

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.

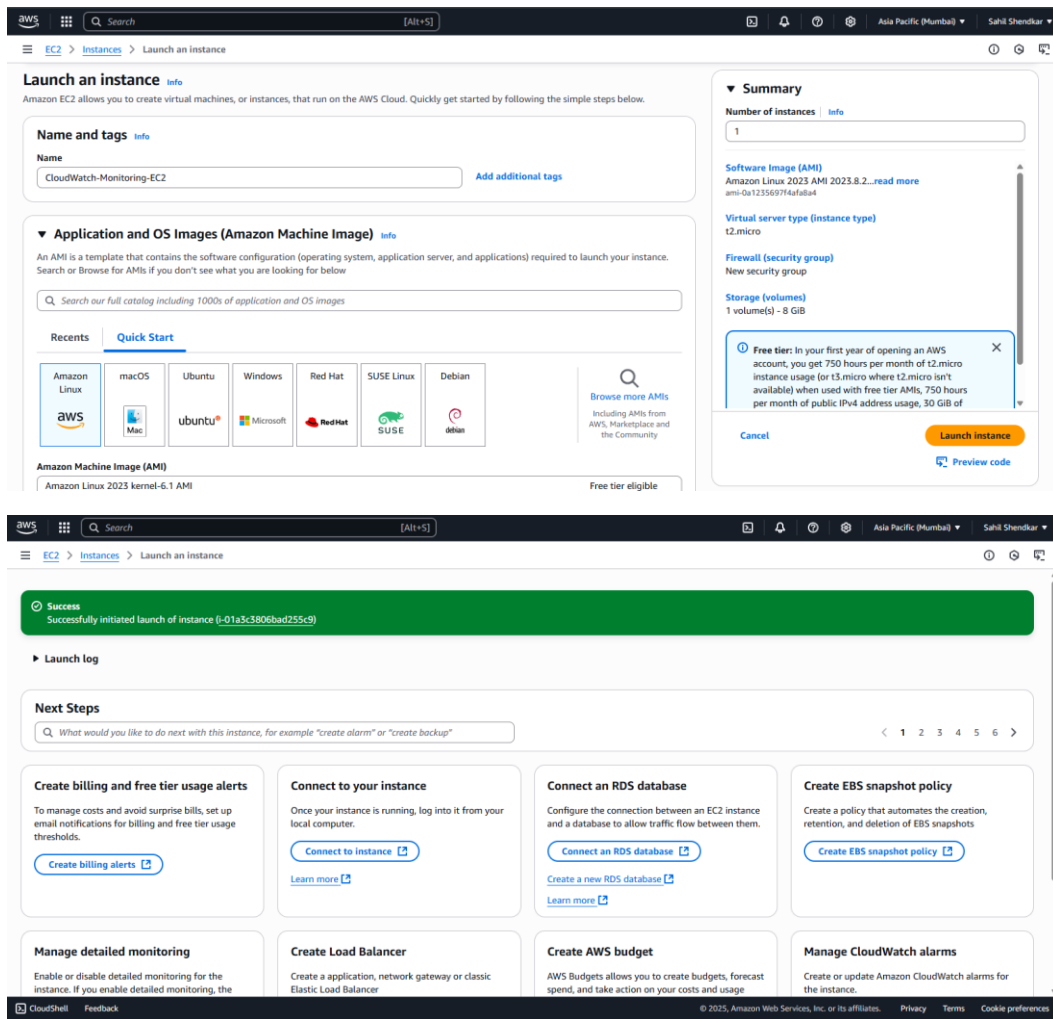
Tools & Services Used:

- **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.
-

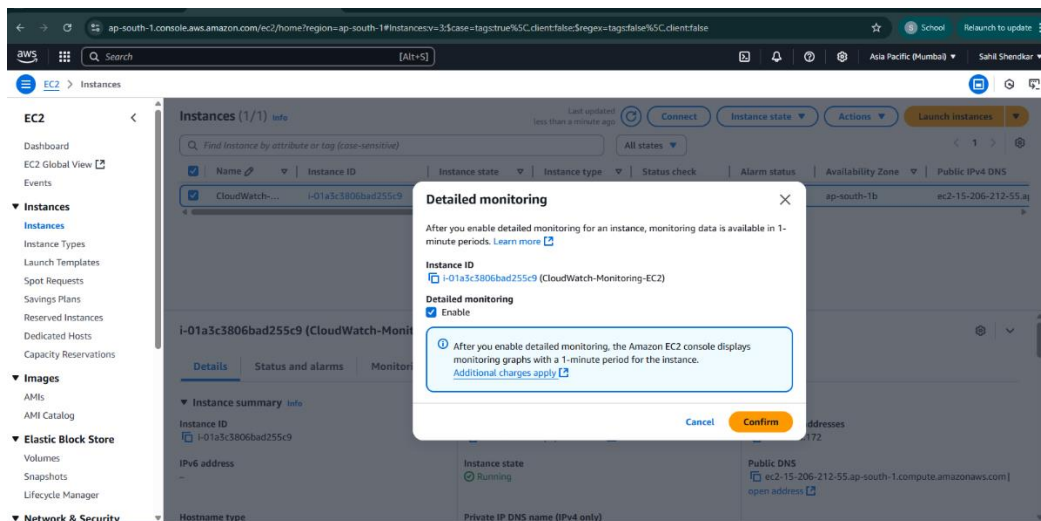
Project Setup Steps

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**.

