

PROJECT REPORT

“AWS MEDIA STREAMER”

CS 6386.501 Telecommunication Software Design

Department of Computer Science

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1. Introduction

The “Media Streamer” project has three communication entities to deploy remote access for media files. To facilitate this feature, we made use of cloud infrastructure provided by Amazon Web Services such as EC2, S3 and utilized a few external libraries to support communication over HTTP/2 in an Android application.

The AWS EC2 Server is an Ubuntu Linux machine which acts like a mediator between media database present in AWS S3 and a controller which uses the service. A REST API running on a Jetty HTTP/2 server is communicating with S3 bucket to return list of media content.

Android application runs like a controller, which is used to control the rendered media file. A Virtual Machine is used to implement the renderer functionality. This functionality includes running a Java implementation of VLC media player called “VLCj” in a Swing Utility frame to display the contents.

The communication between all the entities is based on HTTP/2. The reason behind using HTTP/2 is for its low latency achieved by its highly multiplexed nature which prevents head of line blocking.

To support HTTP/2 version of API communication, we have used a Java platform based Jetty Server. The Jetty Server is a light Server machine which runs on Linux machine.

Jersey framework REST API is used for communication between the android application and renderer. The API interaction involves passing HTTP/2 URL for a specific media file from Android application to Renderer.

2. Team Information

Name	Net ID
Ajay Chintalapalli Jayakumar	axc142430
Binal Kamani	bxk131030
Lakshmi Deepak Chadalarawada	lxc140730
Shashank Kumar Shankar	sxs141731

3. Description

The Media Streamer project is divided into 3 modules:

Entity 1: Server

Server is a Java application running in Jetty HTTP/2 server present in an AWS EC2 instance. The application is a REST API which returns a JSON Object containing the list of Media available on a specified AWS S3 bucket. The communication occurs on top of HTTP/2.

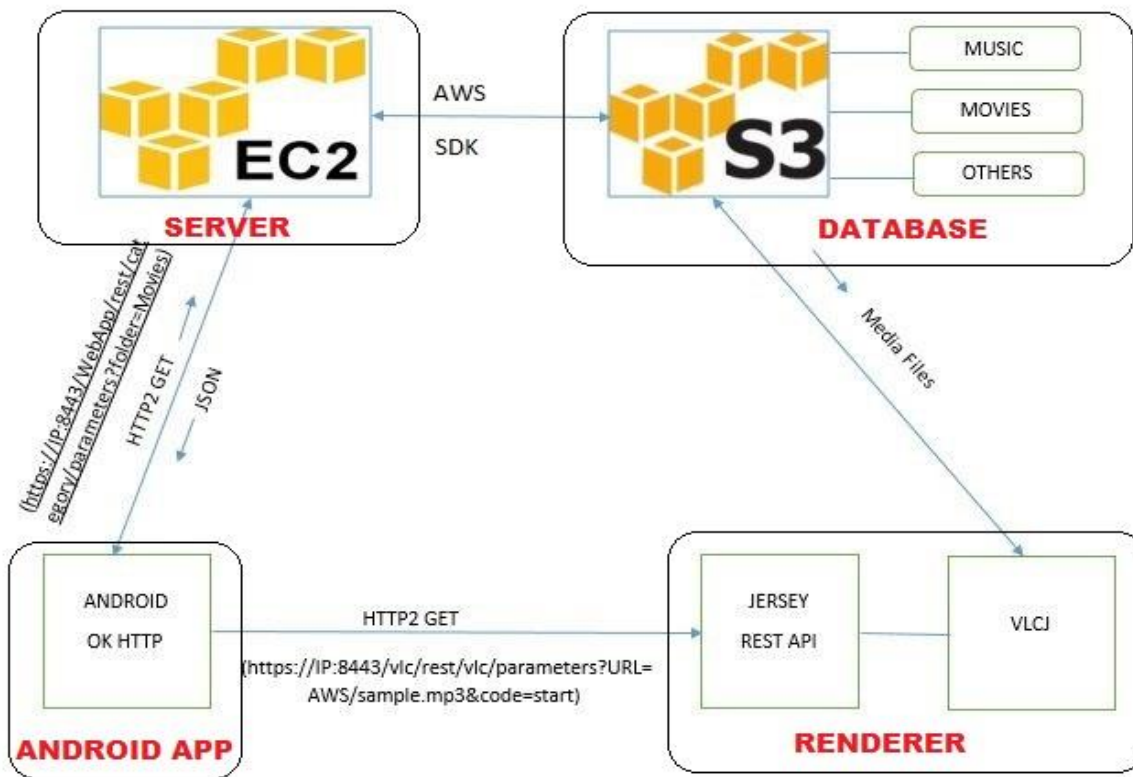
Entity 2: Controller

Controller is an Android application which requests for the list of media files by making HTTP/2 GET requests to the Server. Server sends back a JSON containing the list to the Android app and on receiving the JSON Object, the app parses the JSON and populates a List View for the user to select which media file to be played. The user will also be able to play, pause, resume, forward, rewind and stop the media and watch the results on the renderer.

Entity 3: Renderer

Renderer is chosen to be a Java implementation of VLC (VideoLAN) media player called VLCj. A REST API is developed to provide a control interface to the VLC player. The REST API present in the Renderer receives HTTP/2 requests from Android app, processes them and perform requested tasks e.g. play, pause, forward, backward, etc.

4. Entities and Network



[Figure 2.1: Diagram of Entities and Network]

Overview:

Diagram above shows the communication between the different entities. User uses an Android app to request list of media from server. From this list, the android application passes the media to be played, with its URL to the renderer. The renderer accepts the URL of the media and plays it in VLCj by requesting it from Amazon S3 media database.

5. Design of Protocol for communication

Each entity communicates with each other using customized URLs accessing REST APIs. The communication between the entities occur as follows:

Android to Server communication:

The Android App makes HTTP/2 GET requests to the following URL which is parsed by the REST API present in AWS EC2:

1. URL Call format:
<https://IPOfServer:8443/WebApp/rest/category/parameters?folder=Music>
2. /WebApp/: Name of '.war' file deployed in Jetty Server
3. /rest/category/: URL Path
4. "/parameter?folder=": Selects a category. Values include - Movies, Music and Others. The Server parses this parameter and returns a JSON containing the contents of a particular folder category.

Once the android app does the HTTP/2 request, it receives a JSON. A sample JSON file when requested for "Music" category is shown below,

```
{
  "ListOfItemsinFolder":[
    "Canon.mp3",
    "EntranceOfTheQueenOfSheba.mp3",
    "Mozart.mp3",
    "SpringFromFourSeasons.mp3"
  ]
}
```

Android to Renderer communication:

The Android App makes HTTP/2 GET requests to the following URL which is parsed by the REST API present in the Renderer:

1. URL call format:
<https://IPOfRenderer:8443/vlc/rest/vlc/parameters?URL=http://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/shank7485/Music/Mozart.mp3&code=start>
2. /vlc/: Name of '.war' file deployed in Jetty Server
3. /rest/vlc/: URL Path
4. /parameters?URL=": Passing the URL of Media to renderer

5. “&code=start”: Tells VLCj to start playing the passed URL. Values include - stop, resume, forward, rewind, pause.

