Deploying a WordPress Blog on an Amazon EC2 Windows Server Instance

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Overview

We would be installing and deploying a WordPress blog on an EC2 instance running Windows Server.

Prerequisites

Before you get started, be sure that you do the following:

1. Launch an Amazon EC2 instance from the Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 base AMI

2. Ensure that the security group in which you're launching your instance has ports 80 (HTTP), 443 (HTTPS), and 3389 (RDP) open for inbound traffic. Ports 80 and 443 allow computers outside of the instance to connect with HTTP and HTTPS. If these ports are not open, the WordPress site can't be accessed from outside the instance. Port 3389 allows you to connect to the instance with Remote Desktop Protocol.

3. Connect to your instance.

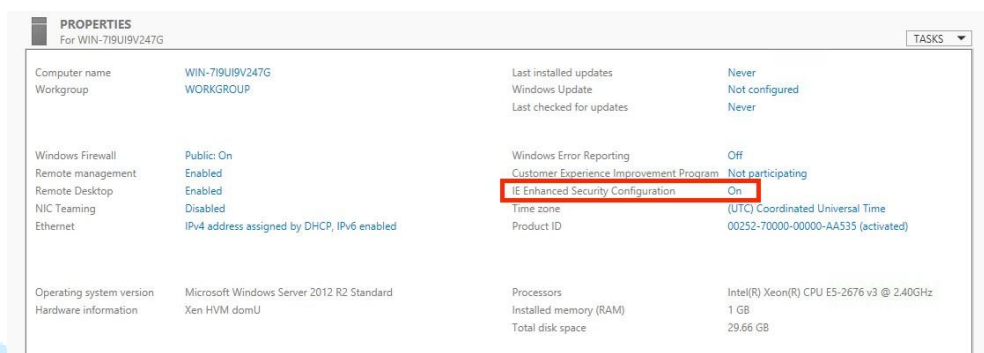## Installing the Microsoft Web Platform Installer

4. Disable Internet Explorer Enhanced Security Configuration.

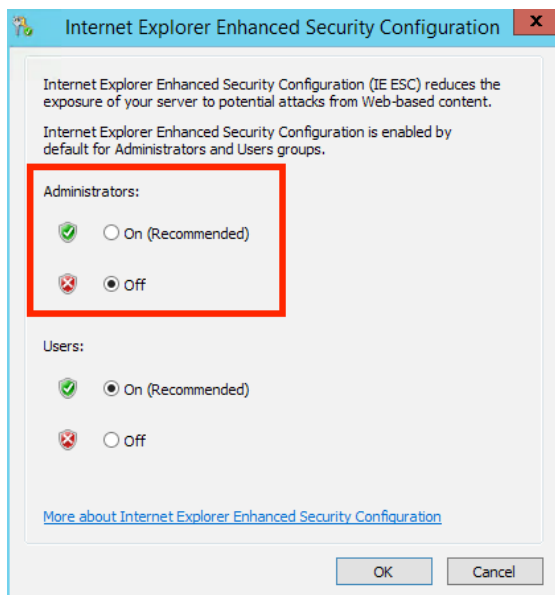   → In your Windows instance, click on Server Manager icon right to Start menu.
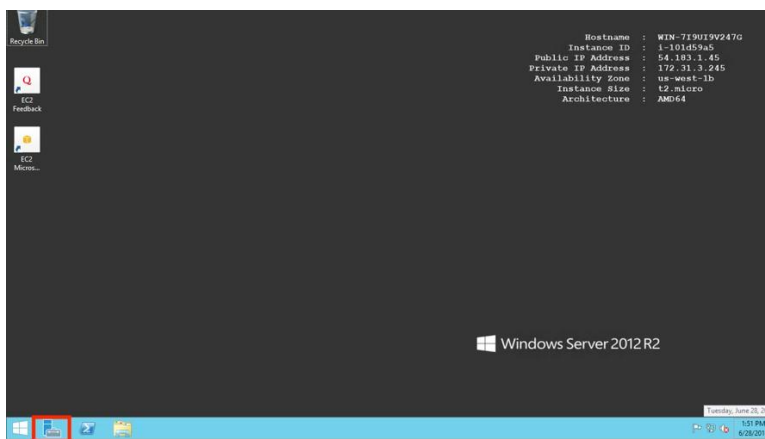
   → Click Local Server on the left side in navigation pane.
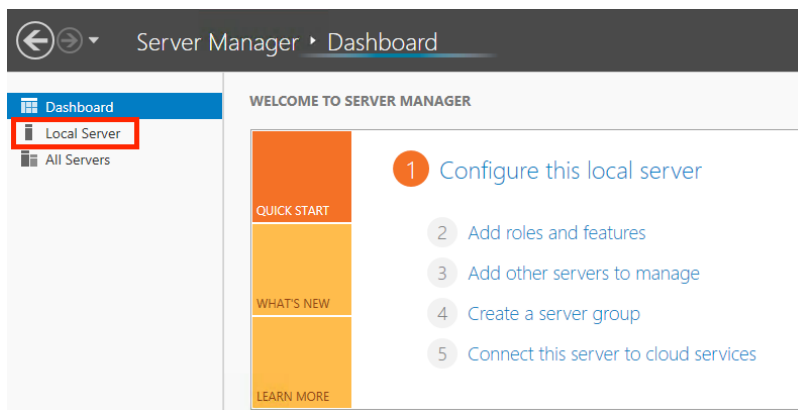
→ Look for IE Enhanced Security Configuration which is set to On. Click on On.


