

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



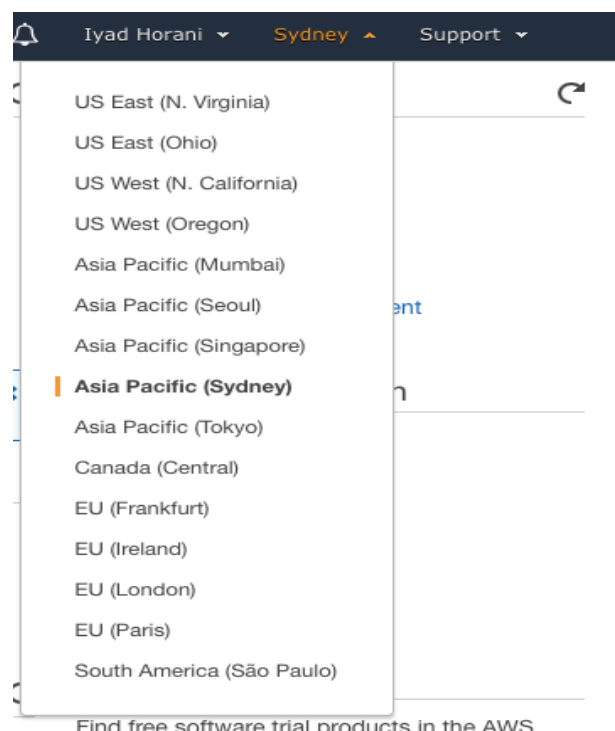
The next step is to download Microsoft Remote Desktop 10. Remote Desktop is a free application that you can download from the App Store.

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.

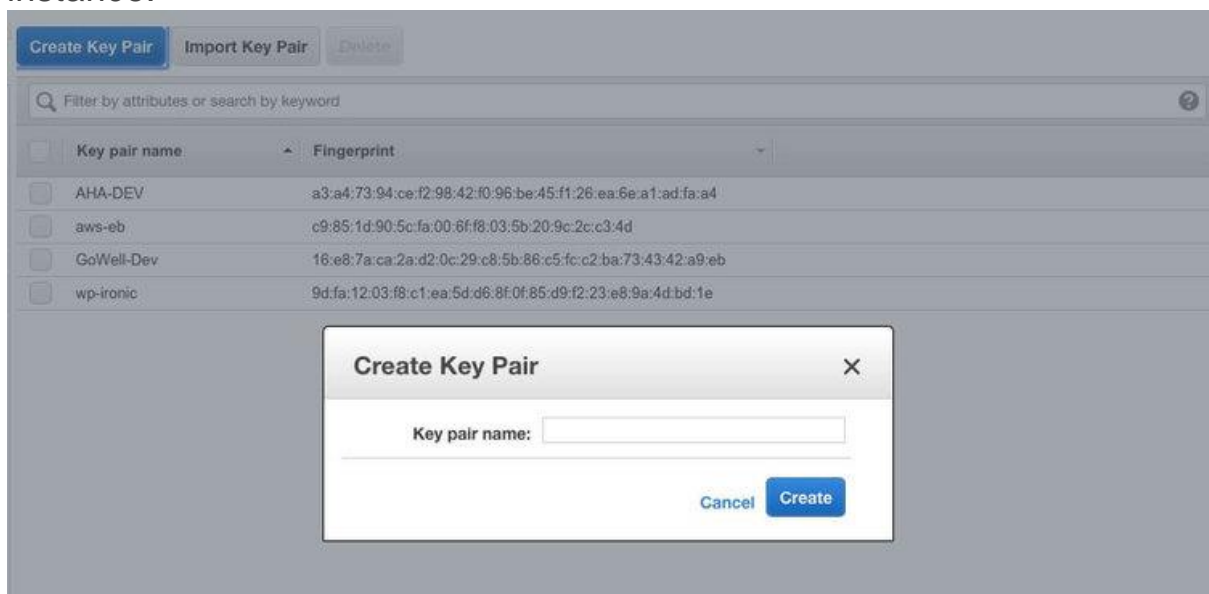


2. Create a new Key Pair:

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.

Launch Instance

Connect

Actions

Filter by tags and attributes or search by keyword

Step 1: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)

Cancel and Exit

An AMI is a template that contains the software configuration (operating system, application server, and applications) required to launch your instance. You can select an AMI provided by AWS, our user community, or the AMI Marketplace; or you can select one of your own AMIs.

Windows

1 to 19 of 19 AMIs

Quick Start (18)

My AMIs (0)

AWS Marketplace (577)

Community AMIs (1637)

Free tier only

Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Base - ami-0096a7a7ad85a589

Microsoft Windows 2016 Datacenter edition. [English]

64-bit (x86)

Select

Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Base with Containers - ami-05dbf4ec4372dc4f

Microsoft Windows 2016 Datacenter edition with Containers. [English]

64-bit (x86)

Select

Deep Learning AMI (Microsoft Windows Server 2016) - ami-09a06a747c84bd0c1

Microsoft Windows Server 2016 with TensorFlow, Caffe and MXNet. [English]

64-bit (x86)

Select

Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 Base - ami-0664c039c4dea5193

Microsoft Windows 2012 R2 Standard edition with 64-bit architecture. [English]

64-bit (x86)

Select

Step 2: Choose an Instance Type

Amazon EC2 provides a wide selection of instance types optimized to fit different use cases. Instances are virtual servers that can run applications. They have varying combinations of CPU, memory, storage, and networking capacity, and give you the flexibility to choose the appropriate mix of resources for your applications. [Learn more](#) about instance types and how they can meet your computing needs.

