

Complete Terraform Documentation for AWS VPC + Subnet + Route Table + Security Group + EC2 (Step-by-Step Guide)

1. Project Title

Terraform Infrastructure Setup on AWS (VPC, Subnets, Internet Gateway, Route Tables, Security Group, and EC2 Instance)

2. Project Objective

The main objective of this project is to create a complete AWS infrastructure using Terraform. This includes:

- Custom VPC
- Public and Private Subnets
- Internet Gateway
- Route Tables and Associations
- Security Group (SSH Access)
- EC2 Instance Deployment

This project is useful for DevOps, Cloud Computing, and MCA final year practical implementation.

4. Prerequisites (Before Starting)

You must install and configure the following:

4.1 Install Terraform

Check installation:

```
terraform -version
```

4.2 Install AWS CLI

Check:

```
aws --version
```

4.3 Configure AWS Credentials

Command:

aws configure

Enter:

- Access Key
 - Secret Key
 - Region (example: us-west-1)
 - Output format: json
-

5. Project Folder Structure

Recommended structure:

terraform-project/

|— provider.tf

|— vpc.tf

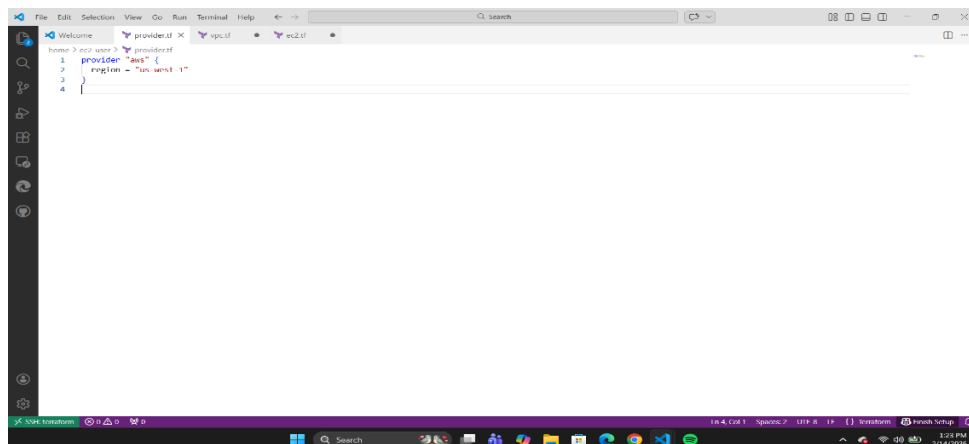
|— ec2.tf

6. Provider Configuration (Very Important)

File: provider.tf

Correct Code:

```
provider "aws" {  
  region = "us-west-1"  
}
```



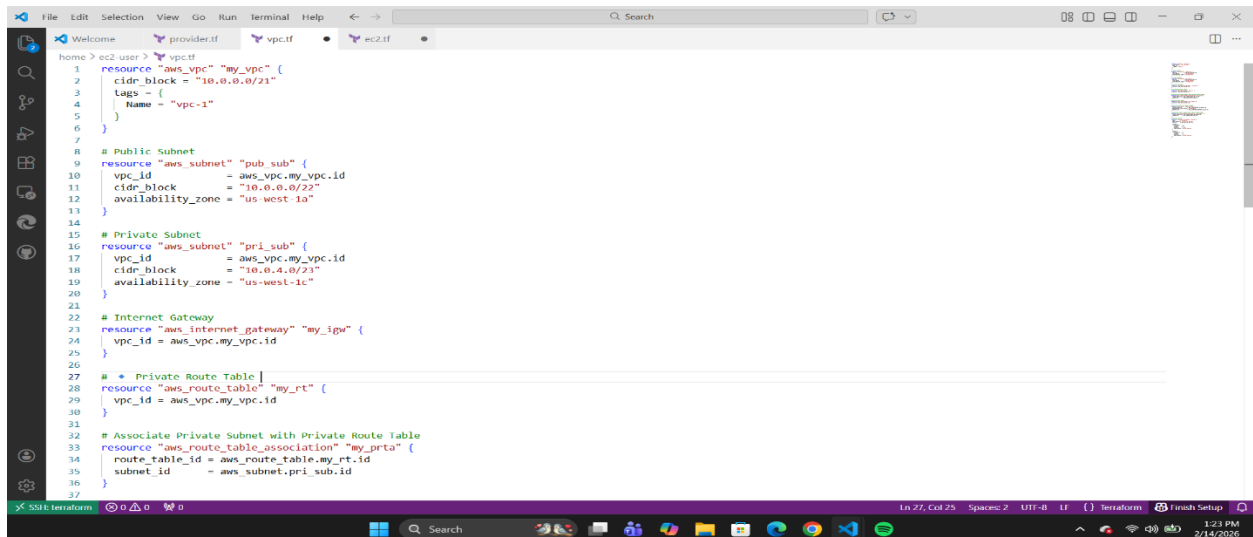
Explanation:

- Defines AWS region where resources will be created
 - Region must be inside quotes
 - If region mismatch, resources will not appear in AWS console
-

7. VPC Configuration

File: vpc.tf

```
resource "aws_vpc" "my_vpc" {  
  cidr_block = "10.0.0.0/21"  
  tags = {  
    Name = "vpc-1"  
  }  
}
```



Explanation:

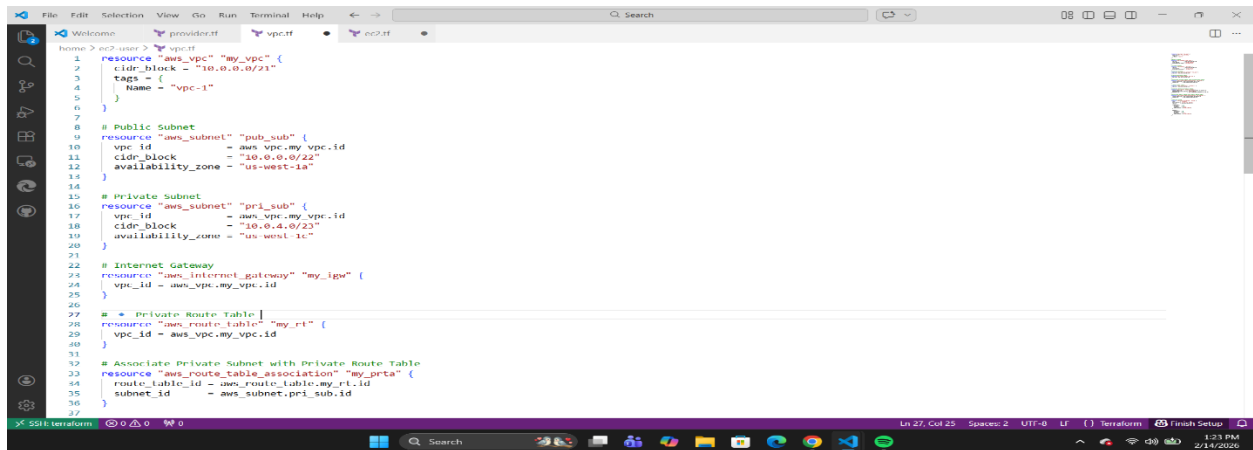
- Creates custom VPC
 - CIDR block defines IP range of network
 - /21 provides large IP pool
-

8. Subnet Configuration

Subnets divide VPC into smaller networks.

