Immersion Day

Getting Started with Elastic Beanstalk

July 2021

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Overview

AWS Elastic Beanstalk is an even easier way for you to quickly deploy and manage applications in the AWS cloud. You simply upload your application and Elastic Beanstalk automatically handles the deployment details of capacity provisioning, load balancing, auto-scaling and application health monitoring.

At the same time, with Elastic Beanstalk, you retain full control over the AWS resources powering your application, and you can access the underlying resources at any time. Elastic Beanstalk leverages AWS services such as Amazon Elastic Cloud Compute (Amazon EC2), Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3), Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS), Elastic Load Balancing, and Auto Scaling to deliver the same highly reliable, scalable, and cost-effective infrastructure that hundreds of thousands of businesses depend on today.

For this lab you will build a simple, scalable web-based customer signup form that is deployed to AWS Elastic Beanstalk. The application stores data in Amazon DynamoDB and publishes notifications to the Amazon Simple Notification Service (SNS) when a customer fills out the form.

This lab will walk you through the following:

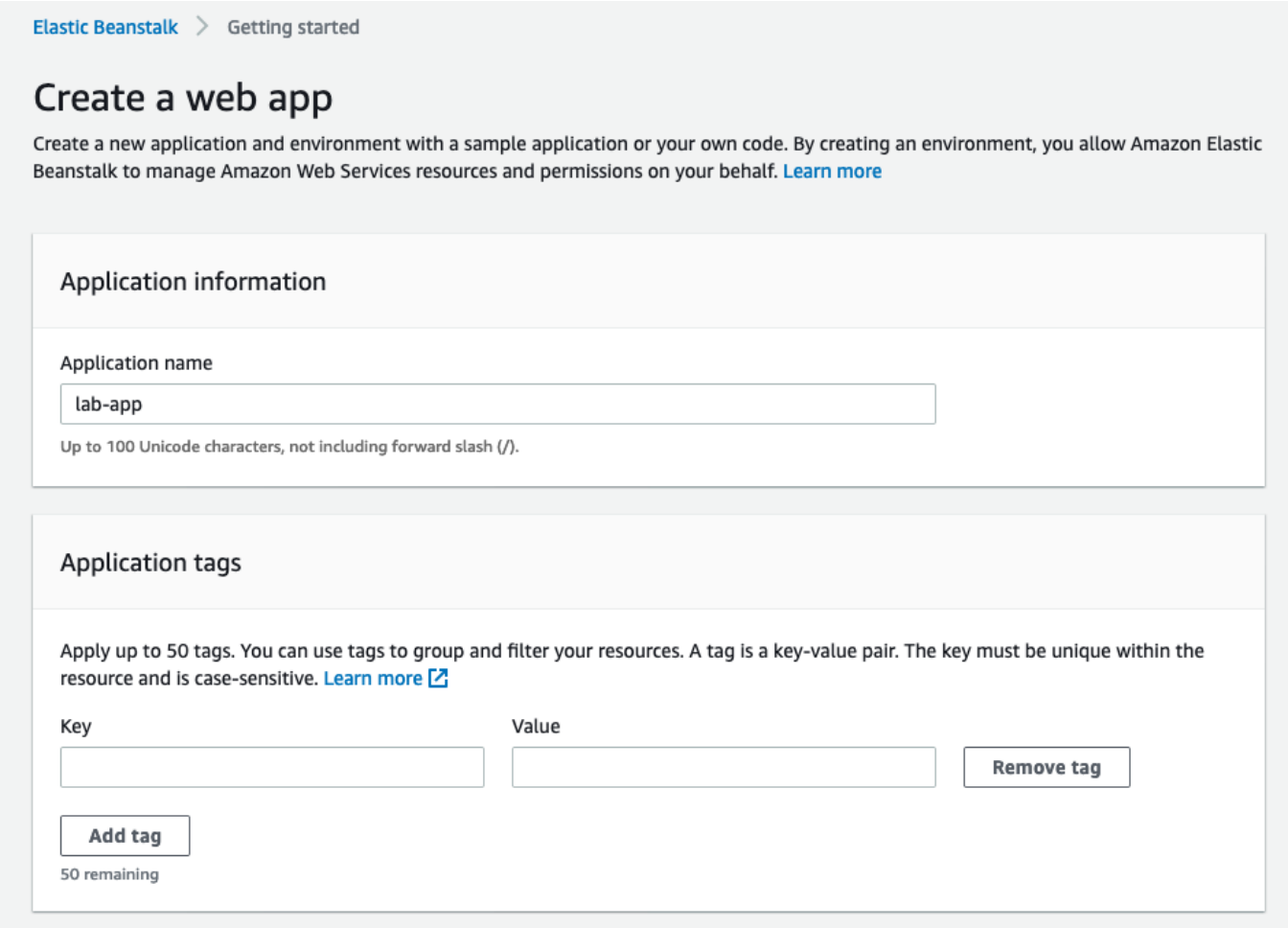
- Launch an Elastic Beanstalk Environment
- Add Permissions to Your Environment's Instances
- Deploy the Sample Application
- Update the Application's Configuration Files
- Configure Your Environment for High Availability
- Clean Up

Launch an Elastic Beanstalk Environment

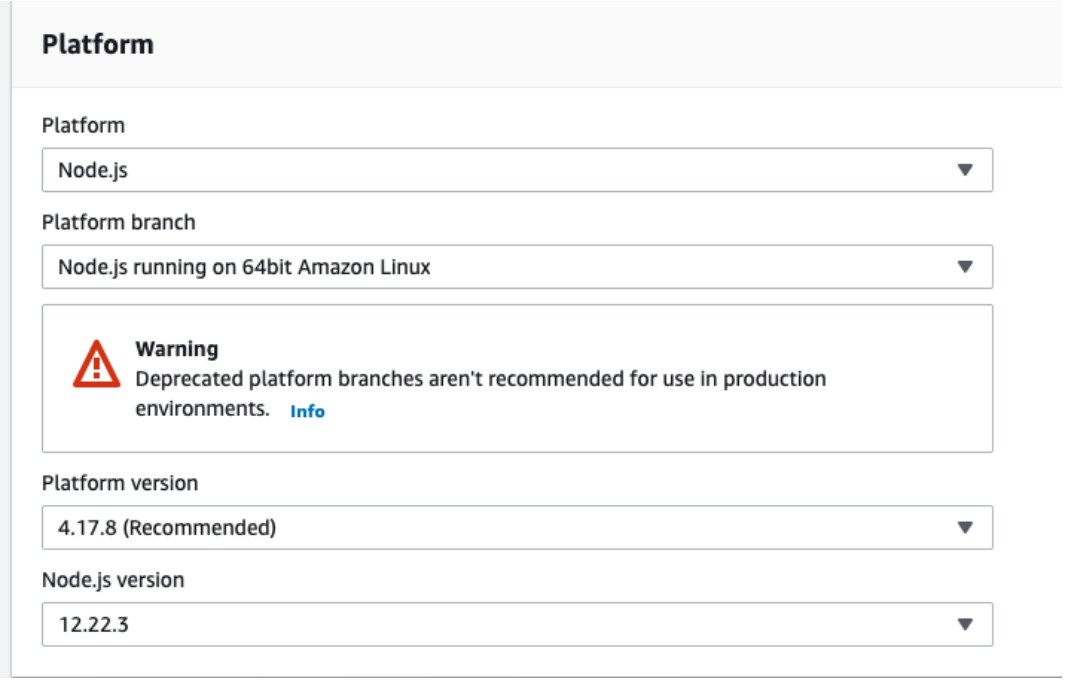
AWS Elastic Beanstalk makes it easy to create new environments for your application. You can create and manage separate environments for development, testing, and production use, and you can deploy any version of your application to any environment.

1. Download the sample application source bundle from GitHub: [eb-node-express-sample-v1.1.zip](https://bit.ly/2pubq2c) (https://bit.ly/2pubq2c)
2. Sign in to the AWS Management Console and open the AWS Elastic Beanstalk console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/elasticbeanstalk
3. Click **Create Application** on the **top right.** The **Create a Web App** dialog appears.

