

An Introduction to AWS CDK (and why you should be using it!)

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AWS CDK, or Cloud Development Kit, is a new offering from AWS that helps you manage your AWS infrastructure. In this video, I talk about what CDK is, its precursor technology, and why it's such an incredible piece of technology. Finally, I walk you through how to get started by installing CDK and creating a DynamoDB table. ...more

Cloud
Development
Kit

CREATE
CONFIGURE
DEPLOY

Manually?
CloudFormation?

The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console interface for DynamoDB. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Dashboard, Tables (selected), Backups, Reserved capacity, Exports to S3, Item explorer, and PartiQL editor. The main content area is titled 'DynamoDB > Tables'. It features a 'Tables (2)' header with a refresh icon, a 'Delete' button, and a 'Create table' button. Below this is a search bar and a dropdown menu for 'Any group'. A table lists the existing tables:

	Name	Status	Partition key	Sort key	Indexes	Read capacity mode	Write capacity mode
<input type="checkbox"/>	DemoTable	Active	OrderId (String)	-	0	Provisioned (1)	Provisioned (1)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orders	Active	OrderId (String)	-	0	Provisioned with auto scaling (5)	Provisioned with auto scaling (5)

The screenshot shows the 'Create table' wizard in the AWS Management Console. The breadcrumb navigation is 'DynamoDB > Tables > Create table'. The main heading is 'Create table'. Below it is the 'Table details' section, which includes the following information:

Table details Info
DynamoDB is a schema-less database that only requires a table name and a primary key.

Table name
This will be used to identify your table.

From 3 to 255 characters in length, only A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscores, hyphens, and periods allowed.

Partition key
The partition key is part of the table's primary key. It is a hash value that is used to retrieve items from your table, as well as allocate data across hosts for scalability and availability.

1 to 255 characters, case sensitive.

Sort key - optional
The sort key can be the second part of the table's primary key. The sort key allows for searching within an item collection.

1 to 255 characters, case sensitive.

aws

Services

Search for services, features, marketplace products, and docs

[Alt+S]

awssimplified

N. Virginia

Support

Table name

This will be used to identify your table.

TestTable

From 3 to 255 characters in length, only A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscores, hyphens, and periods allowed.

Partition key

The partition key is part of the table's primary key. It is a hash value that is used to retrieve items from your table, as well as allocate data across hosts for scalability and availability.

P

String

1 to 255 characters, case sensitive.

Sort key - optional

The sort key can be the second part of the table's primary key. The sort key allows for searching within an item collection.

Enter the sort key name

String

1 to 255 characters, case sensitive.

Settings

☒ Default settings

The fastest way to create your table. You can modify these settings now or after your table has been created.

☐ Customize settings

Use these advanced features to make DynamoDB work better for your needs.

aws

Services

Search for services, features, marketplace products, and docs

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Support

Secondary indexes

Info

Delete

Create local index

Create global index

Name	Type	Partition key	Sort key	Projected attributes
No indexes				
Secondary indexes allow you to perform queries on attributes that are not part of a table's primary key.				

Encryption at rest

Info

All user data stored in Amazon DynamoDB is fully encrypted at rest. By default, Amazon DynamoDB manages the encryption key, and you are not charged any fee for using it.

Encryption key management

☒ Owned by Amazon DynamoDB

Learn more

The key is owned and managed by DynamoDB. You are not charged an additional fee for using this customer master key (CMK).

☐ AWS managed CMK

Learn more

The key is stored in your account and is managed by AWS KMS. AWS KMS charges apply.

☐ Stored in your account, and owned and managed by you

Learn more

The key is stored in your account and is owned and managed by you. AWS KMS charges apply.

