CLOUD COMPUTING University of Massachusetts Lowell



AWS PROJECT (IAM_EC2_S3_RDS_ROUTE53_CLOUDFRONT_L AMBDA CLOUDWATCH ELASTIC IP SES)

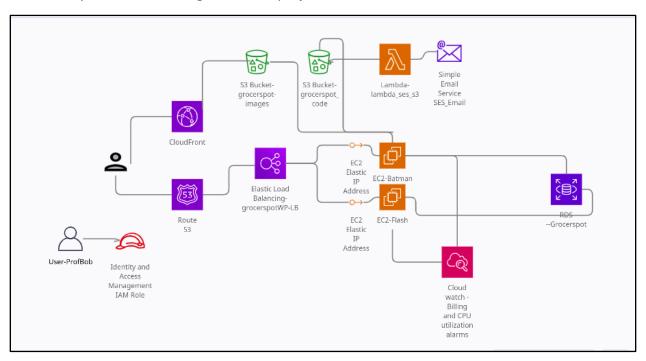
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Introduction:

AWS is one of the most broadly adopted cloud platform by many organizations across the globe. We get to have end-to-end services for the infrastructure which I'm going to use in my project. I'll be mostly using free tier services which are offered by AWS which I had provided me ample hands-on experience. Moreover, the course lab exercises and reading assignments have done a great deed while working on my project. I relatively had very less cloud exposure and the only cloud hands-on all I had was my Azure and Google Projects. Using various free tier services(Both Tier 1 and Tier 2) of AWS, my main aim is to deploy a website on an EC2 instance that was registered to a domain name with the help of Route53 with hosted zone records to ELB. Two S3 buckets are used in this project one to store the media files of my website and another bucket to store the entire code repository of my website. As part of the Database implementation, I had chosen RDS for this project. The EC2 instance, FLASH was created as part of my future work in which I intend to make active with failover of my primary VM, BATMAN. Lambda(Tier 1 new) I configured a trigger function with SES. Finally, with the cloudwatch, Billing Alarm and CPU_Utilization alarms are created.

Below is my architectural diagram of this project -

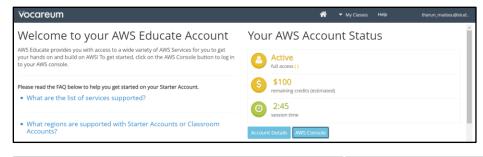


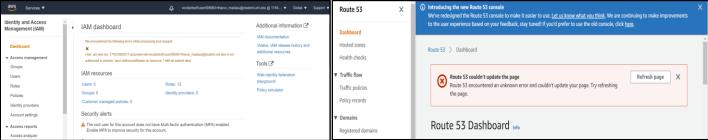
List of AWS services used in this Project –

List of AWS Services	
Tier 1	Tier 2
IAM	Elastic IP
CloudFront	Cloud Watch
EC2	Simple Email Service
S3	
RDS	
Route53	
Lambda	

AWS EDUCATE:

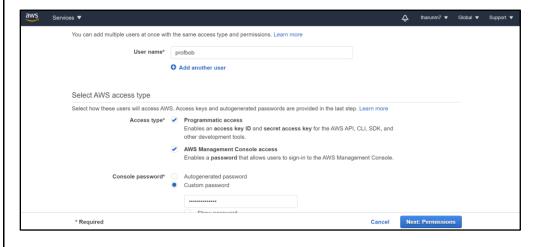
As part of my hands-on with AWS Cloud Services at first, I started with an AWS Educate account. I initially thought that I could transfer my \$100 free credits from my AWS Educate account to an AWS account. Only after contact with the customer representatives, I found out that these two are two different entities entirely and the credits cannot be transferred. And you do have quite some limitations on the AWS Educate account. A couple of them are IAM and Route53 services. It is highly advisable to get the credit code from the professor and start with your project early. I had received the credit code from the professor, and I was eligible for \$200 credit.



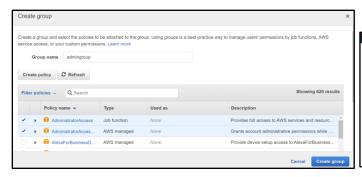


Identity and Access Management (IAM)

One of the project requirements is to set up an account for Professor Bob with administrative access. From the Services option, I navigated to the IAM dashboard and there were many options. Users, Groups, Roles, Policies, etc. From the user's option, I provided the username and password as mentioned in the AWS_project_description document. For the access types, I check both the options – Programmatic access and AWS Management Console access. Since the Professor had already given me a password I unchecked the option to create a new password on sign-in. I did observe that I could add multiple users and add them to different groups with different policy setups. This is fascinating and comes in handy for the IT team when their organization opts for AWS.



