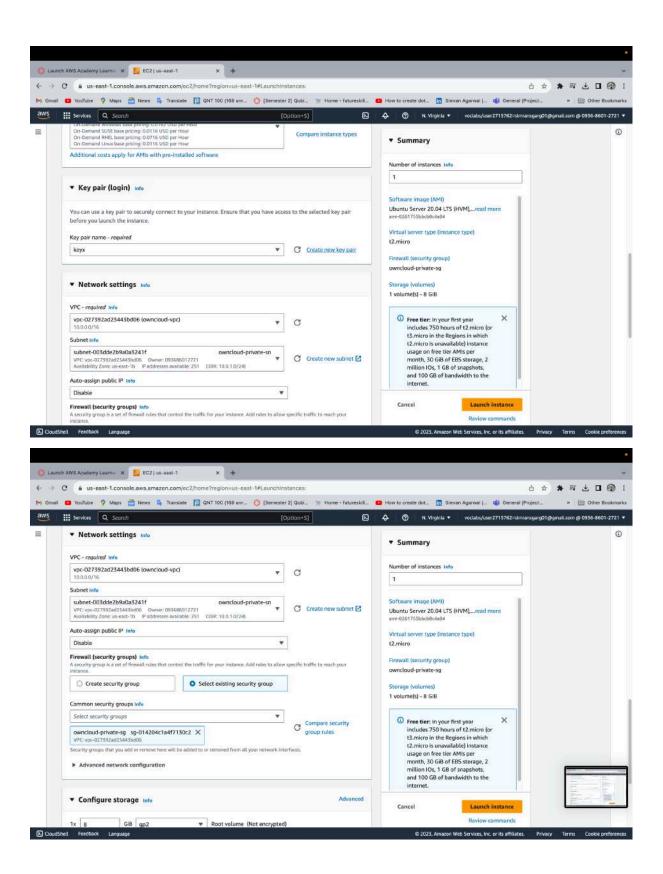
"sudo nano /etc/mysql/mysql.conf.d/mysqld.cnf"

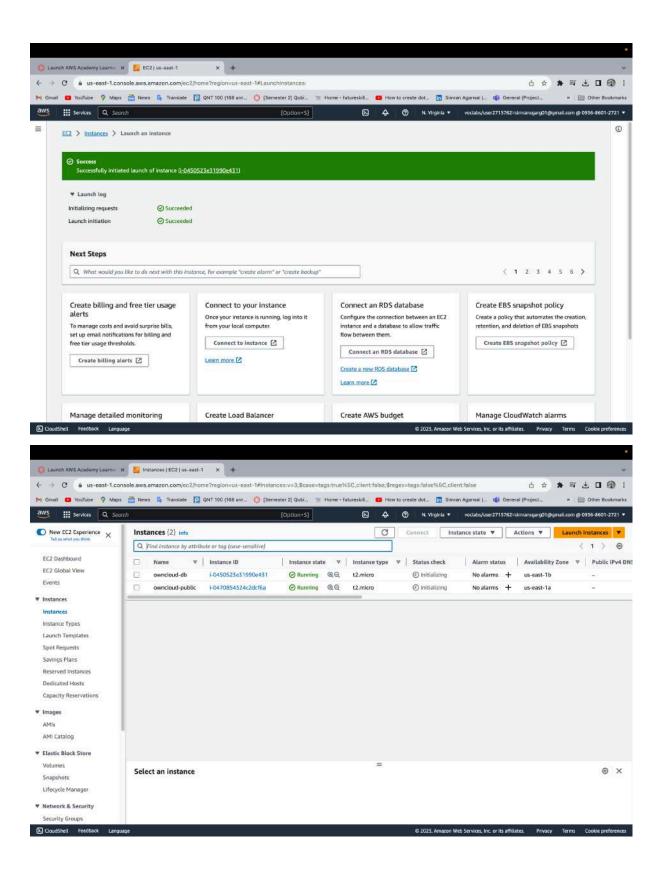
Change the bind address from 127.0.0.1 to 0.0.0.0

