CS 188

Scalable Internet Services

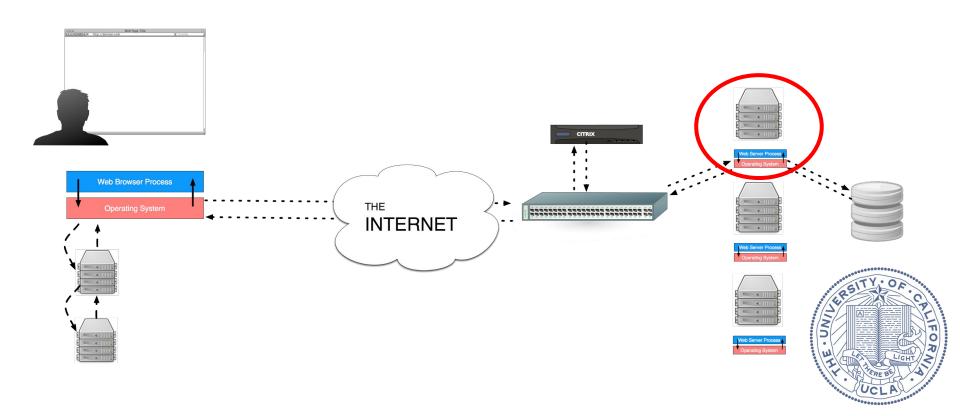
Andrew Mutz October 13, 2016



Today's Agenda

Motivation
Server-side Caching
Deploying on AWS
For Next Time





Motivation

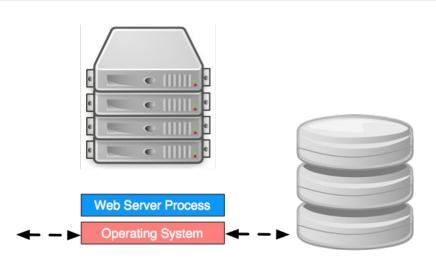
After today you should understand

- Why server side caching exists
- What options you have when using server side caching
- How to use this in your projects
- How to deploy on AWS using CloudFormation



We have a web server process that is repeatedly responding to HTTP requests from a variety of clients.

Responding to each request requires computation and I/O to be performed, and this can be expensive.

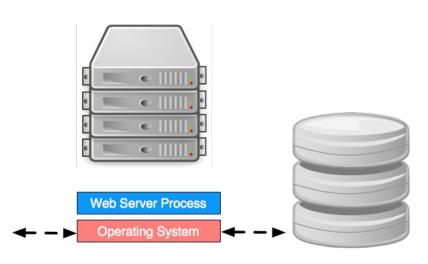




In practice, there is a great deal of similarity between responses.

In the last lecture (HTTP Caching) we looked at optimizing scenarios where repeated responses are identical.

In this lecture we will look at optimizing scenarios where repeated responses are not identical, but are similar.

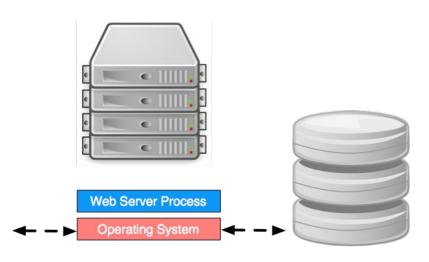




There are many parts of a response that are similar.

There are many steps to creating a response that are repeated.

What can you think of?



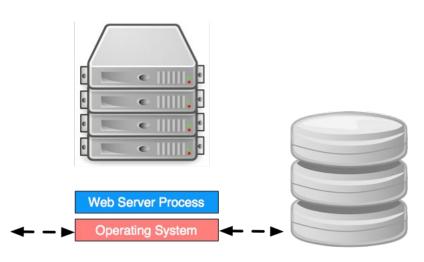


There are many parts of a response that are similar.

There are many steps to creating a response that are repeated.

What can you think of?

