

# Changing Hostname in Amazon Linux Permanently

System hostnames are used to easily recognize a machine within a network in a human readable format. When you select and launch AWS EC2 on Amazon Linux 2, the hostname is assigned in the form of a private internal IPv4 address. We will introduce the methods to permanently change the hostname.

## 1. Check and add the value of `preserve_hostname`

Even if we change the hostname, reboot will return to the default, so first change the setting to keep it permanent.

**\$ sudo vi /etc/cloud/cloud.cfg**



```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-83-58 ~]$ sudo vi /etc/cloud/cloud.cfg
# WARNING: Modifications to this file may be overridden by files in
# /etc/cloud/cloud.cfg.d

users:
- default

disable_root: true
ssh_pwauth: false

mount_default_fields: [~, ~, 'auto', 'defaults,nofail', '0', '2']
resize_rootfs: noblock
resize_rootfs_tmp: /dev
ssh_deletekeys: true
ssh_genkeytypes: ~
syslog_fix_perms: ~

datasource_list: [ Ec2, None ]
repo_upgrade: security
repo_upgrade_exclude:
- kernel
- nvidia*
```

Default contains `preserve_hostname`, so add it to the end of the file.

**`preserve_hostname: true`**

## 2. Checking and Changing the HostName

Check the current hostname using the following command.

**`sudo hostnamectl`**

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-83-58 ~]$ sudo hostnamectl
  Static hostname: ip-172-31-83-58.ec2.internal
        Icon name: computer-vm
        Chassis: vm
        Machine ID: 2db3c9270a304c16ab9677939af579eb
        Boot ID: e649c1a747f2456fb44c9c84789dd147
  Virtualization: xen
  Operating System: Amazon Linux 2
        CPE OS Name: cpe:2.3:o:amazon:amazon_linux:2
        Kernel: Linux 5.10.130-118.517.amzn2.x86_64
  Architecture: x86-64
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-83-58 ~]$
```

If we want to register the host name with the DNS server and use it, use the following command.

**sudo hostnamectl set-hostname host.mydomain.com**

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-83-58 ~]$ sudo hostnamectl set-hostname host.mydomain.com
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-83-58 ~]$
```

Verify the hostname change using:

**sudo hostnamectl**

```
[ec2-user@host ~]$ sudo hostnamectl
  Static hostname: host.mydomain.com
        Icon name: computer-vm
        Chassis: vm
        Machine ID: 2db3c9270a304c16ab9677939af579eb
        Boot ID: e649c1a747f2456fb44c9c84789dd147
  Virtualization: xen
  Operating System: Amazon Linux 2
        CPE OS Name: cpe:2.3:o:amazon:amazon_linux:2
        Kernel: Linux 5.10.130-118.517.amzn2.x86_64
  Architecture: x86-64
[ec2-user@host ~]$
```

### 3. EC2 Restart and Confirm

Restart using the following command:

**sudo reboot**

Confirm the hostname change using:

**Sudo hostname**

```
[ec2-user@host ~]$ sudo hostname  
host.mydomain.com  
[ec2-user@host ~]$
```