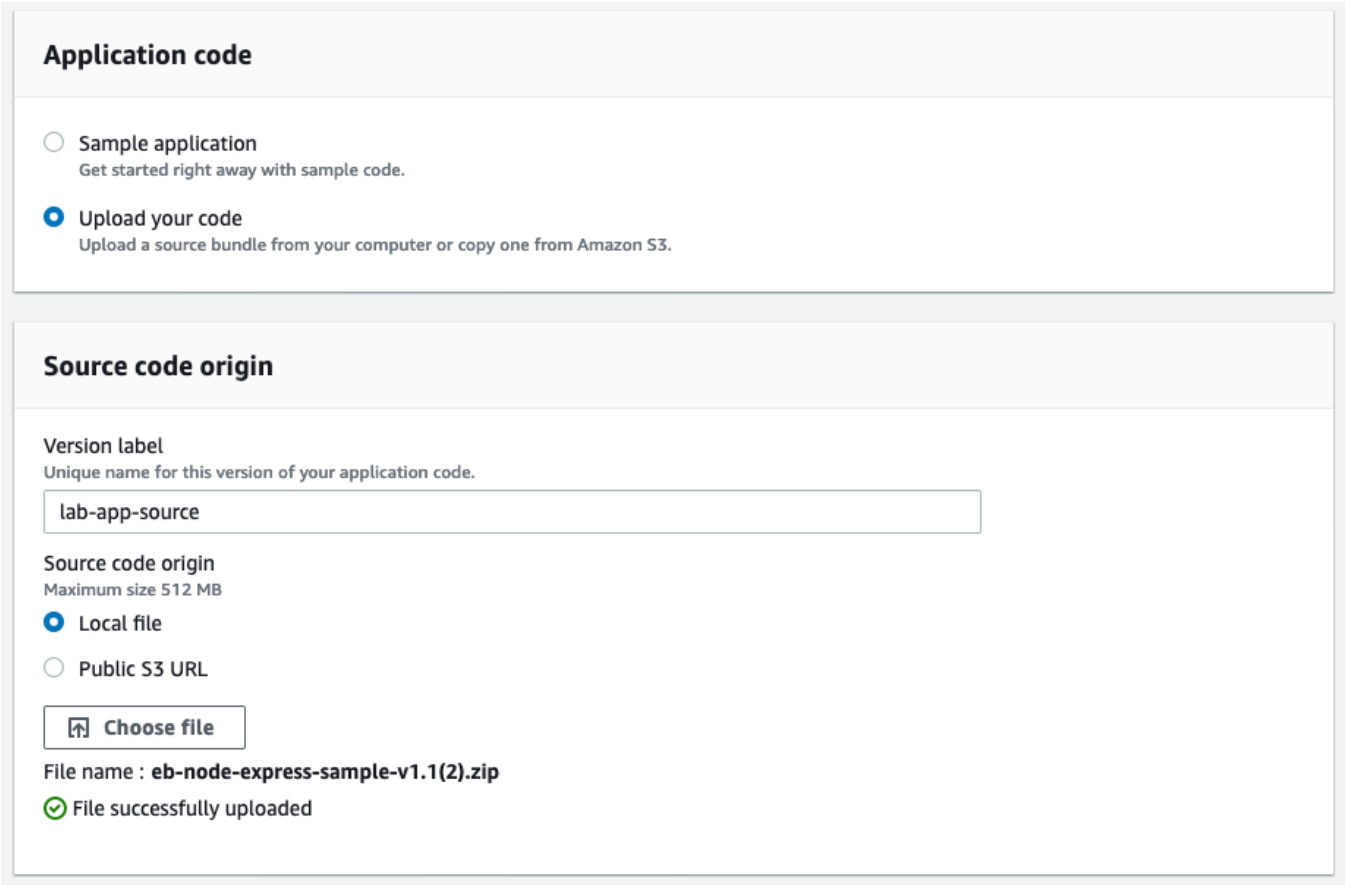
4. In the **Application name** field, type a name (e.g. **lab-app**).
5. Leave the Tags fields empty.



6. For **Platform**, Choose Node.js
7. For **Platform Branch**, select Node.js running on 64bit Amazon Linux, under **Depreciated** options.
   (**Note**: Do not select Amazon Linux 2. Application example used in this Lab was written using older Node.js branch)



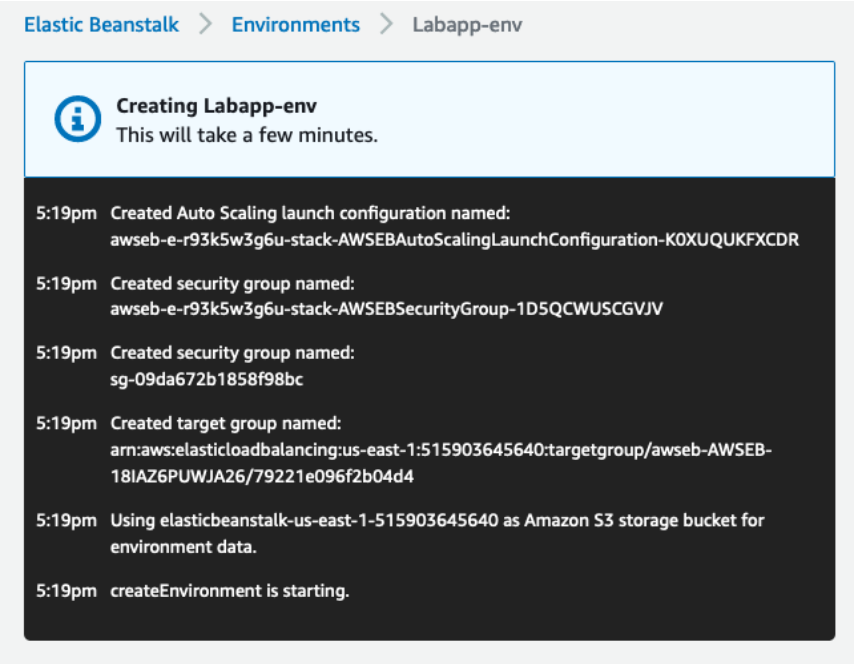
8. For **Application Code**, choose **Upload** your code and select the .zip file you downloaded in step 1 above



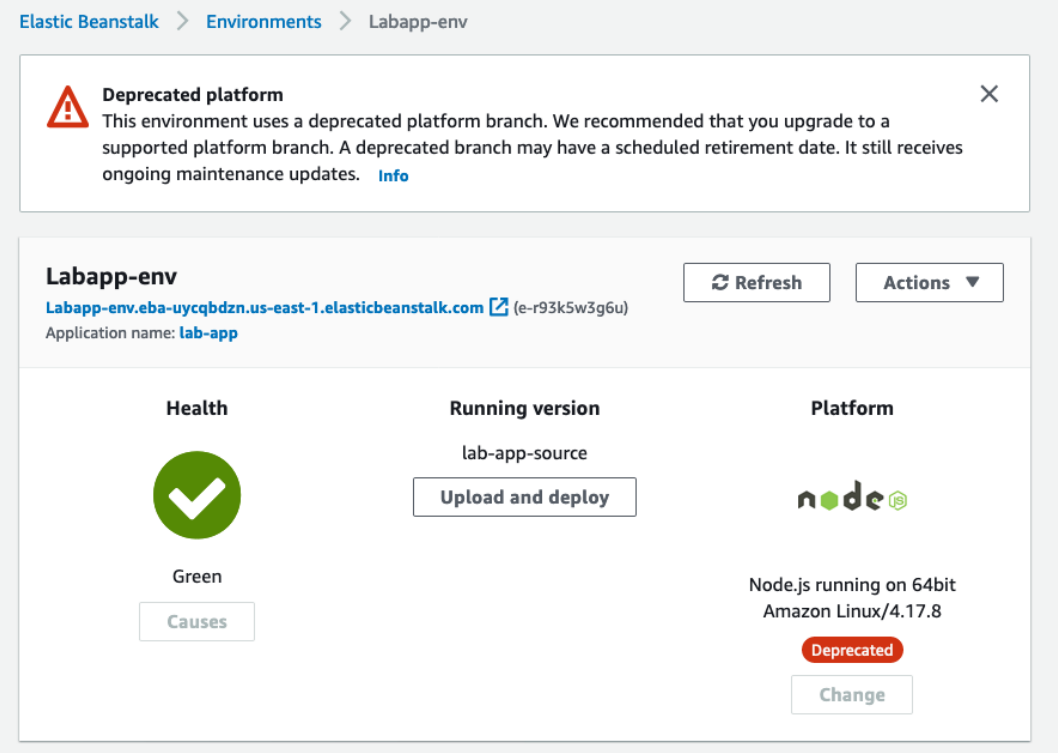
9. Click the orange **Create application** button on bottom right of page.

10. It will take a few minutes for the application to be created. You can monitor progress as the environment is being launched.

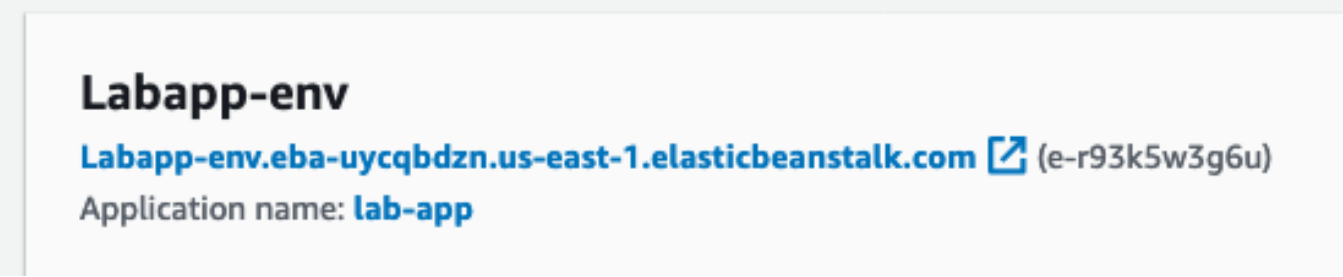
Examine the outputs. Elastic Beanstalk launches and configures the environment for your application to run. This includes an EC2 instance, Auto Scaling group, Elastic Load Balancer, and CloudWatch for logging.