Cancel

Create table

Template File

```
AWSTemplateFormatVersion: "2010-09-09"
Resources:
  myDynamoDBTable:
    Type: AWS::DynamoDB::Table
    Properties:
      AttributeDefinitions:
        - AttributeName: "Album"
          AttributeType: "S"
        - AttributeName: "Artist"
          AttributeType: "S"
        - AttributeName: "Sales"
          AttributeType: "N"
        - AttributeName: "NumberOfSongs"
          AttributeType: "N"
      KeySchema:
        - AttributeName: "Album"
          KeyType: "HASH"
        - AttributeName: "Artist"
          KeyType: "RANGE"
      ProvisionedThroughput:
        ReadCapacityUnits: "5"
        WriteCapacityUnits: "5"
      TableName: "myTableName"
      GlobalSecondaryIndexes:
        - IndexName: "myGSI"
          KeySchema:
            - AttributeName: "Sales"
              KeyType: "HASH"
            - AttributeName: "Artist"
              KeyType: "RANGE"
          Projection:
            NonKeyAttributes:
              - "Album"
              - "NumberOfSongs"
            ProjectionType: "INCLUDE"
```

```
AWSTemplateFormatVersion: "2010-09-09"
Resources:
  myDynamoDBTable:
    Type: AWS::DynamoDB::Table
    Properties:
      AttributeDefinitions:
        - AttributeName: "Album"
          AttributeType: "S"
        - AttributeName: "Artist"
          AttributeType: "S"
        - AttributeName: "Sales"
          AttributeType: "N"
        - AttributeName: "NumberOfSongs"
          AttributeType: "N"
      KeySchema:
        - AttributeName: "Album"
          KeyType: "HASH"
        - AttributeName: "Artist"
          KeyType: "RANGE"
      ProvisionedThroughput:
        ReadCapacityUnits: "5"
        WriteCapacityUnits: "5"
      TableName: "myTableName"
      GlobalSecondaryIndexes:
        - IndexName: "myGSI"
          KeySchema:
            - AttributeName: "Sales"
              KeyType: "HASH"
            - AttributeName: "Artist"
              KeyType: "RANGE"
```

Table

```
AWSTemplateFormatVersion: "2010-09-09"
Resources:
  myDynamoDBTable:
    Type: AWS::DynamoDB::Table
    Properties:
      AttributeDefinitions:
        - AttributeName: "Album"
          AttributeType: "S"
        - AttributeName: "Artist"
          AttributeType: "S"
        - AttributeName: "Sales"
          AttributeType: "N"
        - AttributeName: "NumberOfSongs"
          AttributeType: "N"
      KeySchema:
        - AttributeName: "Album"
          KeyType: "HASH"
        - AttributeName: "Artist"
          KeyType: "RANGE"
      ProvisionedThroughput:
        ReadCapacityUnits: "5"
        WriteCapacityUnits: "5"
      TableName: "myTableName"
      GlobalSecondaryIndexes:
        - IndexName: "myGSI"
          KeySchema:
            - AttributeName: "Sales"
              KeyType: "HASH"
            - AttributeName: "Artist"
              KeyType: "RANGE"
```

Hash Key
+
Range Key

CLUNKY



aws
CDK



CloudFormation



autocomplete

```
table.add
  addGlobalSecondary... (method) Table.addGlobalSeco...
  addLocalSecondaryIndex
  autoScaleGlobalSecondaryIndexReadCapacity
  autoScaleGlobalSecondaryIndexWriteCapacity
```

**compile-time
warnings**

```
table.addLocalSecondaryIndexx
```

**control flow
statements**

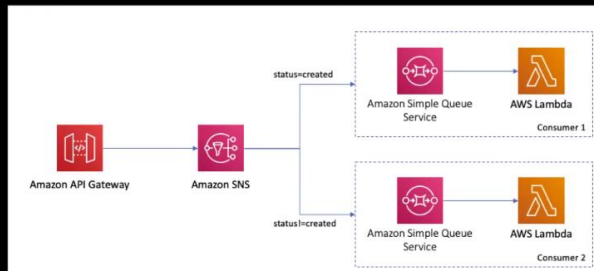
```
if (isProduction) {
  table.addGlobalSecondaryIndex({
    indexName: 'noteId-index',
    partitionKey: { name: 'noteId', type: dynamodb.AttributeType.STRING },
  });
}
```




