## Amazon ECS (Elastic Container Service)



Amazon ECS is a fully managed container orchestration service 🗠 🚢. It helps you **run and manage Docker containers** on a cluster of EC2 instances or using serverless (Fargate).

- No need to install your own container orchestration software.
- Integrates with Elastic Load Balancing, IAM, CloudWatch, and more.
- Two launch types: **EC2** and **Fargate**.

**Exam Tip:** ECS is AWS's **proprietary** alternative to Kubernetes (which is EKS). Know when to use ECS vs EKS.

## What are ECS Tasks?

A Task is the basic unit of work in ECS X.

- A task is launched from a **Task Definition** (like a recipe | for containers).
- A task can run one or more containers.
- You define CPU, memory, networking, and IAM roles in the task definition.

**Exam Tip:** Tasks run your containers. They're often asked about in context of Task Definitions and Service Auto Scaling.

## ECS - EC2 Launch Type (Features in short)

- You manage the EC2 instances yourself
- You pay for the EC2 instances even if they're underutilized.
- Best when you need deep control over the infrastructure (e.g., custom AMIs, logging agents).
- Use Auto Scaling Groups to scale ECS capacity.

**Exam Tip:** Choose **EC2 launch type** when you want **OS-level control** or have **steady workloads**.

## ECS - Fargate Launch Type (Features in short)

- Serverless container hosting <sup>→</sup> → no need to manage EC2 instances.
- You only pay for **CPU and memory** used by containers.
- Easily scalable and great for microservices.

**Exam Tip:** Fargate = no server management. Used when you want simplicity and **cost-efficient scaling**.

## Roles for ECS (In Short)

- 1. **Task Role**: Assigned to the **ECS task** so containers can access AWS services (e.g., S3, DynamoDB).
- Execution Role : Used by ECS to pull container images from ECR and write logs to CloudWatch.
- 3. **Container Instance Role** (for EC2 launch type) : Lets EC2 instances register to ECS and talk to other AWS services.
- **P** Exam Tip: Understand the difference between Task Role vs Execution Role.

## 

- 1. Go to ECS > Clusters > Create Cluster
- 2. Name your cluster: DemoCluster 🍆
- 3. Select Capacity Providers:
  - AWS Fargate (serverless)
  - Amazon EC2 -Create Auto Scaling Group

#### Infrastructure :-



- 4. Keep Network settings default
- 5. **Provisioning**:
  - Choose On-demand or Spot ★

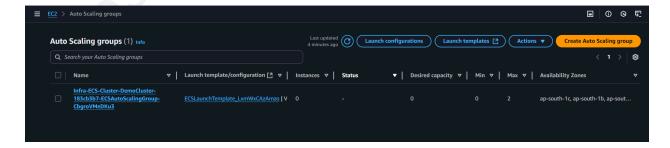
#### 6. EC2 Settings:

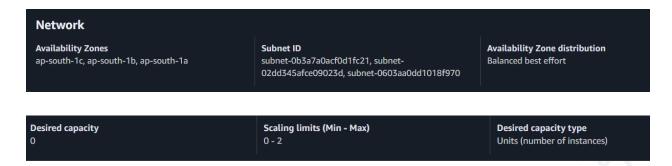
- AMI: Amazon Linux 2 🐧
- Instance type: t2.micro ■
- IAM role: Create one if needed \( \text{\til\exiting{\text{\texi{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\texi{\text{\texi}\text{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi}\tilit{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi}\tilit{\tiint{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\te
- o Capacity: Min 0, Max 2
- 7. Key Pair: Create one if you want SSH access 🔑
- 8. EBS Volume: Default 30 GB
- 9. Click Create V



## Check ASG for ECS Cluster

- 1. Go to EC2 Console → Auto Scaling Groups iii
- 2. Look for ASG named like ECS-Cluster-DemoCluster-...
- 3. Verify:
  - Instance type
  - Capacity (e.g., 0–2) ✓
    VPC/Subnet ⊕





## Go to ECS > Clusters > DemoCluster > Infrastructure tab to see attached Capacity Providers like FARGATE and EC2 .

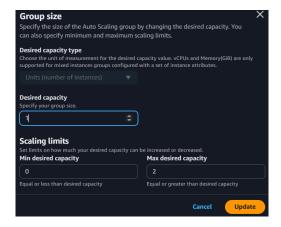


Capacity Providers in ECS define where and how your tasks run — on Fargate, EC2, or Spot  $\S$ .