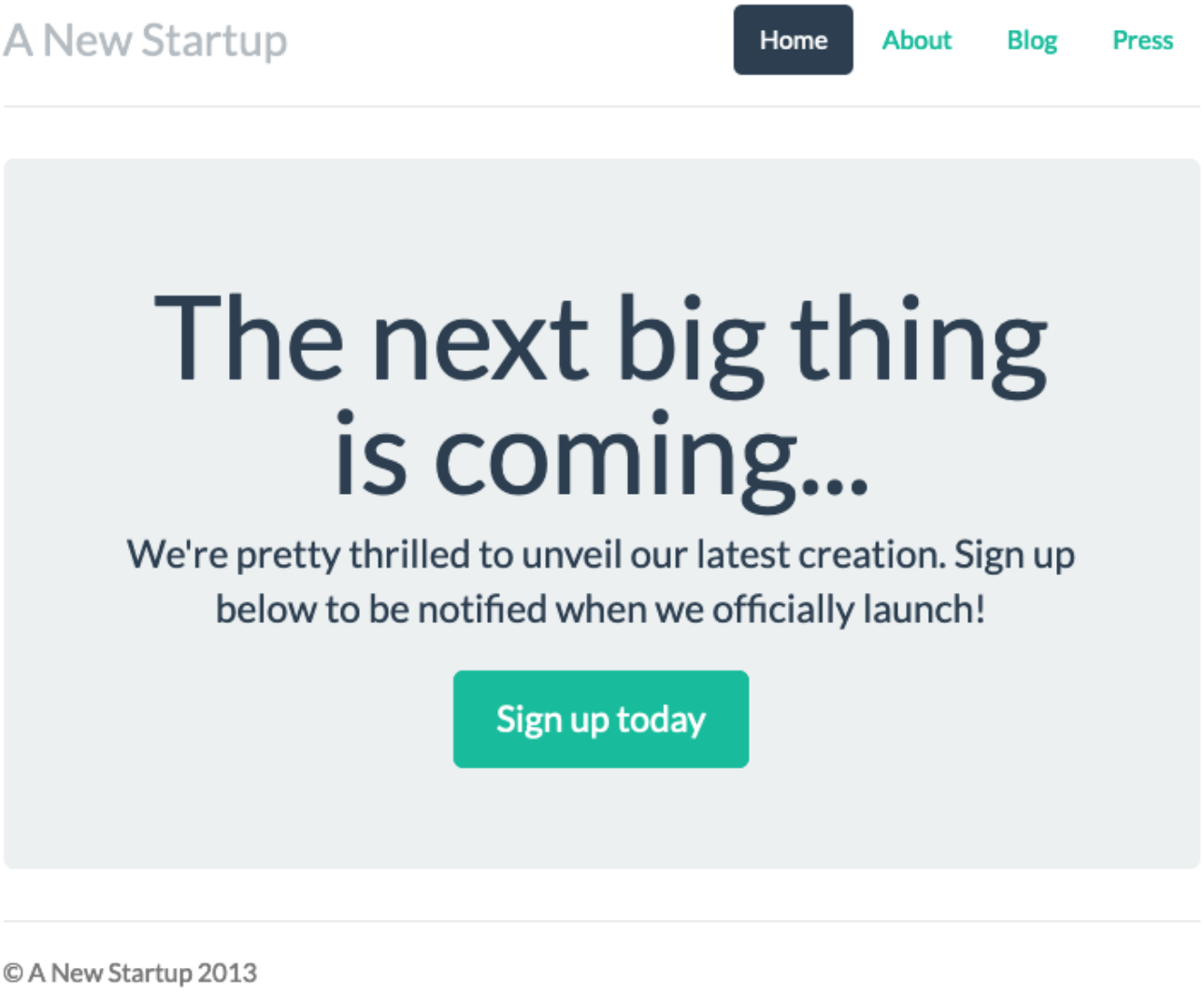


11. Once the deployment has completed, the AWS Console will refresh and show a Green Health check status as shown below:



12. You can visit your deployed application by clicking on the URL displayed on the page.

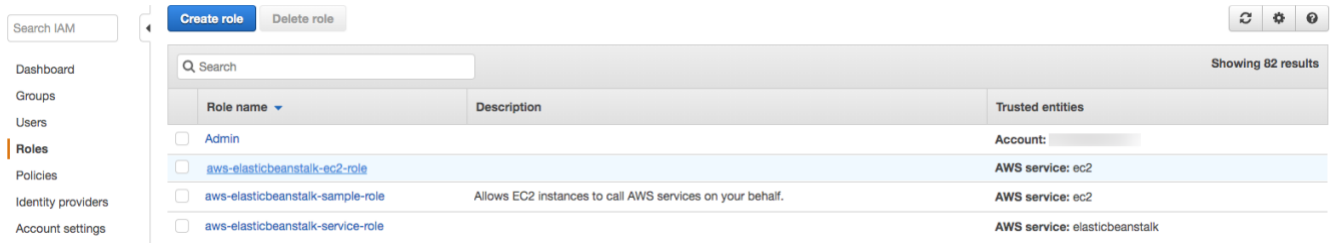




Add Permissions to Your Environment's Instances

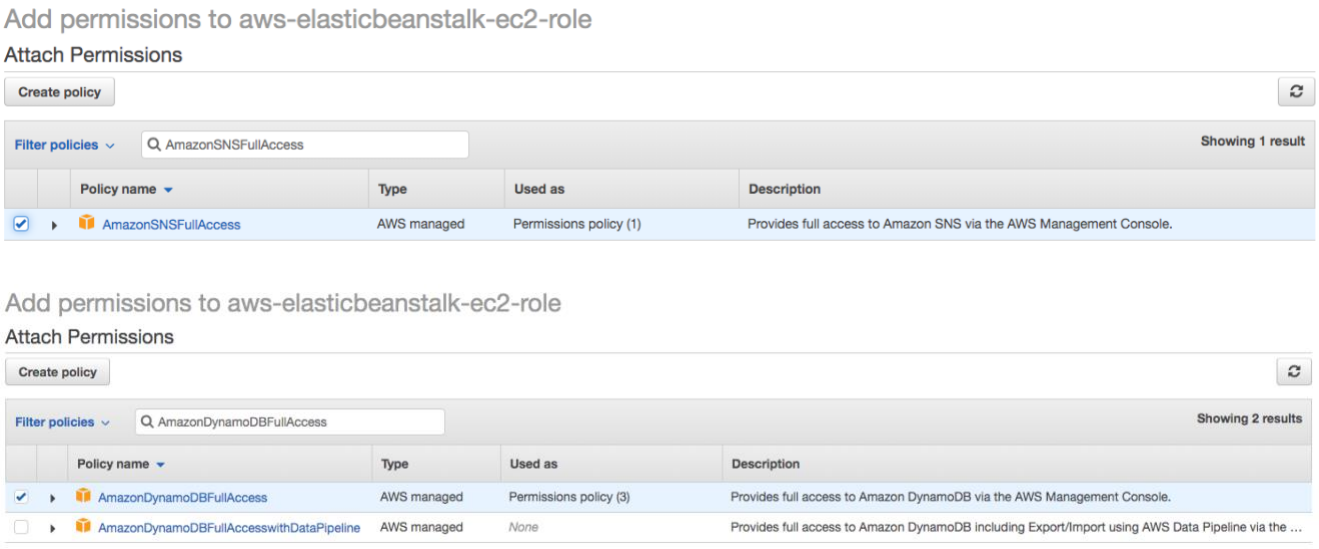
The sample application uses EC2 instance permissions to write data to a DynamoDB table, and to send notifications to an Amazon SNS topic with the SDK for JavaScript in Node.js. Add the following managed policies to the default instance profile to grant the EC2 instances in your environment permission to access DynamoDB and Amazon SNS:

1. In the **AWS Management Console**, on the **Services** menu, under **Security, Identity & Compliance** headline, click **IAM.**
2. Click **Roles** in the left navigation pane.
3. Click **aws-elasticbeanstalk-ec2-role** in the list



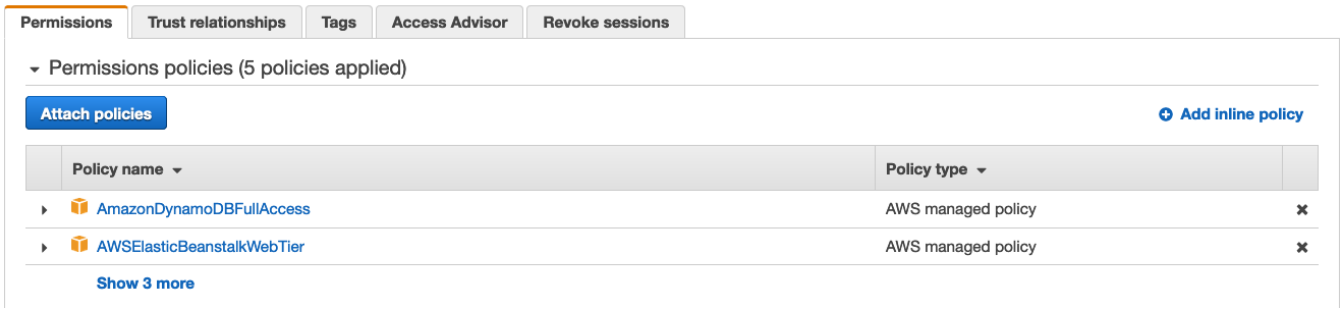
4. On the Permissions tab, click **Attach policies**.

