

Project 1.a Create an AWS Instance, setup restriction of web access

For this specialization, I have created an AMI image with LAMP package installed for you to clone an instance and use it for learning the cybersecurity concepts, security policy and related enforcement procedures. If you intend to use your own AWS paid account, you can still use the Coursera-CS5910-ami2 image in the Community AMIs to clone an instance with LAMP server package in about 2 minutes.

However, if you decide not to use your credit card but still enjoy the free available service offered by AWS for education purpose, you are lucky that, after 12/31/2021, even though AWS stopped their old AWS Educate free service, they will offer new AWS Academy free service for our learners. The only bad news now is that they currently restricts the use of non-AWS owned images. Therefore you cannot use the Coursera-CS5910-ami2 image in the Community AMIs with AWS Academy account, you will need to clone an Amazon AWS instance (virtual machine) from the Amazon Linux 2 AMI (HVM) - Kernel 5.10, SSD Volume Type image in the Quick Start category and then install LAMP server package for your exercises. The server patches and LAMP installation will take about 30 minutes. The upside is you learn how to install LAMP server package on a Linux platform.

In either case, you will need an AWS account to login to the AWS management console and use their EC2 GUI control to create the instance for our class projects.

Your first task is to apply for your free AWS Academy account or a regular AWS regular basic account. Follow the instruction in Section 1. The AWS regular account provides full access to AWS services with all privileges for learning public cloud computing/security. The AWS academy account allows you to work on the creation of AWS EC2 instances for the exercises of this specialization. However, it restricts the usage of AWS service only in us-east-1 (North Virginia) region.

Warning: Use your AWS regular account wisely, then you will not be charged for running instances for the exercises in learning our specialization. Make sure you stop the instance each time after you finish your exercise! You may be charged small fees for the storage. Please make sure you set up a billing alarm and follow all the guidelines in the lessons, otherwise you might incur costs. We do not take any responsibility for any costs incurred. See <http://docs.aws.amazon.com/awsaccountbilling/latest/aboutv2/free-tier-alarms.html> for setting up billing alarm. Note that with your free AWS Academy account, you also need to use your \$100 free credit wisely. Make sure to stop your instances after your session. Developing good public cloud hygiene habit is important.

In this project, you will learn how to set up a default project web page. You will learn **the availability support by the AWS EC2 service** and how to **restrict access to the web service** of the instance only to you at home by specifying the sources that allow SSH/HTTP/HTTPS access

with Security Group Interface. You will also learn how to use the private key to access the AWS Linux instance without needing to provide login or password.

1. Create AWS Account

1.1 Option 1. Create free AWS Academy Account with Basic Support.

For this specialization and certificate, I have worked with AWS Academy to provide an AWS Academy Student Account with \$100 free credit for you to conduct the exercises in this specialization. You will not need to show your credit card for the accessing this AWS Academy account. I will need you to email cchow@uccs.edu with subject titled “request AWS Academy account for xxxxxx Coursera course” and include the browser image or the official email from Coursera which proves your enrollment of our Coursera courses. Make sure you indicate clearly the registered email address, which I should use as Username for you to access the AWS Academy portal.

When I added you to the AWS Academy Learner Lab, you will receive an email similar to the one below:

Course Invitation

 AWS Academy <notifications@instructure.com>
To jen@racewin.com Tue 12/28

 If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

You've been invited to participate in a class at AWS Academy . The class is called AWS Academy Learner Lab - Foundation Services [12248]. Course role: Student

Name: Jen
Email: jen@racewin.com
Username: none

Click “Get Start” to register in Canvas

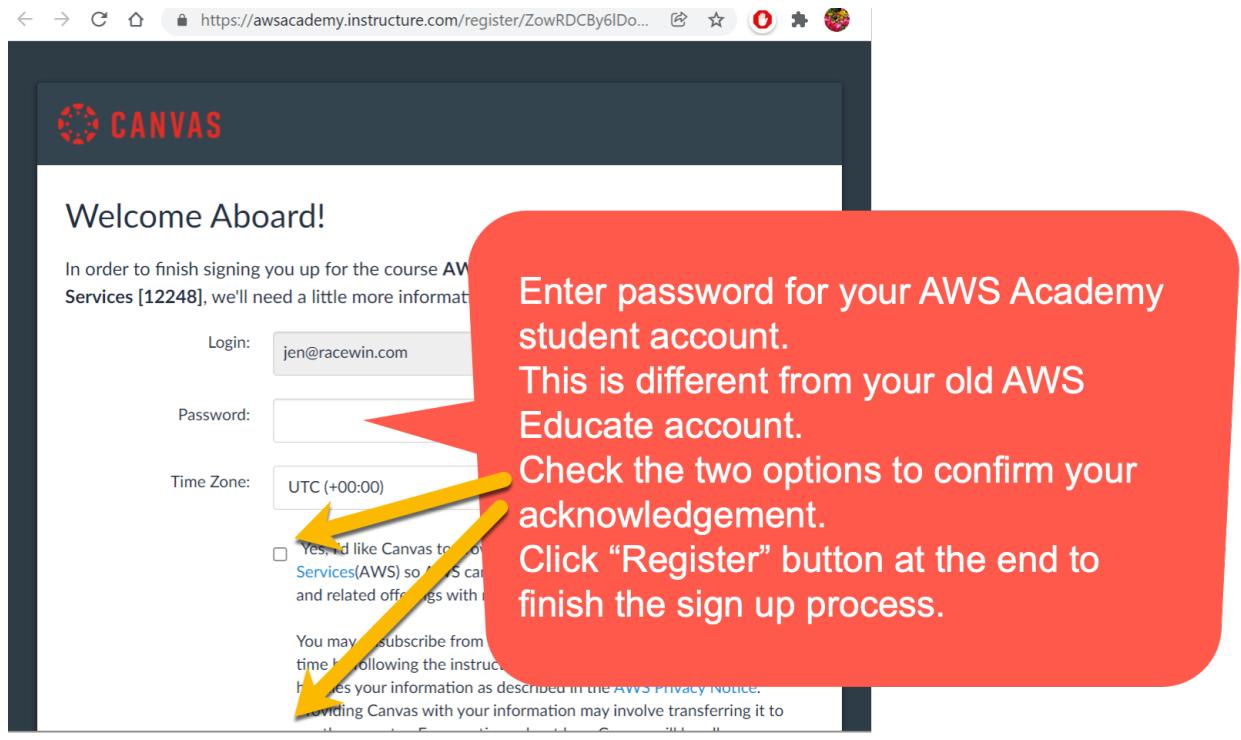
You'll need to register with Canvas before you can participate in the class.

Get Started



Click the “Get Started” button. You will be directed to a web site with url similar to

<https://awsacademy.instructure.com/courses/12xxx8?invitation=tuuJ6s3gcaYt92sxycafaXXX>



Welcome Aboard!

In order to finish signing you up for the course AWS Services [12248], we'll need a little more information.

Login:

Password:

Time Zone:

Yes, I'd like Canvas to share my information with AWS Services(AWS) so AWS can provide me with news, updates, and related offerings with respect to AWS Services.

You may unsubscribe from communications at any time by following the instructions in the emails. AWS processes your information as described in the [AWS Privacy Notice](#).

Providing Canvas with your information may involve transferring it to third parties.

Enter password for your AWS Academy student account. This is different from your old AWS Educate account. Check the two options to confirm your acknowledgement. Click “Register” button at the end to finish the sign up process.

Enter the password for your AWS Academy student account. This is different from your old AWS Educate account. Check the two options to confirm your acknowledgement. Click “Register” button at the end to finish the sign up process.

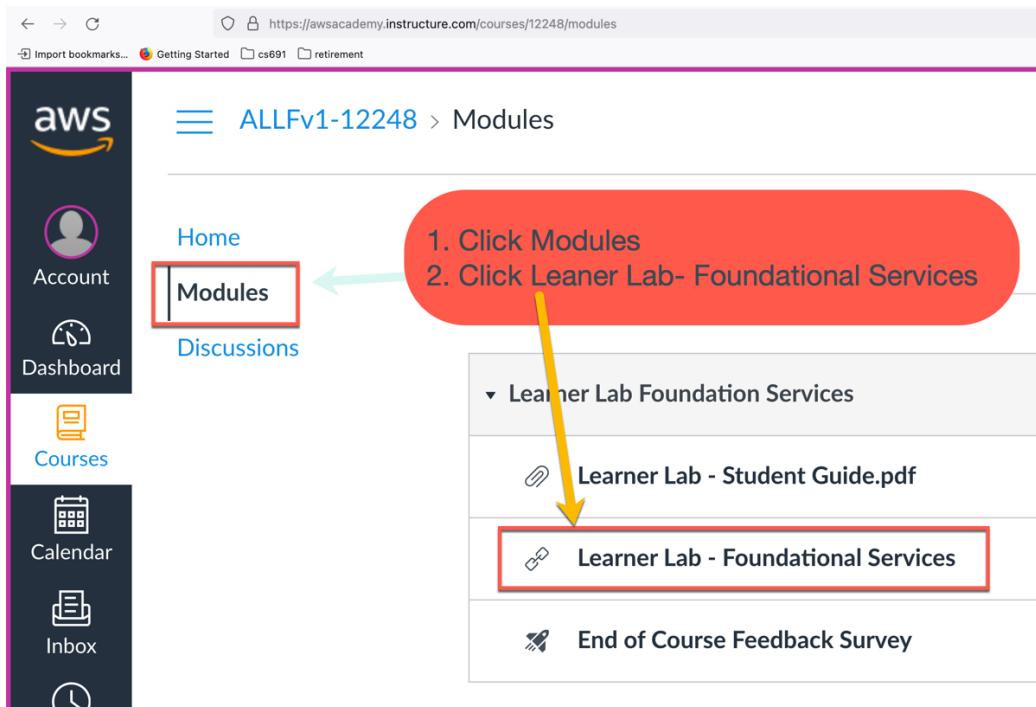
Follow the above steps to register with Canvas, which is a Learning Management System (LMS) for AWS Academy.

Note that with your AWS Academy account, you will not be asked for credit card and set up a regular AWS account with billing. Your access will go through AWS Academy web site and then through vocareum.com 3rd party web site to access free AWS services. Please do not go directly to <https://aws.com/> then click the management console on the right side. In that case you will be asked to setup regular account with your credit card.

Here are the six steps where you can access the AWS Management Console with free credits for creating AWS EC2 instance to be used for our class projects:

1. Login to your AWS Academy account. <https://www.awsacademy.com/SiteLogin>
2. Click “Modules”

3. Click “Learner Lab – Foundational Services”



1. Click Modules
2. Click Learner Lab- Foundational Services

aws
Account
Dashboard
Courses
Calendar
Inbox
Clock

ALLFv1-12248 > Modules

Home
Modules
Discussions

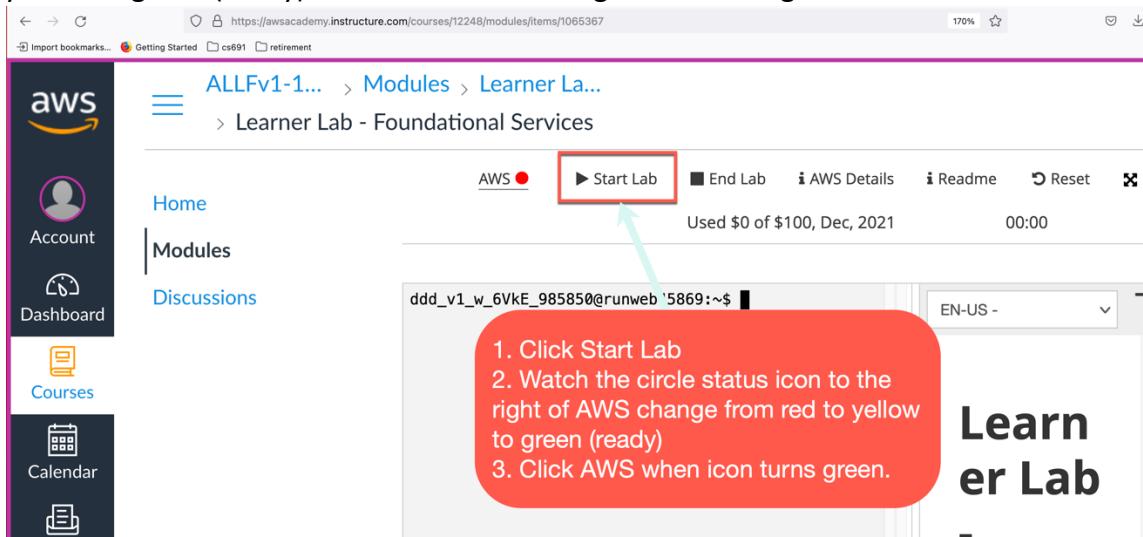
▼ Learner Lab Foundation Services

📎 Learner Lab - Student Guide.pdf

🔗 Learner Lab - Foundational Services

🚀 End of Course Feedback Survey

4. Click “Start Lab”. Watch the circle status icon to the right of AWS change from red to yellow to green (ready). Click AWS when its right icon turns green.



aws
Account
Dashboard
Courses
Calendar
Inbox

ALLFv1-1... > Modules > Learner La...

Home
Modules
Discussions

AWS ● ► Start Lab ■ End Lab ⓘ AWS Details ⓘ Readme ⓘ Reset

Used \$0 of \$100, Dec, 2021 00:00

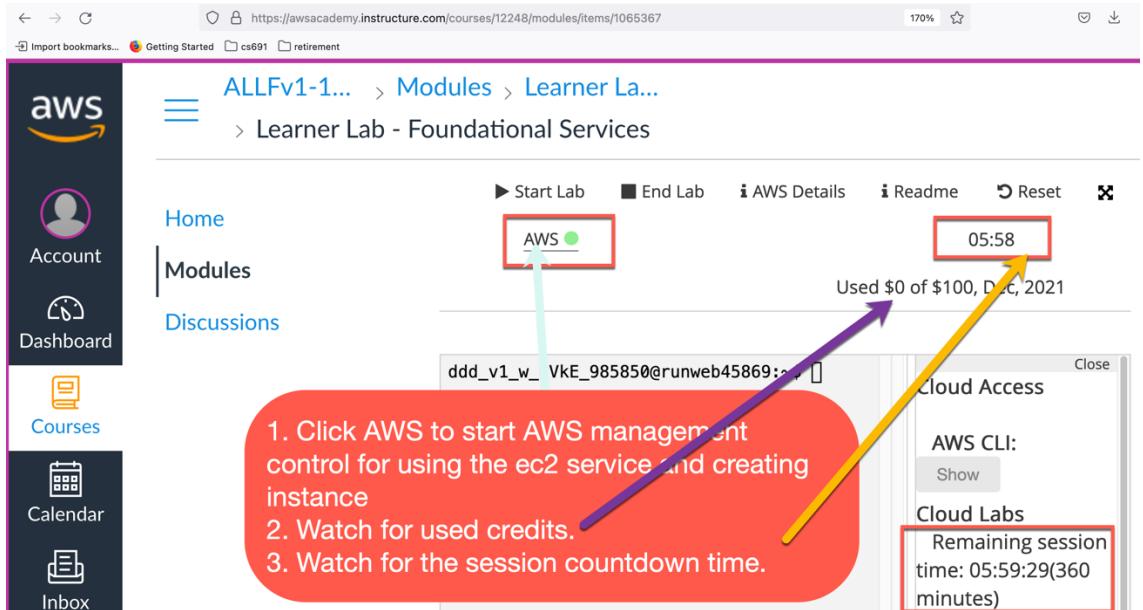
ddd_v1_w_6VKE_985850@runweb '5869:~\$

1. Click Start Lab
2. Watch the circle status icon to the right of AWS change from red to yellow to green (ready)
3. Click AWS when icon turns green.

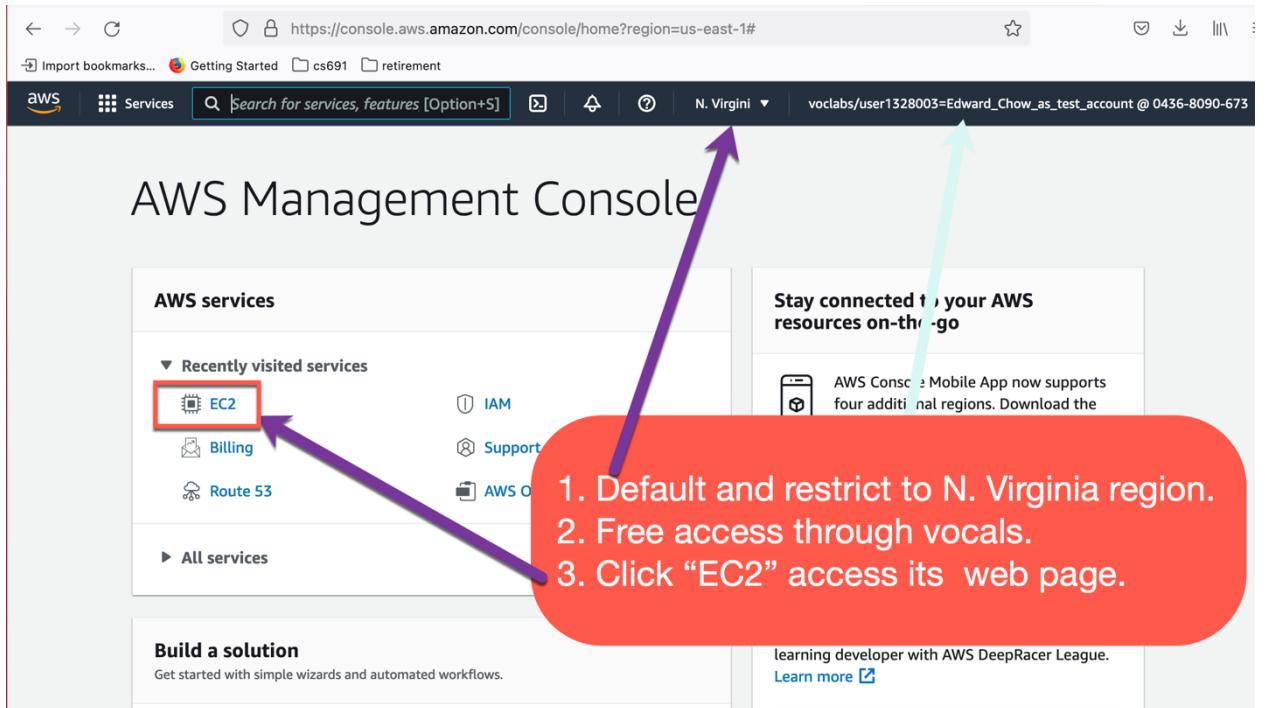
EN-US -

Learn
er Lab

5. Click AWS to start AWS management control for using the ec2 service and creating instance. Watch for used credits and the session countdown time.



