

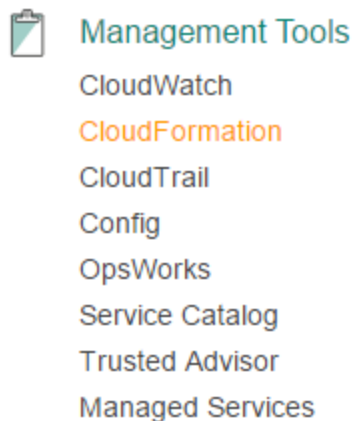
Creating a CloudFormation Stack

CloudFormation is a great tool for tying together related AWS resources such as instances, DynamoDB tables, IAM users, and more. In this lab we'll deploy the [WordPress CMS](#) using a CloudFormation template.

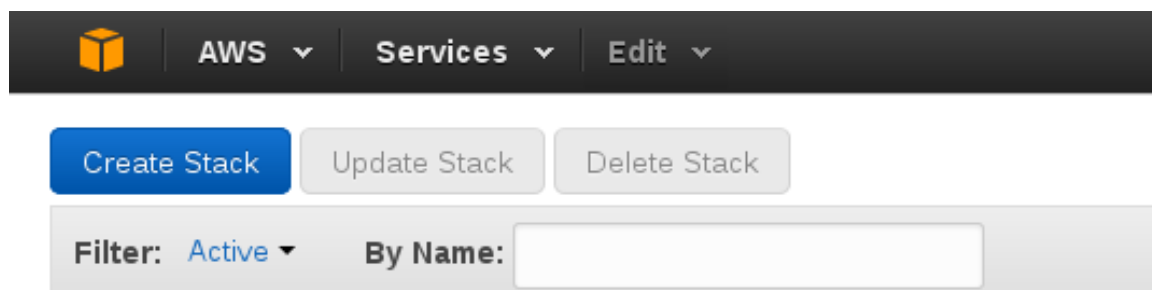
A CloudFormation stack can have many types of resources, including EC2 instances, S3 buckets, IAM users or policies, and Route53 record sets. The template we're using will only contain one EC2 instance and its security group, but stacks can be as complex as you like, containing dozens of different resource types.

First, download the [CloudFormation template](#) that we are going to use.

Now open the CloudFormation console. From the dashboard, click on the logo.



You're now in the CloudFormation dashboard where we will be for the rest of the lab. Let's create a new stack by clicking "Create Stack".



Now click on **choose file** and select the template file that you just downloaded and click **next**.

Select Template

Select the template that describes the stack that you want to create. A stack is a group of related resources that you manage as a single unit.

Design a template Use AWS CloudFormation Designer to create or modify an existing template. [Learn more.](#)

Choose a template A template is a JSON-formatted text file that describes your stack's resources and their properties. [Learn more.](#)

☐ Select a sample template

☐ Upload a template to Amazon S3

launch-wordpress.template

☐ Specify an Amazon S3 template URL

In the Parameters page, you'll fill in the values for Stack name, Database password, Root password, DB username, instance type, Keypair name, SSH Location, SubnetID, and VPC ID. Feel free to customize the settings or use the default ones. Just make sure to select a subnet that is inside the selected VPC otherwise you will have problems.

Note: The default password is Start1234

In the end, you should have something like this:

Stack name

Parameters

DBName	<input type="text" value="wordpressdb"/>	The WordPress database name
DBPassword	<input type="password" value="....."/>	The WordPress database admin account password
DBRootPassword	<input type="password" value="....."/>	MySQL root password
DBUser	<input type="password" value="....."/>	The WordPress database admin account username
InstanceType	<input type="text" value="t2.small"/>	WebServer EC2 instance type
KeyName	<input type="text" value="ca-magalhaes1-oregon"/>	Name of an existing EC2 KeyPair to enable SSH access to the instances
SSHLocation	<input type="text" value="0.0.0.0/0"/>	The IP address range that can be used to SSH to the EC2 instances
SubnetId	<input type="text" value="subnet-35457250 (172.31.16.0/20)"/>	Subnet to use
VpcId	<input type="text" value="vpc-cf7555aa (172.31.0.0/16)"/>	VPC to use

Click "Next" to advance to the tagging screen. It's not required to tag your stack, but in shared/organizational accounts tags help document who owns a resource.

For fun, let's tag the resource as a member of the testing environment. You won't be using this tag, so if you don't want to add it that's ok.

Options

Tags

You can specify tags (key-value pairs) for resources in your stack. You can add up to 10 unique key-value pairs for each stack. [Learn more](#).

	Key (127 characters maximum)	Value (255 characters maximum)	
1	<input type="text" value="environment"/>	<input type="text" value="test"/>	<input type="button" value="+"/>

► Advanced


You can set additional options for your stack, like notification options and a stack policy. [Learn more](#).