6. How do the entities work together?!

Android:

An Android application initiates a connection to server by prompting user to enter Server IP address and renderer IP address. Once the fields for IP address have been filled, application then fetches the contents of the files stored in AWS S3 by making HTTP/2 GET requests to server. The files are listed on the application under the tags “Movies”, “Music”, “Others”

Server:

Server module utilizes storage and computational entities from Amazon Web Services for its functionality. The Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) instance has a Jetty Server installed on Ubuntu that accepts connections from the Android app and the S3 storage entity has all the media files stored.

The Jetty Server is running in an EC2 which has a unique IP and is running a REST API which accepts HTTP/2 requests from the android application. It returns a JSON containing the media contents present in S3 when the HTTP/2 requests are made.

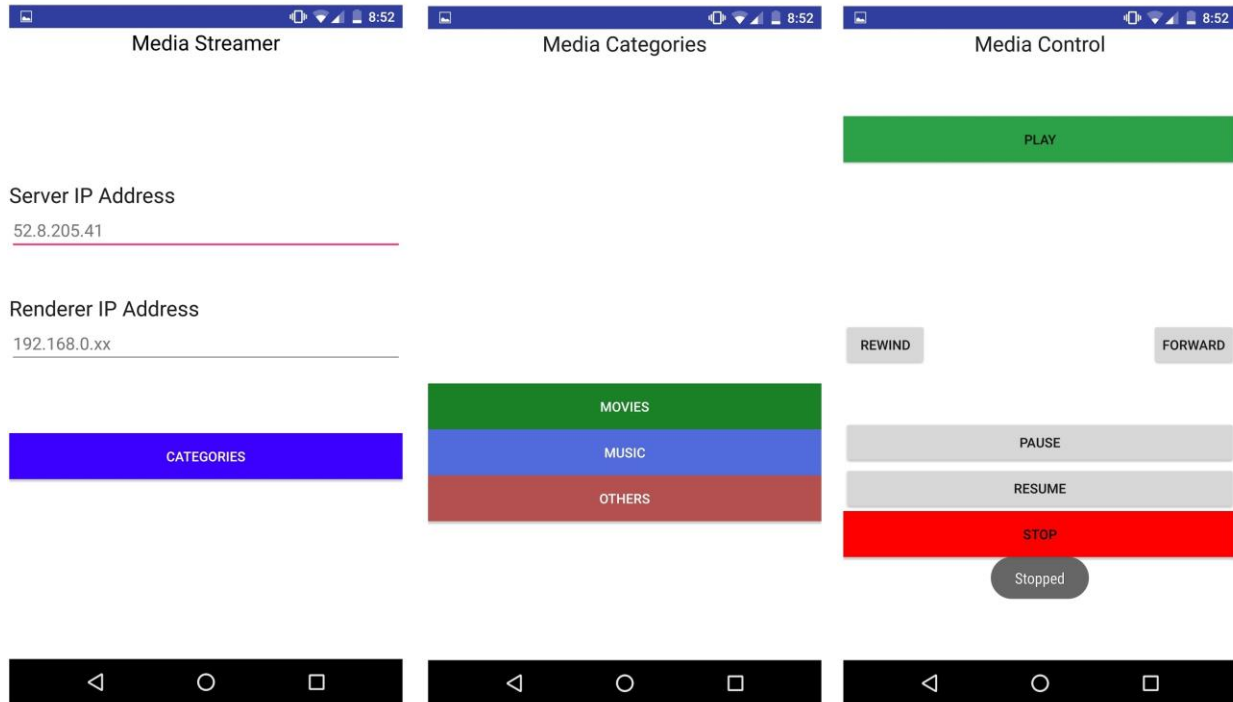
S3 has the media files stored ordered in a group manner. The folders has 3 categories a) Movies b) Music c) Others.

Renderer:

The renderer is a media player, a VLC player. The renderer is backed by a Jetty server running a REST API to control the media player functionalities. The android application sends HTTP/2 GET requests to the Jetty server on renderer side. The server parses the parameter passes in the URL and performs appropriate functions based on the command sent. The server sends out the play, pause, forward, backward and stops messages to the VLC player depending on the command. The player plays the media files selected by the android app by loading the URL and streaming it in a new thread.

7. Functionalities of Entities

Android:



The screenshot shown above contains all the screens of the android application. The application (first image) prompts the user to enter the Server IP Address and Renderer IP Address. Then it displays the categories under which user can request for media files.

The server has to be kept running before we launch the application. Android application talks to AWS EC2 server via GET requests upon HTTP/2 protocol. The EC2 instance has Jetty server running on port 8443. Upon getting a request, the server communicates with AWS S3 using AWS SDK and gets a list of media inside a particular folder. The EC2 server then sends back the list as JSON to the android application and the list is being displayed under specific name tags on the Android app. The user can now select whichever media he wants to play and this will call another HTTP/2 GET on the renderer server and the media starts playing.

Server:

- **AWS EC2/Jetty** - The server is basically an AWS EC2 instance with Jetty server installed on it. Jetty is a Java Servlet engine and Web Server that runs on

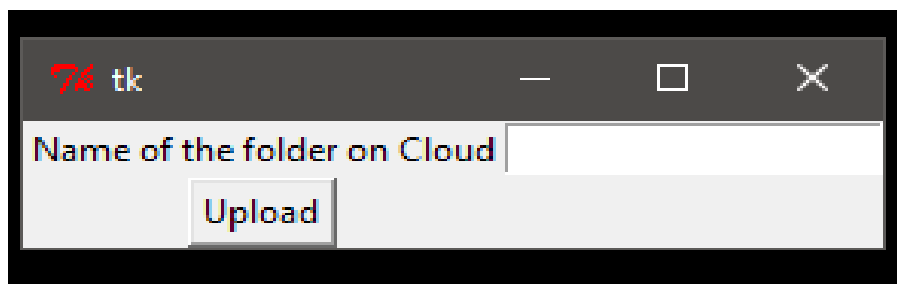
latest JDKs. This server running, runs the ScanFolder.java file to get the list from AWS S3 bucket.

```
public class ScanFolder {  
  
    private String VideoCategory;  
  
    public ScanFolder(String VideoCategory) {  
        this.VideoCategory = VideoCategory;  
    }  
  
    public String Folderlist(ScanFolder scan) {  
  
        FolderList movieList = new FolderList();  
  
        List<String> ListOfItemsinFolder = new ArrayList<String>();  
  
        AWS object = new AWS();  
  
        ListOfItemsinFolder = object.ListVideos(VideoCategory);  
  
        movieList.setListOfItemsinFolder(ListOfItemsinFolder);  
  
        Gson gson = new Gson();  
  
        String json = gson.toJson(movieList);  
  
        return json;  
    }  
}
```

The above screenshot shows how the code gets list of video categories and returns it as JSON.

- **S3 instance:** It is a Simple Storage Service provided by Amazon Web services. This service stores the data/files in groups called Buckets. This feature has been exploited to create categories of media files.

We have implemented an add-on feature to the project with a simple GUI based upload feature. The GUI runs on Tkinter, a python GUI library. The screenshot shown below is the GUI for uploading files to the S3 bucket.



Renderer: It is configured to be on an Ubuntu Linux with the REST API deployed in a Jetty HTTP/2 Server.