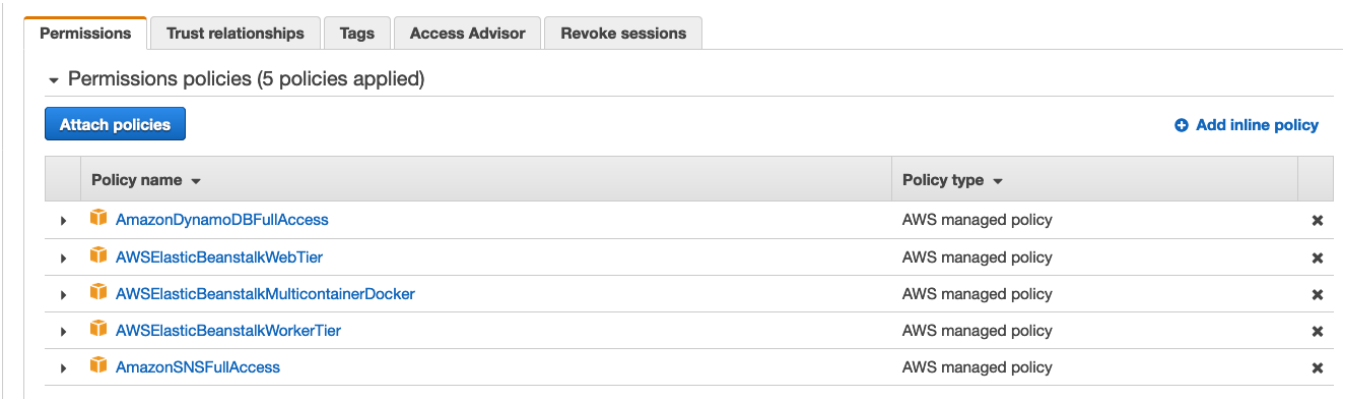
5. Select the managed policies for the additional services that your application uses: **AmazonSNSFullAccess** and **AmazonDynamoDBFullAccess**. You can search for these policies by typing their names into **Search** field. After finding them, click the checkbox.



6. Click **Attach policy**.

7. In the Permissions tab, validate both policies have been applied to IAM role. Click **Show more** if needed to get an expanded view of all policies applied.





Update the Application's Configuration File

In this step, we will update the configuration file in the application source to define our email address.

Linux/Mac:

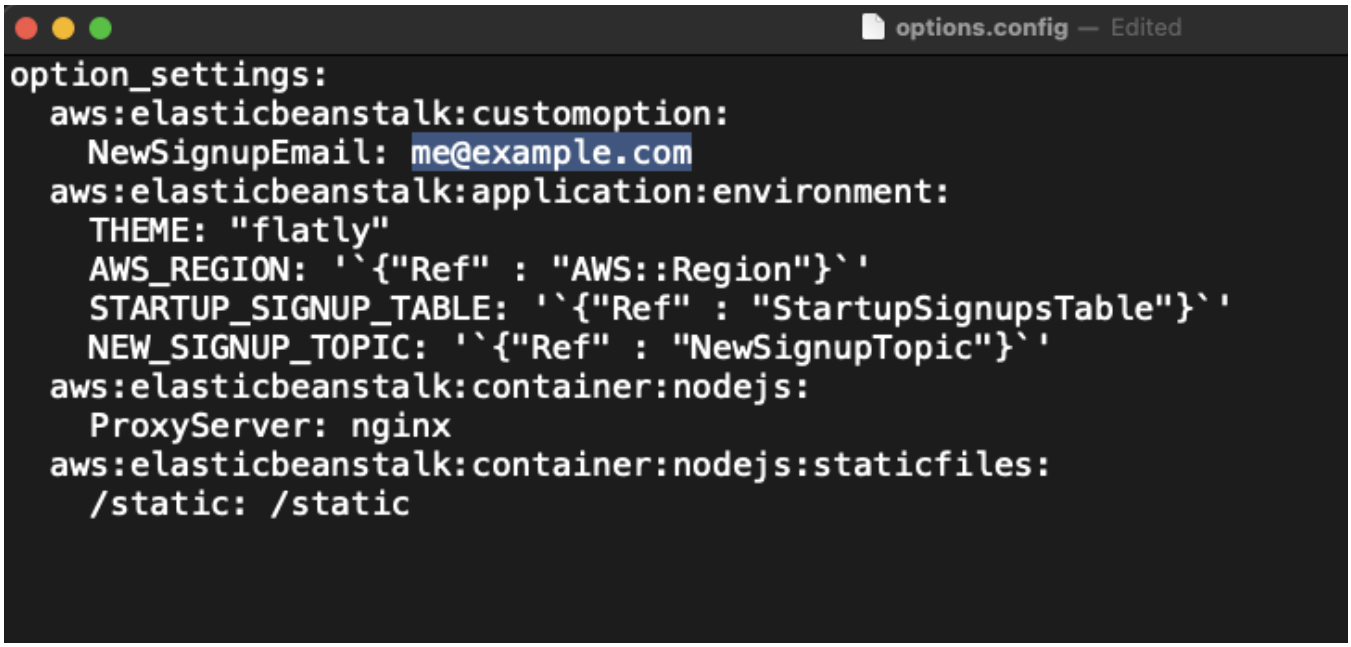
1. Extract the project files from the source bundle:

```
~$ mkdir nodejs-tutorial
~$ cd nodejs-tutorial
~/nodejs-tutorial$ unzip ~/Downloads/eb-node-express-sample-v1.1.zip
```

2. Open **.ebextensions/options.config** and change the value of the following setting:

   - **NewSignupEmail** – Your email address.

   This configures the email address that the Amazon SNS topic uses for notifications.



3. Create a source bundle from the modified code.

```
~/nodejs-tutorial$ zip nodejs-tutorial.zip -r * .[^.]*
```

Windows PowerShell:

1. Extract the project files from the source bundle:

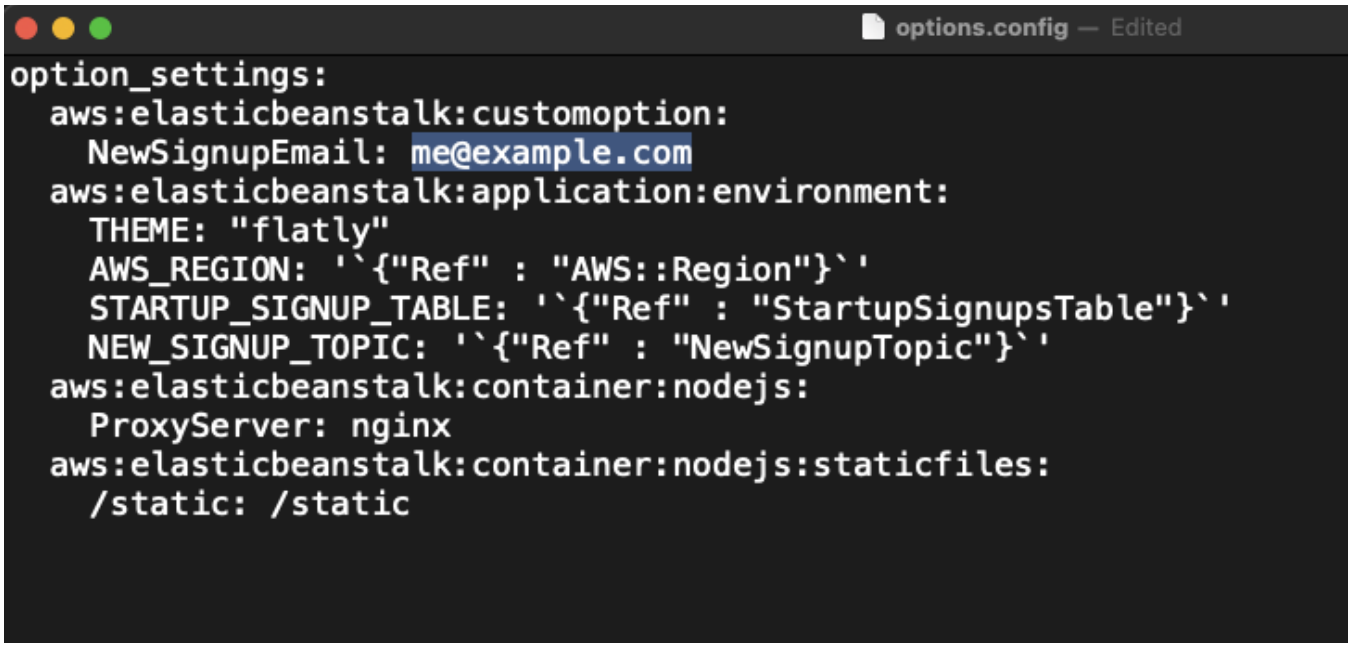
```
PS D:\Users\workshop\Downloads> mkdir nodejs-tutorial
PS D:\Users\workshop\Downloads> cd nodejs-tutorial
PS D:\Users\workshop\Downloads\nodejs-tutorial> Expand-Archive -Path
D:\Users\workshop\Downloads\eb-node-express-sample-v1.1.zip -DestinationPath .
```

2. Open **.ebextensions/options.config** and change the value of the following setting:

```
PS D:\Users\workshop\Downloads\nodejs-tutorial> powershell_ise.exe .\.ebextensions\options.config
```

   - **NewSignupEmail** – Your email address.

   This configures the email address that the Amazon SNS topic uses for notifications.

