

In addition to the basic **infrastructure as code capabilities provided by AWS CloudFormation**, AWS now offers various programmability constructs to power complex provisioning use cases. In this talk, we present several advanced use cases of declarative, imperative, and mixed coding scenarios that cloud infrastructure developers can leverage. Examples include demonstrating how to create custom resources and leveraging transforms, like the AWS Serverless Application Model (AWS SAM), to create both simple and complex macros with AWS CloudFormation. Complete Title: AWS re:Invent 2018: [REPEAT 1] Beyond the Basics: Advanced Infrastructure as Code Programming on AWS (DEV327-R1)



We will see ways to extend CF by injecting more capabilities in CF.



Declarative Programming

DECLARATIVE: Saying **what** you want



```
Machine,

Pls make website,

all responsive like,
w/ BIG pictures ooo,
use my fav fonts,
load fast pls

Thanks,
Human

PS no bugs:)
```

Declarative vs Imperative

DECLARATIVE: Saying **what** you want

- · Barrier of entry is low
 - Less knowledge required than with higher level languages, toolchains
- Limitations
 - Full execution control, looping constructs, advanced techniques (OO inheritance, threading, automated testing, etc.)

IMPERATIVE Saying **how** to to do it

- · Barrier of entry is higher
 - Expects authors to know the language syntax, different API libraries and conventions, properly catching exceptions
- · Added flexibility
 - Language-specific editors and tooling designed to improve coder productivity

CFN: Declarative Programming

- YAML, JSON are used to "declare" the desired state
 - Mostly, we are not telling AWS CloudFormation explicitly how to do things; rather, what we want the desired state of our resources to be
 - I want my original desired capacity in my ASG cluster to be 4. If I change it to 6, AWS CloudFormation will create 2 more to meet my desired state

```
Resources:
AutoScalingGroup:
CreationPolicy:
ResourceSignal:
Count: !Ref DesiredCapacity
Timeout: "PT5M"
UpdatePolicy:
AutoScalingReplacingUpdate:
WillReplace: true
Type: "AWS::AutoScaling::AutoScalingGroup"
Properties:
Cooldown: "300"
DesiredCapacity: !Ref DesiredCapacity
HealthCheckGracePeriod: "300"
```

Some imperative programming is possible

- Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) UserData We are asking to run several commands
- Functions like Fn::Condition, Fn::FindInMap, etc. give imperative instructions

```
LaunchConfiguration:

Type: "AMS::AutoScaling::LaunchConfiguration"
Properties:

ImageId: !FindInMap [RegionMap, !Ref "AWS::Region", AMALINUX]
InstanceType: !FindInMap [InstanceSize, !Ref ENVIRONMENT, EC2]
KeyName: AdvancedCFN
SecurityGroups:
- !Ref SG
UserData:

"Fn::Base64":
!Sub |
#!/bin/bash
yum update -y aws-cfn-bootstrap # good practice - always do this.
/opt/aws/bin/cfn-init -v --stack ${AWS::StackName} --resource LaunchConfiguration --configsets www
yum -y update
c url 127.0.0.1/app.php | grep -f /var/www/html/test.pattern
/opt/aws/bin/cfn-signal -e $? --stack ${AWS::StackName} --resource AutoScalingGroup --region ${AWS:}
```

CloudFormation Programming Options

DECLARATIVE:

- Basic YAML/JSON
- Basic Transforms
 - Include
 - SAM
- Advanced Transforms
 - Macros
 - · others: Jinja/Mustache

IMPERATIVE

- CDK (TypeScript)
- Troposphere (Python)
- SparkleFormation (Ruby)
- GoFormation (GoLang)
-
- In all cases, we are still generating YAML/JSON vs direct API calls
 - · Leverage stabilization, dependency graphs, rollbacks, etc.

Deep Dive: Macros

Macros

Write short-hand, abbreviated instructions that expand automatically when deployed

Add utility functions, for example, iteration loops, strings, etc.

Ensure resources are defined to comply to your standards

Easy to share and reuse across stacks

Key Benefit: once macros are deployed, downstream Macro users can be isolated from all imperative programming details

Macros are AWS Lambda functions - use any of the supported Lambda languages

Let's see some macro examples

Iterator/Loop

• Make me X number of this resource

Execute Python

Pass arbitrary code

Perform String Functions

• Upper, Lower, ...

