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AWS Cloud and Devops

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Configure automatic snapshot creation using Amazon Data Lifecycle Manager

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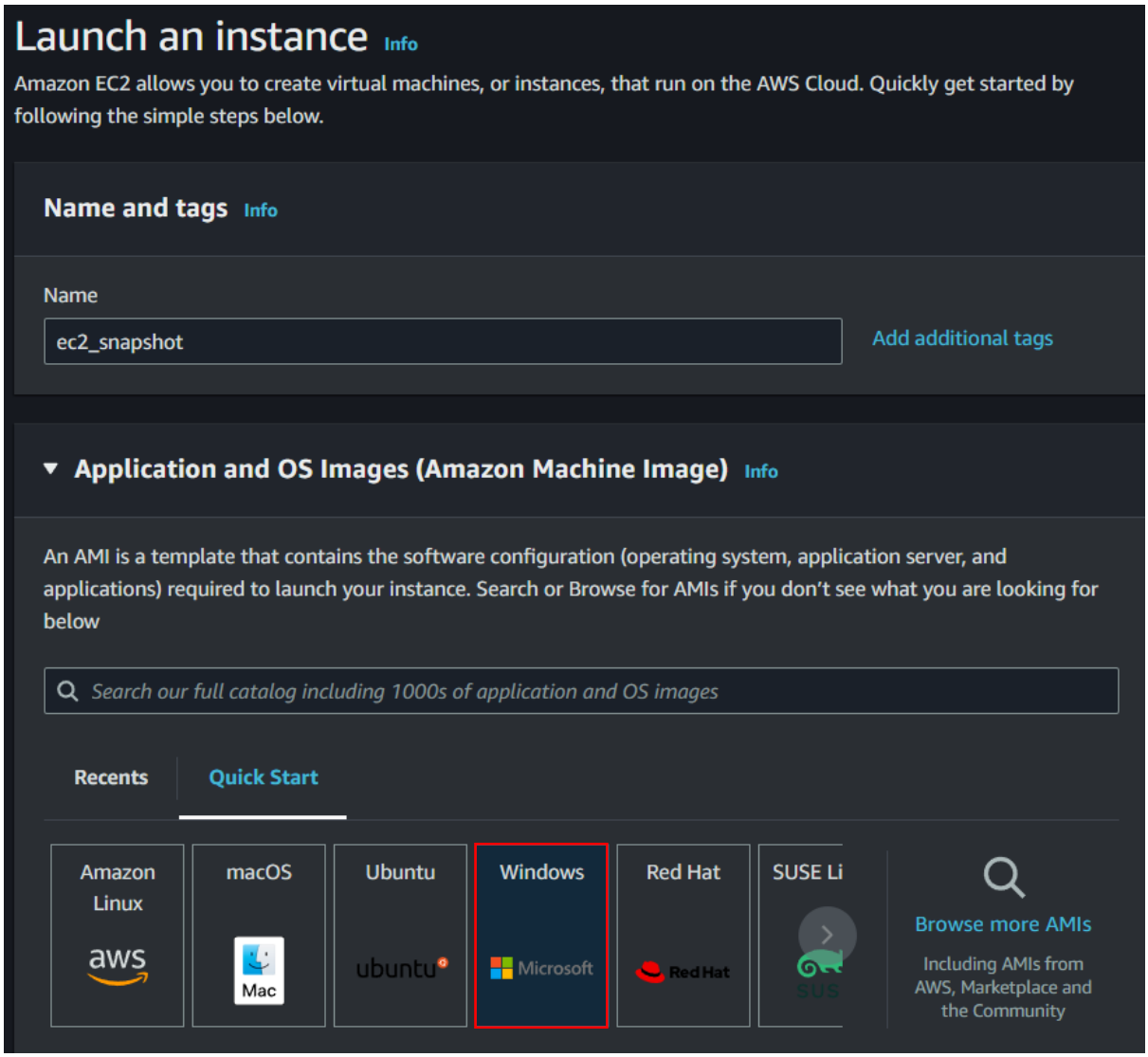
Amazon Data Lifecycle Manager is a **feature** of Amazon Web Service which automates the creation, retention, and deletion of snapshots and backup policies for EBS volumes.