- FARGATE → Serverless, no EC2 to manage
- EC2 → Use your own EC2 instances
- FARGATE\_SPOT → Run on spare capacity, cheaper

#### Change ASG Desired Capacity from 0 to 1 🚀

- Set desired capacity to 1 in your Auto Scaling Group.
- AWS launches a new EC2 instance.
- The instance automatically registers itself to the ECS Cluster. Check in Container Instances





## 

This example will walk you through creating a simple **ECS Task Definition** using **Fargate**, which runs a container from the image nginxdemos/hello. This is perfect for testing or learning the ECS basics!

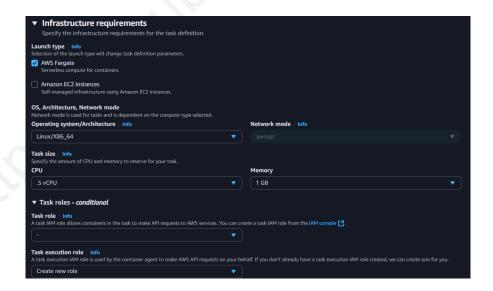
### **Step-by-Step Guide**

#### 1 Create a New Task Definition

- Go to Amazon ECS Console
- Choose Task Definitions → Create new task definition —> Give Name
- Select FARGATE as the launch type ( serverless)

#### 2 Infrastructure Requirements

- Operating system/Architecture: Linux/X86\_64 (default)
- Network mode: awsvpc (auto-selected for Fargate)
- Task Size:
  - CPU: 0.5 vCPUMemory: 1 GB
    - (You can change this as per your workload needs)



#### 3 Task Roles

- Task Role: Leave blank if your container doesn't need to call AWS services.
- Task Execution Role:
  - Click Create new role (ECS will create a role with permissions to pull the image and log to CloudWatch)

#### 4 Add Container

- Click Add container
- Container name: hello-container (or any name you like)

#### Image URI:

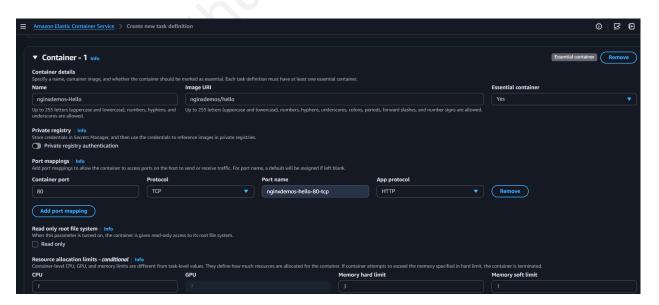
bash CopyEdit

nginxdemos/hello

- This image is hosted on Docker Hub: <a href="https://hub.docker.com/r/nginxdemos/hello/">https://hub.docker.com/r/nginxdemos/hello/</a>
- Port mappings:

Container port: 80

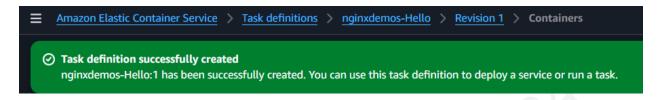
Protocol: tcp

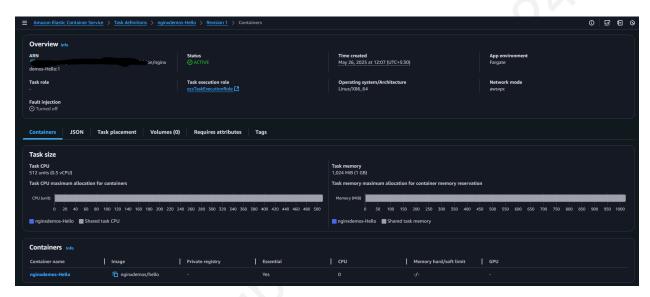


Leave all other settings as default

#### **5** Review and Create

- Review your configuration
- Click Create
- You now have a task definition ready to be used in a service or for a one-time task run!