6. You are now access AWS services through an account under vocstartsoft with an ID and your email. It also shows that you are accessing the default and only region, N. Virginia. Select EC2 AWS service



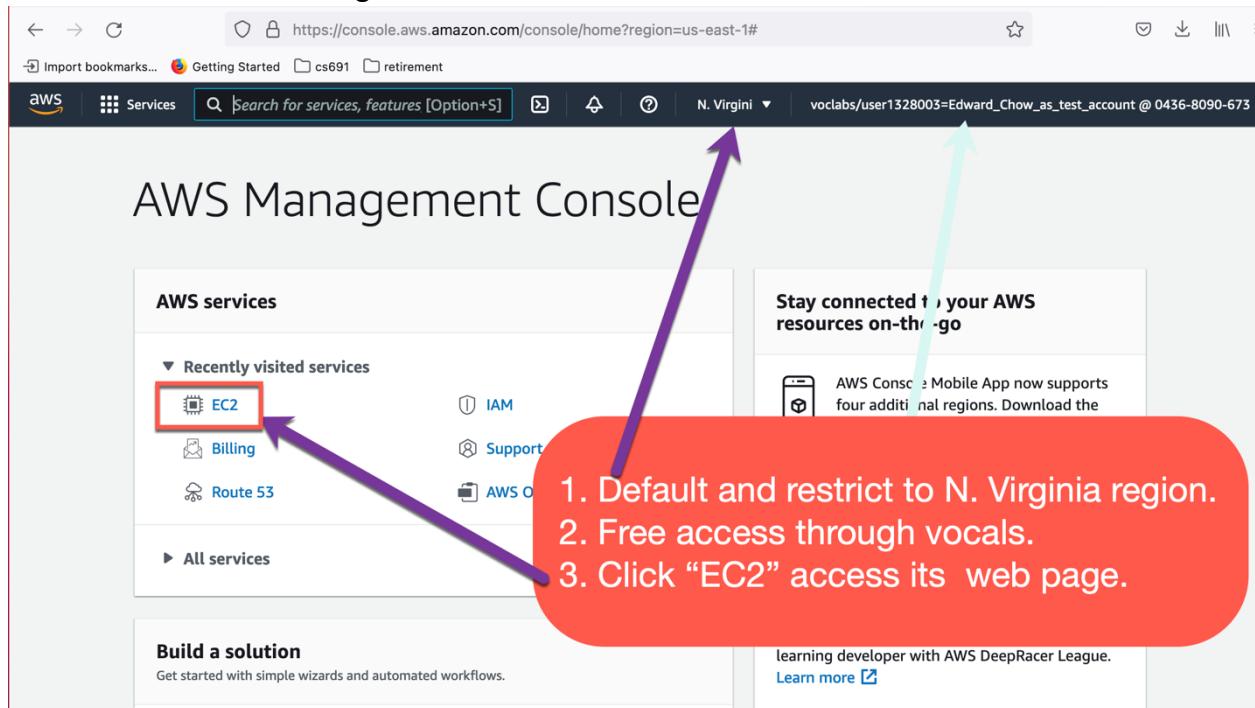
1.2 Option 2. Create AWS Regular Account with Basic Support.

Follow the link, <http://ciast.uccs.edu/coursera/pub/CreateAWSBasicAccount.pdf>

to register for AWS regular account. This basic account will give privileges to use/learn other AWS cloud services such as Route53 Advanced DNS server for creating your own domain names.

2. Create AMI instance and Install LAMP for CS5910 exercises.

Once setup an AWS account, use the AWS management console to create an AWS EC2 instance. Click on EC2 service. Note that for those with AWS Academy account, you region will be automatically set to N. Virginia and you will not be able to use services outsides of that region.



AWS Management Console

AWS services

Recently visited services

- EC2** (highlighted with a red box)
- Billing
- Route 53

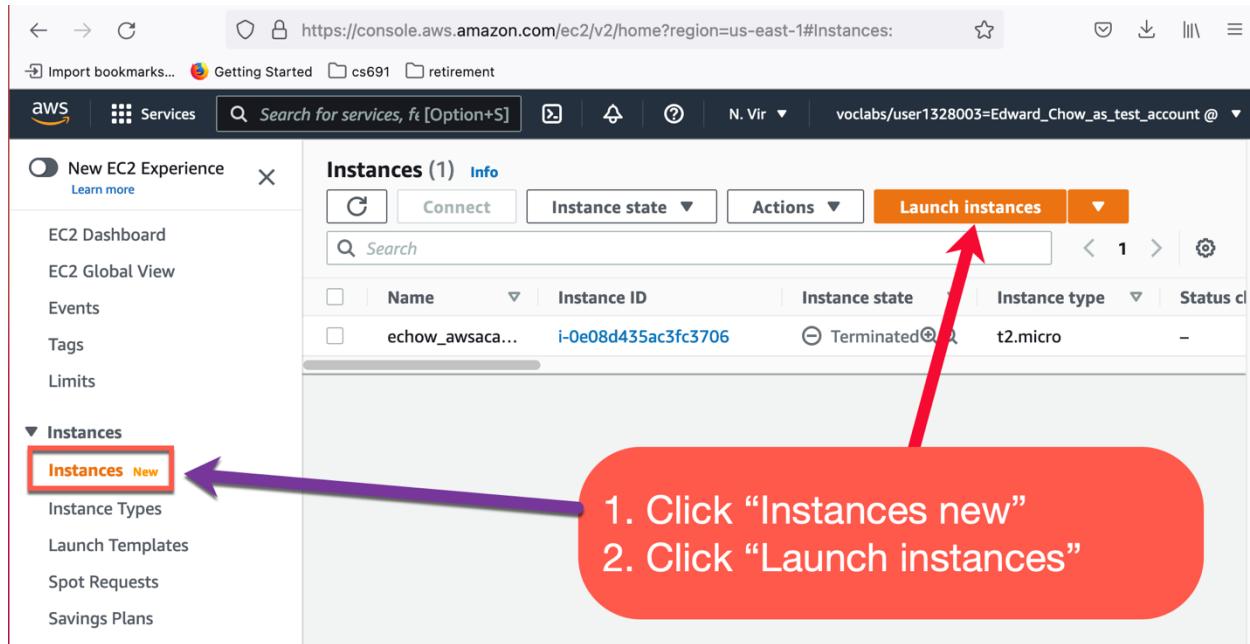
All services

Stay connected to your AWS resources on-the-go

AWS Console Mobile App now supports four additional regions. Download the

1. Default and restrict to N. Virginia region.
2. Free access through vocals.
3. Click "EC2" access its web page.

Then click Click “Instances new” menuitem on the left panel of EC2 dashboard. Click “Launch instances”button on the upper right.



We will then be guided through 7-step process to clone an EC2 instance.

2.1. Seven step process to create an Amazon Linux 2 based instance.

2.1.1. Step 1. Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)

2.1.1.1 For those with AWS Academy free access account.

Here with the restriction currently imposed by AWS Academy, we can only choose those AMI image owned by Amazon in Quick Start category. Select the first entry “Amazon Linux 2 AMI (HVM) - Kernel 5.10, SSD Volume Type”.

Warning!! If you choose to use my Coursera-CS5910-ami2 AMI image in Community AMIs to clone the instance, you will find out painfully at the end of Step 7 of this cloning process, your

instance launch will fail!

1. Choose AMI 2. Choose Instance Type 3. Configure Instance 4. Add Storage 5. Add Tags 6. Configure Security Group 7. Review

Step 1: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)

An AMI is a template that contains the software configuration (operating system, application server, and applications) required to launch your instance. You can select an AMI provided by AWS, our user community, or the AWS Marketplace; or you can select one of your own AMIs.

Cancel and Exit

Search for an AMI by entering a search term e.g. "Windows"

Quick Start

My AMIs

AWS Marketplace

Community AMIs

Free tier only

Amazon Linux Free tier eligible

Amazon Linux 2 AMI (HVM) - Kernel 5.10, SSD Volume Type - ami-0ed9277fb7eb570c9 (64-bit x86) / ami-0a1eddae0b7f0a79f (64-bit Arm)

Amazon Linux 2 comes with five years support. It provides Linux kernel 5.10 tuned for optimal performance on Amazon EC2, systemd 219, GCC 7.3, Glibc 2.26, Binutils 2.29.1, and the latest software packages through extras. This AMI is the successor of the Amazon Linux AMI that is now under maintenance only mode and has been removed from this wizard.

Root device type: ebs Virtualization type: hvm ENA Enabled: Yes

Amazon Linux 2 AMI (HVM) - Kernel 4.14, SSD Volume Type - ami-061ac2e015473fbe2 (64-bit x86) / ami-0dd06335ef617238f (64-bit Arm)

Amazon Linux 2 comes with five years support. It provides Linux kernel 4.14 tuned for optimal performance on Amazon EC2, systemd 219, GCC 7.3, Glibc 2.26, Binutils 2.29.1, and the latest software packages through extras. This AMI is the successor of the Amazon Linux AMI that is now under maintenance only mode and has been removed from this wizard.

Root device type: ebs Virtualization type: hvm ENA Enabled: Yes

macOS Monterey 12.0.1 - ami-0c1b2c2e43daa0924

Select

Select

Select

2.1.1.2. For those intend to use their own AWS paid regular account.

Click Community AMIs on the left panel and enter "Coursera" in the query box, then choose **Coursera-CS5910-ami2 AMI image** that show up. Note that there are other AMI for other Coursera classes.

1. Choose AMI 2. Choose Instance Type 3. Configure Instance 4. Add Storage 5. Add Tags 6. Configure Security Group 7. Review

Step 1: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)

An AMI is a template that contains the software configuration (operating system, application server, and applications) required to launch your instance. You can select an AMI provided by AWS, our user community, or the AWS Marketplace; or you can select one of your own AMIs.

Cancel and Exit

aws Services Search for services, features, blogs, docs, and more [Option+S] N. Virginia Chinghua Chow

Quick Start (0)

My AMIs (2)

AWS Marketplace (0)

Community AMIs (4)

Operating system

Amazon Linux

Cent OS

Debian

Fedora

Gentoo

openSUSE

Other Linux

Red Hat

SUSE Linux

Ubuntu

Windows

macOS

1. Select "Community AMIs" category.

2. Enter "Coursera" in the query box

3. Select "Coursera-CS5910-ami2" AMI image

Coursera_CS691_AMI2_2 - ami-00c8f04b7d1f7c3f6

[Copied ami-06187bfe658130f2f from us-east-2] Coursera_CS691_AMI2_2

Root device type: ebs Virtualization type: hvm ENA Enabled: Yes

Coursera-CS5910-ami2 - ami-02b062bc6ca48c774

[Copied ami-0b64a711 from us-east-1] Coursera-CS5910-AMI2

Root device type: ebs Virtualization type: hvm ENA Enabled: Yes

Coursera-CS691-UbuntuHashcat - ami-0cbd01db84c4f7343

[Copied ami-0b616d926a9f25cc2 from us-east-2] Coursera-CS691-UbuntuHashcat

Root device type: ebs Virtualization type: hvm ENA Enabled: Yes

Finite Elements MOOC - Coursera - ami-9df151f6

Use for the Coursera MOOC for Finite Elements Course

Root device type: ebs Virtualization type: hvm ENA Enabled: No

Select

Select

Select

2.1.2. Step 2. Choose an Instance Type

Choose the default t2.micro type. Then click “Next Configure Instance details”. Donot select “Review and Launch” since we still need to specify the instance name in Step 5 Add tags.

Step 2: Choose an Instance Type

Amazon EC2 provides a wide selection of instance types optimized to fit different use cases. Instances are virtual servers that can run applications. They have varying combinations of CPU, memory, storage, and network performance. [Learn more](#) about instance types and how to choose the right one for your applications.

Currently selected: t2.micro (- ECUs, 1 vCPU, 2.5 GHz, -, 1 GiB memory, EBS only)

	Family	Type	vCPUs	Memory (GiB)	Instance Storage (GB)	EBS-Optimized Available	Network Performance	IPv6 Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	t2	t2.nano	1	0.5	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	t2	t2.micro <small>Free tier eligible</small>	1	1	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	t2	t2.small	1	2	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	t2	t2.medium	2	4	EBS only	-	Low to Moderate	Yes

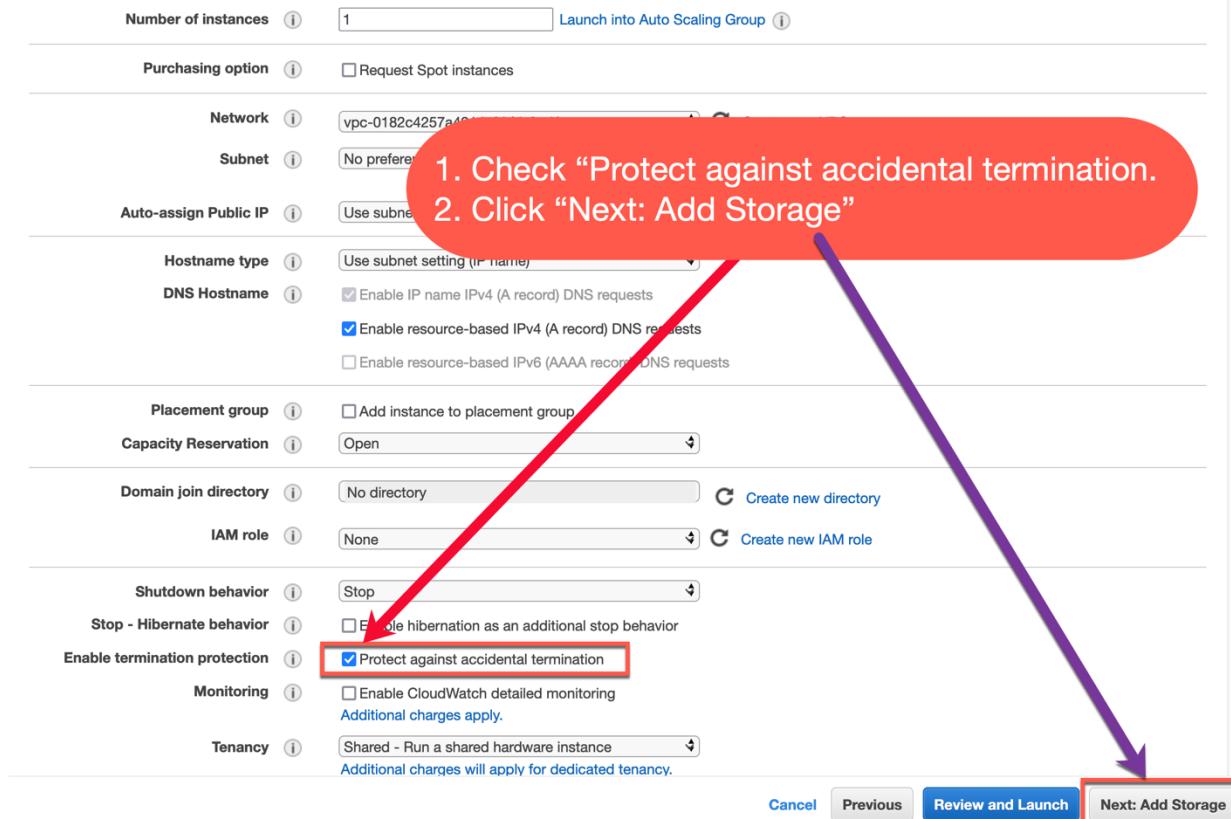
Cancel Previous **Review and Launch** Next: Configure Instance Details

2.1.3. Step 3: Configure Instance Details

Check “Enable termination protection”. Then click “Next: Add Storage”.

Step 3: Configure Instance Details

Configure the instance to suit your requirements. You can launch multiple instances from the same AMI, request Spot instances to take advantage of the lower pricing, assign an access management role to the instance, and more.



Number of instances: 1 [Launch into Auto Scaling Group](#)

Purchasing option: Request Spot instances

Network: vpc-0182c4257a40

Subnet: No preference

Auto-assign Public IP: Use subnet settings

Hostname type: Use subnet setting (IP+name)

DNS Hostname: Enable IP name IPv4 (A record) DNS requests
 Enable resource-based IPv4 (A record) DNS requests
 Enable resource-based IPv6 (AAAA record) DNS requests

Placement group: Add instance to placement group

Capacity Reservation: Open

Domain join directory: No directory [Create new directory](#)

IAM role: None [Create new IAM role](#)

Shutdown behavior: Stop

Stop - Hibernate behavior: Enable hibernation as an additional stop behavior

Enable termination protection: Protect against accidental termination

Monitoring: Enable CloudWatch detailed monitoring
Additional charges apply.

Tenancy: Shared - Run a shared hardware instance
Additional charges will apply for dedicated tenancy.

[Cancel](#) [Previous](#) [Review and Launch](#) [Next: Add Storage](#)

1. Check “Protect against accidental termination.”
2. Click “Next: Add Storage”

2.1.4. Step 4. Add Storage.

Choose the default 8 GB General purpose SSD (gp2). Click “Next: Add Tags”.

2.1.5. Step 5. Add Tags.

Click “Add Tag” button. Then enter “Name” as Key and “<login>_awsac_cs5910a_i1” as Value. where <login> is your login name in the email address. The string specified in the Name value will be used as the name for the instance showing in the EC2 dashboard for management. Make sure to use the unique name. Here I propose to use your login (so that it is unique for the teacher or group to tell your instance apart), the cs5910a (for the class specific), and i<n> where n could specific instance from the same image. It is useful to use such naming scheme to manage a large group of instances.