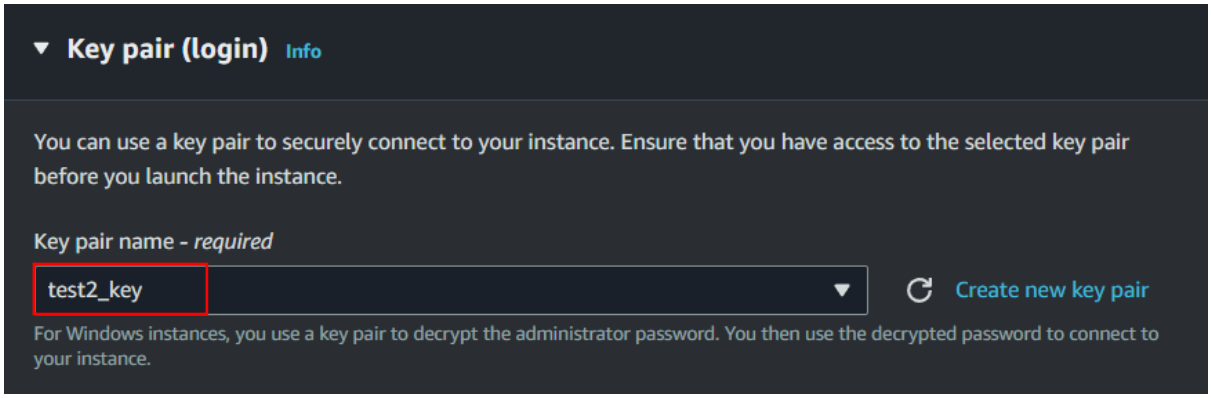
Lifecycle policy can be created for Instance as well as volume also. Here I have explained regarding **volume lifecycle policy**. You can create for instance as well; the method remains same throughout.

Let's create an instance,

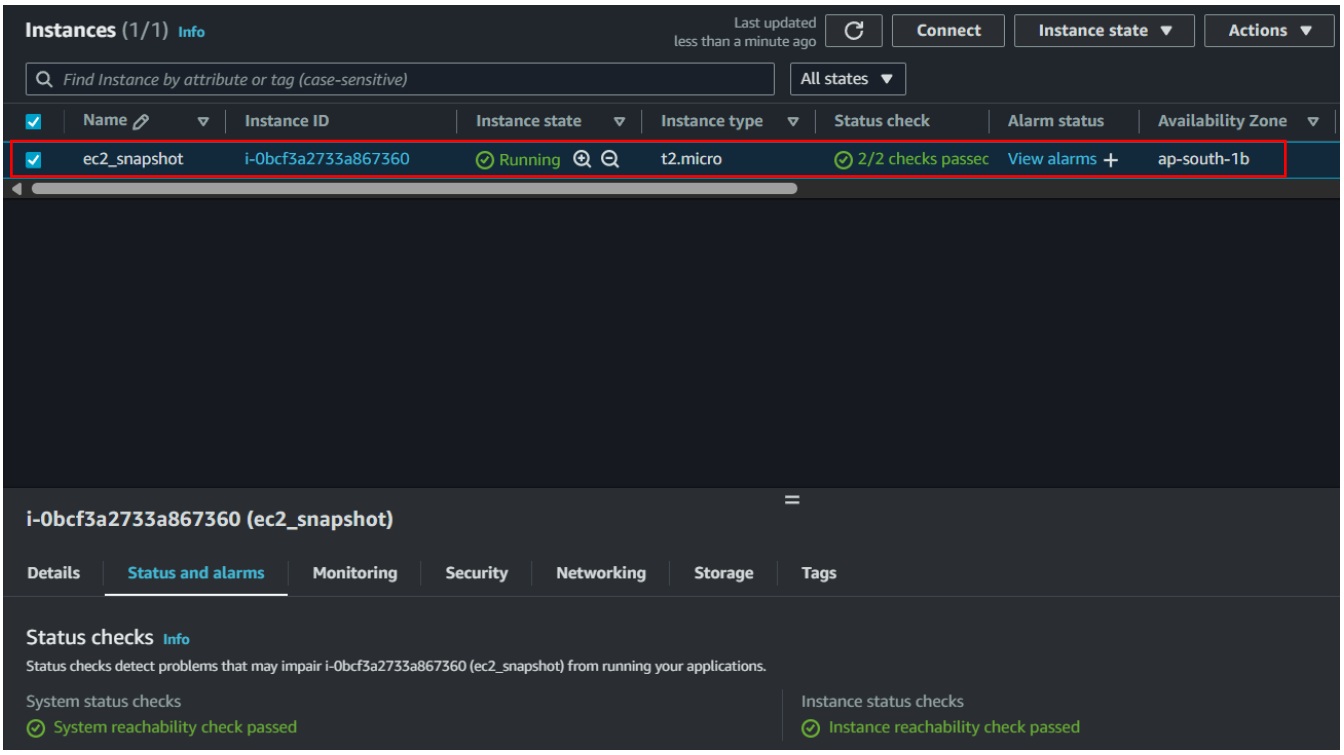
- Create new EC2 Instance. I named instance as "**ec2_snapshot**"
- Choose **Windows OS** or any other.



