How to use Power BI on Mac Devices

Before we get started we need to setup two things, a new account with Amazon AWS and downloading the Microsoft Remote Desktop 10 form the Apple store.

1 .Setup an Amazon Web Service (AWS) Account

If you're a new user to AWS then setting an account is easy and free, in fact, as a new user Amazon will give access to more free instances in your first 12 months. If you already have an account with AWS you'll still be able to take advantage of the free Windows Server instance that Amazon provides.

Head over to **Amazon AWS** to sign up for a new account or to login to your existing account.

2. Download Microsoft Remote Desktop 10

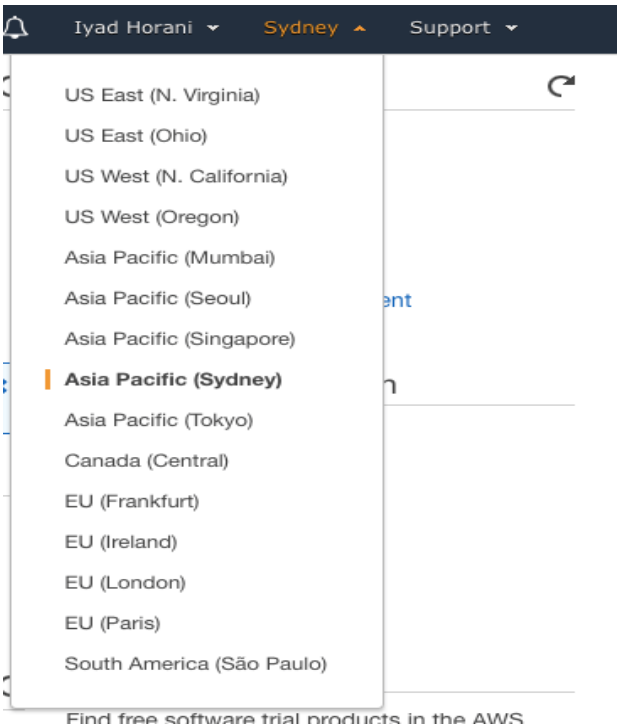
The next step is to download Microsoft Remote Desktop 10. Remote Desktop is a free application that you you can download from the App Store.

The steps to run Power BI on a Mac:

1. Choose your Data-Centre region:

After you login to your AWS account, you'd want to navigate to the EC2 instance panel. You do this by clicking on **Services** from the top left menu and choosing **EC2**.

The first thing you want to do next is choosing the region where this instance will be launched. AWS have many data centres around the world. A data centre is a large group of networked computer servers typically used by organisations for the remote storage, processing, or distribution of large amounts of data. The closest the data centre region is to your location, the less latency you will encounter in interfacing with the instance. In many cases, accessing a data centre that resides in the same city where you're located will provide a fluid response that feels you're accessing your own computer.