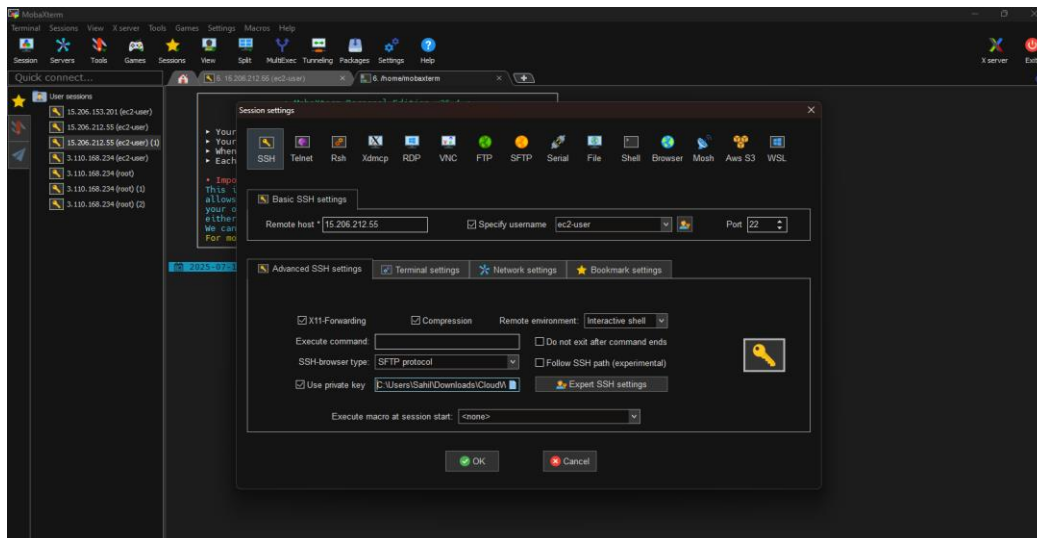


After launching instance go to the action and enable the Detailed Monitoring.



2. Install and Configure CloudWatch Agent

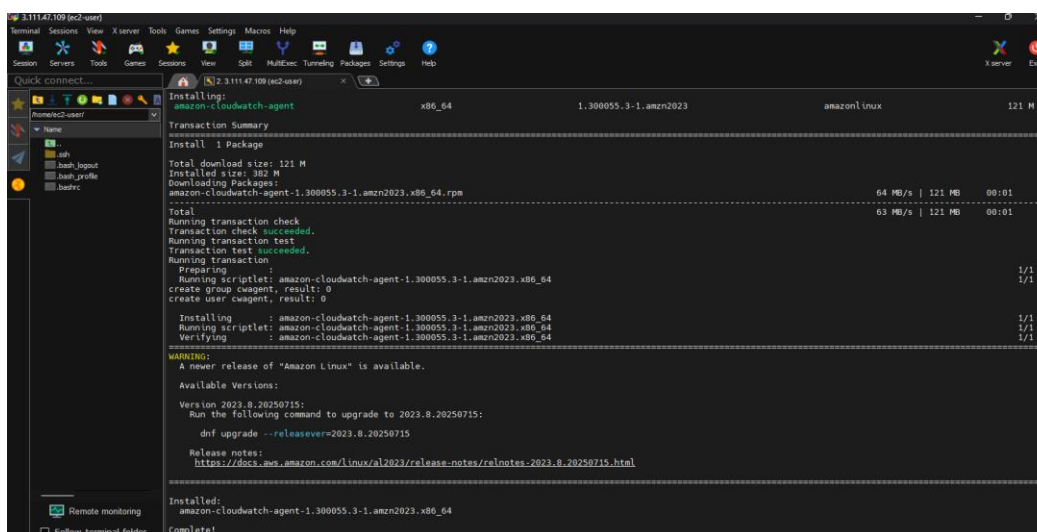
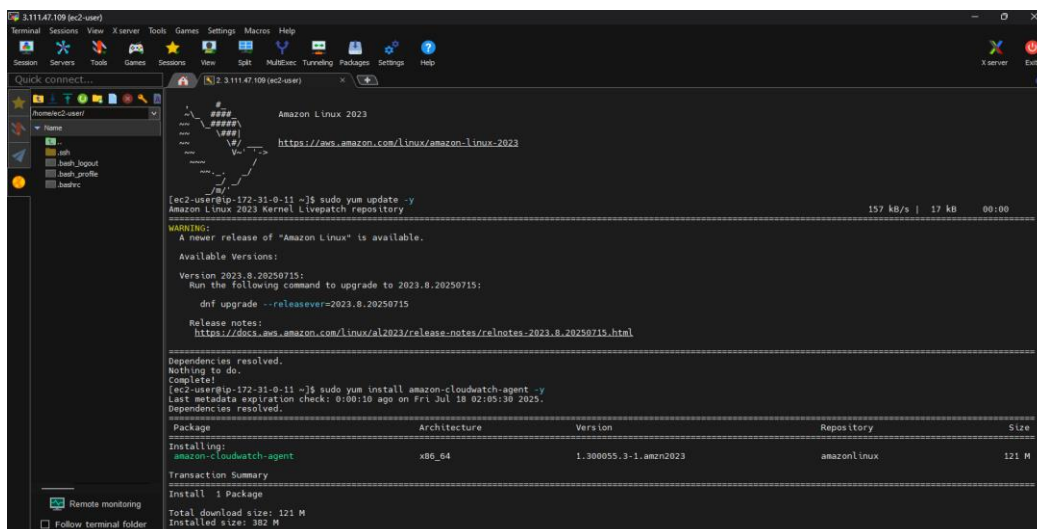
- Connect to EC2 via SSH.(MobaXterm)



