

CREATE, CHANGE, AND ORCHESTRATE AWS INFRASTRUCTURE WITH TERRAFORM

Mitchell Hashimoto
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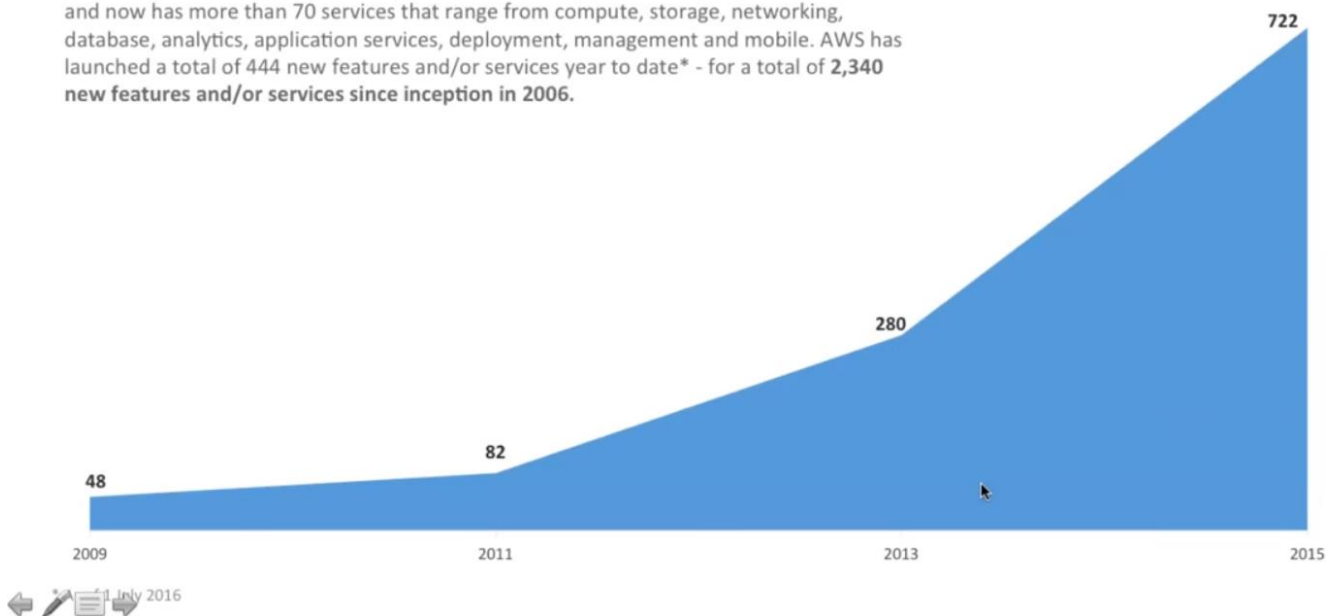
Brandon Chavis
Solutions Architect, Amazon Web Services

WEBINAR



AWS' History of Innovation

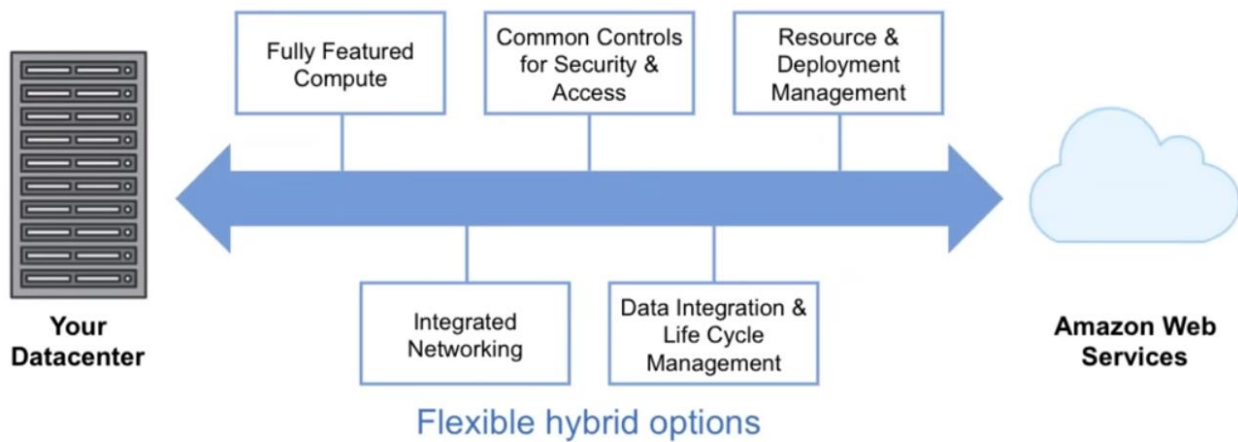
AWS has been continually expanding its' services to support virtually any cloud workload and now has more than 70 services that range from compute, storage, networking, database, analytics, application services, deployment, management and mobile. AWS has launched a total of 444 new features and/or services year to date* - for a total of **2,340 new features and/or services** since inception in 2006.



Deploy faster wherever you like



Deploy however you like



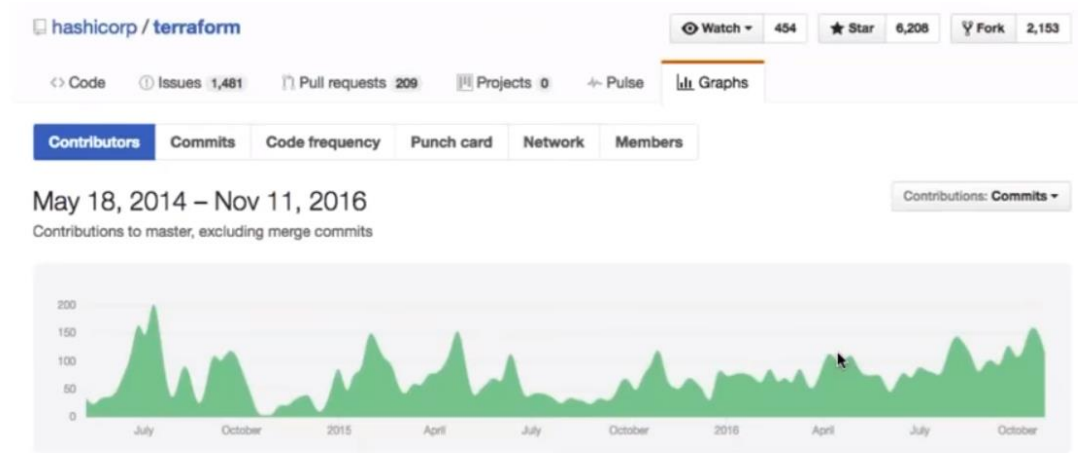
A green banner with a gear and wrench icon at the top center. Below the icon is the text "DevOps Partner Solutions" in white. Underneath the text is a white button with the text "Get Started with AWS". At the bottom of the banner are four white links: "DevOps on AWS", "What is DevOps?", "DevOps Blog", and "Resources".