[Cancel](#)

Hit "Next" and you'll be taken to the last piece of the stack creation process, the review screen. You should be able to see all the parameters you selected (except passwords). Scroll to the bottom and click "Create" to get your stack started. You'll be taken back to the CloudFormation dashboard where we started the stack.

Check Stack Status

Now that your stack has been created, we're going to watch it finish building your WordPress blog. Click on your new stack to see more information about it.



AWS

Services

Edit

Create Stack

Update Stack

Delete Stack

Filter: Active

By Name:

	Stack Name	Created Time	Status	Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WordpressTestStack	2015-02-25 17:33:48 UTC-0500	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS CloudFormation Sample Template

The first thing you should notice is in the stack's status column. All CloudFormation stacks and resources have a status that reflects the last action done to them (CREATE in this case) and the status of that action (IN_PROGRESS). As a user, these statuses are helpful for at-a-glance information about the condition of your deployment.

Down in the "Events" tab of the stack information, we can see which resources CloudFormation is working on. The stack itself contains all the other resources, so it needed to be created first. Next, the security group for our WordPress instance needed to be created, and now we'll wait a little bit for our actual instance to finish. This should take no more than 10 minutes.

Overview	Outputs	Resources	Events	Template	Parameters	Tags	Stack Policy	
2015-02-25		Status		Type		Logical ID		Status Reason
▶ 17:34:18 UTC-0500		CREATE_IN_PROGRESS		AWS::EC2::Instance		WebServer		Resource creation Initiated
17:34:16 UTC-0500		CREATE_IN_PROGRESS		AWS::EC2::Instance		WebServer		
▶ 17:34:14 UTC-0500		CREATE_COMPLETE		AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup		WebServerSecurityGroup		
▶ 17:34:12 UTC-0500		CREATE_IN_PROGRESS		AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup		WebServerSecurityGroup		Resource creation Initiated
17:33:55 UTC-0500		CREATE_IN_PROGRESS		AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup		WebServerSecurityGroup		
▶ 17:33:48 UTC-0500		CREATE_IN_PROGRESS		AWS::CloudFormation::Stack		WordpressTestStack		User Initiated

Newer events are at the top of the list, and you can see how CloudFormation automatically handles dependencies between the resources in the stack. The EC2 instance can't be created

without a security group, so CloudFormation waits for the security group to finish before moving on.

Overview	Outputs	Resources	Events	Template	Parameters	Tags	Stack Policy
2015-02-25		Status	Type	Logical ID		Status Reason	
▶ 17:36:37 UTC-0500	CREATE_COMPLETE	AWS::CloudFormation::Stack	WordpressTestStack				
▶ 17:36:35 UTC-0500	CREATE_COMPLETE	AWS::EC2::Instance	WebServer				
▶ 17:36:33 UTC-0500	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::EC2::Instance	WebServer			Received SUCCESS signal with Uniqueld i-da670720	
▶ 17:34:18 UTC-0500	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::EC2::Instance	WebServer			Resource creation Initiated	
▶ 17:34:16 UTC-0500	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::EC2::Instance	WebServer				
▶ 17:34:14 UTC-0500	CREATE_COMPLETE	AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup	WebServerSecurityGroup				
▶ 17:34:12 UTC-0500	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup	WebServerSecurityGroup			Resource creation Initiated	
▶ 17:33:55 UTC-0500	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup	WebServerSecurityGroup				
▶ 17:33:48 UTC-0500	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::CloudFormation::Stack	WordpressTestStack			User Initiated	

After waiting a few minutes, we can see that the instance was created and then CloudFormation set the stack's status to `CREATE_COMPLETE`.

Now let's see if WordPress works for us.

Overview	Outputs	Resources	Events	Template	Parameters	Tags	Stack Policy
Key							Value
WebsiteURL							http://ec2-54-83-104-76.compute-1.amazonaws.com/wordpress

Go to the "Outputs" tab for the URL of the WordPress instance. CloudFormation used the EC2 instance's DNS name to build the URL you see here. From the console, click the link for your new WordPress installation. You can log in using the username and password credentials you selected when creating the stack.

View Stack Resources

You've successfully created a CloudFormation stack, now let's take a look at what's inside. From the CloudFormation dashboard click on your stack, then go to the "Resources" panel.