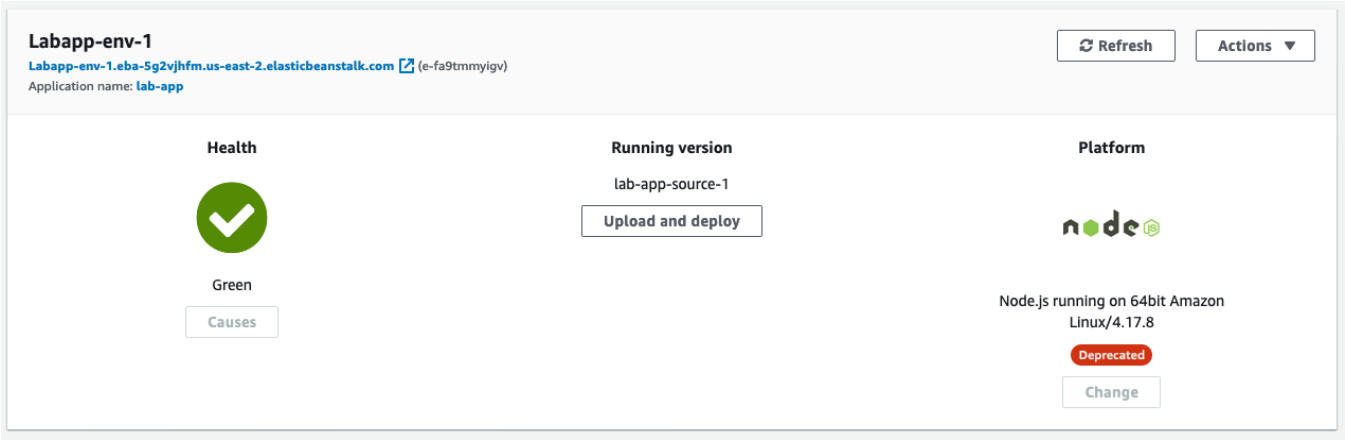


3. Create a source bundle from the modified code.

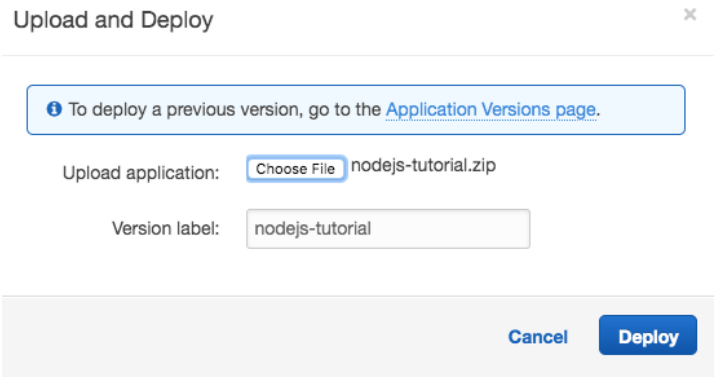
```
PS D:\Users\workshop\Downloads\nodejs-tutorial> Compress-Archive -Path
D:\Users\workshop\Downloads\nodejs-tutorial\* -DestinationPath
D:\Users\workshop\Downloads\nodejs-tutorial\nodejs-tutorial
```

Deploy the nodejs-tutorial.zip Source Bundle to Your Environment

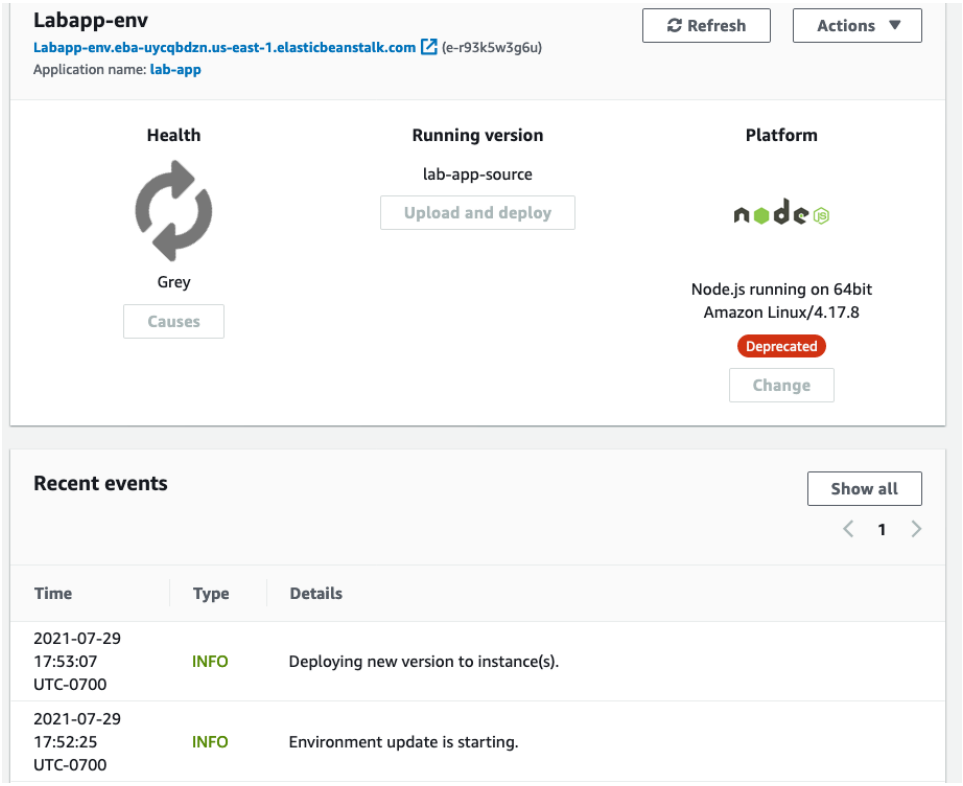
1. Open the AWS Elastic Beanstalk console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/elasticbeanstalk
2. Click on the environment (Labapp-env) created for lab-app.
3. Click **Upload and Deploy.**



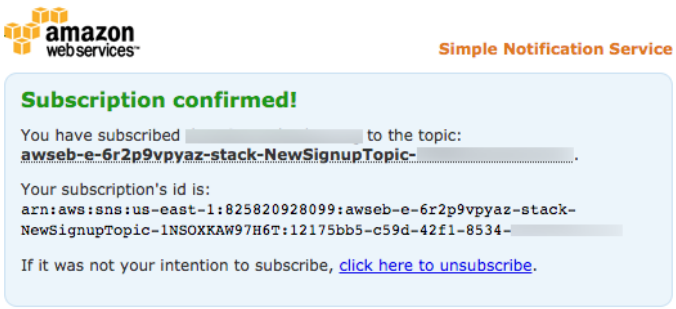
4. Click **Choose File.**



5. Browse for the application zip file you just created (**nodejs-tutorial.zip**) and click **Deploy.** The deployment will take a few minutes to complete. You can monitor the progress on the dashboard page.



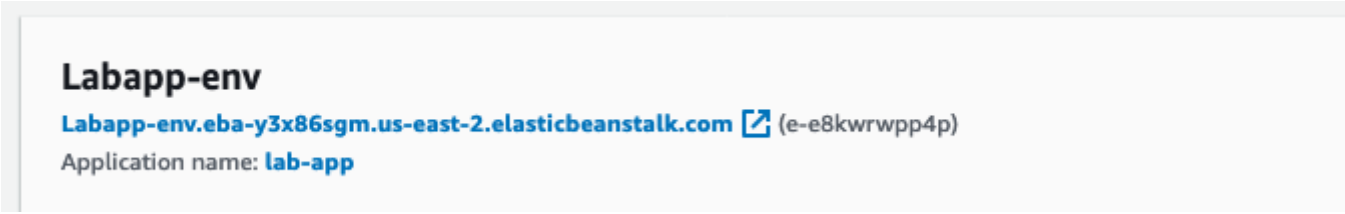
6. You will receive an email with subject **AWS Notification - Subscription Confirmation.** Click the **Confirm subscription** link in the email body. When you deploy the application, Elastic Beanstalk updates the configuration of the Amazon SNS topic.



View & Test the Application

1. Open the AWS Elastic Beanstalk console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/elasticbeanstalk
2. Click on the environment (LabApp-env) created for lab-app.

3. You will see the URL of your application at the top. Click on the URL to open the application.

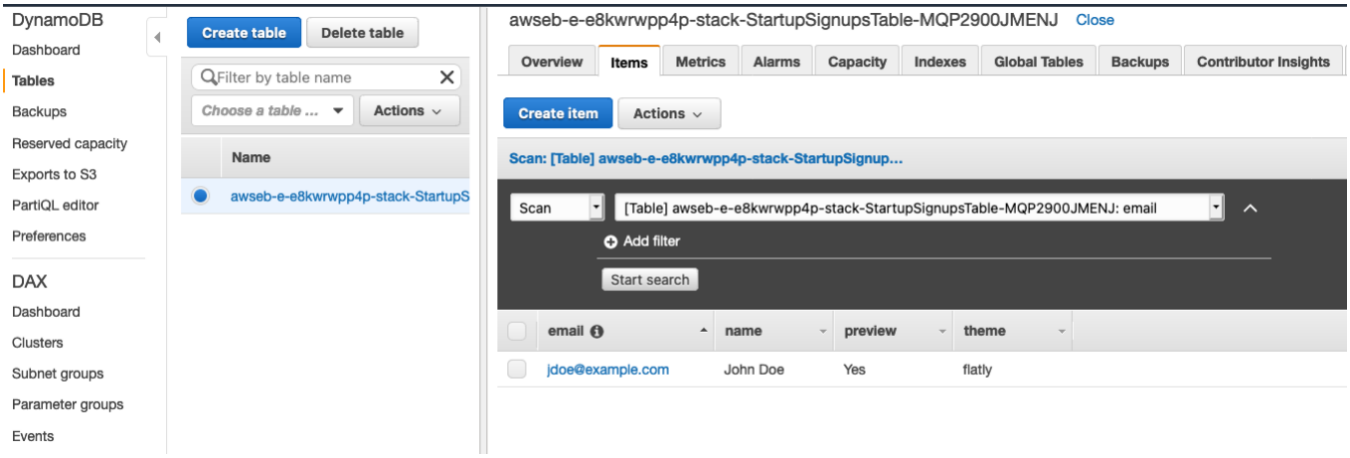


4. Click the **Sign up today** button and fill out the form. You should receive an email message for each entry you submit.