I'm gonna reuse my key pair which I have already created. Remember to create key pair with **.pem** file type for windows.



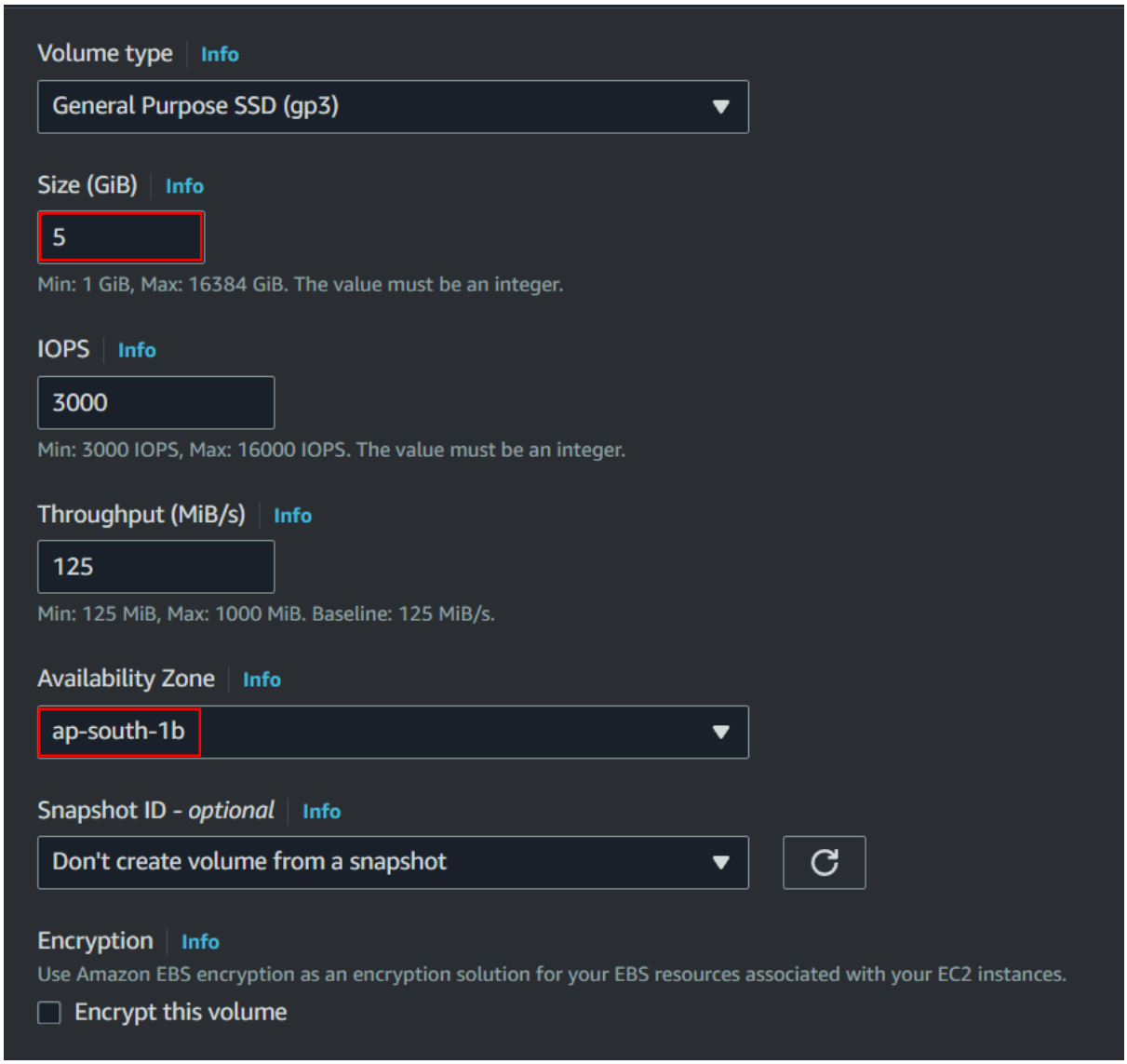
You can see my instance has been successfully initiated.



