SMU ID: 48101187

Launch EC2 Instance using Ansible on AWS



In the previous lab, we've used AWS Systems Manager Service to Install Ansible on the Target Instance and ran Ansible Playbook. In this lab, we are going to configure an Ansible Controller EC2 Instance on which we will run a Playbook to deploy a new EC2 Instance in our environment.

Below is the list of Tasks:

Task 1: Create IAM Role

Task 2: Launch & Configure EC2 Instances with SSM Agent

Task 3: Create a S3 Bucket to store SSM Logs

Task 4: AWS Systems Manager: Managed Instances

Task 5: AWS-Systems Manager: Run Command (Ansible Installation)

Task 6: Ansible Installation Check

Task 7: Create an IAM User

Task 8: PIP, BOTO Configurations

Task 9: Writing an Ansible Playbook

Task 10: Execute Ansible Playbook on EC2 Instance

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Task 1: Create IAM Role

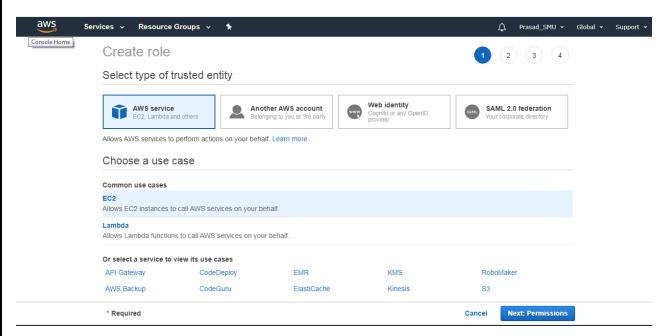
Login to the AWS Management Console.

Navigate to IAM Service and click on Roles.

Click on Create Role.

Make sure to select the Use Case as **EC2**.

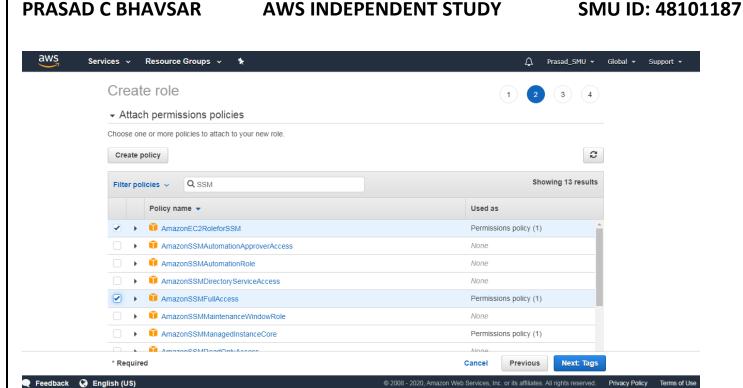
Click Next: Permissions.



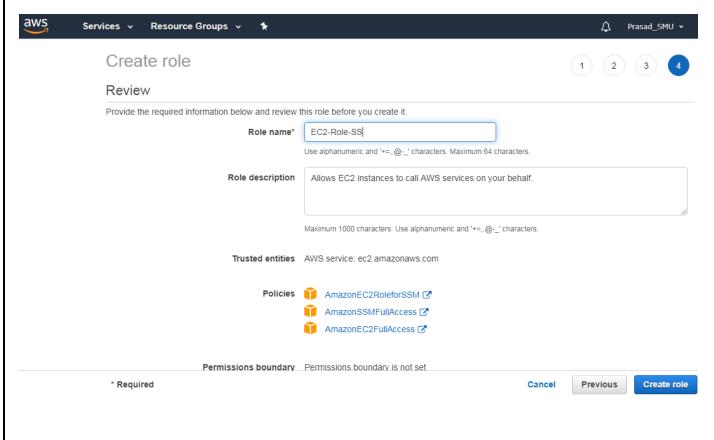
Select the below three Default IAM Policies:

- 1. AmazonEC2RoleforSSM
- 2. AmazonSSMFullAccess
- 3. AmazonEC2FullAccess

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Give the Role Name as per your Choice and click on Create Role.