Click “Next: Configure Security Group” to reach Step 6.

Step 5: Add Tags

A tag consists of a case-sensitive key-value pair. For example, you can tag an instance with Name=MyServer and Environment=Production. A copy of a tag can be applied to volumes, instances or both. Tags will be applied to all instances and volumes. [Learn more](#) about tags.

1. Enter “Name” as key.
2. Enter “<login>_awsac_cs5910a_i1”

Key (128 characters maximum) Value (256 characters maximum)

Instances (i) Volumes (i) Network Interfaces (i)

Name **echow_awsac_cs5910a_i1**

Add another tag (Up to 50 tags maximum)

Cancel Previous Review and Launch **Next: Configure Security Group**

2.1.6. Step 6. Configure Security Group

Since this is a Linux instance, by default we use SSH connection to manage/configure it. The windows instance will typically use Desktop Connection. As indicated in the warning, rule with 0.0.0.0/0 as source will allow any one including hackers to access the instance. **It is dangerous especially when our instance is not yet being patched or properly configured!** Let us change the source to MyIP (your current client IP address), so that only you can configure and patch it through the SSH secure connection.

Step 6: Configure Security Group

A security group is a set of firewall rules that control the traffic for your instance. On this page, you can add rules to allow specific traffic to reach your instance. For example, if you want to set up a web server and allow Internet traffic to reach your instance, add rules that allow unrestricted access to the HTTP and HTTPS ports. You can create a new security group or select from an existing one below. [Learn more](#) about Amazon EC2 security groups.

Drop down the source menu and select MyIP item

Assign a security group: Create a new security group Select an existing security group

Security group name: launch-wizard-5

Description: launch-wizard-5 created 2021-12-28T19:39:59.660+08:00

Type (i)	Protocol (i)	Port Range (i)	Source (i)	Description (i)
SSH	TCP	22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Custom Anywhere <input type="checkbox"/> My IP	e.g. SSH for Admin Desktop

Add Rule

Warning
Rules with source of 0.0.0.0/0 allow all IP addresses to access your instance. We recommend setting security group rules to allow access from known IP addresses only.

Once selected, the 0.0.0.0/0 source value will be replaced with your local client IP address. Next, click “Add Rule”. Then select one of ICMPv4, HTTP, HTTPS from the “Custom TCP” drop down menu, as incoming traffic type to the firewall, or AWS security group. Make sure you change the source of those rules to “MyIP” setting also.

Step 6: Configure Security Group

A security group is a set of firewall rules that control the traffic for your instance. On this page, you can add rules to allow specific traffic to reach your instance. For example, if you want to set up a web server and allow Internet traffic to reach your instance, add rules that allow unrestricted access to the HTTP and HTTPS ports. You can create a new security group or select from an existing one below. [Learn more](#) about Amazon EC2 security groups.

Assign a security group: Create a new security group
 Select an existing security group

Security group name:

Description:

Type	Protocol	Port Range	Source	Description
SSH	TCP	22	My IP	114.46.121.191/32
Custom TCP Rule		0	Custom	CIDR, IP or Security Group
Custom ICMP Rule - IPv4				e.g. SSH for Admin Desktop
Custom ICMP Rule - IPv6				e.g. SSH for Admin Desktop
Custom Protocol				
All TCP				
All UDP				
All ICMP - IPv4				
All ICMP - IPv6				
All traffic				
SSH				
SMTP				
DNS (UDP)				
DNS (TCP)				
HTTP				
POP3				
IMAP				
LDAP				
HTTPS				
SNMP				

1. Click “Add Rule” and change type to ICMP IPv4, HTTP, HTTPS.
2. Change their source to “My IP”

The security group specification should look like the diagram below. Click “Review and Launch”

Step 6: Configure Security Group

A security group is a set of firewall rules that control the traffic for your instance. On this page, you can add rules to allow specific traffic to reach your instance. For example, if you want to set up a web server and allow Internet traffic to reach your instance, add rules that allow unrestricted access to the HTTP and HTTPS ports. You can create a new security group or select from an existing one below. [Learn more](#) about Amazon EC2 security groups.

Assign a security group: Create a new security group
 Select an existing security group

Security group name:

Description:

Type	Protocol	Port Range	Source	Description
SSH	TCP	22	My IP	114.46.121.191/32
Custom ICMP	Echo Reply	N/A	My IP	114.46.121.191/32
HTTP	TCP	80	My IP	114.46.121.191/32
HTTPS	TCP	443	My IP	114.46.121.191/32

[Add Rule](#)

[Cancel](#) [Previous](#) [Review and Launch](#)

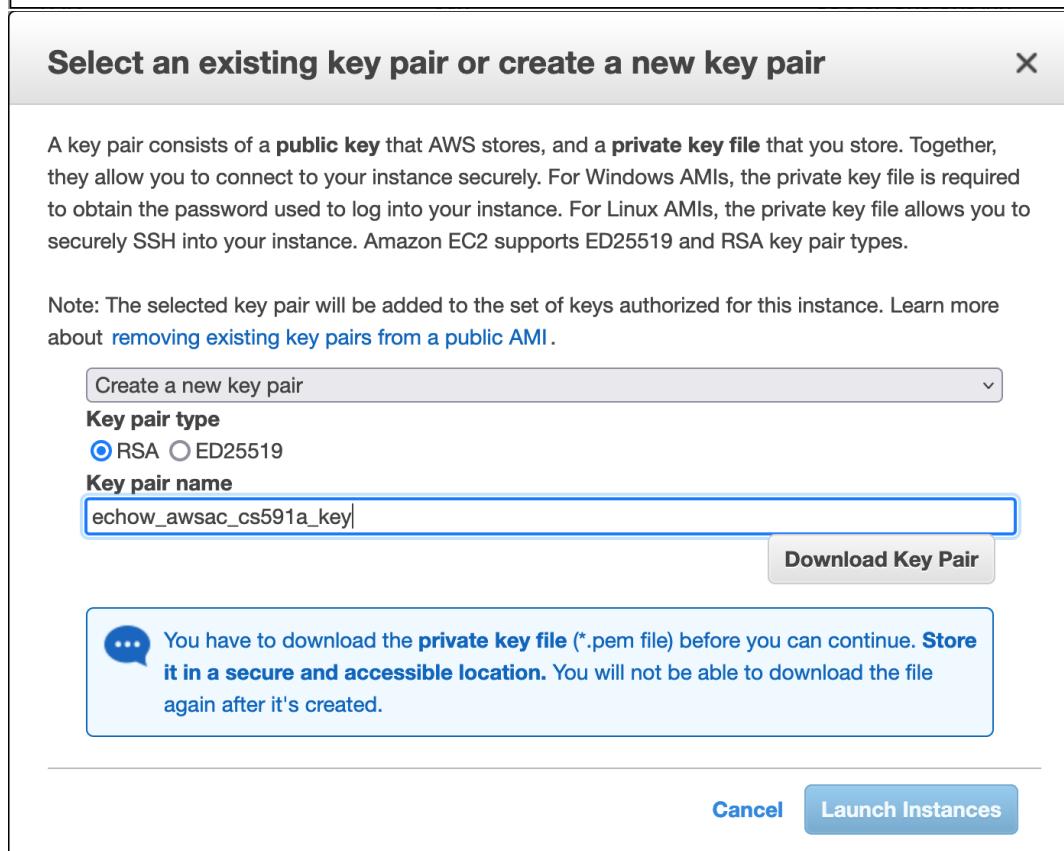
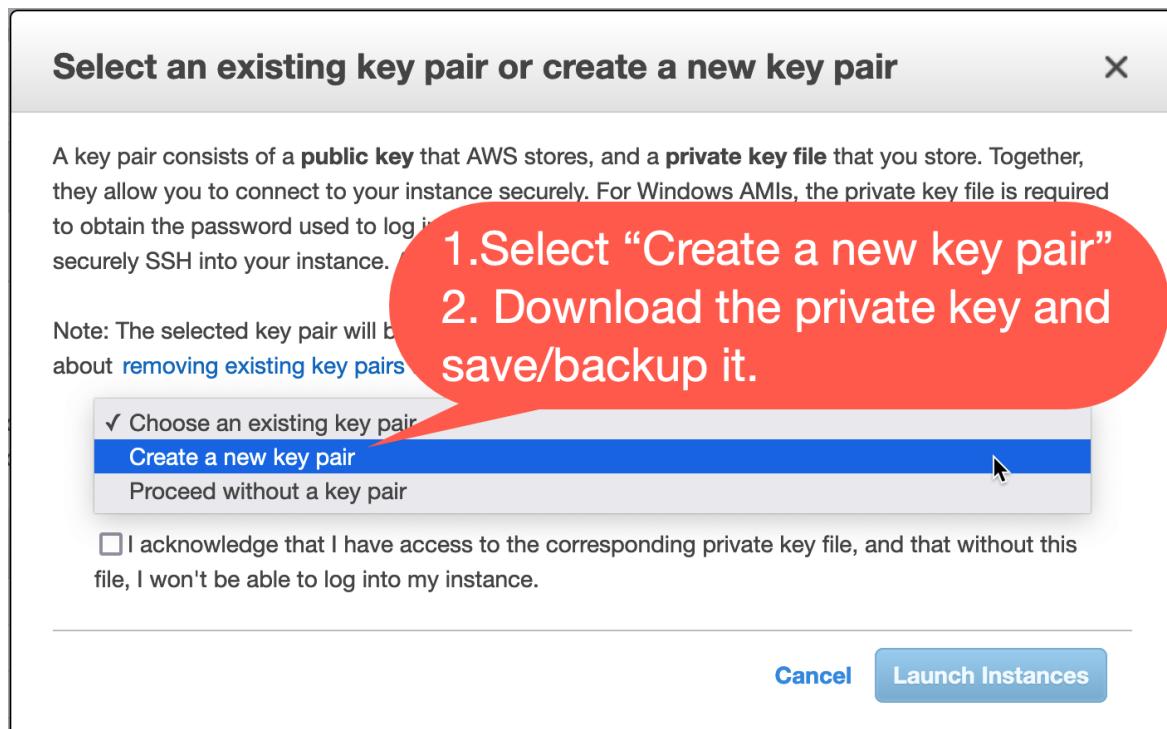
2.1.7. Step 7: Review Instance Launch

Click “Launch”.

The screenshot shows the 'Step 7: Review Instance Launch' page of the AWS EC2 instance creation wizard. The top navigation bar includes links for '1. Choose AMI', '2. Choose Instance Type', '3. Configure Instance', '4. Add Storage', '5. Add Tags', '6. Configure Security Group', and '7. Review'. The '7. Review' tab is active. The main content area is divided into sections: 'AMI Details', 'Instance Type', 'Security Groups', 'Instance Details', 'Storage', and 'Tags'. The 'AMI Details' section shows an 'Amazon Linux 2 AMI (HVM) - Kernel 5.10, SSD Volume Type - ami-0ed9277fb7eb570c9' with a 'Free tier eligible' badge. The 'Instance Type' section shows a 't2.micro' instance with 1 vCPU, 1 GiB of memory, and EBS storage. The 'Security Groups' section shows a group named 'launch-wizard-5' created on 2021-12-28. The 'Instance Details' section has a 'Launch' button at the bottom, which is highlighted with a red box. Other buttons in the bottom right include 'Cancel' and 'Previous'.

You will then be prompted to use an exist key pair or generate a new key pair for access the instance. Here we will ask AWS to generate a **new key pair** for us and allow us to download the private key part of the key pair. Once you have the private key, you can select “existing key pair” later to reuse the same key pair. AWS keeps a copy of your public key in its ec2 management system and also append it to the .ssh/authorized_keys file of the instance for verification purpose. When we use a SSH client to connect to the sshd server of the instance, the SSH client will send a token encrypted with the private key to the sshd server, the sshd server will then use the related public key in .ssh/authorized_keys to decrypt the token and decide whether to allow secure access or not.

For those interested in exploring further, you can check the content of .ssh/authorized_keys file in the instance for the saved public key.



Here for the Key pair name entry, I would suggest entering <login>_awsac_cs591a_key as the key name. Here I replace <login> with my login echow. Therefore my key pair name is echow_awsac_cs591a_key.

Click “Download Key Pair”. Here the button label is misleading. We only download the private key not the key pair. You will remind to save the file. Make sure you move it from the download area and save it in a secure directory or even back it up to a flash drive. Once you lost the private key, you lost access to the instance. Note that the actual file name for the private key will have .pem as file extension. Therefore in my directory I see an echow_awsac_cs591a_key.pem file.

Then click the Launch Instances. Click again in the “View Instances” in the Launch Status page.

From the instance list, you can check the box in front of the instance entry of your interest. We can identify here “echow_awsac_cs591a_key” is the Name key value we entered in Step 5 of the instance creation process.

1. Select check box with instance entry.
 2. The lower panel shows the public IP address and DNS name (to be used in ssh command).
 The key to be used, and the date of creation time for identification.

Details	Value
Instance ID	i-0d837015ac98b1aa6 (echow_awacs_cs591a_i1)
Public IPv4 address	54.175.231.77 open address
Private IP4 addresses	172.31.83.158
Instance state	Running
Public IPv4 DNS	ec2-54-175-231-77.compute-1.amazonaws.com open address
Private IP DNS name (IPv4 only)	ip-172-31-83-158.ec2.internal
Platform details	Linux/UNIX
AMI name	amzn2-ami-kernel-5.10-hvm-2.0.20211201.0-x86_64-gp2
Launch time	Tue Dec 28 2021 20:19:26 GMT+0800 (Taipei Standard Time) (1 minute)
AMI location	amazon/amzn2-ami-kernel-5.10-hvm-2.0.20211201.0-x86_64-gp2
Stop-hibernate behavior	disabled
AMI Launch index	0
Monitoring	disabled
Termination protection	Enabled
Lifecycle	normal
Key pair name	echow_awacs_cs591a_key

Make sure you back up your private key in a safe place such as a flash drive. You may want to encrypt it.

Once the instance is initialized and running, click it on the dashboard or hit the Instances of the EC2 main window. Find the public IP address assigned to this instance. We will reference this as <InstancePublicIPAddress> to be used in setting up the access.

2.2. Associate Elastic IP Address with the Instance

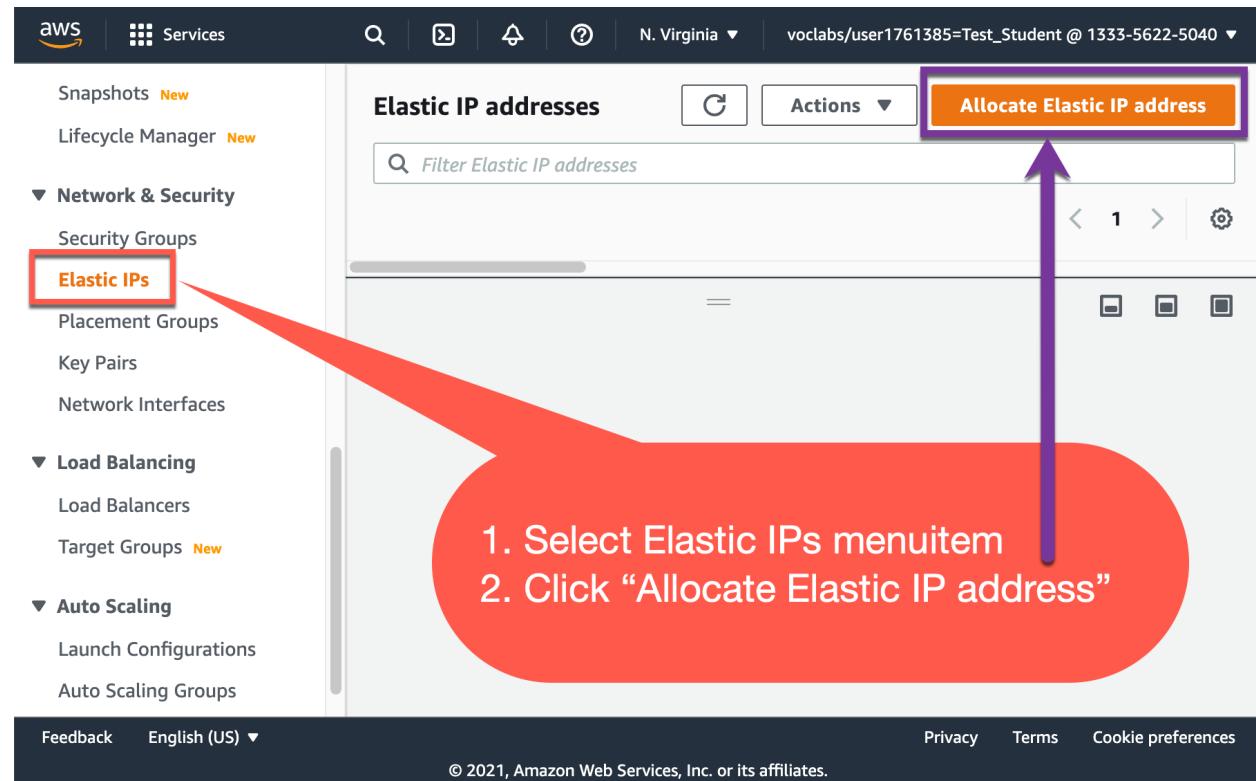
To save IP address space, AWS will reclaim the public IP address of the instance once it is “stopped” or “suspended”. Next time when we restart or resume the instance, AWS will assign a new public IP address for the instance. This often confuses the new users since they forget to check the new public IP public IP address in the detailed info panel for the instance. They thought the instance is not reachable for some other reasons.

To avoid such an inconvenience, AWS provides “Elastic IP Address” to be associated with the instance so that when the instance is resumed, it will have the same Elastic IP Address for accessing the instance. Note that when you are not using an instance with Elastic IP address (not intuitive), you will incur some charge, but normally it is much less than the suspension of the instance for a long period of time.