- 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`

```

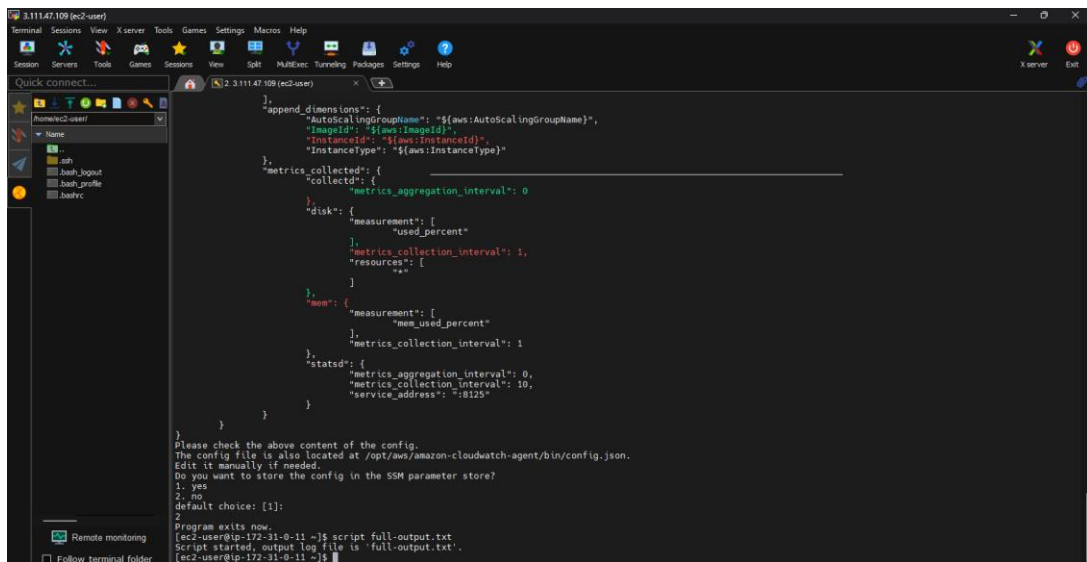
Complete!
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-0-11 ~]$ sudo /opt/aws/amazon-cloudwatch-agent/bin/amazon-cloudwatch-agent-config-wizard
=====
Welcome to the Amazon CloudWatch Agent Configuration Manager
=====
CloudWatch Agent allows you to collect metrics and logs from
your host and send them to CloudWatch. Additional CloudWatch
charges may apply.
=====
On which OS are you planning to use the agent?
1. linux
2. windows
3. darwin
default choice: [1]:
1
Trying to fetch the default region based on ec2 metadata...
If sudo retry client will retry 1 times are you using EC2 or On-Premises hosts?
1. EC2
2. On-Premises
default choice: [1]:
1
Which user are you planning to run the agent?
1. cwagent
2. root
3. others
default choice: [1]:
1
Do you want to turn on StatsD daemon?
1. yes
2. no
default choice: [1]:
1
Which port do you want StatsD daemon to listen to?
default choice: [8125]:
8125
What is the collect interval for StatsD daemon?
1. 10s
2. 30s
3. 60s
default choice: [1]:
1
What is the aggregation interval for metrics collected by StatsD daemon?
1. Do not aggregate
2. 10s
3. 30s
4. 60s

