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Big Data Applications

November 19, 2023

HW7 – AWS

Summary about EC2, S3, RDS, and CloudFormation (purpose, key features, and benefits):

The Elastic Compute Cloud (in case the "EC2WebApp7") provides secure, resizable compute capacity in the AWS cloud. It is a basic service interface that allows you to obtain and configure capacity with minimal frictions. This service gives you complete control of your computing resources and lets you run on Amazon's proven computing environment. Some of the benefits I used for my web application was the scalability computing capacity and some security (even though I wish to have much more security for my project). EC2WebApp7 was the EC2 instance I created for my web application, which has a public IPV4 address (which was use for Streamlit) and was configured using a Load Balancer and a Target group along with an IAM role which had all permissions needed for the app's success.

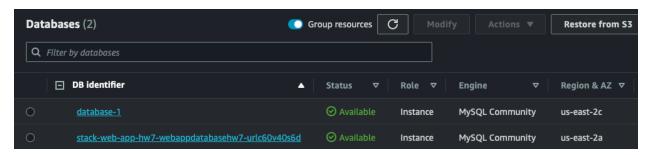
The S3 (in my case "s3-bucket-hw7-webapp") is an object storage service that ensures scalability, availability security, and performance. Basically, this is where you store your files (within buckets) and retrieve them. This service was used to store csv data files I used to store my files for local testing and EC2 deployment testing functionalities.

The VPC (in my case "VPCWebApp7") is basically a virtual private cloud used to launch AWS resources in a logically isolated virtual network that the user defines. It resembles how a data center works, with the benefits of using the scalable infrastructure of AWS. In my case, I created the VPCWebApp7 via CloudFormation stack creation to establish a secure, scalable, and highly available network (using three subnets for different availability zones) so I could host my web application on AWS (east-us-2a, east-us-2b, east-us-2c).

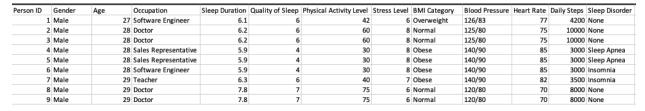
CloudFormation, is a service that helps you model and set up your AWS resources so that you can spend less time managing those resources and more time focusing on your application that runs within AWS. This is something I tried to take advantage during the beginning of this assignment. I tried creating my EC2 and RDS instances, as well as the S3 bucket and VPC using CloudFormation. Like I said, this was a huge mistake due to the fact I had no idea how to really work with AWS services. Even though it is a great and extremely useful tool, you need to know what you want and what you are really doing.

Creating RDS instance along with Database and table needed for web app:

I initially created an RDS instance as well as EC2 using CloudFormation. However, after failing multiple times with the MySQL Workbench connection, the TA helped set up the RDS instance I needed. The RDS instance created. The image below shows my old RDS instance created via CloudFormation and the new RDS instance created thanks to the TA. For this assignment, we are going to be focusing on "database-1".

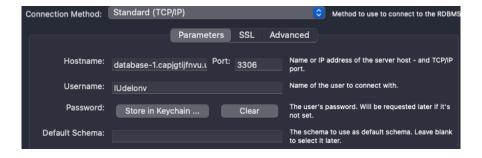


Why I wanted a MySQL connection? The idea behind my app is quite simple yet a little complex if you don't master the AWS services. My app allows users to interact with S3 and RDS by uploading CSV files to the S3 bucket and then it inserts its content into the RDS table. For Database creation a connection to MySQL or any other MySQL client service was needed. The table within the database will be to store, for example, some sleep health data I found via Kaggle. The user will upload this csv file into S3 bucket, and this will migrate into RDS table:

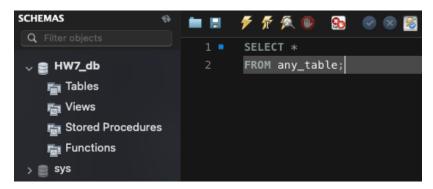


To set up a MySQL Workbench and RDS instance connection, I used the following resource: https://aws.amazon.com/getting-started/hands-on/create-mysql-db/

The image below shows the Hostname (database-1 Endpoint), Username (the username I gave my old RDS stack instance via stack formation), as well as the password for old RDS instance. This step was crucial for me.