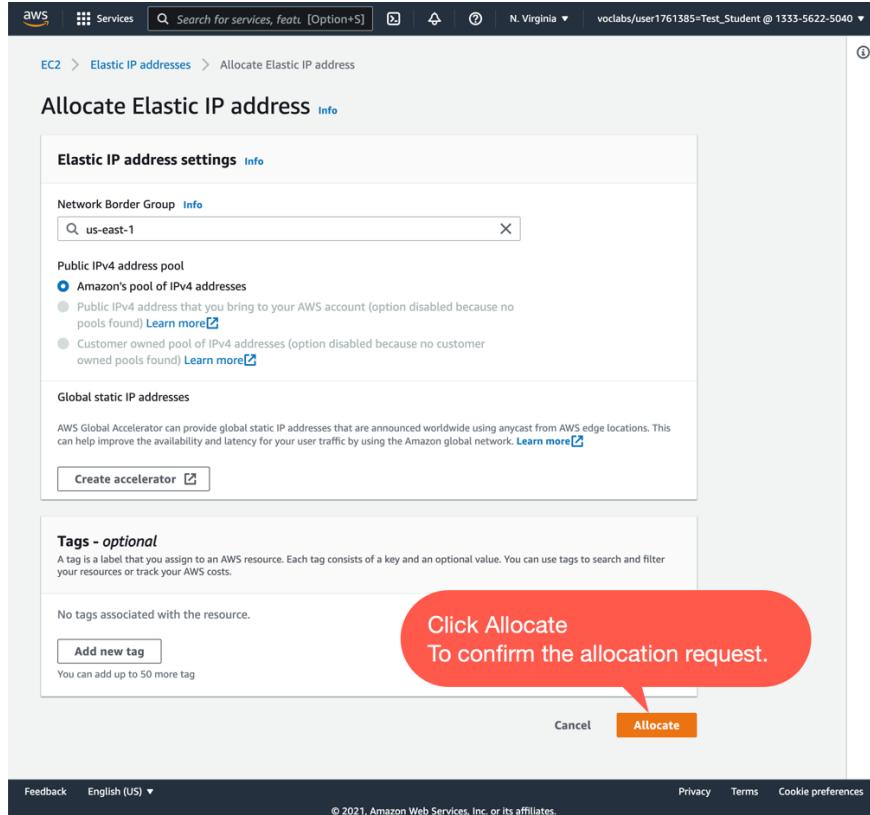
Follow the steps below to request an Elastic IP address and associate with the instance we just cloned:

2.2.1. Request An Elastic IP address.

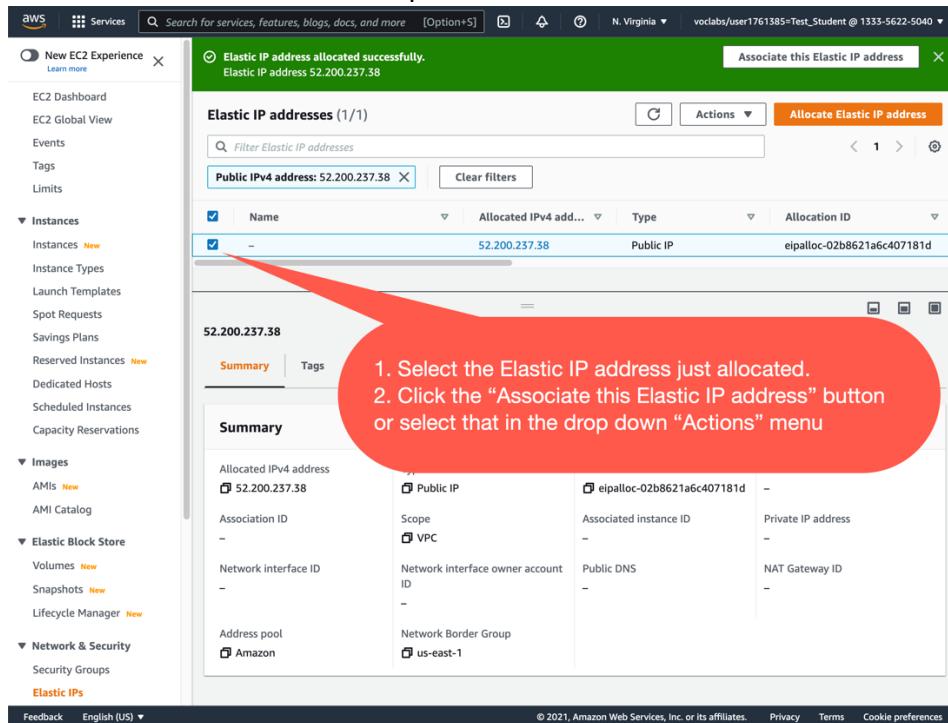
Select Elastic IPs menu-item on the left panel of AWS EC2 dashboard. Click “Allocate Elastic IP address.



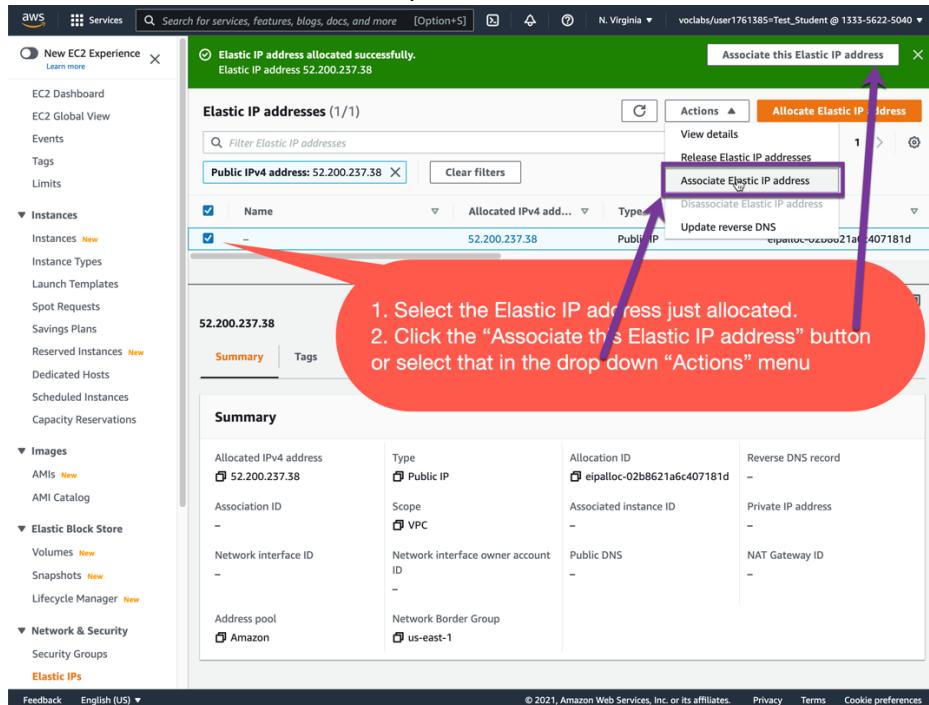
2.2.2. Confirm its allocation by clicking on the Allocate button on the lower right.



2.2.3. Select the Elastic IP address just allocated. Click the “Associate this Elastic IP address” button or select that in the drop down “Actions” menu

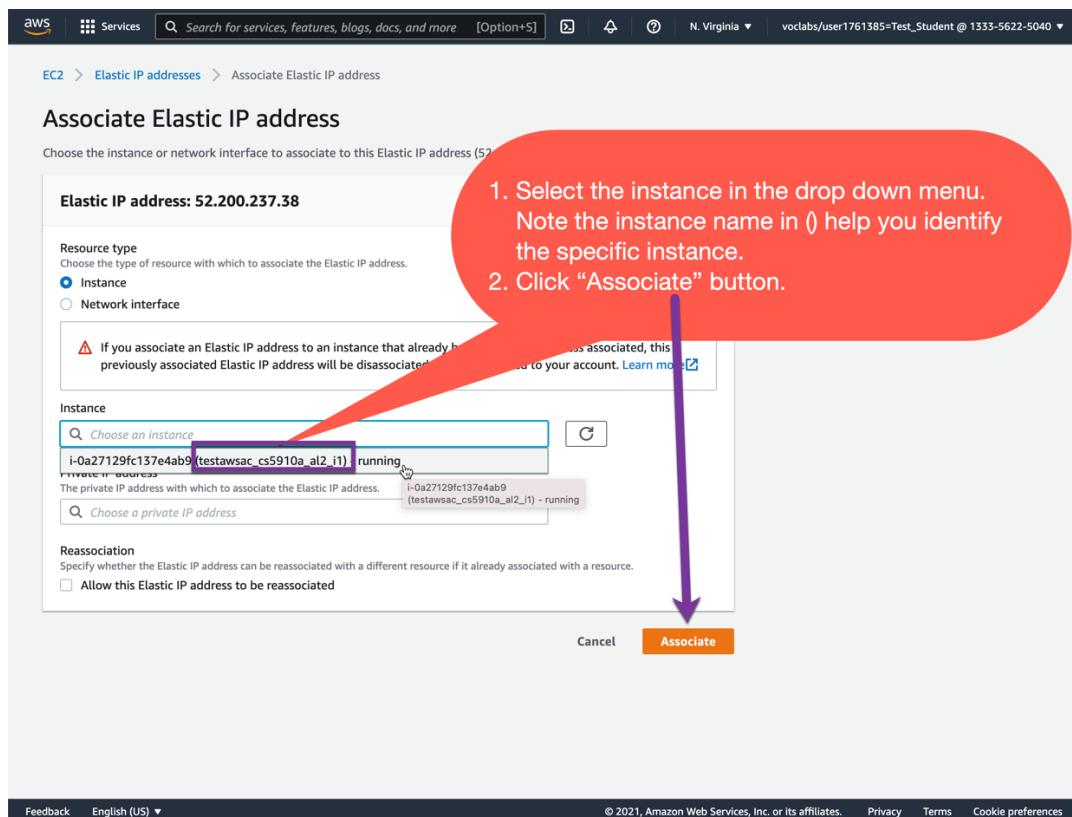


2.2.4. Select the Elastic IP address just allocated. Click the “Associate this Elastic IP address” button or select that in the drop down “Actions” menu



1. Select the Elastic IP address just allocated.
2. Click the “Associate this Elastic IP address” button or select that in the drop down “Actions” menu

2.2.5.



1. Select the instance in the drop down menu.
Note the instance name in () help you identify the specific instance.
2. Click “Associate” button.

2.2.6 Select the instance. The public IPv4 address now shows the associated Elastic IP address. You may have to refresh the info

1. Select the instance.
 2. The public IPv4 address now shows the associated Elastic IP address.
 3. You may have to refresh the info

Name	Instance ID	Instance state	Instance type	Status check	Alarm status
testawsac_cs5910a_al2_i1	i-0a27129fc137e4ab9	Running	t2.micro	2/2 checks passed	No alarms

Instance: i-0a27129fc137e4ab9 (testawsac_cs5910a_al2_i1)

Details		Security	Networking	Storage	Status checks	More
Instance summary						
Instance ID	i-0a27129fc137e4ab9 (testawsac_cs5910a_al2_i1)	IPv6 address	Instance state	Public IPv4 address	Public IPv4 DNS	VPC ID
Hostname type	IP name: ip-172-31-84-242.ec2.internal	Private IP DNS name (IPv4 only)	Running	52.200.237.38 open address	ec2-52-200-237-38.compute-1.amazonaws.com open address	vpc-0da9e6a322e3e2bf8
Instance type	t2.micro	Elastic IP addresses			Answer private resource DNS name IPv4 (A)	

3. Access your AMI instance.

3.1 For mac or Linux users,

You can use ssh command in the directory containing your instance's private key.

```
ssh -i <privateKey>.pem ec2-user@<InstancePublicIPAddress>
```

Here <privateKey>.pem is the keypair name in the last prompt window of the instance creation process;
 <InstancePublicIPAddress> is the instance public IP address showing in the previous diagram of the instance's info window;
 -i indicates to the ssh client command we are using the specific private key file for accessing the server.

Here the parameter right after -i option is the private key file name. Make sure the file access mode need to be change to 600 or rw only by the owner, i.e., can only be accessed by you. You can use "chmod go-rw <login>_awsac_cs5910a_key.pem" to remove group and other user access to your private key file. Without such change, the ssh will refuse to make connection. SSH client follows the new standard for security practice implementation.

Note that this SSH client command try to access the home directory of a user called "ec2-user" on a server or instance running SSH server daemon. In the AWS Amazon Linux 2 image, there is only one user ec2-user created as the first user. As a first user, ec2-user can use "sudo"

precedes any privileged command to run typical system configuration operations like a root user.

3.2 For Windows users,

you can download the bitvise SSH Client app installer and install bitvise app. It is available at <https://www.bitvise.com/ssh-client-download>. It provides a nice SFTP gui for drag and drop files between remote server and your local client. It also does not require to go through the .pem to .ppk file conversion which is required by putty app. The putty is also a popular command line interface app and can be downloaded at

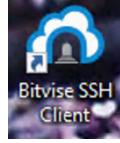
<https://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/latest.html>

(choose the proper msi file). I recommend using bitvise for accessing our instance. It also saves your configuration time.

3.2.1 Install bitvise SSH Client

After download and install the bitvise app, you should see the following app installed on the

upper left corn or the desktop.



Step 1. First import the private key into the bitvise app using its Client key manager.

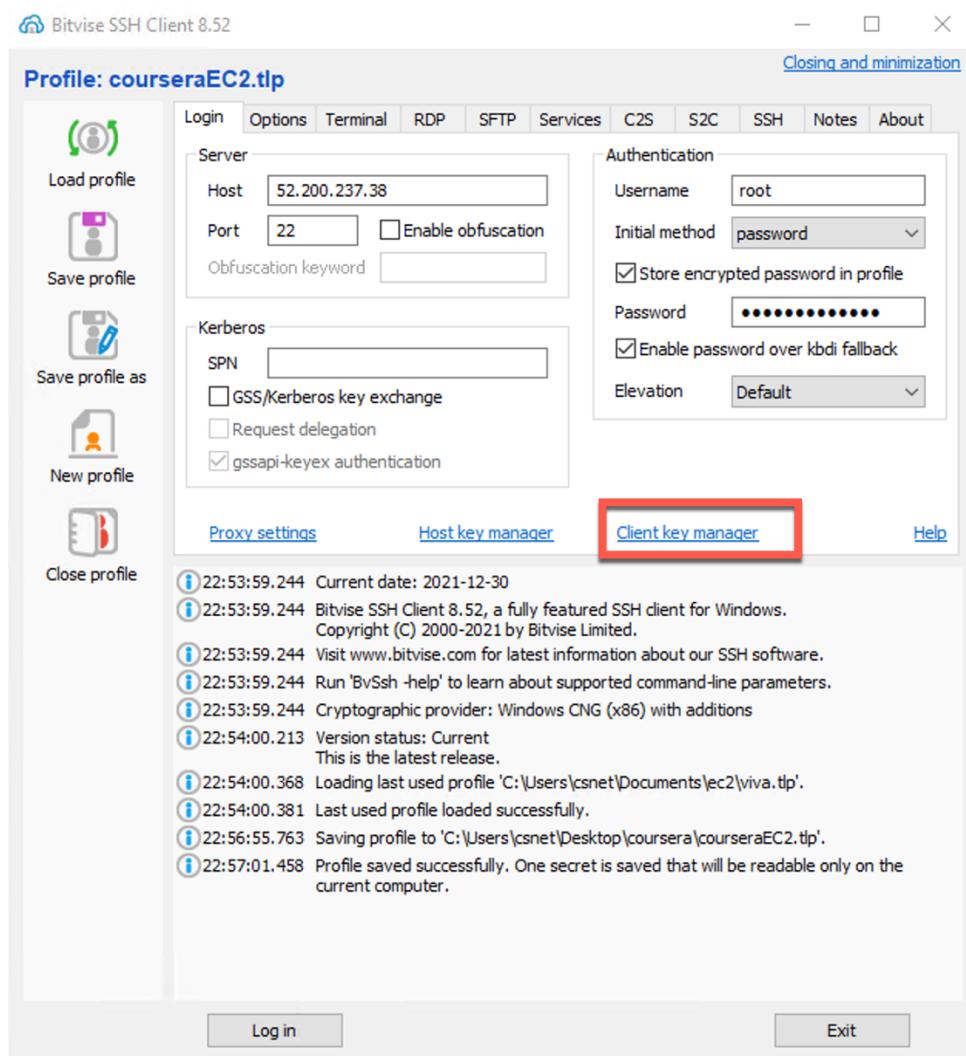


Figure 1. First import the private key into the bitvise app using its Client key manager.

Step 2. Click Import button.

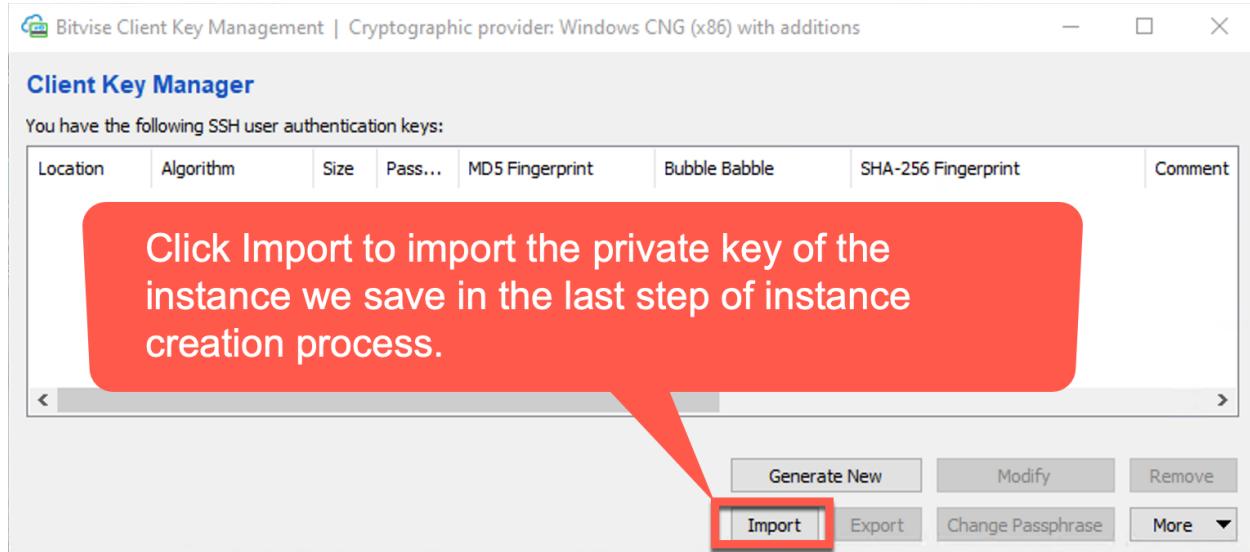


Figure 2. Click Import button to import the private key.