[Register Now](#)



HashiCorp + AWS Community

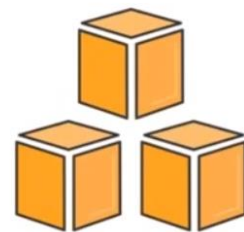
- Terraform development happens on Github
- Keep up with AWS: New features added by both the HashiCorp team and AWS Community



HashiCorp + AWS collaboration

- **Vagrant** - Feb 2013 (vagrant-aws plugin released)
- **Packer** - June 2013 (AMI builder)
- **Terraform** - July 2014 (support for many AWS resources)
- **Otto** - Sept 2015 (creates supporting AWS infrastructure during "deploy" step)
- **Vault** - Sept 2015 (AWS secret backend that uses IAM)
- **Tell us what to build!**

<https://www.vaultproject.io/docs/auth/aws-ec2.html>



HashiCorp + AWS collaboration

- [Terraform on AWS Blog post:](#)
 - Handling credentials, using IAM roles
 - Logically separating your TF modules to correlate to your architecture
 - Using Variables and Modules

AWS Partner Network (APN) Blog

Terraform: Beyond the Basics with AWS

by Josh Campbell | on 04 FEB 2019 | in APN Technology Partners, AWS Partner Solutions Architect (SA) Guest Post | Permalink | Comments

This is a guest post co-authored by Josh Campbell and Brandon Chavis, two of our Partner Solutions Architect (SA) team members.

What is Terraform?

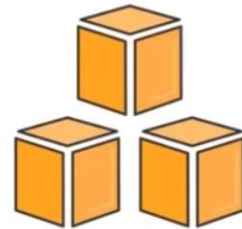
Terraform by HashiCorp, an APN Technology Partner and AWS DevOps Competency Partner, is an "infrastructure as code" tool similar to AWS CloudFormation that allows you to create, update, and version your AWS infrastructure. Terraform has a great set of features that make it worth adding to your toolbox, including:

- Friendly custom syntax, but also has support for JSON.
- Visibility into changes before they actually happen.
- Built-in [graphing](#) feature to visualize the infrastructure.
- Understands resource relationships. One example is failures are isolated to dependent resources while non-dependent resources still get created, updated, or destroyed.
- Open source project with a community of hundreds of contributors who add features and updates.
- The ability to break down the configuration into smaller chunks for better organization, re-use, and maintainability. The last part of this article goes into this feature in detail.

New to Terraform?

This article assumes you have some familiarity with Terraform already.

We recommend that you review the HashiCorp documentation for getting started to understand the basics of Terraform. Conveniently, their documentation uses AWS as the example cloud infrastructure of choice!



New!

- AWS Quick Starts for Vault and Consul: <https://aws.amazon.com/quickstart/>
- Open source reference deployments of partner products on AWS
- Jointly developed between AWS and HashiCorp

AWS Quick Starts

Automated gold-standard deployments on AWS

The Quick Starts on this page were built by AWS solutions architects based on AWS best practices for security and high availability. These reference deployments implement key technologies automatically on the AWS cloud, often with a single click and in less than an hour. You can build your test or production environment in a few simple steps, and start using it immediately.

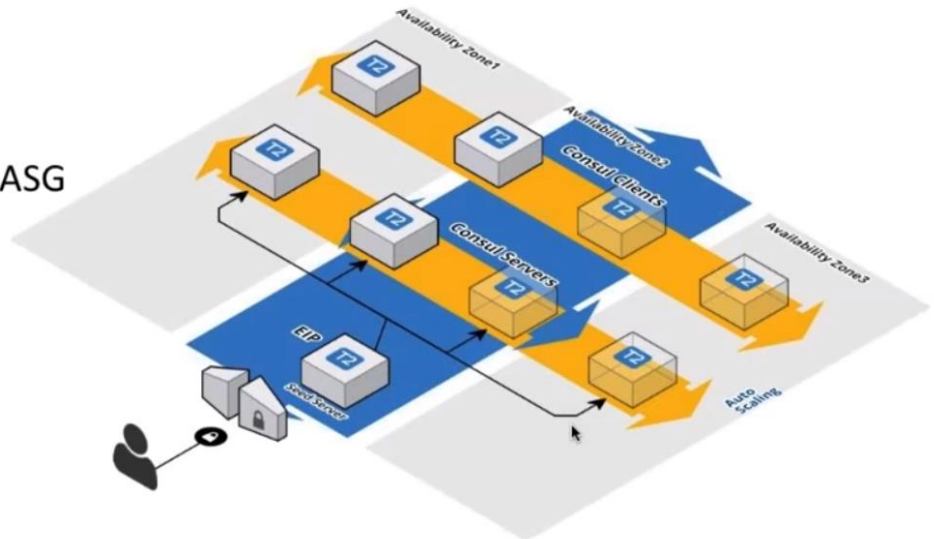
[Community Quick Starts](#) | [FAQ](#)