For database creation, I will be using what I learned from Professors Scrivner class "Applied Database Technologies". "HW7_db" database was set as default schema as the "container" for the table or any table that will be created based on the dataframe being used within the web application.



Important key points here to further continue with the process:

- The TA helped create a new security group called "WebAppSG".
- Database-1 resided within VPC: vpc-00cc3bf492505007e.
- The CIDR is 172.31.0.0/16 which is my address type IPv4.
- The security group ID associated with database-1 is: sg-09856ba64c63b9b1e.
- Next step will be modifying certain key points to match the new VPC I will be creating via CloudFormation. I need RDS and EC2 instance to reside within the same VPC for AWS services interactions. This is because after multiple attempts, I understood that you can't just simple change the VPC of an existing RDS instance ("database-1") directly. I will need to change the subnets the RDS instance is associated with.

VPC CloudFormation creation (JSON template):

I hope this template contains the necessary components that will allow my web application to interact with MySQL and most importantly the internet. Since I don't really know AWS services that much, I know most of the things here are being kind of brute forced. However, for future projects I will ensure to make it more reliable in terms of security and development/production. The JSON template contains the following:

- VPC (WebAppVPCHW7): This is the VPC being crated, which my private network. I am defining CIDR block to "172.31.0.0/16" because that's the configuration I have on the VPC created for the RDS instance (database-1) the TA helped me set up. This CIDR defines the IP address range for the resources within this VPC.
- Subnets (WebAppSubnet1HW7, WebAppSubnet2HW7, WebAppSubnet3HW7): these are the 3 subnets created (to follow AWS console logic) where I can place the RDS database-1 instance and eventually the EC2 instances I will create. This just for high availability purposes. The idea is to have public subnets that can be access via internet (EC2 instance hosting the web server) and private subnets that can't be directly accessible from the internet (database-1).
- The Internet Gateway (WebAppInternetGatewayHW7): this is communication between the VPC and the internet.
- VPC Gateway Attachment (WebAppAttachVPCGatewayHW7): this will attach the internet gateway wot the VPC.

- Route Table (WebAppRouteTableHW7): this route table contains the set of rules to direct network traffic from the subnets to destinations outside the VPC. This includes the route WebAppRouteHW7, which directs all traffic for the internet (0.0.0.0/0) to the internet gateway, allowing instances in the subnets to access the internet.
- Route Associations (SubnetRouteTableAssociation1HW7, SubnetRouteTableAssociation2HW7, SubnetRouteTableAssociation3HW7): these associations will ensure that each subnet adheres to the routing defined in the Route Table.
- Security Group (WebAppSecurityGroupHW7): The ingress rule will allow MySQL traffic (TCP port 3306) from an IP address, which is necessary for my web app to communicate with RDS MySQL instances within the VPC. The egress rule allows all outbound traffic, allowing instances to initiate communication with any external service or endpoint.

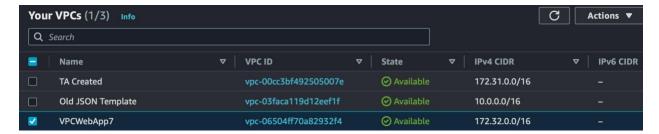
This configuration will set up the necessary network infrastructure to support my web application's interaction with AWS services (RDS and EC2 instances). With this, I intent to host my web application on an EC2 instance in a public subnet, which allows it to be accesses from the internet. At the same time, it can interreact with RDS instance (database-1) that will also be hosted within the VPC. I made my database-1 instance public for the MySQL Workbench connection. However, it is important to try access this RDS instance only via VPC.

CloudFormation CLI command:

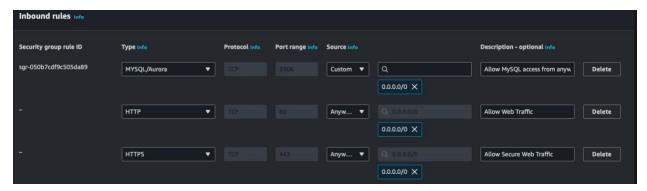


```
Default region name [us-east-2]: us-east-2
Default output format [json]: json
[(base) deleonv@Vicentes-MacBook-Air ~ % cd ~/Desktop
(base) deleonv@Vicentes-MacBook-Air Desktop % aws cloudformation create-stack \
--stack-name WebApp7 \
--template-body file://ypc.json \
[--capabilities CAPABILITY_IAM CAPABILITY_NAMED_IAM
{
    "StackId": "arn:aws:cloudformation:us-east-2:296632356656:stack/WebApp7/8be3b900-83f4-11ee-9968-06ba2a808909"
}
(base) deleonv@Vicentes-MacBook-Air Desktop %
```