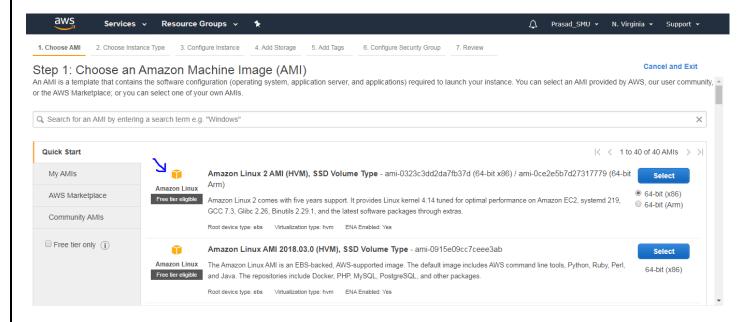


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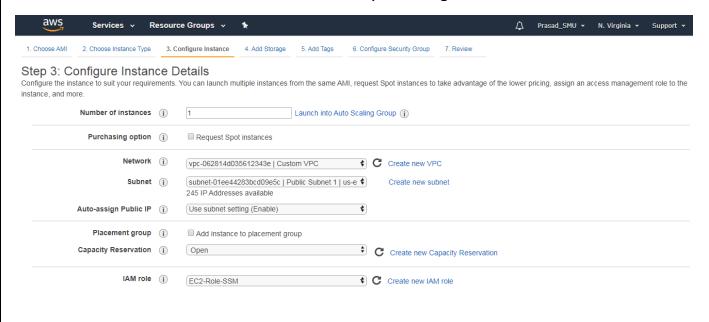
Task 2: Launch & Configure EC2 Instances with SSM Agent

Navigate to EC2 Service and click on Launch Instance.

Select the Amazon Linux AMI.



Select the Number of Instances as 1, select the Network as our Custom VPC, Select Subnet as Public Subnet 1 and select the IAM Role which you configured in the Task 1.



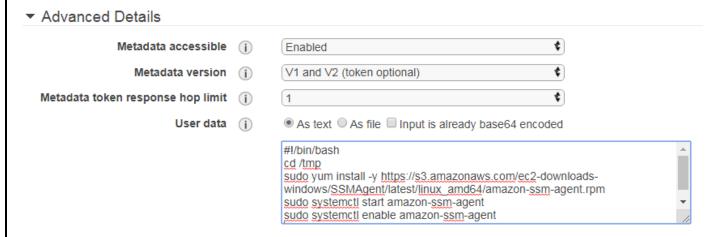
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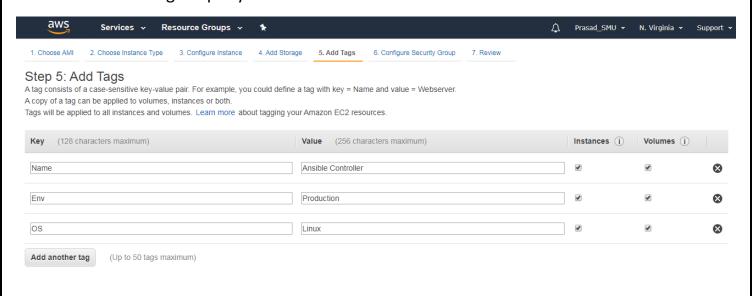
Since AWS Systems Manager is AGENTLESS, we need to install Packages for Systems Manager (SSM) to connect with Target Instances.

Scroll down on the same page, click on Advanced Details and in User Data field bootstrap the below commands.

I've provided the Commands in text file.



You can mention Tags as per your choice.

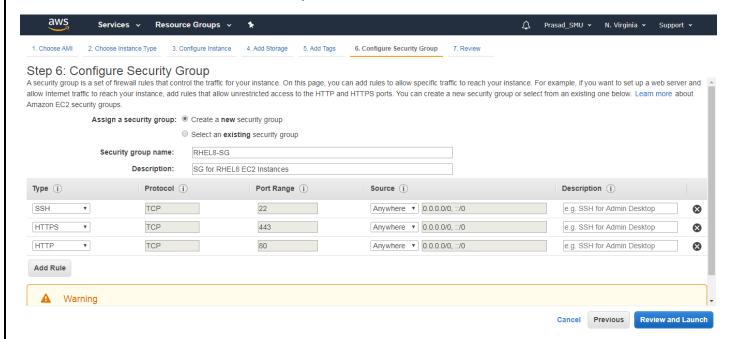


Click Next: Security Groups.

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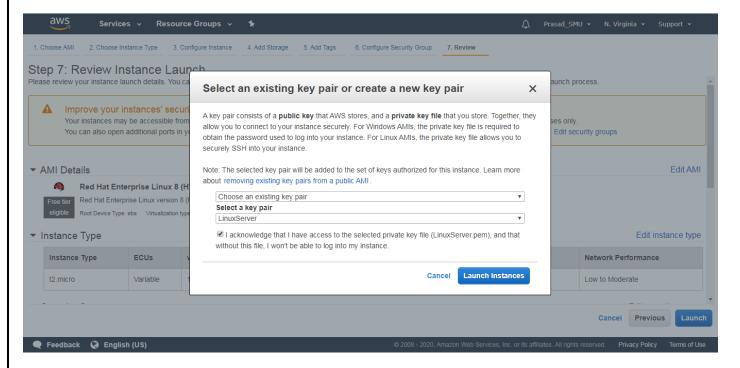
Create a new Security Group. Give the Name & Discription as per your choice. Allow SSH, HTTPS, HTTP Inbound traffic from Anywhere.



Click on Review and Launch.

Select the existing Key Pair which you've using for previous labs.