Tell us what you think

Consul Quick Start

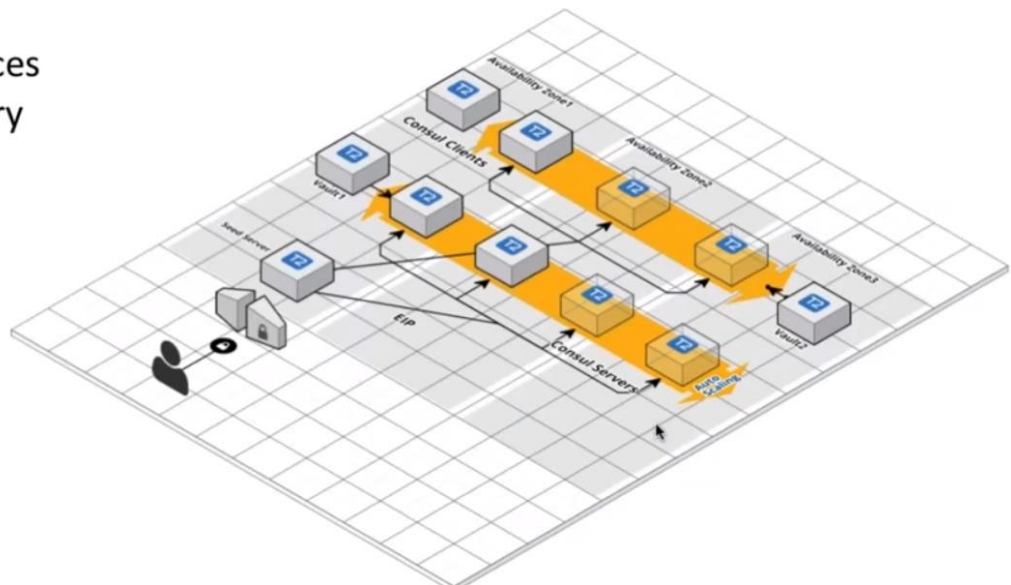
- Deploys:
- VPC
- Consul Servers
- Consul Web UI
- Consul Clients in an ASG
- DNSMasq



This can be deployed into your existing VPC in a public or private subnet

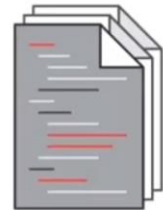
Vault Quick Start

- Deploys:
- Two Vault instances
- EC2 Auto Recovery
- Logging
- Monitoring



Redbull Media case study

- Redbull Media uses Terraform Enterprise to automate provisioning of AWS infrastructure
- Live streaming TV and Audio services, running on 300 to 500 instances
- AWS + Terraform Enterprise enabled:
 - Codified infrastructure in version control
 - Common and repeatable workflow to iterate on infrastructure
 - Leveraging the HashiCorp Ecosystem to take advantage of new AWS features

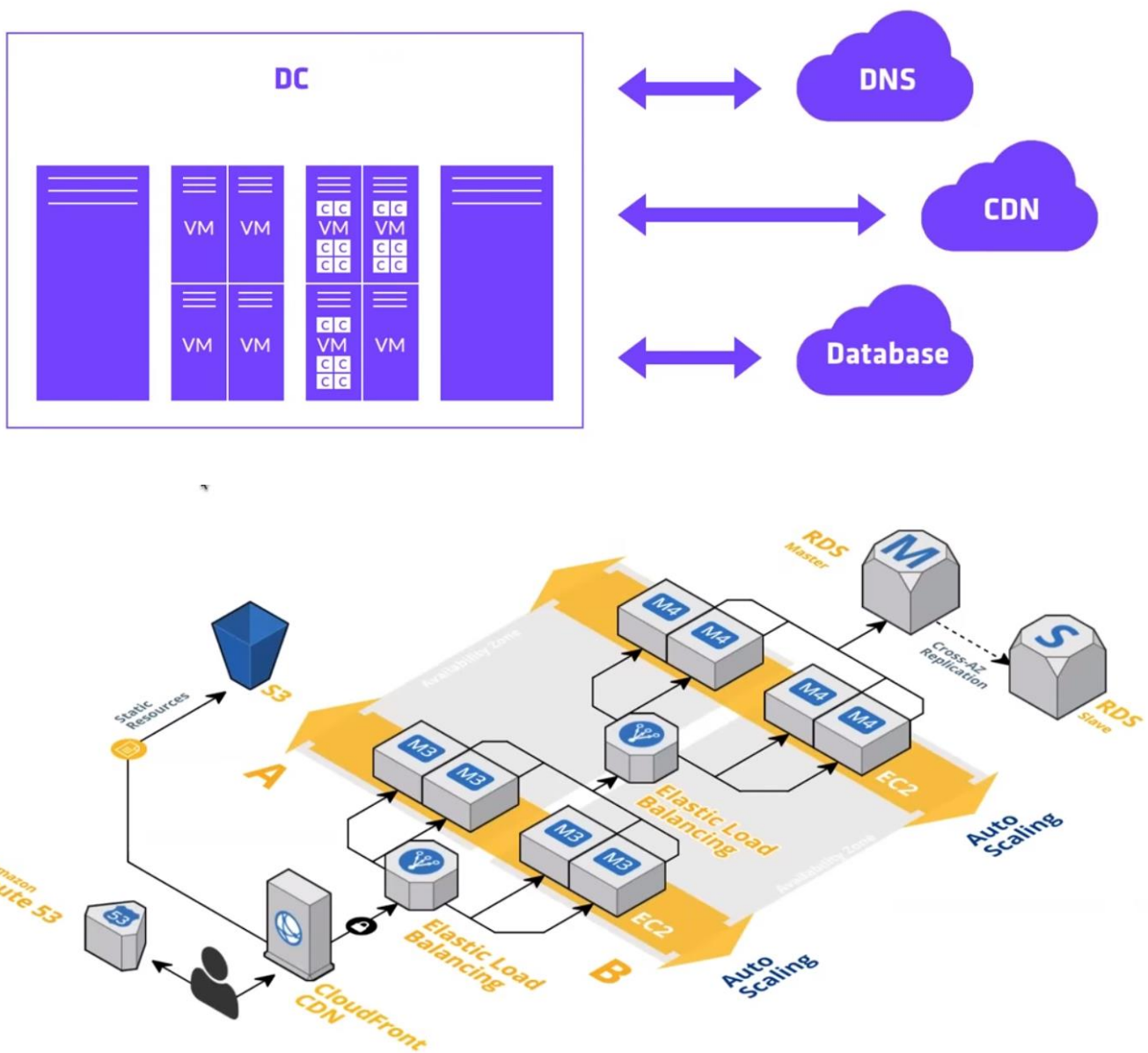


Terraform



THE PROBLEM

ISING DATACENTER COMPLEXITY



The Problem



“Datacenter” is a complex, multi-provider problem

Minimum infrastructure for deployment is high

Manual creation is too time intensive

TERRAFORM

Terraform's Goals



Unify the view of resources using infrastructure as code

Support the modern data center (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS)