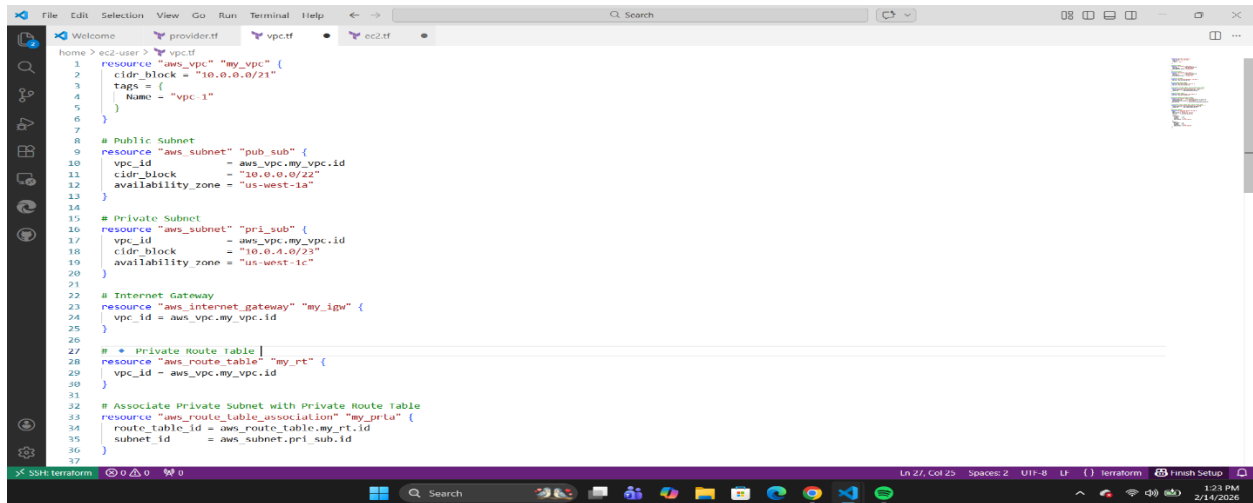
8.1 Public Subnet

```
resource "aws_subnet" "pub_sub" {  
    vpc_id      = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id  
    cidr_block   = "10.0.0.0/22"  
    availability_zone = "us-west-1a"  
    tags = {  
        Name = "public-subnet"  
    }  
}
```



8.2 Private Subnet

```
resource "aws_subnet" "pri_sub" {  
    vpc_id      = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id  
    cidr_block   = "10.0.4.0/23"  
    availability_zone = "us-west-1c"  
    tags = {  
        Name = "private-subnet"  
    }  
}
```



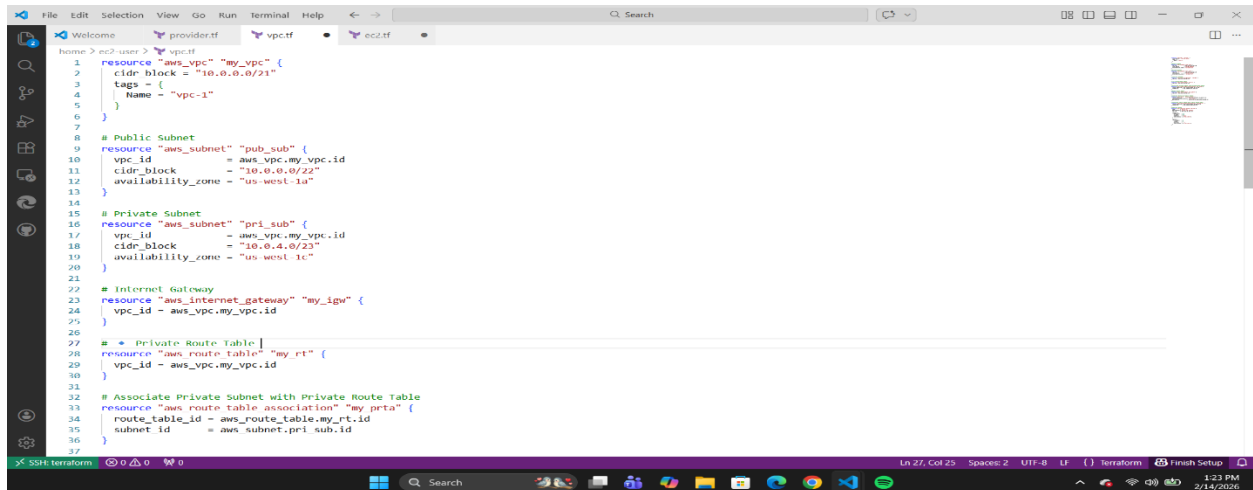
```
1 resource "aws_vpc" "my_vpc" {
2   cidr_block = "10.0.0.0/21"
3   tags = {
4     Name = "vpc-1"
5   }
6 }
7
8 # Public Subnet
9 resource "aws_subnet" "pub_sub" {
10  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id
11  cidr_block = "10.0.0.0/22"
12  availability_zone = "us-west-1a"
13 }
14
15 # Private Subnet
16 resource "aws_subnet" "pri_sub" {
17  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id
18  cidr_block = "10.0.4.0/23"
19  availability_zone = "us-west-1c"
20 }
21
22 # Internet Gateway
23 resource "aws_internet_gateway" "my_igw" {
24  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id
25 }
26
27 # Private Route Table
28 resource "aws_route_table" "my_rt" {
29  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id
30 }
31
32 # Associate Private Subnet with Private Route Table
33 resource "aws_route_table_association" "my_prt" {
34  route_table_id = aws_route_table.my_rt.id
35  subnet_id = aws_subnet.pri_sub.id
36 }
37
```

Important:

- Availability Zone must match region
- us-west-1 supports only us-west-1a and us-west-1c

9. Internet Gateway Configuration

```
resource "aws_internet_gateway" "my_igw" {
  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id
  tags = {
    Name = "my-igw"
  }
}
```



```
1 resource "aws_vpc" "my_vpc" {
2   cidr_block = "10.0.0.0/21"
3   tags = {
4     Name = "vpc-1"
5   }
6 }
7
8 # Public Subnet
9 resource "aws_subnet" "pub_sub" {
10  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id
11  cidr_block = "10.0.0.0/22"
12  availability_zone = "us-west-1a"
13 }
14
15 # Private Subnet
16 resource "aws_subnet" "pri_sub" {
17  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id
18  cidr_block = "10.0.4.0/23"
19  availability_zone = "us-west-1c"
20 }
21
22 # Internet Gateway
23 resource "aws_internet_gateway" "my_igw" {
24  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id
25 }
26
27 # Private Route Table
28 resource "aws_route_table" "my_rt" {
29  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id
30 }
31
32 # Associate Private Subnet with Private Route Table
33 resource "aws_route_table_association" "my_prt" {
34  route_table_id = aws_route_table.my_rt.id
35  subnet_id = aws_subnet.pri_sub.id
36 }
37
```