Renderer has 2 functionalities;

1. Server Functionality
2. Fetch and Play Functionality

Server Functionality:

A Jetty server is installed on the VM. This server plays the mediator functionality which gets the HTTP/2 based URL parameters from Android app and provides it to the VLCj (Java framework for VLC Media Player).

Fetch and Play Functionality:

The parameters received from the Android is the URL (Uniform Resource Locator) and command for the VLCj media player. The URL is used by VLCj to fetch media contents from S3 and command to play, pause, forward etc. in the media player. The renderer plays the media contents in the Swing utility (a GUI Widget toolkit for Java). Swing creates a base frame with full screen dimensions and starts playing the passed URL.

```
new NativeDiscovery().discover();
SwingUtilities.invokeLater(new Runnable() {

    @Override
    public void run() {
        new NativeDiscovery().discover();

        java.awt.Dimension screenSize = java.awt.Toolkit.getDefaultToolkit().getScreenSize();

        frame = new JFrame("Media Streamer");
        frame.setLocation(0,0);
        frame.setSize(screenSize.width,screenSize.height);
        //frame.setBounds(100, 100, 600, 400);
        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);

        JPanel contentPane = new JPanel();
        contentPane.setLayout(new BorderLayout());

        mediaPlayerComponent = new EmbeddedMediaPlayerComponent();
        contentPane.add(mediaPlayerComponent, BorderLayout.CENTER);

        frame.setContentPane(contentPane);
        frame.setVisible(true);

        mediaPlayerComponent.getMediaPlayer().playMedia(mediaURL);
    }
});
```

The code shows how the Swing Thread is fetching the content from the URL. The URL is passed as string to the object of class.

8. Challenges Faced

- Researching for a Server which supports HTTP/2
- Setting up Server and understanding Java based Servers/Servlets
- Connection setup from Android to EC2 and Jetty server (on the renderer side).
- Understanding Jersey REST Framework
- Implementing REST APIs using Jersey
- Understanding VLCj java implementation of VLC Media Player
- Developing Android Application and using external libraries to enable HTTP/2 in Android
- Understanding working of cloud services such as AWS EC2 and AWS S3
- Implementing APIs provided by AWS SDK for programmatic access of AWS.

9. Contributions from Team Members

Deepak: He worked on the Android application. He took help from me for setting up the external OkHTTP libraries and also helped him in getting the list of media from server and displaying it as list view in Android Intent.

Ajay: He worked on the Renderer part of the project. He worked on collecting and parsing the URL parameters sent from the android application. I helped him in providing the REST API backend for the VLCj application.

Binal: She helped me in setting up the Jetty HTTP/2 servers on the EC2 instance and on the Renderer. She also helped in explaining how WAR files are deployed in HTTP/2 servers.

Shashank: I see myself as the Team Leader wherein I architected the whole idea of using AWS services in this project and designed the end-to-end software modules. Once the design and protocol was decided, I divided the work and assigned each module work to the team members.

I worked on all of the entities. My major work was in implementing the Java Jersey based REST APIs in the Server and the Renderer and using AWS services for compute

and storage. I worked on the Java based AWS SDK to communicate between the EC2 instance and AWS S3 bucket. I also designed the protocol to pass parameters on top of HTTP/2 based URLs to the Server and Render. I also made sure the correct JSON was passed to the Android app whenever a HTTP/2 GET request was made.

I also helped the other team members. I assisted Deepak in setting up OkHTTP library in android gradle to build the .jar files. Also, I helped him in displaying the list in ListView in android intent. I helped Ajay in running the VLCj with REST backend and helped him to run the Java Swings in threads. He faced issues in tearing down a thread, I helped him resolve the issue. Since Binal took care of setting up the Jetty HTTP/2 server, I helped her in installing this server on the AWS EC2 instance.

10. Learning outcomes from the Project

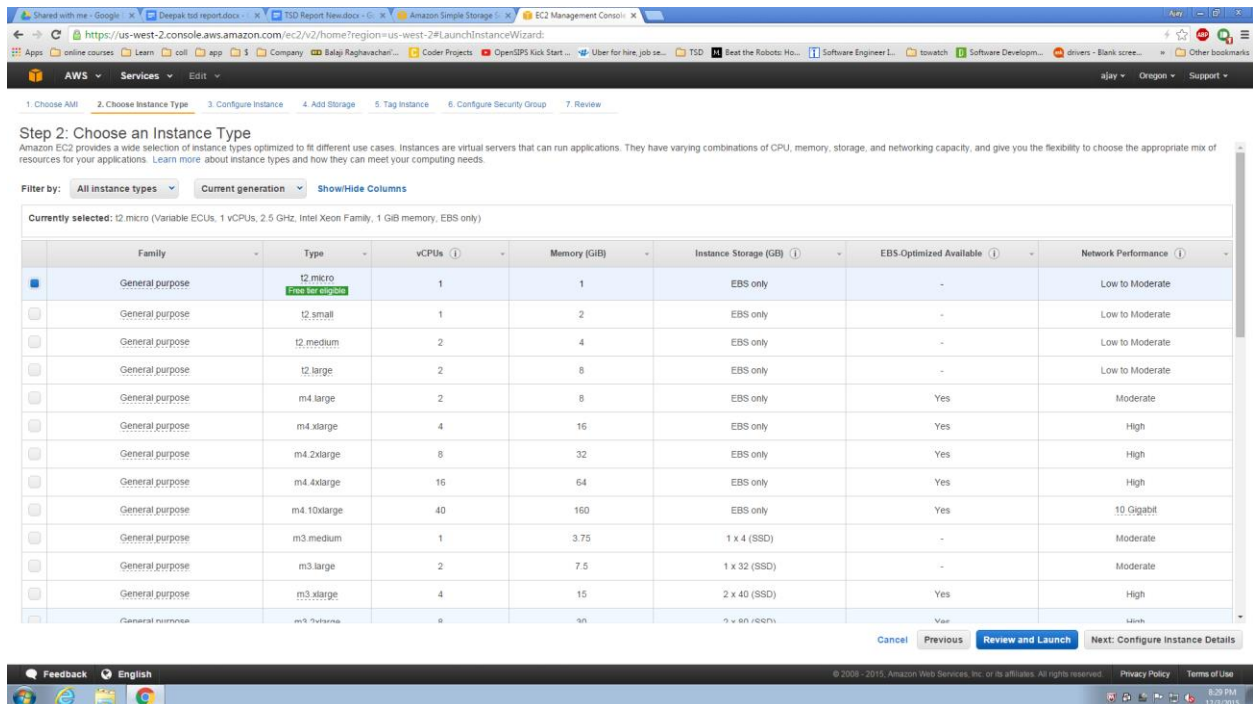
Some of the important aspects learnt from this project are:

- Designing and Implementing HTTP/2 based protocols.
- Programming an Android application which makes use of external libraries to make HTTP/2 requests.
- Designing and Implementing RESTful API services.
- Returning a JSON and parsing a JSON in Android.
- Creating and stopping worker Threads in Android and in Java.
- Setting up Java based Servers.
- Using cloud services provided by Amazon.
- Implementing the AWS SDK to enable communication between an AWS EC2 instance and an S3 bucket.
- Leadership.
- Teamwork.