Expose a way to safely and predictably change infrastructure

Provide a workflow that is technology agnostic

Manage anything with an API

Terraform vs. Other Tools



Provides a high-level description of infrastructure (IaC)

Allows for composition and combination

Supports parallel management of resources (graph, fast)

Separates planning from execution (dry-run)

State of Terraform



Open Source!

First Release July 28, 2014 (~2, 2.5 years old)

Over 700 contributors

Over 6,200 GitHub stars

One release every ~2 weeks

The Power of Community



Average time between AWS announcement and pull request:
~30 minutes

Prioritized releases (outside of normal ~2 week release cycle) when new features are released.

THE BASICS

Let us see some examples of Terraform code for managing resources



This code creates and manages an AWS EC2 instance

Infrastructure as Code



Provide a codified workflow to create infrastructure

Expose a workflow for managing updates to existing infrastructure

Integrate with application code workflows (Git, SCM, Code Review)

Provide modular, sharable components for separation of concerns


Distribution of knowledge

Infrastructure as Code (Terraform)



Human-readable configuration (HCL) is designed for human consumption so users can quickly interpret and understand their infrastructure configuration.

HCL includes a full JSON parser for machine-generated configurations.



```
main.tf

resource "aws_instance" "web" {
  ami      = "ami-9a562df2"
-  instance_type = "t2.micro"
+  instance_type = "m1.small"
}
```

Someone can make and commit a change in GIT as above, terraform only represents the end state that you want



```
main.tf

resource "aws_instance" "web" {
  ami      = "ami-9a562df2"
  instance_type = "t2.micro"
}

resource "aws_instance" "web" {
  ami      = "ami-6b563df1"
  instance_type = "t2.micro"
}
```

Your created resources need to have unique names like web, web1, etc.



```
main.tf

resource "aws_instance" "web" {
  ami      = "ami-9a562df2"
  instance_type = "t2.micro"
}

resource "aws_elb" "web" {
  # ... other attributes

  instances = ["${aws_instance.web.id}"]
}
```

You can also represent other instances using their id as above

Command: terraform plan



The plan shows you what will happen

You can save plans to guarantee what will happen

Plans show reasons for certain actions (such as re-create)

Prior to Terraform, users had to guess change ordering, parallelization, and rollout effect

Command: terraform plan



- + indicates a resource will be created
- indicates a resource will be destroyed
- ~ indicates a resource will be updated in-place
- /+ indicates a resources will be destroyed and re-created

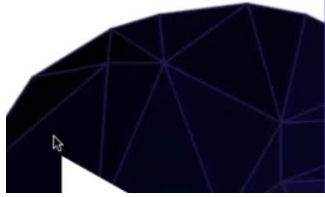


```
Terminal
$ terraform plan
+ aws_instance.web
  ami: "ami-db24d8b6"
  availability_zone: "<computed>"
  ebs_block_device.#: "<computed>"
  ephemeral_block_device.#: "<computed>"
  instance_state: "<computed>"
  instance_type: "t2.micro"
  key_name: "<computed>"
  network_interface_id: "<computed>"
  placement_group: "<computed>"
  private_dns: "<computed>"
  private_ip: "<computed>"
  public_dns: "<computed>"
  public_ip: "<computed>"
  root_block_device.#: "<computed>"
  security_groups.#: "<computed>"
  # ...
```

Command: terraform apply



- Execute changes to reach desired state
- Parallelizes changes when possible
- Handles and recovers transient errors safely



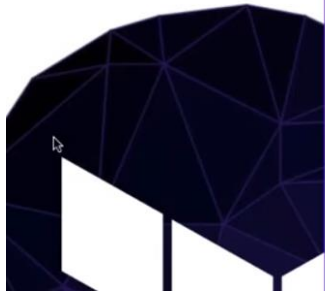
```
main.tf

resource "aws_instance" "web" {
  ami          = "ami-9a562df2"
  instance_type = "t2.micro"
}

resource "aws_elb" "web" {
  # ... other attributes

  instances = ["${aws_instance.web.id}"]
}
```

Terraform knows that the `aws_instance` must be created before the `aws_elb` in the above case.



```
Terminal

$ terraform apply
aws_instance.web: Creating...
  ami:                               "" => "ami-db24d8b6"

  # ...

  source_dest_check:                  "" => "true"
  subnet_id:                          "" => "subnet-f6e6a5dc"

aws_instance.web: Still creating... (10s elapsed)
aws_instance.web: Still creating... (20s elapsed)
aws_instance.web: Creation complete

Apply complete! Resources: 1 added, 0 changed, 0 destroyed.
```

