



Immersion Day

*Getting Started with Windows Server on
Amazon EC2*

May 2019

Table of Contents

Overview 3

Launch a Web Server Instance..... 4

Browse the Web Server 10

Connecting To Your Windows Instance 11

Appendix – Additional EC2 Concepts 13

 Change the Instance Type 13

 Black Belt Booting..... 15

Overview

Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) is a web service that provides resizable compute capacity in the cloud. Amazon EC2's simple web service interface allows you to obtain and configure capacity with minimal friction. Amazon EC2 reduces the time required to obtain and boot new server instances to minutes, allowing you to quickly scale capacity, both up and down, as your computing requirements change. Amazon EC2 changes the economics of computing by allowing you to pay only for capacity that you actually use.

This lab will walk you through launching, configuring, and customizing an EC2 web server using the AWS Management Console.

Launch a Web Server Instance

In this example we will launch a Windows Server 2012 R2 instance with the IIS web server installed upon boot.

1. Sign into the AWS Management Console and open the Amazon EC2 console at <https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2>.
2. Click on **Launch Instance**

The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console interface for the Amazon EC2 console. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with categories like EC2 Dashboard, INSTANCES, IMAGES, ELASTIC BLOCK STORE, and NETWORK & SECURITY. The main content area is titled 'Resources' and shows a summary of EC2 resources in the US East (Ohio) region: 1 Running Instances, 0 Dedicated Hosts, 2 Volumes, 1 Key Pairs, 0 Placement Groups, 0 Elastic IPs, 2 Snapshots, 0 Load Balancers, and 5 Security Groups. Below this, there is a 'Create Instance' section with a 'Launch Instance' button highlighted by a red rectangle. The 'Service Health' section shows that the US East (Ohio) service is operating normally. The 'Scheduled Events' section shows no events.

3. Scroll down and click **Select** on the Windows Server 2012 R2 Base AMI.

Immersion Day

Getting Started with Windows Server on Amazon EC2

Step 1: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)

Cancel and Exit

64-bit

Root device type: ebs Virtualization type: hvm

Microsoft Windows Server 2016 with SQL Server Web - ami-fa9dc79f
Microsoft Windows 2016 Datacenter edition, Microsoft SQL Server 2016 Web. [English]
64-bit

Microsoft Windows Server 2016 with SQL Server Standard - ami-9d9cc6f8
Microsoft Windows 2016 Datacenter edition, Microsoft SQL Server 2016 Standard. [English]
64-bit

Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 Base - ami-e999c38c
Microsoft Windows 2012 R2 Standard edition with 64-bit architecture. [English]
64-bit

Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 with SQL Server Express - ami-759ac010
Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 Standard edition, 64-bit architecture, Microsoft SQL Server 2016 Express edition. [English]
64-bit

4. In the **Choose Instance Type** tab, select the **t2.medium** instance size and click **Next: Configure Instance Details**

Step 2: Choose an Instance Type

Amazon EC2 provides a wide selection of instance types optimized to fit different use cases. Instances are virtual servers that can run applications. They have varying combinations of CPU, memory, storage, and networking capacity, and give you the flexibility to choose the appropriate mix of resources for your applications. [Learn more](#) about instance types and how they can meet your computing needs.

Filter by: All instance types Current generation Show/Hide Columns

Currently selected: t2.medium (Variable ECUs, 2 vCPUs, 2.5 GHz, Intel Xeon Family, 4 GiB memory, EBS only)

	Family	Type	vCPUs	Memory (GiB)	Instance Storage (GB)	EBS-Optimized Available	Network Performance	IPv6 Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.nano	1	0.5	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.micro Free tier eligible	1	1	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.small	1	2	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.medium	2	4	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.large	2	8	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.xlarge	4	16	EBS only	-	Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.2xlarge	8	32	EBS only	-	Moderate	Yes

Cancel Previous Review and Launch Next: Configure Instance Details

5. On the **Configure Instance Details** page, expand the **Advanced Details** section, copy/paste the script at <https://immersionday-labs.s3.amazonaws.com/ec2-windows-lab-userdata.txt> into the User Data field (this PowerShell script will install/start IIS and deploy a simple web page) and click **Next: Add Storage**:

Immersion Day

Getting Started with Windows Server on Amazon EC2

Step 3: Configure Instance Details

Auto-assign Public IP *i* Use subnet setting (Enable) *+*

IAM role *i* None *+* *+* Create new IAM role

Shutdown behavior *i* Stop *+*

Enable termination protection *i* ☐ Protect against accidental termination

Monitoring *i* ☐ Enable CloudWatch detailed monitoring
Additional charges apply.