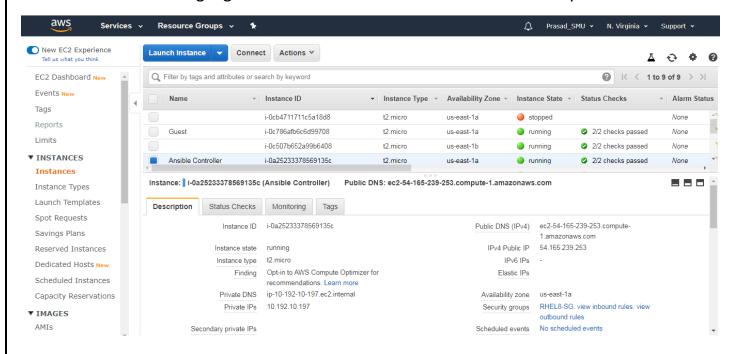
Click on Launch Instances.



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You can see that the Highlighted Instance has been launched Successfully!!!!!

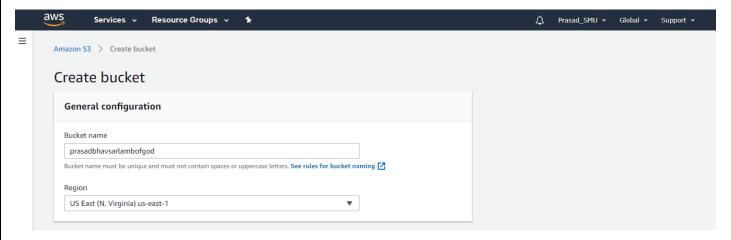


Task 3: Create a S3 Bucket to store SSM Logs

Navigate to S3 Service.

Click on Create Bucket.

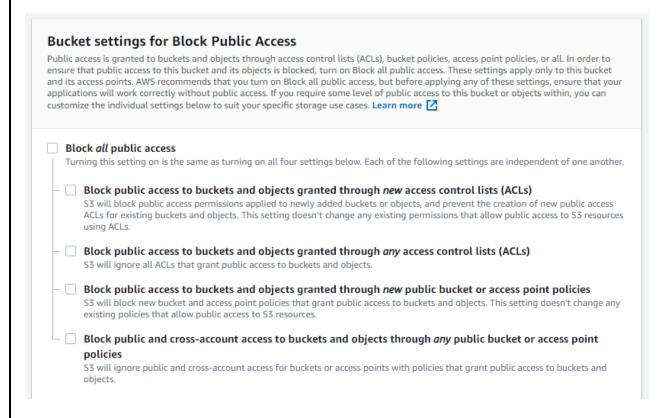
Give a unique Bucket Name as per your choice.



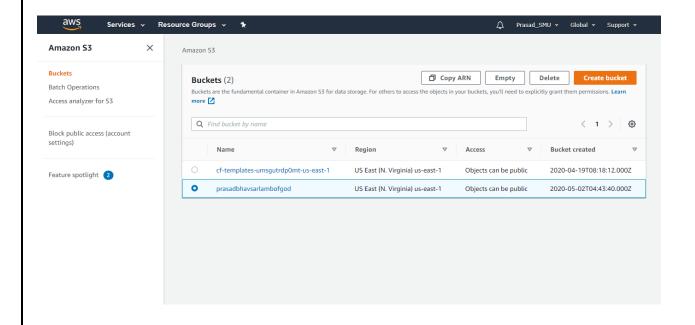
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Make Bucket publicly Available by unchecking the Block all public access.



Click on Create. S3 Bucket has been successfully created to store Systems Manager (SSM) logs.



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Task 4: AWS Systems Manager: Managed Instances

Navigate to AWS Systems Manager Service.



One the left-hand side, click on Managed Instances.

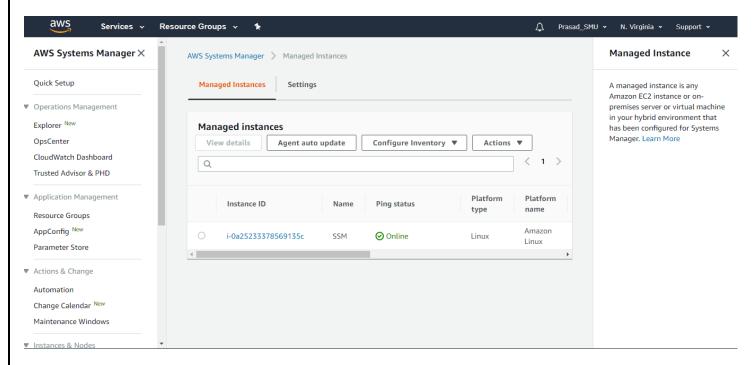


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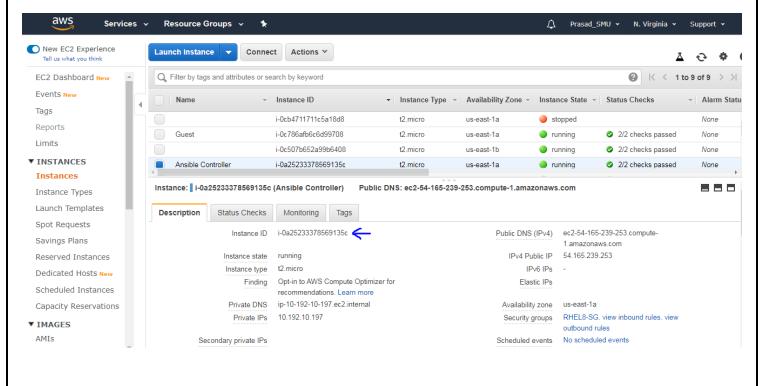
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You should see Instance which we launched in Task 2.