- View Fragments
- Rarely modified ORM objects
- Any summarized data that is expensive to compute





View Fragments: Similarity between pages

```
<html><head><meta name="referrer" content="origin"><link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="news.css?Dc4WHhDIHIntiL2Oh45C">
     <link rel="shortcut icon" href="favicon.ico">
       <link rel="alternate" type="application/rss+xml" title="RSS" href="rss">
     <script type="text/javascript">
       function hide(id) { var el = document.getElementById(id); if (el) { el.style.visibility = 'hidden'; } }
       function vote(node) { var v = node.id.split(//); var item = v[1]; hide('up ' + item); hide('down ' + item); var ping = new Image(); ping.src = node.href;
return false;}
     </script><title>Hacker News</title></head><body><center>
     <a</pre>
href="http://www.ycombinator.com"><img src="y18.gif" width="18" height="18" style="border:1px #ffffff solid;"></a>
             <span class="pagetop">
                      <b><a href="news">Hacker News</a></b><img src="s.gif" height="1" width="10"><a href="newest">new</a> | <a href="newcomments">comments">comments</a> | <a</pre>
href="show">show</a> | <a href="ask">ask</a> | <a href="jobs">jobs</a> | <a href="submit">submit</a></span>style="text-align:right;padding-right:4px;"><span
class="pagetop">
                      <a href="login?goto=news">login</a></span><tr
cellspacing="0">
        <span class="rank">1.</span>
        <center><a id="up 9403571" href="vote?for=9403571&amp;dir=up&amp;goto=news"><div class="votearrow" title="upvote"></div></a></center>
class="title"><span class="deadmark"></span><a href="http://fossdroid.com/">Fossdroid.com: Free and open source Android applications</a><span class="sitebit comhead">
(fossdroid.com)</span>
     <span class="score" id="score 9403571">164 points</span> by <a href="user?id=SnaKeZ">SnaKeZ</a> <a href="item?id=9403571">4 hours ago</a>
                                                                                                                          | <a
href="item?id=9403571">38 comments</a>
    ......
```

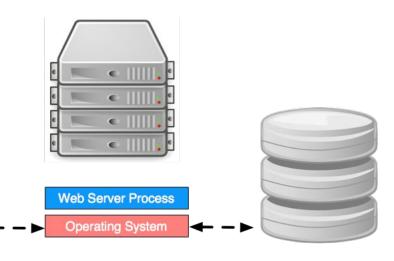


Rarely modified ORM objects?

- User permissions
- Configuration options
- Any database-backed data that changes rarely

Summarized data that is difficult to compute

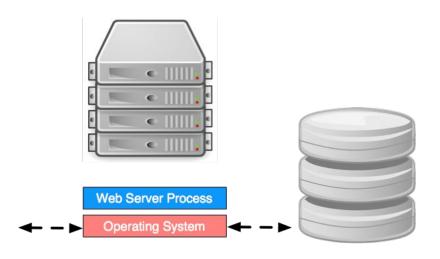
- Any particularly heavyweight SQL query
- Example: Total account balance on Mint.com





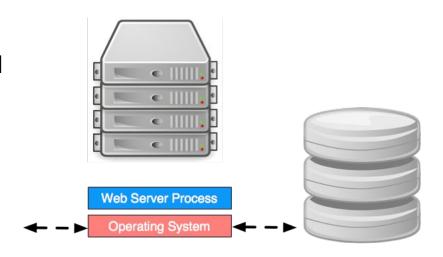
Some of these things are expensive to materialize

- View fragments are produced by extensive string manipulation.
 - Ruby optimizes humans over CPU
- The database can be a bottleneck in our current architecture
- Some SQL queries are necessarily heavyweight





So if we want to keep previously computed results around between requests, how should we do it? Where should we put it?

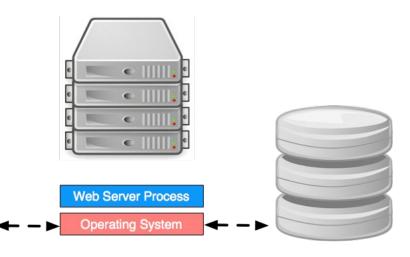




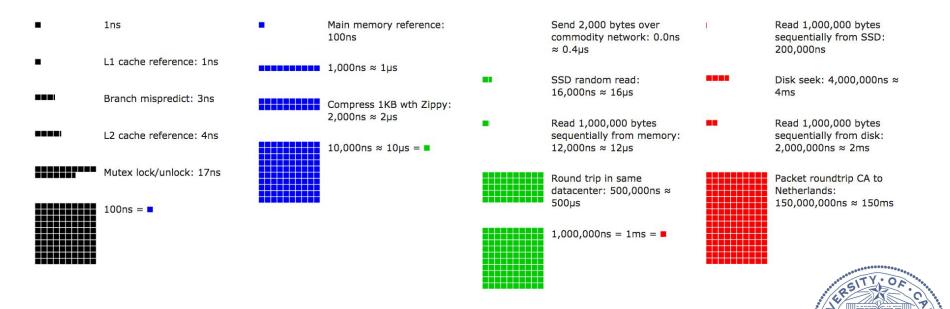
So if we want to keep previously computed results around between requests, how should we do it? Where should we put it?