Onto the next step, I created a group 'admingroup' with policies that provide full access to AWS Services and resources along with account administrative permissions. Then I've created a Tag for the IAM user - AWSProject and created the user. Here's one thing that I appreciate as an AWS user is that I could share these details in an email. I've created one more user – adminTM and added it to the same IAM group as above.

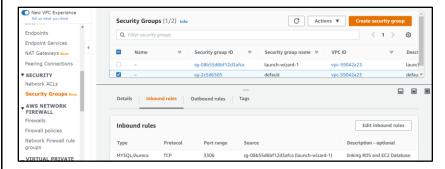




Here's the URL for Professor to login into the account: https://828293773920.signin.aws.amazon.com/console

AWS RDS:

Since my database will be on a separate instance and not be on the same instance (BATMAN) where my WordPress Site will be installed, they will not compete for resources. As per my future work, I wanted to have a back-up instance so, even in that case, I could connect to a single MySQL instance on AWS RDS which will allow me to scale my site. Also, RDS supports automated security patch updates and backups which helps in the smooth administration of my database. So for these reasons I chose to go with AWS RDS. Before jumping on creating my RDS, I navigated to the security groups in VPC service and wanted to make sure that RDS MYSQL/Aurora port: 3306 is opened to the security group, launch-wizard-1. To do that I clicked on the add rule, and from type, I searched for 'MySQL' and in the source, I searched 'sg' and selected the required security group.

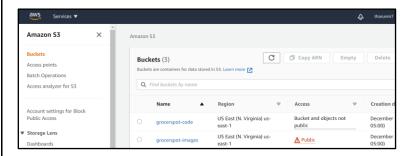


Coming on to the RDS, I wanted to have a database for my website, and for that, I chose the AWS RDS service. After clicking on creating a database, I chose the standard DB creation method and MySQL as the Engine for my DB and the version was left as the default one and 'Free Tier' as the template type. FOR the DB instance size, I have chosen DB.t2.micro and from the storage option, I unchecked the auto-scaling feature as I will not be needing it for this project. I left the default options for VPC and Subnets. The DB name and password will be the same as grocerspot.

<u>AWS S3:</u>

A new S3 bucket, grocerspot-images has been created for all the media that contains on my website. The other S3 bucket is grocerspot-code. I could lose this EC2 Instance (BATMAN) at any time. So what I want is a full copy of my website in my S3 Bucket, grocerspot-code. So, even if I did lose my EC2 Instance, I can have an Auto Scaling Group with a bunch of EC2 Instances as soon as they boot, they will pull down the code from the S3 Bucket. I

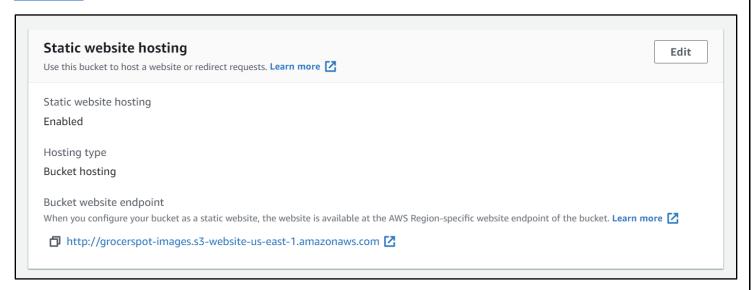
have blocked all the public access to this bucket and disabled object lock, encryption, and versioning of this bucket.



Also, I wanted to make the images in my S3 bucket – grocerspot-images, publicly available on my website. To do that, I had to edit the policy such that it grants read-only permission to an anonymous user. Many policy templates are available in the below-mentioned link. I have also enabled static-website hosting for this bucket.

