Project Title:

EC2 Monitoring using CloudWatch with Alarm and Email Notification

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Objective:

To monitor the CPU usage of an EC2 instance using Amazon CloudWatch, and receive alert notifications via Amazon SNS when CPU utilization exceeds a threshold.

Tools & Services Used:

- **Amazon EC2** – to host the virtual machine.
- **Amazon CloudWatch** – to monitor metrics and create alarms.
- **Amazon SNS (Simple Notification Service)** – to send email alerts.
- **Stress tool** – to generate high CPU usage.
- **Amazon Linux 2023** – EC2 OS.
- **IAM Role** – to allow EC2 to publish metrics.

Project Setup Steps

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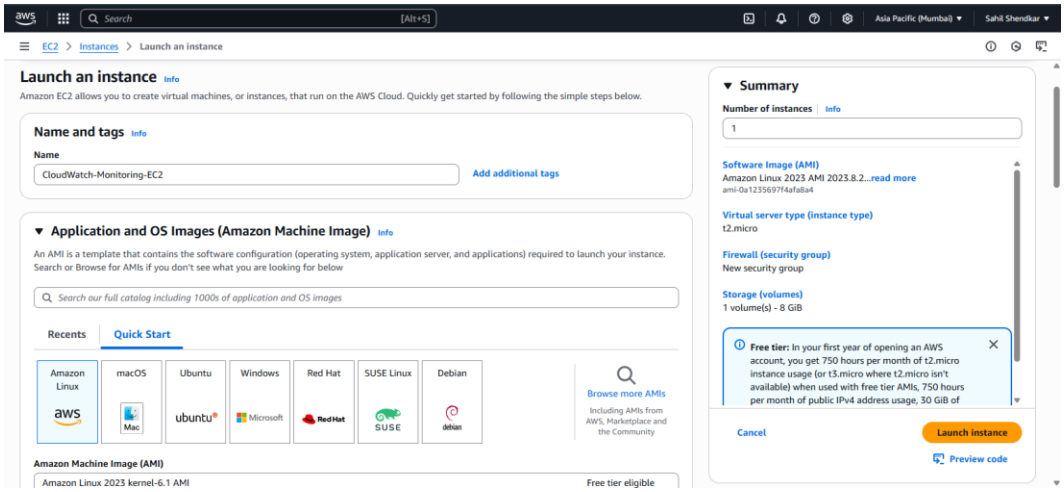
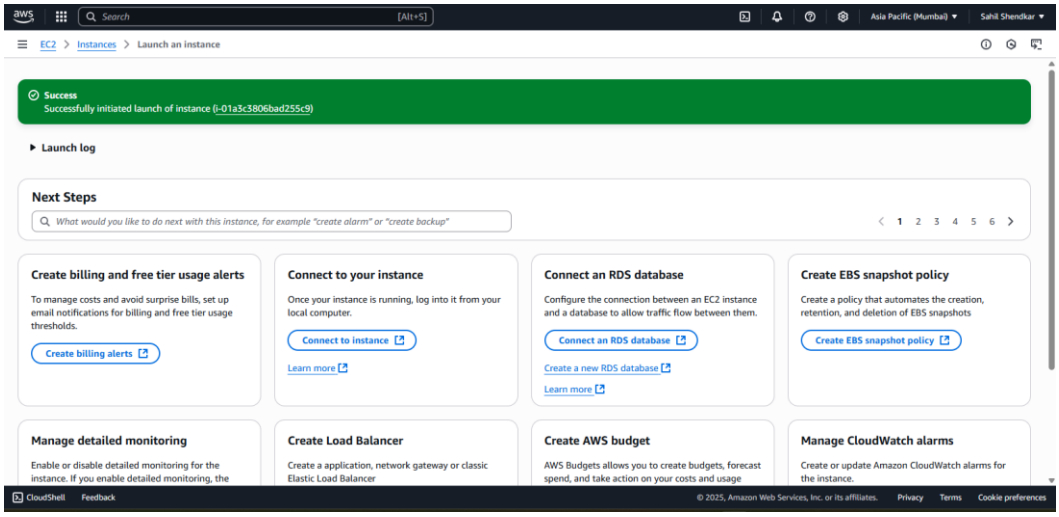
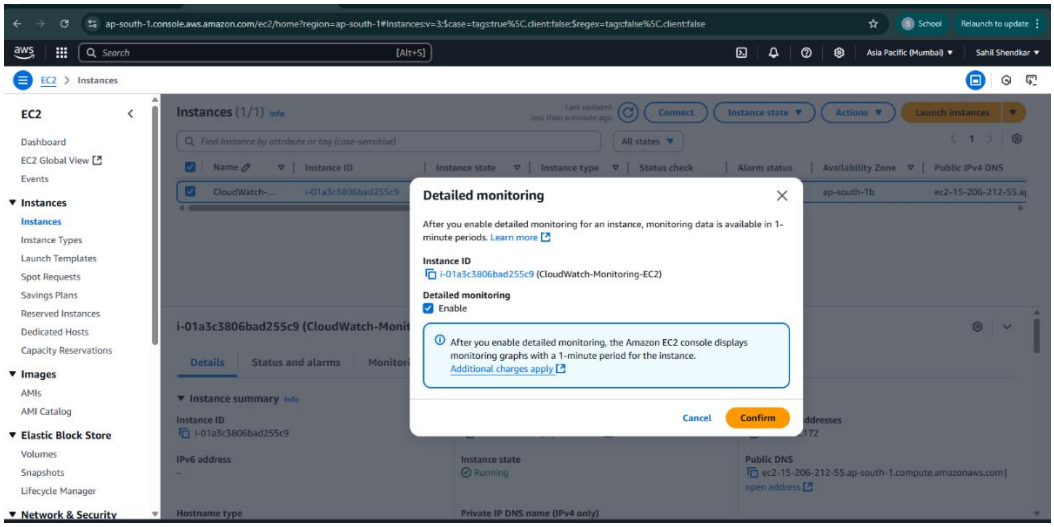
1. Launch EC2 Instance

- Open the **AWS EC2 dashboard**.
- Click on **Launch Instance**.
- Select **Amazon Linux 2023 AMI**.
- Choose **t2.micro** (Free tier eligible).
- Create or use existing **Key Pair**.
- In **Network settings**, allow **SSH** (port 22).
- Click **Launch Instance**.





After launching instance go to the action and enable the Detailed Monitoring.