#### Launch ECS Task Definition as a Service (Fargate + ALB)

#### **1** Go to ECS → Clusters → Select DemoCluster

Click Services → then Add Service

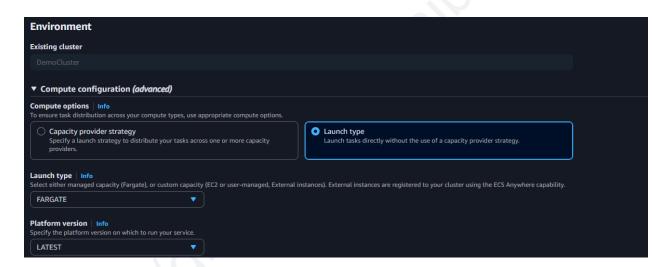
#### 2 Service Details

Launch type: Select Launch Type ( FARGATE)

 Deployment type: Replica Keep other values as default

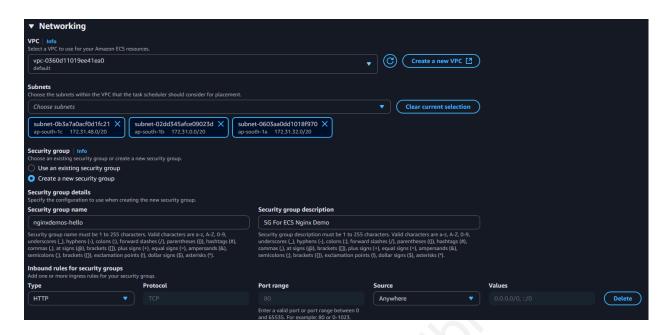
#### 3 Environment Configuration

 Cluster: DemoCluster Launch type: FARGATE Platform version: LATEST



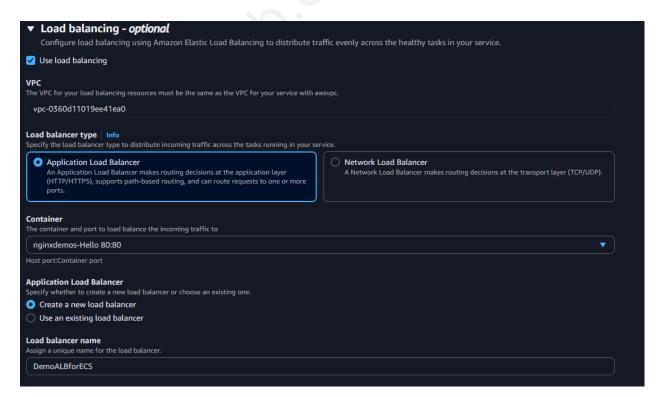
#### 4 Networking

- VPC: Select your VPC
- Subnets: Select multiple subnets (high availability across AZs)
- Security group:
  - Select Create a new security group
  - Name: nginxdemos-hello
  - Description: SG For ECS Nginx Demo
  - o Inbound rule:
    - Type: HTTP
    - Port: 80
    - Source: Anywhere (0.0.0.0/0 and ::/0)



#### **5** Load Balancing

- V Enable "Use load balancing"
- Load balancer type: Application Load Balancer
- Container to load balance:
  - Choose nginxdemos-Hello 80:80
- Create a new load balancer:
  - Name: DemoALBforECS



#### 6 Listener & Target Group

#### • Create new listener:

o Port: 80

Protocol: HTTP

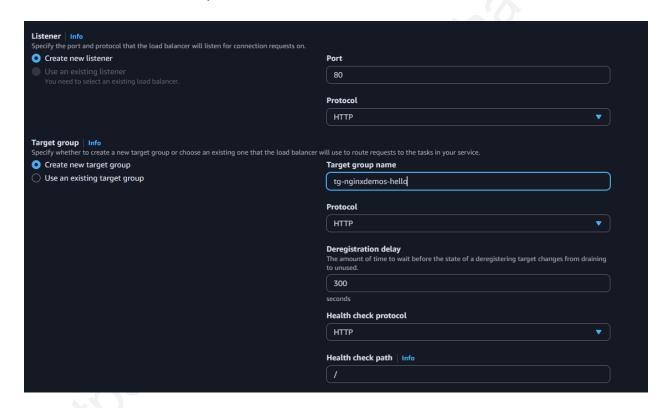
#### • Create new target group:

Name: tg-nginxdemos-hello

o Protocol: HTTP

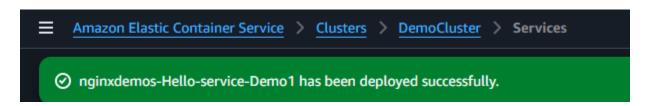
Deregistration delay: 300Health check protocol: HTTP

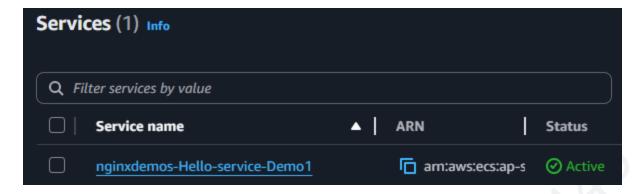
Health check path: /



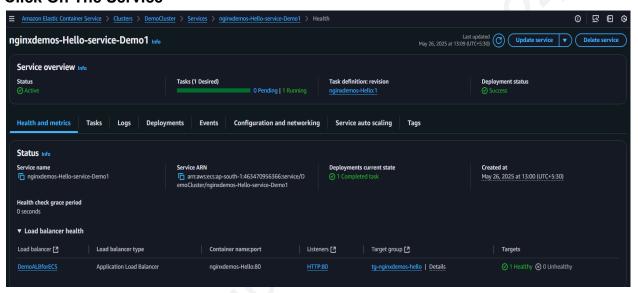
Keep Rest Of The Configuration Default For The Same.

#### ▼ Final Step: Click Create Service

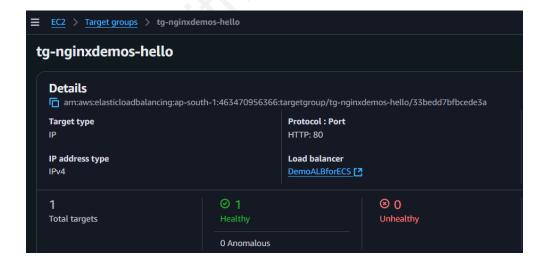




#### Click On The Service



You Can See The Service is Linked To Target Group.



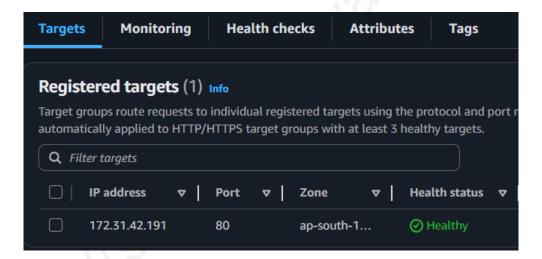
You can see the Target Group is linked to Application Load Balancer.

# ✓ Verifying Load Balancer and Target Group for nginx Container

Once your ECS container (running nginx) is up and running, follow the steps below to verify everything is working perfectly!

#### Step 1: Check Registered Targets in the Target Group

- 1. Go to the **EC2 Console**.
- 2. In the left menu, click on **Target Groups** under *Load Balancing*.
- 3. Select your target group (used by the ALB).
- 4. Click on the **Targets** tab.
- 5. You will see a registered **IP address** (e.g., 172.31.42.191).
- This IP address is the private IP of your container running nginx.
- Make sure the **Health status** shows "**Healthy**" this means the Load Balancer can reach your container.



#### Step 2: Test the Application Using the Load Balancer

- 1. Go to the EC2 Console → Load Balancers.
- Select your ALB (Application Load Balancer).
- 3. Copy the **DNS name** of the ALB (e.g., demoalbforecs-xxxxxxxx.ap-south-1.elb.amazonaws.com).
- Paste it in your web browser and hit Enter.