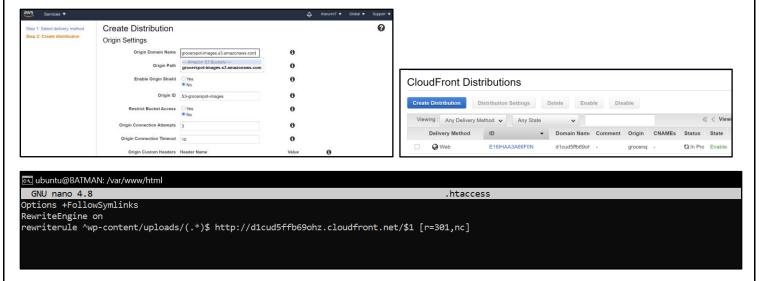


https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonS3/latest/dev/example-bucket-policies.html#example-bucket-policies-use-case-2



AWS CloudFront:

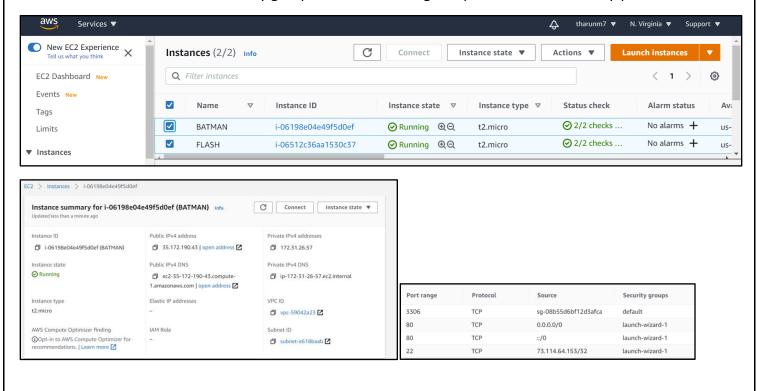
From CloudFront, I've selected a web-based distribution and the origin domain name will be similar to the S3 bucket which was created before, and the rest of the settings and options were left as is and the distribution is created. So, what I wanted to do is that every time I upload an image to my WordPress site, that that file is also stored in S3 for redundancy. Eventually, I'm going to force CloudFront to serve those files using the CloudFront distribution rather than using the images on my EC2 Instance because then the site will load a bit faster.



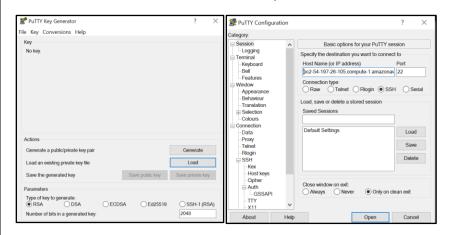
So from above, I have changed the URL rewrite rule in the .htaccess file which essentially allows my website to serve my images out of CloudFront instead of serving the images out of EC2. So, from the CloudFront dashboard, I got the domain name and changed the previous URL to my CloudFront URL. And later when I sync my /var/www/html/ directory to update this URL path.

AWS EC2:

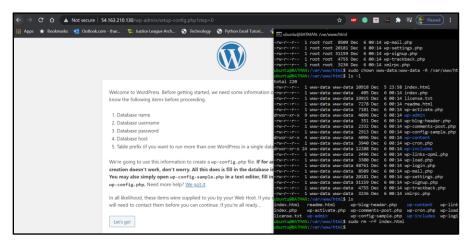
As part of my project, I wanted to have 2 EC2 instances. From the services option, I could see EC2 as the first service listed down. I selected it and then I chose the option to launch the instance. Both my instances were launched with the help of the AWS management console. I have selected Ubuntu-20 image with t2.micro as the instance type with 1GB memory and 1vCPU and 8GB SSD storage. I have named one of the instances as 'BATMAN' and the other as 'FLASH' I have an unchecked deletion on the termination option while creating the instance. I have also created an inbound traffic rule for HTTP port 80. Under tags, I have this EC2 instance under AWSProject. Apart from these I left all other options as default and created the instance. Also, I added both these instances into the same security group and to make things simple I used the same key-pair.