If you do not see any Instance in Managed Instances tab, it means Systems Manager Agent is not Installed on the EC2 Instance.

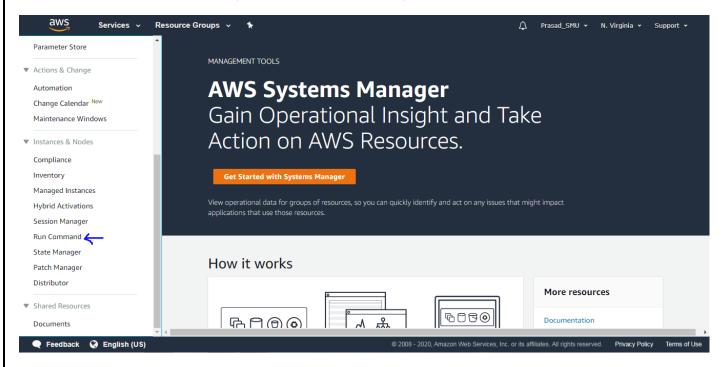


You can also verify the Instance IDs from EC2 Service Dashboard.

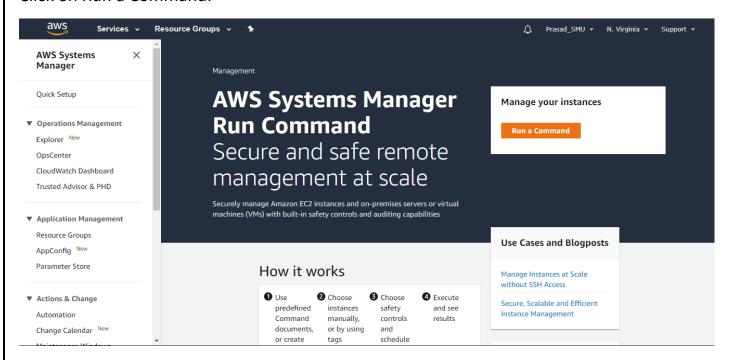


Task 5: AWS-Systems Manager: Run Command (Ansible Installation)

Now under the same Service, on the left-hand side, click on Run Command.



Click on Run a Command.

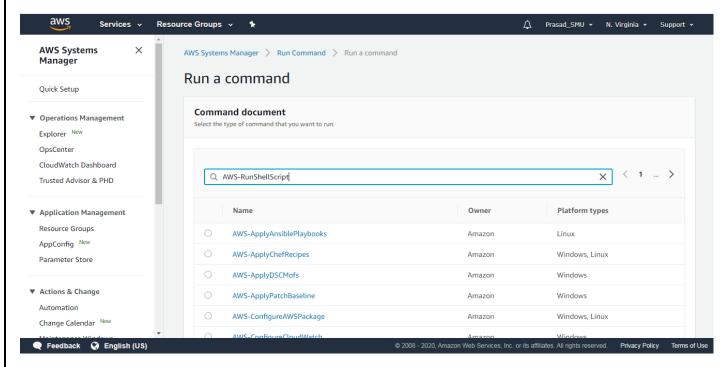


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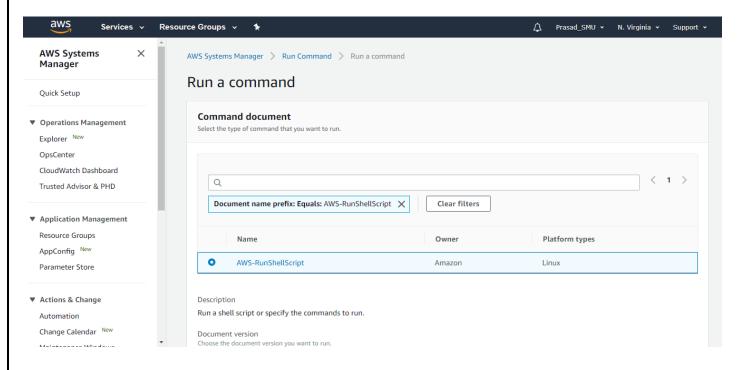
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Under Command Document, search for the below AWS Managed Document.

AWS-RunShellScript



Select the Command Document.