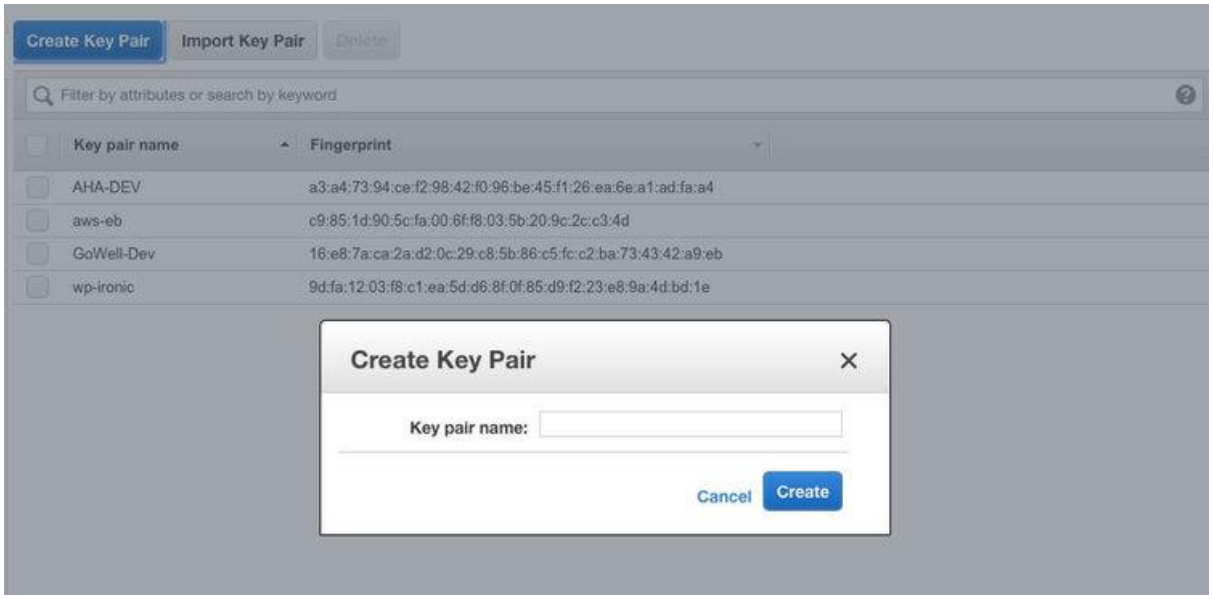


2. Create a new Key Pair:

Once the region is selected, you'd want to create an **EC2 Key Pair**. Amazon EC2 uses public–key cryptography to encrypt and decrypt login information. Public–key cryptography uses a public key to encrypt a piece of data, such as a password, then the recipient uses the private key to decrypt the data. The public and private keys are known as a key pair.

If you're a first time AWS user, then generating a Key Pair is essential. For existing AWS users, you can generate a new one for the Power BI instance or use an existing key pair.

Generating a Key Pair is simple. From the EC2 interface, look for "Key Pair" from the left menu and click it. Once in the meanu, click to create a new Key Pair and give it a name. You're all set now to lunch the EC2 instance.

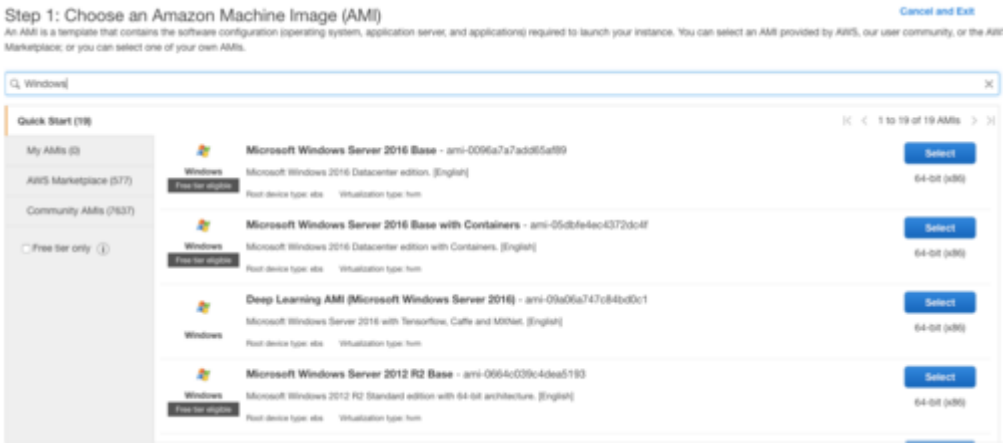


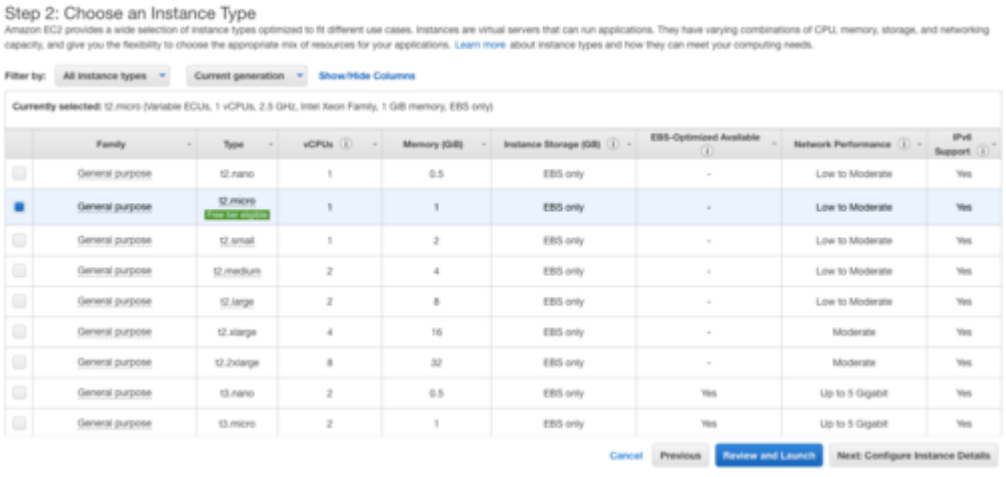
3. Launch a new Instance:

From the same view, navigate back to Instances. From the view that gets displayed, click the Launch Instance button.

You'll be presented with a series of steps to complete the launch process. The first one being choosing the **Amazon Machine Image (AMI)**. Put simply, AMI is bundle of software packages and

configurations that you can reuse to generate similar instance copies of the same type. Think of it like installing Windows on steroids, with other stuff being bundled in to make sure the machine can accept internet traffic and serve requests to internet users.