- Just keep it in memory between requests?
- Store it on the filesystem?
- Store it in memory on another machine?

All of these are reasonable options. Lets look into each in more depth.







What can we conclude from these numbers?

- Storing in memory and reading later is fast:
 - O Random reads from memory will be 0.1μs, reading 1MB will be 12μs
- Storing on disk is slow without SSD:
 - O Disk seek is 4000μs, subsequent sequential read of 1MB is 2000μs
- Storing on disk with SSD is much more reasonable:
 - o Random read is 16μs, sequential read of 1MB will be 200μs
- Storing on another machine is reasonable:
 - Round trip within datacenter is 500µs.



Summary

- In memory: tens of μs
- On SSD: hundreds of μs
- On Disk: thousands of µs
- And if it's on a remote machine, add hundreds of μs.

Conclusion

- Always use SSD
- Memory > local SSD > Remote?



It's not that simple. Why?



It's not that simple.

What effect on the cache hit rate does each of these designs have?

- In memory: Cache per process
- On local SSD: Cache per machine
- On (single) remote machine: Cache per cluster



Conclusion:

- **In memory**: highest performance, lowest hit rate
- On SSD: lower performance, higher hit rate
- On remote cache server: lowest performance, highest hit rate

There is no silver bullet. How will each of these affect system performance:

- Number of processes per machine?
- Concurrency model of Application Server: threads vs. processes?
- Number of machines per cluster?



Memcached

Memcached is a commonly used implementation of a remote cache server

- Keeps a cache in memory
- Accepts TCP connections and returns lookup requests
- Distributed key-value store
 - Keys can be up to 250 bytes, values can be up to 1MB
 - Can scale horizontally
- When it runs out of space, it uses a simple LRU mechanism to make more space
- Lightweight features, everything is constant time.
- Originally developed at LiveJournal



Another commonly used tool is Redis

The good news for your projects is that Rails has great support for server-side caching.

Rails emphasizes three types of caching:

- HTTP caching
- Fragment caching
- Low level caching

We covered HTTP caching in the last lecture, so today we will talk about fragment caching and low-level caching



By default, caching is disabled in development and test, and enabled in production

If you want to use it in development mode, add this to your environment:
 config.action_controller.perform_caching = true

Rails can be configured to store cached data in a few different places:

- In memory
- Local file system
- Remote in-memory store



ActiveSupport::Cache::MemoryStore

- Cached data is stored in memory, in the same address space as the ruby process and is retained between requests.
- Defaults to 32 megs, but is configurable.

ActiveSupport::Cache::FileStore

- Cached data is stored on the local file system.
- Can configure the location of the storage in Rails environment:
 - o config.cache_store = :file_store, "/path/to/cache/"



ActiveSupport::Cache::MemcacheStore

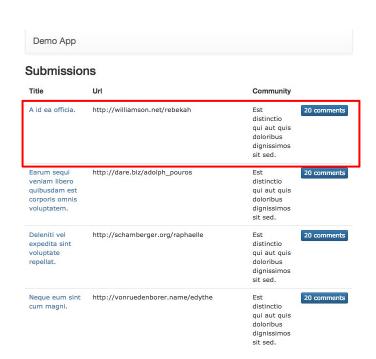
- Cached data is stored in memory on another machine.
- Can configure the location of the server in Rails environment:
 - o config.cache_store = :mem_cache_store, "cache-1.example.com"



Fragment caching caches a portion of a rendered view for reuse on future requests.

Let's take a look at the demo app...





We can cache each line of this markup.

Regardless of anything else that changes on the page, we can rerender this if it stays fresh



```
<% @submissions.each do |submission| %>
      <% cache(cache_key_for_submission_row(submission)) do %>
        <%= link to(submission.title, submission.url) %>
          <%= submission.url %>
          <%= submission.community.name %>
          <%= link to "#{submission.comments.size} comments", submission, class: 'btn</pre>
btn-primary btn-xs' %>
        <% end %>
     <% end %>
```

How should we choose a cache key?

```
module SubmissionsHelper
  def cache_key_for_submission_row(submission)
    "submission-#{submission.id}"
  end
end
```

What are the weaknesses with the above approach?