Tenancy *i* Shared - Run a shared hardware instance *+*
Additional charges will apply for dedicated tenancy.

Advanced Details

User data *i* ☒ As text ☐ As file ☐ Input is already base64 encoded

```
<powershell>
Install-WindowsFeature Web-Server -IncludeManagementTools -IncludeAllSubFeature
remove-item -recurse c:\inetpub\wwwroot\
(New-Object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadFile("http://www.immersionday.com/scripts/ec2-windows.zip", "c:\inetpub\wwwroot\ec2-windows.zip")
```

Cancel Previous **Review and Launch** **Next: Add Storage**

For further information on User Data please refer to the documentation at - <http://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/WindowsGuide/ec2-instance-metadata.html>.

On the **Step 4: Add Storage** screen, Click **Next: Add Tags** to accept the default Storage Device Configuration and move to the Step 5: Add Tags screen.

Next, choose a “friendly name” for your instance. This name, more correctly known as a tag, will appear in the console once the instance launches. It makes it easy to keep track of running machines in a complex environment. Name yours according to this format: “[Your Name] Web Server”.

Then click **Next: Configure Security Group**.

Step 5: Add Tags

A tag consists of a case-sensitive key-value pair. For example, you could define a tag with key = Name and value = Webserver. [Learn more](#) about tagging your Amazon EC2 resources.

Key (127 characters maximum)	Value (255 characters maximum)
Name	John Doe Web Server

Add another tag (Up to 50 tags maximum)

Cancel Previous **Review and Launch** **Next: Configure Security Group**

For further information on Tags please refer to the documentation at - http://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/Using_Tags.html.

Getting Started with Windows Server on Amazon EC2

- You will be prompted to create a new security group, which will be your firewall rules. On the assumption that we are building out a Web server, name this security group according to this format “[Your Name] Web Server”, and open ports 3389 and 80. Click the **Review and Launch** button after configuring the security group.

Step 6: Configure Security Group

A security group is a set of firewall rules that control the traffic for your instance. On this page, you can add rules to allow specific traffic to reach your instance. For example, if you want to set up a web server and allow Internet traffic to reach your instance, add rules that allow unrestricted access to the HTTP and HTTPS ports. You can create a new security group or select from an existing one below. [Learn more](#) about Amazon EC2 security groups.

Assign a security group: ☒ Create a new security group ☐ Select an existing security group

Security group name: John Doe Web Server

Description: This rule allows RDP & HTTP access to John Doe Web Server

Type	Protocol	Port Range	Source
RDP	TCP	3389	Custom 0.0.0.0/0
HTTP	TCP	80	Custom 0.0.0.0/0

Add Rule

Warning
Rules with source of 0.0.0.0/0 allow all IP addresses to access your instance. We recommend setting security group rules to allow access from known IP addresses only.

[Cancel](#) [Previous](#) [Review and Launch](#)

- Review your choices, and then click **Launch**. Note the two warning boxes at the top of the page, these are to warn you about possible configuration issues. In this lab we are creating a Windows server that has RDP access that is “open to the world” this is something that you wouldn’t normally do.

Step 7: Review Instance Launch

Please review your instance launch details. You can go back to edit changes for each section. Click **Launch** to assign a key pair to your instance and complete the launch process.

Improve your instances' security. Your security group, John Doe Web Server, is open to the world.
Your instances may be accessible from any IP address. We recommend that you update your security group rules to allow access from known IP addresses only. You can also open additional ports in your security group to facilitate access to the application or service you're running, e.g., HTTP (80) for web servers. [Edit security groups](#)

Your instance configuration is not eligible for the free usage tier
To launch an instance that's eligible for the free usage tier, check your AMI selection, instance type, configuration options, or storage devices. Learn more about [free usage tier](#) eligibility and usage restrictions.

AMI Details [Edit AMI](#)

Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Base - ami-b291cbd7
Microsoft Windows 2016 Datacenter edition, [English]
Root Device Type: ebs Virtualization type: hvm
Free tier eligible

If you plan to use this AMI for an application that benefits from Microsoft License Mobility, fill out the [License Mobility Form](#). [Don't show me this again](#)

Instance Type [Edit instance type](#)

Instance Type	ECUs	vCPUs	Memory (GiB)	Instance Storage (GB)	EBS-Optimized Available	Network Performance

[Cancel](#) [Previous](#) [Launch](#)

Getting Started with Windows Server on Amazon EC2

8. Now you need to create a public/private keypair. When this instance launches, you will connect to it via Remote Desktop using the credentials for “administrator”. For Windows instances, EC2 automatically generates a password and encrypts with your public key. To decrypt the encrypted password, you will use your private key. Let’s create a new public/private keypair.