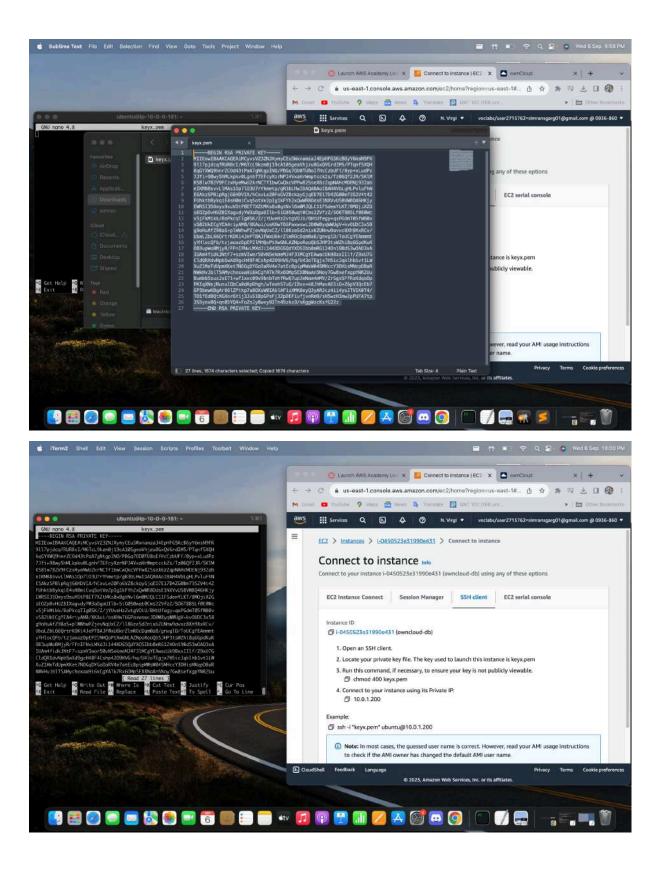
- Now, restart the mysql service using the following commands.
 "sudo systemctl restart mysql.service"
- 19. Sometimes, the firewall blocks the connection from public instance to private, to allow the good flow of data and requests from public instance to private instance, try running the following command.

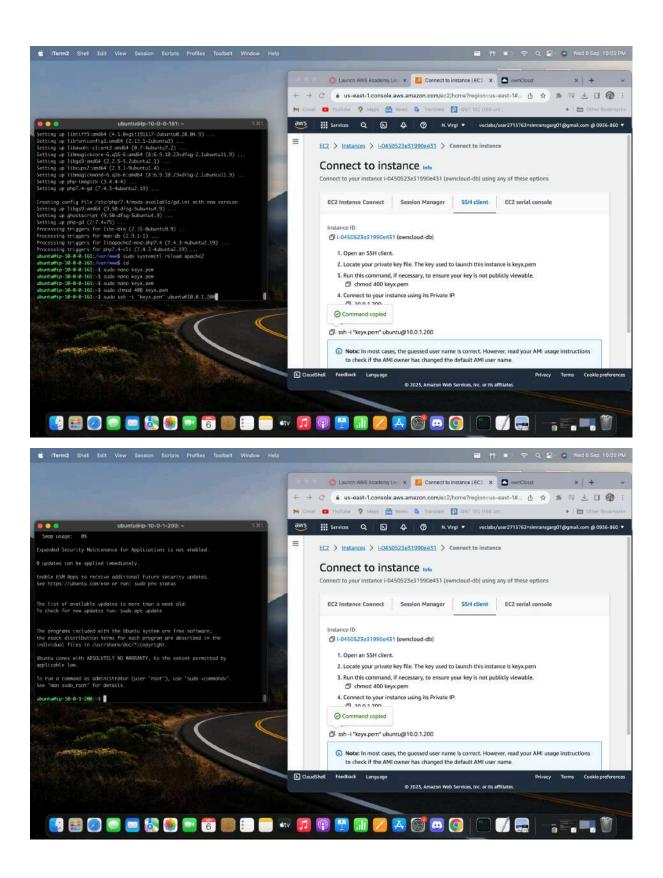
"sudo iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --destination-port 3306 -j ACCEPT"