View the DynamoDB Table

You can add AWS Elastic Beanstalk configuration files (.ebextensions) to your web application's source code to configure your environment and customize the AWS resources that it contains. The sample application includes configuration files **(.ebextensions/create-dynamodb-table)** that create the DynamoDB table used by the application.

1. Open the Tables page in the DynamoDB console.
2. Find the table that contains **StartupSignupsTable** text in its name.
3. Select the table, choose the **Items** tab, and then click **Start search** to view all items in the table.

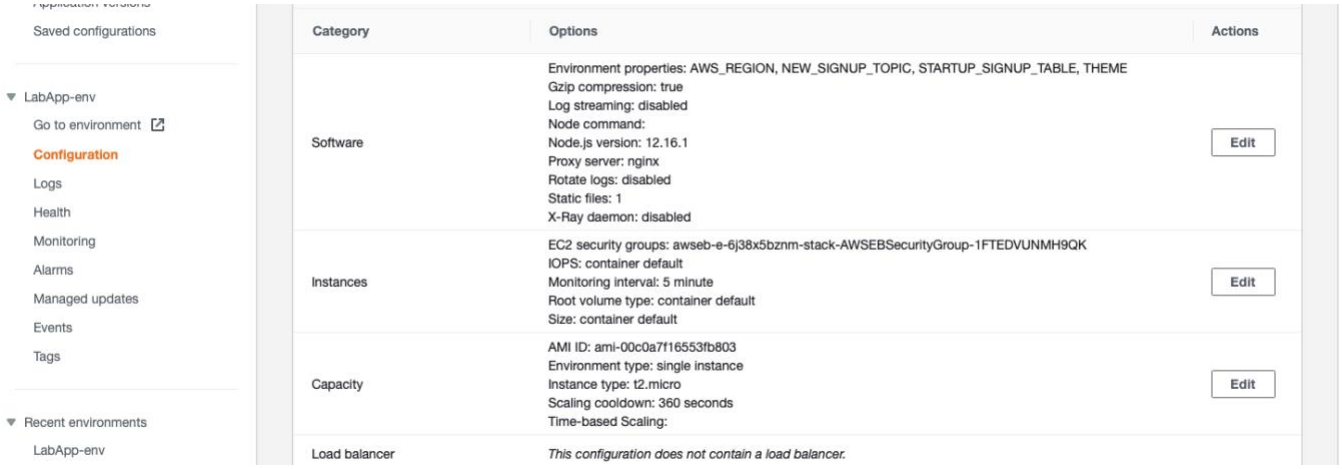


4. To get more items in the table, go back to the web application and fill out the form again. You can use a random name/email for this. Then come back to the DynamoDB table and refresh the page.

Configure Your Environment for High Availability

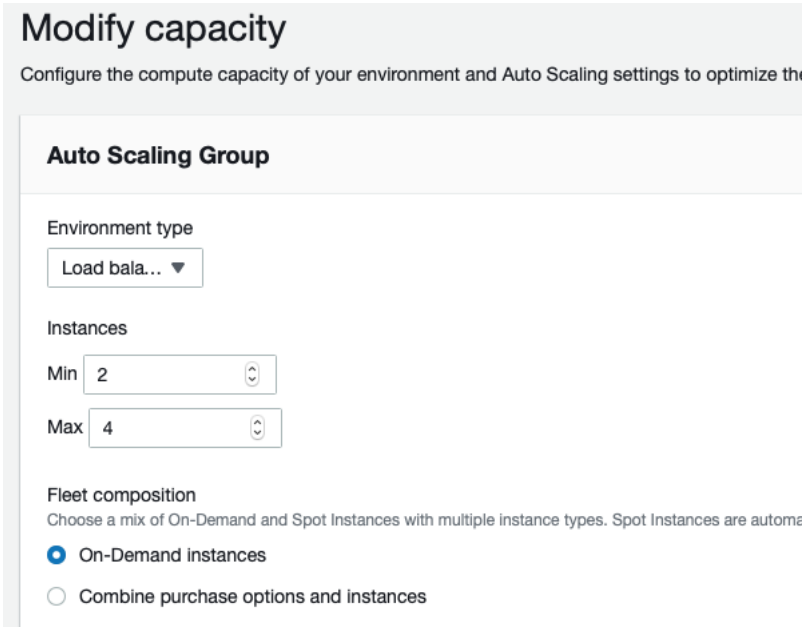
Finally, configure your environment's Auto Scaling group with a higher minimum instance count. Run at least two instances at all times to prevent the web servers in your environment from being a single point of failure and to allow you to deploy changes without taking your site out of service.

1. Open the AWS Elastic Beanstalk console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/elasticbeanstalk
2. Click on the environment (**LabApp-env**) created for lab-app.
3. Choose **Configuration** from the menu on the left.
4. In the **Capacity** section, click the **Edit** link.

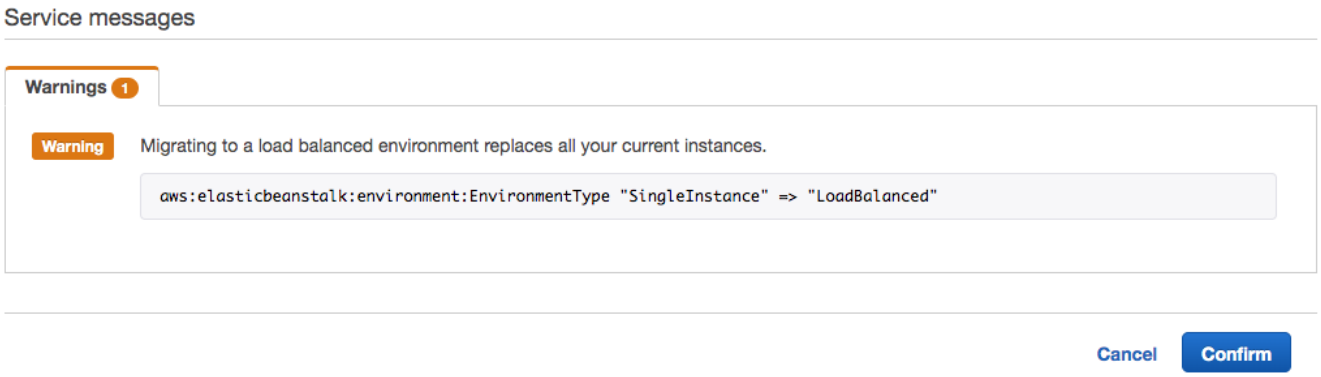


5. In the Auto Scaling Group section, configure the following settings.

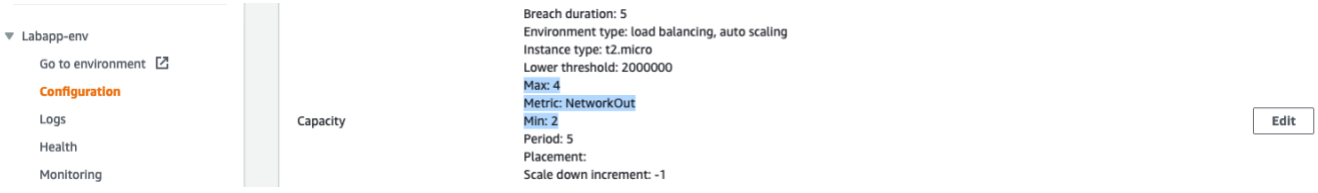
   Environment type – Select **Load balanced**.
   Min instances – **2**



6. Scroll to the bottom, click **Apply**, then click **Confirm**.

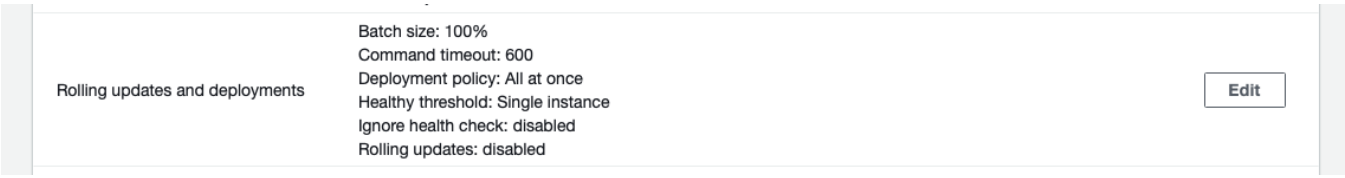


7. Wait until Elastic Beanstalk is done with updating your environment.
8. Choose **Configuration** from the left navigation and note the **Capacity** section has changed.