How should we choose a cache key?

```
module SubmissionsHelper
  def cache_key_for_submission_row(submission)
    "submission-#{submission.id}"
  end
end
```

What are the weaknesses with the above approach?

 Invalidation will be annoying: clear out the cache on possible action causing staleness?

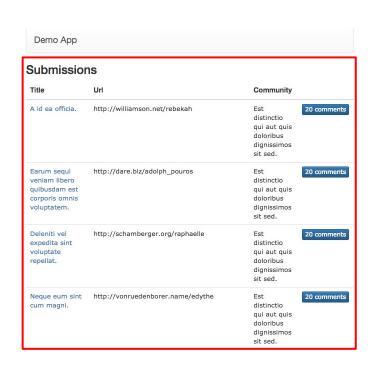


Instead, let's make the key change whenever the data gets stale.

```
module SubmissionsHelper
  def cache_key_for_submission_row(submission)
    "submission-#{submission.id}-#{submission.updated_at}-#{submission.comments.count}"
  end
end
```

There is no action needed to invalidate the cache: the cache key changes.





If we step back and look at this page, we can observe that the whole table is expensive to compute and stays fresh for awhile.



```
<h3>Submissions</h3>
<thead>
   Title
    Url
    Community
    </thead>
 <% @submissions.each do |submission| %>
    <% cache(cache_key_for_submission_row(submission)) do %>
      <%= link to(submission.title, submission.url) %>
       <%= submission.url %>
       <%= submission.community.name %>
       <= link to "#{submission.comments.size} comments", submission, class: 'btn btn-primary btn-xs' %>
      <% end %>
   <% end %>
 <br>
<%= link to 'New Submission', new submission path, class: 'btn btn-primary' %>
<%= link to 'New Community', new community path, class: 'btn btn-primary' %>
```



```
<% cache(cache key for submission table) do %>
 <h3>Submissions</h3>
 <thead>
    Title
      Url
      Community
      </thead>
   <% @submissions.each do |submission| %>
      <% cache(cache_key_for_submission_row(submission)) do %>
       <%= link to(submission.title, submission.url) %>
         <%= submission.url %>
         <%= submission.community.name %>
         <= link to "#{submission.comments.size} comments", submission, class: 'btn btn-primary btn-xs' %>
       <% end %>
    <% end %>
   <br>
 <%= link to 'New Submission', new submission path, class: 'btn btn-primary' %>
 <%= link to 'New Community', new community path, class: 'btn btn-primary' %>
<% end %>
```



```
module SubmissionsHelper
  def cache_key_for_submission_row(submission)
    "submission-#{submission.id}-#{submission.updated_at}-#{submission.comments.count}"
  end
  def cache_key_for_submission_table
    "submission-table-#{Submission.maximum(:updated_at)}-#{Comment.maximum(:updated_at)}"
  end
end
```

This technique of nesting cache fragments is known as "Russian Doll" caching.



Rails Caching - Low-level Caching

You can use the same mechanisms to cache anything:

```
class Product < ActiveRecord::Base
  def competing_price
    Rails.cache.fetch("#{cache_key}/competing_price", expires_in: 12.hours) do
        Competitor::API.find_price(id)
        end
  end
end</pre>
```



Rails Caching - Low-level Caching

Let's compare the demo app's performance!

For these tests I will compare the performance of the branch master, with the branch "server_side_caching", which implements the caching shown in the previous slides.

Master intentionally includes no optimizations to the way we interact with the database.

We will use the default (memory) caching.

We'll use an M3-medium instance with the usual workload.

When we test we will have 12 phases, of 60 seconds each:

Phase	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Users/sec	1	1.5	2	4	6	10	16	20	25	35	45	55

Deployed using nginx & passenger.

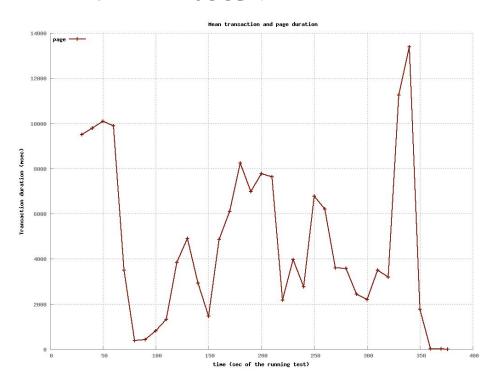


We will use the same testing script from before...