```

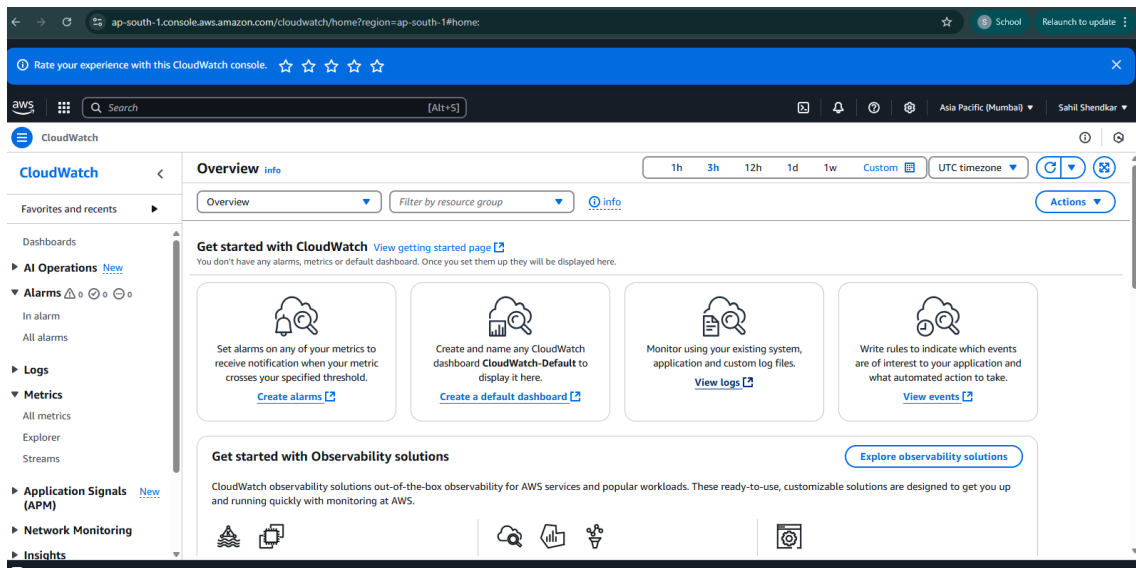
```

3. 30s
4. 60s
default choice: [4]:
4
Do you want to monitor metrics from Collectd? WARNING: collectd must be installed or the Agent will fail to start
1. yes
2. no
default choice: [1]:
1
Do you want to monitor any host metrics? e.g. CPU, memory, etc.
1. yes
2. no
default choice: [1]:
1
Do you want to monitor cpu metrics per core?
1. yes
2. no
default choice: [1]:
1
Do you want to add ec2 dimensions (ImageId, InstanceId, InstanceType, AutoScalingGroupName) into all of your metrics if the info is available?
1. yes
2. no
default choice: [1]:
1
Do you want to aggregate ec2 dimensions (InstanceId)?
1. yes
2. no
default choice: [1]:
1
Would you like to collect your metrics at high resolution (sub-minute resolution)? This enables sub-minute resolution for all metrics, but you can customize for specific metrics in the output json file.
1. 1s
2. 10s
3. 30s
4. 60s
default choice: [4]:
4
Which default metrics config do you want?
1. Basic
2. Standard
3. Advanced
4. None
default choice: [1]:
1
Current config as follows:
{

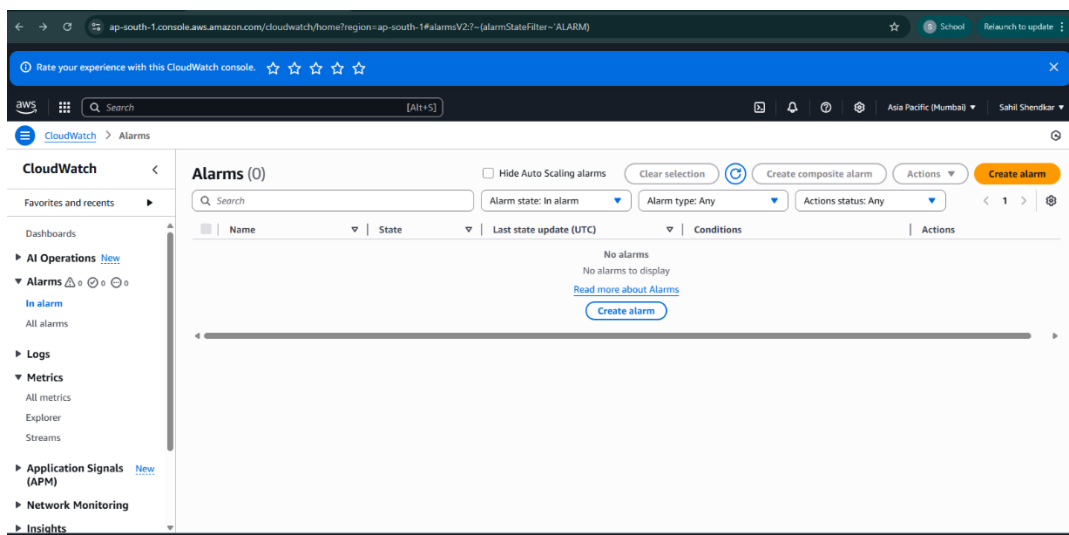
```