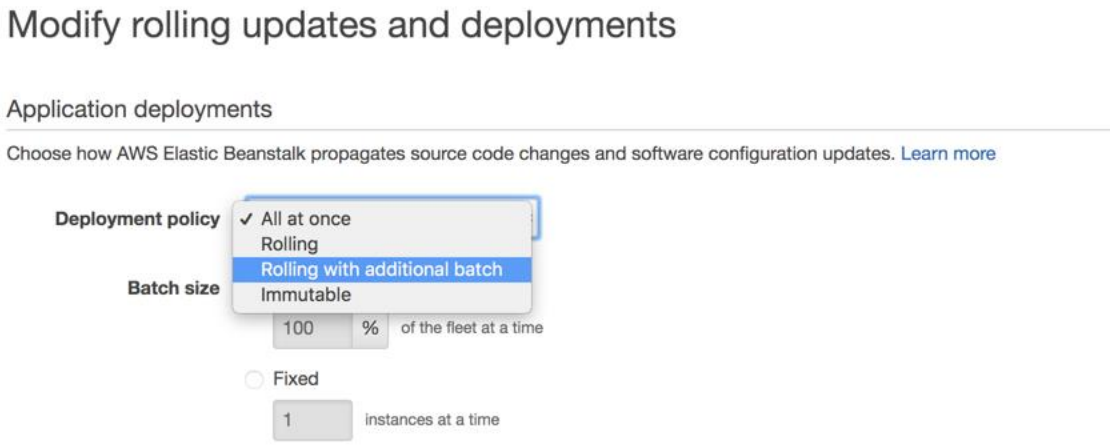


Enable rolling deployments

1. While on the Configuration page, click **Edit** in the **Rolling updates and deployments** section.



2. At top of page, under **Application Deployments > Deployment policy**, select **Rolling with additional batch**.
3. Scroll to the bottom and click **Apply**.



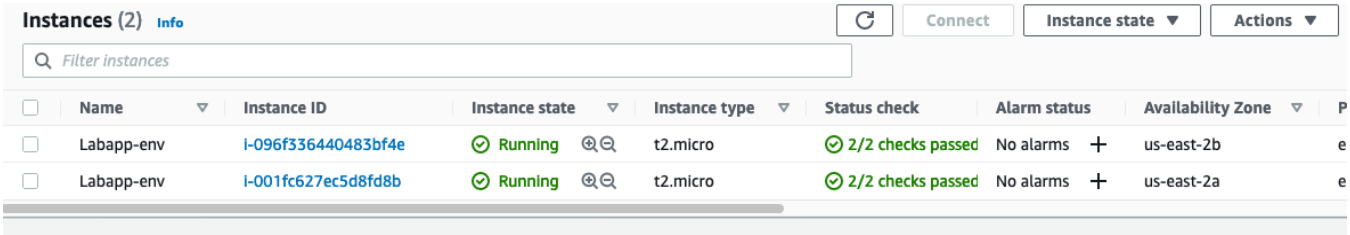
4. In the next section, you will perform a deployment to test the rolling update with batch configuration.

Perform another deployment

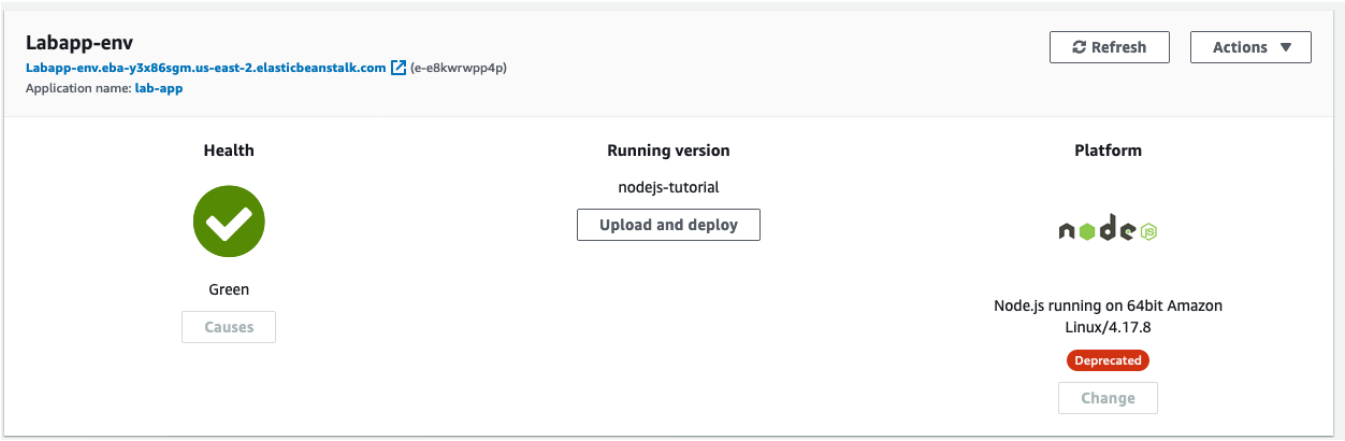
1. Open the AWS EC2 Console at: https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2

2. Click on Instances in the EC2 Dashboard to view currently running EC2 instances in your environment.

   You will see two EC2 instances that have been deployed by Elastic Beanstalk which are named (**Labapp-env**)

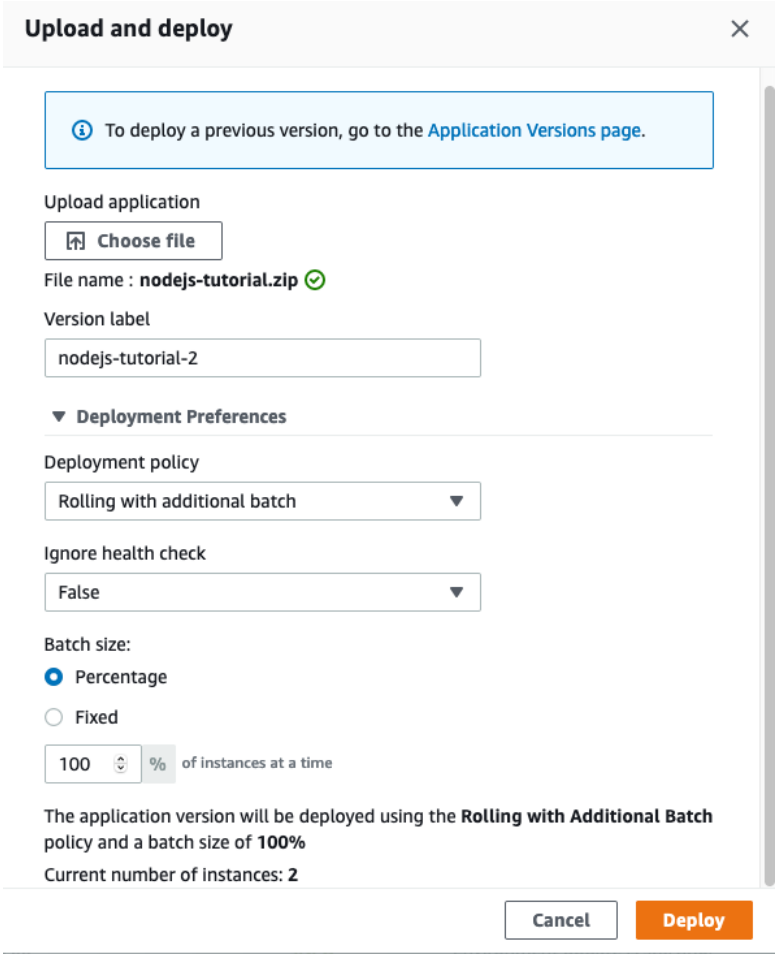


3. Keep the EC2 Dashboard open and launch a new browser to navigate to the Elastic Beanstalk dashboard: https://console.aws.amazon.com/elasticbeanstalk
4. Click on the **Labapp-env.** In the next page, click on **Upload and deploy**.



5. To test the rolling updates, you are going to simulate a new deployment by redeploying the Source Bundle that was created earlier in the lab.

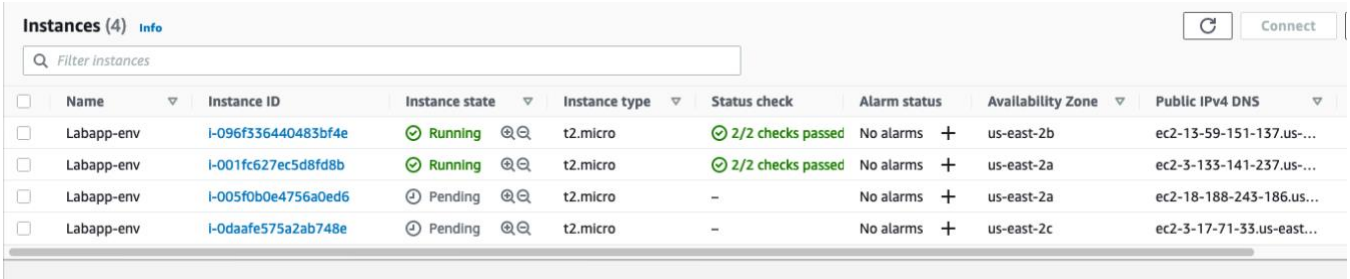
   Expand the Deployment Preferences details. The default deployment policy selected will show **Rolling with additional batch**, which you have configured in the previous step.