From the search menu, type the word **Windows** and press enter to filter the list with only Windows machines. For the purpose of this guide, select the **Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Base** which shows it's eligible for free. *Don't worry, you can always upgrade the instance at anytime without loosing any data*. We'll cover how upgrade the instance later in this guide.

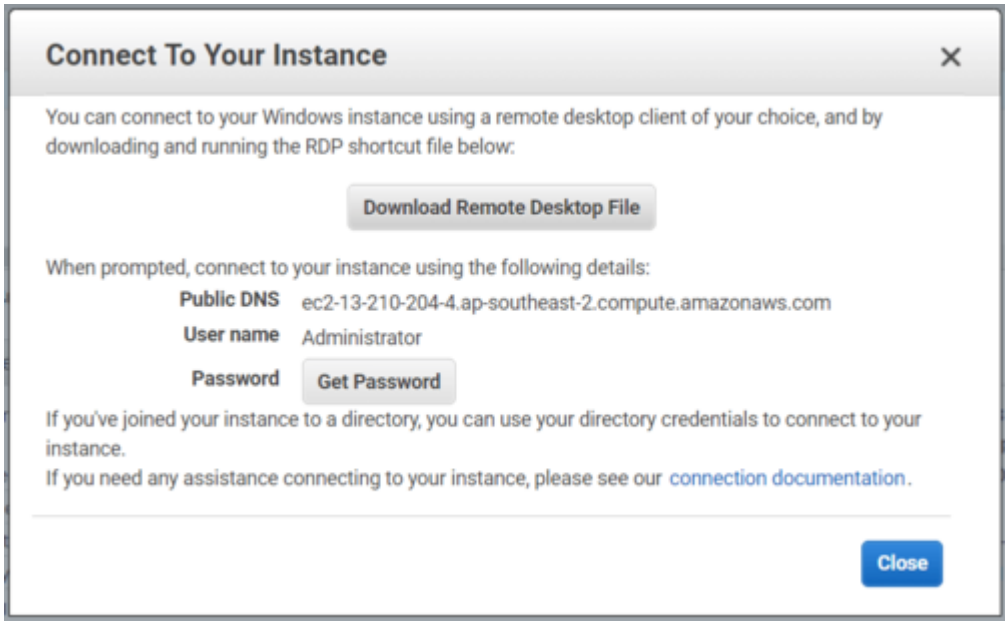
Once select the wizard will ask you to select the instance type (CPU, RAM, GPU and Network) configuration. There are many choices to choose from. They differ in the pre-configuration that Amazon have built them. Basically you can either start with a Single CPU and 1 Gig of RAM, and customise the instance to any number of CPUs, RAM and Network interface. Or you can select a pre-configured instance. *Selecting from the pre-configured choices allows for much predictable pricing, as AWS have made a list of different configuration along with their hourly pricing.*

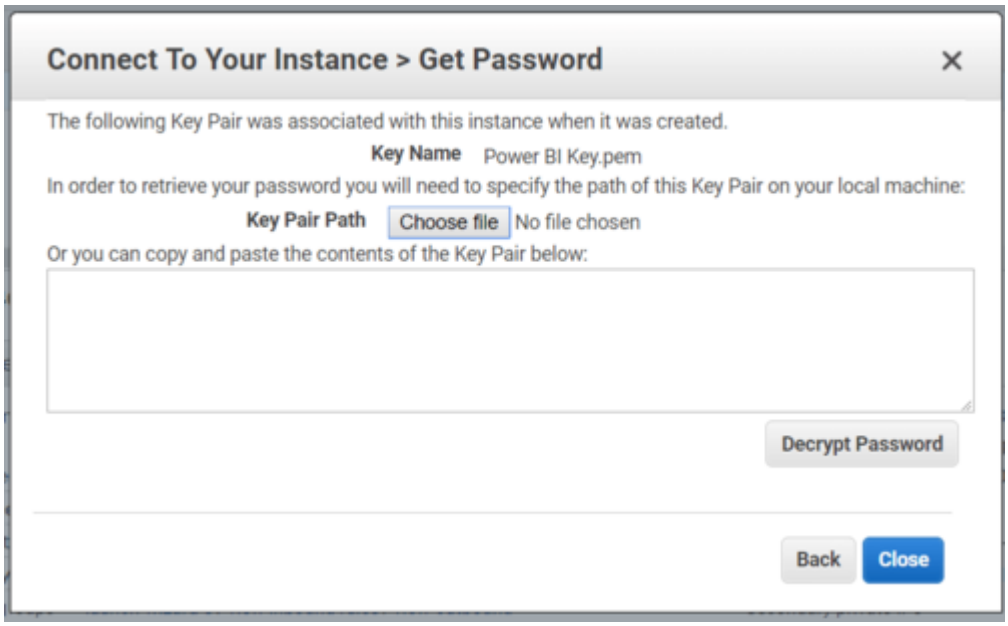
Select the ***t2.micro***, then click on **Review and Launch**. Click on **Launch** in the next view. You'll next be asked to select the Key Pair you want to associate it with this EC2 instance, from the drop down menu, find the **Key Pair** you created in step 2, check the acknowledge check-box and click on **Launch Instance**.