==



make this

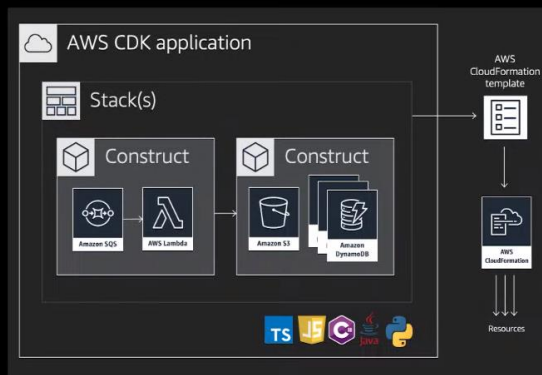


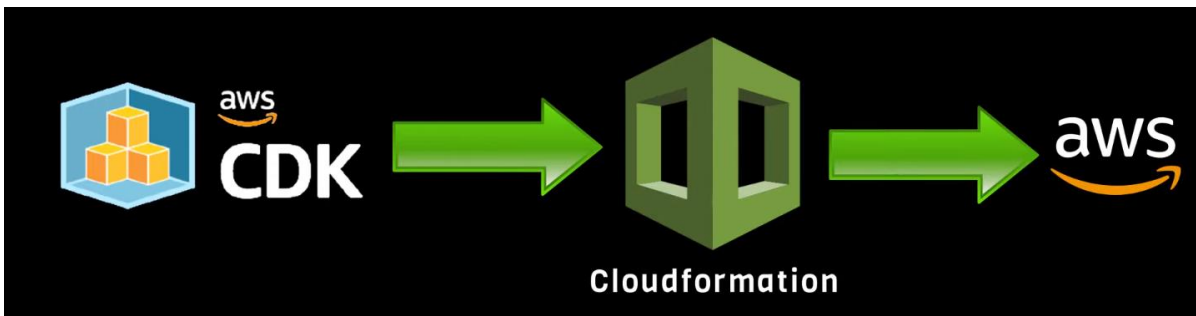
from this



```
serverless-main > the-big-fan > typescript > bin > ts the-big-fan.ts > ...  
1  #!/usr/bin/env node  
2  import 'source-map-support/register';  
3  import * as cdk from '@aws-cdk/core';  
4  import { TheBigFanStack } from '../lib/the-big-fan-stack';  
5  
6  const app = new cdk.App();  
7  new TheBigFanStack(app, 'TheBigFanStack');  
8
```

Constructs





```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE 1: powershell
PS C:\Users\Dan> npm install -g aws-cdk
C:\Users\Dan\AppData\Roaming\npm\cdk -> C:\Users\Dan\AppData\Roaming\npm\node_modules\aws-cdk\bin\cdk
+ aws-cdk@1.102.0
added 188 packages from 189 contributors in 4.468s
PS C:\Users\Dan> cdk --version
1.102.0 (build a75d52f)
PS C:\Users\Dan> |
```

```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE 1: powershell
PS C:\Users\Dan\CDK> cdk init app --language typescript
|
```

We can generate a sample initial project using the above command

```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE 1: node + [ ] [ ] ^ x

## Useful commands

* `npm run build`    compile typescript to js
* `npm run watch`    watch for changes and compile
* `npm run test`     perform the jest unit tests
* `cdk deploy`       deploy this stack to your default AWS account/region
* `cdk diff`         compare deployed stack with current state
* `cdk synth`        emits the synthesized CloudFormation template

Initializing a new git repository...
'git' is not recognized as an internal or external command,
operable program or batch file.
Unable to initialize git repository for your project.
Executing npm install...
[#.....] - fetchMetadata: sill pacote range manifest for raw-body@^2.2.0 fetched in 70ms
```

```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE 1: powershell + [ ] [ ] ^ x

Executing npm install...
npm WARN deprecated request@2.88.2: request has been deprecated, see https://github.com/request/request/issues/3142
npm WARN deprecated request-promise-native@1.0.9: request-promise-native has been deprecated because it extends the now deprecated request package, see https://github.com/request/request/issues/3142
npm WARN deprecated har-validator@5.1.5: this library is no longer supported
npm WARN deprecated resolve-url@0.2.1: https://github.com/lydell/resolve-url#deprecated
npm WARN deprecated unix@0.1.0: Please see https://github.com/lydell/unix#deprecated
npm notice created a lockfile as package-lock.json. You should commit this file.
npm WARN optional SKIPPING OPTIONAL DEPENDENCY: fsevents@2.1.2 (node_modules\jest-haste-map\node_modules\fsevents):
npm WARN notsup SKIPPING OPTIONAL DEPENDENCY: Unsupported platform for fsevents@2.3.2: wanted {"os":"darwin","arch":"any"} (current: {"os":"win32","arch":"x64"})
npm WARN cdk@0.1.0 No repository field.
npm WARN cdk@0.1.0 No license field.

[✓] All done!
PS C:\Users\Dan\CDK>
```

```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE 1: node + [ ] [ ] ^ x

npm WARN deprecated request@2.88.2: request has been deprecated, see https://github.com/request/request/issues/3142
npm WARN deprecated request-promise-native@1.0.9: request-promise-native has been deprecated because it extends the now deprecated request package, see https://github.com/request/request/issues/3142
npm WARN deprecated har-validator@5.1.5: this library is no longer supported
npm WARN deprecated resolve-url@0.2.1: https://github.com/lydell/resolve-url#deprecated
npm WARN deprecated unix@0.1.0: Please see https://github.com/lydell/unix#deprecated
npm notice created a lockfile as package-lock.json. You should commit this file.
npm WARN optional SKIPPING OPTIONAL DEPENDENCY: fsevents@2.1.2 (node_modules\jest-haste-map\node_modules\fsevents):
npm WARN notsup SKIPPING OPTIONAL DEPENDENCY: Unsupported platform for fsevents@2.3.2: wanted {"os":"darwin","arch":"any"} (current: {"os":"win32","arch":"x64"})
npm WARN cdk@0.1.0 No repository field.
npm WARN cdk@0.1.0 No license field.

[✓] All done!
PS C:\Users\Dan\CDK> npm install @aws-cdk/aws-dynamodb
[.....] / rollbackFailedOptional: verb npm-session 15e4ab175bcf2aed
```