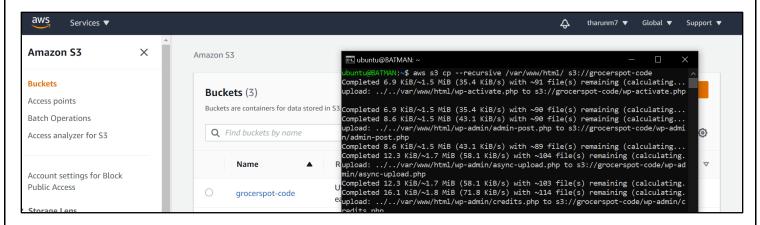
To connect to my instances, I opted for PuTTY. But the downloaded key pair(groceries-site-key) was in .pem and PuTTY needs .ppk format. Therefore, using the PuTTY key generator I have loaded the .pem file and generated a .ppk file along with a paraphrase for the key. I've inserted my public IPv4 DNS as the hostname and in the SSH option, I've loaded the .ppk file that I have just generated. The PuTTY window opens asking for the username, and I've just given the default one which is 'ubuntu'. After successful login into my instances, I updated them and installed a web server in this case Apache.



Now, WordPress has been installed on the webserver. I have changed the database host from 'localhost' to the endpoint of my RDS(grocerspot.cf1cvxkhdwc4.us-east-1.rds.amazonaws.com). Also, initially while launching the instance, I didn't have any specific IAM role for it. So, I have created an IAM under EC2 with S3 full access as the policy and I have updated the IAM role of my BATMAN instance from Actions Security Modify IAM role. I have done this because anytime if an image is uploaded into my WordPress site, that file should also store in my S3 bucket for redundancy. And eventually what I'm going to force CloudFront to serve those files using the CloudFront distribution, rather than using the images on my EC2 Instance resulting in loading the website a bit faster. As you can see now from my CLI, there were two S3 buckets listed out and grocerspot-images is the one I created earlier for this project. So, the next thing I want to do add a bit of redundancy. So I'll copy the entire directory in another bucket 'grocerspot-code'.



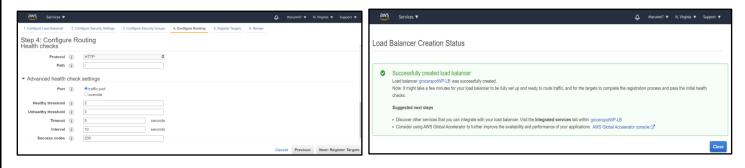
```
ubuntu@BATMAN:~$ aws s3 ls
2020-12-05 21:27:50 grocerspot-images
2020-12-05 22:46:12 grocerspot-veg-bucket
ubuntu@BATMAN:~$ aws s3 cp --recursive /var/www/html/wp-content/uploads s3://grocerspot-images
upload: ../../var/www/html/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Head-Image-1024x438.jpg to s3://grocerspot-images/2020/12/Head-Image-1024x438.jpg
upload: ../../var/www/html/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Head-Image.jpg to s3://grocerspot-images/2020/12/Head-Image.jpg
upload: ../../var/www/html/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Head-Image-1200x513.jpg to s3://grocerspot-images/2020/12/Head-Image-1200x513.jpg
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upload: ../../var/www/html/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Head-Image-150x150.jpg to s3://grocerspot-images/2020/12/Head-Image-150x150.jpg
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upload: ../../var/www/html/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Head-Image-768x328.jpg to s3://grocerspot-images/2020/12/Head-Image-768x328.jpg
```



With that, all the images on my website had now been stored in my S3 bucket, grocerspot-images in folder 2020.

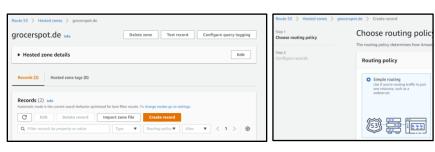
Load Balancer:

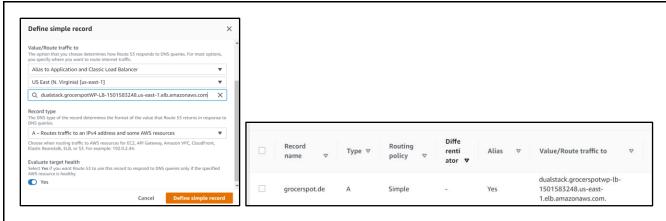
From the EC2 service dashboard, you can find the load balancer option. I'm going with the application load balancer for this project which will be internet-facing and named it 'grocerspotWP-LB'. I've checked all the boxes for availability zones and opening up only for HTTP port. For the security group, I have chosen my existing security group, i.e. 'launch-wizard-1'. Under configuring routing options, I have created a new target group, WPInstances, and the type as Instances. From advanced health settings, make sure that the timeout should be lesser than the interval value. I have registered my BATMAN Instance and successfully created the load balancer. It changed its state from provisioning to active in just a couple of seconds.