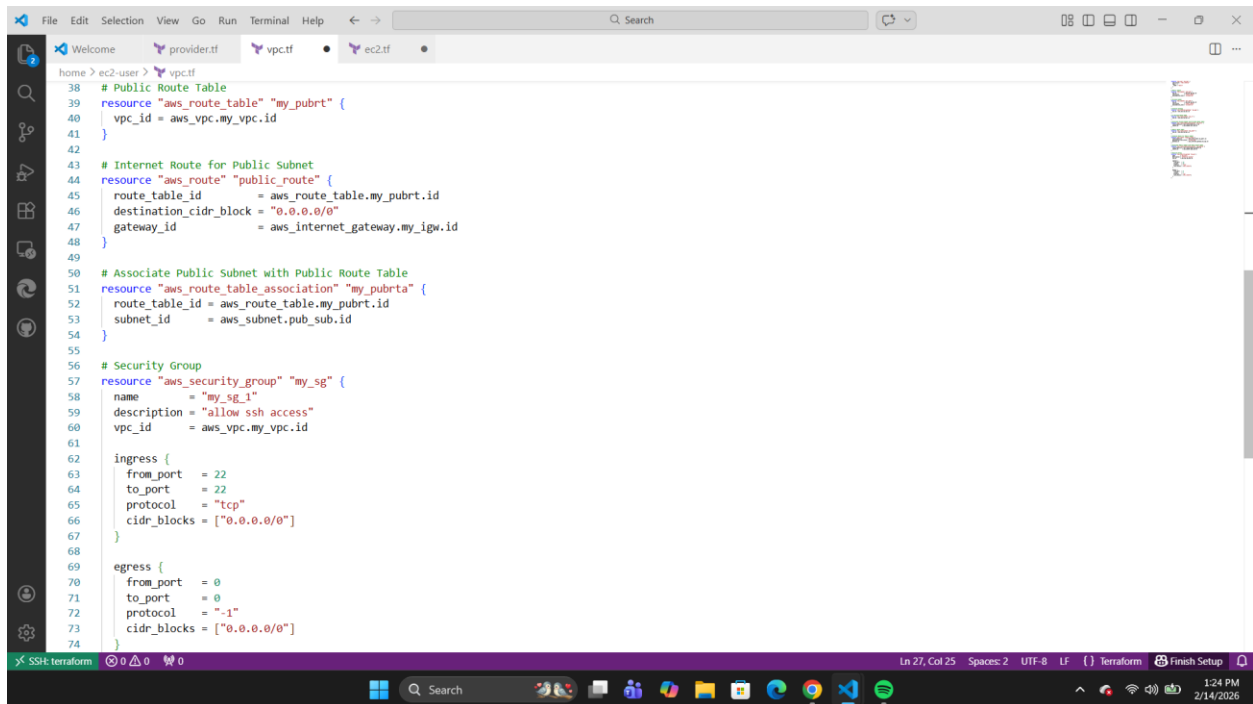
Purpose:

- Allows internet access to public subnet resources

10. Route Table Configuration (Public + Private)

10.1 Private Route Table

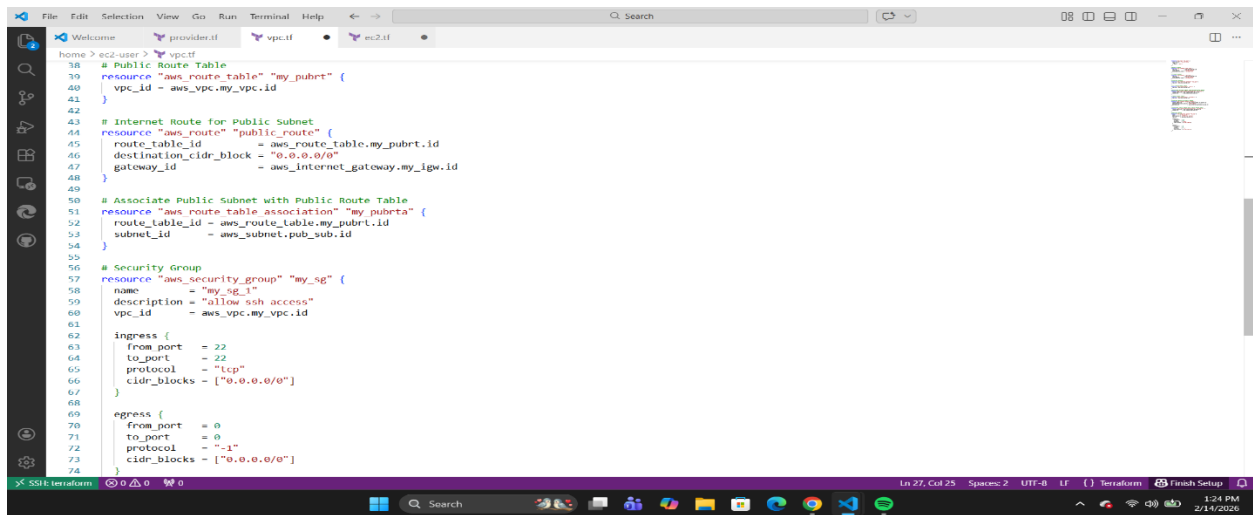
```
resource "aws_route_table" "my_rt" {  
  
  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id  
  
  tags = {  
  
    Name = "private-rt"  
  
  }  
  
}
```



10.2 Public Route Table

```
resource "aws_route_table" "my_pubrt" {  
  
  vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id  
  
  tags = {  
  
    Name = "public-rt"  
  
  }
```

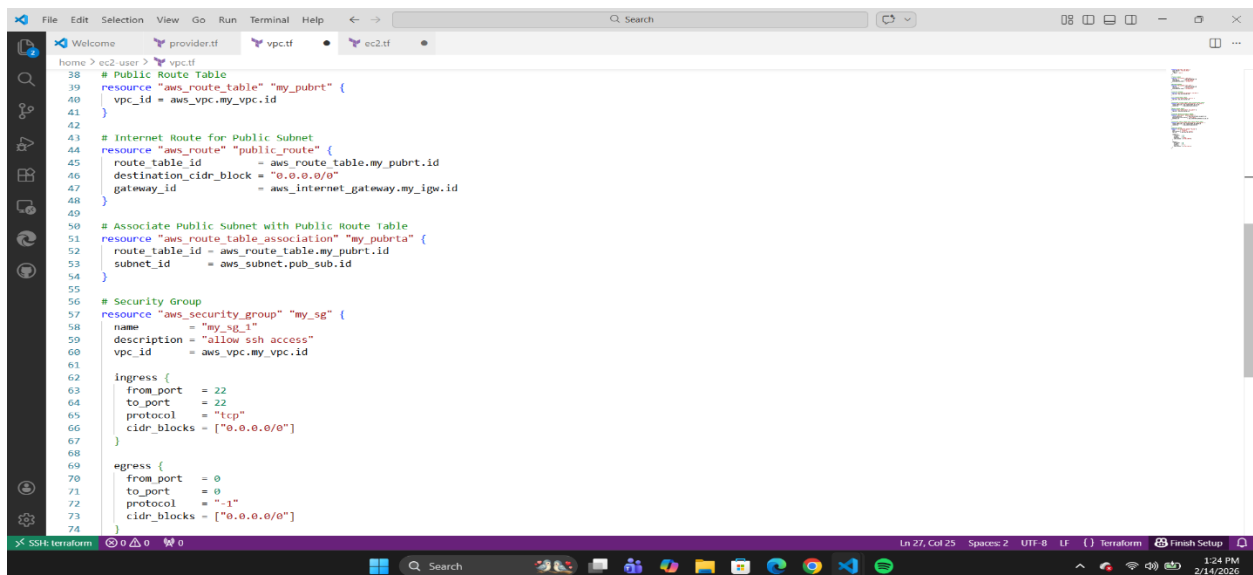
```
}  
  
}
```



```
home > ec2-user > vpc.tf  
38 # Public Route Table  
39 resource "aws_route_table" "my_pubrt" {  
40   vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id  
41 }  
42  
43 # Internet Route for Public Subnet  
44 resource "aws_route" "public_route" {  
45   route_table_id = aws_route_table.my_pubrt.id  
46   destination_cidr_block = "0.0.0.0/0"  
47   gateway_id = aws_internet_gateway.my_igw.id  
48 }  
49  
50 # Associate Public Subnet with Public Route Table  
51 resource "aws_route_table_association" "my_pubrta" {  
52   route_table_id = aws_route_table.my_pubrt.id  
53   subnet_id = aws_subnet.pub_sub.id  
54 }  
55  
56 # Security Group  
57 resource "aws_security_group" "my_sg" {  
58   name = "my_sg_1"  
59   description = "allow ssh access"  
60   vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id  
61  
62   ingress {  
63     from_port = 22  
64     to_port = 22  
65     protocol = "tcp"  
66     cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]  
67   }  
68  
69   egress {  
70     from_port = 0  
71     to_port = 0  
72     protocol = "-1"  
73     cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]  
74   }  
75 }
```