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

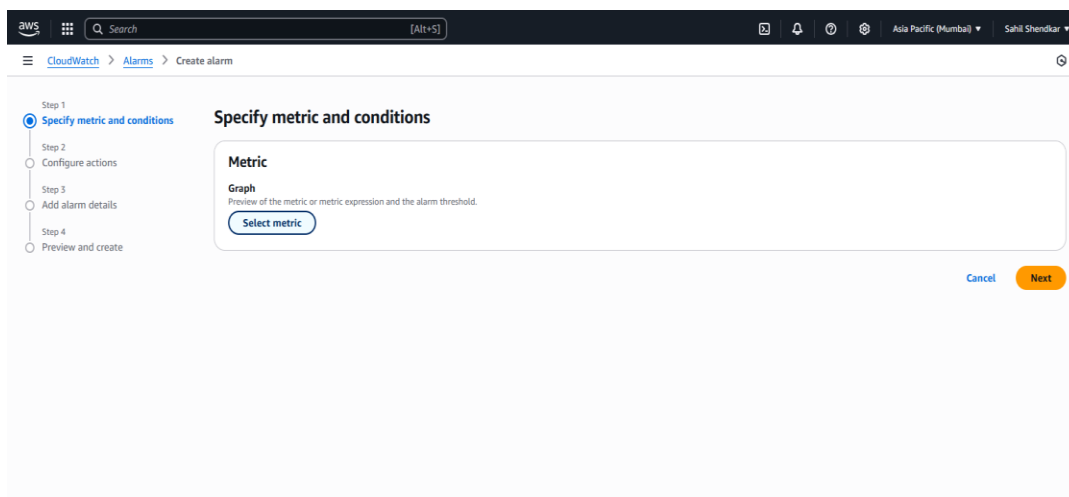


Create New Alarm



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

Go to the select metrics-



Select the EC2-

Select metric

×

Untitled graph

1h3h12h1d3d1wCustomUTC timezoneLine

1

0.5

0

11:4512:0012:1512:3012:4513:0013:1513:3013:4514:0014:1514:30

Your CloudWatch graph is empty.
Select some metrics to appear here.

Browse

Multi source query

Graphed metrics

Options

Source

=

Add math

Add query

Metrics (137)

Alarm recommendations

Graph with SQL

Graph search

Mumbai

Q Search for any metric, dimension, resource id or account id

EBS9

EC238

Logs2

Usage88

Cancel

Select a single metric to continue

Select the Pre-Instance Metrics-

Select metric

×

Untitled graph

1h3h12h1d3d1wCustomUTC timezoneLine

1

0.5

0

11:4512:0012:1512:3012:4513:0013:1513:3013:4514:0014:1514:30

Your CloudWatch graph is empty.
Select some metrics to appear here.

Browse

Multi source query

Graphed metrics

Options

Source

=

Add math

Add query

Metrics (38)

Alarm recommendations

Graph with SQL

Graph search

Mumbai

All > EC2

Q Search for any metric, dimension, resource id or account id

By Image (AMI) Id7

Per-Instance Metrics17

Aggregated by Instance Type7

Across All Instances7

Cancel

Select a single metric to continue

Select the CPUUtilization

Select metric

×

CPUUtilization

1h3h12h1d3d1wCustomUTC timezoneLine

Percent

7.61

3.92

0.232

11:4512:0012:1512:3012:4513:0013:1513:3013:4514:0014:1514:30

CPUUtilization

Browse

Multi source query

Graphed metrics (1)

Options

Source

=

Add math

Add query

CloudWatch-Monitoring-EC2

i-01a3c3806bad2....

StatusCheckFailed_System

No alarms

CloudWatch-Monitoring-EC2

i-01a3c3806bad2....

NetworkOut

No alarms

CloudWatch-Monitoring-EC2

i-01a3c3806bad2....

DiskWriteOps

No alarms

CloudWatch-Monitoring-EC2

i-01a3c3806bad2....

CPUUtilization

No alarms

CloudWatch-Monitoring-EC2

i-01a3c3806bad2....

DiskReadOps

No alarms

CloudWatch-Monitoring-EC2

i-01a3c3806bad2....

MetadataNoToken

No alarms

CloudWatch-Monitoring-EC2

i-01a3c3806bad2....

NetworkIn

No alarms

CloudWatch-Monitoring-EC2

i-01a3c3806bad2....