11. Appendix

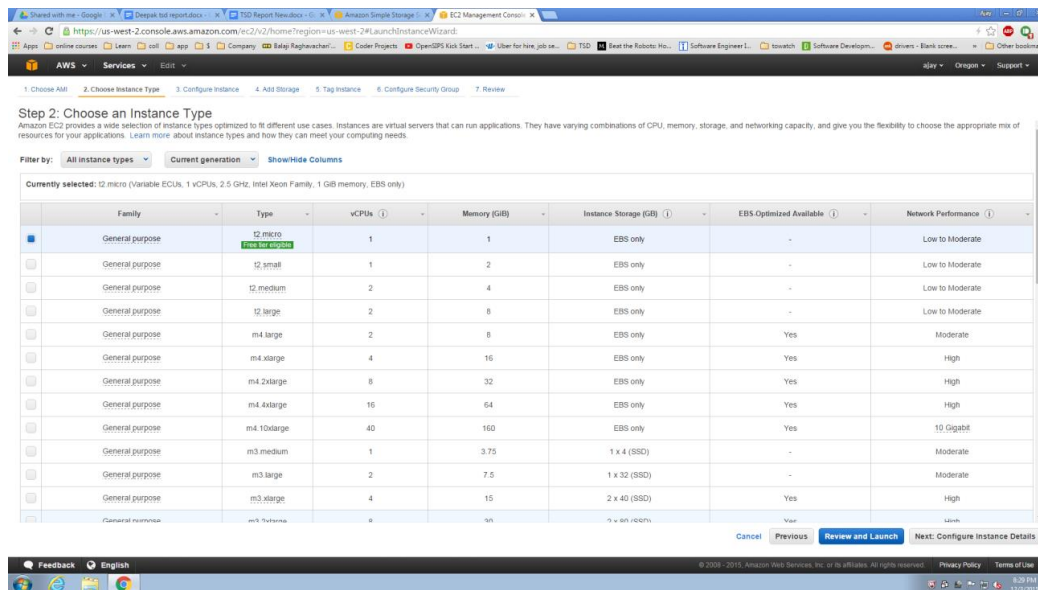
Setting up an EC2 Instance:

- **Figure 2:** Initially, it is required to have an AWS account by signing up at <https://aws.amazon.com/>. Once that is done, go into the AWS console and select EC2. Choose the type of Image required for the instance. Image means the type of operating system required to boot up.



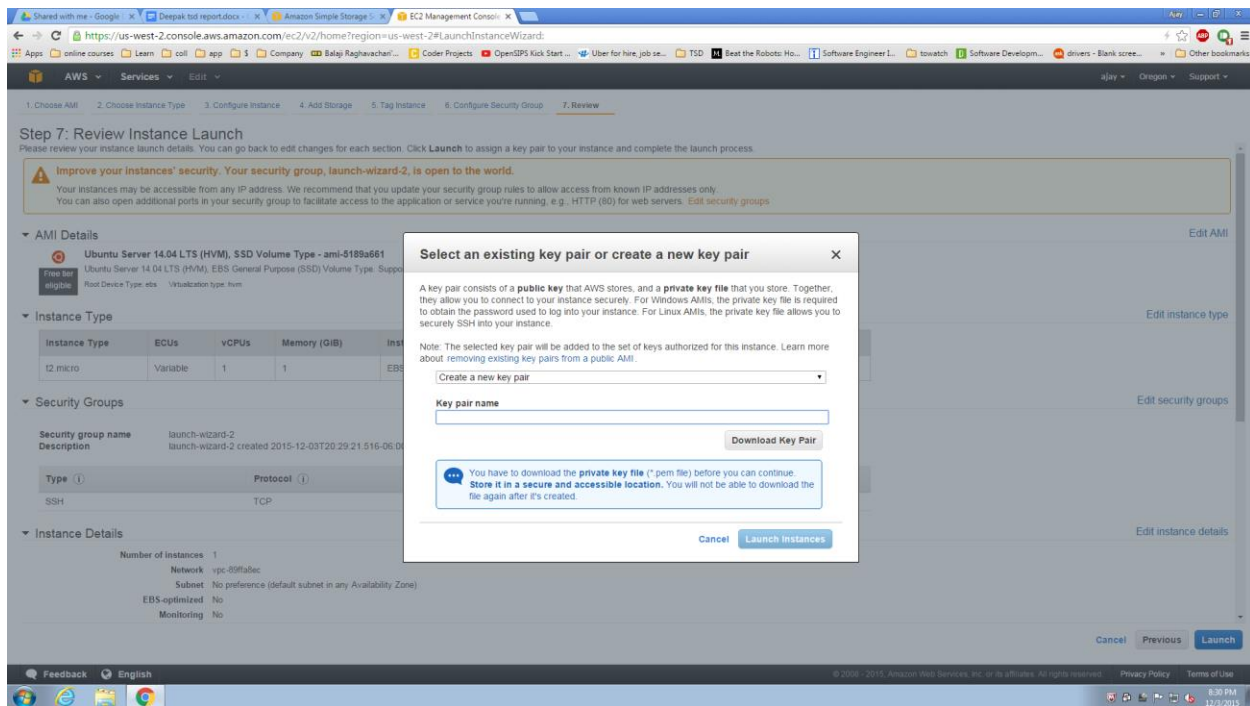
[Figure 2]

- Figure 3: Select the type of Instance required.



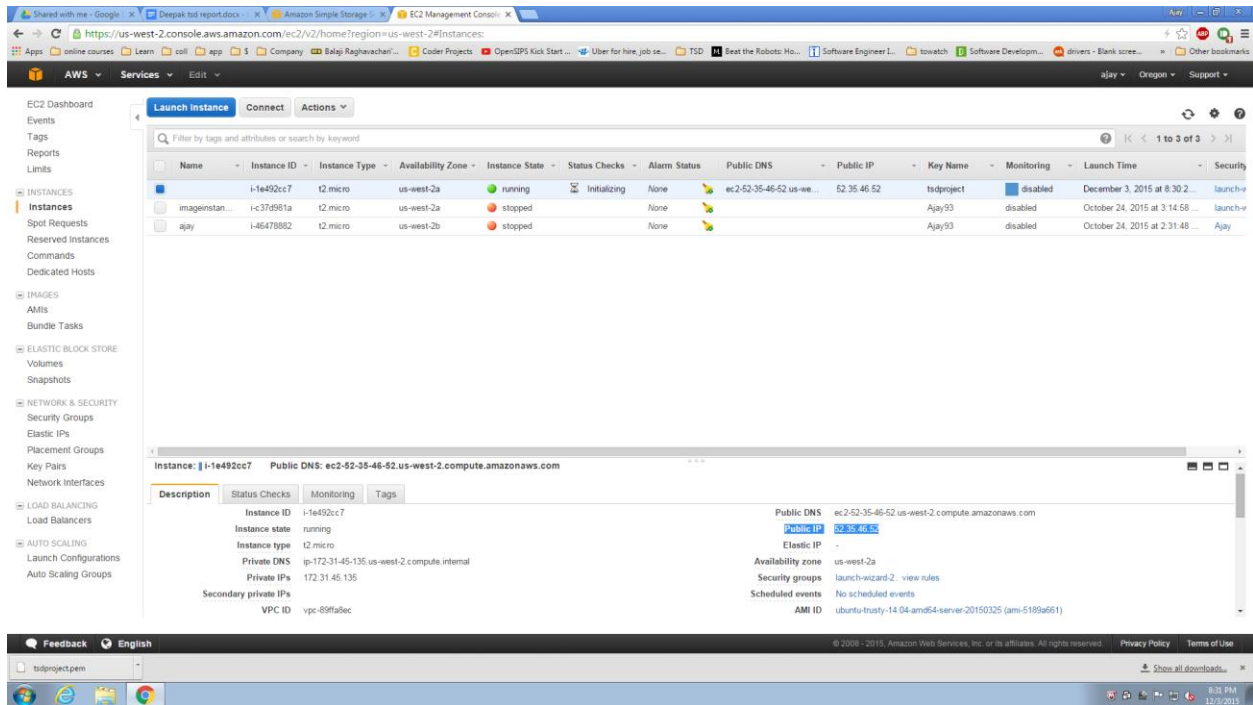
[Figure 3]