Select an existing key pair or create a new key pair


A key pair consists of a **public key** that AWS stores, and a **private key file** that you store. Together, they allow you to connect to your instance securely. For Windows AMIs, the private key file is required to obtain the password used to log into your instance. For Linux AMIs, the private key file allows you to securely SSH into your instance.

Note: The selected key pair will be added to the set of keys authorized for this instance. Learn more about [removing existing key pairs from a public AMI](#).

Choose an existing key pair

Select a key pair

No key pairs found

 **No key pairs found**
You don't have any key pairs. Please create a new key pair by selecting the **Create a new key pair** option above to continue.

Cancel

Launch Instances

9. Enter a name for the key pair using the following format: [YourName]-KeyPair and click **Download Key Pair**.

Select an existing key pair or create a new key pair


A key pair consists of a **public key** that AWS stores, and a **private key file** that you store. Together, they allow you to connect to your instance securely. For Windows AMIs, the private key file is required to obtain the password used to log into your instance. For Linux AMIs, the private key file allows you to securely SSH into your instance.

Note: The selected key pair will be added to the set of keys authorized for this instance. Learn more about [removing existing key pairs from a public AMI](#).

Create a new key pair

Key pair name
JohnDoe-keyPair

Download Key Pair

 You have to download the **private key file** (*.pem file) before you can continue. **Store it in a secure and accessible location.** You will not be able to download the file again after it's created.

Cancel

Launch Instances

Copyright 2017, Amazon Web Services, All Rights Reserved

Page 8

Getting Started with Windows Server on Amazon EC2

10. Your browser will download the private portion of the key pair to your PC. It will have a name like *JohnDoe-KeyPair.pem*. Note the location of this file because you will need it later to decrypt the administrator password.
11. Now click the **Launch Instances** button to launch your Windows web server.
12. The next screen will confirm that your instance is now launching. Click the **View Instances** button. Once your instance has launched, you will see the “[Your Name] Web Server” instance as well as the Availability Zone the instance is in and its publicly routable DNS name.

The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console interface. At the top is a navigation bar with the AWS logo, 'Services', 'Resource Groups', a search icon, a notification bell, and regional settings for 'Ohio' and 'Support'. Below the navigation bar, the page title 'Launch Status' is displayed. A green progress bar indicates the launch status. A blue information box contains the text: 'Get notified of estimated charges' and 'Create billing alerts to get an email notification when estimated charges on your AWS bill exceed an amount you define (for example, if you exceed the free usage tier)'. Below this, the section 'How to connect to your instances' provides instructions: 'Your instances are launching, and it may take a few minutes until they are in the **running** state, when they will be ready for you to use. Usage hours on your new instances will start immediately and continue to accrue until you stop or terminate your instances. Click **View Instances** to monitor your instances' status. Once your instances are in the **running** state, you can **connect** to them from the Instances screen. [Find out](#) how to connect to your instances.' A section titled 'Here are some helpful resources to get you started' lists four links: 'How to connect to your Windows instance', 'Learn about AWS Free Usage Tier', 'Amazon EC2: User Guide', 'Amazon EC2: Microsoft Windows Guide', and 'Amazon EC2: Discussion Forum'. Below this, a section titled 'While your instances are launching you can also' lists three links: 'Create status check alarms to be notified when these instances fail status checks. (Additional charges may apply)', 'Create and attach additional EBS volumes (Additional charges may apply)', and 'Manage security groups'. At the bottom right, a blue button labeled 'View Instances' is highlighted with a red rectangle.

Browse the Web Server

Now you will browse to the Web Server site that was installed on the Instance using the PowerShell script defined in the **User Data** section during creation of the instance.