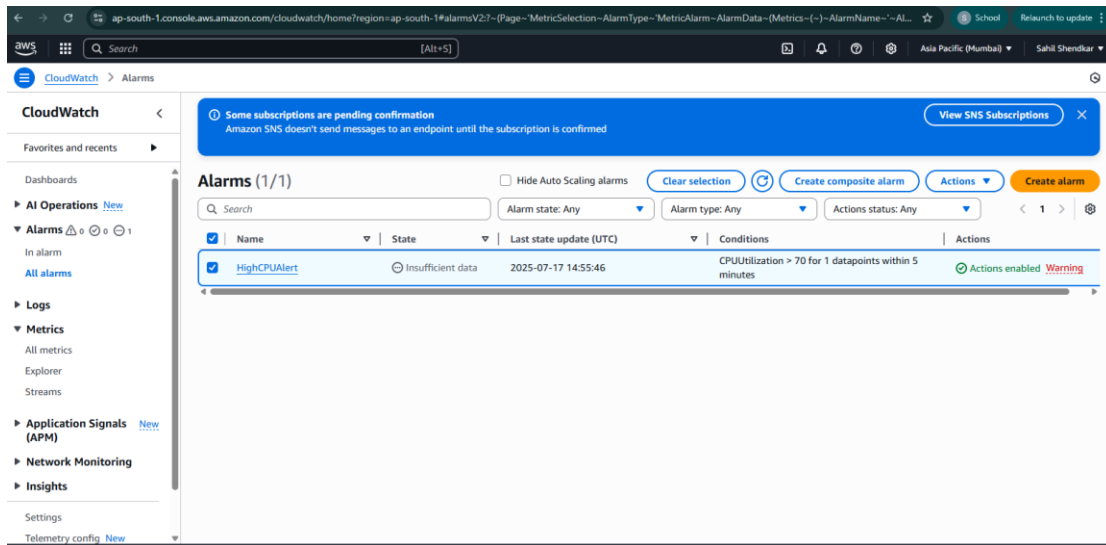
DiskReadBytes

No alarms

Cancel

Select metric

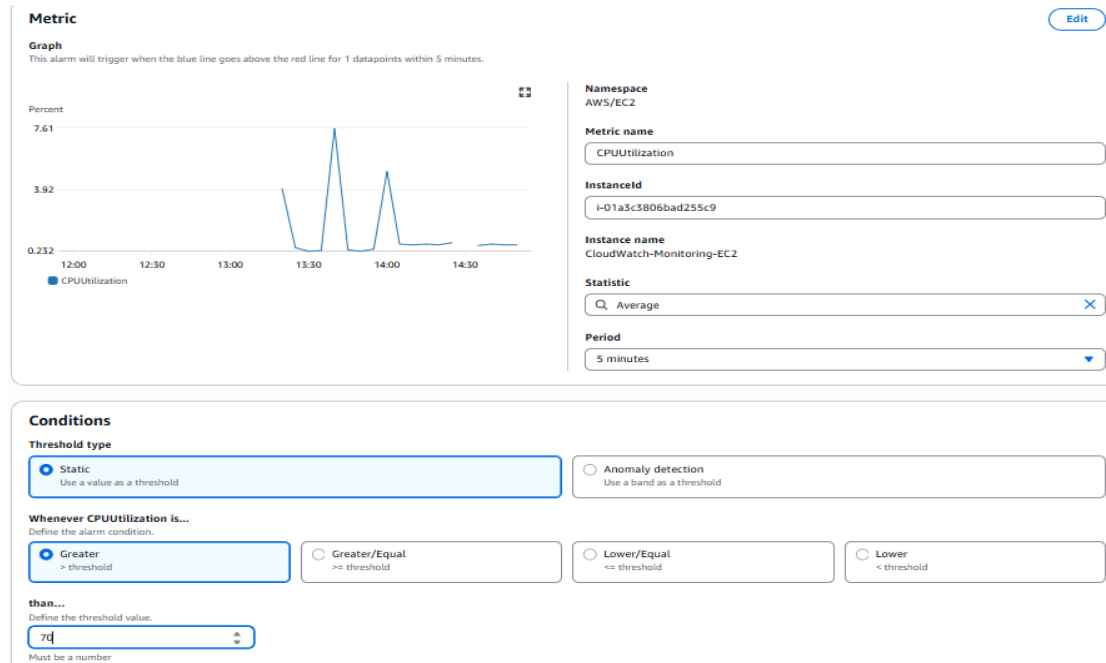
Alarm is created



- 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.

Notification

Alarm state trigger

Define the alarm state that will trigger this action.

☒ **In alarm**

The metric or expression is outside of the defined threshold.

☐ **OK**

The metric or expression is within the defined threshold.

☐ **Insufficient data**

The alarm has just started or not enough data i

Send a notification to the following SNS topic

Define the SNS (Simple Notification Service) topic that will receive the notification.

☐ Select an existing SNS topic

☒ **Create new topic**

☐ Use topic ARN to notify other accounts

Create a new topic...

The topic name must be unique.

HighCPUALert1

SNS topic names can contain only alphanumeric characters, hyphens (-) and underscores (_).