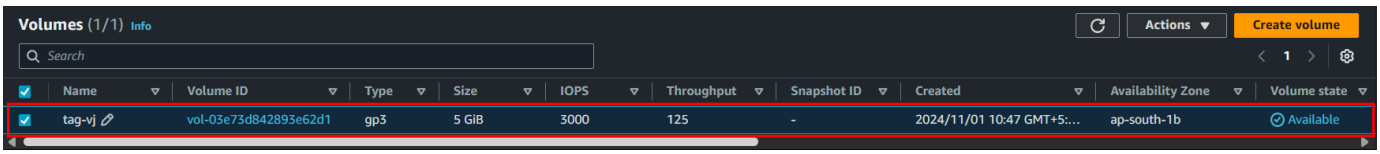
Now let's head towards **creating a volume**. Hope you are aware about creating EBS volume, if not explore my previous documents regarding creating a EBS volume.

Some points to remember:

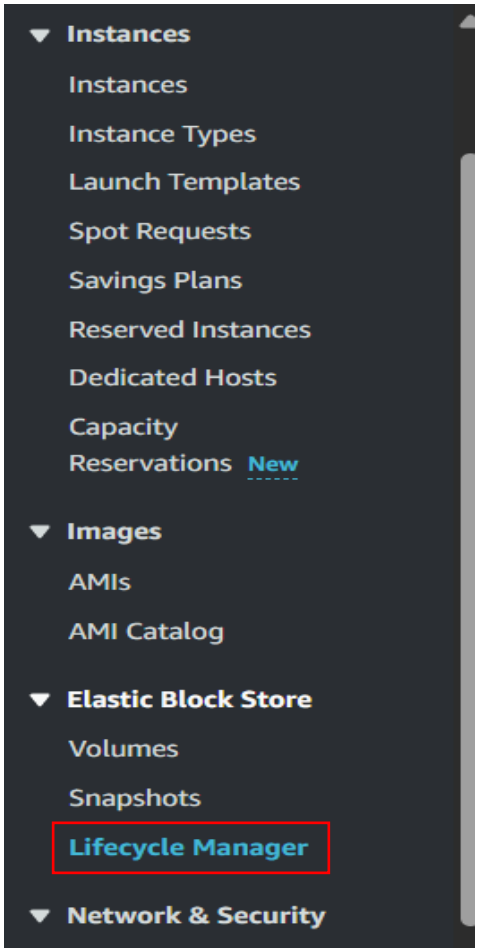
- Create volume at *same location* of instance.
- Allocate the *required volume* for an instance.



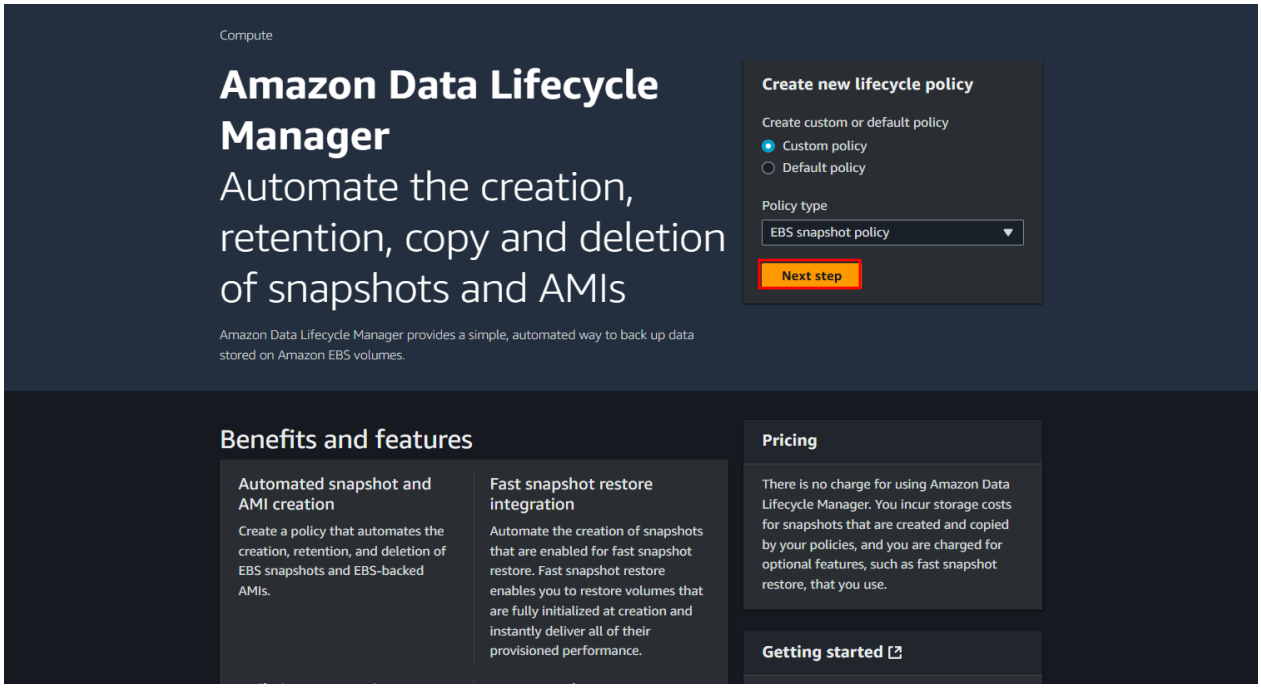
Now you can see we have successfully created a volume of **5 Gb,** with tag named **tag-vj**