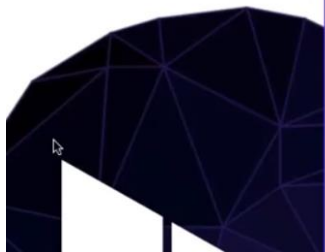
Command: `terraform apply`



Current state to target state

Updates existing resources when updates are allowed

Re-creates existing resources when updates are not allowed



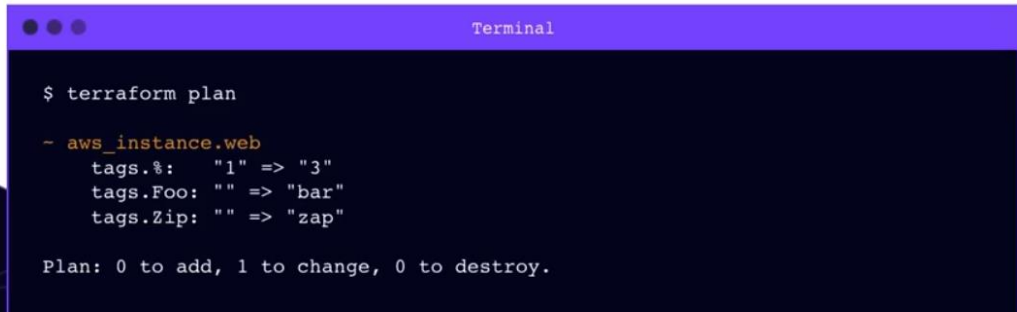
```
main.tf

resource "aws_instance" "web" {
  ami          = "ami-50759d3d"
  instance_type = "t2.micro"

  subnet_id          = "subnet-22a34f8"
  vpc_security_group_ids = ["sg-ab2da4e"]

  tags {
    Identity = "..."
    Foo      = "bar"
    Zip      = "zap"
  }
}
```

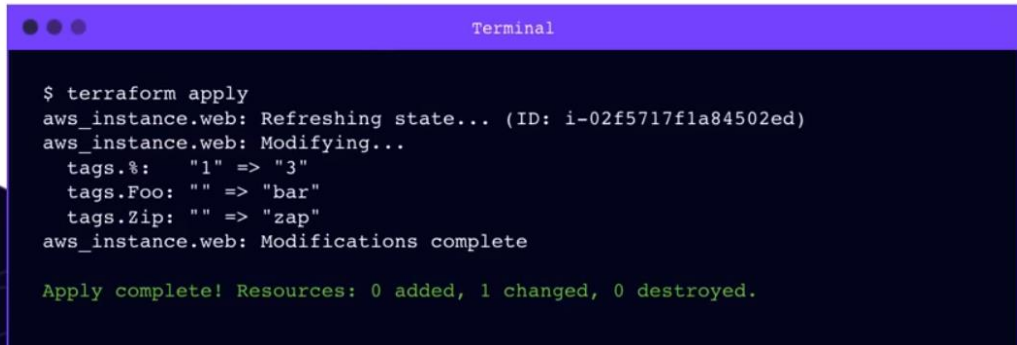
We can add some change like the blue text that do not require deleting and creating any new instance as below

A terminal window with a purple title bar labeled "Terminal". The background is dark blue. The text is white. It shows the command `$ terraform plan` and its output. The output lists changes for `aws_instance.web`, specifically tags. It shows `tags.%` changing from 1 to 3, `tags.Foo` being added, and `tags.Zip` being added. At the bottom, it says "Plan: 0 to add, 1 to change, 0 to destroy."

```
$ terraform plan

- aws_instance.web
  tags.%:  "1" => "3"
  tags.Foo: "" => "bar"
  tags.Zip: "" => "zap"

Plan: 0 to add, 1 to change, 0 to destroy.
```

A terminal window with a purple title bar labeled "Terminal". The background is dark blue. The text is white. It shows the command `$ terraform apply` and its output. The output shows the state being refreshed, the instance being modified with the specified tags, and the modifications being complete. At the bottom, it says "Apply complete! Resources: 0 added, 1 changed, 0 destroyed." in green text.

```
$ terraform apply
aws_instance.web: Refreshing state... (ID: i-02f5717f1a84502ed)
aws_instance.web: Modifying...
  tags.%:  "1" => "3"
  tags.Foo: "" => "bar"
  tags.Zip: "" => "zap"
aws_instance.web: Modifications complete

Apply complete! Resources: 0 added, 1 changed, 0 destroyed.
```