Step 3. Change the file type to all file (*.*) in order to reveal our private key in .pem file format. Note that the Bitvise Kepair Files (*.b kp) type will not show the .pem file type which is used to generate the private key during the last step of instance creation process.

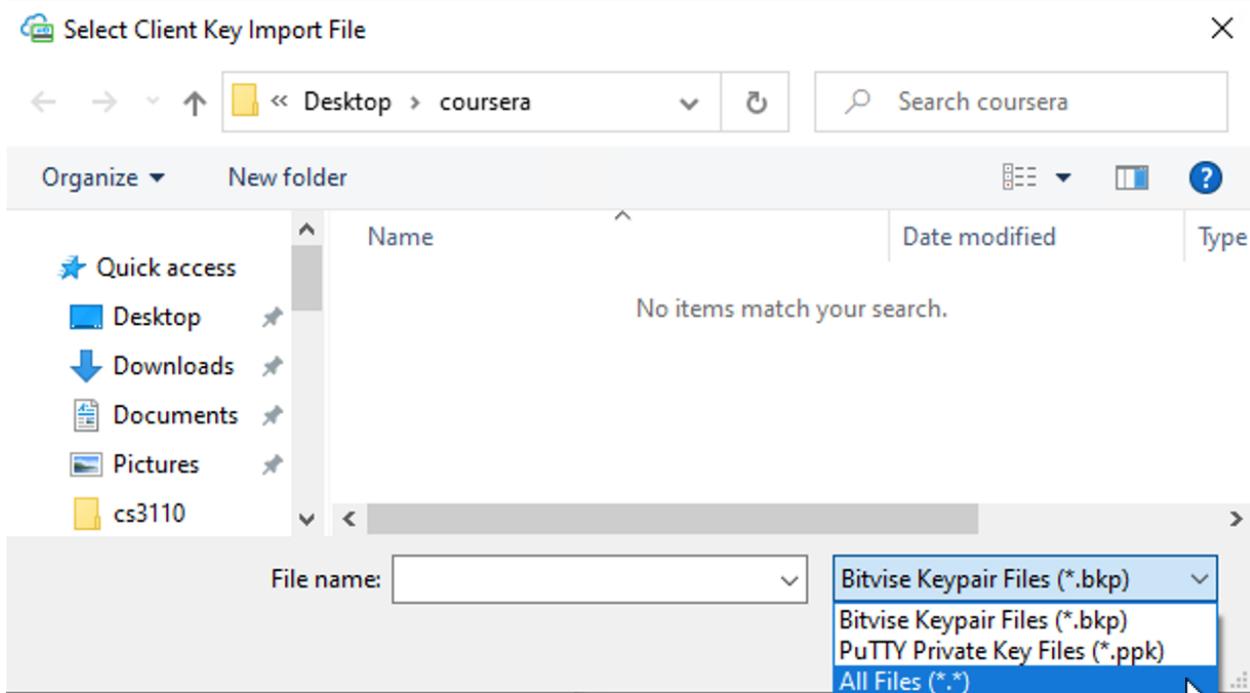


Figure 3. Change file type to All Files (*.*) to reveal our private key in .pem file format.

Step 4. Select our private key and Click Open.

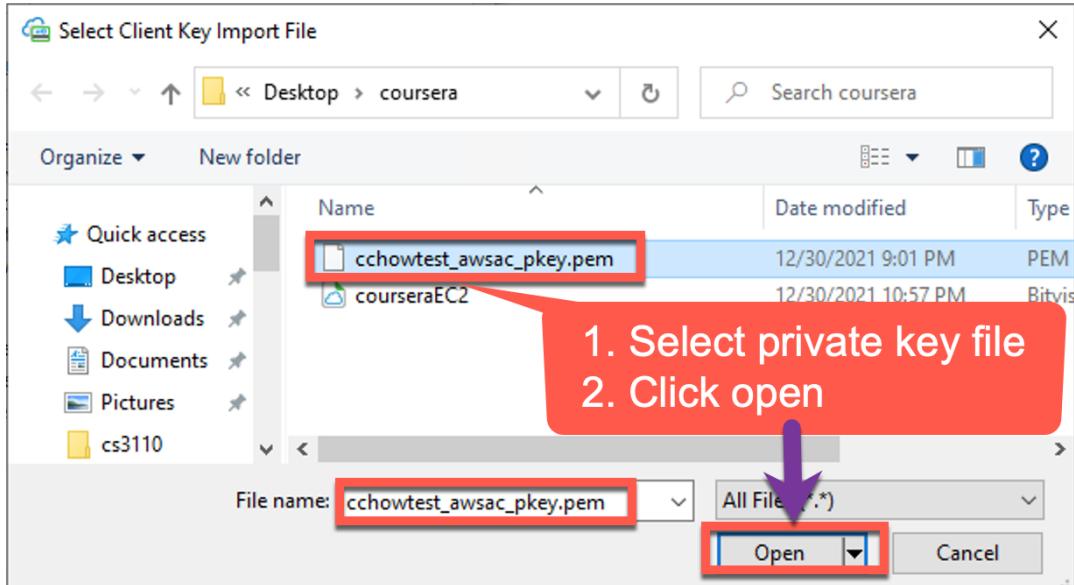


Figure 4. Select private key in .pem file and click Open.

Note that in Figure 4, we use cchowtest_awsac_pkey.pem as an example.

Step 5. Import the private key and save as Profile Location key #1

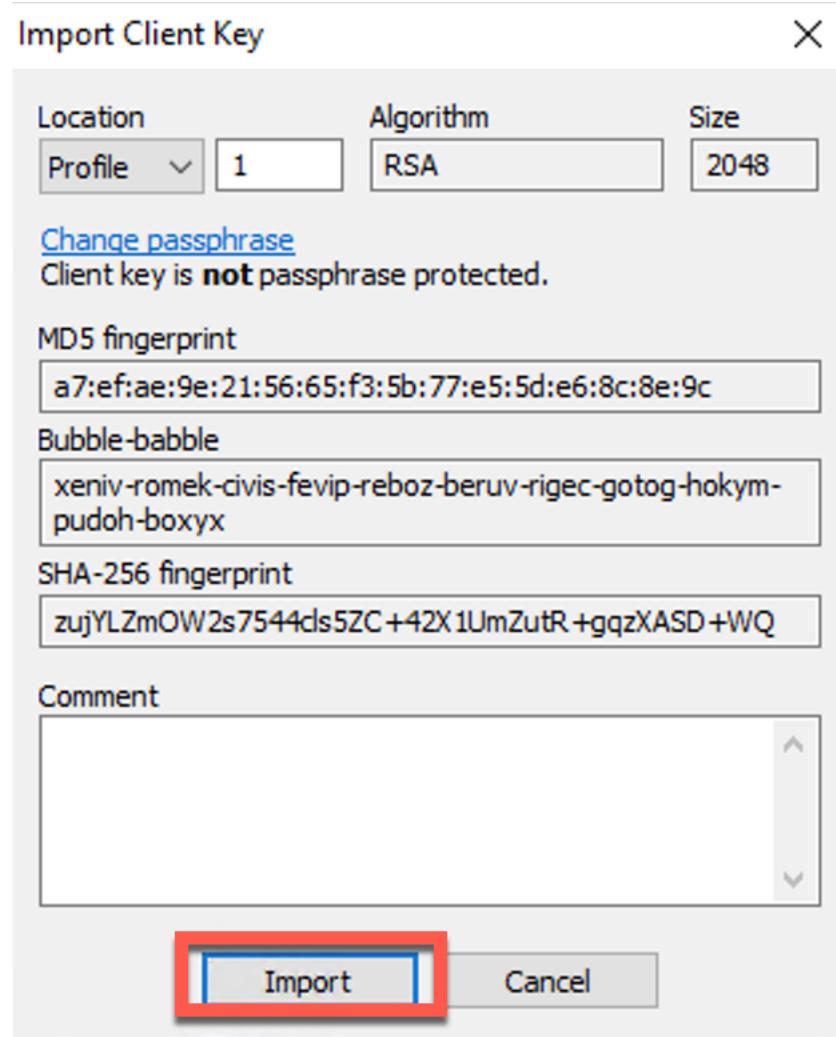


Figure 5. Save it in Profile Location key #1 by default and Click “Import”.

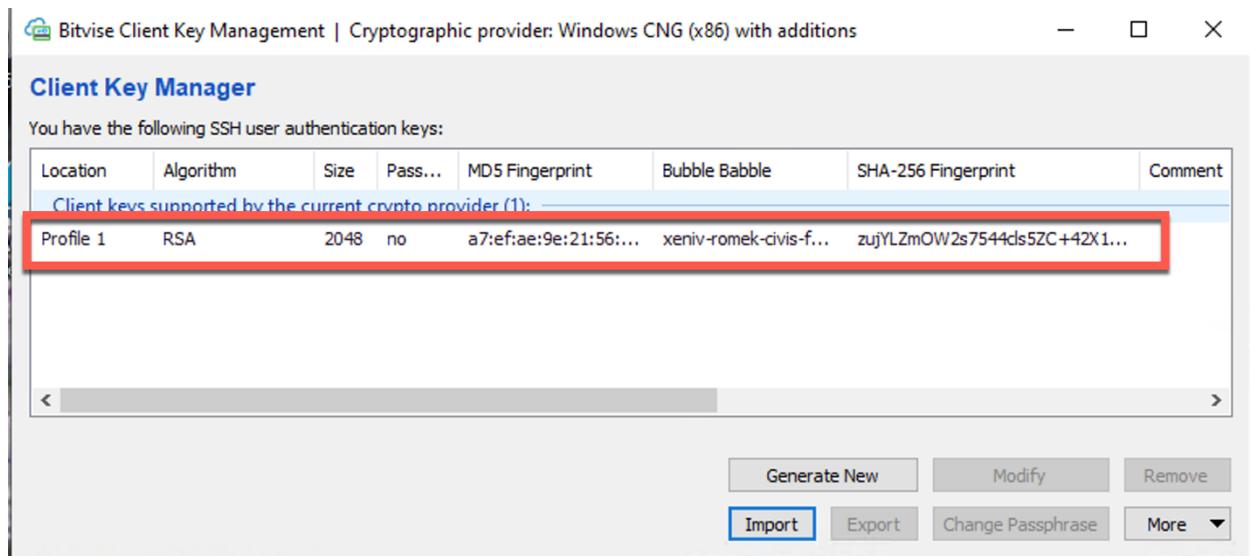


Figure 6. Client Key Manager display the imported Global 1 key, our private key.

Step 6. Specify the instance IP address, username, access method, the private key used for accessing the instance.

1. Specify public IP address of the instance

Make sure you use the current elastic IP address of the instance.

2. Specify ec2-user as Username

Use "ec2-user", not the "root" for accessing the AWS EC2 instance, since its sshd is configured to be refusing root direct login and there is initially only this single "first" user created.

3. Choose publickey as Initial method

Here we are telling the bitvise SSH client that in this SSH authentication protocol, the SSH Server will use the public key saved in the /home/ec2-user/.ssh/authorized_keys file for verifying the security token generated by the SSH client where a known string is encrypted by the private key and the public key crypto algorithm.

4. Choose Profile key #1 saved in the bitvise SSH Client as private key for this authentication.

5. Click Log in

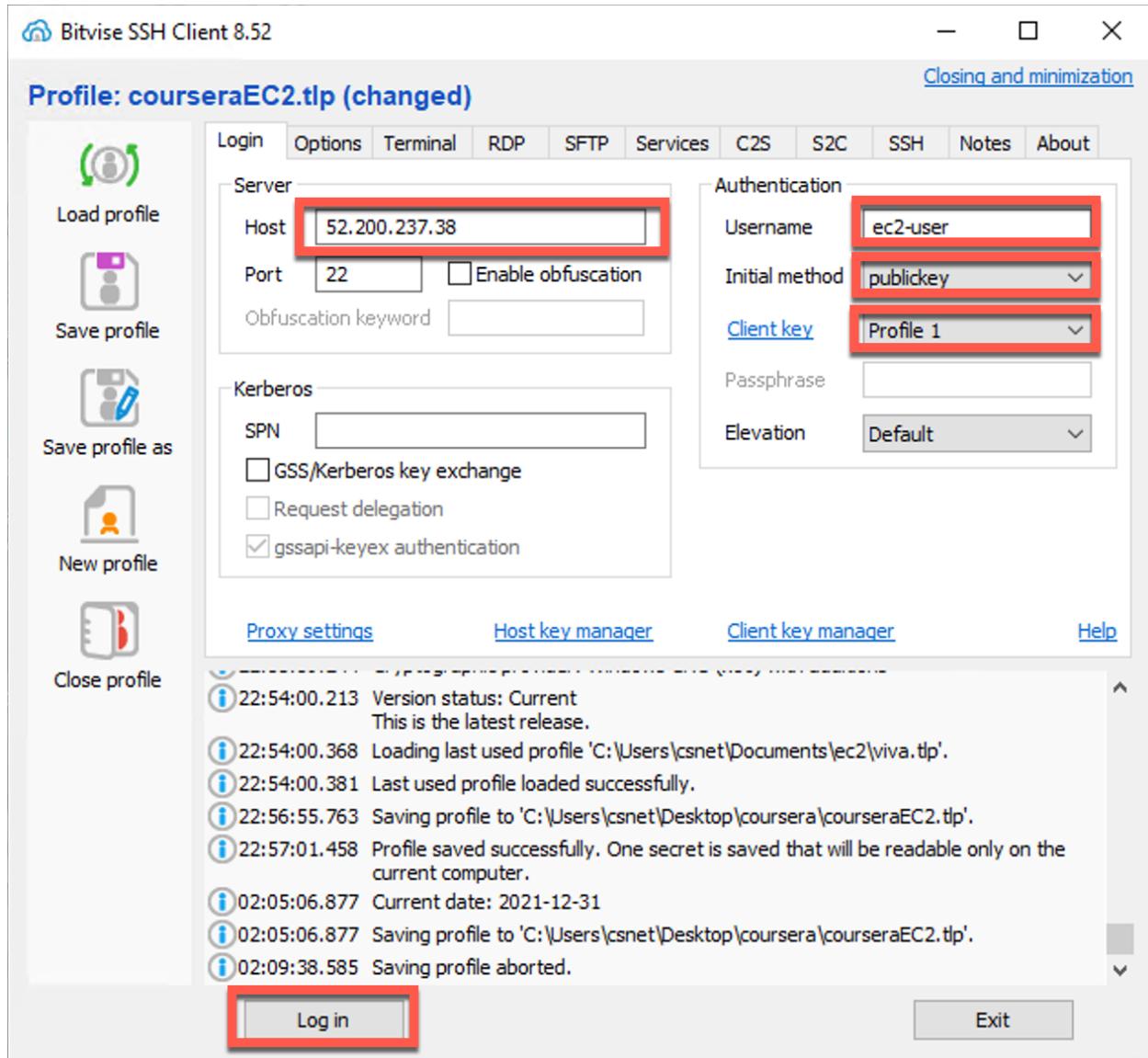


Figure 7. Specify parameters for accessing the SSH daemon on the instance server.

Step 7. The bitvise SSH client app and SFTP app are launched,

Finally the bitvise app launches two tools: Bitvise SFTP Client and Bitvise xterm Client. We use Bitvise SFTP Client for dragging and dropping files between SSH client and SSH server and use Bitvise xterm Client for entering/executing commands on a remote terminal session on the instance.