Email endpoints that will receive the notification...

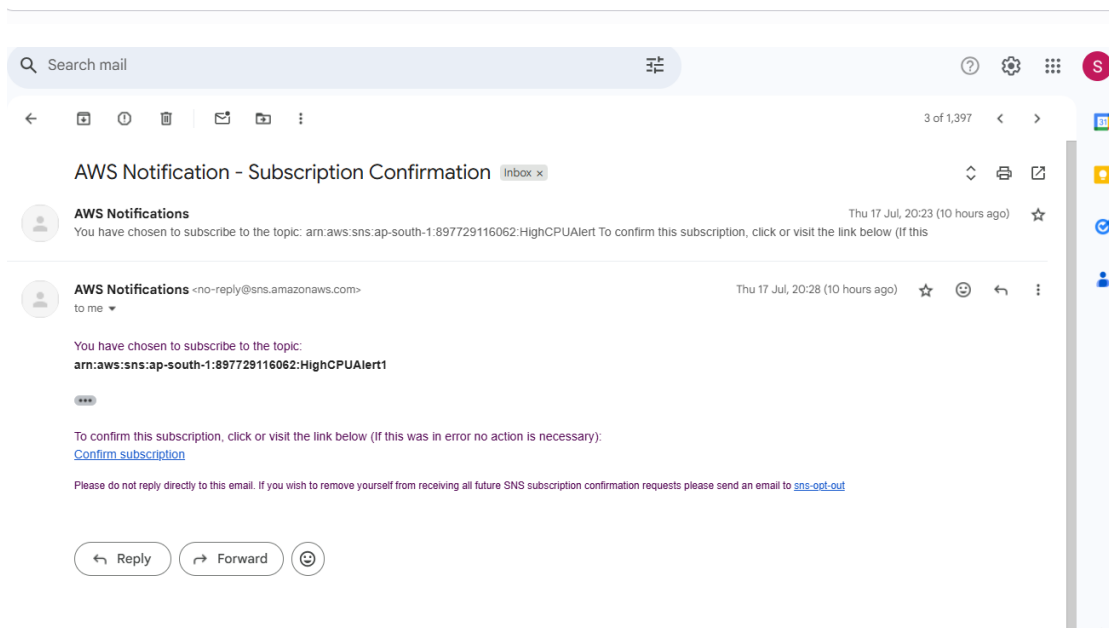
Add a comma-separated list of email addresses. Each address will be added as a subscription to the topic above.

sahilshendkar75@gmail.com

user1@example.com, user2@example.com

Create topic

Add notification



6. Attach SNS Action to Alarm

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

CloudWatch

Alarms

Create alarm

Turn on Recommendations to pre-populate the wizard with the recommended alarms.

Step 1

Specify metric and conditions

Step 2

Configure actions

Step 3

Add alarm details

Step 4

Preview and create

Add alarm details

Name and description

Alarm name

HighCPUALert1

Alarm description - optional

View formatting guidelines

Edit

Preview

This is an H1

double asterisks will produce strong character

This is [an example](https://example.com/) inline link.

Up to 1024 characters (0/1024)

Markdown formatting is only applied when viewing your alarm in the console. The description will remain in plain text in the alarm notifications.