Filter by: All instance types

Current generation

Show/Hide Columns

Currently selected: t2.micro (Variable ECUs, 1 vCPU, 2.5 GHz, Intel Xeon Family, 1 GiB memory, EBS only)

	Family	Type	vCPUs	Memory (GiB)	Instance Storage (GiB)	EBS-Optimized Available	Network Performance	IPv6 Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.nano	1	0.5	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.micro	1	1	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.small	1	2	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.medium	2	4	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.large	2	8	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.xlarge	4	16	EBS only	-	Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t2.2xlarge	8	32	EBS only	-	Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t3.nano	2	0.5	EBS only	Yes	Up to 5 Gigabit	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	General purpose	t3.micro	2	1	EBS only	Yes	Up to 5 Gigabit	Yes

Cancel

Previous

Review and Launch

Next: Configure Instance Details

Step 7: Review Instance Launch

Please review your instance launch details. You can go back to edit changes for each section. Click **Launch** to assign a key pair to your instance and complete the launch process.

AMI Details [Edit AMI](#)

Instance Type [Edit instance type](#)

Instance Type	ECUs	vCPUs	Memory (GiB)	Instance Storage (GiB)	EBS-Optimized Available	Network Performance
t2.micro	Variable	1	1	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate

Security Groups [Edit security groups](#)

Security group name: launch-wizard-1
Description: launch-wizard-1 created 2018-11-07T14:41:05.277+11:00

Type	Protocol	Port Range	Source	Description
This security group has no rules				

Instance Details [Edit instance details](#)

[Cancel](#) [Previous](#) [Launch](#)

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 losing 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.

Connect To Your Instance

You can connect to your Windows instance using a remote desktop client of your choice, and by downloading and running the RDP shortcut file below:

[Download Remote Desktop File](#)

When prompted, connect to your instance using the following details:

Public DNS	ec2-13-210-204-4.ap-southeast-2.compute.amazonaws.com
User name	Administrator
Password	Get Password

If you've joined your instance to a directory, you can use your directory credentials to connect to your instance.

If you need any assistance connecting to your instance, please see our [connection documentation](#).

[Close](#)

Connect To Your Instance > Get Password

The following Key Pair was associated with this instance when it was created.

Key Name	Power BI Key.pem
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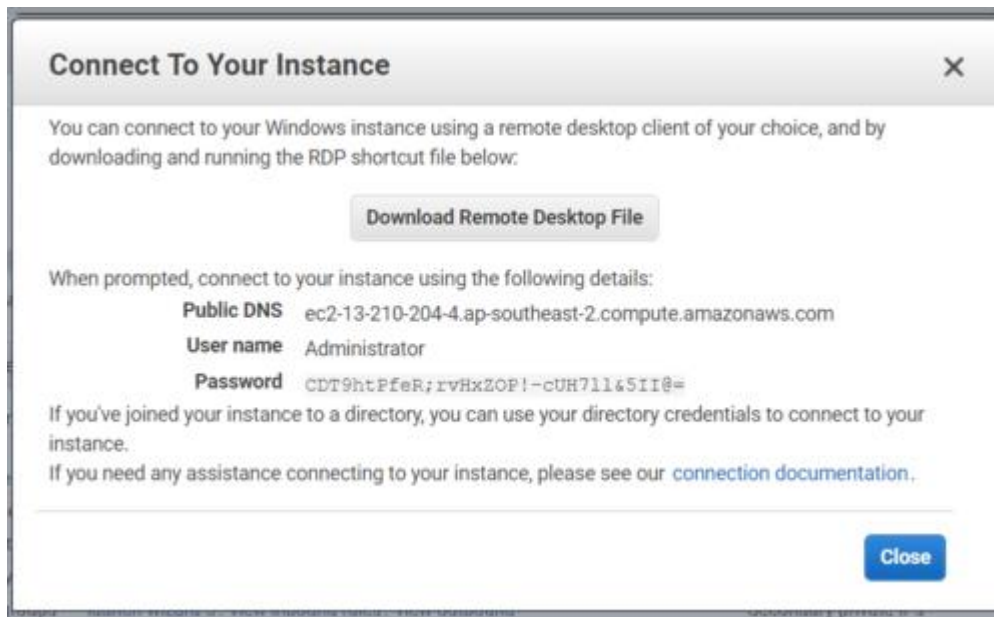
In order to retrieve your password you will need to specify the path of this Key Pair on your local machine:

Key Pair Path	Choose file No file chosen
---------------	--

Or you can copy and paste the contents of the Key Pair below:

[Decrypt Password](#)

[Back](#) [Close](#)



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've 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.