Globals

Add Global Variables

Defaults

• If resource X is declared, add default attributes

Iterator: Code

```
import copy

def process_template(template):
    new_template = copy.deepcopy(template)
    status = 'success'

for name, resource in template('Resources'].items():
    if 'Count' in resource:
        count = new_template('Resources'][name].pop('Count')
        multiplied = multiply(name, new_template('Resources'][name], count)
        if not set(multiplied.keys()) & set(new_template('Resources'].keys()):
            new_template('Resources'].update(multiplied)
        elss:
            istatus = 'failed'
            return status, template

return status, new_template

def multiply(resource_name, resource_structure, count):
    resources(resource_name+str(iteration)) = resource_structure
    return resources

def handler(event, context):
    result = process_template(event['fragment'])
    return {
        'requestid': event['requestid'],
        'status': result[0],
        'fragment': result[1],
    }
}
```

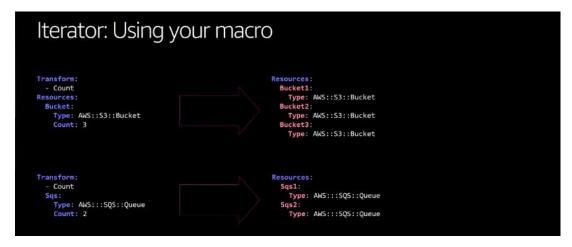
Iterator: Deploy the macro

```
AWSTemplateFormatVersion: '2010-09-09'
Transform: AWS::Serverless-2016-10-31

Resources:
    Macro:
    Type: AWS::CloudFormation::Macro
    Properties:
        Name: Count
        FunctionName: !GetAtt CountMacroFunction.Arn

CountMacroFunction:
    Type: AWS::Serverless::Function
Properties:
    CodeUri: src
    Handler: index.handler
    Runtime: python3.6
    Timeout: 5
```

Here, we have a macro called Count that deploys code



This is what the iterator macro looks like when processed by CF

This macro executes arbitrary python code

```
Macro: Add String Functions
   Parameters:
                                                           Parameters:
                                                             InputString:
   Default: "This is a test input string"
       Default: "This is a test input string"
       Type: String
                                                               Type: String
   Resources:
                                                           Resources:
     S3Bucket:
Type: "AWS::S3::Bucket"
                                                             S3Bucket:
                                                               Type: "AWS::S3::Bucket"
Properties:
       Properties:
         Tags:
                                                                 Tags:
           - Key: Upper
                                                                   - Key: Upper
             Value:
                                                                     Value: "THIS IS A TEST INPUT STRING"
                - Name: 'StringMacro'
                  Parameters:
                    InputString: !Ref InputString
```

def handler(event, context): response = { "requestId": event["requestId"], "status": "success" } try: operation = event["params"]["Operation"] input = event["params"]["InputString"] no_param_string_funcs = ["Upper", "Lower", "Capitalize", "Title", "SwapCase"] if operation in no_param_string_funcs: ... elif operation == "Strip": ... elif operation == "MaxLength": ... except Exception: traceback.print_exc() response["status"] = "failure" macro_response["errorMessage"] = str(e)

return response

Code: Add String Functions

Multiple Functions in a single macro:

- Upper
- Lower
- Capitalize
- Title
- SwapCase
- Strip
- Replace
- MaxLength

Macro: Global Variables Transform: Globals Globals: SomeText: some-text ThingTag: Resources:

Bucket:
Type: AWS::S3::Bucket
Properties:
BucketName: "some-text"
Tags:
- Key: Thing
Value: This is a thing
- Key: OtherThing

Value: Other thing value

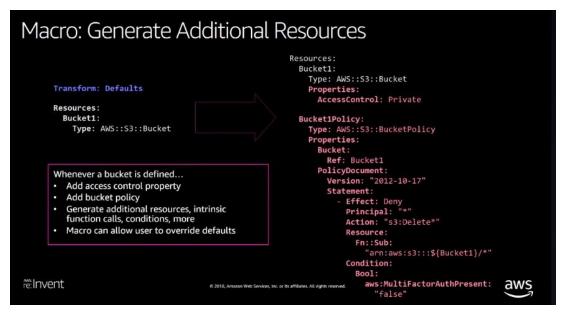
Code: Globals

Transform: Globals

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```
Globals:
SomeText: some-text
ThingTag:
Key: Thing
Value: This is a thing