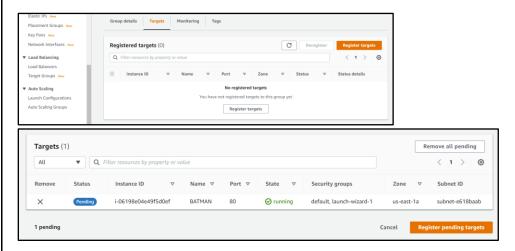
AWS Rounte53:

As part of my lab exercise, I had registered a Domain Name (It's \$9 though) because it is not accepting the domain names that I created used the freenom website. Check the availability of the domain name and, select one. The domain will be registered to your AWS account after the payment is done. After that under DNS management, I selected the hosted zone option and I wanted to create a record with a simple routing policy. I have defined the simple record as to show in below snap with respect to my load balancer. Now, the domain is pointing towards our load balancer.

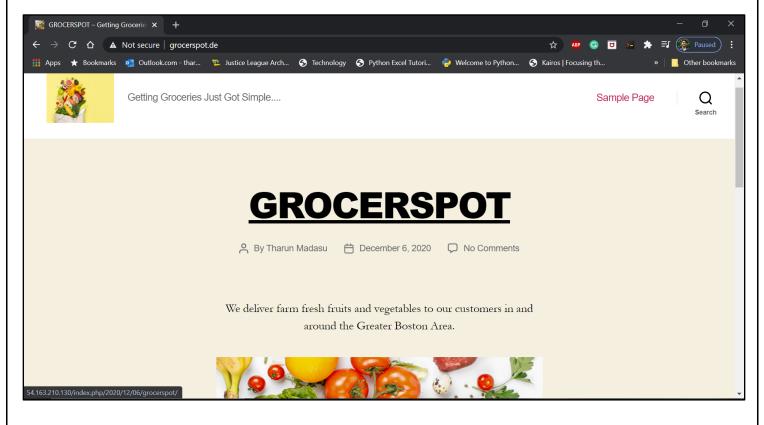




I now need to place my BATMAN Instance in a target group. So, from my EC2 dashboard, I chose the Target Group option and selected my instance and added it as pending at first, and then registered it in the target group. I could see the state as 'healthy' for my instance after a couple of refreshes.



After that, I tried to open my website, Et Voila....!!!

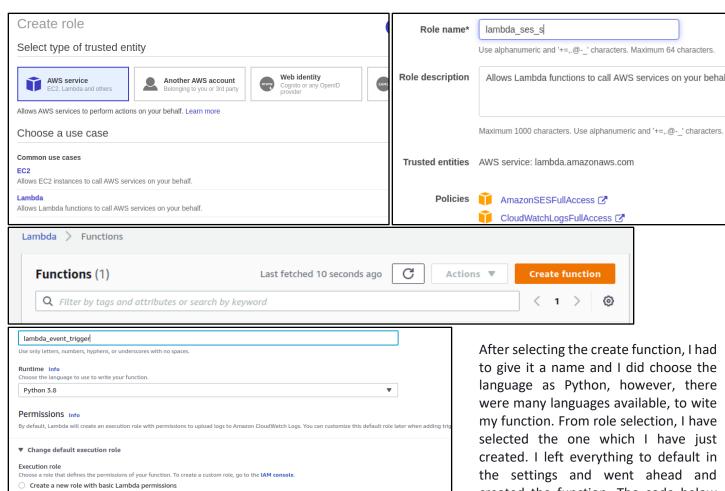


LAMBDA & Simple Email Service:

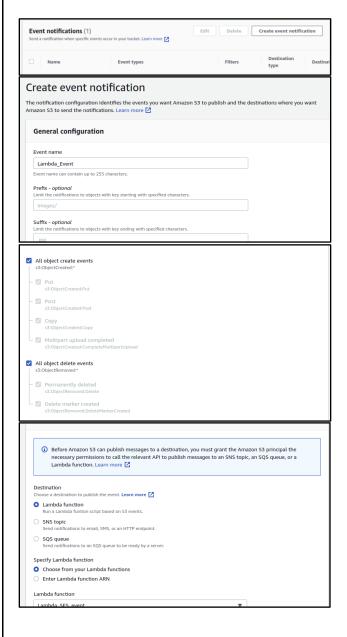
Create a new role from AWS policy templates

lambda_ses_S3

Lambda is an event-driven, serverless computing platform provided by Amazon. Lambda is used to run code in response to events, such as changes to data in an Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3) bucket or dynamo DB. I aim to receive an email notification when an event occurs in an S3 bucket. To achieve this, I need to implement a lambda function to trigger a response if there's any addition or deletion of a file(s) in my S3 bucket. Firstly, I have created a role using IAM for lambda as a use case and giving it full access to AmazonSESFullAccess and CloudWatchLogsFullAccess as its policies. Lastly, I gave a role name and created a new role for the lambda function. Now, I have to create a new lambda function and assign this role.