Overview	Outputs	Resources	Events	Template	Parameters	Tags	Stack Policy
Logical ID		Physical ID			Type	Status	
WebServerSecurityGroup		WordpressTestStack-WebServerSecurityGroup-81FG56KSATNW			AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup	CREATE_COMPLETE	
WebServer		i-da670720			AWS::EC2::Instance	CREATE_IN_PROGRESS	

CloudFormation is easy to integrate into other workflows because all it does is orchestrate other AWS products and make it easy to repeat patterns. In your stack, the resources are the security group for the EC2 instance and the EC2 instance itself. You can see that the resource has a name

in the template (WebServer) that maps to a "physical ID" (i-da670720) which is the real resource. Here is an excerpt of the template to give you an idea of what resources look like in that form. The [full template](#) is also available for you to review.

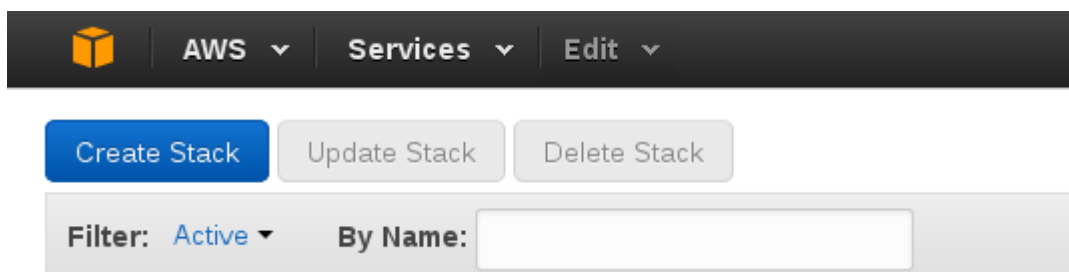
```
...
"Resources" : {
  "WebServerSecurityGroup" : {
    "Type" : "AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup",
    "Properties" : {
      "GroupDescription" : "Enable HTTP access via port 80 locked down to
the load balancer + SSH access",
      "SecurityGroupIngress" : [
        { "IpProtocol" : "tcp", "FromPort" : "80", "ToPort" : "80", "CidrIp"
: "0.0.0.0/0" },
        { "IpProtocol" : "tcp", "FromPort" : "22", "ToPort" : "22", "CidrIp"
: { "Ref" : "SSHLocation" } }
      ]
    }
  },
  ...
}
```

You can see that we actually didn't specify a name for the security group itself because CloudFormation generates one automatically. This is common for CloudFormation resources like IAM users, security groups, and DynamoDB tables if their name is left unspecified.

Now that you understand the resources underlying your WordPress installation, it's time to delete your stack. This will also destroy all its resources.

Delete the Stack

Now that you've tested CloudFormation's built-in WordPress template and made sure your installation works, it's time to clean up the resources that CloudFormation created for you. Click on your stack and then hit the **"Delete Stack"** button at the top of the console.



Now go to the "Events" tab for your stack to see what is happening to your resources.

Overview	Outputs	Resources	Events	Template	Parameters	Tags	Stack Policy
2015-02-25		Status	Type	Logical ID		Status Reason	
▶	17:38:49 UTC-0500	DELETE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::EC2::Instance	WebServer			
▶	17:38:43 UTC-0500	DELETE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::CloudFormation::Stack	WordpressTestStack		User Initiated	
▶	17:36:37 UTC-0500	CREATE_COMPLETE	AWS::CloudFormation::Stack	WordpressTestStack			

CloudFormation begins by deleting its resources and transitioning the stack to the `DELETE_IN_PROGRESS` state. Since there isn't a resource that depends on the EC2 instance, that is deleted first.

After a few minutes, all the resources will be deleted and your Events console will look like this.

Overview	Outputs	Resources	Events	Template	Parameters	Tags	Stack Policy
2015-02-25		Status	Type	Logical ID		Status Reason	
▶	17:40:07 UTC-0500	DELETE_COMPLETE	AWS::CloudFormation::Stack	WordpressTestStack			
▶	17:40:06 UTC-0500	DELETE_COMPLETE	AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup	WebServerSecurityGroup			
▶	17:40:05 UTC-0500	DELETE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup	WebServerSecurityGroup			
▶	17:40:03 UTC-0500	DELETE_COMPLETE	AWS::EC2::Instance	WebServer			
▶	17:38:49 UTC-0500	DELETE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::EC2::Instance	WebServer			
▶	17:38:43 UTC-0500	DELETE_IN_PROGRESS	AWS::CloudFormation::Stack	WordpressTestStack		User Initiated	
▶	17:36:37 UTC-0500	CREATE_COMPLETE	AWS::CloudFormation::Stack	WordpressTestStack			

You can see that the order in which resources are deleted is the exact reverse of the order in which they were created. In a stack with only one "dependency chain" like this one, things always get deleted in the same order. In larger stacks, CloudFormation can delete resources in any order as long as all their dependents are deleted first. Since the security group was in use by the EC2 instance, it could not be deleted until **after** the instance.

Congratulations! You've successfully created, tested, and deleted your first stack.