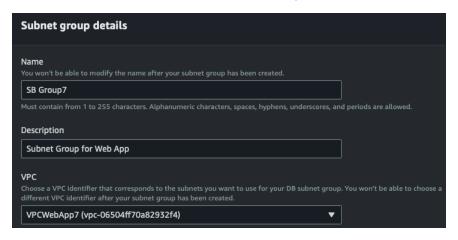


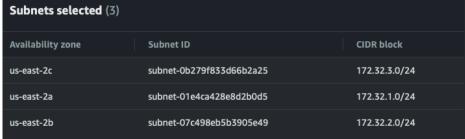
Security Group: StreamlitWebAppSG (Created via CloudFormation):

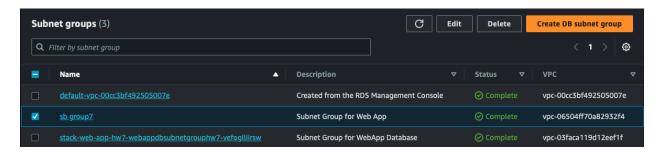


Inbound rules explained: the first rule allows MySQL traffic on port 3306 from any IP address, which was needed for MySQL database connection. The second rule HTTP traffic on port 80 from any IP address (standard for web browsers). The third rule allows HTTPS traffic on port 443 from any IP address (secure web browser connection). I manually added the last two rules using the AWS console. Outbound rule will not be changed.

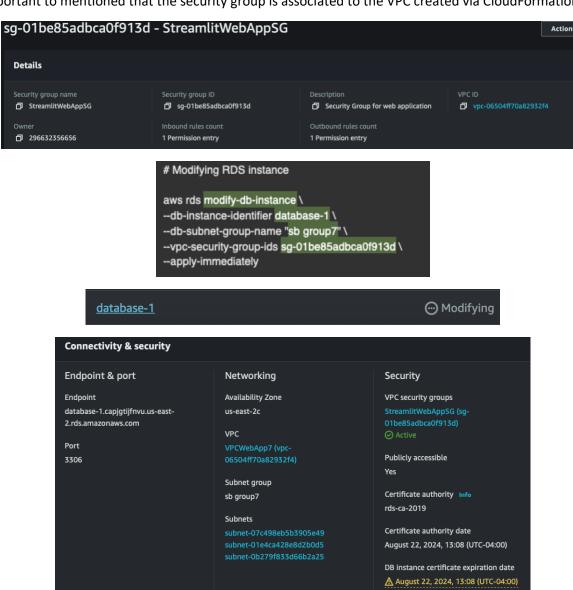
Now, let's go to the RDS Dashboard and select the Subnet Groups:







The non-selected subnets (image above) are just failed attempts from previous unfortunate experiments. After this, I went ahead to the RDS Dashboard to Modify "database-1". Within databse-1, I change the subnet group to "sb group7" and the security group to "StreamlitWebAppSG" (sg-01be85adbca0f913d). "StreamlitWebApp" is the name I gave to the security group via CloudFormation stack creation. Also, it is important to mentioned that the security group is associated to the VPC created via CloudFormation.

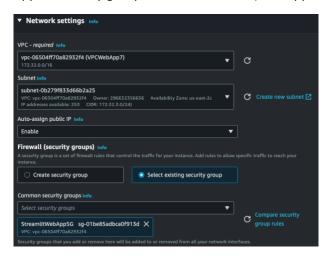


Network type

For the above RDS instance modification, I had to use the above CLI command, because when I tried to manually modify database-1 RDS instance, the security group that I needed (StreamlitWebAppSG ID: sg-01be85adbca0f913d) was not available within the options. I tried to refresh the console and web browser, but it didn't appear. So, I had to use the above CLI command to do it, which it worked.