- 1. Going to the homepage
- 2. Waiting for up to 2 seconds
- 3. Requesting a form to create a new community
- 4. Waiting for up to 2 seconds
- 5. Submitting the new community
- 6. Requesting a form to create a new link submission
- 7. Waiting for up to 2 seconds
- 8. Submitting the new link
- 9. Waiting for up to 2 seconds
- 10. Delete the link
- 11. Waiting for up to 2 seconds
- 12. Delete the community



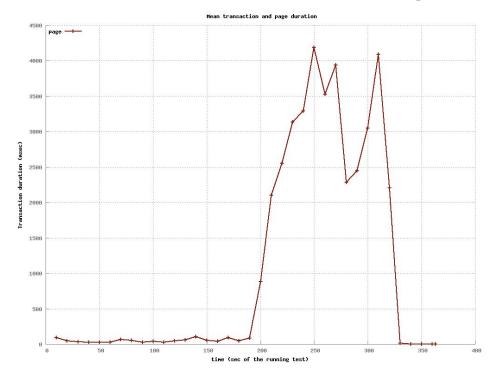
Performance on master:



From the start, the application can't handle a single user arriving each second



Performance on server_side_caching:



With the server-side caching implemented, the server can handle up to two new users a second easily.



Now that you've all got a blank Rails app (or more) pushed to Github, it's time to learn how to deploy to AWS.

We will be using CloudFormation, and here are step-by-step instructions for deploying.

But first, some warnings and rules.



These are scarce resources

- This is free time on Amazon's infrastructure, and it's not unlimited.
- Unless you have a specific reason to do otherwise, always use micro instances.
 - Example of a good reason: testing vertical scaling.

These are scarce resources

- Our AWS budget has a fixed limit.
- Whenever you are done with an instance, shut it down.
- Never keep important data on the instance, because it can go down at any time.
 - SCP important data back to your laptop.
- I will periodically run a script that terminates all instances that have been up longer than 8 hours.



Treat these credentials as secrets.

- Do not check into any publicly accessible repository
- There are automated scripts that actively seek out AWS credentials
 - Why?

Today you will receive an email with AWS credentials. These include:

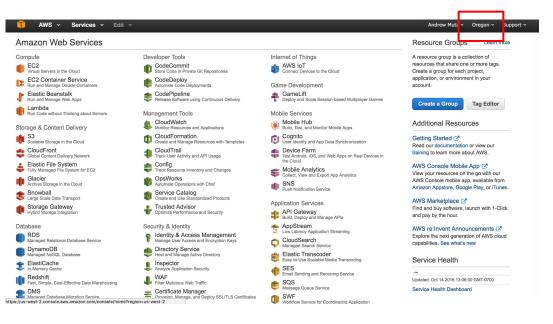
- A .txt file
 - Username: what you use to log in to the AWS web interface
 - Password: the password you use to log in to the AWS web interface
- A .pem file
 - Contains a private key that you will use to ssh into the instances that you launch.

Go to https://scalable-internet-services.signin.aws.amazon.com/console

Account:	scalable-internet-services
User Name:	
Password:	
	I have an MFA Token (more into)
	Sign In
	Sign-in using root account credentials

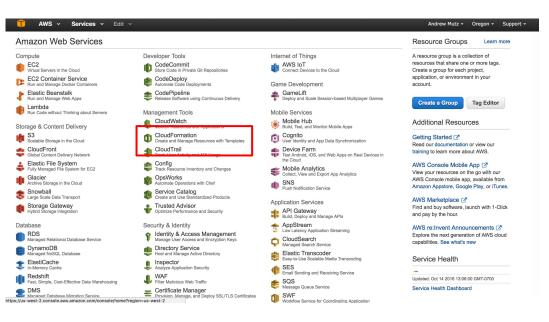
Login with Username and Password provided in txt file in email.