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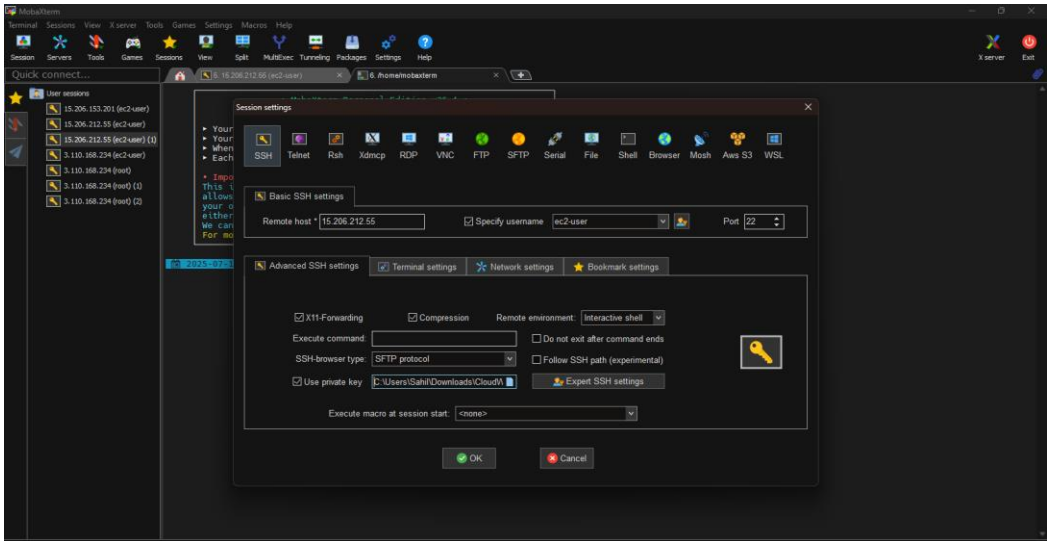
2. Install and Configure CloudWatch Agent

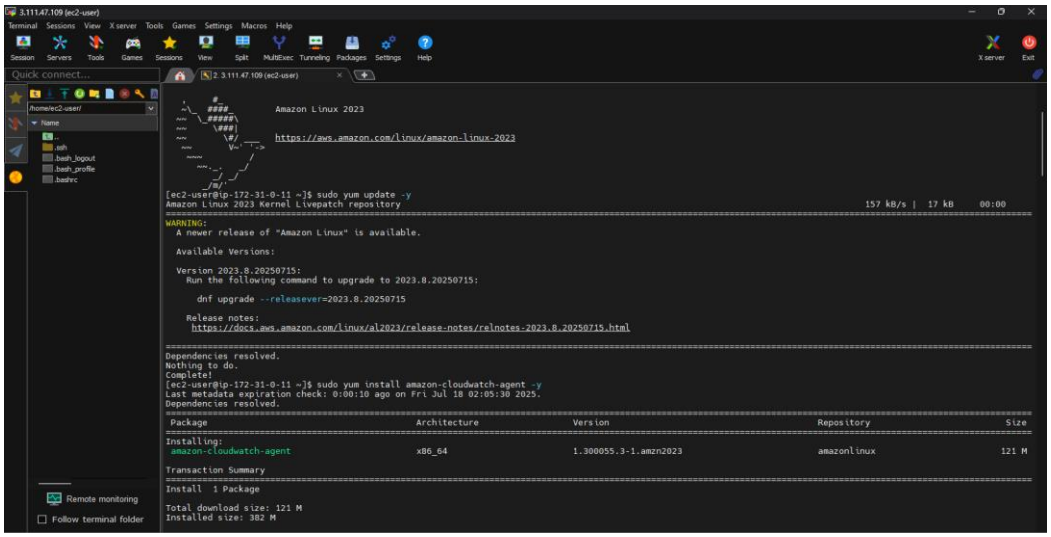
- Connect to EC2 via SSH.(MobaXterm)

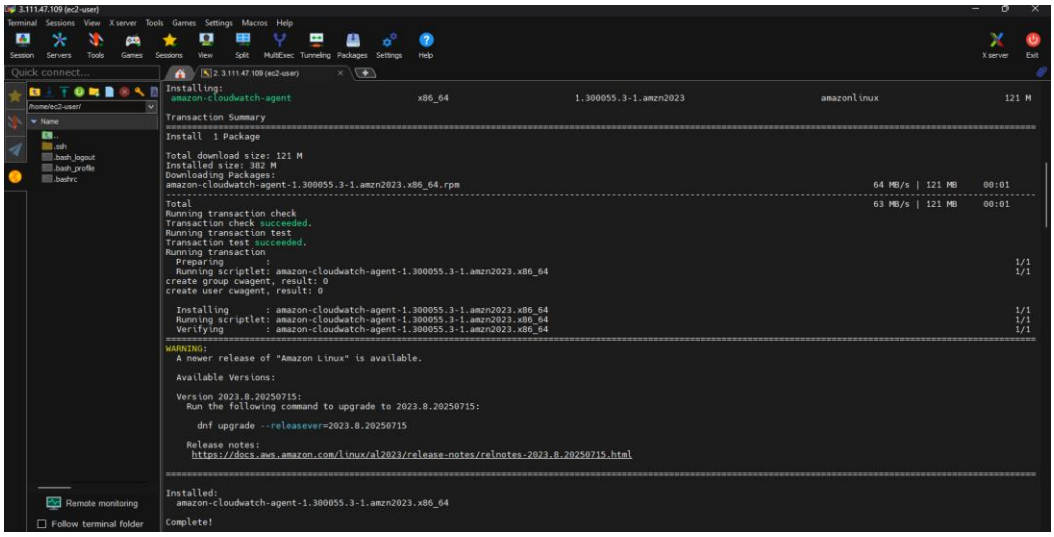


- Run the following commands:

sudo yum update -y

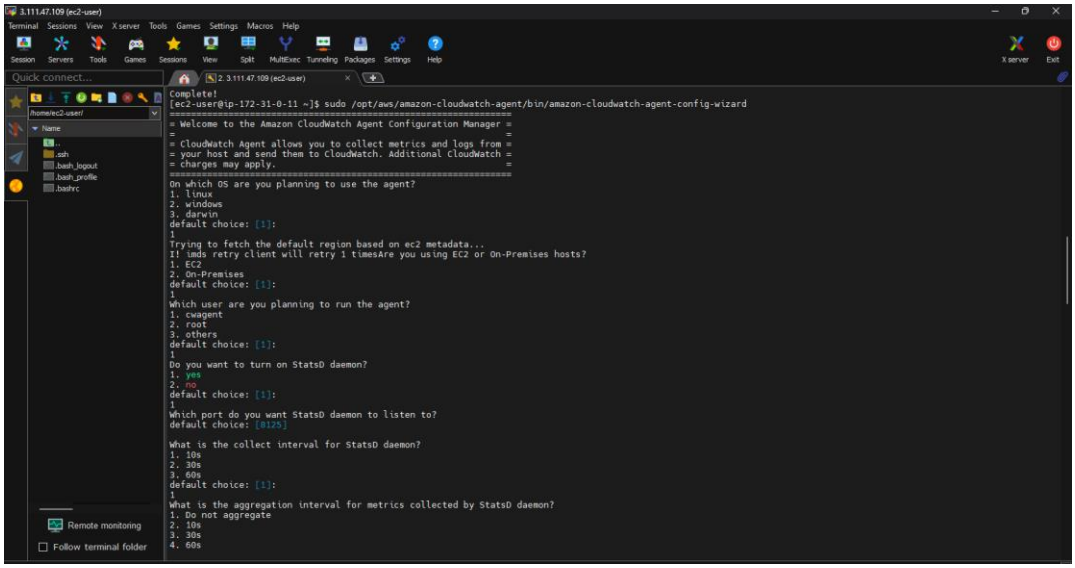
sudo yum install amazon-cloudwatch-agent -y

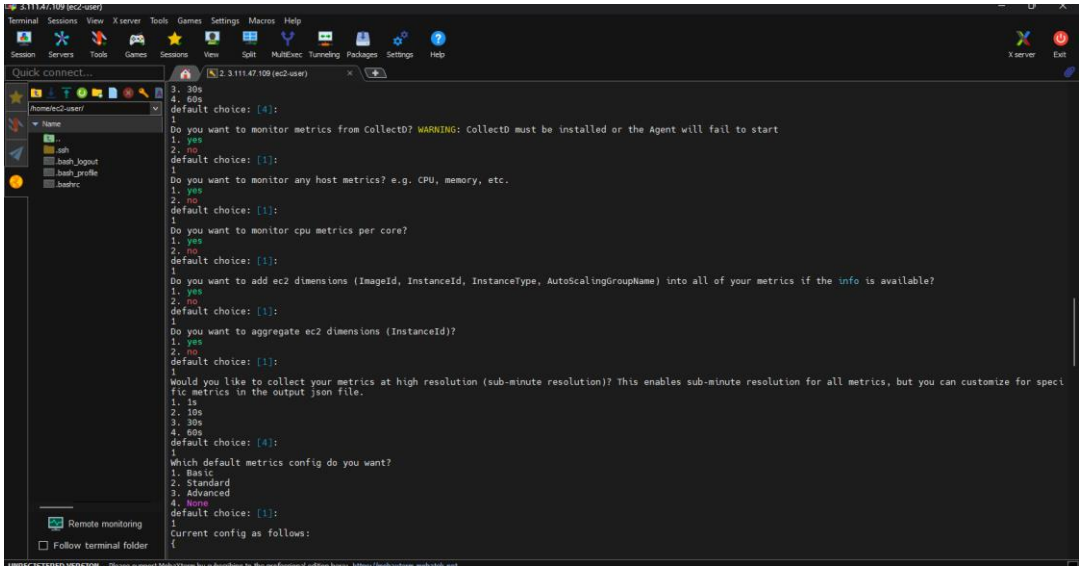


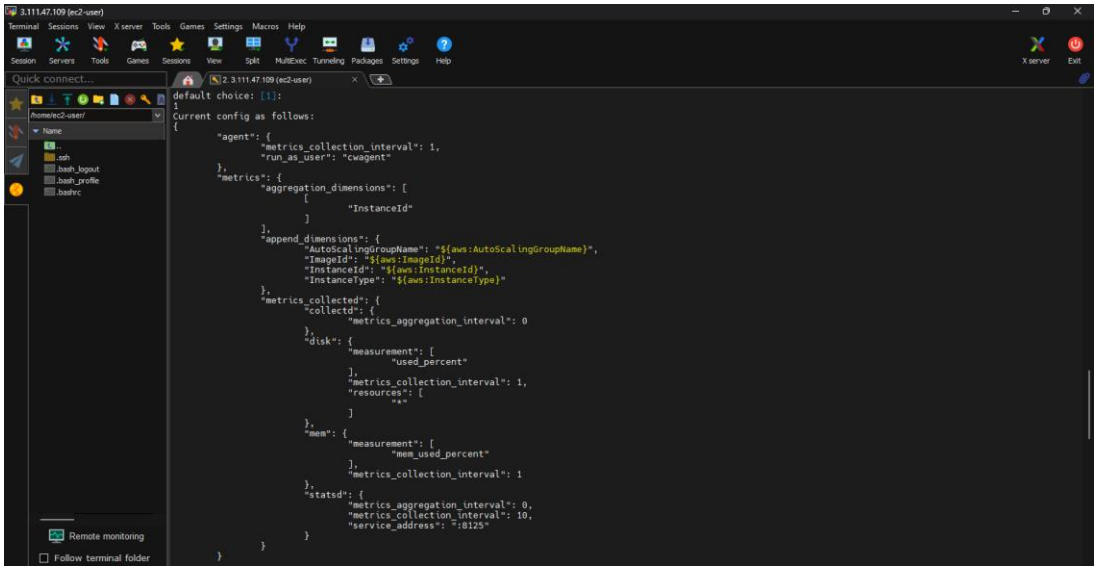


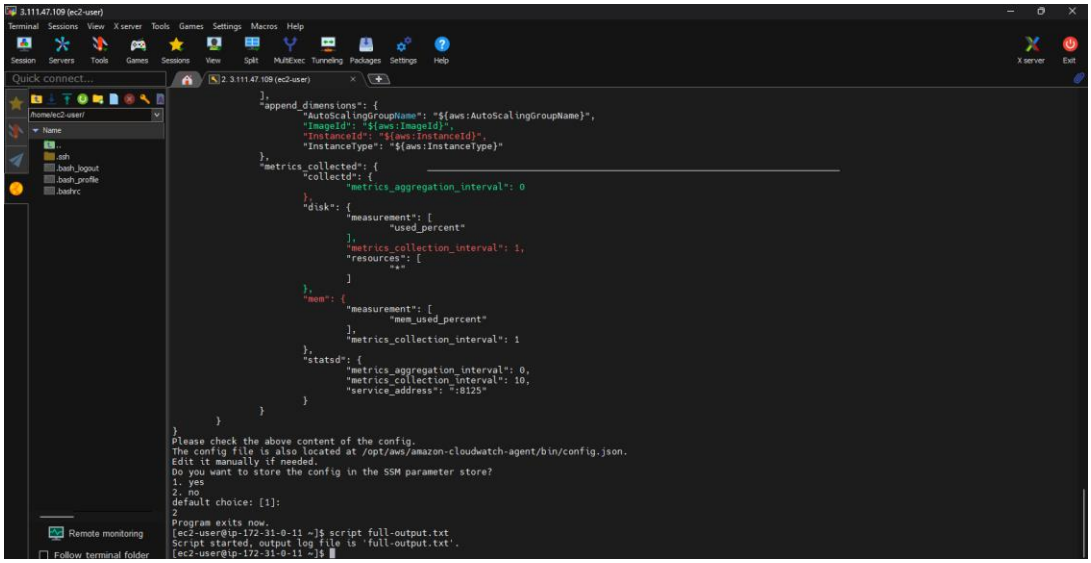
- Configure CloudWatch agent:

sudo /opt/aws/amazon-cloudwatch-agent/bin/amazon-cloudwatch-agent-config-wizard









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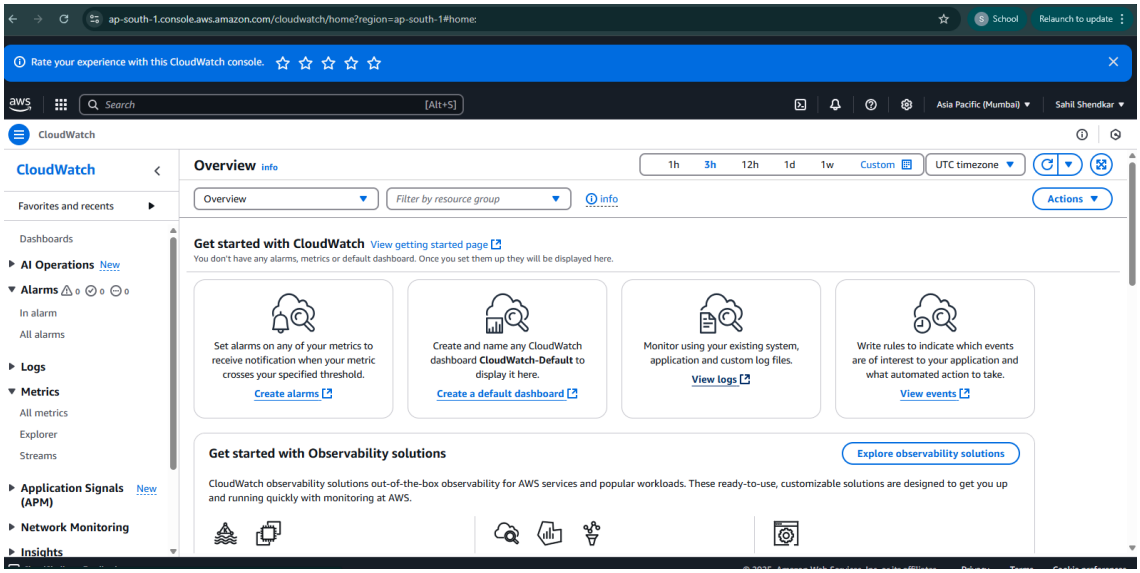
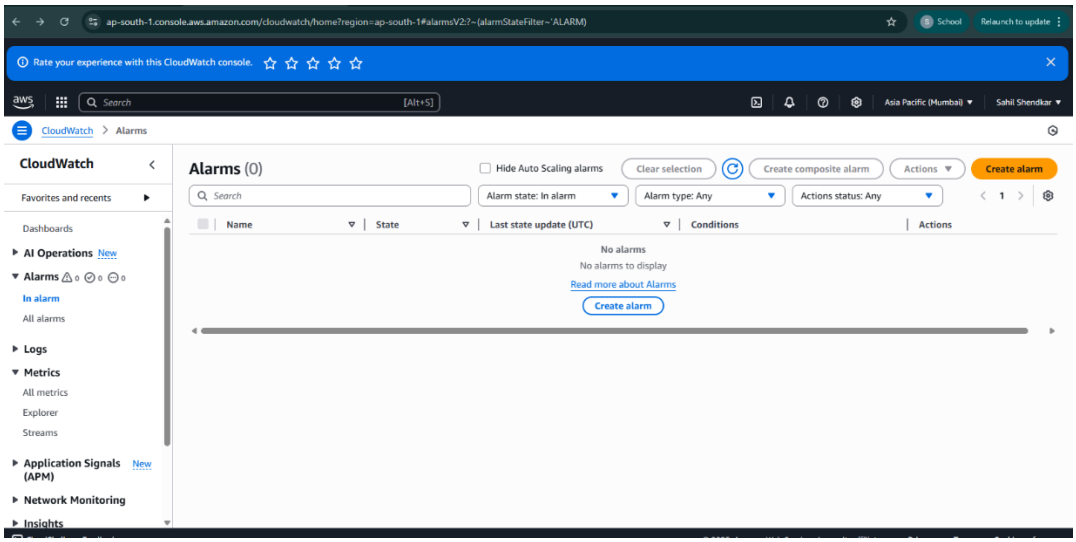
3. Create CloudWatch Alarm

- Go to **CloudWatch > Alarms > Create Alarm**.