Creating EC2 instance:

For the EC2 instance, I will be using the AWS console and not a CLI command because I need to see what I am selecting in terms of services. So, I launched a new Instance and made the following configuration. You can see that the VPC was set to the VPC created via CloudFormation (VPCWebApp7) along with its subnets, the StreamlitWebAppSG security group, and the IAM role (WebAppHW7) I created:





You can see EC2 instance "EC2WebApp7" created:

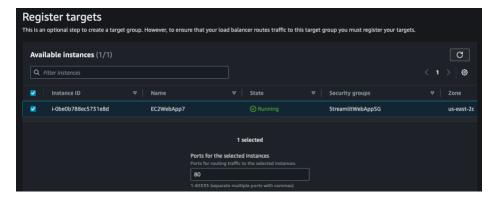


High traffic and Scalability:

Application Load Balancer (LoadBalancerWebApp7): this service distributes incoming HTTP and HTTPS traffic across multiple targets such as the EC2 instances, containers, and other services, based on request attributes. When the Load Balancer receives a connection request, it evaluated the Listener rules in priority order to determine which rule to apply, and if applicable, it selects a target from the Target Group for the rule of actions. The load balancer will serve as an invisible intermediary between the user and the server group, ensuring that all resources servers are used equally.

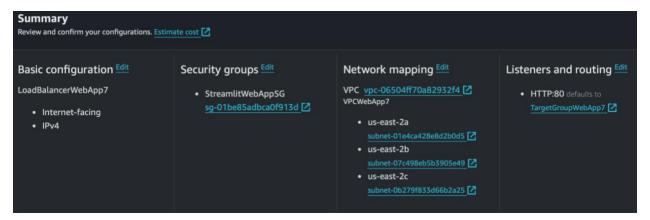


- Target Group (TargetGroupWebApp7): this service will define a group of resources, such as the EC2 instance, that the Load Balancer should direct traffic to. It's set to target type Instances, to listen on port 80 (HTTP), and it is associated to VPCWebApp7 (created via CloudFormation). Then, I proceed to register my target and associate the EC2WebApp7 instance to the Target Group.



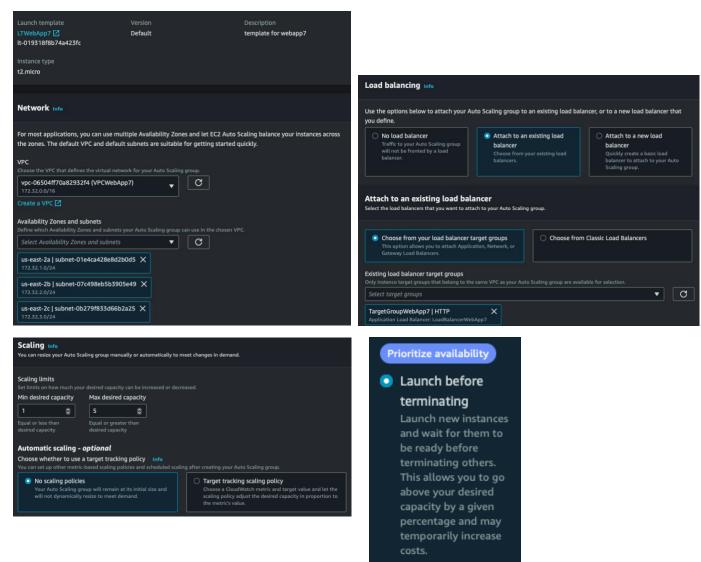
- Listener: the Listener is just a process that checks for connections requests, using the protocol and port that I just configured. In this case, it waits for incoming traffic on the Load Balancer (HTTP) and forwards it the Target Group.

Load Balancer summary:

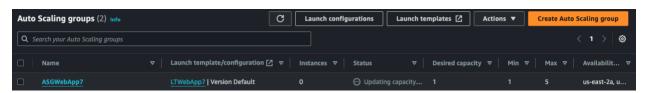


Auto Scaling Group and Launch Template for Scalability and High traffic:

Launch template configurations within Auto Scaling Group:



ASGWebApp7 (Auto Scaling Group):



In Scaling capacities, the min desired capacity was scaled to 1 (ensures I have at least one instance always running) and max desired capacity to 5 instances to handle traffic. I set these numbers for high traffic and scalability. You could see all my configuration being related to the VPC created via CloudFormation. Even though I set min to 1 and max to 5, I change these setting to min 1 and max 1.

