# Creating an Amazon EBS Snapshot

After writing data to an EBS volume, you can periodically create a snapshot of the volume to use as a baseline for new volumes or for data backup. If you make periodic snapshots of a volume, the snapshots are incremental so that only the blocks on the device that have changed after your last snapshot are saved in the new snapshot. Even though snapshots are saved incrementally, the snapshot deletion process is designed so that you need to retain only the most recent snapshot in order to restore the volume.

Snapshots occur asynchronously; the point-in-time snapshot is created immediately, but the status of the snapshot is pending until the snapshot is complete (when all of the modified blocks have been transferred to Amazon S3), which can take several hours for large initial snapshots or subsequent snapshots where many blocks have changed. While it is completing, an in-progress snapshot is not affected by ongoing reads and writes to the volume.

**To create a snapshot using the console**

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at <https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/>.
2. Choose **Snapshots** in the navigation pane.
3. Choose **Create Snapshot**.
4. In the **Create Snapshot** dialog box, select the volume to create a snapshot for, and then choose **Create**.

**To delete a snapshot using the console**

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at <https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/>.
2. Choose **Snapshots** in the navigation pane.
3. Select a snapshot and then choose **Delete** from the **Actions** list.
4. Choose **Yes, Delete**.

**To copy a snapshot using the Amazon EC2 console**

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at <https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/>.
2. In the navigation pane, choose **Snapshots**.
3. Select the snapshot to copy, and then choose **Copy** from the **Actions** list.
4. In the **Copy Snapshot** dialog box, update the following as necessary:
   * **Destination region**: Select the region where you want to write the copy of the snapshot.
   * **Description**: By default, the description includes information about the source snapshot so that you can identify a copy from the original. You can change this description as necessary.
   * **Encryption**: If the source snapshot is not encrypted, you can choose to encrypt the copy. You cannot decrypt an encrypted snapshot.
   * **Master Key**: The customer master key (CMK) that will be used to encrypt this snapshot. You can select from master keys in your account or type/paste the ARN of a key from a different account. You can create a new master encryption key in the IAM console.
5. Choose **Copy**.
6. In the **Copy Snapshot** confirmation dialog box, choose **Snapshots** to go to the **Snapshots** page in the region specified, or choose **Close**.

To view the progress of the copy process later, switch to the destination region, and then refresh the **Snapshots** page. Copies in progress are listed at the top of the page.

**To view snapshot information using the console**

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at <https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/>.
2. Choose **Snapshots** in the navigation pane.
3. To reduce the list, choose an option from the **Filter** list. For example, to view only your snapshots, choose **Owned By Me**. You can filter your snapshots further by using the advanced search options. Choose the search bar to view the filters available.
4. To view more information about a snapshot, choose it.

**To modify snapshot permissions using the console (Sharing the snapshots)**

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at <https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/>.
2. Choose **Snapshots** in the navigation pane.
3. Select a snapshot and then choose **Modify Permissions** from the **Actions** list.
4. Choose whether to make the snapshot public or to share it with specific AWS accounts:
   * To make the snapshot public, choose **Public**.

This is not a valid option for encrypted snapshots or snapshots with AWS Marketplace product codes.

* + To expose the snapshot to only specific AWS accounts, choose **Private**, enter the ID of the AWS account (without hyphens) in the **AWS Account Number** field, and choose **Add Permission**. Repeat until you've added all the required AWS accounts.

**Important**

If your snapshot is encrypted, you must ensure that the following are true:

* + - The snapshot is encrypted with a custom CMK, not your default CMK. If you attempt to change the permissions of a snapshot encrypted with your default CMK, the console will display an error message.
    - You are sharing the custom CMK with the accounts that have access to your snapshot.

1. Choose **Save**.