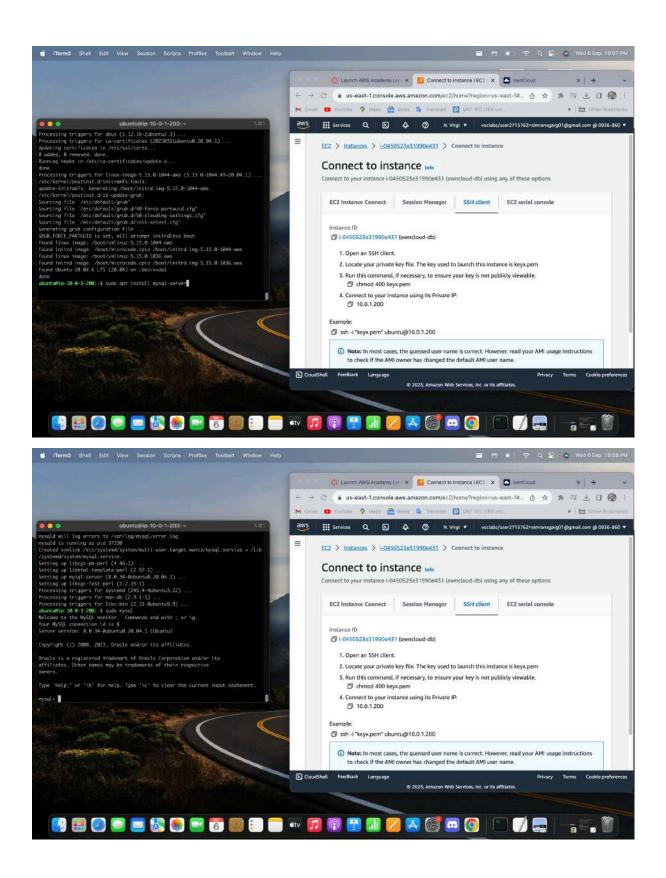


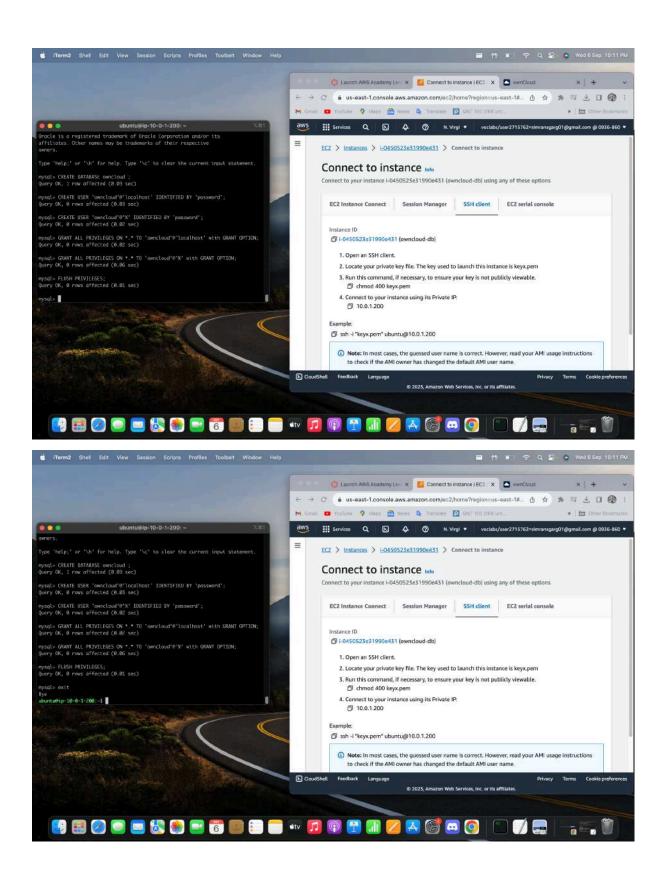


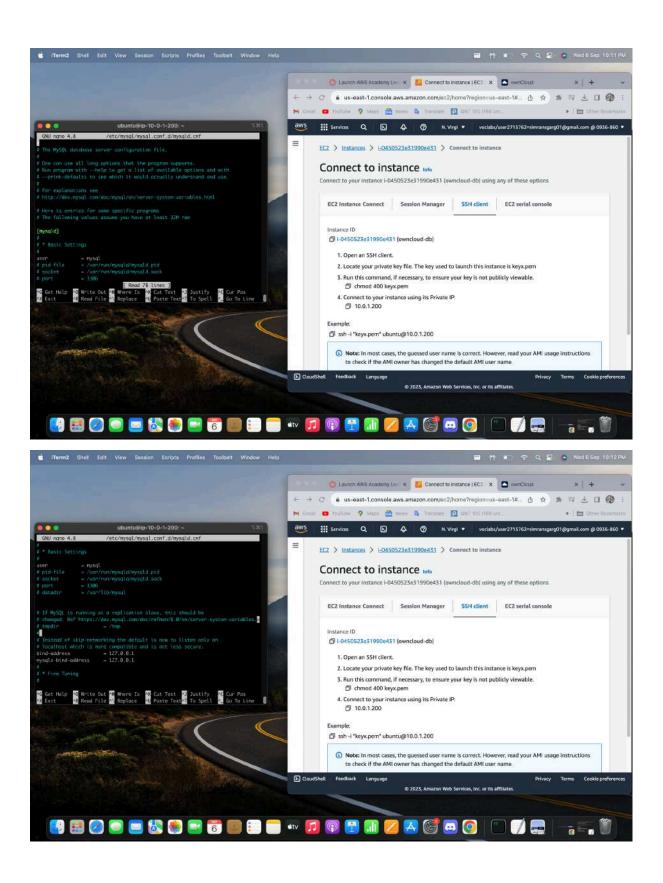


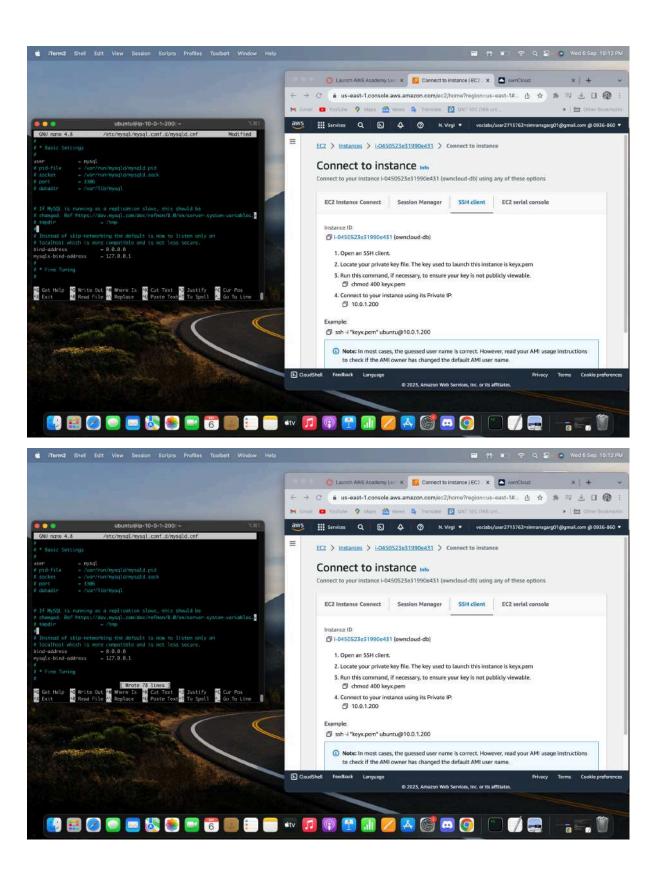


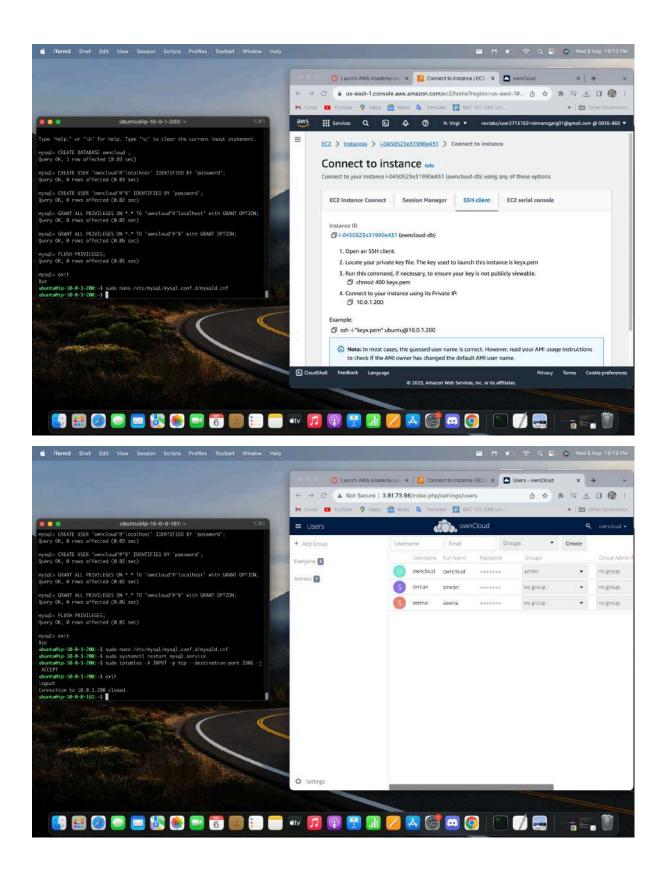












H. OWNCLOUD ADMIN REGISTRATION:

20. Now, type the Public IP address of the public instance in the URL bar and hit enter.

"Owncloud Admin Registration Page" (index.php), will open up.

21. Enter the following parameters:

Username: owncloud Password : owncloud

Data Folder: /var/www/owncloud/data

Database Username : owncloud Database Password : password

Database Name: owncloud

Database Host: 10.0.1.200:3306

- 22. Now, click on Finish Setup.
- 23. If all the steps are followed correctly so far then you must see a login window.

Try logging in to owncloud platform using the following credentials.

Username: owncloud Password : owncloud