This is because I received and email warning from AWS which stated I had exceeded 85% of the usage limit for AWS free tier services as shown in the image below:

Your AWS account 296632356656 has exceeded 85% of the usage limit for one or more AWS Free Tier-eligible services for the month of November.

Product	AWS Free Tier Usage as of 11/18/2023	Usage Limit	AWS Free Tier Usage Limit
AmazonRDS	20 GB-Mo	20 GB-Mo	20.0 GB-Mo for free for 12 months as part of AWS Free Usage Tier (Global-RDS:StorageUsage)

I haven't tested my web application yet; however, I hope it works. I just hope I don't run into any issues with my free tier service.

Streamlit Web Application:

I decided to create a Streamlit Web Application because I have experience using Streamlit. I really like how easy and user friendly it is. Even my personal Data Science Portfolio was coded using Streamlit. I don't have to worry about the front-end coding, just the back-end coding. As always, I will provide the code I used to create this application within the final submission. The code structure is the following:

Functions:

- Data_to_RDS: inserts df into my RDS table (if table was created within databse).
- Upload_S3_RDS: handles CSV file upload to my S3 bucket, reads into DataFrame, and uses data_to_RDS function to insert data into my RDS table.
- S3_files: just the files within my S3 bucket.
- Download_S3_csv: function download data within my S3 bucket as CSV format.
- Display RDS: takes data from my RDS table and displays it into DataFrame.
- Download RDS csv: function to download RDS data into csv format.

Streamlit App:

The app contains two tabs: S3 Operations (uploading data, populating database-1 table based on csv, downloads files within S3 bucket) and RDS Operations (Gets populated from S3 bucket files and has the operation to download located within databse-1 table). This app basically serves as a user-friendly interface that interacts with AWS services such as S3 and RDS, allowing the user to upload, manage, and download csv data. Even though AWS credentials are the heart of this web application, I don't think it is a good idea (because we are trying to make it as secure as possible) to code the AWS credentials within the Streamlit code (I will probably be sharing this app and code within my own Streamlit Cloud and GitHub).

The following code provides the flexibility of creating a new table based on the csv file the user uploads (if the table does not exist already). I could've created the table within MySQL Workbench, but I think it's more interesting to see a table being automatically created and populated by a csv upload.

Testing AWSWebApp.py locally from Desktop:

```
Desktop — open < streamlit run AWSWebApp.py — 130×24

Last login: Sat Nov 18 15:57:23 on ttys000
((base) deleonv@Vicentes-MacBook-Air ~ % cd ~/Desktop
((base) deleonv@Vicentes-MacBook-Air Desktop % streamlit run AWSWebApp.py
2023-11-18 19:37:33.061 INFO numexpr.utils: NumExpr defaulting to 8 threads.

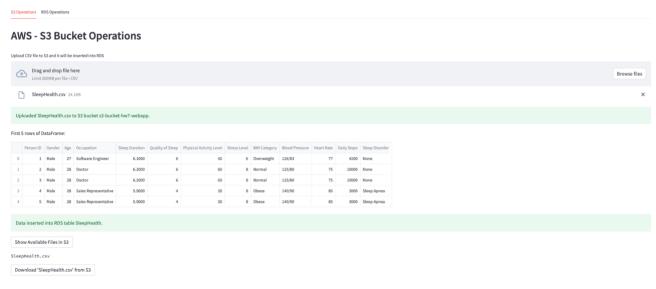
You can now view your Streamlit app in your browser.

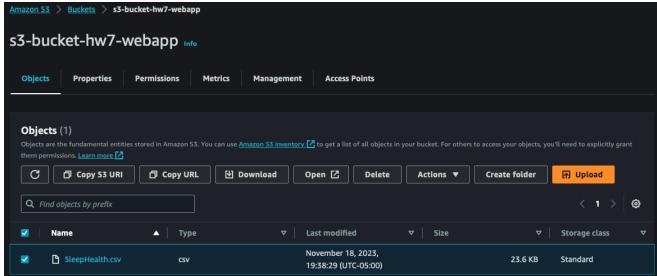
Local URL: http://localhost:8501
Network URL: http://lo.e.e.110:8501

2023-11-18 19:37:37.480 Found credentials in shared credentials file: ~/.aws/credentials
```