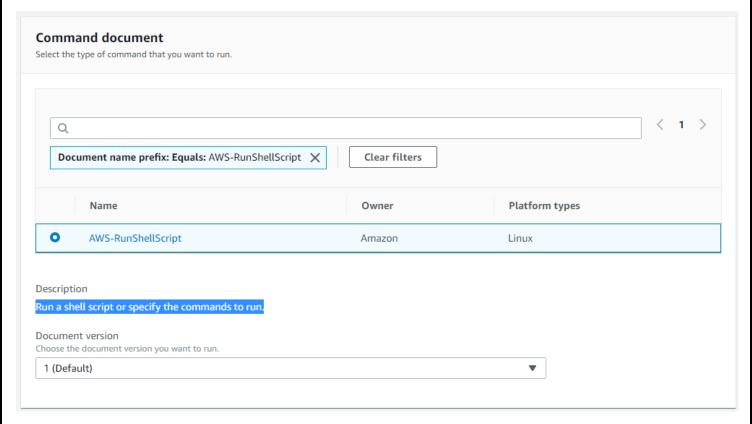


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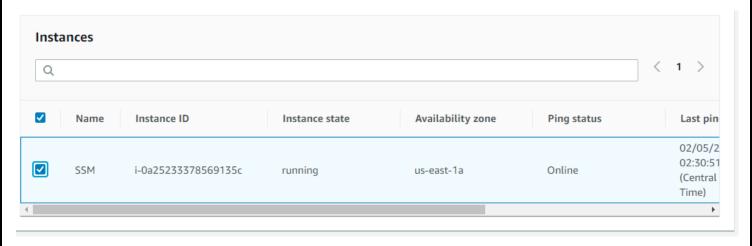
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Read the highlighted Description.



Under Targets, click on Choose Instances Manually and select both the EC2 Instances.

You can also select Instances using Tags.

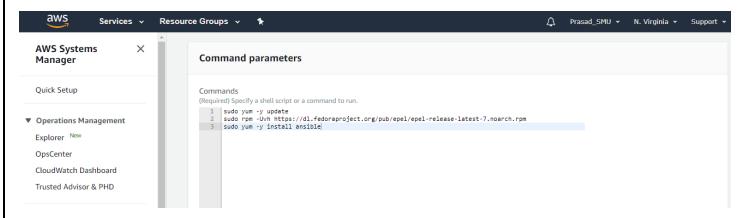


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Type the below Script/Commands under Command Parameters. I've provided the Script in Text File.

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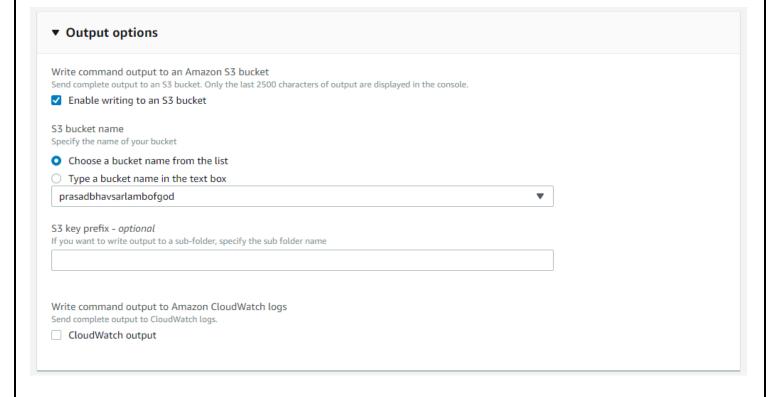
This script does the Ansible Installation on the Target Instance.



You can now specify the S3 Bucket Name wherein Systems Manager logs will be saved.

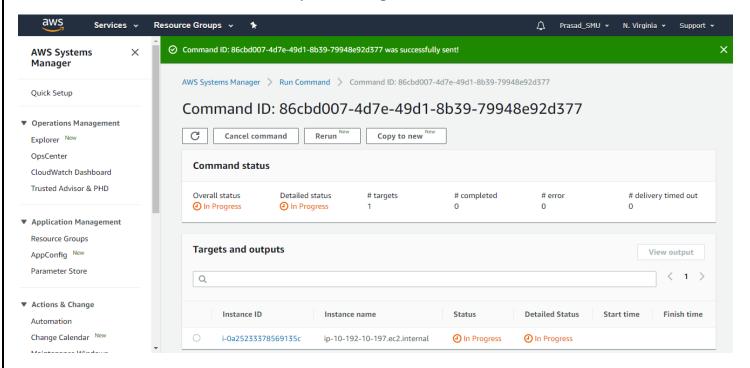
Logs in the S3 Bucket will be saved in stdout.txt and stderr.txt format.

Stderr.txt file is quite useful if the Ansible Installation fails.