We then install an AWS construct that allows us to create a DynamoDB table.

```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE 1: node + [ ] [ ] ^ x

PS C:\Users\Dan\CDK> npm install @aws-cdk/aws-dynamodb
npm WARN cdk@0.1.0 No repository field.
npm WARN cdk@0.1.0 No license field.
npm WARN optional SKIPPING OPTIONAL DEPENDENCY: fsevents@2.3.2 (node_modules\fsevents):
npm WARN notsup SKIPPING OPTIONAL DEPENDENCY: Unsupported platform for fsevents@2.3.2: wanted {"os":"darwin","arch":"any"} (current: {"os":"win32","arch":"x64"})

+ @aws-cdk/aws-dynamodb@1.102.0
added 27 packages from 4 contributors and audited 790 packages in 11.012s

39 packages are looking for funding
  run `npm fund` for details

found 0 vulnerabilities

PS C:\Users\Dan\CDK>
```

Now we are ready to write some code.


```

lib > TS cdk-stack.ts > CdkStack > constructor
1  import * as cdk from '@aws-cdk/core';
2  import * as dynamodb from '@aws-cdk/aws-dynamodb'
3
4  export class CdkStack extends cdk.Stack {
5      constructor(scope: cdk.Construct, id: string, props?: cdk.StackProps) {
6          super(scope, id, props);
7
8          new dynamodb.Table(this, "MyCoolTable", {
9              partitionKey: {
10                 name: "userId",
11                 type: dynamodb.AttributeType.STRING
12             },
13             sortKey: {
14                 name: "noteId",
15                 type: dynamodb.AttributeType.STRING
16             },
17             });
18             // The code that defines your stack goes here
19         }
20     }
21

```

With the CDK, notice that we aren't specifying a lot of information like when using CloudFormation. Using the CDK provides us with sensible constructs that we can leverage.

```

PROBLEMS  OUTPUT  TERMINAL  DEBUG CONSOLE
PS C:\Users\Dan\CDK> cdk synth

```

We are now ready for deployment; we will use the **cdk synth** command to synthesize the code into CloudFormation

```

PROBLEMS  OUTPUT  TERMINAL  DEBUG CONSOLE
Resources:
MyCoolTableCBB0734F:
  Type: AWS::DynamoDB::Table
  Properties:
    KeySchema:
      - AttributeName: userId
        KeyType: HASH
      - AttributeName: noteId
        KeyType: RANGE
    AttributeDefinitions:
      - AttributeName: userId
        AttributeType: S
      - AttributeName: noteId
        AttributeType: S
    ProvisionedThroughput:
      ReadCapacityUnits: 5
      WriteCapacityUnits: 5
    UpdateReplacePolicy: Retain
    DeletionPolicy: Retain
    Metadata:
      aws:cdk:path: CdkStack/MyCoolTable/Resource
  CDKMetadata:
    Type: AWS::CDK::Metadata
    Properties:
      Analytics: v2:deflate64:H4sIAAAAAAACKwNwQ6DMAxDv2X3ECinHSfxB2w/UNIiFUYitSnTVPXfx9hhJ1t+lm3QdD1215t9pYbc2
rDzP905g04oEG4wnfBvd1u4iYsDzs9z8ZpagUW53FJ7W56NNfjckkhNDGzhs3j+NMPQWHF448AAAA=