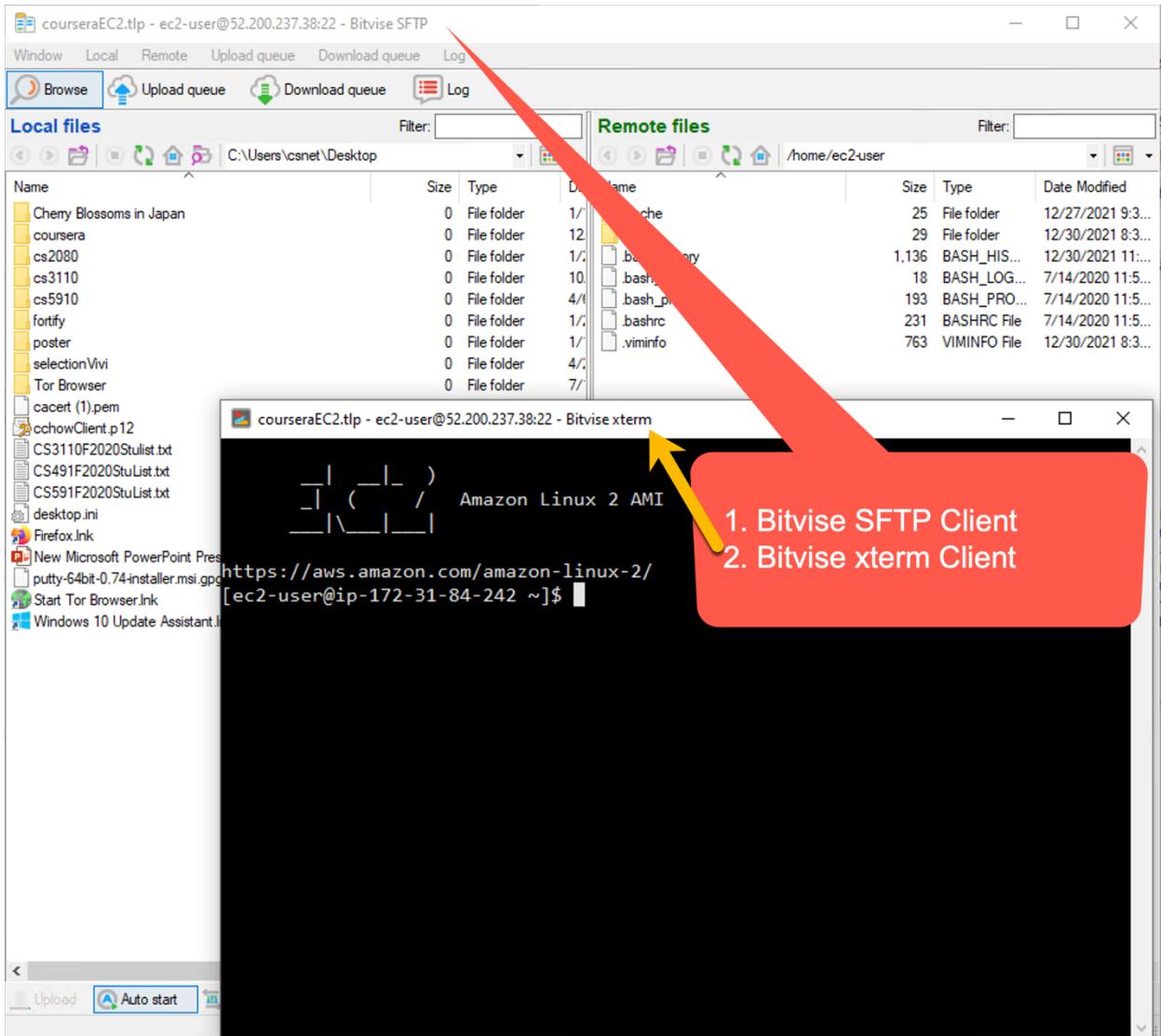


Figure 8. Bitvise SFTP Client and Bitvise xterm Client

Step 8. Save the SSH configuration as a profile for future reference.

Click “Save profile” and enter CourseraEC2 as profile name. Next time we start bitvise, it will remember the current profile. In we have switched to different profile, we can also click Open profile to bring back the SSH settings for accessing the instance. Click Login to verify if it works.

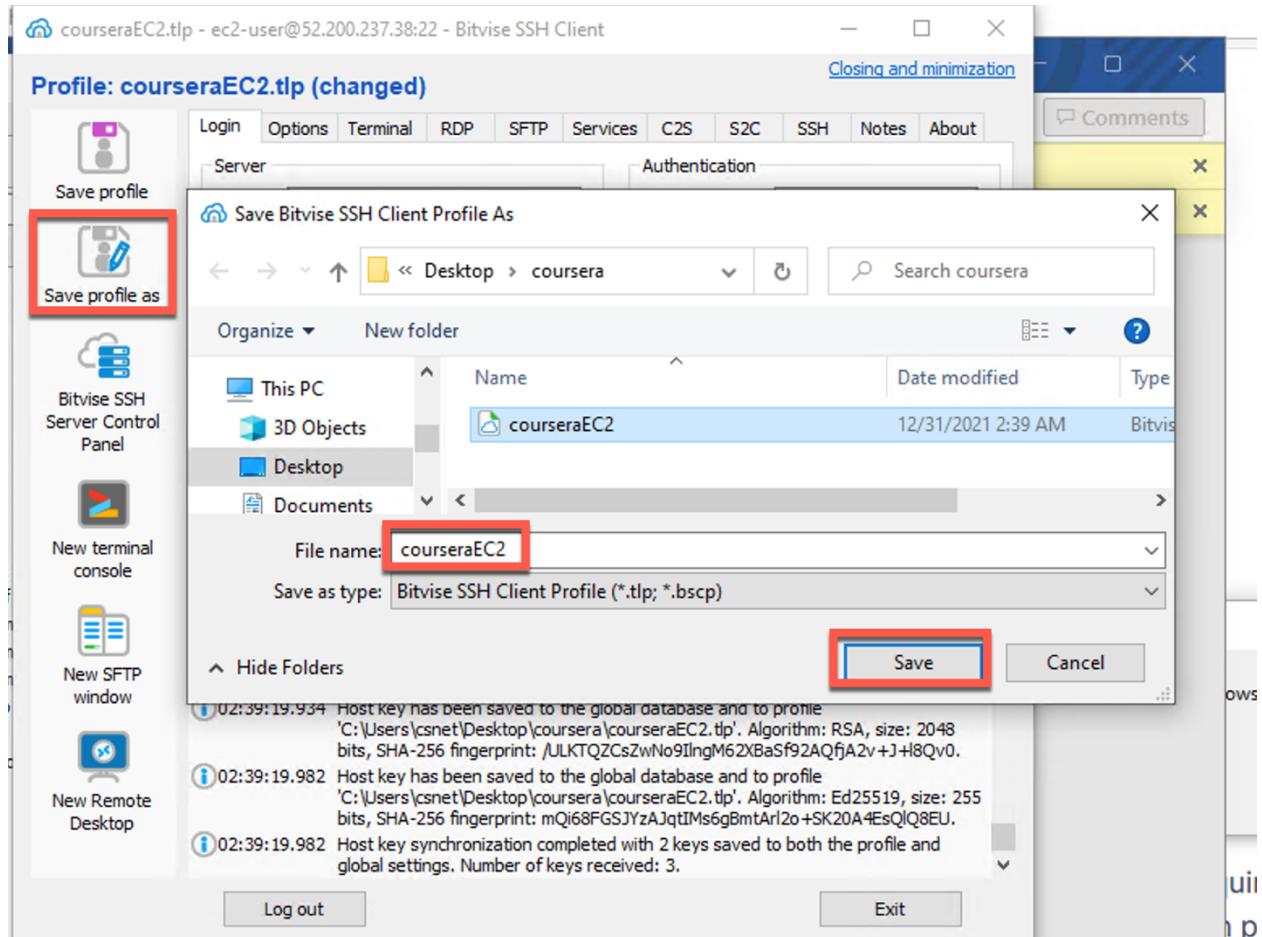


Figure 9. Save profile for future reference.

3.2.2 Option: Install putty SSH Client

3.2.3 Install putty SSH Client

The putty is also a popular command line interface app and can be downloaded at <https://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/latest.html> (choose the proper msi file). The current version is 0.76 as of 12/31/2021.

After download and install the putty app, you should see the following app installed on the



upper left corn or the desktop.

3.2.4. Follow the steps below to setup the private key for accessing your instance using putty.

Step 1. Use PuTTYgen app to convert the .pem file to .ppk private key format

The current putty version does not accept the .pem file format. Type puttygen into the Cortana box. Select PuTTYgen app.

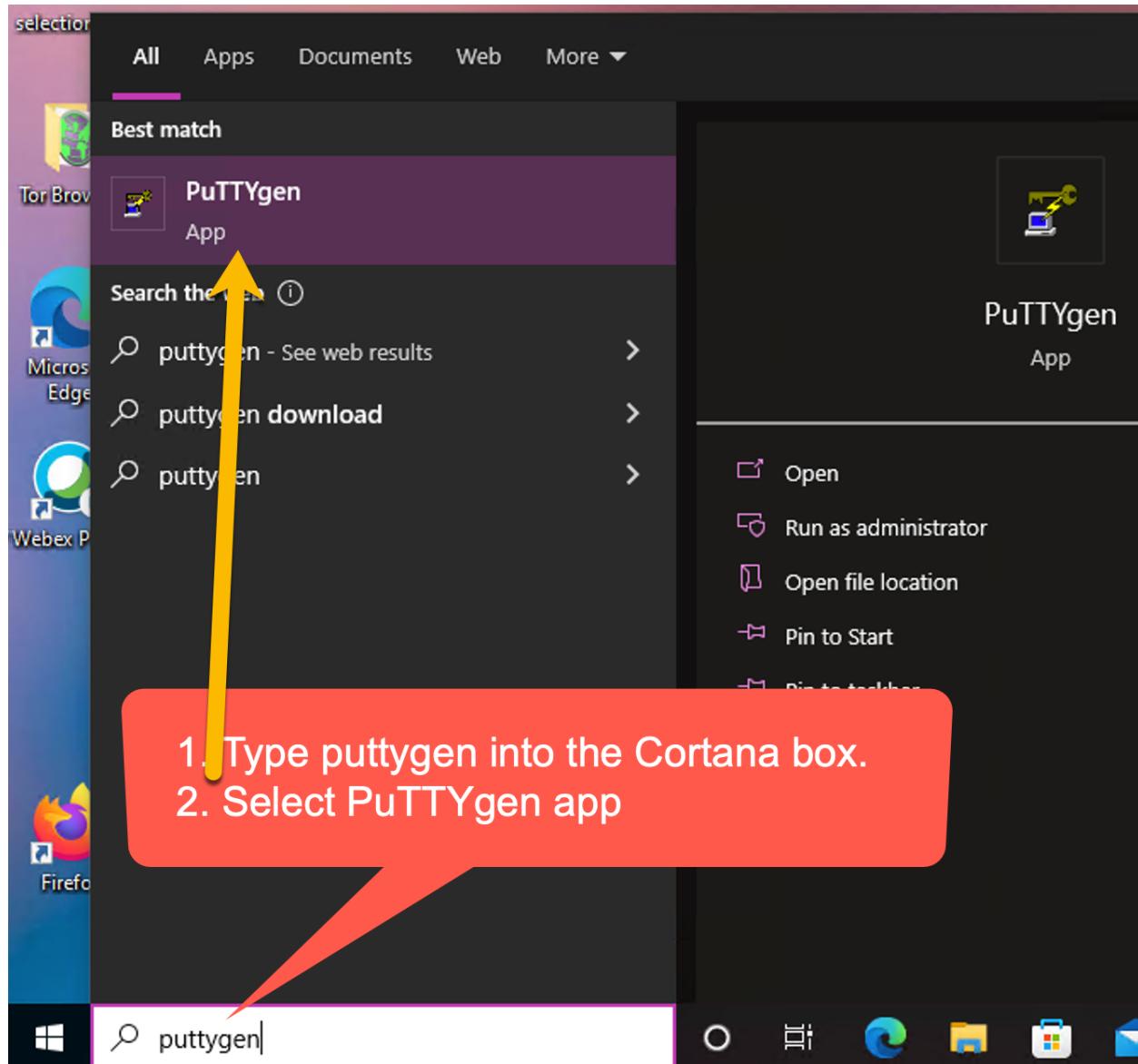


Figure 10. Open PuttyGen app.

Select Import key menuitem in Convert menu to conver the .pem file format to .ppk file format.

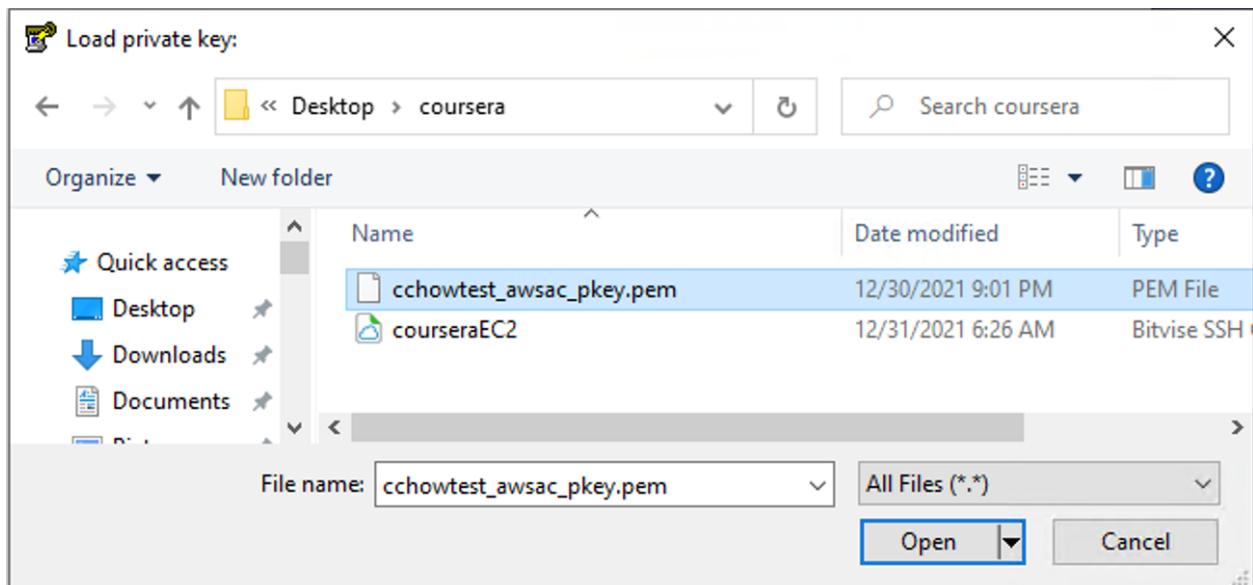
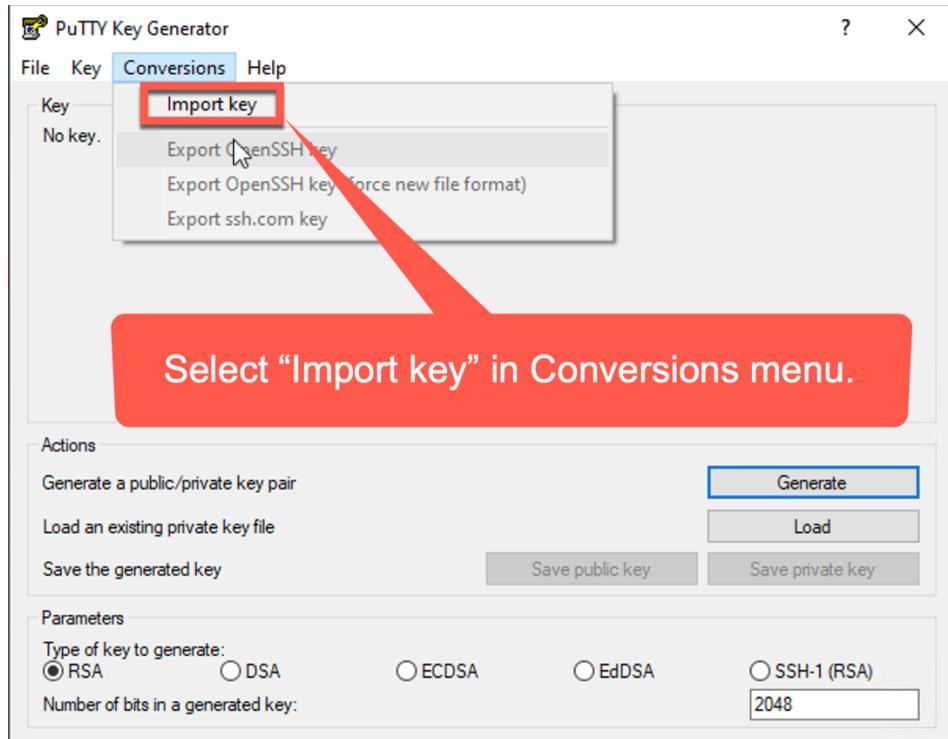
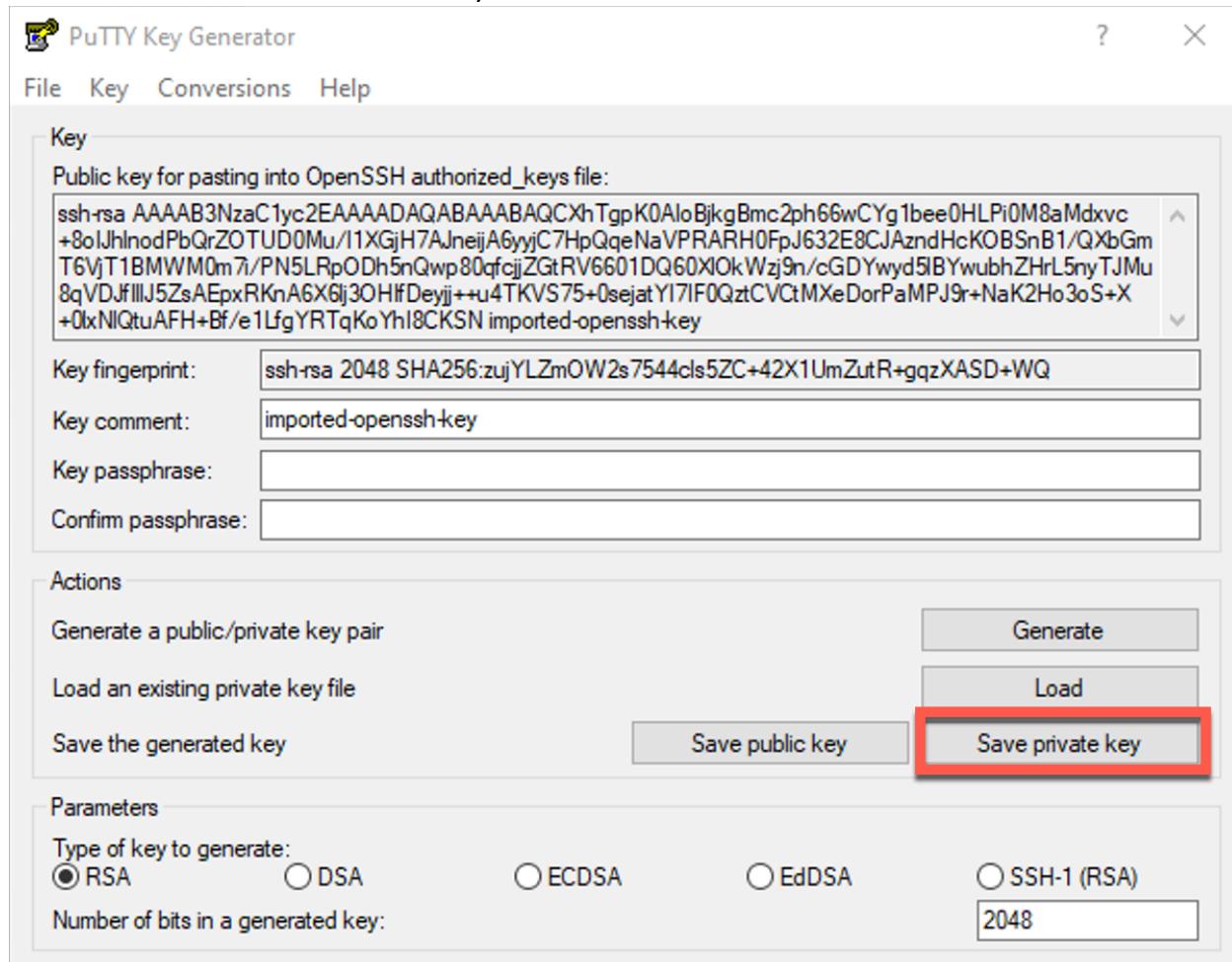