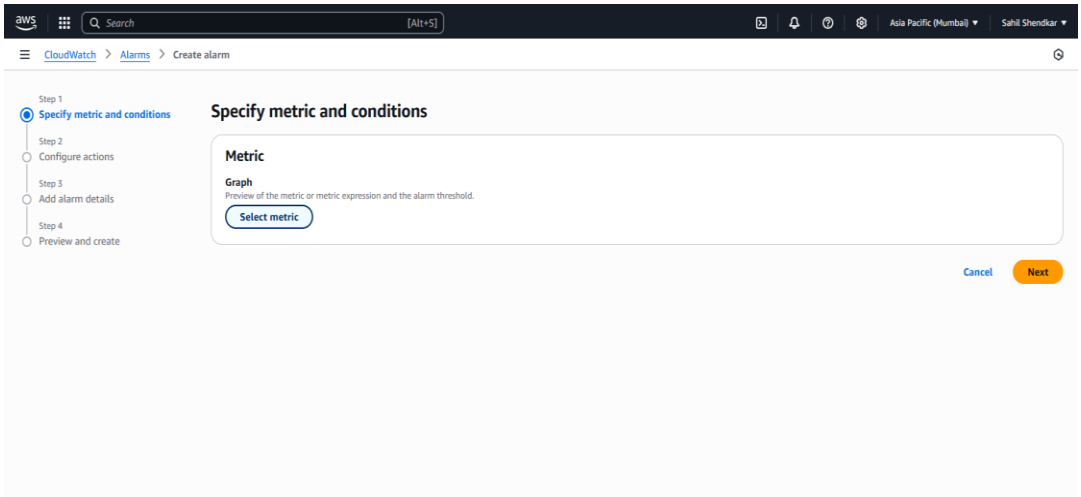


Create New Alarm

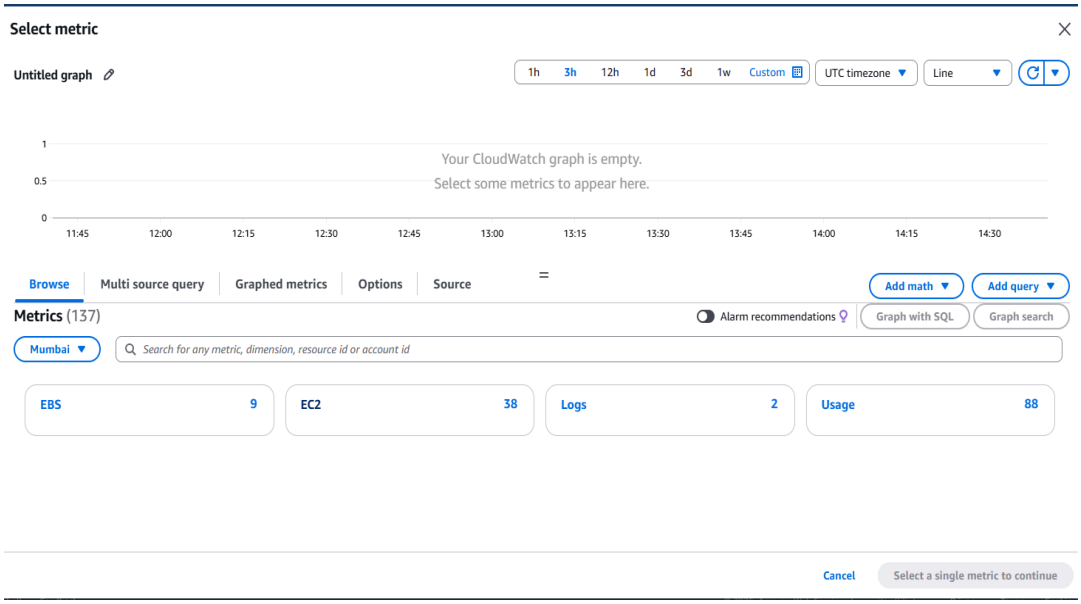


- Choose **Metric**: EC2 > Per-Instance Metrics > CPUUtilization.