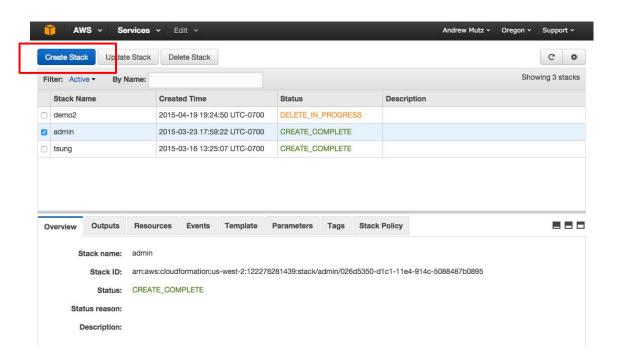
Make sure your region is set to "US-West-2 Oregon"





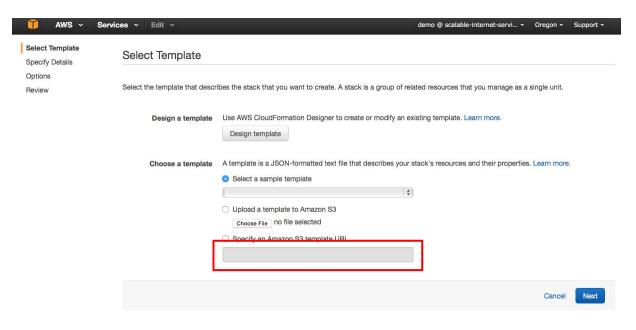
We will be deploying with cloudformation, so click on that





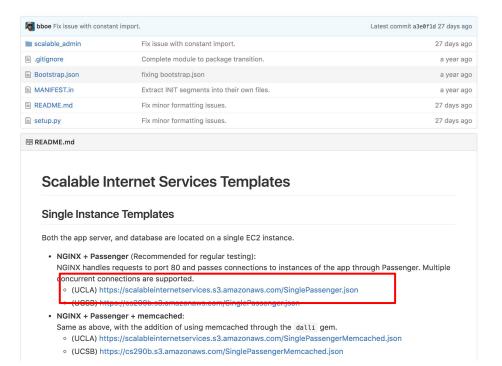
Click on "Create Stack"





We want to specify an Amazon S3 template URL.





Go to

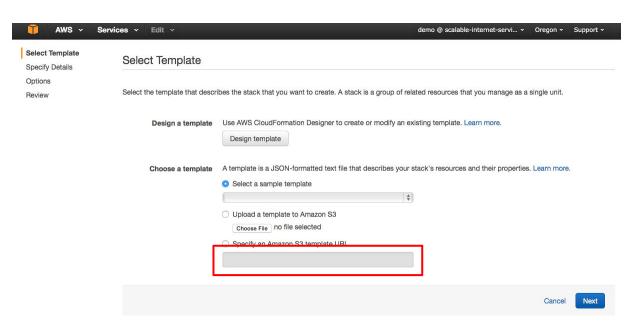
https://github.com/scalableinternetservices/utils

and choose your template.

Today just choose the UCLA passenger template.

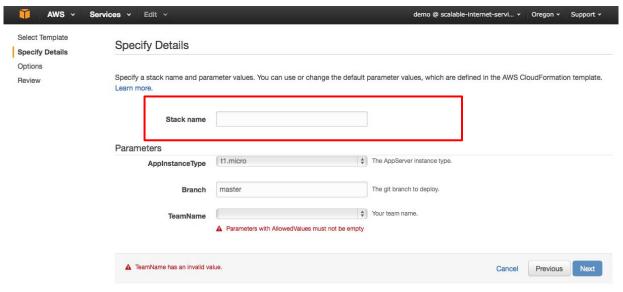
Copy the link.





Paste the link to the template in the field labeled "Specify an Amazon S3 Template URL"

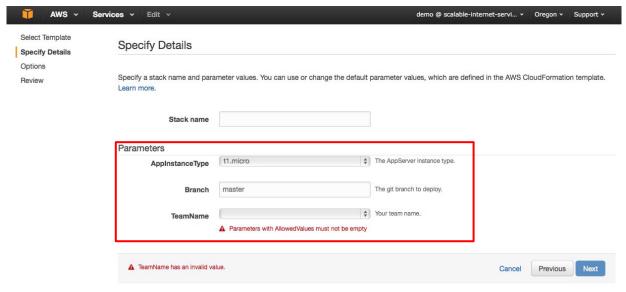




The stack name must begin with your team name.