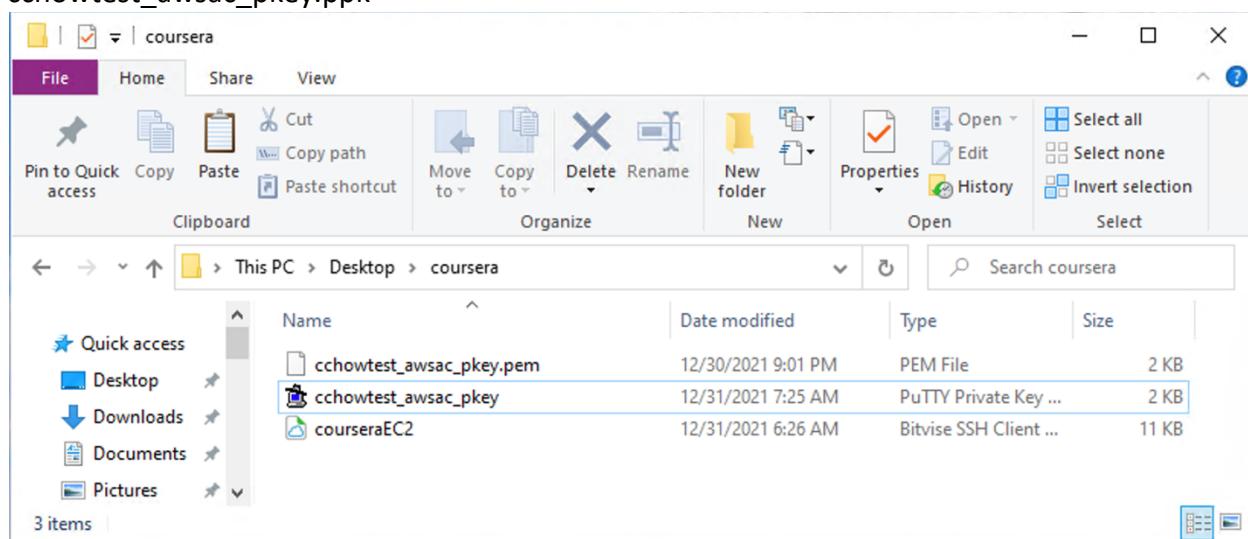
Figure 11. Choose Import key in Conversions menu.

After selecting the private key, the app converted the .pem file into .ppk file format.

We can click on the “Save Private Key” button to save the file.



Make sure you remove .pem in the filename. The result file name in our example is cchowtest_awsac_pkey.ppk



Step 2. Start putty app.

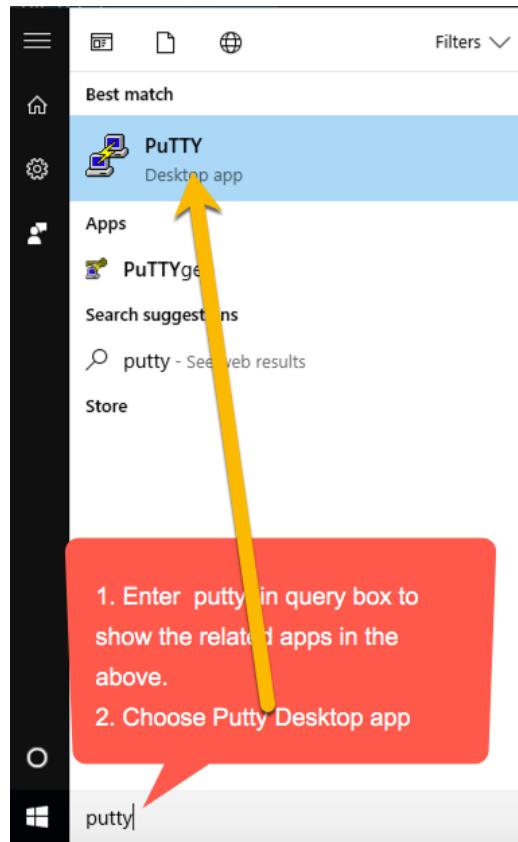


Figure 12. Launch putty app.

Step 3. Enter the public IP address in the Hostname or IP address field.

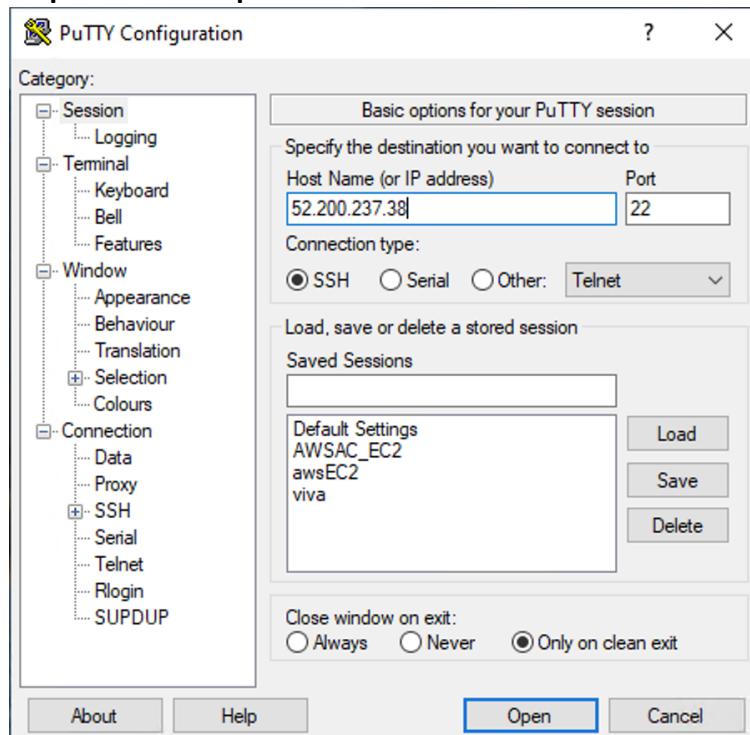


Figure 13. Specify Instance IP address and Clock Connection Data.

Step 4. Click **Connection > Data** in the left-hand navigation pane and set the Auto-login username to **ec2-user**. It is critical we set the username to ec2-user instead of root which shows in my putty set up tutorial.

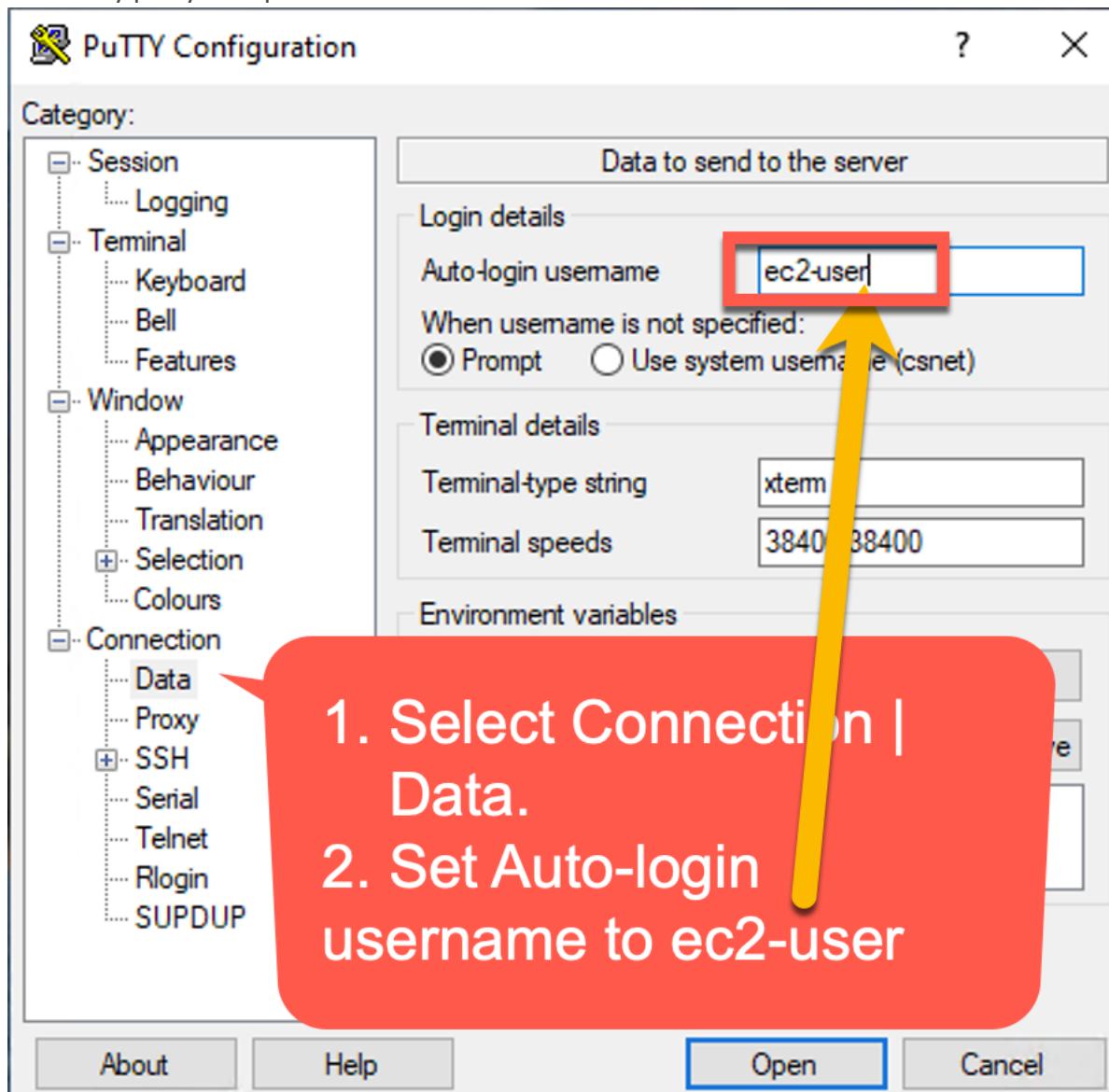


Figure 14. Set Autologin username to ec2-user.

Step 5. Click **Connection > SSH > Auth** in the left-hand navigation pane and configure the private key to use by clicking **Browse** under Private key file for authentication.

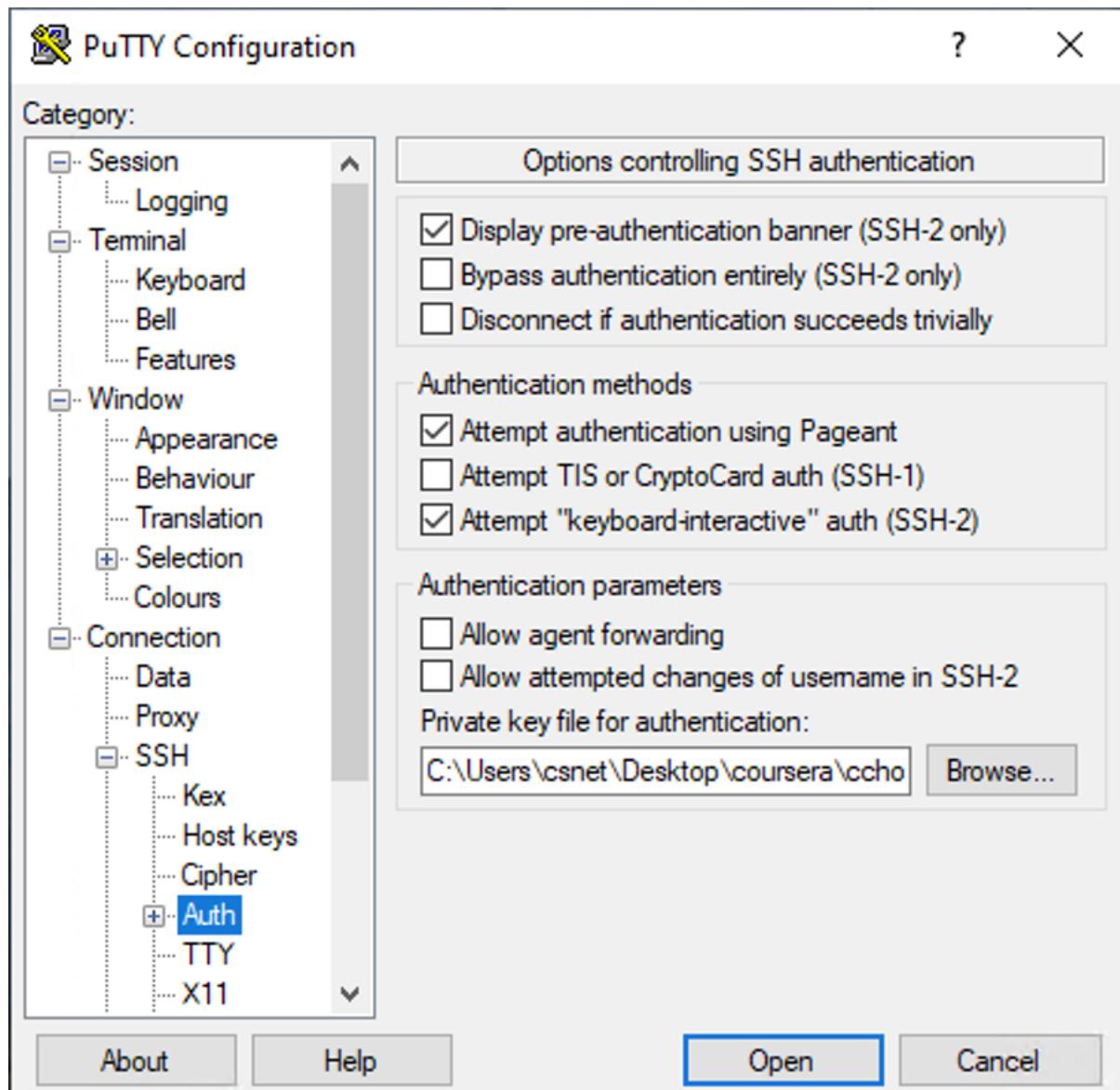


Figure 15. Set private key for the session.

When browsing to select the private key file, make sure you select the private key file in .ppk format which PuTTYgen generates for us.

See Figure 16.

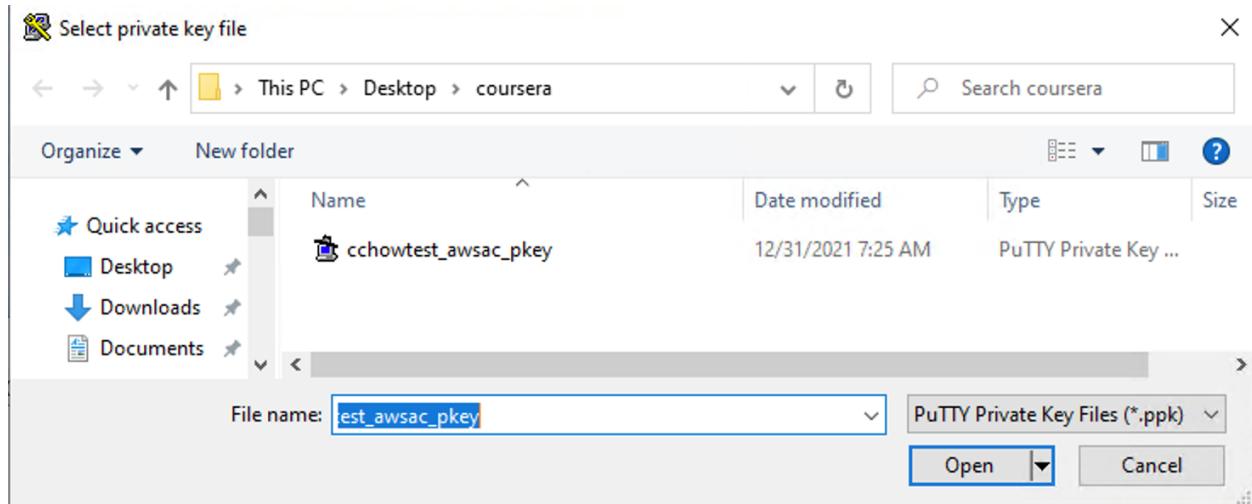


Figure 16. Select the private key file in .ppk file format.

Navigate to the location where you saved your private key earlier, select the file, and click **Open**.

The private key path is now displayed in the **Private key file for authentication** field.

Step 6. Click **Session** in the left-hand navigation pane and click **Save** in the Load, save or delete a stored session section.