11. Public Internet Route

```
resource "aws_route" "public_route" {  
  
  route_table_id      = aws_route_table.my_pubrt.id  
  
  destination_cidr_block = "0.0.0.0/0"  
  
  gateway_id          = aws_internet_gateway.my_igw.id  
  
}
```



```
home > ec2-user > vpc.tf  
38 # Public Route Table  
39 resource "aws_route_table" "my_pubrt" {  
40   vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id  
41 }  
42  
43 # Internet Route for Public Subnet  
44 resource "aws_route" "public_route" {  
45   route_table_id = aws_route_table.my_pubrt.id  
46   destination_cidr_block = "0.0.0.0/0"  
47   gateway_id = aws_internet_gateway.my_igw.id  
48 }  
49  
50 # Associate Public Subnet with Public Route Table  
51 resource "aws_route_table_association" "my_pubrta" {  
52   route_table_id = aws_route_table.my_pubrt.id  
53   subnet_id = aws_subnet.pub_sub.id  
54 }  
55  
56 # Security Group  
57 resource "aws_security_group" "my_sg" {  
58   name = "my_sg_1"  
59   description = "allow ssh access"  
60   vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id  
61  
62   ingress {  
63     from_port = 22  
64     to_port = 22  
65     protocol = "tcp"  
66     cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]  
67   }  
68  
69   egress {  
70     from_port = 0  
71     to_port = 0  
72     protocol = "-1"  
73     cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]  
74   }  
75 }
```

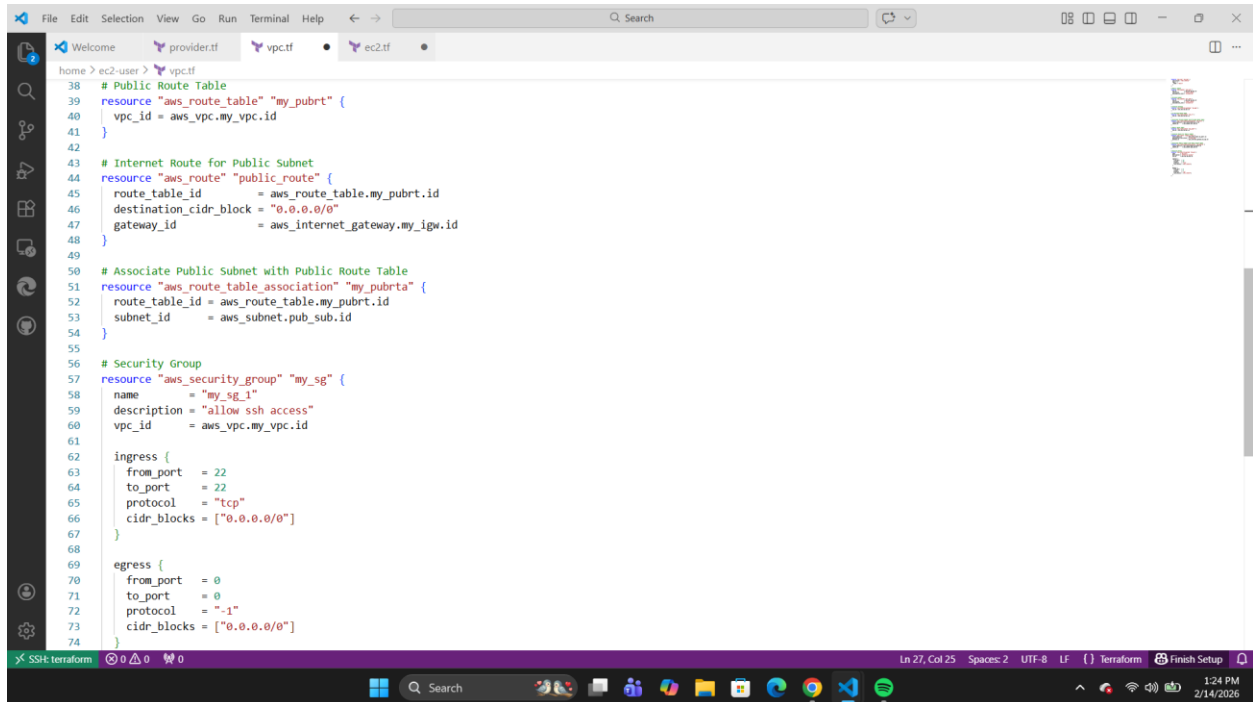
Explanation:

- 0.0.0.0/0 means internet access
- Attached to Internet Gateway

12. Route Table Association

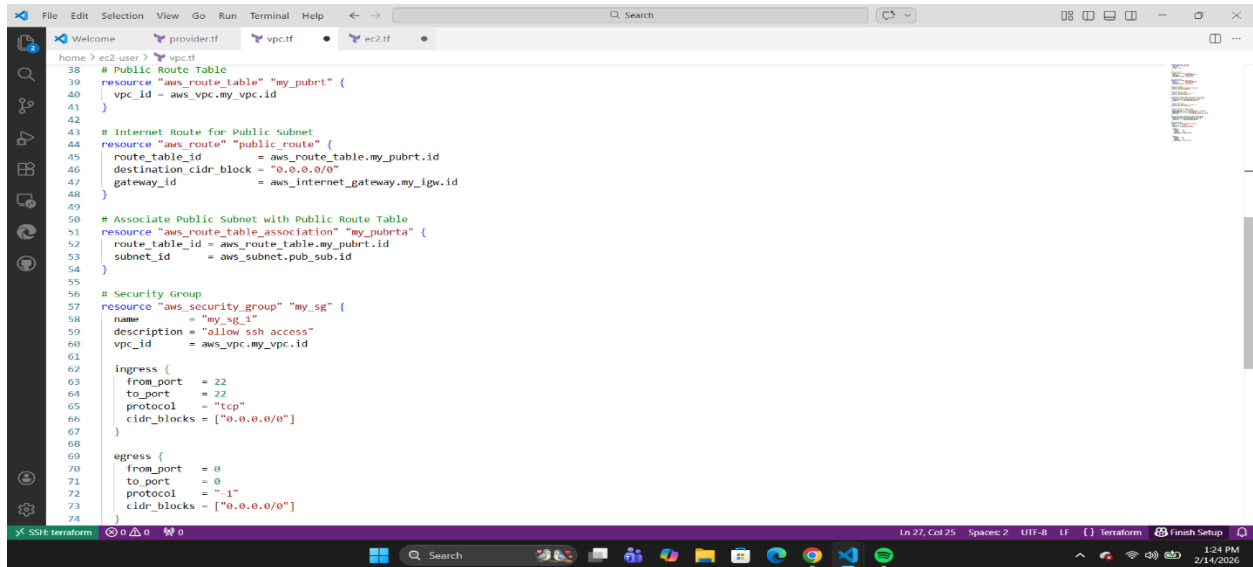
12.1 Public Subnet Association

```
resource "aws_route_table_association" "my_pubrta" {  
  
    route_table_id = aws_route_table.my_pubrt.id  
  
    subnet_id      = aws_subnet.pub_sub.id  
  
}
```