- Figure 4: Generate a Key pair. This is required for accessing the AWS Instance using SSH. It is required to keep the download “.pem” file secure as this is the only way the AWS instance can be accessed.



[Figure 4]

- Figure 5: Select the instance which was created and start it. Note down the IP address of the instance.



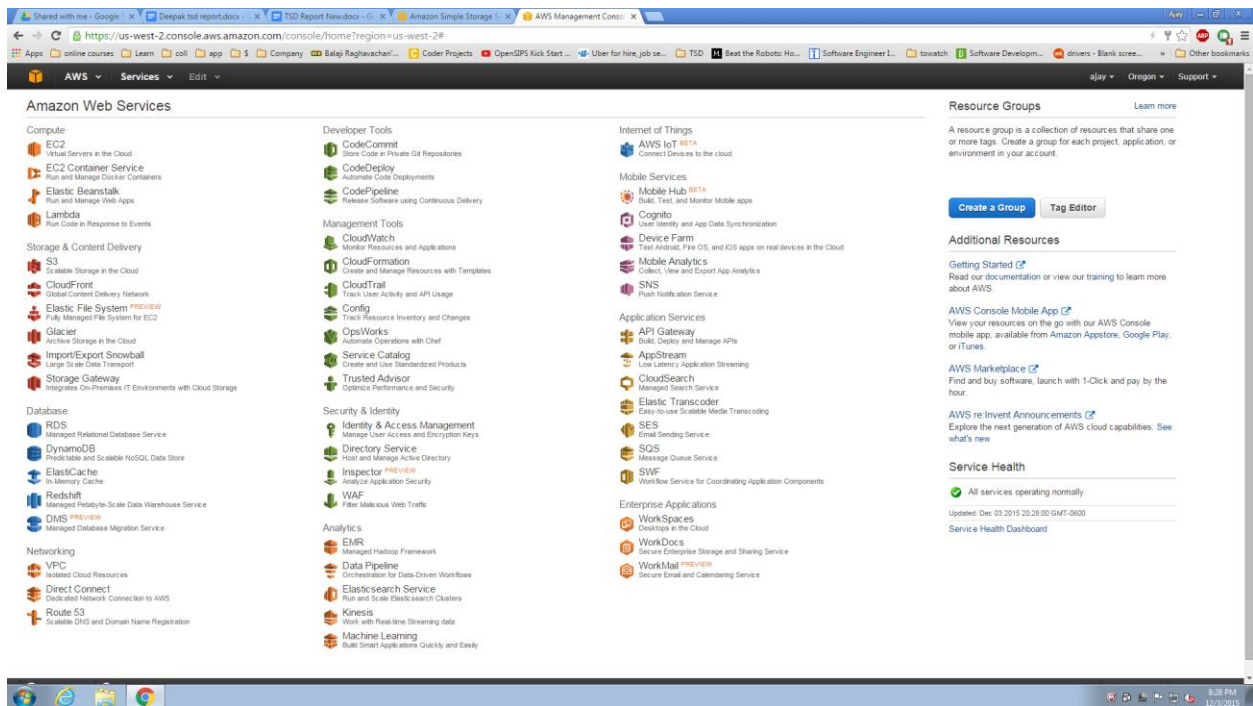
[Figure 5]

- To connect to the AWS Instance, use Putty to SSH. Also, it is required to convert the .pem file to .ppk using Putty Gen. This can be done by following the documentation provided in this link: <http://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/putty.html>
- The detailed documentation for launching an AWS Instance can be obtained in the following link: http://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/EC2_GetStarted.html

Setting up an S3 Storage Bucket:

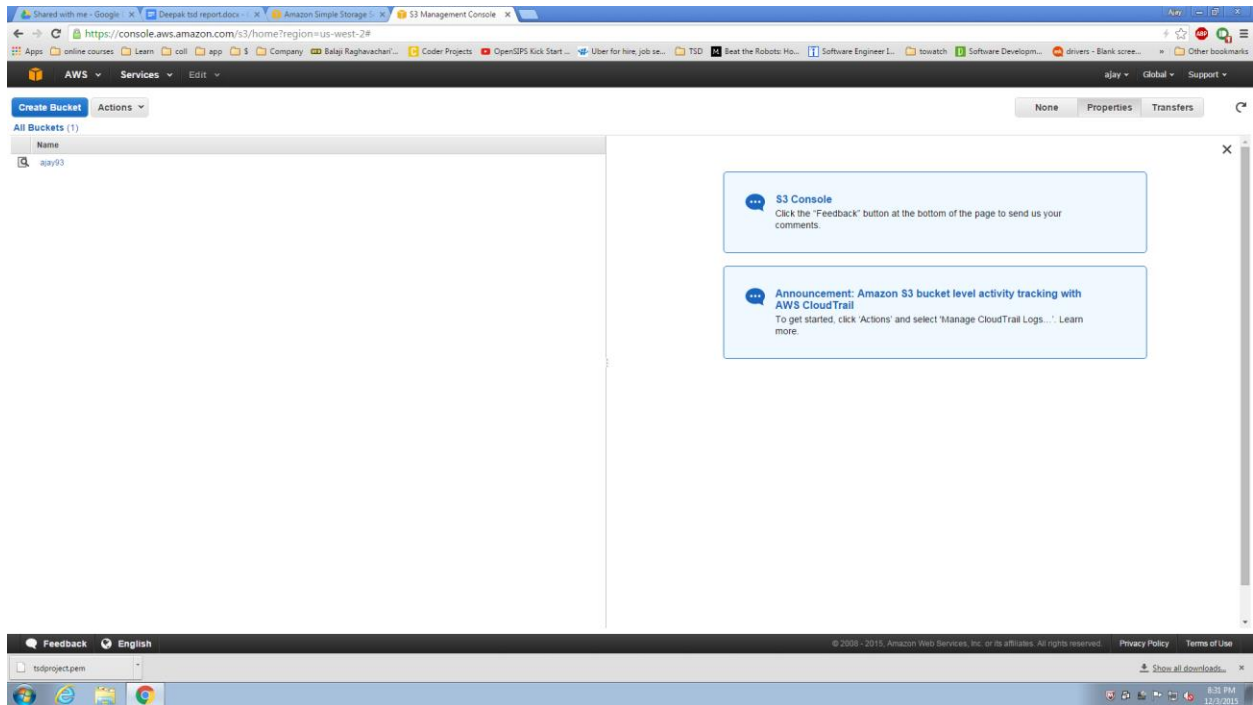
S3 stands for Simple storage service, below shown images are the initial steps followed to create an S3 storage instance.