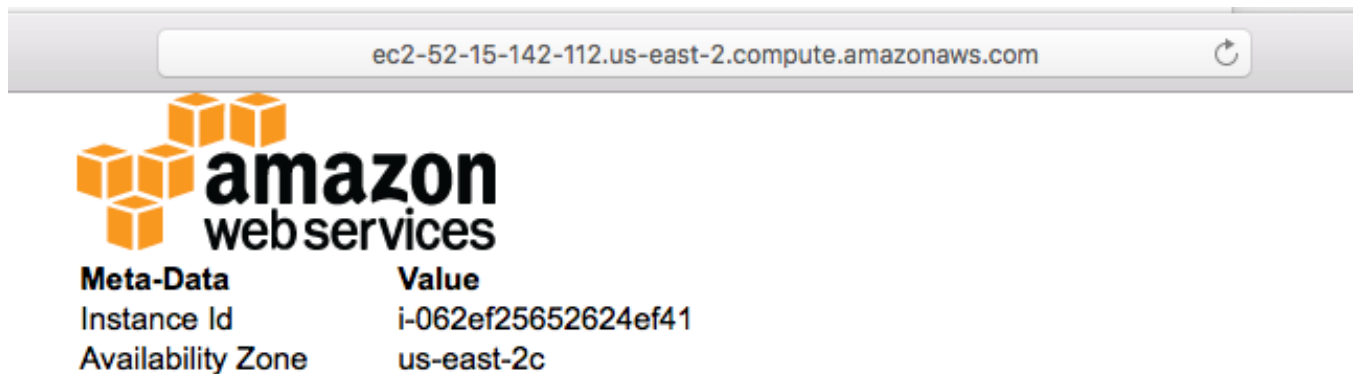
1. Wait for the instance to pass the Status Checks. For Windows instances, this could take up to 20 minutes.

	Name	Instance ID	Instance Type	Availability Zone	Instance State	Status Checks	Alarm Status
	John Doe Web Server	i-062ef25652624ef41	t2.medium	us-east-2c	pending	Initializing	None

When complete, you will see the Status Checks have passed.

	Name	Instance ID	Instance Type	Availability Zone	Instance State	Status Checks	Alarm Status
	John Doe Web Server	i-062ef25652624ef41	t2.medium	us-east-2c	running	2/2 checks passed	None

2. Open a new browser tab and browse the Web Server by entering the EC2 instance's Public DNS name into the browser. The EC2 instance's Public DNS name can be found in the console by reviewing the "Public DNS" column. You should see a page that looks similar to this:

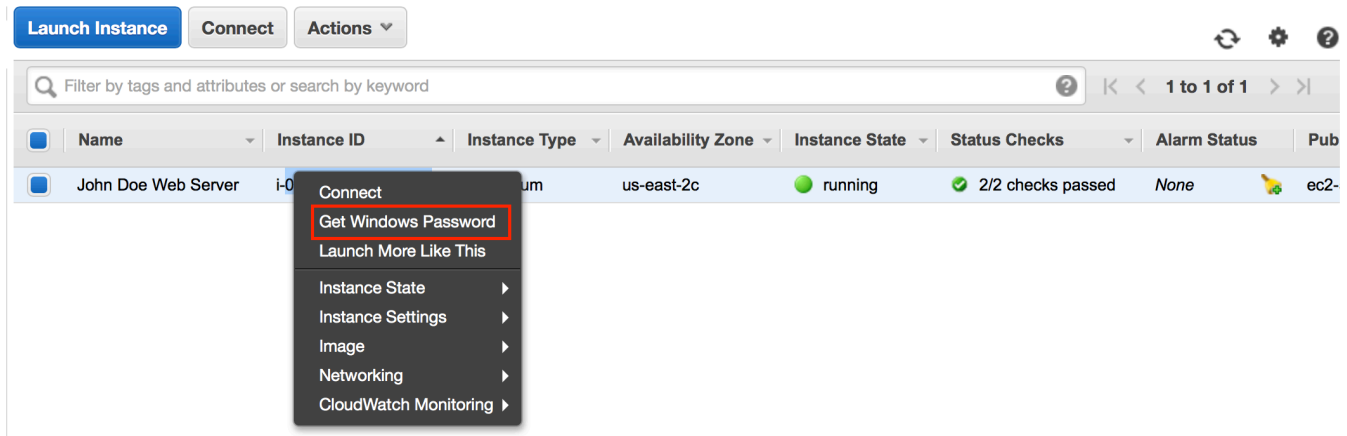


Great Job: You have built your first web server!

Connecting To Your Windows Instance

To connect to the Windows desktop, we will use a RDP client. If you're using a Windows PC, use the bundled Remote Desktop application. For Mac users, if you don't have a RDP client already installed, download [Microsoft Remote Desktop](#).

1. Retrieve the automatically generated, encrypted Windows password by right clicking your instance and selecting **Get Windows Password**.