Now we can assign an Automatic schedule for creating a snapshot by using *Lifecycle Manager*. Click on **Lifecycle Manager**

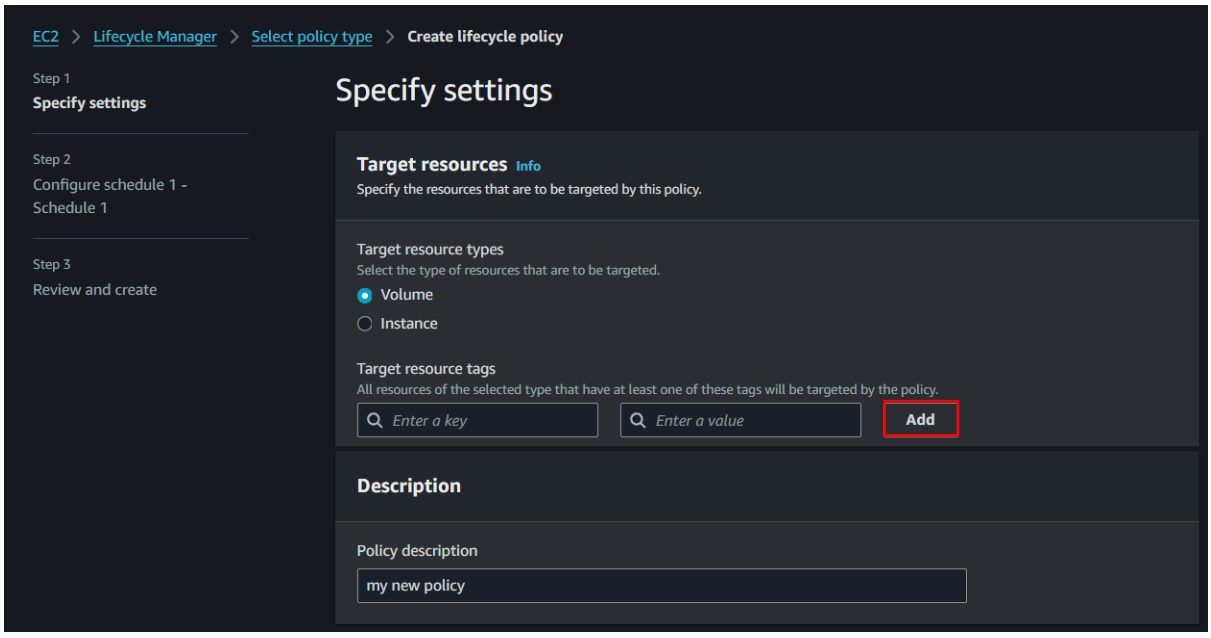


You can see the below page when you click on Lifecycle Manager, here click **Next Step**



You can select **volume** or **instance** for which you need to assign Lifecycle policy. Tags can be mentioned for targeting the required resources (volume or instance).