Tab 1: SE Operations

Streamlit AWS S3 & RDS Interaction

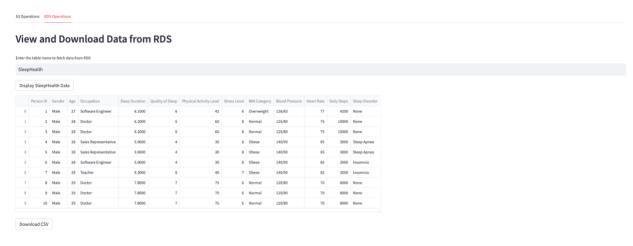


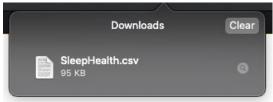


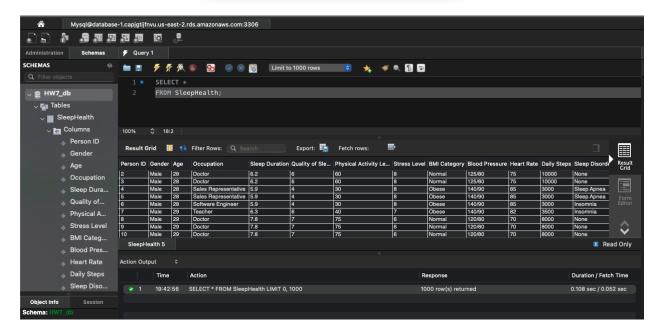
You can see the CSV I uploaded in my application interface being displayed within S3 bucket AWS Console in the image above:

Tab 2: RDS Operations:

Streamlit AWS S3 & RDS Interaction

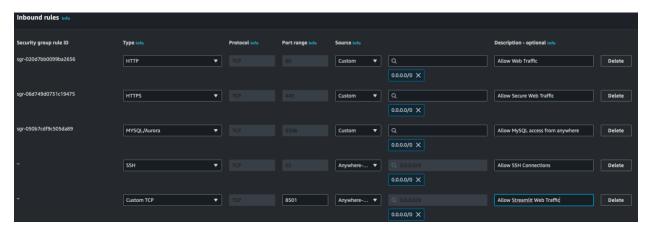






Deploying AWSWedApp.py using EC2 instance (EC2WebApp7):

After failing a couple of times, I decided to add two new inbound rules into my security group "StreamlitWebAppSG" to allow SSH (port 22) and Streamlit access (Streamlit defaults to port 8501) from any IPv4 address.



All files were stored within my Desktop for quick testing. So, I transfer files to my EC2 instance and initiated SSH connection using the following commands:

In the below image you could see my EC2-user (default for Amazon Linux) and EC2WebApp7 public IPv4 address (taken from AWS Console):

Running Streamlit App (AWSWebApp.py) using Streamlit default 8501 port:

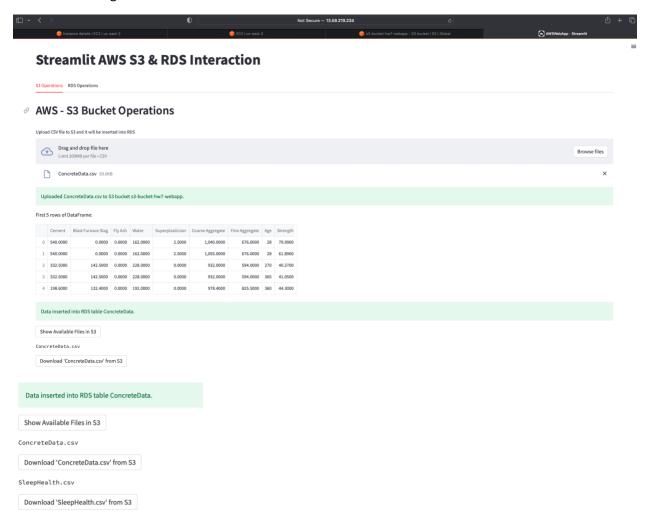
```
[ec2-user@ip-172-32-3-68 ~]$ streamlit run AWSWebApp.py --server.port 8501
Collecting usage statistics. To deactivate, set browser.gatherUsageStats to False.

You can now view your Streamlit app in your browser.

Network URL: http://172.32.3.68:8501
External URL: http://13.59.219.234:8501
```

