Steps to set up an EC2 environment

1. Go to http://aws.amazon.com/free/
2. Click "Get started for free"
3. Log in using your Amazon account or create a new account
4. Enter your credit card information (you get one year for free)
5. Under "Services you're not signed up for, " click "Amazon elastic compute cloud ec2"
6. Enter account information
7. select "Basic (free)" AWS support plan
8. Click on "Launch the AWS Management Console"
9. Sign in to the AWS console, click on "EC2"
10. From the console dashboard, click Launch Instance.
11. Select 64-bit Ubuntu Server 12.04.3 LTS. You can also choose CentOS which SEASnet runs on the Linux servers.
12. Review and launch
13. Under security group -> edit security groups -> select an existing security group
14. Select your security group from the list of existing security groups, and click Review and Launch.
15. Launch
16. Select Create a new key pair, enter a name for the key pair, and then click "Download Key Pair". This is the only chance for you to save the private key file, so be sure to download it. Save the private key file in a safe place. You'll need to provide the name of your key pair when you launch an instance and the corresponding private key each time you connect to the instance.
17. A key pair enables you to connect to a Linux instance through SSH. Therefore, **DON'T** select the "Proceed without a key pair" option. If you launch your instance without a key pair, then you can't connect to it.
18. When you are ready, select the acknowledgment check box, and then click "Launch Instances."
19. A confirmation page lets you know that your instance is launching. Click "View Instances" to close the confirmation page and return to the console.
20. On the Instances screen, you can view the status of your instance.
    a. Select the instance.
    b. Under the "Description" tab, copy the "Public DNS Name" for your instance
21. Add a rule to allow incoming SSH traffic
    a. Navigate to "Security Groups"
    b. Select you security group and, under "Inbound" tab, select SSH in create new rule field

     c. Leave source as is (or change it if you know what you're doing) -> Add Rule -> Apply Rule Changes

22. Now, you can connect to your new instance from Windows using putty or from the command line if you're using Linux. To do that, follow this tutorial: http://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/putty.html

23. When you're done with the homework, stop the running instance immediately or set an alarm to do it in a year, so you don't get charged for the service (Instances -> select instance -> right click -> Terminate)