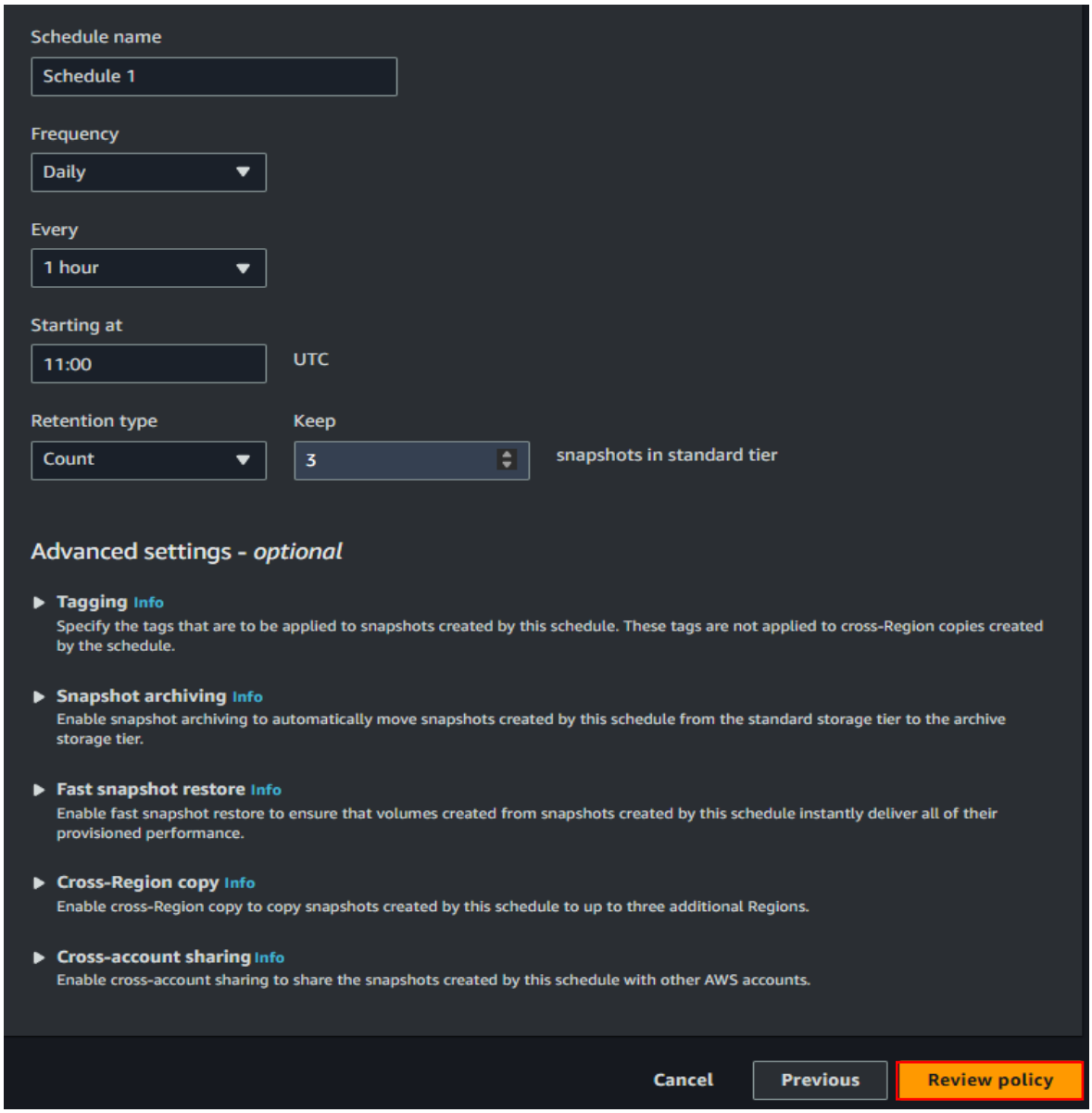
For adding tags enter **key, value** and click on **add** button.



We can modify our policy according to our need (name, frequency, start time, retention, etc...)