2. On the next screen, click the Choose File button and select the private key file that was automatically downloaded earlier when you launched the instance. Then click **Decrypt Password** to obtain the Administrator password.

Retrieve Default Windows Administrator Password

To access this instance remotely (e.g. Remote Desktop Connection), you will need your Windows Administrator password. A default password was created when the instance was launched and is available encrypted in the system log.

To decrypt your password, you will need your key pair for this instance. Browse to your key pair, or copy and paste the contents of your private key file into the text area below, then click Decrypt Password.

The following Key Pair was associated with this instance when it was created.

Key Name Vinod-Ohio-Keypair

In order to retrieve your password you will need to specify the path of this Key Pair on your local machine:

Key Pair Path JohnDoe-Keypair.pem.txt

Or you can copy and paste the contents of the Key Pair below:

```
-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
MIIEpQIBAAKCAQEA0G7xuYprsYH8d4BBNNq/g0XSEcsg8DUMnKmCcp6lsVpQJsJMXE0UA7FN7oX
8MOG6MIFii8BsKPsY40cxOJfD2XK9wF/SCLKftJZc26NAabqVniGpDO8OGwZgTYtkLUgff4vbilT
I63GsAzT4UCY480HBCFcRmw7IXqJBzYb2RgleklPveRWy+DmHUDbBbRrkwr44DUnogXPypGQEyn1
Io0fU14p4rveVC6lJWjW6SHsYGKUisxQJEMFWsLcjuQiLvHdMigsp+ln2QlGbyQ16Jp6vi8lc3W
-----
```

Getting Started with Windows Server on Amazon EC2

- The decrypted Administrator password should look something like this:

×

Retrieve Default Windows Administrator Password

✔ Password Decryption Successful

The password for instance i-062ef25652624ef41 (John Doe Web Server) was successfully decrypted.

⚠ Password change recommended

We recommend that you change your default password. Note: If a default password is changed, it cannot be retrieved through this tool. It's important that you change your password to one that you will remember.

You can connect remotely using this information:

Public DNS
ec2-52-15-142-112.us-east-2.compute.amazonaws.com

User name
Administrator

Password
Bzu7NNY)C5C

Close

Note that since only you have the private key, it's important to understand the automatically generated password can only be decrypted by you. So it's important to keep this key secure. Generally, the automatically generated password is changed by the customer after first login. If the automatically generated password is not changed and the private key is lost, there's no way to recover the password.

- Start your RDP application and connect to the hostname of your instance. The hostname can be found in a couple of different places. For example, in the web console, you'll see hostname listed as the **Public DNS** of the instance.

Name	Instance ID	Instance Type	Availability Zone	Instance State	Status Checks	Alarm Status	Pub
John Doe Web Server	i-062ef25652624ef41	t2.medium	us-east-2c	running	2/2 checks passed	None	ec2-

Instance: i-062ef25652624ef41 (John Doe Web Server) Public DNS: ec2-52-15-142-112.us-east-2.compute.amazonaws.com

Description

Status Checks

Monitoring

Tags

Instance ID i-062ef25652624ef41

Public DNS (IPv4)

ec2-52-15-142-112.us-east-2.compute.amazonaws.com

- In your RDP application, use **Administrator** as the username along with the decrypted password. Once connected, you will have access to the Windows desktop. At this point, feel free to explore Windows. You should change the Administrator password to something friendlier or easy to remember (but still secure of course).