to give it a name and I did choose the language as Python, however, there were many languages available, to wite my function. From role selection, I have selected the one which I have just created. I left everything to default in the settings and went ahead and created the function. The code below responds to the event and sends an email using the SES service.

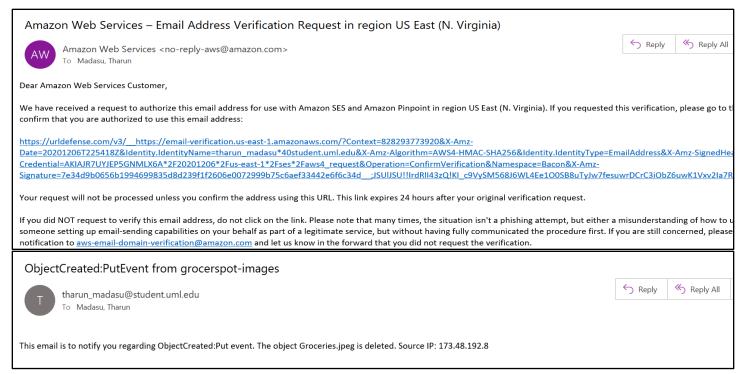


Next, I have configured event notification in the S3 bucket - Groceries images. Next, I have selected events that trigger the lambda function. Next, I have assigned our lambda function as a destination to this event, so on upload or delete of file on S3 the event triggers lambda function, from there lambda executes a code to receive the event information and configured with SES to send an email. SES is a cloud-based email sending service designed to help digital marketers and application developers send marketing, notification, transnational emails. For lambda to send the email provided in the code, the email address must be registered with SES. Now to register my email id with SES, I have entered it and clicked on verify my email address. As soon as, I have received the verification email, I clicked the link to do the needful. And, once the email is verified my lambda function can trigger/generate a notification on any upload and delete of file in the S3 bucket.

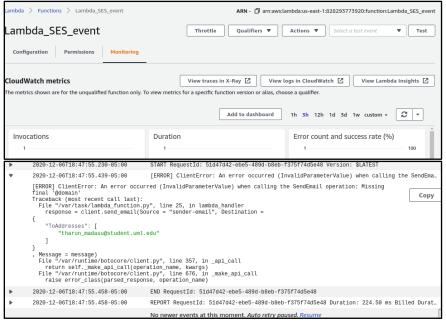
Code line in lambda function:

```
message = {"Subject": {"Data": subject}, "Body": {"Html": {"Data": body}}}
response = client.send_email(Source = "tharun_madasu@student.uml.edu", Destination = {"ToAddresses": ["tharun_madasu@student.uml.edu"]}
```

After my email is successfully verified, I have tested my trigger function by deleting a file in the s3 bucket and it caused the trigger and I received an email for my delete event on s3 bucket.

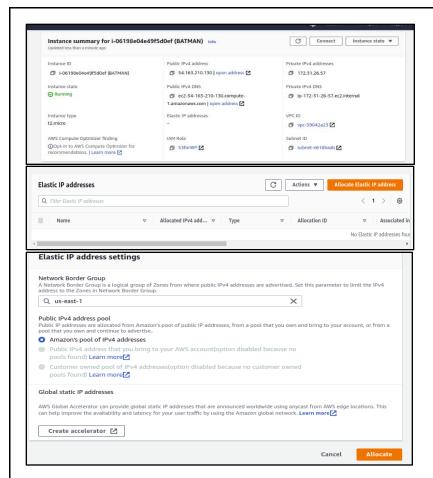


I have also used cloudwatch logs to debug my lambda function code by clicking on 'view logs in cloudwatch'. I could find out the error in my code which caused no email trigger at first.