→ Under Administrators, click Off and click OK.

→ Close the Server Manager window.

5. In the Windows instance, download and install the latest version of Microsoft Web Platform Installer.

→ Paste the following URL into the Internet Explorer address bar:

https://www.microsoft.com/web/downloads/platform.aspx

→ Click the Free Download button on the Microsoft Web Platform Installer page to download the installer and then click Run to run the installer.
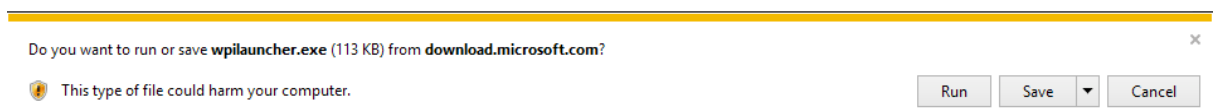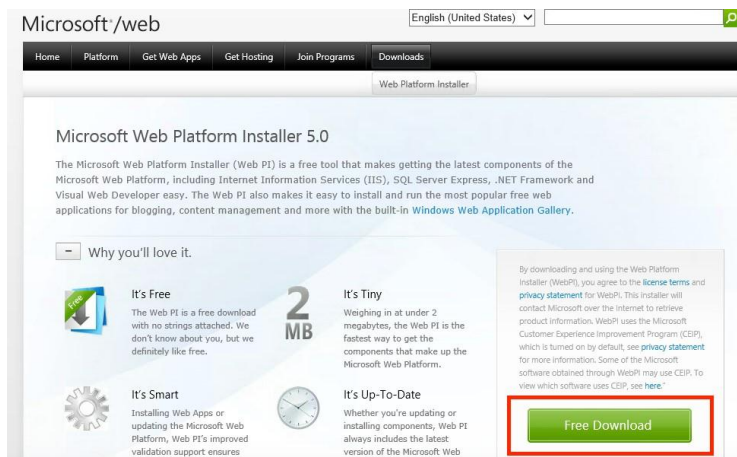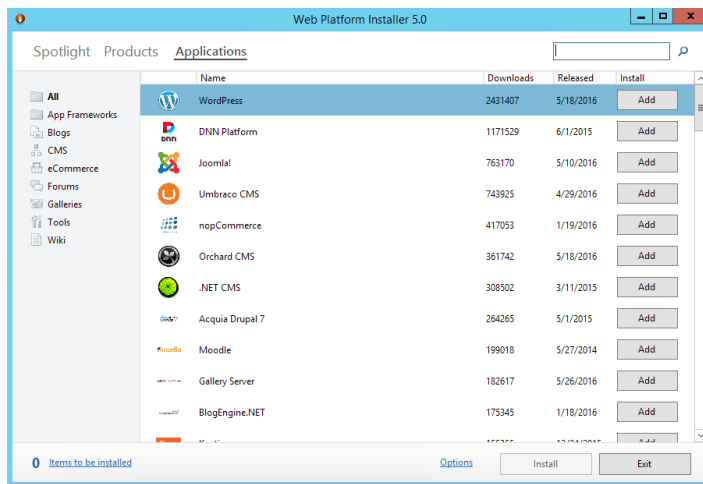

→ The installation would be initiated.
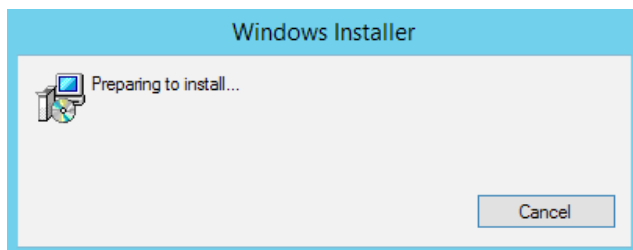
Installing WordPress

Now that the Web Platform Installer is installed, you can use it install and configure WordPress on your server.