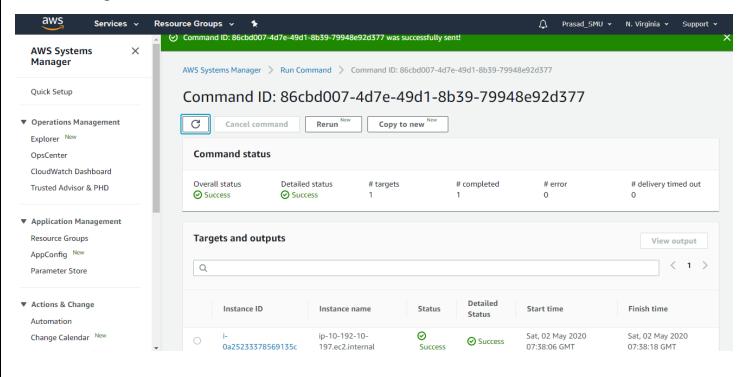


Task 6: Ansible Installation Check

Make a note of Command ID and keep observing Overall Status.



Status changes to SUCCESS.



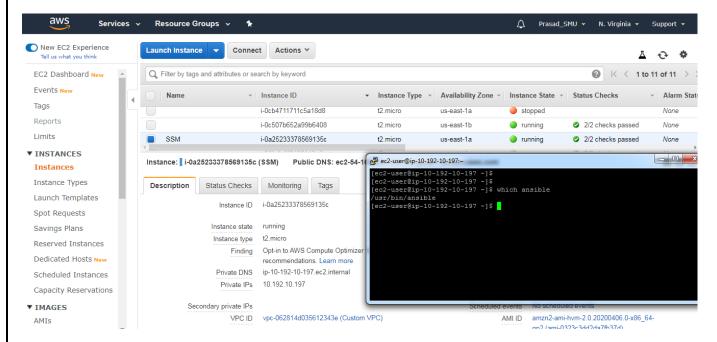
AWS INDEPENDENT STUDY

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Take SSH session of Target Instance.

Issue the below commands.

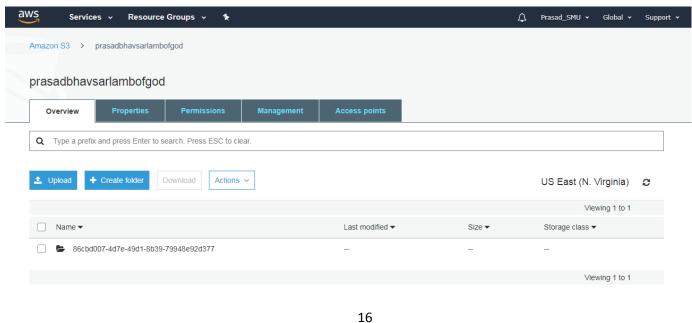
Command: which ansible



Ansible has been successfully installed on the Target Instance.

Now navigate to S3 Service and click on your S3 Bucket.

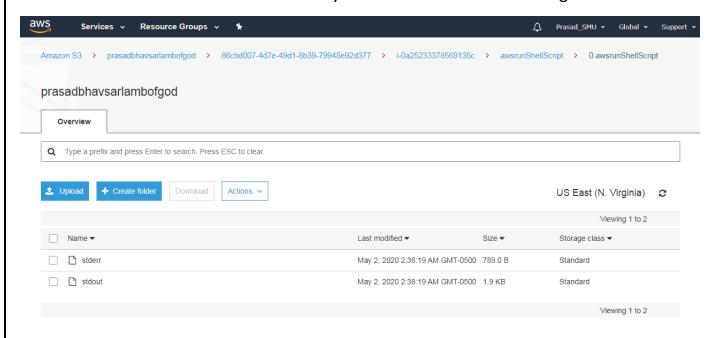
You'll notice that a new object for SSM logs have been created.



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Download the stderr.txt and stdout.txt if you want to check the SSM Logs.

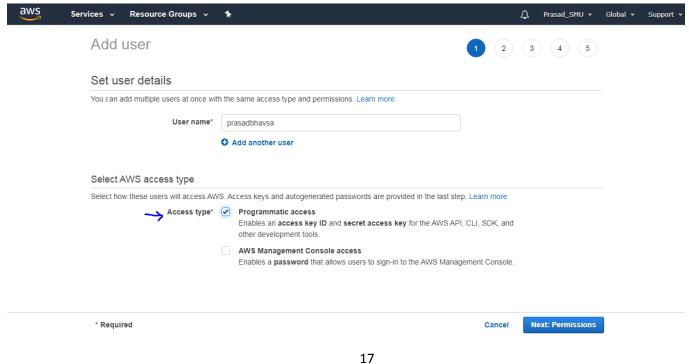


Task 7: Create an IAM User

Navigate to IAM Service.

On left-hand side, click on Users and click on Add User.

Give the User name as per your choice and select the Access Type as **Programmatic Access**.