12.2 Private Subnet Association

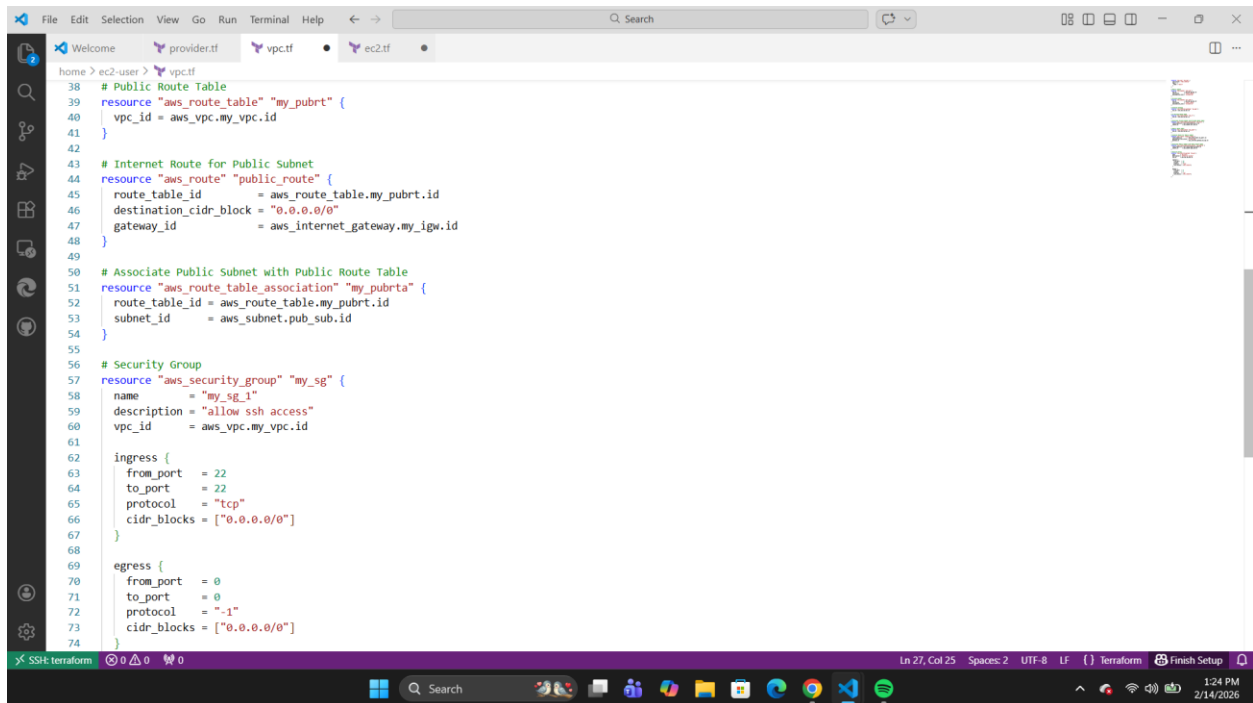
```
resource "aws_route_table_association" "my_prta" {  
  
    route_table_id = aws_route_table.my_rt.id  
  
    subnet_id      = aws_subnet.pri_sub.id  
  
}
```

13. Security Group Configuration (Firewall)

```
resource "aws_security_group" "my_sg" {  
  
  name      = "my_sg_1"  
  
  description = "Allow SSH access"  
  
  vpc_id    = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id  
  
  ingress {  
  
    from_port = 22  
  
    to_port   = 22  
  
    protocol  = "tcp"  
  
    cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]  
  }  
  
  egress {  
  
    from_port = 0  
  
    to_port   = 0  
  
    protocol  = "-1"  
  
    cidr_blocks = ["0.0.0.0/0"]  
  }  
}
```

}



The screenshot shows a code editor with a file explorer on the left. The active file is `ec2.tf` inside a project named `provider.tf`. The code defines several Terraform resources for AWS:

- `aws_route_table` resource `my_pubrt` with `vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id`.
- `aws_route` resource `public_route` with `route_table_id = aws_route_table.my_pubrt.id`, `destination_cidr_block = "0.0.0.0/0"`, and `gateway_id = aws_internet_gateway.my_igw.id`.
- `aws_route_table_association` resource `my_pubrta` with `route_table_id = aws_route_table.my_pubrt.id` and `subnet_id = aws_subnet.pub_sub.id`.
- `aws_security_group` resource `my_sg` with `name = "my_sg_1"`, `description = "allow ssh access"`, and `vpc_id = aws_vpc.my_vpc.id`. It includes `ingress` rules for port 22 (SSH) and `egress` rules for all outgoing traffic.

The status bar at the bottom indicates the file is at line 27, column 25, using UTF-8 encoding, and the editor is in "Finish Setup" mode. The system clock shows 1:24 PM on 2/14/2026.

Explanation:

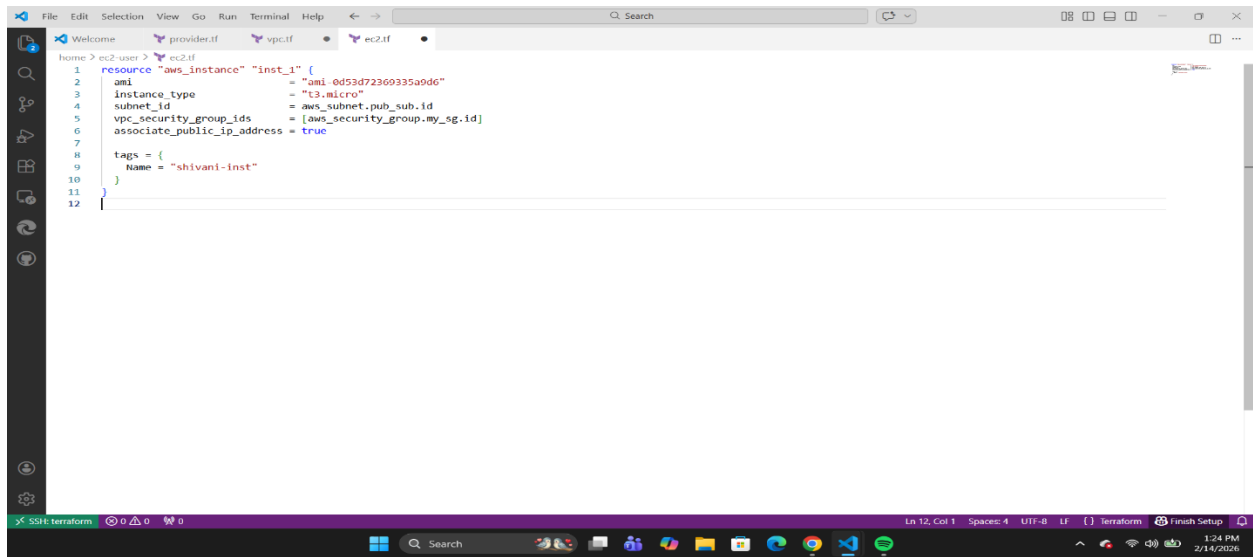
- Ingress: Allows SSH (Port 22)
- Egress: Allows all outgoing traffic

14. EC2 Instance Configuration (Final Step)

File: `ec2.tf`

```
resource "aws_instance" "inst_1" {  
    ami                = "ami-0d53d72369335a9d6"  
    instance_type      = "t2.micro"  
    subnet_id          = aws_subnet.pub_sub.id  
    vpc_security_group_ids = [aws_security_group.my_sg.id]  
    associate_public_ip_address = true  
    tags = {  
        Name = "terraform-ec2"  
    }  
}
```