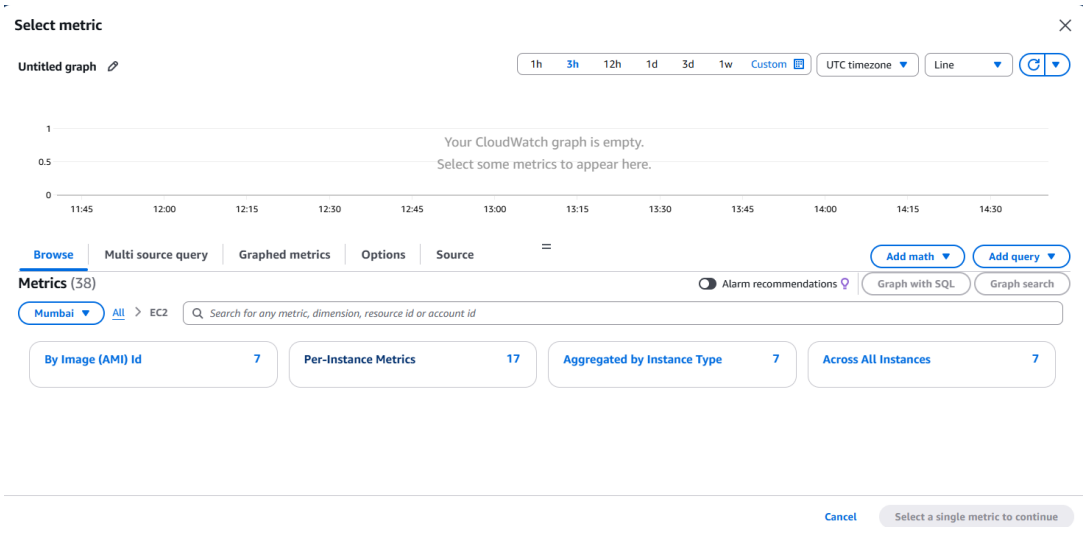
Go to the select metrics-



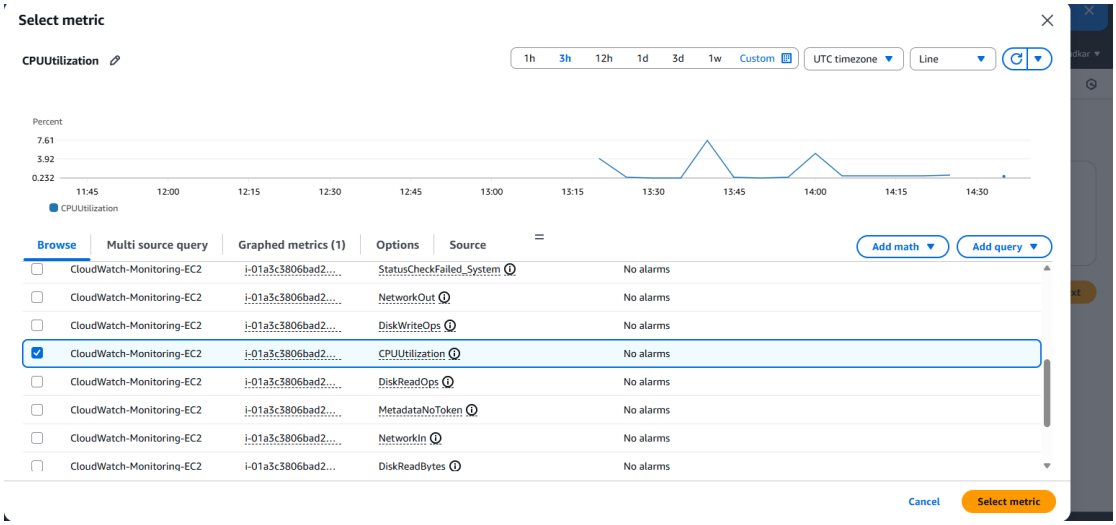
Select the EC2-



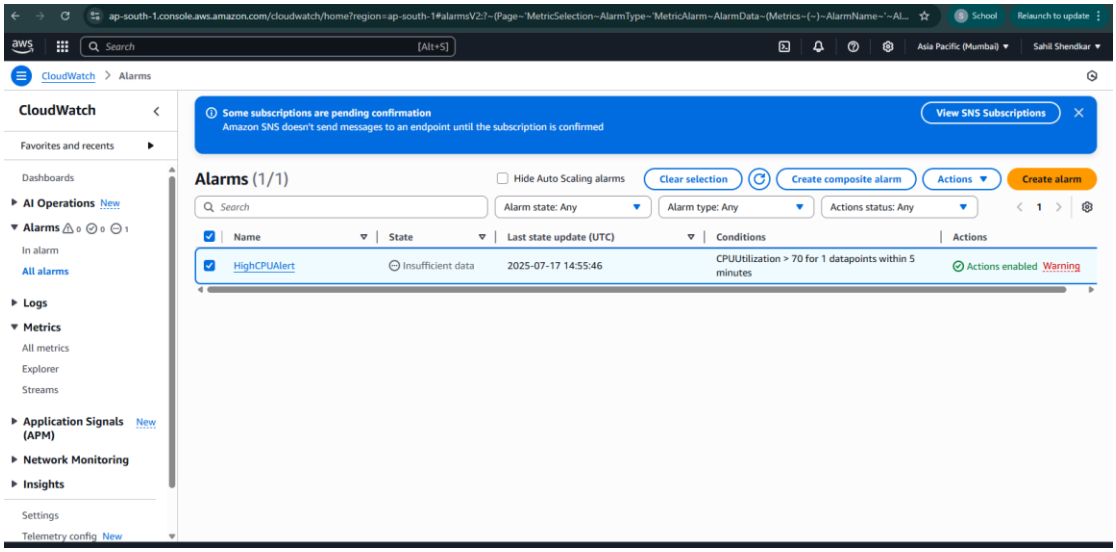
Select the Pre-Instance Metrics-



Select the CPUUtilization



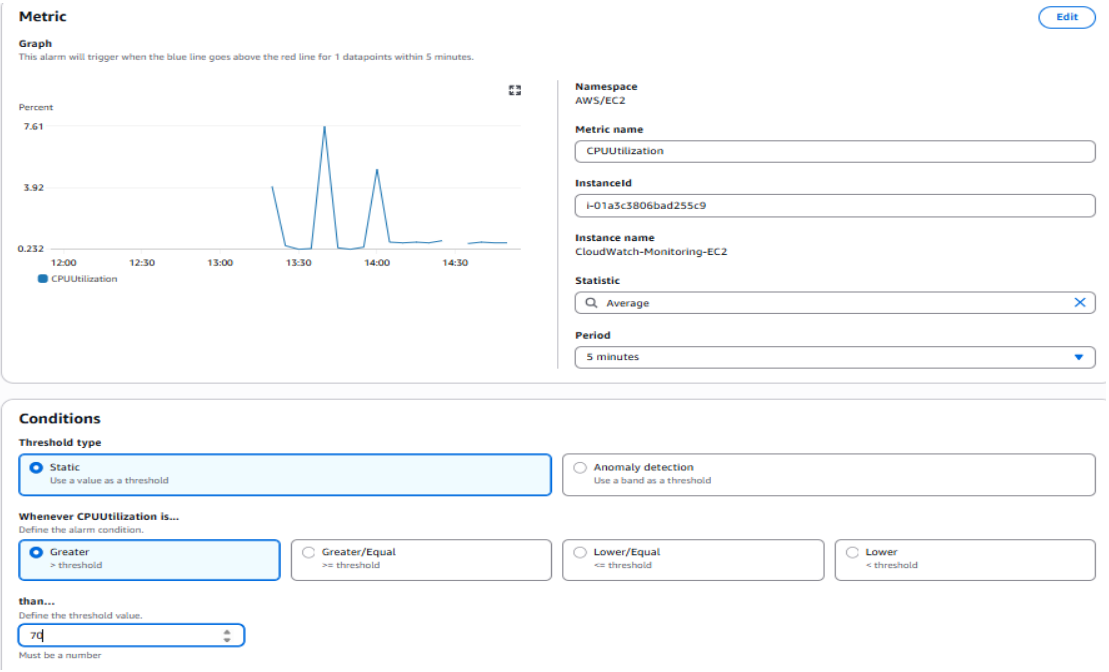
Alarm is created



- Set conditions:
    - Threshold type: **Static**
    - Condition: Greater than 70
    - Period: 5 minutes
    - Datapoints to alarm: 1 out of 1

