AWS Cloud Cost Optimization - Identifying Stale Resources

Identifying Stale EBS Snapshots

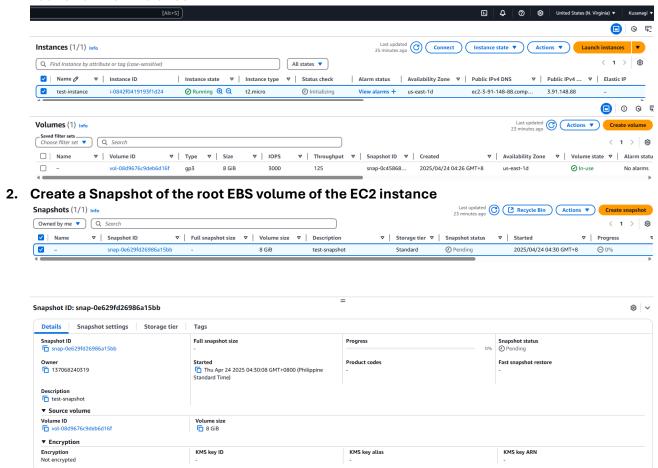
In this example, we'll create a Lambda function that identifies EBS snapshots that are no longer associated with any active EC2 instance and deletes them to save on storage costs.

Description:

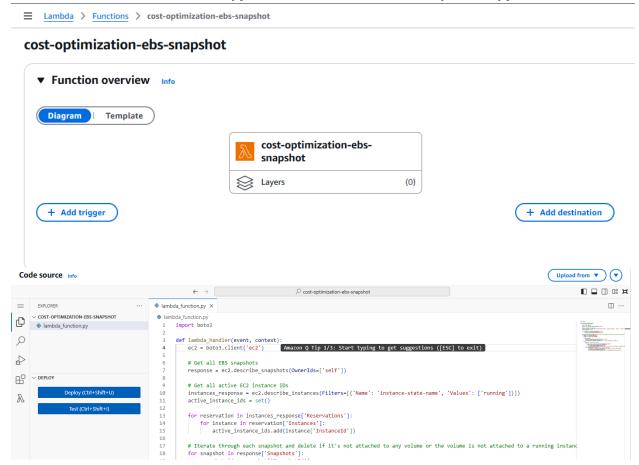
The Lambda function (python code) fetches all EBS snapshots owned by the same account ('self') and also retrieves a list of active EC2 instances (running and stopped). For each snapshot, it checks if the associated volume (if exists) is not associated with any active instance. If it finds a stale snapshot, it deletes it, effectively optimizing storage costs.

Procedure:

1. Launch an EC2 instance



3. Create a Lambda function and copy the code from ebs_stale_snapshosts.py

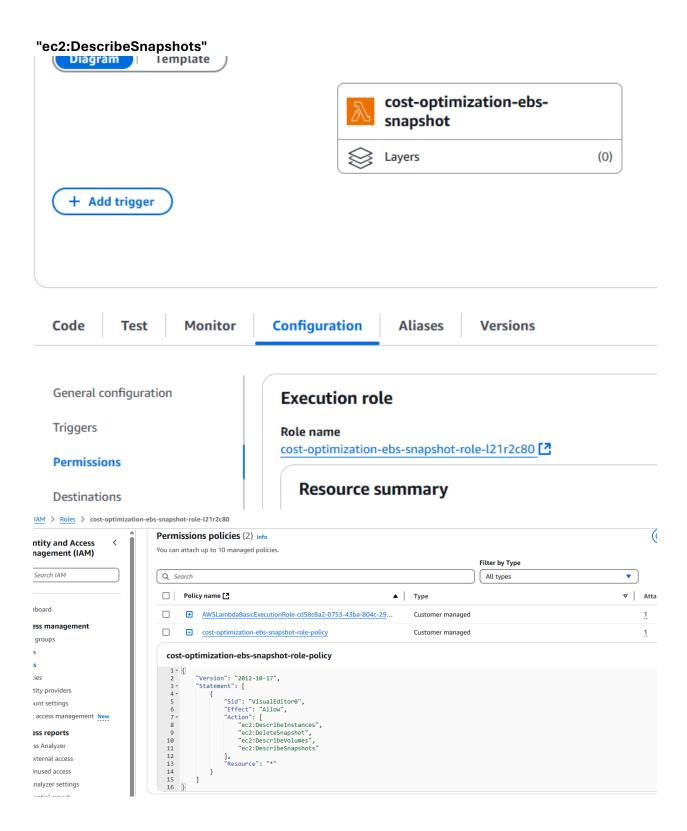


Set the permissions of the execution role of the lambda function to include the below policies:

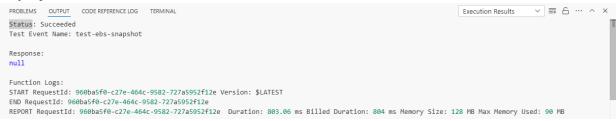
"ec2:DescribeInstances",

"ec2:DeleteSnapshot",

"ec2:DescribeVolumes",

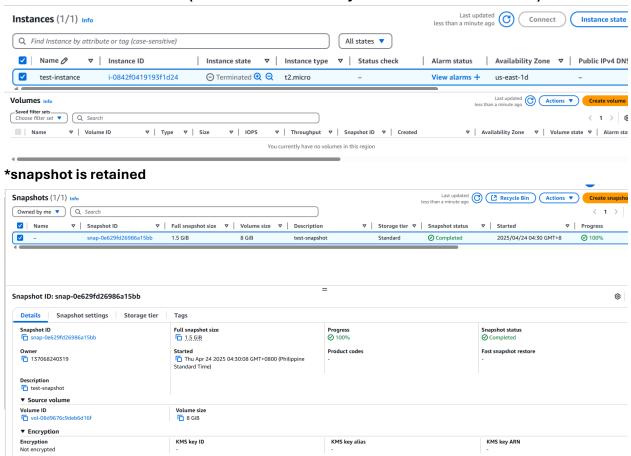


4. Deploy the Lambda function and Test it



*code is now working

5. Terminate the EC2 instance (which will automatically delete the root EBS volume)



6. Test the Lambda function again. *Notice that the result below tells us that the snapshot associated with the root EBS volume has been deleted.



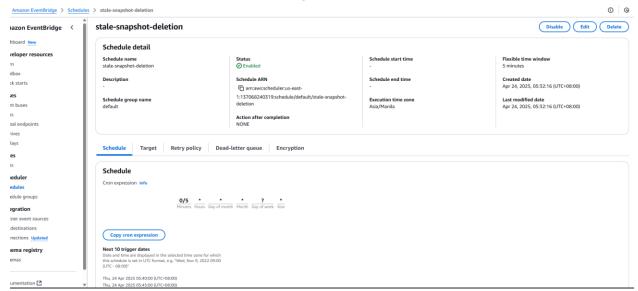
*confirmation that the snapshot has been deleted



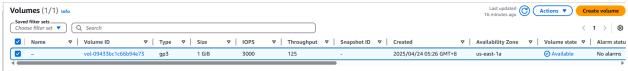
Optional step:

Since we may want to run the Lambda function in recurrence, I created a schedule in Amazon EventBridge that executes the Lambda function every 5 minutes.

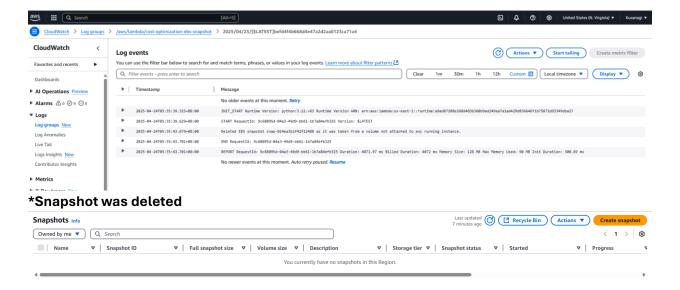
a. Create the schedule in Amazon EventBridge.



b. Create an EBS volume (not attached to EC2 instance) and create a snapshot of it. The purpose is to test the code of the lambda function to confirm that it still deletes the snapshot even if the volume is not attached to an EC2 instance.



c. Check CloudWatch log groups to confirm that the Amazon EventBridge schedule triggered the Lambda function and the snapshot was deleted successfully.



Possible code modification: You can update the python code to check the creation date of the snapshot also in cases wherein you want to delete a snapshot that are no longer used (more than one month from creation date.)