Cancel

Previous

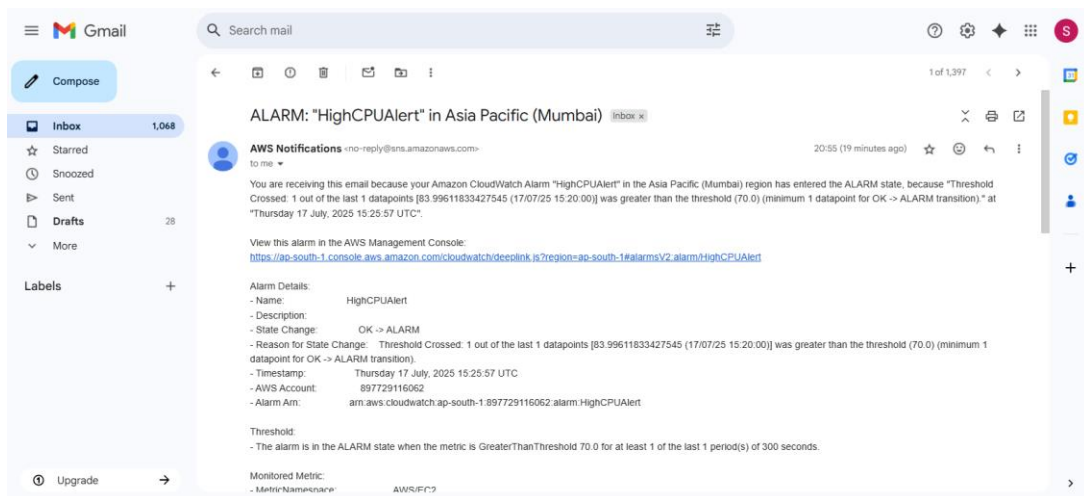
Next

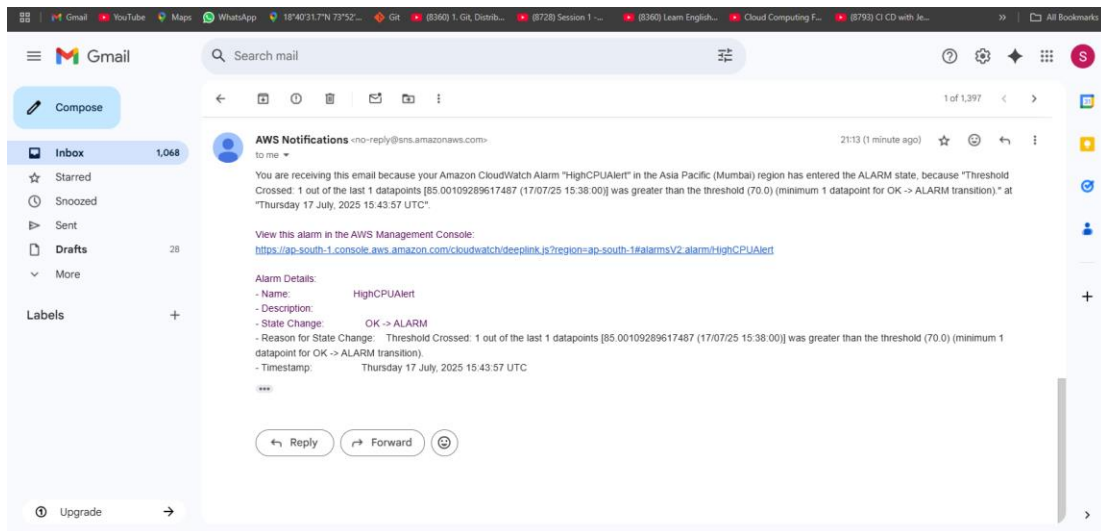
```
ec2-user 30355 0.0 0.2 222316 2048 pts/2 S+ 15:36 0:00 grep --color=auto stress
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-4-172 ~]$ stress --cpu 2 --timeout 300 &
[1] 30412
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-4-172 ~]$ stress: info: [30412] dispatching hogs: 2 cpu, 0 io, 0 vm, 0 hdd
top
top - 15:38:57 up 2:12, 3 users, load average: 0.46, 0.51, 0.62
Tasks: 107 total, 3 running, 104 sleeping, 0 stopped, 0 zombie
%Cpu(s):100.0 us, 0.0 sy, 0.0 ni, 0.0 id, 0.0 wa, 0.0 hi, 0.0 si, 0.0 st
MiB Mem : 948.4 total, 136.4 free, 182.3 used, 630.7 buff/cache
MiB Swap: 0.0 total, 0.0 free, 0.0 used, 624.2 avail Mem

  PID USER      PR  NI  VIRT  RES  SHR  S  %CPU  %MEM     time+ COMMAND
 30413 ec2-user    20   0   3516   112    0 R   49.8   0.0   0:05.28 stress
 27386 cwagent    20   0 1388596 122296 77800 S   0.3 12.6   0:14.59 amazon-cloudwat
    1 root       20   0 107324 17504 10588 S   0.0 1.8   0:02.27 systemd
    2 root       0   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 kthreadd
    3 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 rcu_gp
    4 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 rcu_par_gp
    5 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 slab_flushwq
    6 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 netns
    8 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 kworker/0:GH-events_highpri
   10 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 mm_percpu_wq
   11 root      20   0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 rcu_tasks_kthread
   12 root      20   0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 rcu_tasks_rude_kthread
   13 root      20   0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 rcu_tasks_trace_kthread
   14 root      20   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.18 ksoftirqd/0
   15 root      20   0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.16 rcu_preempt
   16 root      rt   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.03 migration/0
   19 root      20   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 cpuplp/0
   20 root      20   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 kdevtmpfs
   21 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 unet_frag_wq
   22 root      20   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 kauditd
   23 root      20   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 khungtaskd
   24 root      20   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 oom_reaper
   27 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 writeback
   28 root      20   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.13 kcompactd0
   29 root      39 19      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 khugepaged
   30 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 cryptd
   31 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 kintegrityd
   32 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 blklockd
   33 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 blkcg_punt_bio
   34 root      20   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 xen-balloon
   35 root      20   0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 rpm_dev_wq
   36 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 md
   37 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 edac-poller
   38 root     -51  0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 watchdog
   39 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 kworker/0:1H-xfs-log/xvda1
   73 root      20   0      0      0 0 S   0.0 0.0   0:00.02 kswapd0
   76 root      -20  0      0      0 0 I   0.0 0.0   0:00.00 xfsalloc
```

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.