Resources:
Bucket:
Type: AWS::S3::Bucket
Properties:
BucketName: "@SomeText"
Tags:
- "@ThingTag"
- Key: OtherThing
Value: Other thing value
```



This simply takes what the user wants to do, then overlay some protections on it for them

```
Advanced: Setting up Defaults

DEFAULTS = json.load(open("defaults.json"))

Gef interpolate(name, string):
    return string, replace("(5)", name)

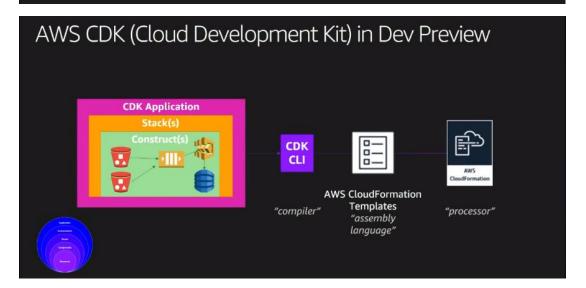
Gef interpolate(name, string):
    return string, replace("(5)", name)

Gef set_additional_resources(name, props):
    additional_resources(name, props):
    additional_resources(nam
```

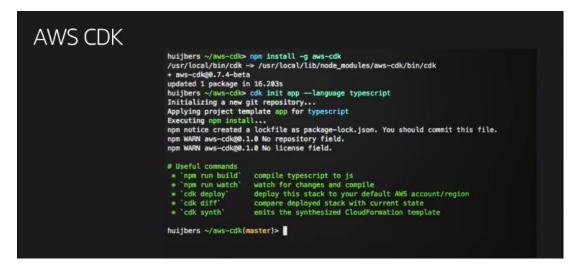
Imperative Programming in AWS CloudFormation

· All of these still generate YAML/JSON code

Imperative Programming Options AWS Cloud Development Kit (Developer Preview) Modeling infrastructure programmatically Componentized Python Troposphere Mature project on GitHub Generates both YAML and JSON Other Options Ruby: SparkleFormation JS/TypeScript: CloudForm ... many others



You download the CDK and get a set of default models created for you that you can then add to, then you compile it to get the CF templates generated for you to use.



AWS CDK

```
/usr/local/bin/cdk -> /usr/local/lib/node_modules/aws-cdk/bin/cdk
+ aws-cdk@0.7.4-beta
updated 1 package in 16.203s
huijbers ~/aws-cdkc cdk init app —language typescript
Initalizing a new git repository...
Applying project template app for typescript
Executing npm install...
npm notice created a lockfile as package-lock.json. You should commit this file.
npm WARN aws-cdk@0.1.0 No repository field.
npm WARN aws-cdk@0.1.0 No license field.

# Useful commands
* 'npm run build' compile typescript to js
* 'npm run watch' watch for changes and compile
* 'cdk deploy' deploy this stack to your default AWS account/region
compare deployed stack with current state
* 'cdk synth' emits the synthesized CloudFormation template

huijbers ~/aws-cdk(master)> npm run build
> aws-cdk@0.1.0 build /Users/huijbers/aws-cdk
> tsc
```

AWS CDK

```
huijbers ~/aws-cdk(master)> cdk deploy

* Starting deployment of stack AwsCdkStack...
[0/2] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:15 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_IN_PROGRESS
:WaitConditionHandle] WaitCondition
[0/2] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:15 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_IN_PROGRESS
:WaitConditionHandle] WaitCondition Resource creation Initiated
[1/2] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:16 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_COMPLETE [AWS::CloudFormation:
:WaitConditionHandle] WaitCondition
[2/2] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:17 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_COMPLETE [AWS::CloudFormation:
:Stack] AwsCdkStack
[0/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:27 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_CMPLETE [AWS::SNS::Topic] Aws
CdkTopic-F164620F
[0/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:27 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_IN_PROGRESS [AWS::SNS::Queue] Aws
CdkQueuerB79C8BE
[0/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:27 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_IN_PROGRESS
[AWS::SNS::Topic] Aws
CdkTopic-F164620F Resource creation Initiated
[0/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:27 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_IN_PROGRESS
[AWS::SNS::Topic] Aws
CdkTopic-F164620F Resource creation Initiated
[0/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:27 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_IN_PROGRESS
[AWS::SNS::Topic] Aws
CdkTopic-F164620F Resource creation Initiated
[0/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:28 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_IN_PROGRESS
[AWS::SNS::Topic] Aws
CdkQueuerB79C8BE Resource creation Initiated
[1/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:28 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_IN_PROGRESS
[AWS::SQS::Queue] Aws
CdkQueuerB79C8BE
[AWS::SQS::Queue] Aws
CdkQueuerB79C8BE
```

AWS CDK