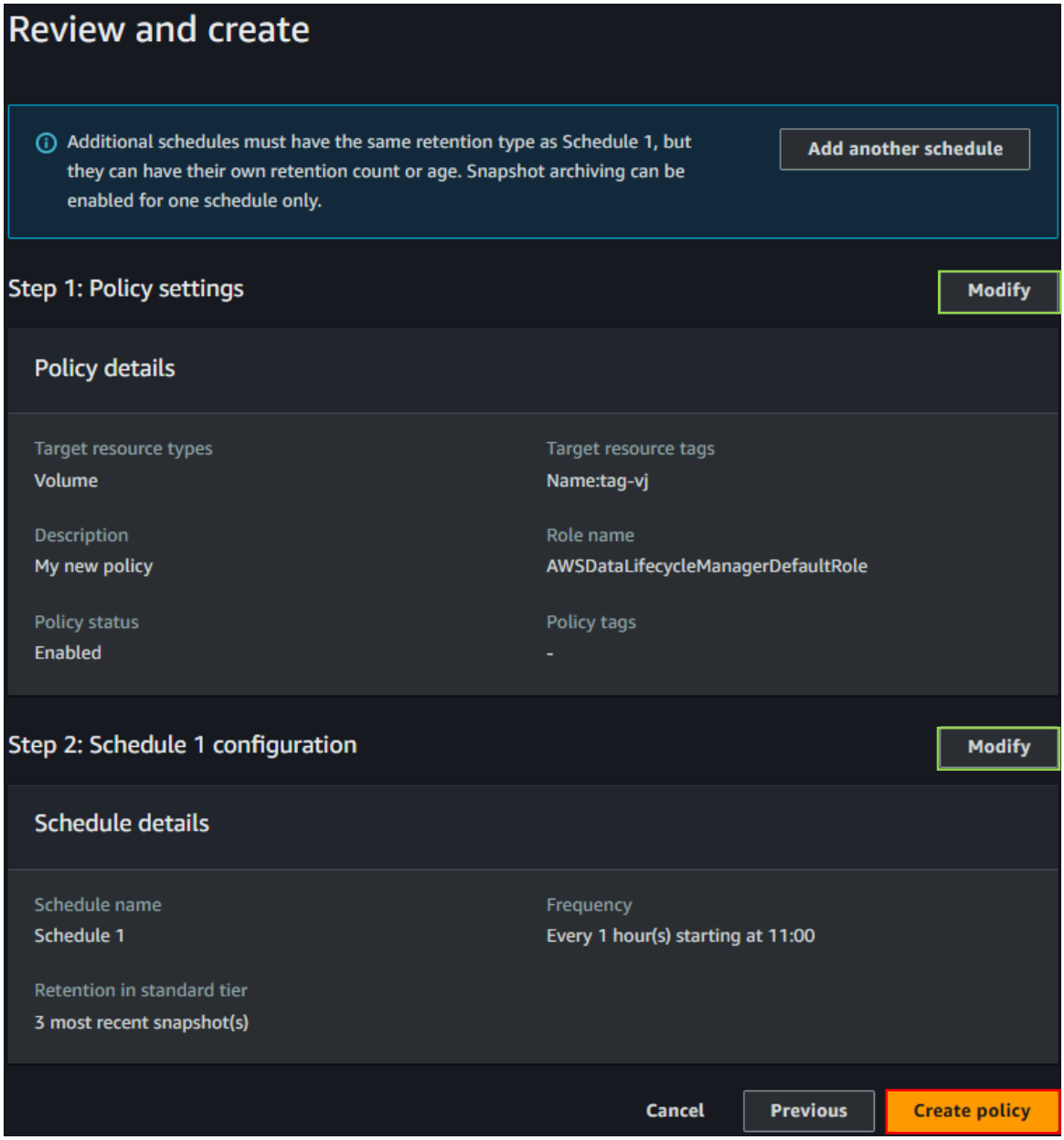
Retention*: This helps you to limit the number of snapshots to be stored (ex: 10, 20, 25....) without keeping all the snapshot at the cost of storage space.

Click on **Review Policy**

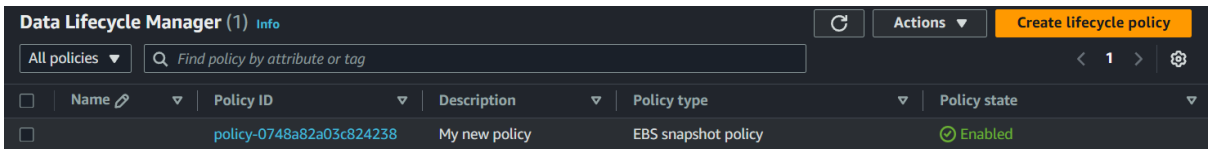


You can view a summary of your **Lifecycle policy.** If you wish to modify you can click on **Modify** button.

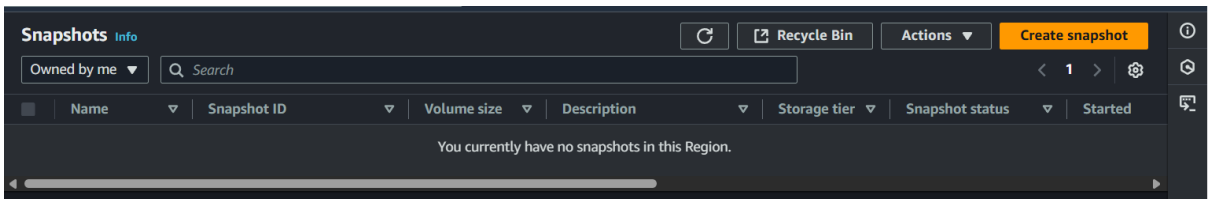
Or else click on **create policy**.



A new Policy has been assigned.