Figure 6: The above image shows the available services on AWS. Select S3 from the list,



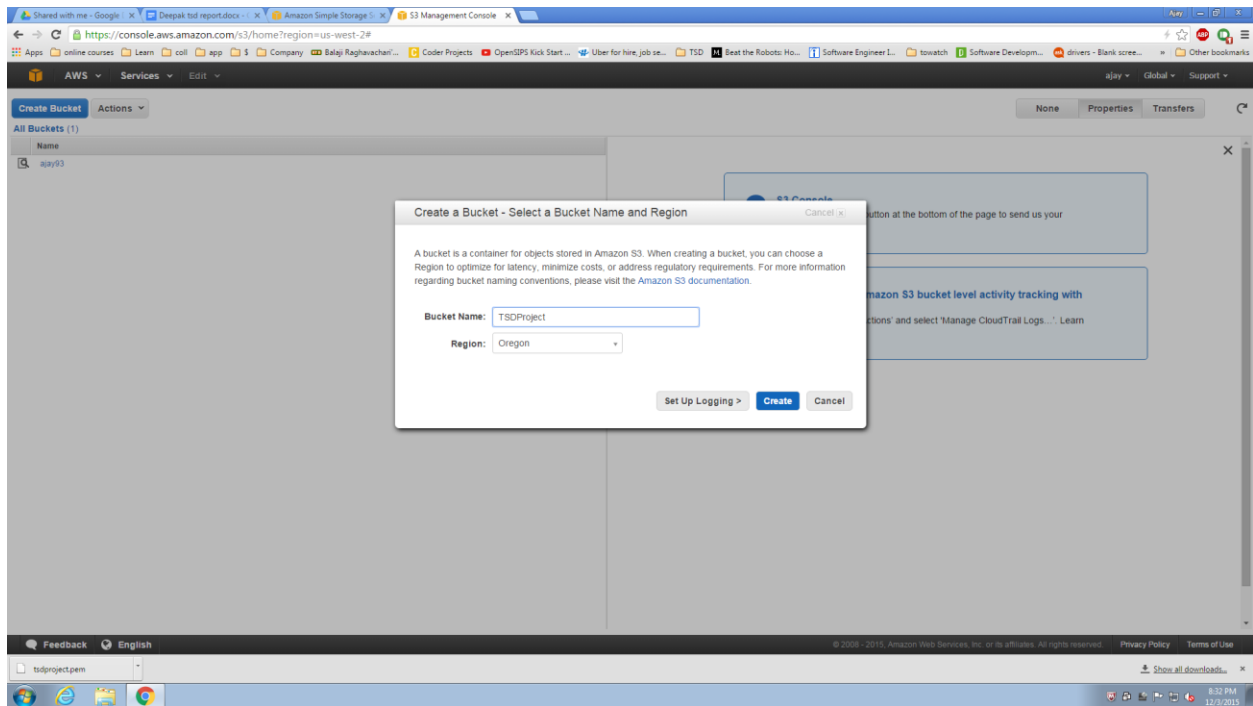
[Figure 6]

- Figure 7: Once user enters S3 instance, user is prompted to create a bucket. Bucket is a storage entity in S3. On clicking CREATE BUCKET. Every S3 instance gives a unique URL for the files stored in it.

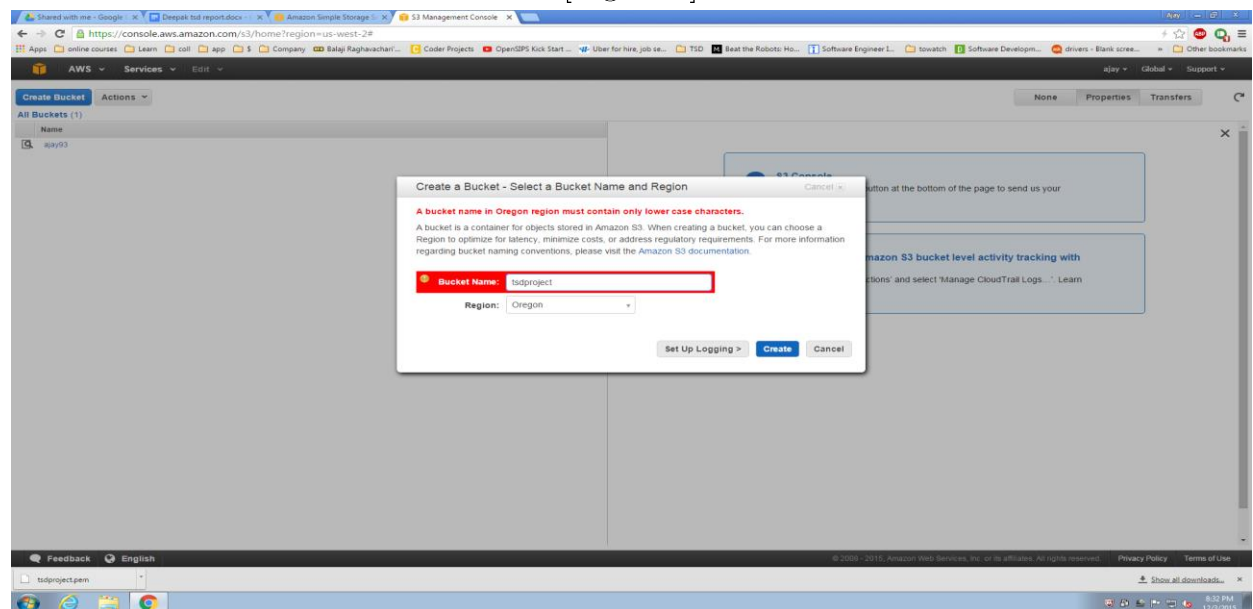


[Figure 7]

- Figure 8/Figure 9: A pop up box comes up asking for the bucket name. It also tells the place where my storage is located on AWS, Oregon in our case. The prompt does not accept uppercase letters for the bucket name.

