Remotely accessing & managing files on a Linux EC2 instance

1. Remotely accessing a Linux EC2 instance via Terminal

a. Create your own key pair to access AWS (one off)

Key Pair is used for securely accessing your EC2 instances. A key pair consists of two parts: public key and private key. The public key is embedded in your EC2 instance, while you use the private key to sign in securely. You can create multiple EC2 instances using the same key pair or assign different key pairs to individual EC2 instances. In this unit, you only need to create one key pair. You can get to the key pair management page via the "Network & Security - Key Pairs" in the menu on the left-hand side of the EC2 dashboard in order to create or delete the key pairs.

NOTE: You need to store the private key file (in .pem format) safely and permanently since it is generated only once when being created. You will not be able to download it again in case you lost it, leading to you loosing access to your EC2 instances created with the lost key.

b. Connect to your Linux EC2 instance with Terminal

Given the .pem private key above, you can SSH into your Linux EC2 instance by:
- Launch the Terminal (Applications > Utilities > Terminal)
- Change the working directory to the directory the private key is in e.g.
  cd ~/Downloads
- Change the permissions on the private key to read-only:
  chmod 400 <filename>.pem
- SSH into the instance as the **ec2-user** using the private key and the EC2 instance public dns hostname:
  ssh -i <filename>.pem ec2-user@<your-public-dns-hostname>

Now you will be able to interact with your Linux EC2 instance via the terminal.

2. Exchange files to a Linux EC2 instance with Cyberduck

A quick and easy way to transfer/manage files on your Linux EC2 instance is to use Cyberduck a Secure Copy and Paste file transfer client:
- Download Cyberduck from here.
- (https://cyberduck.io/download/)
- Launch Cyberduck and click the 'Open Connection' Button. In the prompted Login dialog box, Select SFTP (SSH File Transter Protocol), enter your EC2's public DNS as the server and `ec2-user` as the user name.
- Click the dropdown next to 'SSH Private Key:' then click 'Choose...'.
- Select your private key file (.pem) then hit 'Choose'.
- Click 'Connect'. Now you can start transfer files with your Linux EC2 instance.

3. Exchange files to a Linux EC2 instance with SCP

An alternative for advanced users is to use the scp command on the Terminal. If you compress the files you wish to transfer into a zip archive or other compressed archive you can do e.g. if private key .pem and the zip archive myzip.zip are in the present working directory on your Mac, and you want to transfer myzip.zip to the /var directory on the ec2 instance you could do:

ssh -i <filename>.pem myzip.zip ec2-user@<your-public-dns-hostname>:/var/myzip.zip