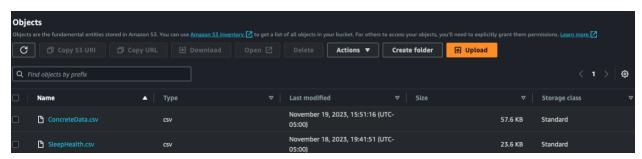
How the App looks:

Tab 1: The image shows how the app is being hosted via web server, interactions with a new csv file (ConcreteData.csv) and the button below shows the SleepHealth.csv that was stored within S3 bucket from local testing. The user also can retrieve data from S3 bucket if he or she wishes to.

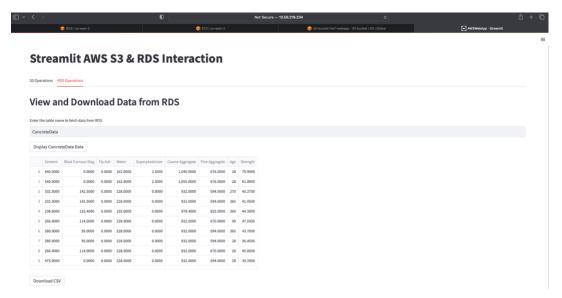


Two csv files being stored within S3 bucket:

- ConcreteData.csv: New file used for EC2 interaction.
- SleepHealth.csv: old file from local testing.



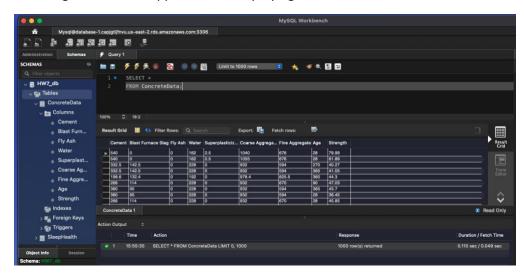
Tab 2: The image below shows the procedure tested using data from ConcreteData.csv. As we know, the user uploads a csv file, in this case ConcreteData.csv, into the S3 bucket and the RDS Instance database table is automatically populated using the uploaded csv data. The user doesn't have to worry about tables name due to the "to_sql" line code. The table name will be automatically assigned using the csv file name, which I think its way more interesting thanks to the flexibility being implemented. I wish I could of have more time to experiment with more stuff and to clean my Streamlit code a bit more.



Download option from RDS to download database data as a csv file:

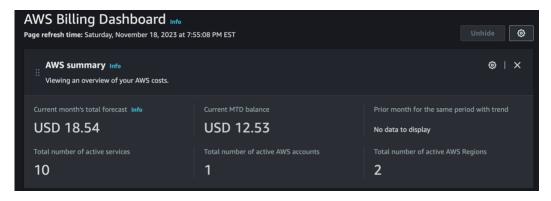


If you create a connection via MYSQL Workbench to see if the data really exists, just repeat the process I mentioned earlier for MySQL Workbench connection. As you see in the image below, both tables from local testing and EC2WebApp7 instance deploying exist:



Observations and Problems:

- The problem that took me days to figure out was the MySQL Workbench connection with RDS instance. I initially created a RDS instance, EC2 instance, VPC and subnets all using CloudFormation. This was a huge mistake because everything was completely wrong, and I had to use the AWS Console to set up most of the services except for the VPC. The TA helped a lot during this process. However, I had to create EC2 instance and other configurations services based on the VPC created using CloudFormation. At the end, I just assigned this new VPC to the existing RDS instance the TA helped me create. After this, MySQL Workbench connection was a success.
- I had problems with Streamlit's altair and had to manually modify the reqruirments.txt created via pipreqs to match the "altair" configuration that will allow to use Streamlit.
- I had to create environmental variables to try and provide more security and I was running into issues regarding the EC2 deploying because I forgot we also (if using these types of variables) must update the "zshrc" within the SSH and EC2 connection for AWSWebApp.py could access my AWS credentials. This is something than can be easily forget, due to the number of details AWS services require.
- The Auto Scaling group setting were change from max 5 to max 1 because of the number of instances were being launched. This gave me a problem regarding my free tier option, reason why I change it. since I do not master AWS yet, I am worried about the billing. I will just delete the Auto Scaling Group to avoid scaling and launching new instances and I will just stop the Auto Scaling process and the EC2WebApp7 EC2 instance (just like I did for HW6 to avoid incurring costs).
- Understanding AWS Services was quite challenging and confusing for me. I came across multiple failing attempts and errors that cost me a lot of time for this homework. However, I do feel I understood this homework's mission. I personally think that the only way to address AWS material and challenges, I just by trying and failing just like I did. I had to do this assignment 3 times to fully understand what was going on. Many of the benefits were explained during the creation of this report specially on the things I want to implement regarding scalability, high traffic, storage, management, and architecture. A mix of CLI commands helped me figure out things that I couldn't see in my AWS console. Also, I used many codes and knowledge form other classes to create this project.