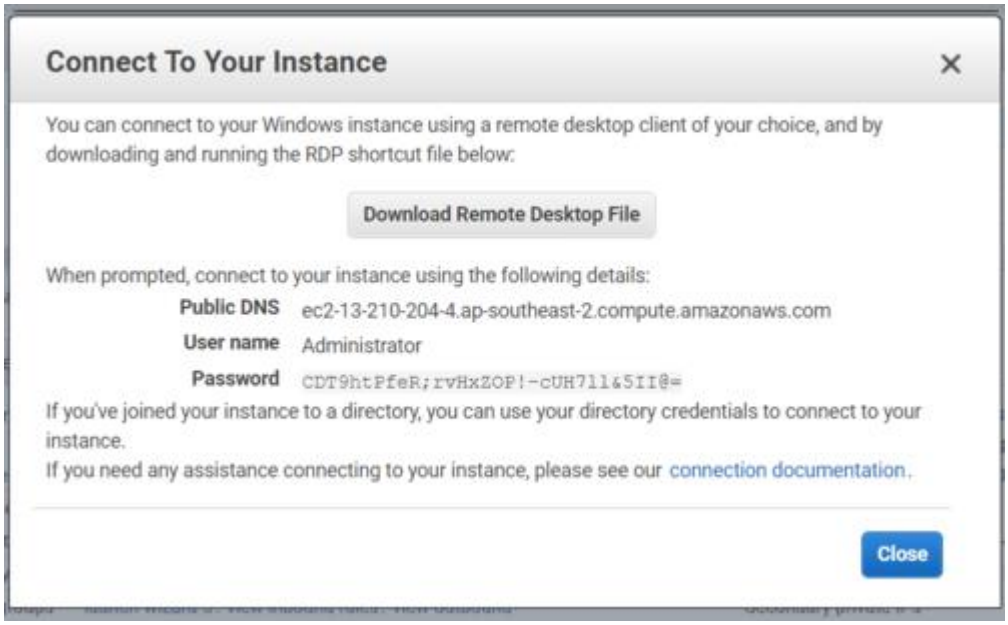
4. Generate the Instance password:

You're almost done. From the summary view, click on the new instance ID to navigate back to the **Instances** view. You'll need to wait for 4 minutes before you can generate a password to access the instance and install Power BI.

While waiting, click on the small pencil icon in the name field to give your instance a descriptive name. After the 4 minutes have passed, select the instance and click on **Connect** from the top menu.







Click on **Get Password**, another will open asking you upload the Key Pair you downloaded into your computer. Once you upload it, click on **Decrypt Password**. The window navigates back to the first view with the Password for your instance revealed.

At this stage, it is advisable to store those credentials in LastPass or 1Password. As AWS doesn't give you the ability to retrieve those passwords again. Also, safe keep the Key Pair. If you loose it you cannot download it again.

5. Access Instance through Microsoft Remote Desktop:

You Windows Server 2016 instance is ready and now you can access it remotely and use it just like any other computer. So begin by launching **Microsoft Remote Desktop 10**. Now follow these steps to add the Instance to Remote Desktop.

1. Click on the small "**+**" icon from the top window and Choose **Desktop**.
2. For the PC Name: Copy the Public DNS and paste it in.
3. For User Account, click to expand the drop down selector and select **Add User Account**.
    - For user name, input **Administrator**
    - For password, copy and paste the password from the AWS interface.

    - Give the Administrator another friendly name if you want.
    - Slick on **Save**
4. Back to the Desktop selector, click **Show More**
5. Give the instance a **friendly name**.
6. *Click on **Save**.*
7. **6. Download and install Power BI:**
8. Now that you've logged into the instance you can begin installing Power BI and other software as well.
9. I always begin by installing chrome, that's because Windows Server 2016 ships with Internet Explorer. This is a personal preference.
10. Note one thing. With Windows Server 2016, the firewall is set to maximum, so any time you login to a new site, it will ask you if you want to allow the connection, you'll have to add all of the URLs to the allow list, it's an annoying step but it's required.
11. Once you'e setup the preferred browser, head to Power BI website to download **Power BI Desktop**.
12. On the Power BI website, scroll all the way to the bottom to find the download link for the **Desktop version**. Once the page appears, click on **Advanced Download Options**. From the window that shows, select the language and processed to select the version of Power BI desktop to download. I usually choose the x64 version.
13. Once Power BI is downloaded, click on the file to install all. Then either create a new free account, or login to an existing account if you have one.

And that's it, you have a fully working version of Power BI installed on a Windows Server.