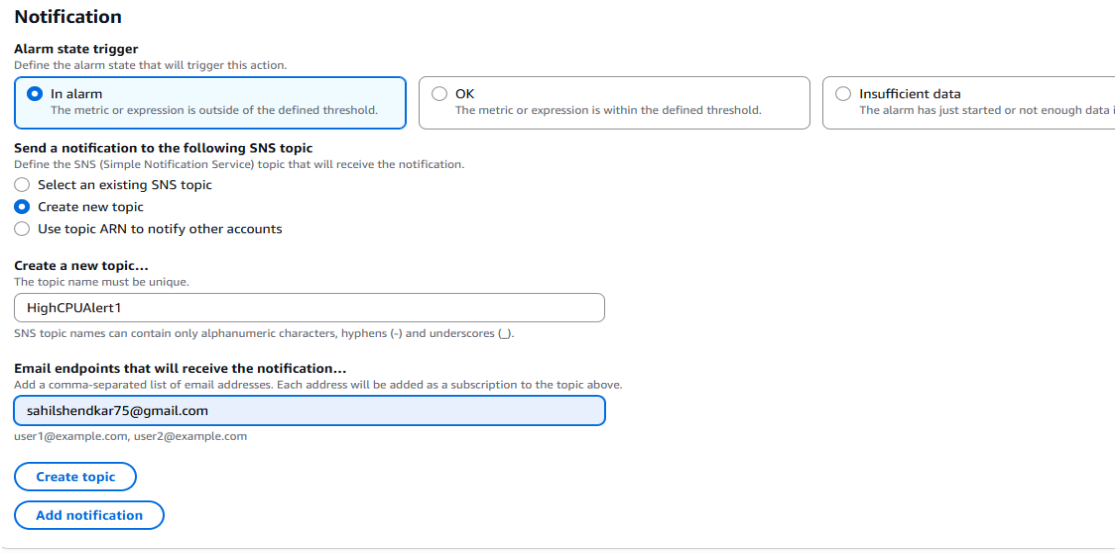
Go to the CloudWatch Console-

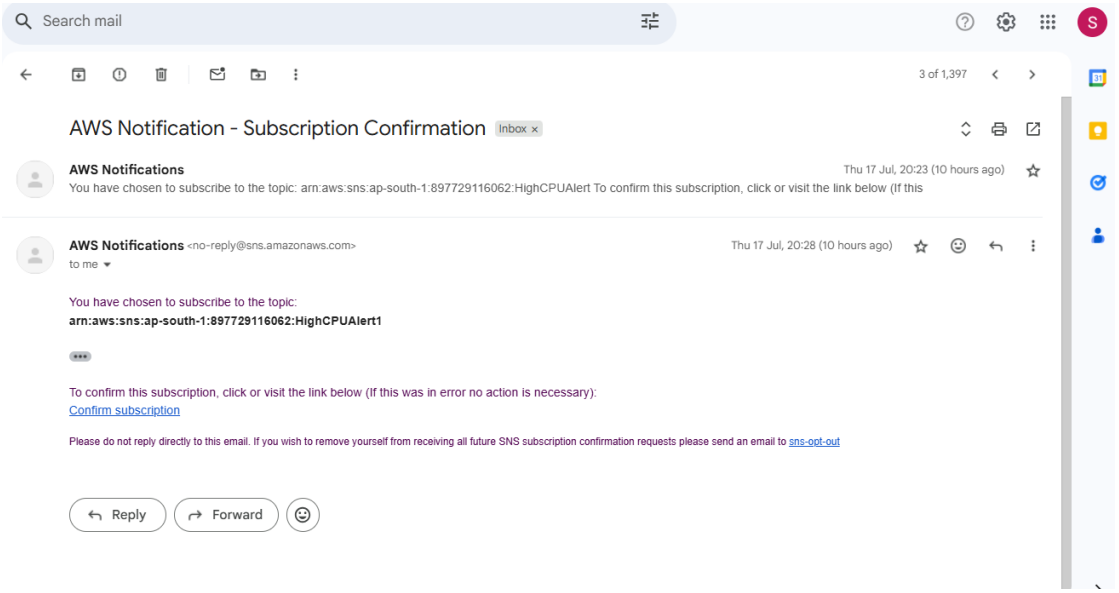
Go to the Metrics



5. Create SNS Topic and Subscribe

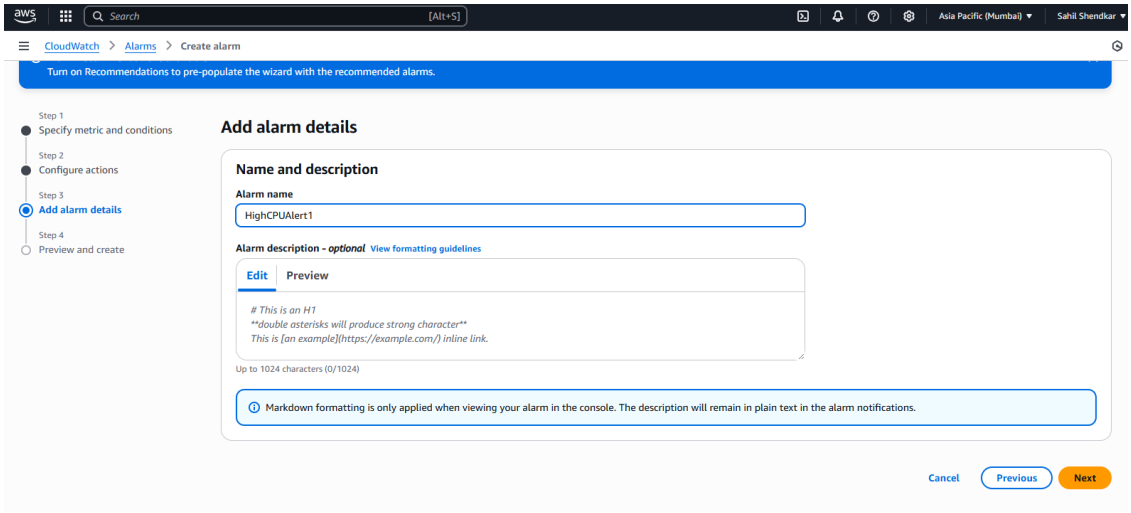
- Go to **SNS > Topics > Create Topic**.
- Choose type: **Standard**, give name (e.g., HighCPUAlerts).
- Create a subscription:
    - Protocol: **Email**
    - Endpoint: Your email
- Confirm subscription from your email.





6. Attach SNS Action to Alarm

- Go back to the CloudWatch alarm.
- Edit actions → Choose SNS topic: HighCPUAlerts.



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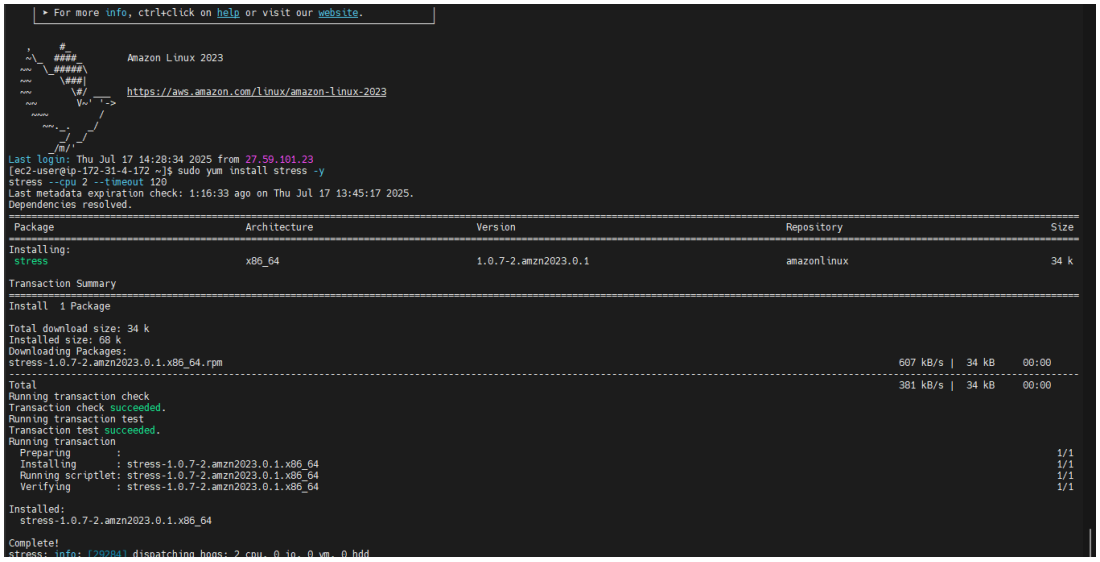
7. Generate High CPU Load