AWS References:

EC2: https://aws.amazon.com/ec2/ec2-get-

<u>started/#:~:text=Amazon%20Elastic%20Compute%20Cloud%20(Amazon,configure%20capacity%20with</u> %20minimal%20friction.

S3: https://aws.amazon.com/s3/getting-

<u>started/#:~:text=Amazon%20Simple%20Storage%20Service%20(Amazon,at%20any%20time%2C%20from</u>%20anywhere.

VPC: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/vpc/latest/userguide/what-is-amazon-vpc.html

CF: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSCloudFormation/latest/UserGuide/Welcome.html

Parameters: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSCloudFormation/latest/UserGuide/parameters-section-structure.html

Creating AMI role: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/id_roles_create_for-service.html

Getting caller identity: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cli/latest/reference/sts/get-caller-identity.html

Creating bucket: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cli/latest/reference/s3api/create-bucket.html

S3 best practices: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonS3/latest/userguide/security-best-practices.html

Bucket Policy:

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonS3/latest/userguide/S3OutpostsBucketPolicyEdit.html

Bucket Policies: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonS3/latest/userguide/example-bucket-policies.html

app running on EC2 instances - AMI:

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/IAM/latest/UserGuide/id_roles_use_switch-role-ec2.html

GetObject: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonS3/latest/API/API_GetObject.html

PutObject: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonS3/latest/API/API_PutObject.html

DeleteObject: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonS3/latest/API/API_DeleteObject.html

Template basics:

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSCloudFormation/latest/UserGuide/gettingstarted.templatebasics.html

CloudFormation: https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/mt/automate-account-creation-and-resource-provisioning-using-aws-service-catalog-aws-organizations-and-aws-lambda/#:~:text=AWS%20CloudFormation%20allows%20you%20to,the%20compute%20time%20you%20consume.

Template version (only valid value):

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSCloudFormation/latest/UserGuide/format-version-structure.html

Stack Creation: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSCloudFormation/latest/UserGuide/using-cfn-clicreating-stack.html

Creating web application using VPC, EC2, and RDS: https://medium.com/@awseng12/building-a-three-tier-web-application-in-aws-with-vpc-alb-ec2-and-rds-

 $\underline{23af0c0e610d\#:} \texttt{~:text=Setting\%20up\%20the\%20Networking\%20Infrastructure, subnets\%20for\%20the\%}\\ \underline{20database\%20layer}.$

High-Availability Web Application on AWS using VPC, Auto Scaling, ALB:

 $\frac{https://medium.com/@stephanietabares/creating-a-high-availability-web-application-infrastructure-on-aws-with-vpc-auto-scaling-and-62a4f0f0b17b$

Web App AutoScaling: https://medium.com/@Deshone Henry/how-to-create-a-highly-available-website-using-auto-scaling-with-aws-ec07a83db69e

CloudFormation LoadBalancer:

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSCloudFormation/latest/UserGuide/aws-resource-elasticloadbalancingv2-loadbalancer.html

Target Groups explained: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/elasticloadbalancing/latest/application/loadbalancer-target-groups.html

CloudFormation TargetGroup:

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSCloudFormation/latest/UserGuide/aws-resource-elasticloadbalancingv2-targetgroup.html

Listener explained: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/elasticloadbalancing/latest/application/load-balancer-listeners.html

CloudFormation Listener: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSCloudFormation/latest/UserGuide/aws-resource-elasticloadbalancingv2-listener.html

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