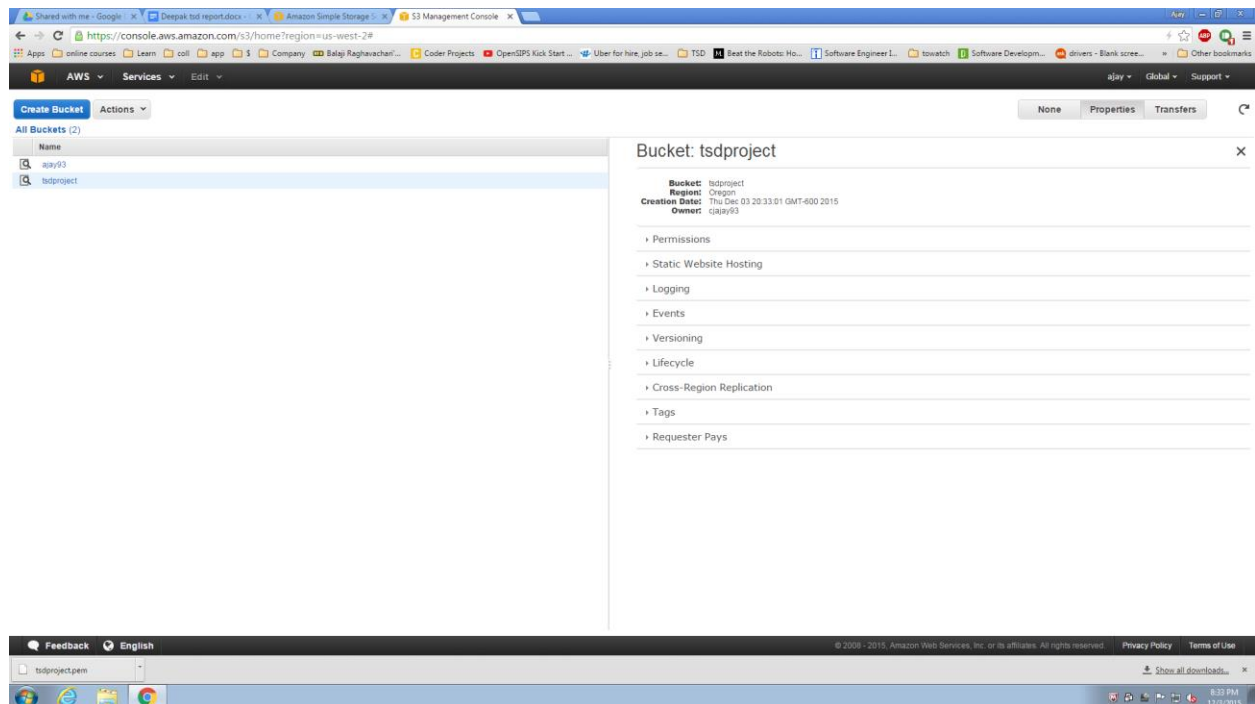


[Figure 8]

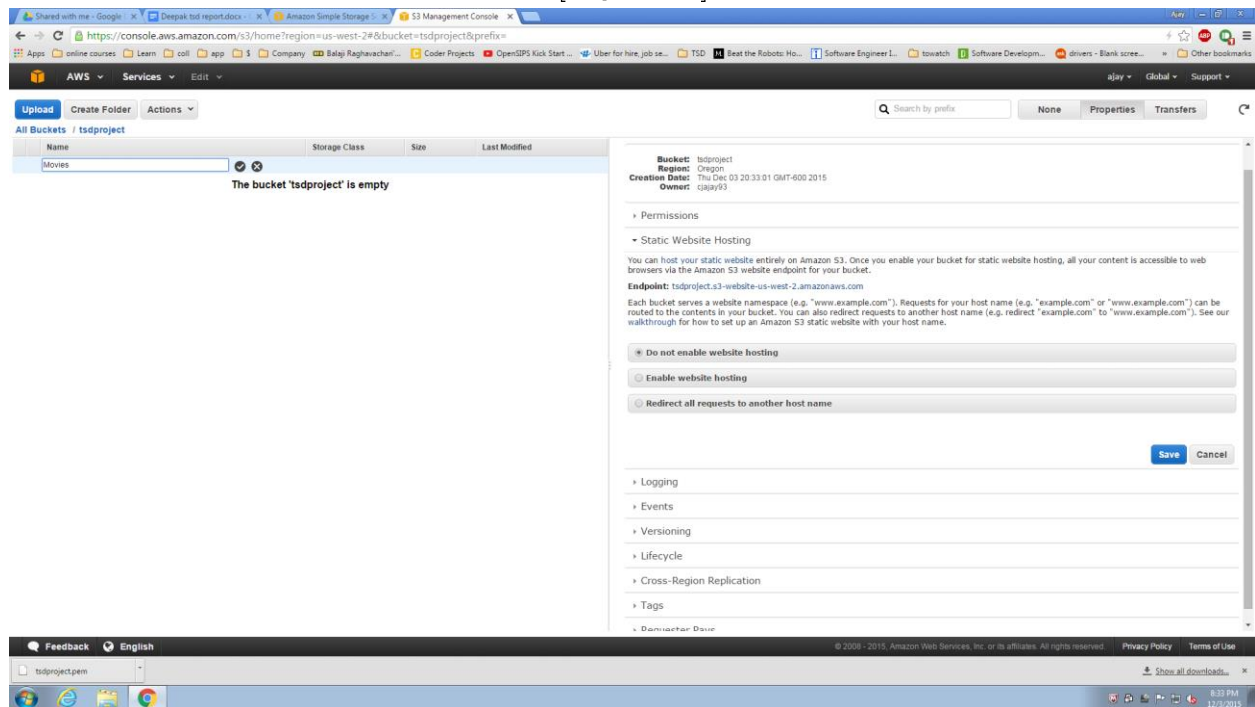


[Figure 9]

- Figure 10: Once the bucket is created, it is easily accessible. The images shown below are for the creation of multiple folders. The folders created are specific to our project.

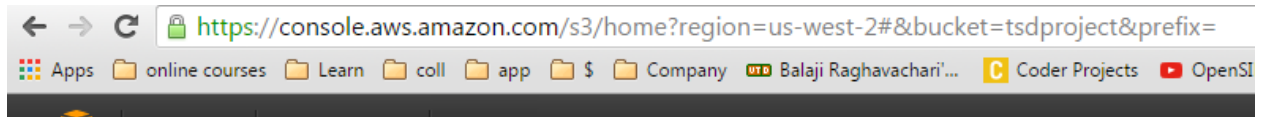


[Figure 10]

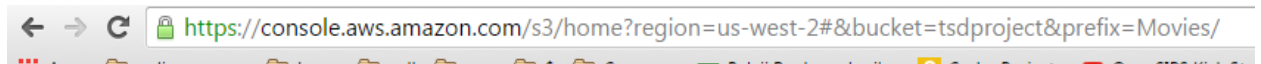


[Figure 11]

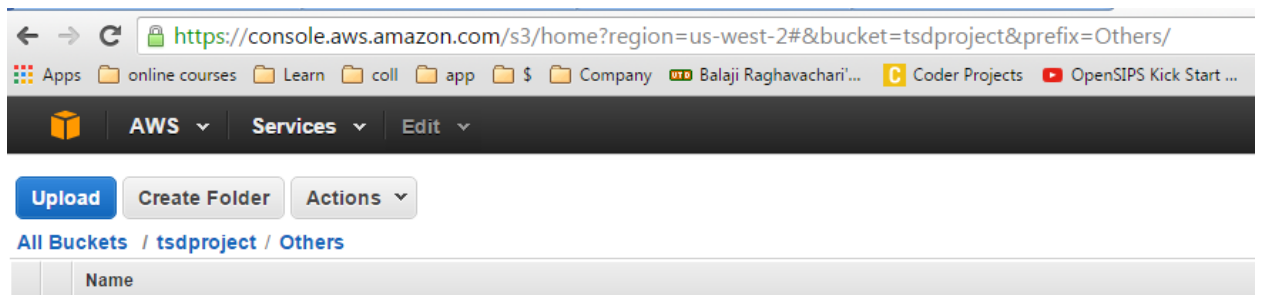
- Figure 12: The figure below shows the unique URL for bucket TSDProject.