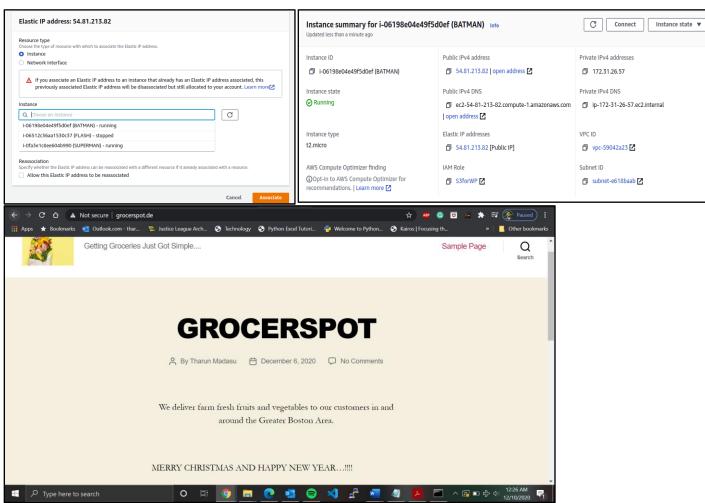
Elastic IP:

Usually, each EC2 instance is associated with a unique public ipv4 to access/connect over the internet and a private ipv4 address is used to connect within the home/private network and it is used to ssh into ec2 instances. Furthermore, the associated public address on the EC2 instance changes whenever you restart the instance. So, if you intend to launch a website on an instance make sure that you never restart/reboot the instance or use elastic IP. So, the Elastic IP address provides a static IPv4 address for the instance which can mask the failure or software by assigning the address to another instance. Since there is no Elastic IP associated with the EC2 instance by default, considering the above-mentioned reasons I decided to assign an elastic IP to my EC2 instance.



From the EC2 dashboard, from the list of available options, I found the 'Elastic IPs' in Network and Security group. From the following page, I chose "Allocate Elastic IP address" and since my EC2 instance was in useast-1, I selected the network border group to be the same. I like my public IPv4 address to be assigned from Amazon's address pool of IPv4 addresses and selected allocate.

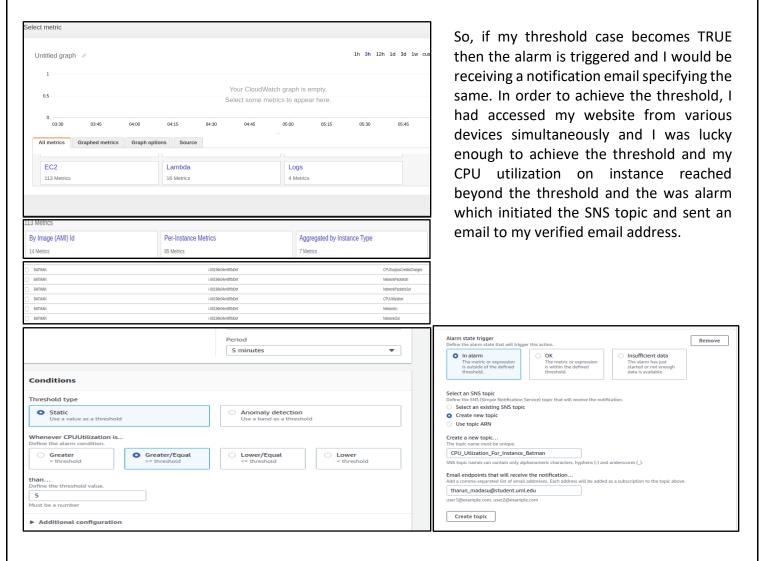
I was redirected to the main page of Elastic IP and I could see that my elastic IP address was allocated successfully. So to assign this allocated address to my EC2 instance, under the actions menu I chose the option 'associate Elastic IP Address'. Under the resource type, I selected Instance and from the list of instances, I have selected 'BATMAN' since my website was launched on this instance. Finally, the Elastic IP was successfully associated with my instance and I could also see my public and my elastic IP address for my instance are now the same.