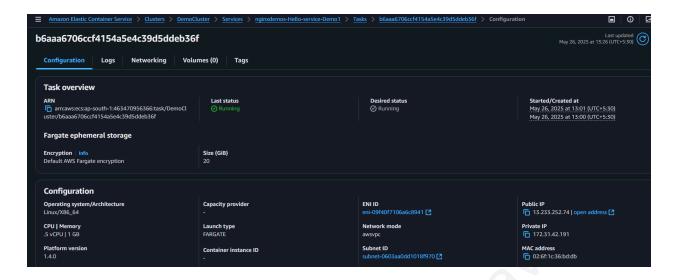
- 5. You should see the **nginx welcome page** with some server details like:
- Server address
- Server name
- Date and URI



#### ECS Task & Logs Verification

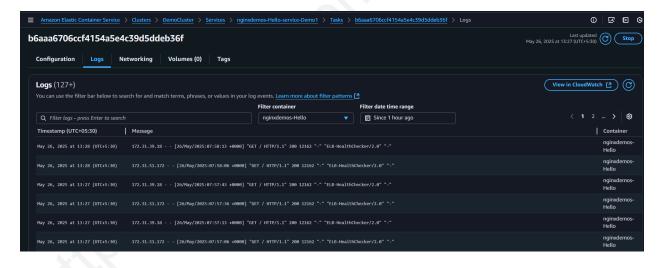
#### **Check Task Details**

- Go to ECS > Clusters > Your Cluster (e.g., DemoCluster) > Services > Your Service.
- 2. Click on the Tasks tab.
- 3. Click on the running **Task ID**.
- 4. Under the Configuration tab, you can see:
  - Task details (e.g., Task ARN, Status, ENI, Public IP, Subnet)
  - Platform version, Memory/CPU allocation, Launch type (FARGATE)
  - Confirm task is in Running state.



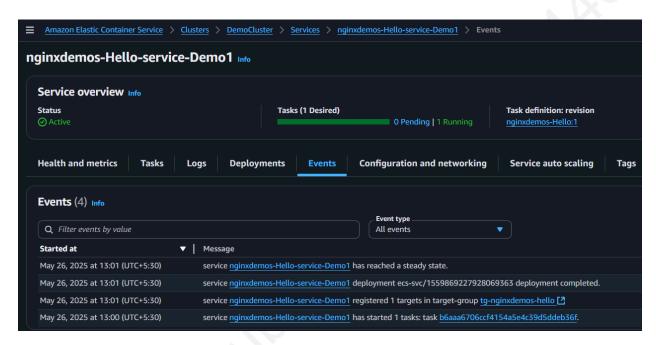
#### View Container Logs

- 1. Inside the task, switch to the **Logs** tab.
- 2. You will see log entries (like health check calls from ELB).
  - Helps verify container responses (e.g., HTTP 200 from Nginx).
  - Seful for debugging or checking traffic.



#### **K** Check ECS Service Events

- 1. Go to the **Service** again in your ECS Cluster.
- 2. Click the Events tab.
- 3. You'll see recent activity such as:
  - Task launched and registered to target group
  - Deployment completed
  - Service reached a steady state.



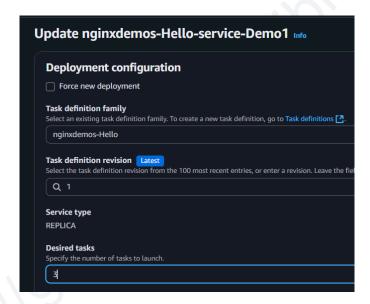
## Scaling Tasks in ECS (Fargate)

#### Current State

You currently have 1 running task in your ECS Service

#### Step-by-Step to Scale Tasks

- 1. Go to ECS > Clusters > Your Cluster > Services.
- Select your service (e.g., nginxdemos-Hello-service-Demo1).
- 3. Click on **Update**.
- 4. In the **Desired Tasks** field, change the value from 1 3.
- 5. Click **Update** to save.
- This tells ECS to run 3 copies (replicas) of your task.



#### What Happens Behind the Scenes?

- Fargate provisions 2 more containers (total: 3) to meet the new desired count.
- Each container runs the same task definition (image: nginxdemos/hello) but on separate ENIs (Elastic Network Interfaces) inside your subnet.
- These are managed by ECS and Fargate, meaning:
  - No need to manage EC2 instances
  - Fargate handles task placement, network setup, and IP assignment automatically
- All tasks get registered to the Target Group linked with your ALB (Application Load Balancer).

#### Web Page Behavior After Scaling

- 1. Open the **DNS of your ALB** in a browser.
- 2. Refresh the page several times.
- - The IP address shown on the Nginx demo page keeps changing.
  - Why? Because the ALB is load balancing the traffic across all 3 ECS containers.
  - This verifies that your service is horizontally scalable and traffic is being handled efficiently.