To install WordPress

6. Open the Web Platform Installer and click Applications.

7. Select WordPress, click Add, and then click Install.


8. On the Prerequisites page, select MySQL for the database to use. Enter the desired administrator password for your MySQL database in the Password and Re-type Password boxes, and then click Continue.
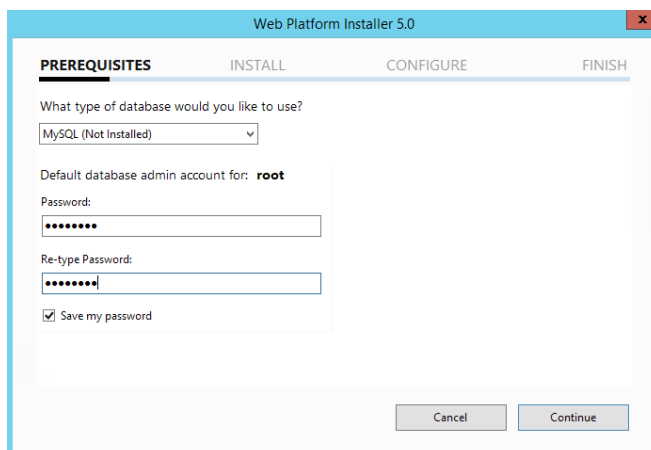

9. Click I Accept for the list of third-party application software, Microsoft products (including the IIS web server), and components. After the Web Platform Installer finishes installing the software, you are prompted to configure your new site.
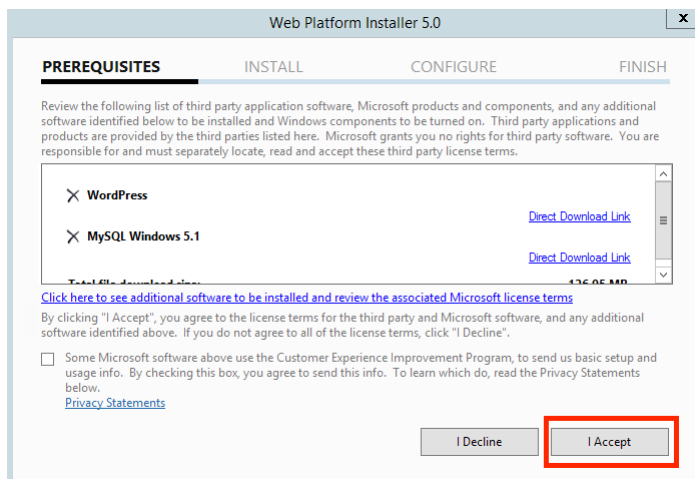
→ The installation commences and would be completed in few minutes.
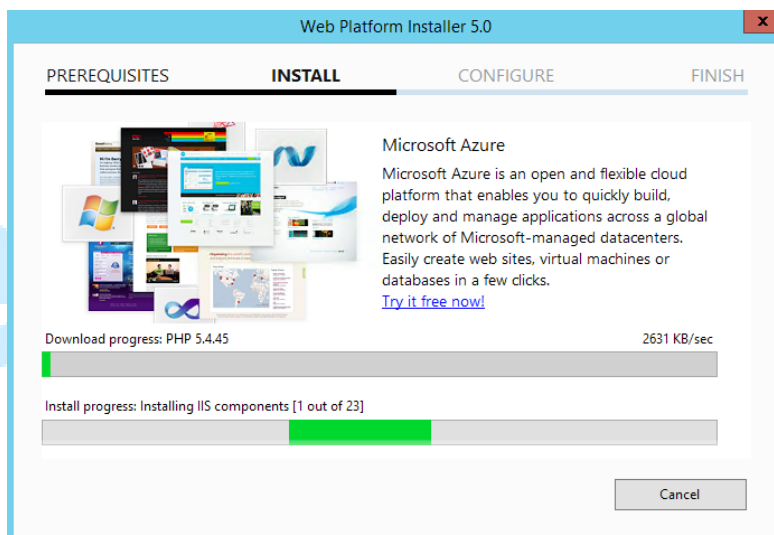
10. On the Configure page, clear the default application name in the 'WordPress' application name: box and leave it blank, then leave the default information in the other boxes and click Continue.
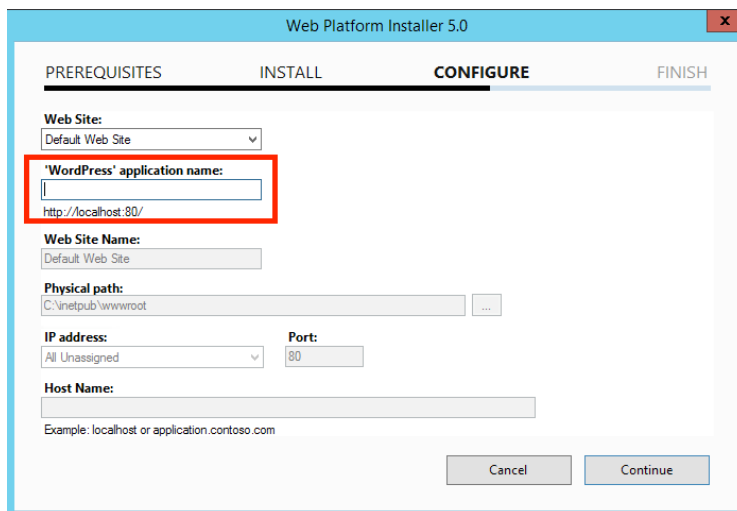
Configuring Security Keys