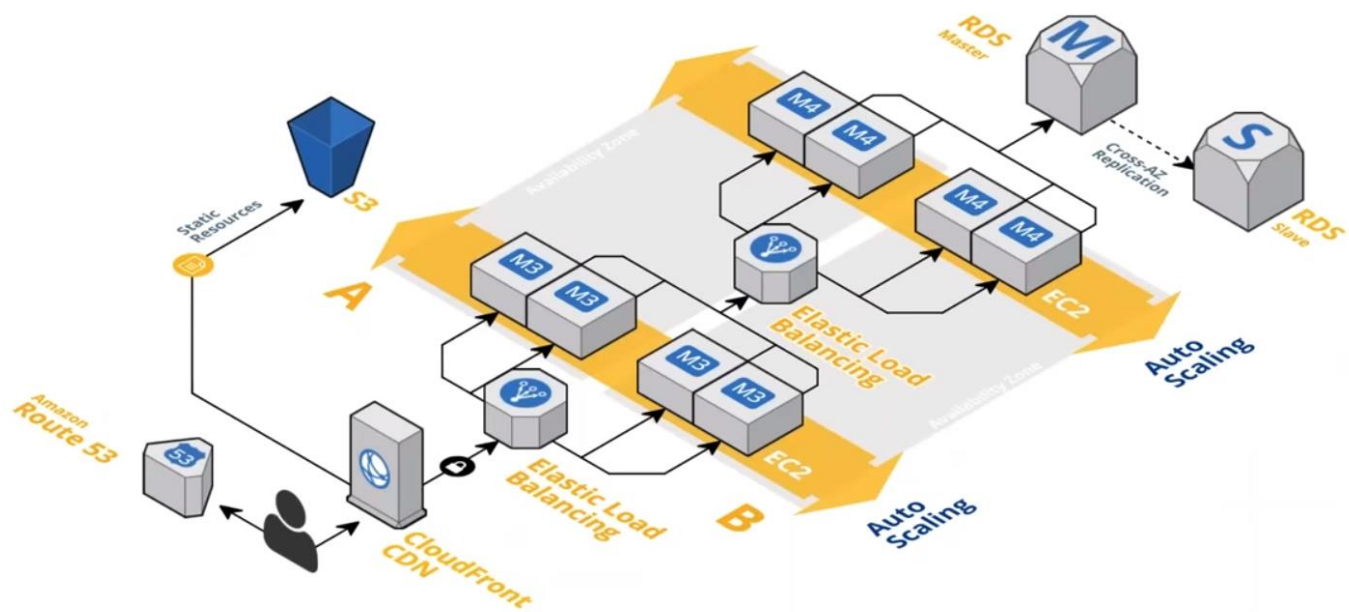
Command: `terraform destroy`



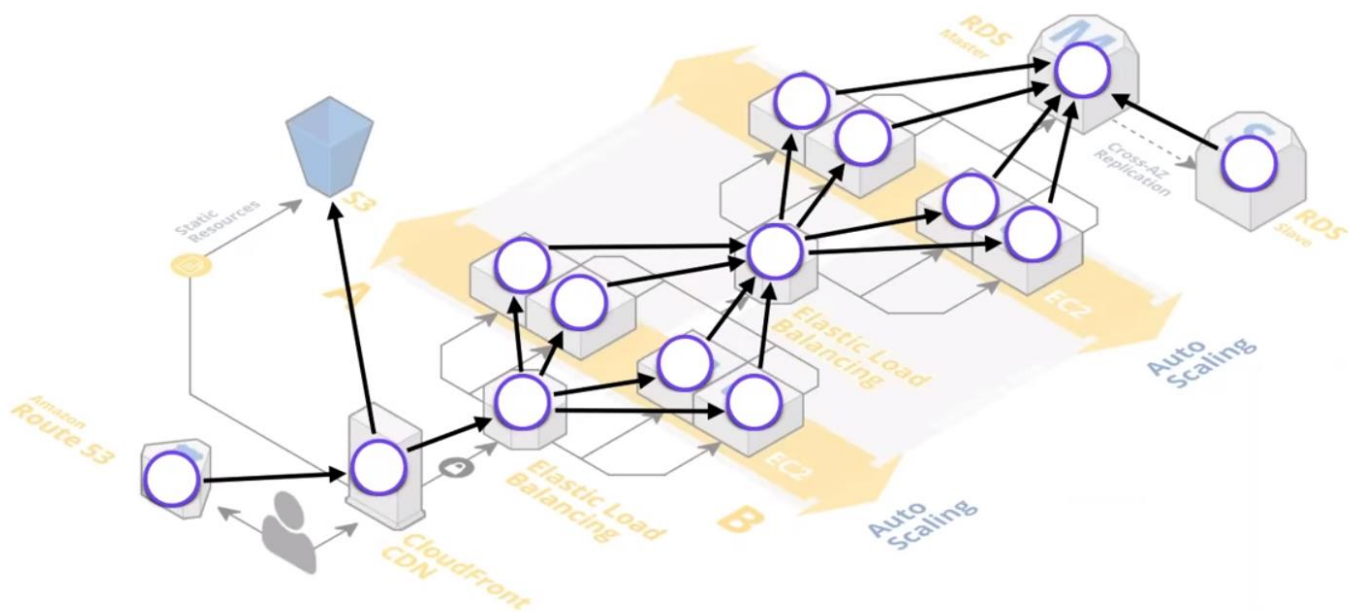
Destroys running infrastructure

Does not touch infrastructure not managed by Terraform

MODELING RESOURCES

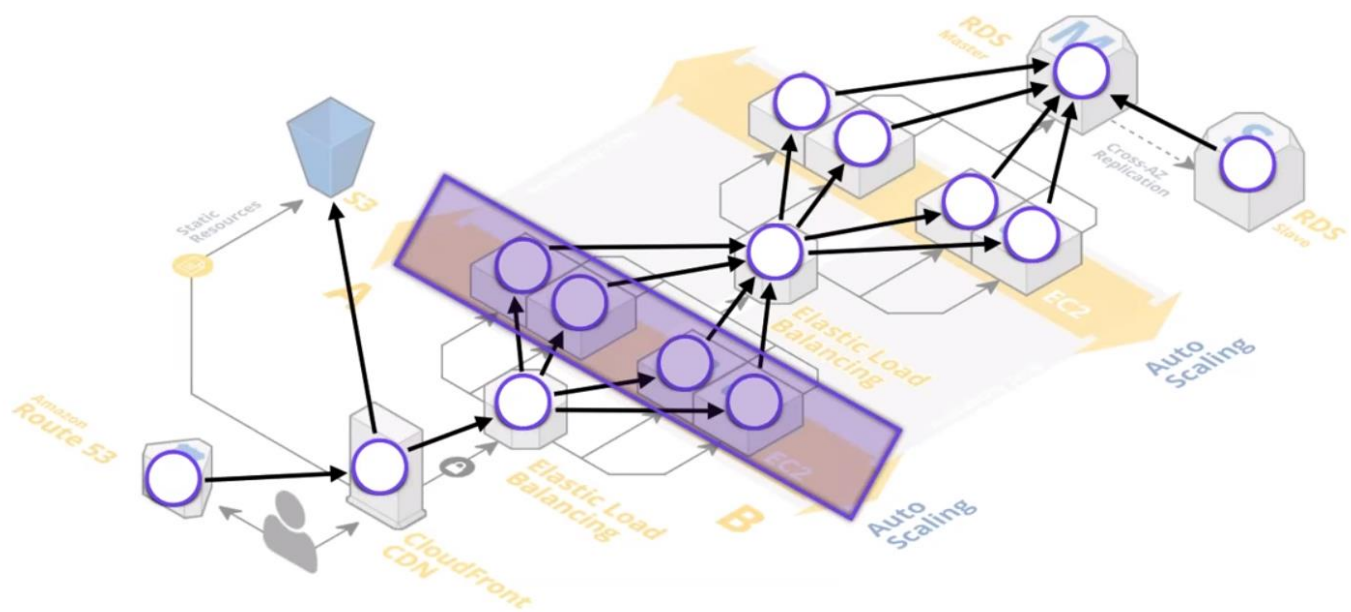


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○ = Resources

↗ = Interpolations