```
[0/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:27 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE IN PROGRESS [AWS::SNS::Topic] Aws
CdkTopicF164620F Resource creation Initiated
[0/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:27 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_IN_PROGRESS [AWS::SQS::Queue] Aws
CdkQueue7B79C8BE Resource creation Initiated
[1/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:28 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_COMPLETE
                                                                                           [AWS::SQS::Queue] Aws
[1/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:29 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_IN_PROGRESS [AWS::CDK::Metadata]
CDKMetadata Resource creation Initiated
[2/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:30 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_COMPLETE
                                                                                          [AWS::CDK::Metadata]
[3/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:38 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_COMPLETE CdkTopicF164620F
                                                                                          [AWS::SNS::Topic] Aws
CdkTop1cF164620F
[3/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:40 GMT+0200 (CEST) UPDATE_COMPLETE_CLEANUP_IN_PROGRESS [AWS
::CloudFormation::Stack] AwsCdkStack
[3/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:42 GMT+0200 (CEST) DELETE_IN_PROGRESS [AWS::CloudFormation:
:WaitConditionHandle] WaitCondition
[4/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:42 GMT+0200 (CEST) DELETE_COMPLETE
:WaitConditionHandle] WaitCondition
                                                                                          [AWS::CloudFormation:
[5/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:43 GMT+0200 (CEST) UPDATE_COMPLETE
                                                                                          [AWS::CloudFormation:
:Stack] AwsCdkStack
Deployment of stack AwsCdkStack completed successfully, it has ARN arm:aws:cloudforπ tion:eu-west-1:993655754359:stack/AwsCdkStack/2270ca60-9428-11e8-8aa9-50faeb59c036
huijbers ~/aws-cdk(master)> vim bin/aws-cdk.ts
```

Let us now edit part of the code to see what happens

```
AWS CDK
                                      [2/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:30 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_COMPLETE
                                                                                                                     [AWS::CDK::Metadata]
                                      [3/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:38 GMT+0200 (CEST) CREATE_COMPLETE
                                                                                                                    [AWS::SNS::Topic] Aws
                                     CdkTopicF1646201
                                      [3/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:40 GMT+0200 (CEST) UPDATE_COMPLETE_CLEANUP_IN_PROGRESS [AWS
                                     ::CloudFormation::Stack] AwsCdkStack
[3/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:42 GMT+0200 (CEST) DELETE_IN_PROGRESS [AWS::CloudFormation::WaitConditionHandle] WaitCondition
                                      [4/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:42 GMT+0200 (CEST) DELETE_COMPLETE :WaitConditionHandle] WaitCondition
                                                                                                                    [AWS::CloudFormation:
                                      [5/5] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:41:43 GMT+0200 (CEST) UPDATE_COMPLETE :Stack) AwsCdkStack
                                                                                                                     [AWS::CloudFormation:
                                     Deployment of stack AwsCdkStack completed successfully, it has ARN arm:aws:cloudform tion:eu-west-1:993655754359:stack/AwsCdkStack/2270ca60-9428-11e8-8aa9-50faeb59c036 huijbers ~/aws-cdk(master)> vim bin/aws-cdk.ts
                                      huijbers ~/aws-cdk(master)> npm run build
                                     > aws-cdk@0.1.0 build /Users/huijbers/aws-cdk
                                     huijbers ~/aws-cdk(master)>
```