WordPress allows you to generate and enter unique authentication keys and salts for your site. These key and salt values provide a layer of encryption to the browser cookies that WordPress users store on their local machines. Basically, adding long, random values here makes your site more secure.

To configure security keys

11. Visit https://api.wordpress.org/secret-key/1.1/salt/ to randomly generate a set of key values that you can copy and paste into the installation wizard. The following steps will show you how to modify these values in Notepad to work with a Windows installation

12. Copy all of the text in that page to your clipboard. It should look similar to the example below.

13. Open a Notepad window by clicking Start, All Programs, Accessories, and then Notepad.

14. Paste the copied text into the Notepad window.

15. Windows WordPress installations do not accept the dollar sign ($) in key and salt values, so they need to be replaced with another character (such as S). In the Notepad window, click Edit, then click Replace.
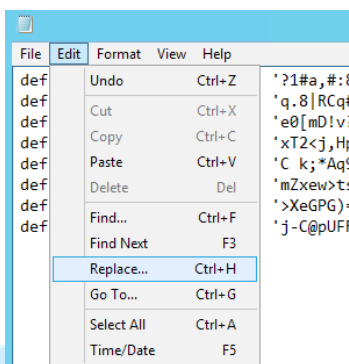
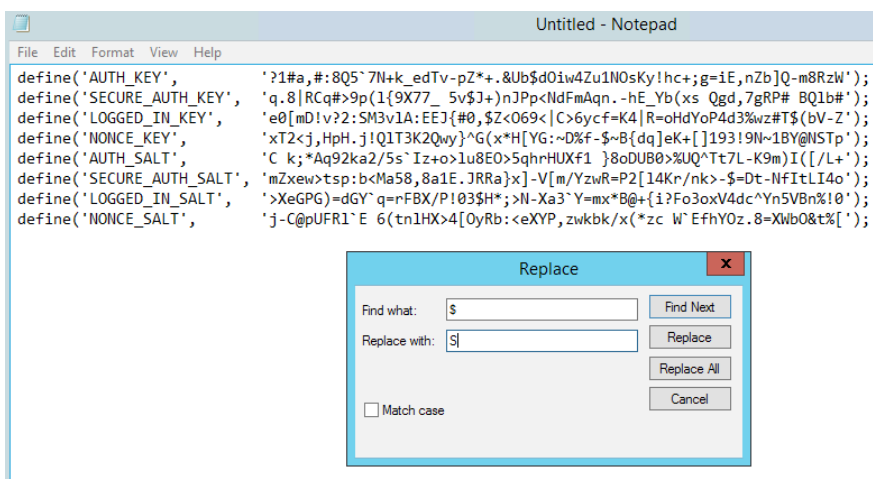16. In the Find what box, type $.

17. In the Replace with box, type S.

18. Click Replace All to replace all of the dollar signs with S characters.

19. Close the Replace window.

20. Paste the modified key and salt values from the Notepad window into their corresponding boxes in the installation wizard. For example, the AUTH_KEY value in the Notepad window should be pasted into the Authentication Key box in the wizard.

→ Do not include the single quotes or other text surrounding the values, just the actual value as in the example shown below.

21. Click Continue and Finish to complete the Web Platform Installer wizard.

Configuring the Site Title and Administrator

When you complete the Web Platform Installer wizard, a browser window opens to your WordPress installation at http://localhost/wp-admin/install.php. On this page, you configure the title for your site and an administrative user to moderate your blog.