```

```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE 1: node

- Ref: AWS::Region
- eu-west-2
- Fn::Equals:
- Ref: AWS::Region
- eu-west-3
- Fn::Equals:
- Ref: AWS::Region
- me-south-1
- Fn::Equals:
- Ref: AWS::Region
- sa-east-1
- Fn::Equals:
- Ref: AWS::Region
- us-east-1
- Fn::Equals:
- Ref: AWS::Region
- us-east-2
- Fn::Or:
- Fn::Equals:
- Ref: AWS::Region
- us-west-1
- Fn::Equals:
- Ref: AWS::Region
- us-west-2

PS C:\Users\Dan\CDK>
```

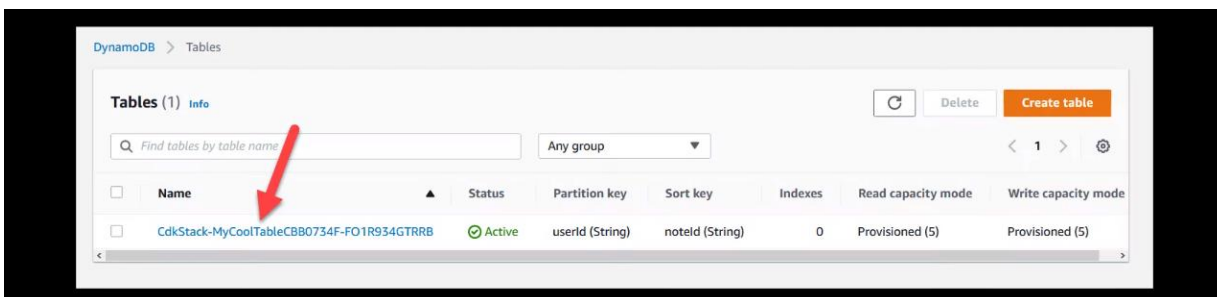
```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE 1: powershell

PS C:\Users\Dan\CDK> cdk deploy
CdkStack: deploying...
CdkStack: creating CloudFormation changeset...
0/3 | 8:07:32 PM | REVIEW_IN_PROGRESS | AWS::CloudFormation::Stack | CdkStack User Initiated
0/3 | 8:07:37 PM | CREATE_IN_PROGRESS | AWS::CloudFormation::Stack | CdkStack User Initiated
0/3 | 8:07:42 PM | CREATE_IN_PROGRESS | AWS::CDK::Metadata | CDKMetadata/Default (CDKMetadata)
1/3 | 8:07:43 PM | CREATE_IN_PROGRESS | AWS::DynamoDB::Table | MyCoolTable (MyCoolTableCBB0734F)
1/3 | 8:07:43 PM | CREATE_IN_PROGRESS | AWS::DynamoDB::Table | MyCoolTable (MyCoolTableCBB0734F) Resource cr
1/3 | 8:07:44 PM | CREATE_IN_PROGRESS | AWS::CDK::Metadata | CDKMetadata/Default (CDKMetadata) Resource cr
1/3 | 8:07:44 PM | CREATE_COMPLETE | AWS::CDK::Metadata | CDKMetadata/Default (CDKMetadata)
3/3 | 8:08:14 PM | CREATE_COMPLETE | AWS::DynamoDB::Table | MyCoolTable (MyCoolTableCBB0734F)
3/3 | 8:08:15 PM | CREATE_COMPLETE | AWS::CloudFormation::Stack | CdkStack

✅ CdkStack

Stack ARN:
arn:aws:cloudformation:us-east-1:755314965794:stack/CdkStack/e354ceb0-ad35-11eb-b04f-0a042094dbc5
PS C:\Users\Dan\CDK>
```

We can now deploy this to AWS, the CLI provides use with updates as the resources are created



We then see our table.