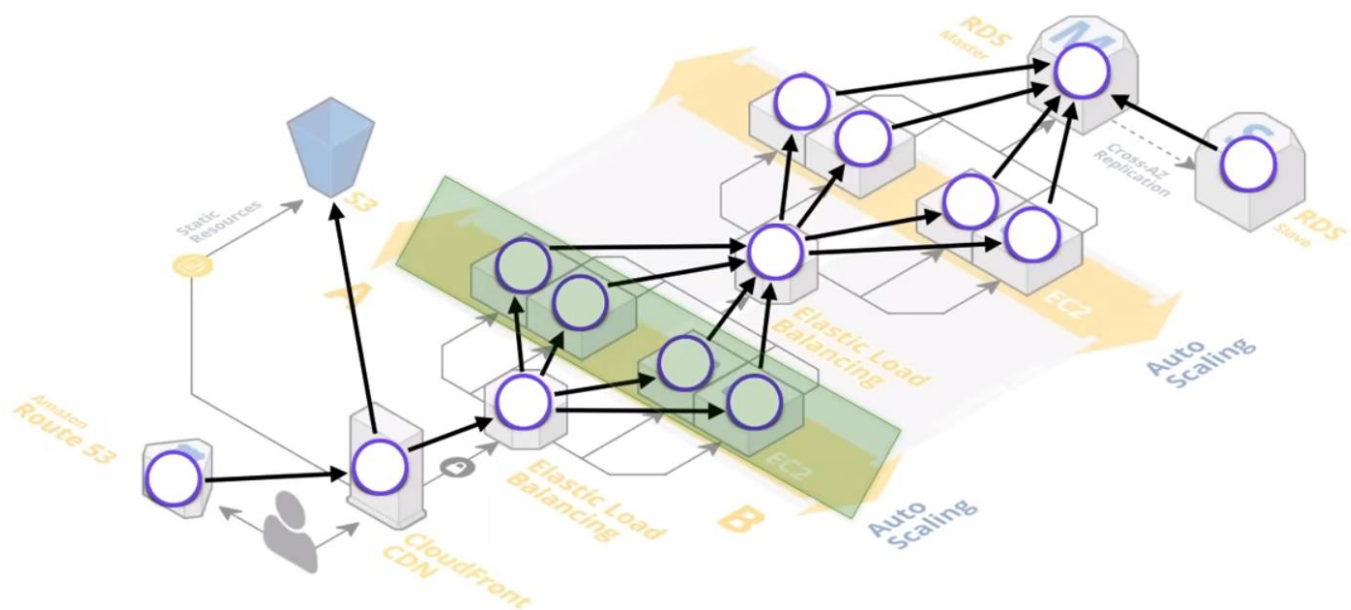


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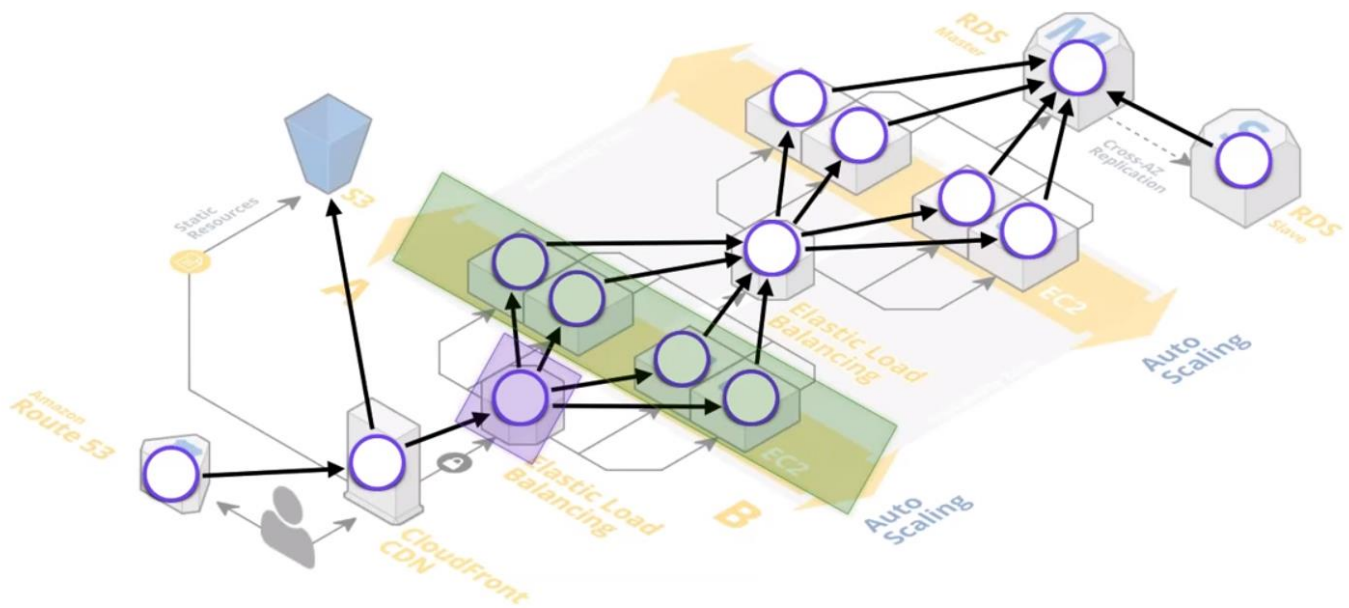
We can start by automating the web servers tier portion of the infrastructure above

```
main.tf

resource "aws_instance" "web" {
  count      = "4"
  ami       = "ami-9a562df2"
  instance_type = "t2.micro"
}
```