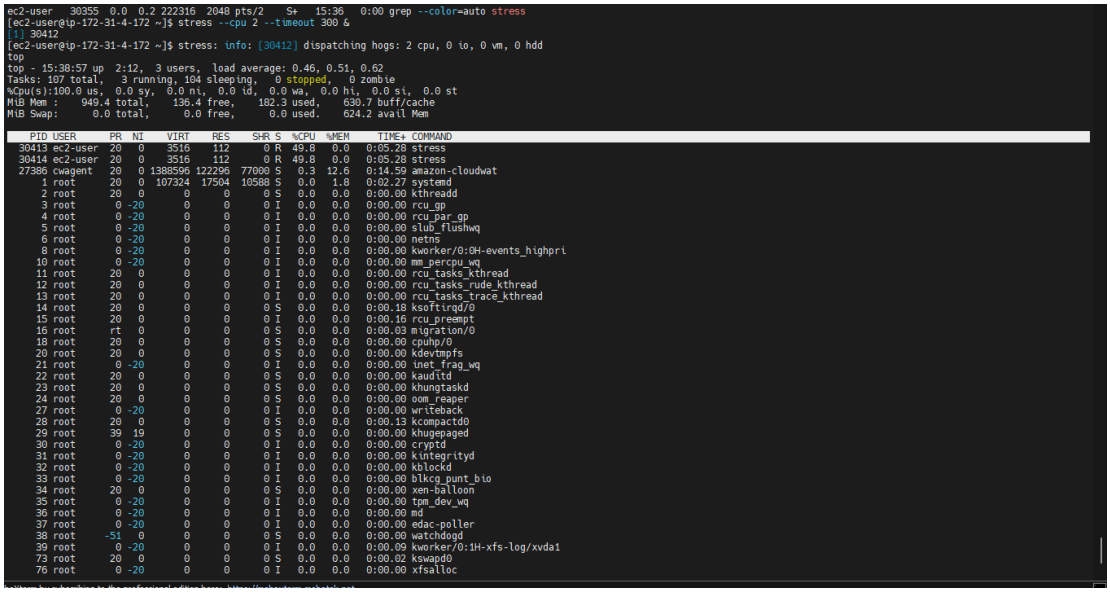
- Install and run stress:

sudo yum install stress -y

stress --cpu 2 --timeout 120 &



- Run top to verify CPU spike.



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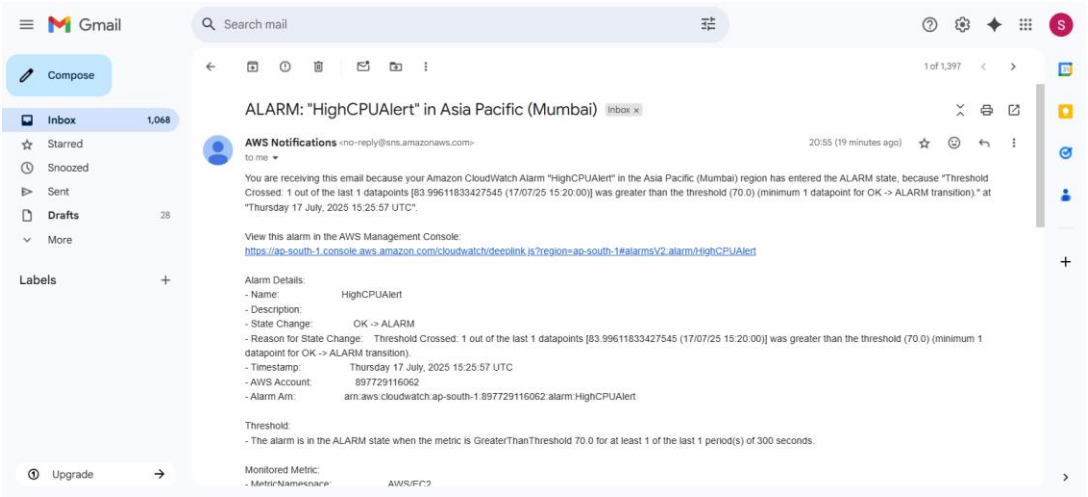
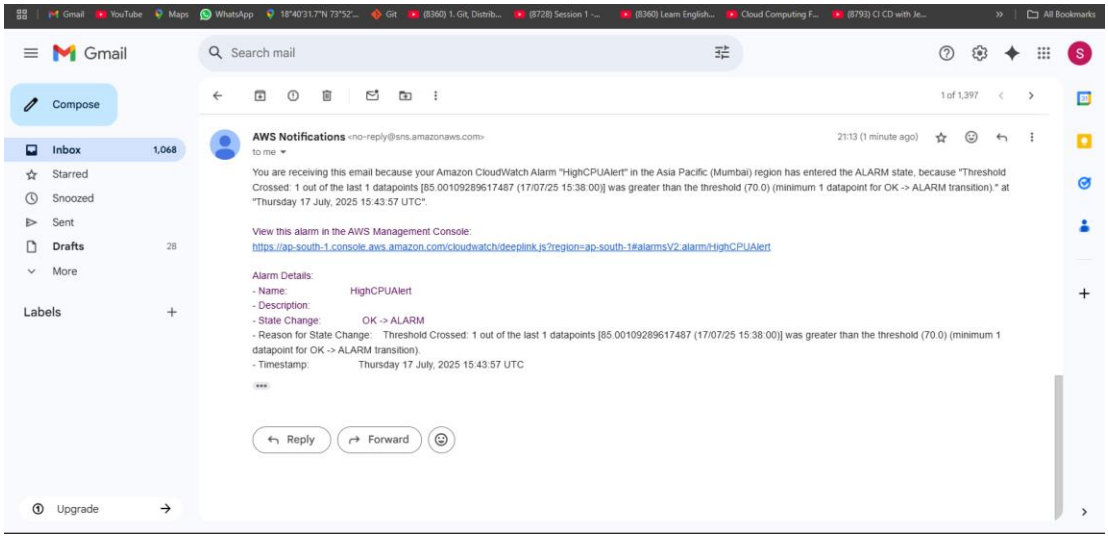
8. Receive Email Alert

- After ~5 mins, CPU crosses threshold.
- SNS sends alert email.





Project Outcome:

- Successfully monitored EC2 CPU usage using CloudWatch.
- Automatically received email alerts on high CPU usage.