}



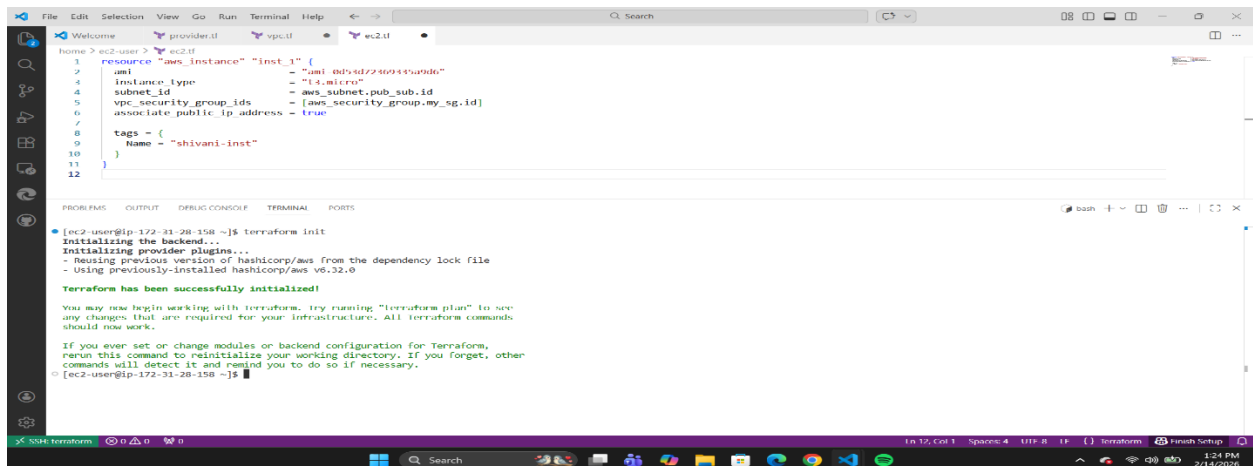
Important Notes:

- t2.micro = Free Tier eligible
- Must use public subnet for public IP
- AMI must match region (us-west-1)

15. Complete Terraform Execution Commands (Step-by-Step)

Step 1: Initialize Terraform

terraform init

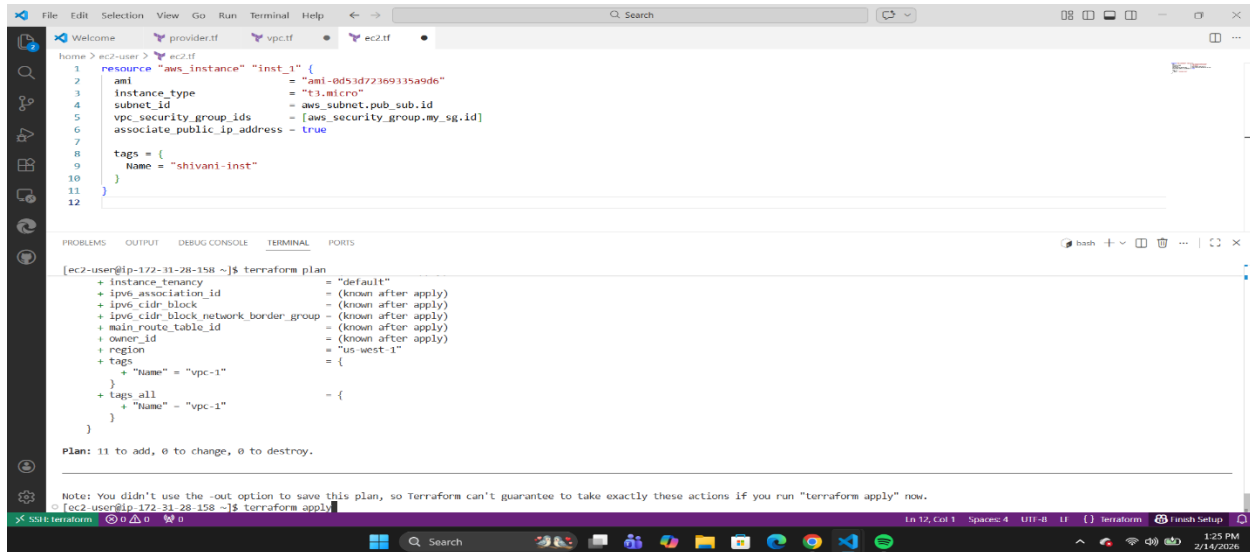


Step 2: Validate Code

terraform validate

Step 3: Plan Infrastructure

terraform plan



The screenshot shows a VS Code editor with a Terraform configuration file named `ec2.tf`. The configuration defines an `aws_instance` resource named `inst_1` with the following properties:

```
resource "aws_instance" "inst_1" {
  ami           = "ami-0d53d72369335a9de"
  instance_type = "t3.micro"
  subnet_id     = aws_subnet.pub_sub.id
  vpc_security_group_ids = [aws_security_group.my_sg.id]
  associate_public_ip_address = true

  tags = {
    Name = "shivani-inst"
  }
}
```

Below the configuration, the `terraform plan` command has been executed, showing the following output:

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-28-158 ~]$ terraform plan
+ instance_tenancy           = "default"
+ ipv6_association_id         = (known after apply)
+ ipv6_cidr_block              = (known after apply)
+ ipv6_cidr_block_network_border_group = (known after apply)
+ main_route_table_id         = (known after apply)
+ owner_id                    = (known after apply)
+ region                      = "us-west-1"
+ tags                        = {
  + "Name" = "vpc-1"
}
+ tags_all                    = {
  + "Name" = "vpc-1"
}
}