We have this portion created



We can now create the load balancer and a ELB over the 4 web servers downstream next

```

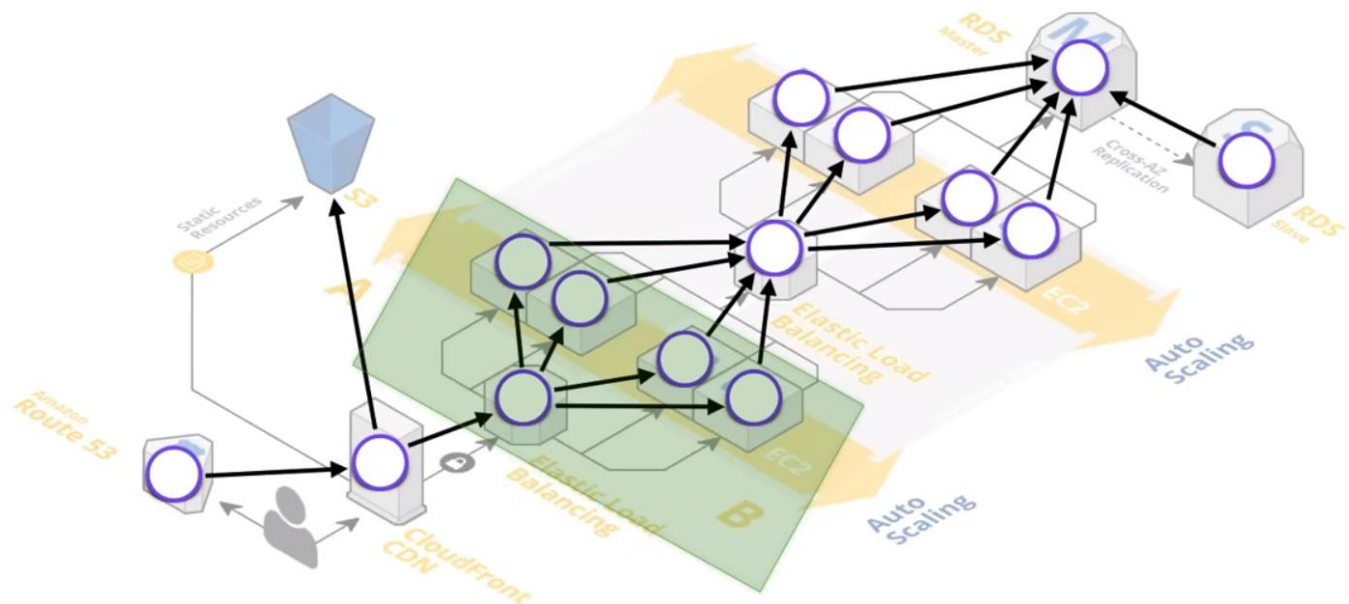
main.tf

resource "aws_elb" "web" {
  # ... other

  instances = ["${aws_instance.web.*.id}"]
}

resource "aws_instance" "web" {
  count          = "4"
  ami            = "ami-9a562df2"
  instance_type = "t2.micro"
}

```



We now have the ELB and the web servers automated and managed with Terraform now

Modeling Resources



Rinse, Repeat

You don't need to Terraform 100% of your Infra

NEXT STEPS

Getting More Advanced



Variable, Outputs (Parameterization)

Interpolation Functions

Modules

Remote State

Next Steps



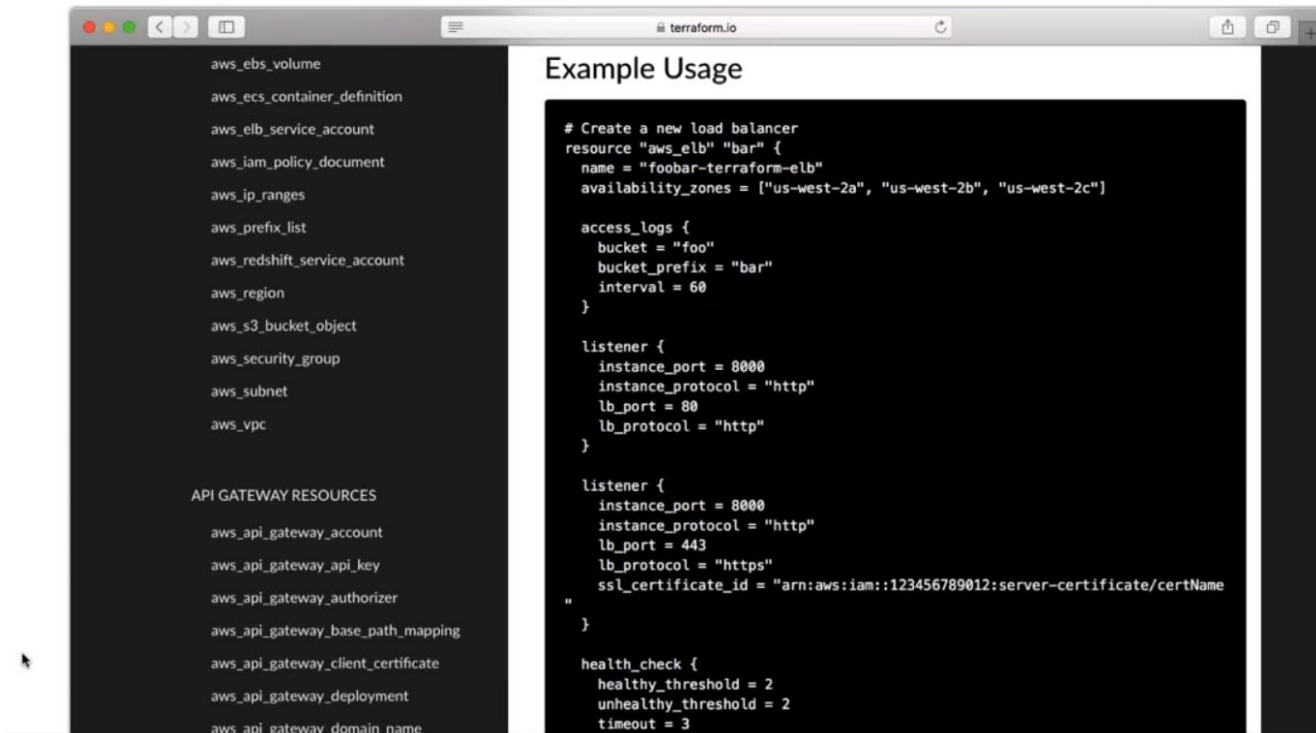
terraform.io

github.com/terraform-community-modules

Google: Lots of blog posts for examples

HashiCorp Events + Training

terraformbook.com (community)



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