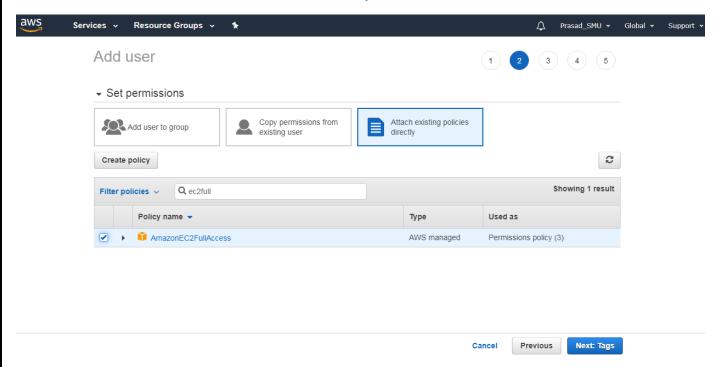
AWS INDEPENDENT STUDY

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Click on Next: Permissions.

Click on Attach existing policies directly.

Search and select **AmazonEC2FullAccess** Policy.



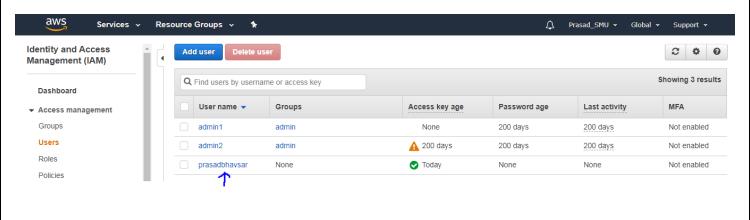
Click on Next: Tags.

You can add Tags if you wish else click Next: Review.

Review the configurations and click on Create User.

Make sure to note down the Access Key ID and Secret Access Key. You can also download the .csv file for a safe side. We will need these keys while doing boto configurations.

Click on Create User. User has been created successfully.



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Task 8: PIP, BOTO Configurations

Take SSH Session of the Ansible Controller EC2 Instance.

Python will be pre-installed on the Linux EC2 Instances.

Make sure the Ansible and Python is Installed on the EC2 Instance. Run the below commands.

Commands:

which ansible

ansible -version

python --version

```
login as: ec2-user
Authenticating with public key "imported-openssh-key"
Last login: Sat May 2 09:24:06 2020 from cpe-70-123-124-218.tx.res.rr.com
                    Amazon Linux 2 AMI
https://aws.amazon.com/amazon-linux-2/
[ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]$ which ansible
usr/bin/ansible
[ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]$ ansible --version
ansible 2.9.7
 config file = /etc/ansible/ansible.cfg
 configured module search path = [u'/home/ec2-user/.ansible/plugins/modules', u
'/usr/share/ansible/plugins/modules']
 ansible python module location = /usr/lib/python2.7/site-packages/ansible
 executable location = /usr/bin/ansible
 python version = 2.7.16 (default, Dec 12 2019, 23:58:22) [GCC 7.3.1 20180712 (
Red Hat 7.3.1-6)
[ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]$ python --version
Python 2.7.16
[ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]$
```

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To install BOTO, we would need a Python Module "PIP".

To install Python Module "PIP", run the below command.

Command: sudo yum install python-pip

```
ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197:~
[ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]$ sudo yum install python-pip
Loaded plugins: extras suggestions, langpacks, priorities, update-motd
amzn2-core
                                                                             2.4 kB
                                                                                     00:00:00
amzn2extra-docker
                                                                                     00:00:00
                                                                             1.8 kB
epel/x86 64/metalink
                                                                                     00:00:00
                                                                                     00:00:00
(1/2): epel/x86 64/updateinfo
                                                                                     00:00:00
(2/2): epel/x86 64/primary db
                                                                                     00:00:00
192 packages excluded due to repository priority protections
```

Once PIP is installed, we will now install BOTO.

To install BOTO, run the below command.

Command: sudo pip install boto

```
~]$ sudo pip install boto
```

Now create a ".boto" file in your Home Directory.

Command: vi .boto

```
[ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]$ vi .boto
```

Put the aws_access_key_id and aws_secret_access_key which you copied in Task 7 as follows.

```
ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197:~

aws_access_key_id = AKIAY7BB7GQ3GSOT4KN3

aws_secret_access_key = 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
```

Save the vi editor by issuing below command.

Command: :wq!

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Review the BOTO file again, issue the following command.

Command: cat .boto

```
[ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]$ cat .boto
aws_access_key_id = AKIAY7BB7GQ3GSOT4KN3
aws_secret_access_key = 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
[ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]$
```

Now save the .boto file with the permission 400.

Command: sudo chmod 400 .boto

```
[ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]$ sudo chmod 400 .boto [ec2-user@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]$
```

PIP and BOTO configurations are now completed.

Task 9: Writing an Ansible Playbook

Switch to Root User.

```
[root@ip-10-192-10-197 ec2-user]# sudo su -
Last login: Wed May 6 05:56:21 UTC 2020 on pts/0
```

On the Ansible Controller EC2 Instance, open the vi editor to write a Ansible Playbook.

```
[root@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]#
[root@ip-10-192-10-197 ~]# vi task.yml
```

Write the Ansible Playbook as below. Make sure of Indentation.