Plan: 11 to add, 0 to change, 0 to destroy.
```

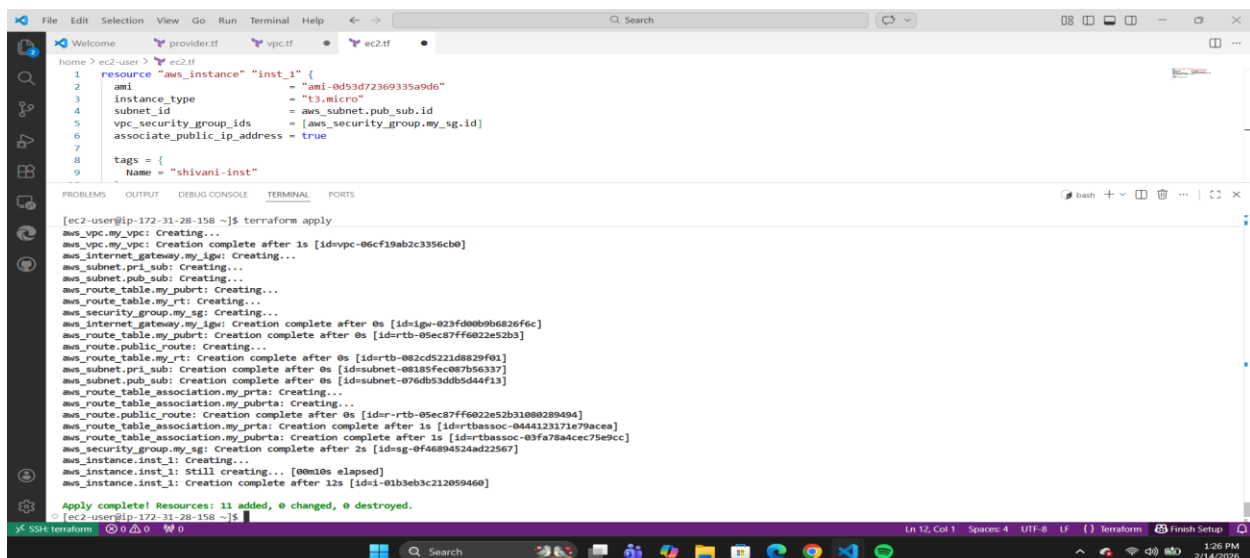
A note at the bottom states: "Note: You didn't use the -out option to save this plan, so Terraform can't guarantee it takes exactly these actions if you run 'terraform apply' now."

Step 4: Apply Configuration

terraform apply

Type:

Yes



The screenshot shows the output of the `terraform apply` command. The resources are being created in the following order:

- `aws_vpc.my_vpc`: Creating...
- `aws_vpc.my_vpc`: Creation complete after 1s [id=vpc-06cf19ab2c3356cb0]
- `aws_internet_gateway.my_igw`: Creating...
- `aws_subnet.pri_sub`: Creating...
- `aws_subnet.pub_sub`: Creating...
- `aws_route_table.my_pubrt`: Creating...
- `aws_route_table.my_rt`: Creating...
- `aws_security_group.my_sg`: Creating...
- `aws_internet_gateway.my_igw`: Creation complete after 0s [id=igw-023fd00b0b6826fec]
- `aws_route_table.my_pubrt`: Creation complete after 0s [id=rtb-05ec87ff6022e52b3]
- `aws_route_table.my_rt`: Creation complete after 0s [id=rtb-082cd5221d8829f01]
- `aws_subnet.pri_sub`: Creation complete after 0s [id=subnet-08185fec087b56337]
- `aws_subnet.pub_sub`: Creation complete after 0s [id=subnet-076db53ddb5d44f13]
- `aws_route_table_association.my_pubrtas`: Creating...
- `aws_route_table_association.my_rtas`: Creation complete after 0s [id=rtb-05ec87ff6022e52b31080289494]
- `aws_route_table_association.my_rtas`: Creation complete after 1s [id=rtbassoc-0444123171e79acea]
- `aws_route_table_association.my_pubrtas`: Creation complete after 1s [id=rtbassoc-03fa78a4cec75e9ec]
- `aws_security_group.my_sg`: Creation complete after 2s [id=sg-0f46894524ad22567]
- `aws_instance.inst_1`: Creating...
- `aws_instance.inst_1`: Still creating... [00m0s elapsed]
- `aws_instance.inst_1`: Creation complete after 12s [id=i-01b3eb3c212059460]

The final output is: "Apply complete! Resources: 11 added, 0 changed, 0 destroyed."

Step 5: Check Created Resources

Instances | EC2 | us-west-1

us-west-1.console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/home?region=us-west-1#instances:

Search [Alt+S]

United States (N. California) varsha berya (0850-1319-2054)

EC2 > Instances

EC2

- Dashboard
- AWS Global View
- Events
- ▼ Instances
 - Instances
 - Instance Types
 - Launch Templates
 - Spot Requests
 - Savings Plans
 - Reserved Instances
 - Dedicated Hosts
 - Capacity Reservations
 - Capacity Manager
- ▼ Images
 - AMIs
 - AMI Catalog
- ▼ Elastic Block Store
 - Volumes

Instances (4) Info

Last updated less than a minute ago

Connect Instance state Actions Launch Instances

Find Instance by attribute or tag (case-sensitive) All states

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Instance ID	Instance state	Instance type	Status check	Alarm status	Availability Zone	Public IPv4
<input type="checkbox"/>	terra	i-01e6e9c86da47b678	Running	t3.micro	3/3 checks passed	View alarms +	us-west-1a	ec2-54-193
<input type="checkbox"/>	new-inst	i-0d1d0373f90a0793a	Terminated	t3.micro	-	View alarms +	us-west-1a	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	new-inst	i-01b3eb3c212059460	Terminated	t3.micro	-	View alarms +	us-west-1a	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	shivani-inst	i-063c717f6dc16caf4	Running	t3.micro	Initializing	View alarms +	us-west-1a	-

Select an instance

CloudShell Feedback Console Mobile App

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1:32 PM 2/14/2026

vpcs | VPC Console

us-west-1.console.aws.amazon.com/vpcconsole/home?region=us-west-1#vpcs:

Search [Alt+S]

United States (N. California) varsha berya (0850-1319-2054)

VPC > Your VPCs

VPC dashboard

- AWS Global View
- Filter by VPC
- ▼ Virtual private cloud
 - Your VPCs
 - Subnets
 - Route tables
 - Internet gateways
 - Egress-only internet gateways
 - DHCP option sets
 - Elastic IPs
 - Managed prefix lists
 - NAT gateways
 - Peering connections
 - Route servers
- ▼ Security
 - Network ACLs
 - Security groups

Your VPCs

VPCs VPC encryption controls

Last updated less than a minute ago

Actions Create VPC

Find VPCs by attribute or tag

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	VPC ID	State	Encryption c...	Encryption control ...	Block Public...	IPv4
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	vpc-0ad3859899fe7dc32	Available	-	-	Off	172.3
<input type="checkbox"/>	kops-vpc-us-west-1	vpc-0064dba44a715c874	Available	-	-	Off	10.0.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	shivani.k8s.local	vpc-03ba095d83250b10d	Available	-	-	Off	172.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	vpc-1	vpc-0c1cfa3c7b4696d0b	Available	-	-	Off	10.0.0

Select a VPC above

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1:32 PM 2/14/2026