```
AWS CDK

[+] Creating AwsCdkQueuePolicy4B641FDF (type: AWS::SQS::QueuePolicy)
[+] Creating AwsCdkTopicAwsCdkQueueSubscription8A382580 (type: AWS::SNS::Subscription)
huijbers ~/aws-cdk(master)> cdk deploy
Starting deployment of stack AwsCdkStack...
[0/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:29 GMT+0200 (CEST)
on] AwsCdkTopicAwsCdkQueueSubscription8A382580
[8/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:29 GMT+0200 (CEST)
CREATE_IN_PROGRESS [AWS::SQS::QueuePolic y) AwsCdkQueuePolicy4B641FDF
[0/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:29 GMT+0200 (CEST)
On AwsCdkTopicAwsCdkQueueSubscription8A382580
[0/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:30 GMT+0200 (CEST)
On AwsCdkTopicAwsCdkQueueSubscription8A382580
[1/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:30 GMT+0200 (CEST)
On AwsCdkTopicAwsCdkQueueSubscription8A382580
[2/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:30 GMT+0200 (CEST)
On AwsCdkTopicAwsCdkQueueSubscription8A382580
[2/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:30 GMT+0200 (CEST)
On AwsCdkTopicAwsCdkQueueSubscription8A382580
[2/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:31 GMT+0200 (CEST)
On AwsCdkTopicAwsCdkQueueSubscription8A382580
[2/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:32 GMT+0200 (CEST)
UPDATE_COMPLETE [AWS::SNS::Subscription8A382580
[2/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:32 GMT+0200 (CEST)
UPDATE_COMPLETE [AWS::CloudFormation::Stack] AwsCdkStack

[3/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:32 GMT+0200 (CEST)
UPDATE_COMPLETE [AWS::CloudFormation::Stack] AwsCdkStack

[3/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:32 GMT+0200 (CEST)
UPDATE_COMPLETE [AWS::CloudFormation::Stack] AwsCdkStack

[3/3] Mon Jul 30 2018 20:42:32 GMT+0200 (CEST)
UPDATE_COMPLETE [AWS::CloudFormation::Stack] AwsCdkStack completed successfully, it has ANN arn:aws:cloudformation:eu-west-1:993655754359:stack/AwsCdkStack/2270ca60-9428-11e8-8aa9-50faeb59c036

huijbers ~/aws-cdk(master)> cdk diff
```

You then deploy the update again to have the stack get updated

```
AWS SDK

One of the three primary ways to operate AWS

Console, CLI, APIs

AWS SDK for Python (boto)

import boto3
import sys
import botocore

if len(sys.argy) < 3:
print('Usage: python s3.py <the bucket name> <the AWS Region to use>\n' +

(Example: python s3.py my-test-bucket us-east-2')

sys.exit()

bucket_name = sys.argv[2]

s3 = boto3.client(

's3',
region_name_=_region
)

# Lists all of your available buckets in this AWS Region.

def list_my_buckets(s3):
resp = s3.list_buckets()

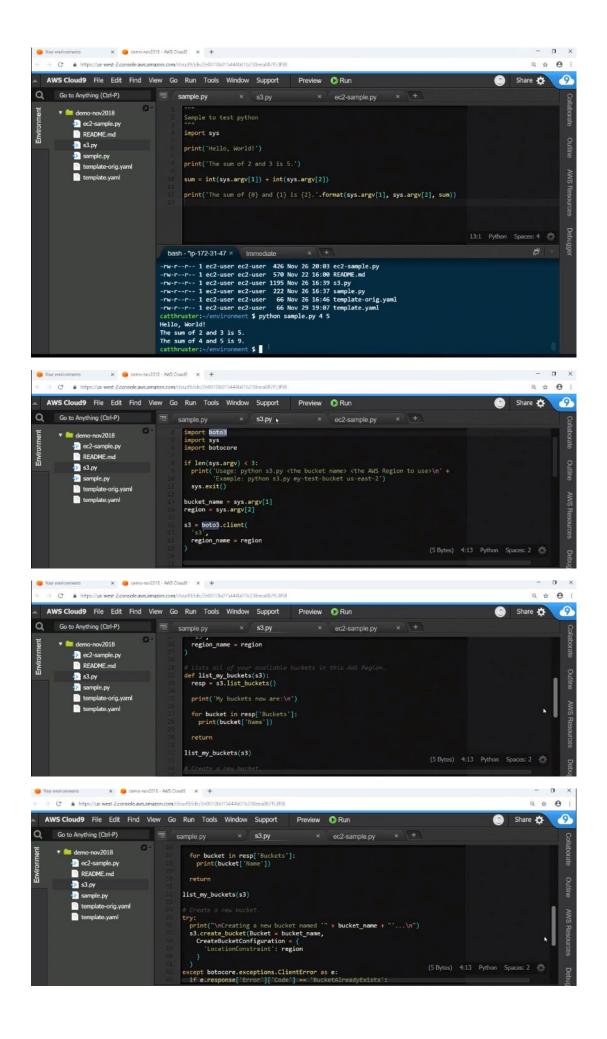
print('My_buckets now are:\n')