For example: "demo-test"

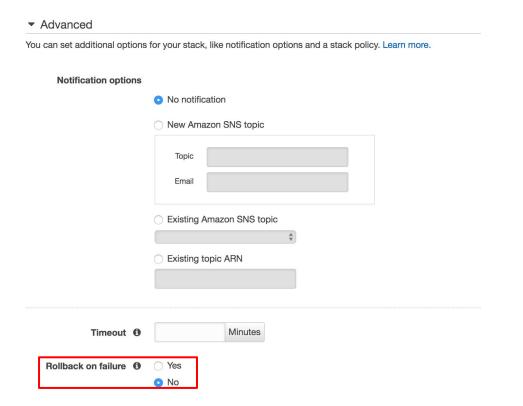




Choose your fields.

Select your TeamName from the dropdown.

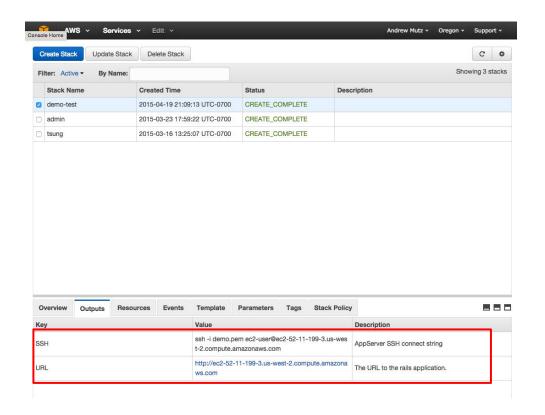
The teamname is how the template knows where to get your code.



On the next screen just choose "Next"

If you are having problems deploying, you can disable rollback.





After creation, the outputs tab in the bottom pane will tell you how to reach your server via HTTP and SSH.

The PEM file mentioned in the SSH command was emailed to you.

SCP accepts the same -i FILE.pem argument

How do I SSH into my instance?

• ssh -i [your pemfile here] <u>ec2-user@ec2-something.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com</u>

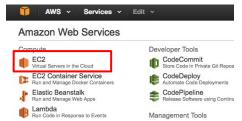
How do I copy files to/from my instance?

scp -i [your pemfile here] <u>ec2-user@ec2-something.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com</u>:fromfile tofile

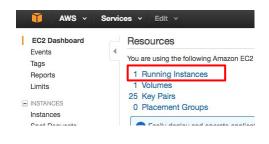


My cloudformation stack failed to deploy. How do I debug this?

1. Go to the AWS dashboard and select EC2



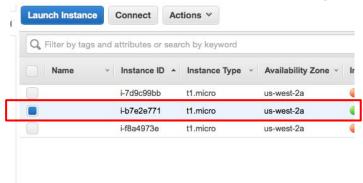
2. Click on "X Running Instances"



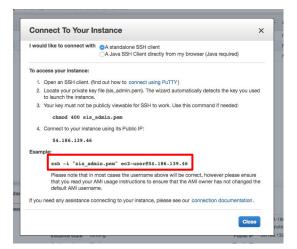


My cloudformation stack failed to deploy. How do I debug this?

3. Select the instance corresponding to your team



 Click the connect button and copy and paste the ssh command.





My cloudformation stack failed to deploy. How do I debug this?

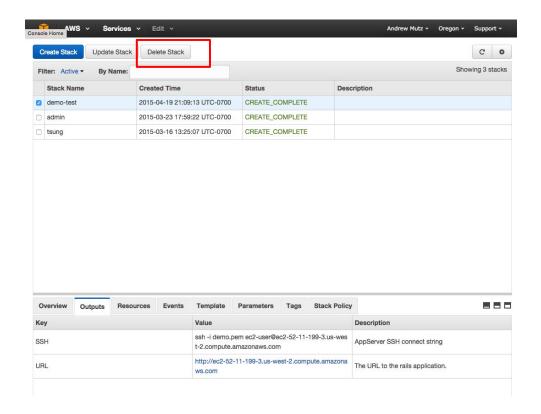
Once you have SSHed into your instance, you can find details of problems at:

/var/log/cloud-init-output.log

You can also read the script that was executed on CF startup here:

/var/lib/cloud/instance/scripts/part-001





When you are done with your stack, remember to delete it!

If you have any questions, please post to Piazza!



Motivation

After today you should understand

- Why server side caching exists
- What options you have when using server side caching
- How to use this in your projects
- How to deploy on AWS using CloudFormation



For Next Time...

Continue to work on sprint 1 stories. We will demo your progress at tomorrow's lab.

Try and get your app deployed on AWS. If you run into problems please post on Piazza