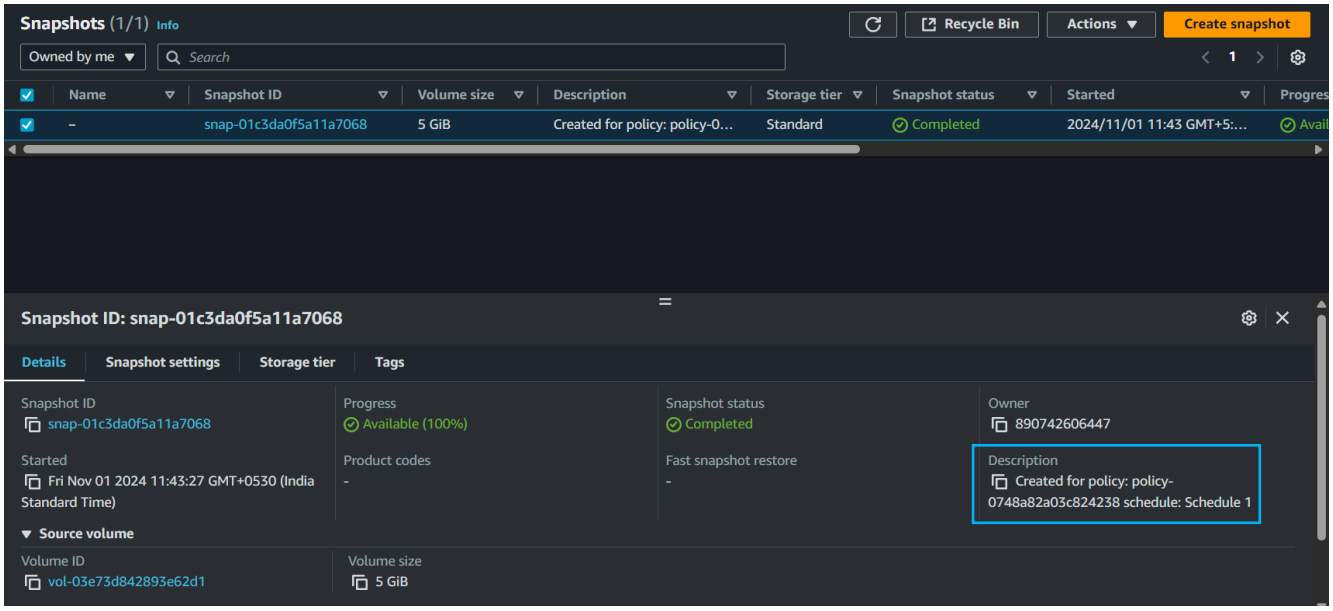


The snapshots remain empty until the time is lapsed. Once the schedule is crossed you will be able to see your snapshots lined up here.

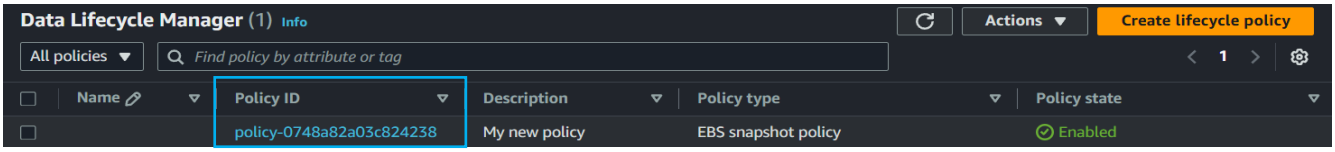


There we go, a snapshot has been successfully created and available for further usage.

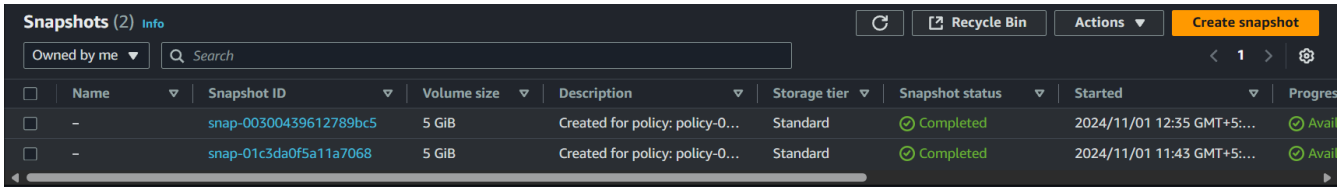
With the help of **policy id,** you can verify the snapshot belongs to which policy.



See the policy id mentioned in snapshot match with the policy id in Lifecycle Manager.



1 hour later another snapshot is available as mentioned in the policy.



Finally, if you are in free tier do not forget to **delete** all your volumes, snapshots, lifecycle policy, or instance if you have created.

Thank you... Happy learning! :)

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