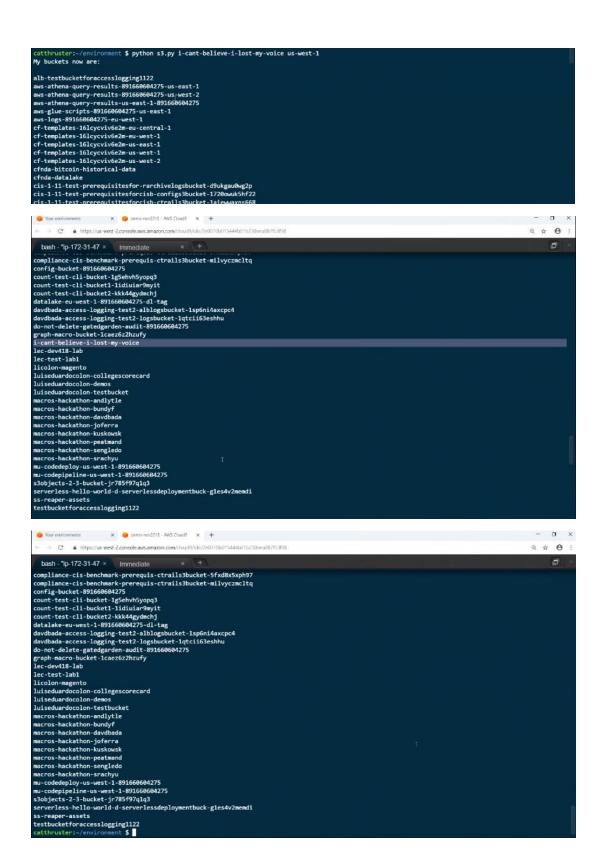
for bucket in resp['Buckets']:
    print(bucket['Name'])

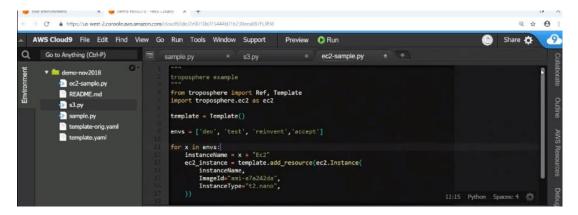
return
```

Demo

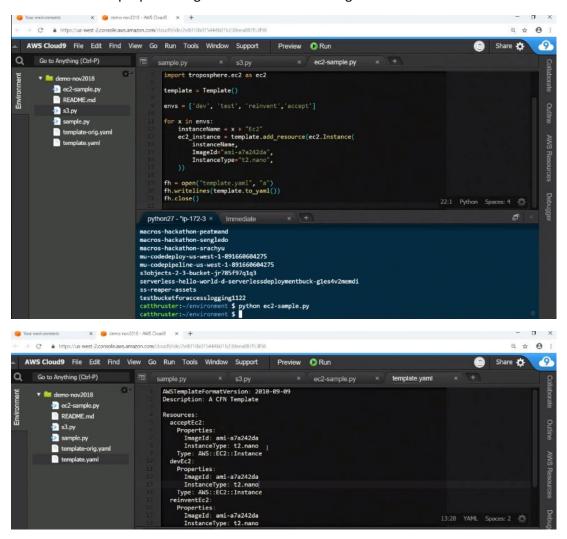
Let us now see how Troposhere works using the SDK







This code uses troposphere to generate an iterator that generates EC2 instances



This is the generated YAML file that was generated using the code, this can then be used to generate your stack in CF. we can use this code approach to do things like run unit tests on your stack creation code.





Use one, or the other, or both Macros are a good tool to balance the declarative nature of AWS CloudFormation, without requiring template authors to have imperative code

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Many macro possibilities: Iterators, Python, string functions global variables, defaults... Other possibilities: Cloning resources, generating pipelines ...

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Imperative Programming CDK and components Troposphere Many additional languages Still leverage AWS CloudFormation benefits

aws

Thank you!

Luis Colon Senior Developer Advocate AWS CloudFormation Chuck Meyer Senior Developer Advocate AWS CloudFormation

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