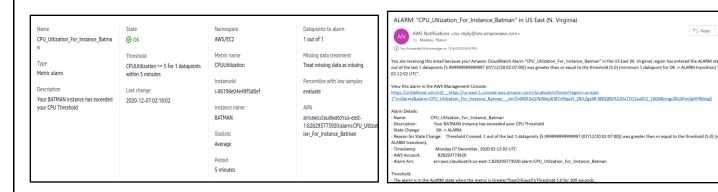


AWS CLOUDWATCH:

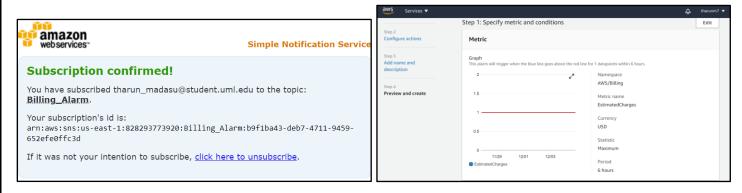
CloudWatch monitors the AWS resources and the applications that we run in AWS in real-time which basically helps us to gain wide visibility into the application performance, operational health, and resource utilization.

<u>CPU Utilization Alarm –</u> To measure and estimate the peak times of my website I need to have a CPU Utilization alarm on my instance. This alarm can also be used with an Autoscaling group to create and delete instances fairly to the requirement. To create a CPU Utilization alarm for my instance, from the CloudWatch dashboard I selected the 'create alarm' option. Next, from 'Select metric' I chose EC2 and selected the 'per-instance metric' from other available metric options since this is specific to instance monitoring. From the available options, I had gone with BATMAN 'CPUUtilization'. Next is to create the conditions for my alarm trigger, which is Whenever the CPUUtilization is Greater/Equal to the threshold(static) value '5' for each data point in a period of every 5 minutes. From the SNS topic option, I created a new topic to which I received an email to confirm my subscription to the SNS topic

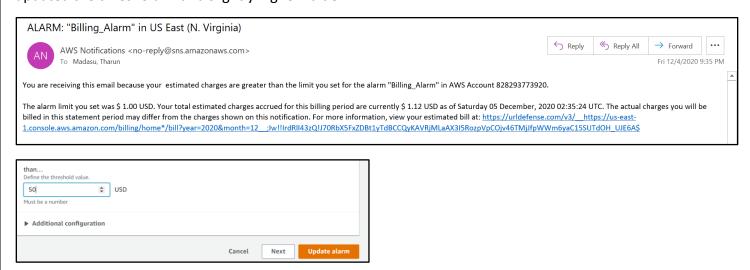




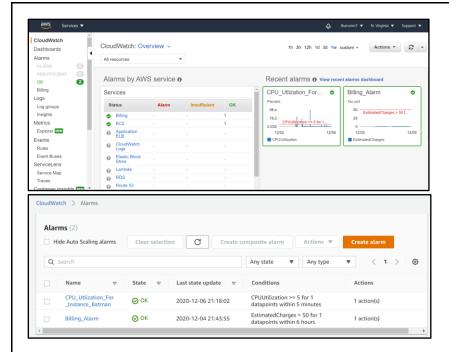
<u>Billing Alarm –</u> I wanted to keep track of my available credits hence I chose to create a billing alarm for every \$1. Following the same procedure as in creating a CPU utilization alarm, I followed similar steps to create a billing alarm. So firstly, I had to create a new topic as 'Billing_Alarm' and had given my email id to get the alarm notification whenever the threshold is crossed. I did get an email to confirm my subscription for this specific alarm.



As part of my project, I had to use Route 53 to which I had incurred a charge of \$1.12 for a period of 3weeks which was relatively economical. Therefore, as soon as I created the billing alarm, I got an immediate email notification that my threshold has been crossed. Now that my billing alarm is functioning perfectly fine I've updated the threshold with a slightly higher value.



Currently, this is how my CloudWatch dashboard looks like -



Conclusion:

First things first, it was a great learning and hands-on experience. The main goal of this project has been achieved. I got loads of help from AWS docs and the internet as well. Nonetheless, my lab exercise and weekly reading assignments did help me in getting things started with the project. There were a plethora of services available in the free tire, so designing, developing, and implementing these services in my project with AWS UI was a phenomenally satisfying hands-on experience in this course. I felt AWS has a lot of services to offer when compared to Azure. Nonetheless, I thoroughly enjoyed brainstorming the issues that I faced during working on these projects. Coming to my future work in my AWS project, which is to use my back-up instance (FLASH) and deploy my website and serve user requests when my current operational instance (BATMAN) has a failover, i.e. FLASH strikes if BATMAN fails.