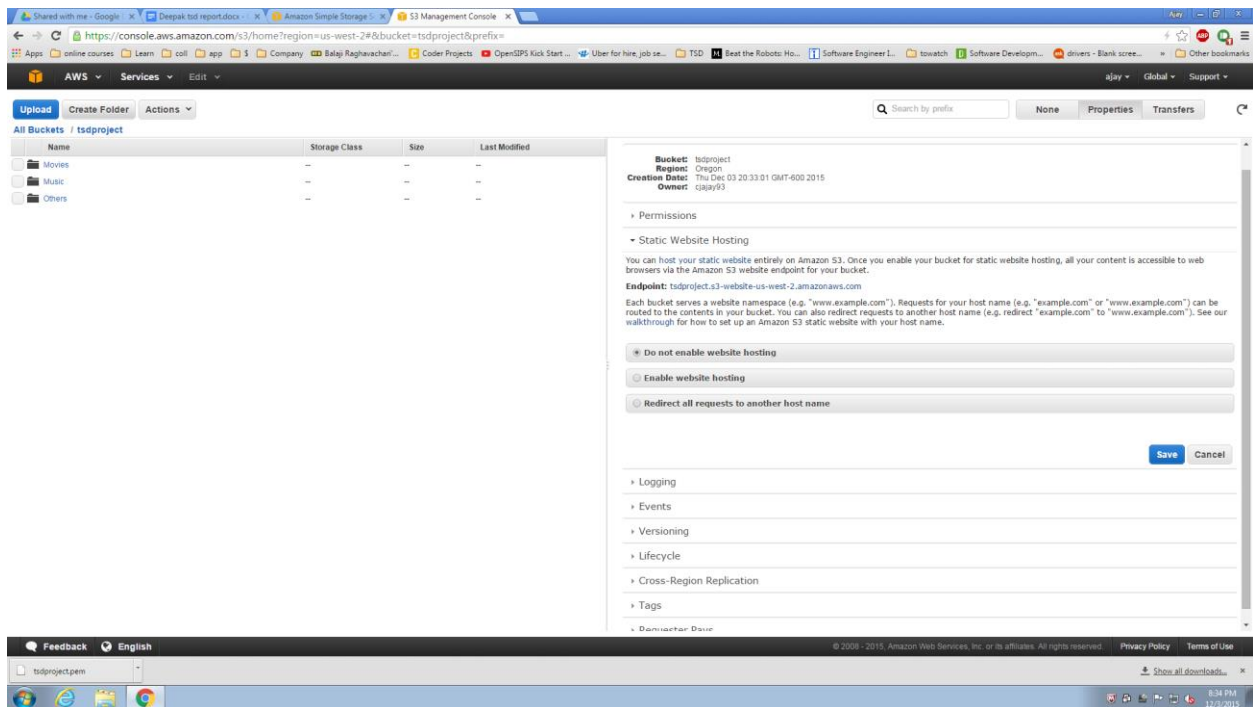


- Figure 13: Figure shown below shows the unique URL for “Movie” folder created inside “tsdproject” bucket.



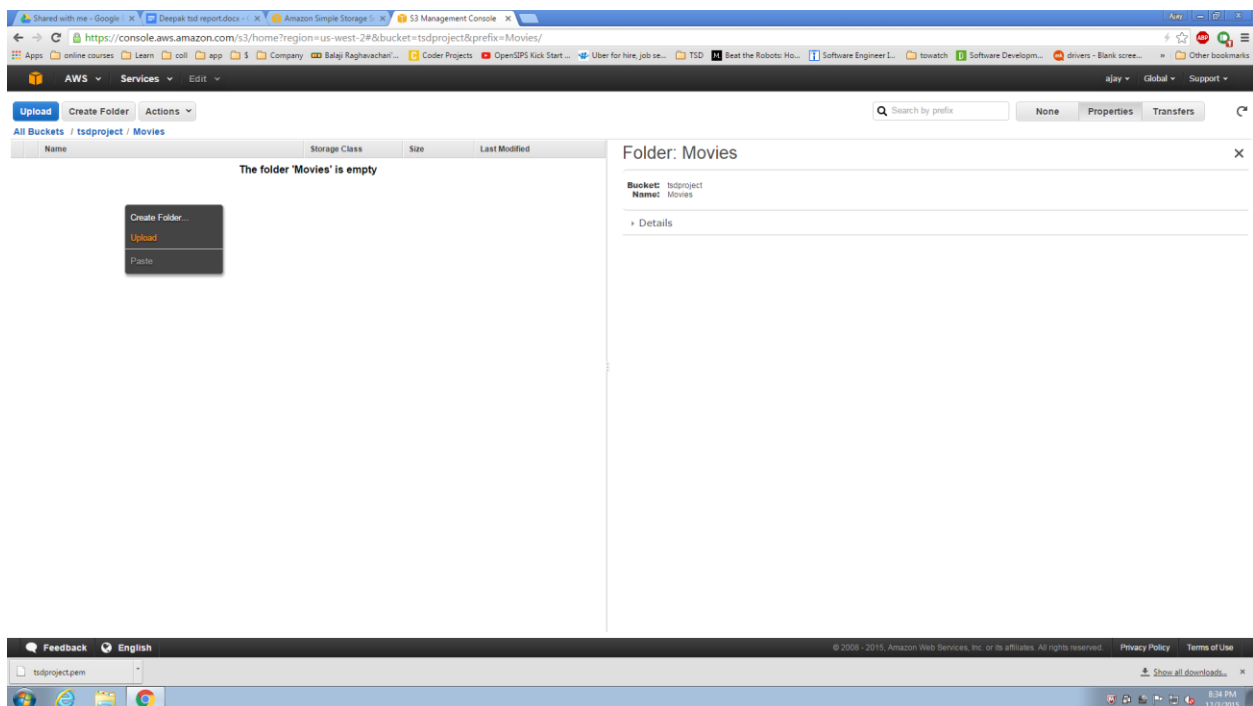
- Figure 14: The image below shows unique URL for “Others” folder on “tsdproject” Bucket





[Figure 15]

- Figure 16: Each folder gives an option to upload as shown below.



[Figure 16]

Note:

- It is required to make each folder, object in the bucket public. Or else, they cannot be accessed externally.
- To obtain programmatic access to S3, IAM rules need to be created. Additional details can be found about IAM can be found in the following links:
 - <https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/home#>
 - <http://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/introduction.html>
- Documentation on AWS SDK for Java can be accessed at:
<https://aws.amazon.com/sdk-for-java/>
- Example codes for AWS Java can be found at:
<https://github.com/aws/aws-sdk-java/tree/master/src/samples/AmazonS3>

References:

- Java SDK for S3: <http://javatutorial.net/java-s3-example>
- REST API:
 - <http://crunchify.com/how-to-build-restful-service-with-java-using-jax-rs-and-jersey/>
 - <http://www.mkyong.com/webservices/jax-rs/jersey-hello-world-example/>
- VLCj: <http://capricasoftware.co.uk/#/projects/vlcj/tutorial/first-steps>
- OkHTTP: <http://square.github.io/okhttp/>
- Jetty HTTP/2 Server: <https://webtide.com/introduction-to-http2-in-jetty/>
- Android: <http://hmkcode.com/android-parsing-json-data/>