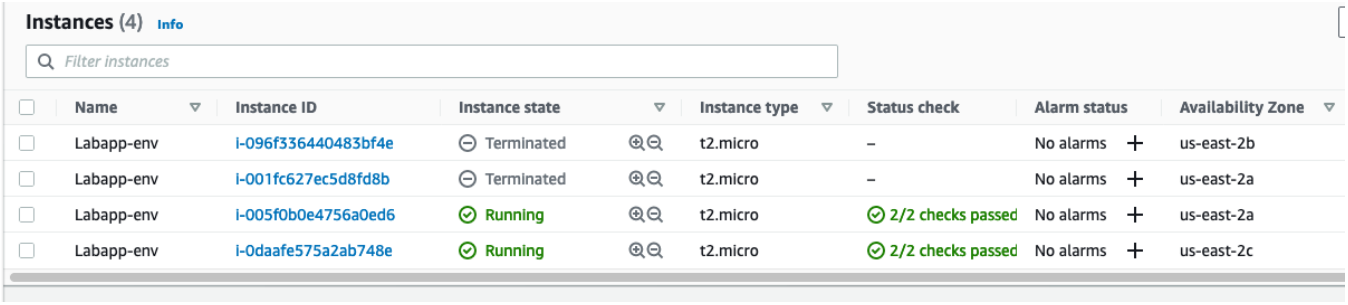
6. **Deploy** your application
7. You can observe and validate the Deployment Policy behavior by navigating back to the EC2 instances page.

   During this deployment, your application will remain online and continue accepting new registrations.

   Two new EC2 instances will launch to support the Rolling deployment. The two new instances will take a few minutes to initialize and run.



Once the two new EC2 instances are running with the new Application version deployed and passed health checks, Elastic Beanstalk will terminate the initial instances.

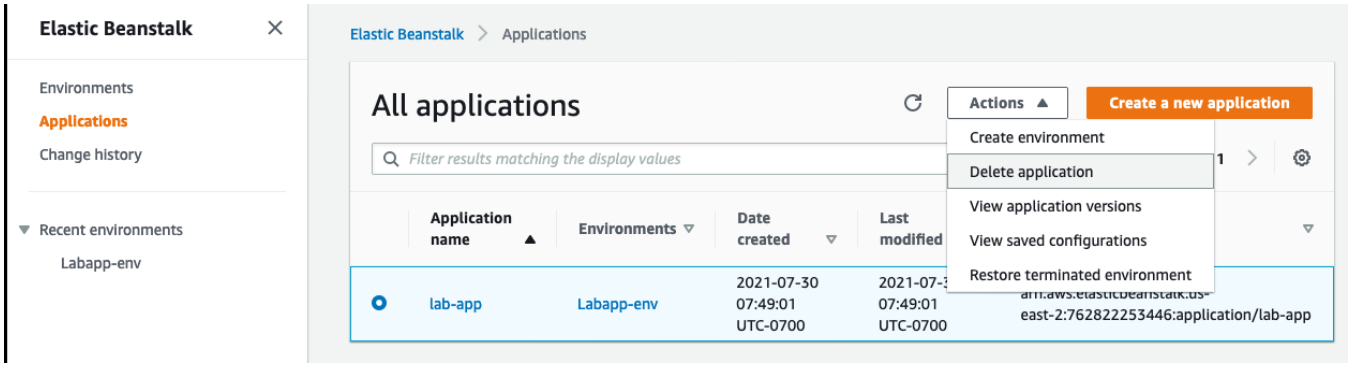


Clean Up

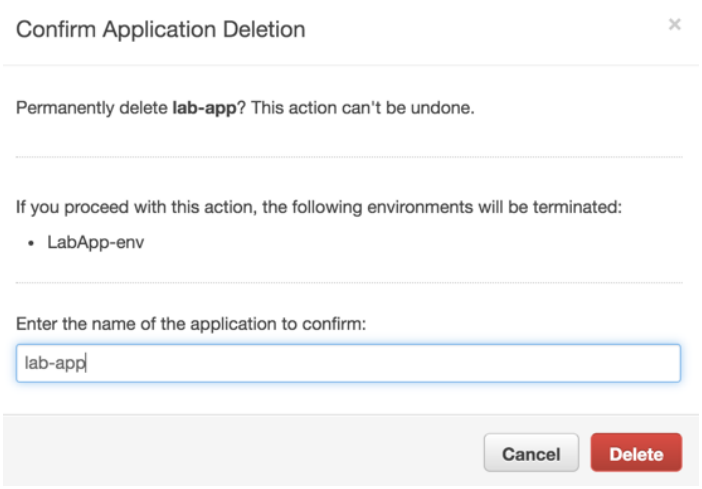
To terminate your Elastic Beanstalk environment:

When you finish working with Elastic Beanstalk, you can terminate your environment. Elastic Beanstalk terminates all AWS resources associated with your environment, such as Amazon EC2 instances, database instances, load balancers, security groups, and alarms.

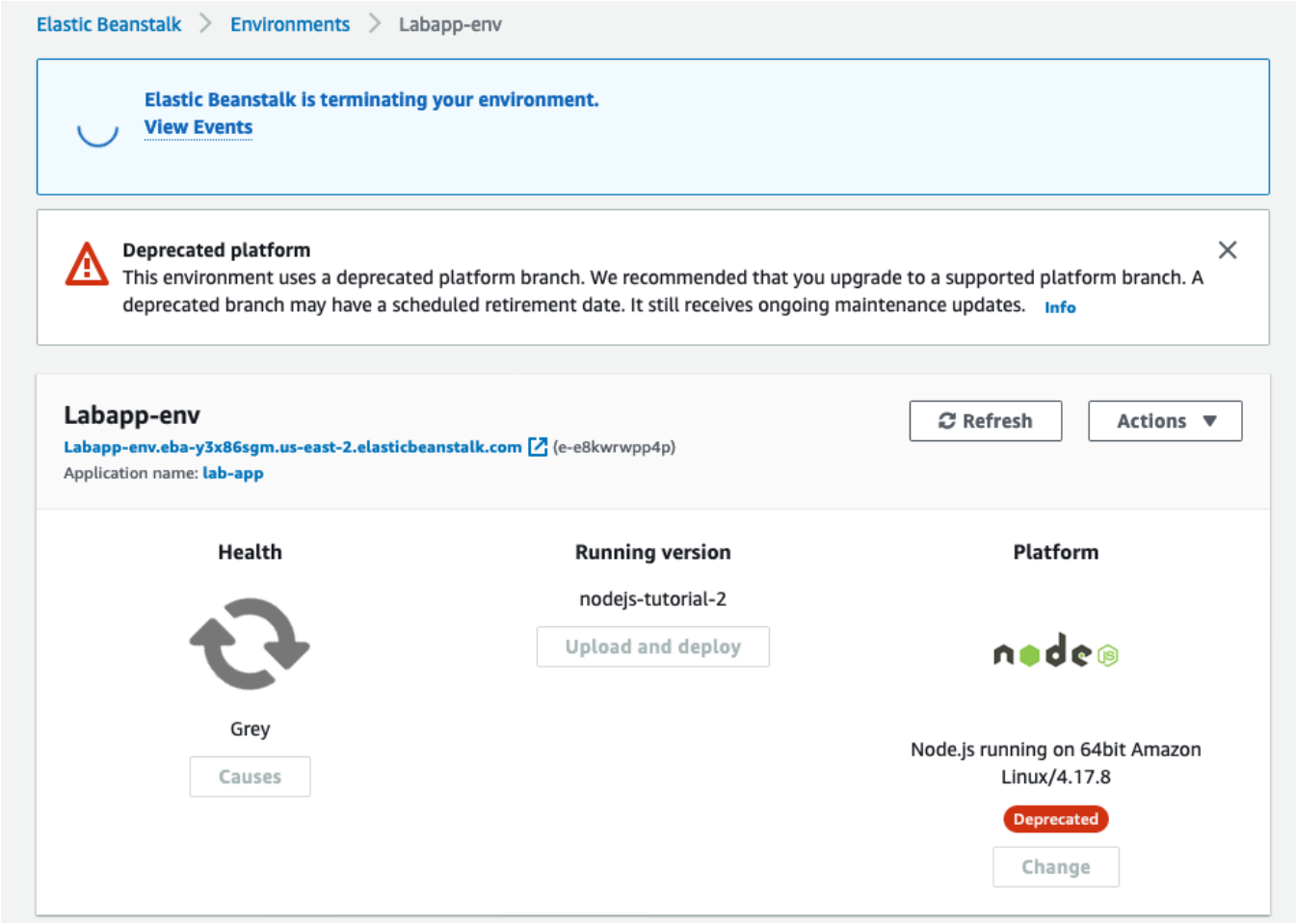
1. Open the AWS Elastic Beanstalk console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/elasticbeanstalk
2. Navigate to the **Applications** page and select the **lab-app**
3. Choose **Actions**, and then choose **Delete application**.



4. In the **Confirm Application Deletion** dialog, enter the name of the application in the application field and click **Delete**.



4. Click on the environment (LabApp-env) to view progress of the deletion.



Conclusion

In this lab you have walked through the process of deploying a sample Node.js application that uses the AWS SDK for JavaScript in Node.js to interact with Amazon DynamoDB. You learned basic operations to deploy and update an application using AWS Elastic Beanstalk. Finally, you learned how to configure your environment for high availability.