To complete the installation

22. Choose your preferred language and click Continue.
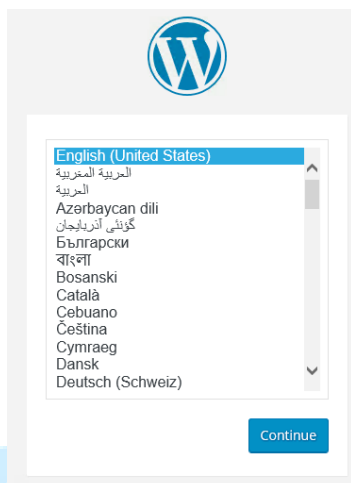
23. On the WordPress Welcome page, enter Site Title, Username, Password and Your Email.

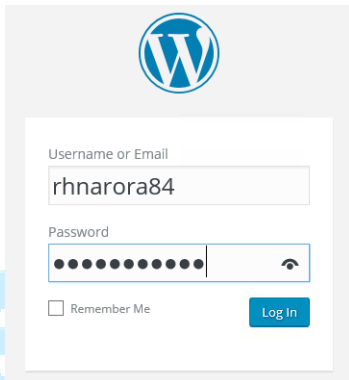24. Click Install WordPress.

25. Click Log In.

Success!
_____

WordPress has been installed. Thank you, and enjoy!

Username   rhnarora84

Password   *Your chosen password.*

Log In

26. On the Log In page, enter your user name for Username and the site password you entered previously for Password.

Username or Email
rhnarora84

Password
●●●●●●●●●●

☐ Remember Me   Log In

Making Your WordPress Site Public

Now that you can see your WordPress blog on your local host, you can publish this website as the default site on your instance so that other people can see it. The next procedure walks you through the process of modifying your WordPress settings to point to the public DNS name of your instance instead of your local host.

To configure the default settings for your WordPress site

27. Open the WordPress dashboard by opening a browser on your instance and going to http://localhost/wp-admin. If prompted for your credentials, enter your user name for the Username and your site password for Password.

28. In the Dashboard pane, click Settings.
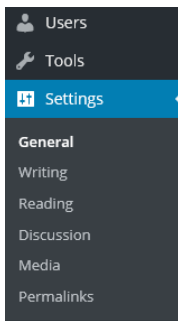
29. On the General Settings page, enter the following information and click Save Changes.

→ WordPress address (URL)—The public DNS address of your instance. For example, your URL may look something like *ec2-54-183-1-45.us-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com*. You can get the public DNS for your instance using the Amazon EC2 console (select the instance and check the Public DNS column; if this column is hidden, click the Show/Hide icon and select Public DNS).

→ Site address (URL)—The same public DNS address of your instance that you set in WordPress address (URL).

30. To see your new site, open a browser on a computer other than the instance hosting WordPress and type the public DNS address of your instance in the web address field. Your WordPress site appears.
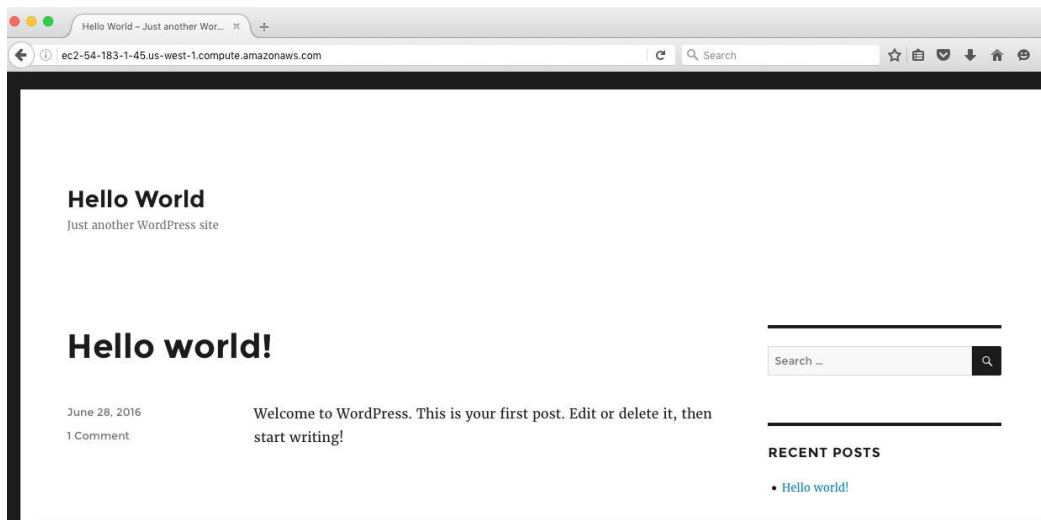
Conclusion

Congratulations! You have just deployed a WordPress site on a Windows instance.