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Question: How to get key name, image, group, vpc subnet id parameters?

key name:

Since I've my entire architecture deployed on N. Virginia (US-EAST-1) region, I've created few Key Pairs for the previous labs. You can find the Key Pair information on the EC2 Service Dashboard. You can also create Key Pair if you wish. I've selected LinuxServer Key Pair.

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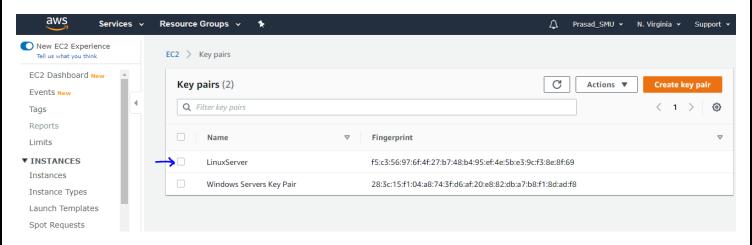
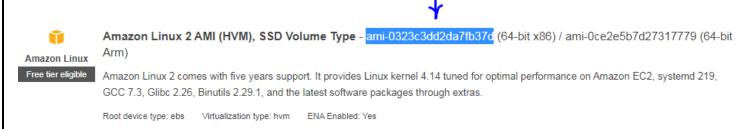


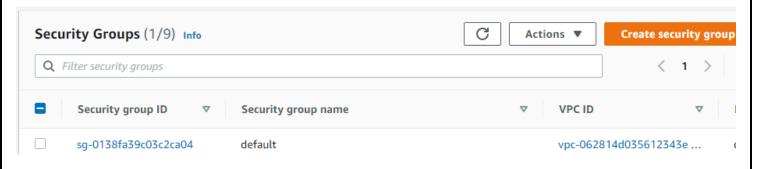
Image:

AMI Image information can be found while launching an EC2 Instance.



Group:

Security Group information can be found on the EC2 Service Dashboard. Select the Security Group as per your choice. I've selected the Default Security Group.



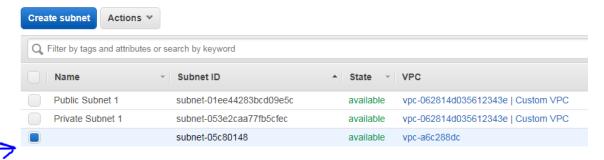
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vpc subnet id:

Navigate to VPC Service and click on Subnet.

Copy the Subnet ID in which you want to deploy an EC2 Instance. I've selected the Default Subnet of Default VPC.



Keep in mind that, these parameters key_name, image, group, vpc_subnet_id changes per Region. If you want to deploy EC2 Instance in another Region, make sure to associate parameters of that particular Region.

Now let's save our Playbook.

Command: : wq!

Let's do the Syntax check of the written Ansible Playbook. If the Playbook Syntax is correct, it will return the same Playbook name.

Command: ansible-playbook task.yml --syntax-check

Task 10: Execute Ansible Playbook on EC2 Instance

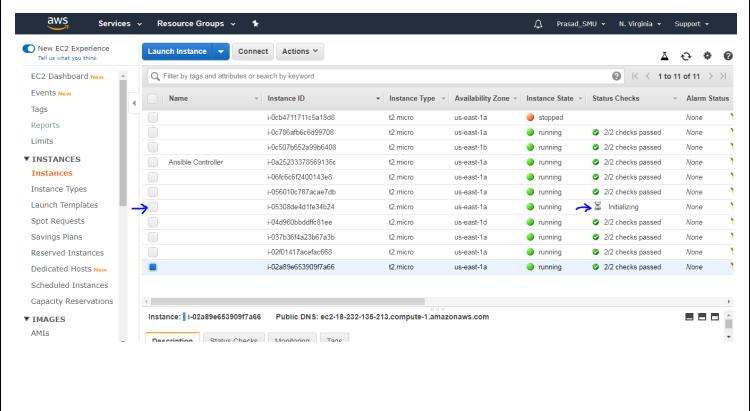
Now, to execute the Playbook, run below command.

Command:

ansible-playbook task.yml

You can see that the Ansible Playbook has been executed successfully.

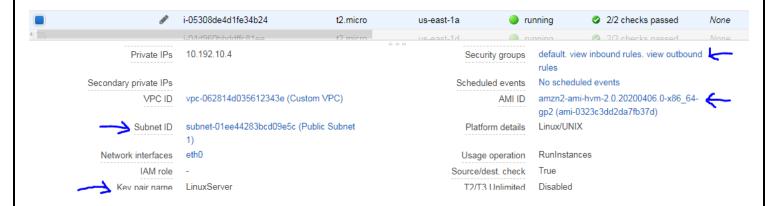
Navigate to the EC2 Service, you'll observe that a new Instance has been launched.



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You can now verify its parameters such as key_name, image, group, vpc_subnet_id which we defined in our Playbook.

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This completes the Lab on Launching EC2 Instance using Ansible on AWS.

For Questions, contact me on pbhavsar@smu.edu .