Copyright 2017, Amazon Web Services, All Rights Reserved

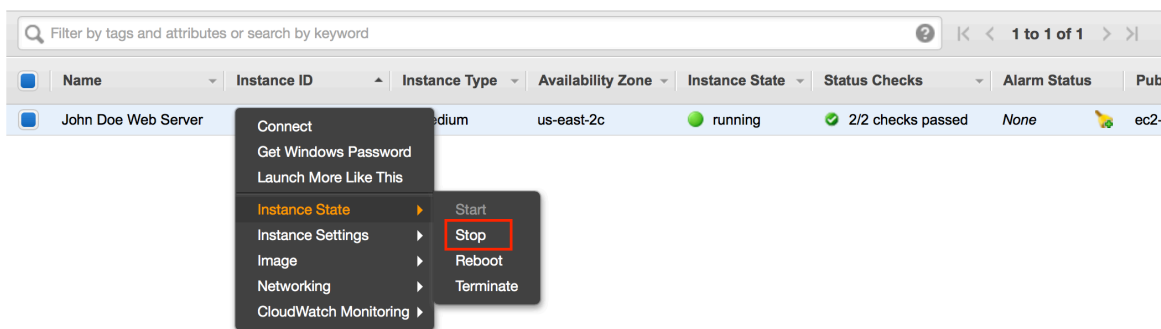
Page 12

Appendix – Additional EC2 Concepts

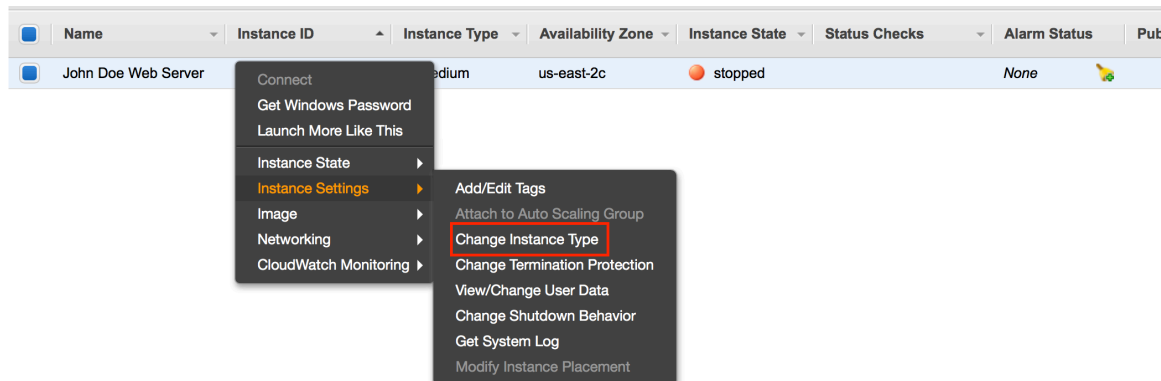
Change the Instance Type

Did you know that you can change the instance type that an AMI is running on? This is very useful when you need a larger (or smaller) or perhaps different type of instance to run a workload. This only works with EBS-backed instances (what we're running here). There is no particular reason to change the instance type in this lab, but the following steps outline how easy it is to do in AWS.

1. In the AWS Console, select your lab instance, then right-click on it and hover over **Instance State** and select **Stop** (NOT Terminate). Then select **Yes, Stop** to confirm.



2. After it has stopped, right-click on it again, hover over **Instance Settings** and select **Change Instance Type**.



3. After going through the options and selecting your new instance type, right-click your lab instance and select **Start**.

Elastic IPs

How do you set up practical DNS names for your web server? Using an address such as `http://ec2-75-101-197-112.compute-1.amazonaws.com/` is cumbersome. Setting up a DNS record that points to `http://www.yourdomain.com` is easy enough – until you reboot the server and the underlying DNS name and IP address both change.

AWS offers Elastic IP (EIP) Addresses, which are actually NAT addresses that operate at a regional level. That is, an Elastic IP Address works across Availability Zones, within a single region.

Assign an EIP to your Web Server as follows:

1. Sign into the AWS Management Console and open the Amazon EC2 console at <https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2>.
2. Click on the **Elastic IPs** link in the left hand panel of the AWS EC2 Console.
3. Click **Allocate New Address**, then click **Yes, Allocate** at the prompt, then click **Close**. We will now associate the address with your Web Server instance. If you change instances, it's as simple as allocating the address to the new instance.
4. Select the EIP in the console and then click **Actions | Associate Address**.
5. In the instance field select the Web Server instance you previously created, then click **Associate**.

You can now create a DNS “A” record in your own DNS server that points `www.yourdomain.com` to the EIP IP Address you created.

Two Important Notes:



1. As long as an Elastic IP address is associated with a running instance, there is no charge for it. However, an address that is not associated with a running instance costs \$0.01/hour. This prevents address hoarding; however, it also means that you need to delete any addresses you create, or you will incur an ongoing charge.
2. Load balancing requires CNAME records instead of “A” records. So Elastic IP is not required for load-balanced applications.

Black Belt Booting

There are a number of advanced techniques that offer additional power and flexibility when booting instances. For example, some organizations maintain a series of generic instances, and customize the images upon launch.

Common techniques include:

- Automatically check for updates upon each boot.
- Looking in a well-known location, such as in a S3 bucket, for data or a script to tell the instance which packages to load.
- Pass **User Data** to the instance to accomplish each of the above, or possibly instead of the other approaches.

For more details on User Data please refer to -

<http://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/WindowsGuide/ec2-instance-metadata.html>.