subnets | VPC Console

us-west-1.console.aws.amazon.com/vpcconsole/home?region=us-west-1#subnets:subnetId=subnet-0677cbf4fd8f7a90e

aws Search [Alt+S]

United States (N. California) varsha berya (0850-1319-2054) varsha berya

VPC > Subnets

VPC dashboard

AWS Global View

Filter by VPC

Virtual private cloud

Your VPCs

Subnets

Route tables

Internet gateways

Egress-only internet gateways

DHCP option sets

Elastic IPs

Managed prefix lists

NAT gateways

Peering connections

Route servers

Security

Network ACLs

Security groups

Subnets (1) Info

Find subnets by attribute or tag

Subnet ID: subnet-0677cbf4fd8f7a90e Clear filters

Subnet ID Name State VPC Block Public... IPv4 CIDR

- subnet-0677cbf4fd8f7a90e Available vpc-0c1cfa3c7b4696d0b | vpc-1 Off 10.0.0.0/22

Select a subnet

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subnets | VPC Console

us-west-1.console.aws.amazon.com/vpcconsole/home?region=us-west-1#subnets:subnetId=subnet-06c18bcd8d3dc251b

aws Search [Alt+S]

United States (N. California) varsha berya (0850-1319-2054) varsha berya

VPC > Subnets

VPC dashboard

AWS Global View

Filter by VPC

Virtual private cloud

Your VPCs

Subnets

Route tables

Internet gateways

Egress-only internet gateways

DHCP option sets

Elastic IPs

Managed prefix lists

NAT gateways

Peering connections

Route servers

Security

Network ACLs

Security groups

Subnets (1) Info

Find subnets by attribute or tag

Subnet ID: subnet-06c18bcd8d3dc251b Clear filters

Subnet ID Name State VPC Block Public... IPv4 CIDR

- subnet-06c18bcd8d3dc251b Available vpc-0c1cfa3c7b4696d0b | vpc-1 Off 10.0.4.0/23

Select a subnet

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RouteTables | VPC Console

us-west-1.console.aws.amazon.com/vpcconsole/home?region=us-west-1#RouteTables:routeTableId=rtb-0e9a6d407520987c1

Search [Alt+S]

United States (N. California) varsha berya (0850-1319-2054) varsha berya

VPC > Route tables

VPC dashboard

AWS Global View

Filter by VPC

Virtual private cloud

- Your VPCs
- Subnets
- Route tables**
- Internet gateways
- Egress-only internet gateways
- DHCP option sets
- Elastic IPs
- Managed prefix lists
- NAT gateways
- Peering connections
- Route servers

Security

- Network ACLs
- Security groups

Route tables (1) Info

Last updated 3 minutes ago

Actions Create route table

Find route tables by attribute or tag

Route table ID : rtb-0e9a6d407520987c1 Clear filters

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Route table ID	Explicit subnet associ...	Edge associations	Main	VPC
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	rtb-0e9a6d407520987c1	subnet-06c18bcd8d3dc2...	-	No	vpc-0c1cfa3c7b4696d0b vpc-1

Select a route table

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igws | VPC Console

us-west-1.console.aws.amazon.com/vpcconsole/home?region=us-west-1#igws:internetGatewayId=igw-02353e08b7f0236de

Search [Alt+S]

United States (N. California) varsha berya (0850-1319-2054) varsha berya

VPC > Internet gateways

VPC dashboard

AWS Global View

Filter by VPC

Virtual private cloud

- Your VPCs
- Subnets
- Route tables
- Internet gateways**
- Egress-only internet gateways
- DHCP option sets
- Elastic IPs
- Managed prefix lists
- NAT gateways
- Peering connections
- Route servers

Security

- Network ACLs
- Security groups

Internet gateways (1) Info

Find internet gateways by attribute or tag

Internet gateway ID : igw-02353e08b7f0236de Clear filters

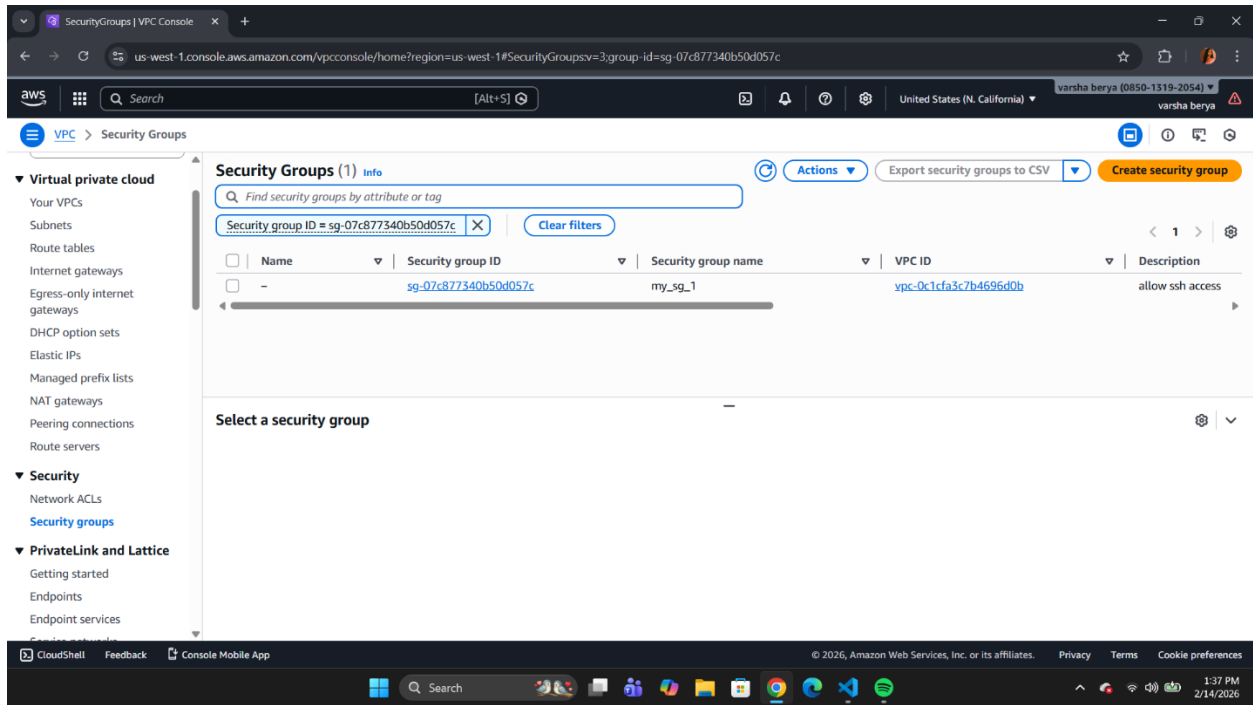
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Internet gateway ID	State	VPC ID	Owner
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	igw-02353e08b7f0236de	Attached	vpc-0c1cfa3c7b4696d0b vpc-1	085013192054

Select an internet gateway above

CloudShell Feedback Console Mobile App

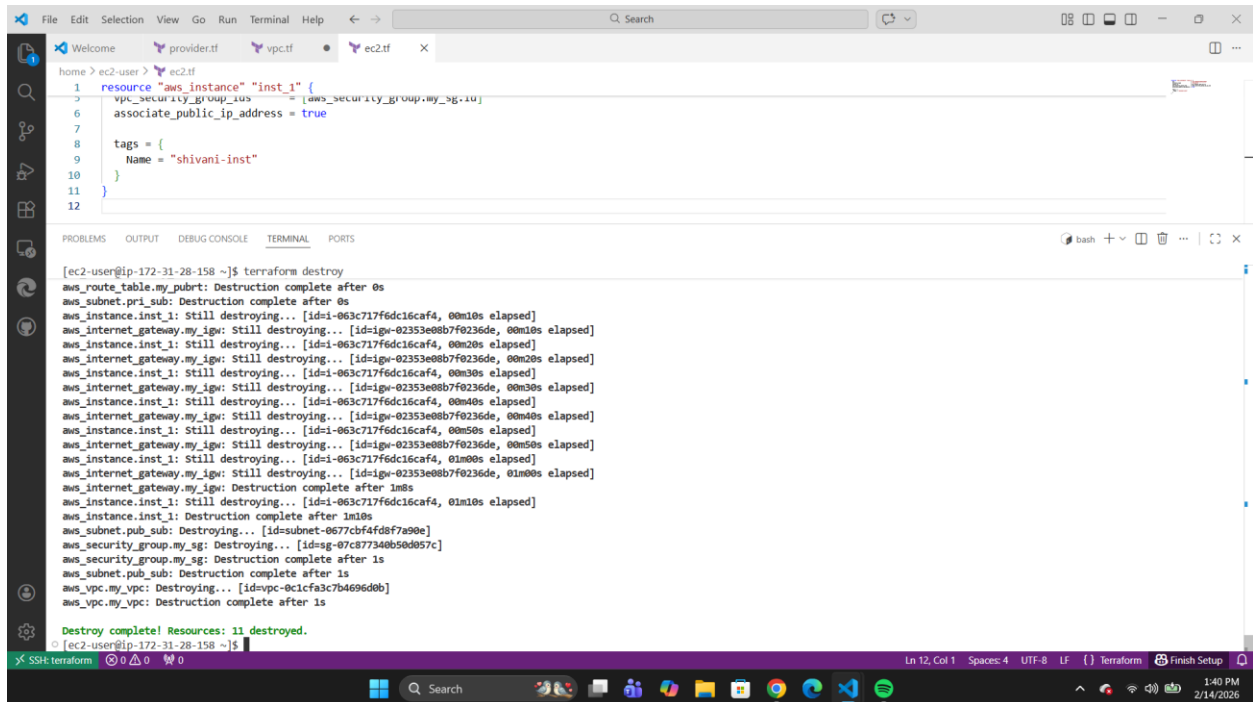
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15. Destroy All Resources (Optional Cleanup)

terraform destroy



Purpose:

- Avoid AWS billing
 - Clean environment after project
-

16. Best Practices for Academic & DevOps Projects

- Use Free Tier resources
 - Keep code modular (separate tf files)
 - Add tags to all resources
 - Use correct region and AZ
 - Always run terraform validate before apply
 - Store code in GitHub for version control
-

17. Final Conclusion

This project demonstrates a complete real-world AWS infrastructure deployment using Terraform. It includes networking, security, routing, and compute services in an automated and scalable way. By fixing errors like undeclared resources, region mismatch, availability zone issues, and free-tier limitations, the infrastructure becomes stable, reproducible, and suitable for DevOps learning, cloud labs project.