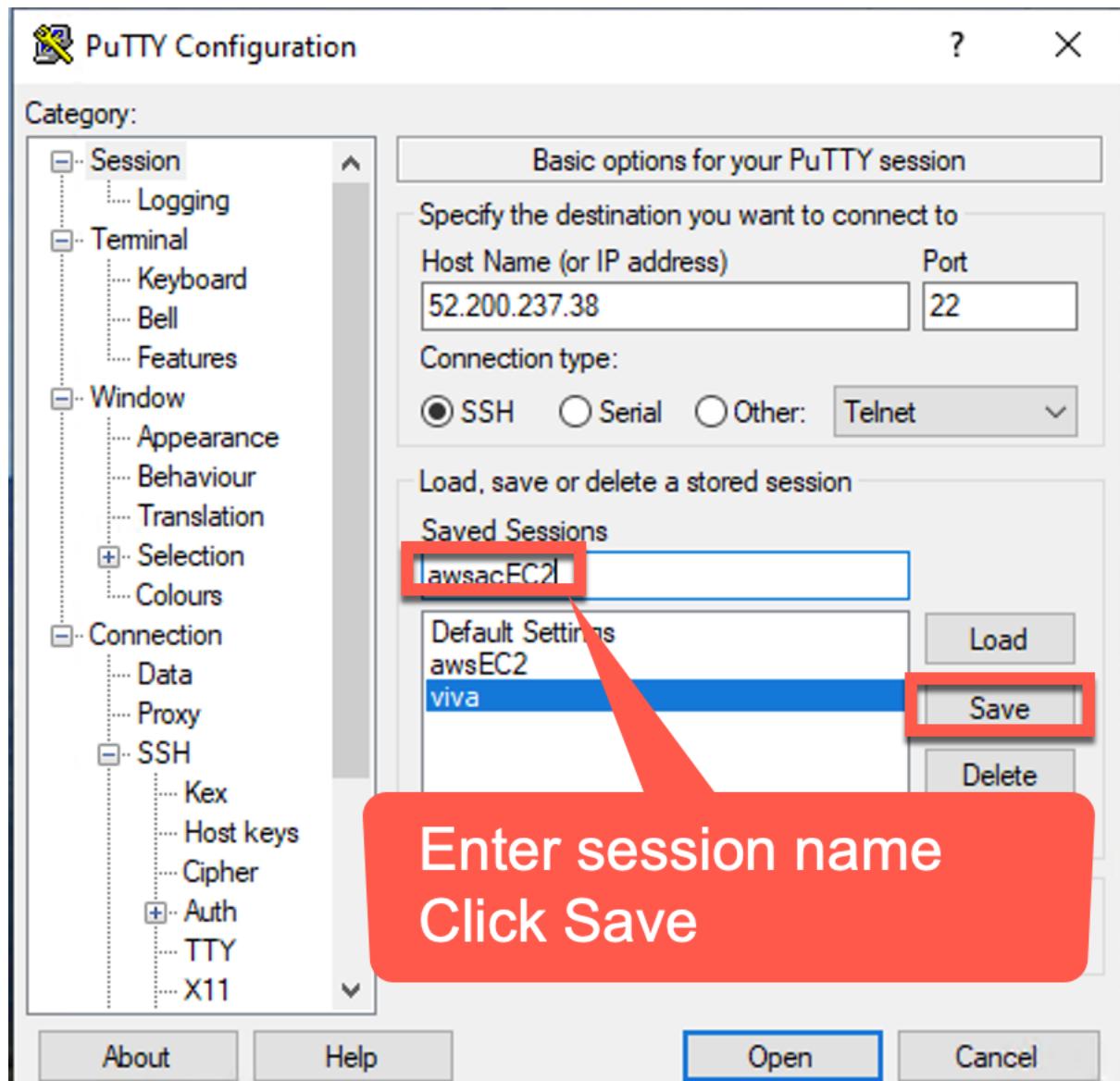
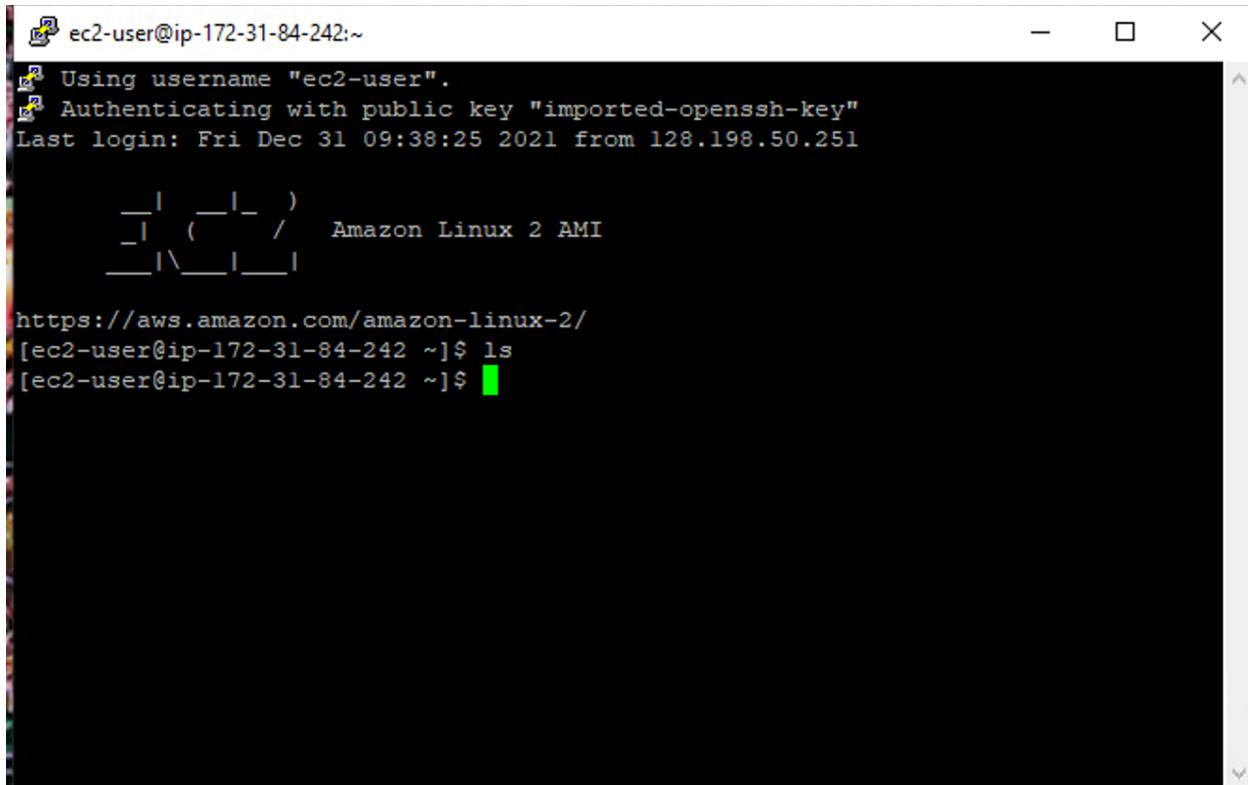


Figure 17. Save Session with awsacEC2 as session name for future usage.

Step 7. Click **Open** to begin your session with the server. See Figure 18 for a successful login to our instance.

A screenshot of a Putty terminal window. The title bar shows 'ec2-user@ip-172-31-84-242:~'. The terminal session displays the following text:

```
Using username "ec2-user".
Authenticating with public key "imported-openssh-key"
Last login: Fri Dec 31 09:38:25 2021 from 128.198.50.251
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-84-242 ~]$ ls
```

The text is white on a black background, with the Putty logo and the word 'Amazon' in the background.

Figure 18. Putty Terminal session to AMI Linux instance without login password.

3.3. What you do when you get “failed to connect” message?

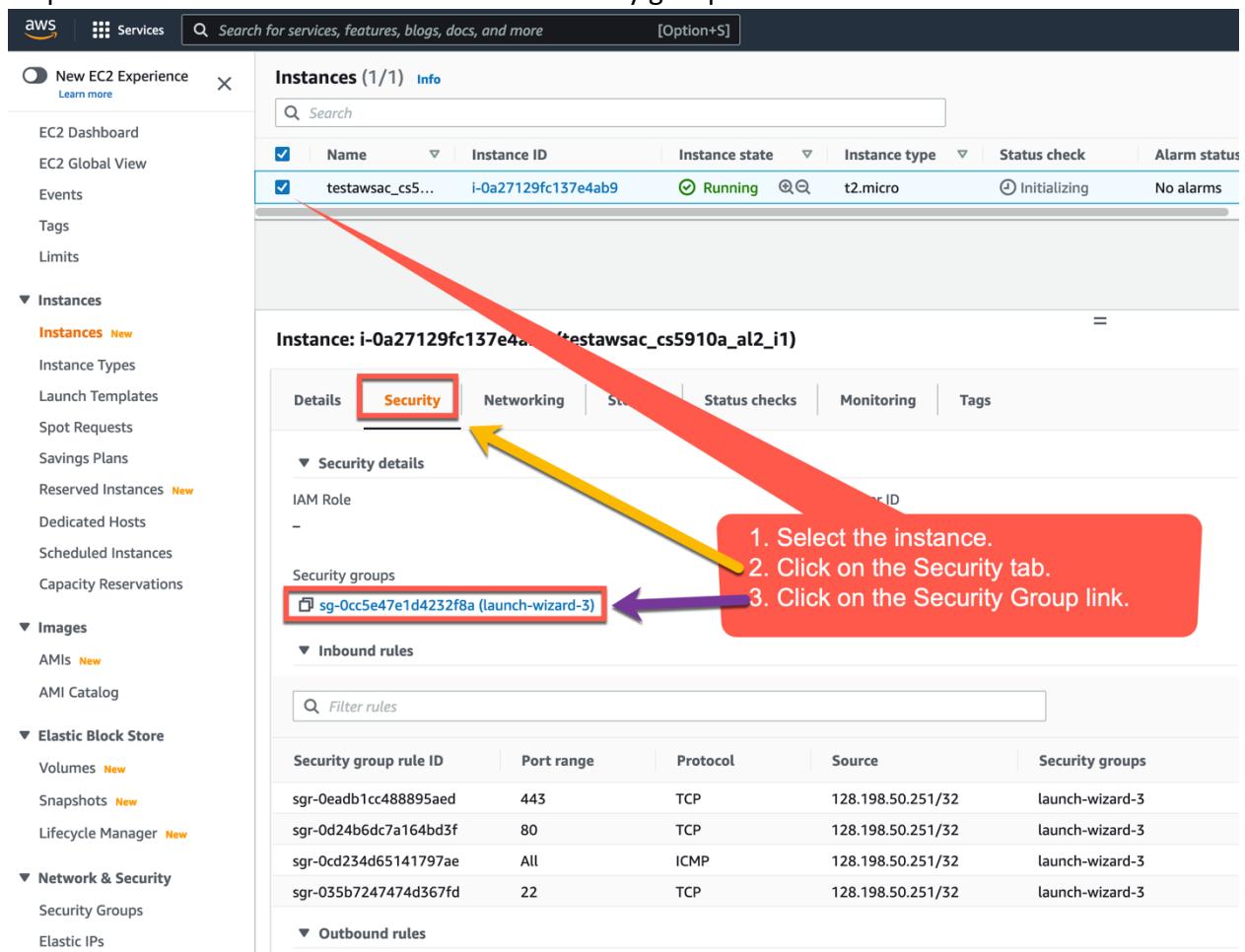
When your SSL terminal client failed to make connection to your AMI Linux server instance, there could be several reasons and some can be easily solved, others may take systematic diagnoses:

Possible Reason 1: You may not set the Source List of the security group of your instance properly.

The common situation is that we moved our client machine to a different subnet or location and was assigned with a different public IP address. In that case we need to reselect the “My IP” in the source column of all the related security group rules, so that the instance will accept the new connections coming from that new client location.

The security group specifies the firewall rules that govern the incoming or outgoing connection. The source list of the incoming firewall rules is particularly important and need to be configured correctly. It should include the current assigned IP address of your client machine. Without that, any connection from the client will be rejected. In Page 11 of Section 2.1.6. Step 6. Configure Security Group, we show how to add the current IP address of your client to the allowed connected Source List. Perhaps you missed the step. Here is how to add it after the instance is already created and running:

Step a. Select the instance and choose its security groups.



The screenshot shows the AWS EC2 Instances page. A red arrow points from the left sidebar to the instance table, highlighting the selection of an instance named "testawsac_cs5...". A yellow arrow points from the instance table to the "Security" tab in the instance details view. A purple arrow points from the "Security" tab to the "Security groups" section, where a red box highlights the link to "sg-0cc5e47e1d4232f8a (launch-wizard-3)". A callout box with the following steps is overlaid on the page:

1. Select the instance.
2. Click on the Security tab.
3. Click on the Security Group link.

Instance: i-0a27129fc137e4ab9 (testawsac_cs5910a_al2_i1)

Security **Networking** **Status** **Status checks** **Monitoring** **Tags**

Security details

IAM Role -

Security groups

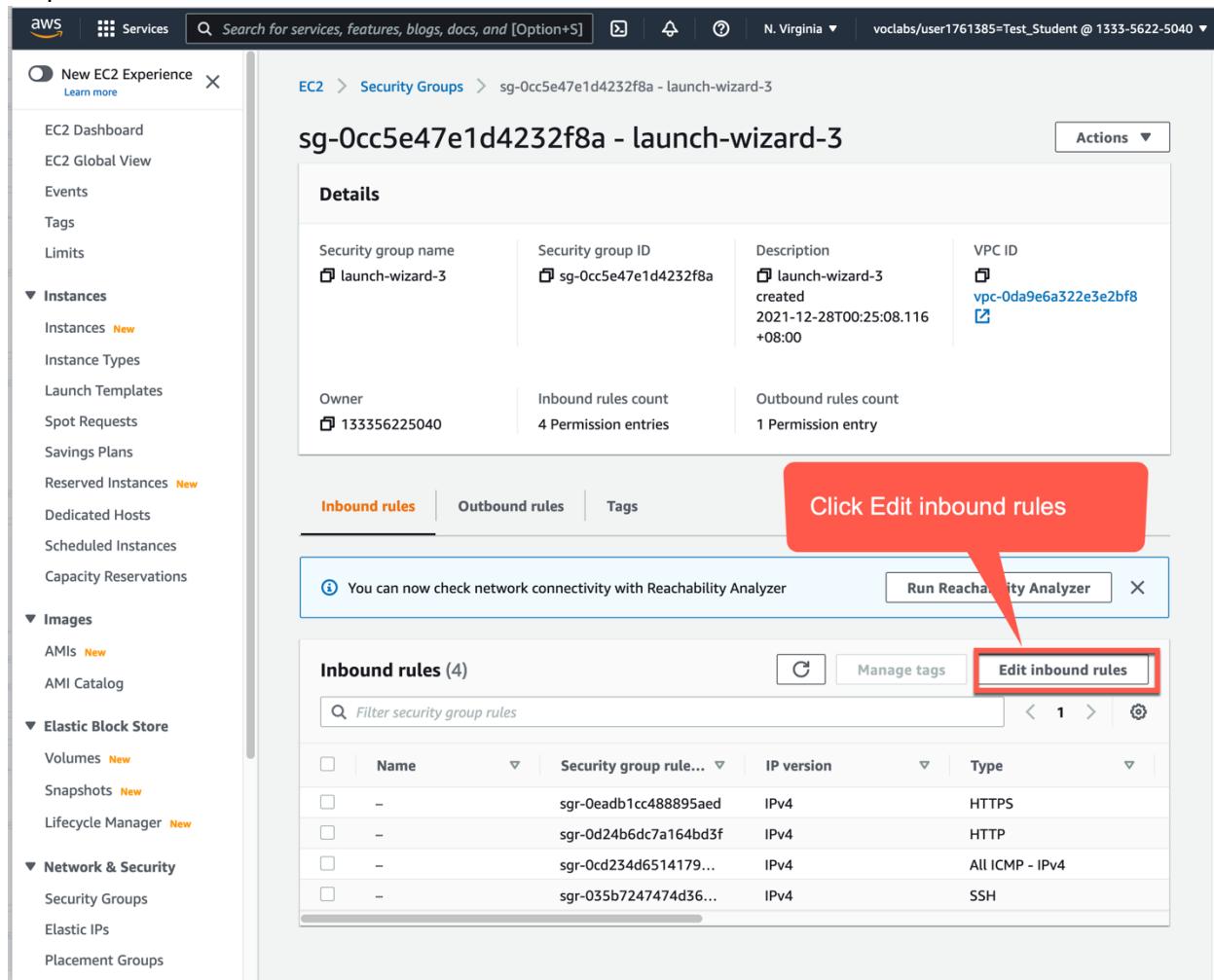
[sg-0cc5e47e1d4232f8a \(launch-wizard-3\)](#)

Inbound rules

Security group rule ID	Port range	Protocol	Source	Security groups
sgr-0eadb1cc488895aed	443	TCP	128.198.50.251/32	launch-wizard-3
sgr-0d24b6dc7a164bd3f	80	TCP	128.198.50.251/32	launch-wizard-3
sgr-0cd234d65141797ae	All	ICMP	128.198.50.251/32	launch-wizard-3
sgr-035b7247474d367fd	22	TCP	128.198.50.251/32	launch-wizard-3

Outbound rules

Step b. Edit inbound rules.



EC2 > Security Groups > sg-0cc5e47e1d4232f8a - launch-wizard-3

Details

Security group name launch-wizard-3	Security group ID sg-0cc5e47e1d4232f8a	Description launch-wizard-3 created 2021-12-28T00:25:08.116 +08:00	VPC ID vpc-0da9e6a322e3e2bf8
Owner 133356225040	Inbound rules count 4 Permission entries	Outbound rules count 1 Permission entry	

Inbound rules **Outbound rules** **Tags**

Click Edit inbound rules

Inbound rules (4)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Security group rule...	IP version	Type
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	sgr-0eadb1cc488895aed	IPv4	HTTPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	sgr-0d24b6dc7a164bd3f	IPv4	HTTP
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	sgr-0cd234d6514179...	IPv4	All ICMP - IPv4
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	sgr-035b7247474d36...	IPv4	SSH

Filter security group rules

Run Reachability Analyzer

Edit inbound rules

Step c. Set new My IP

Select "My IP" menu-item in each source of the inbound rules to specify your current client or the subnet of the client machines allowed to access

Security group rule ID	Type	Protocol	Port range	Source	Description - optional
sgr-0eadb1cc488895aed	HTTPS	TCP	443	My IP 114.46.162.93/32	
sgr-0d24b6dc7a164bd3f	HTTP	TCP	80	Custom 128.198.50.251/32	
sgr-0cd234d65141797ae	All ICMP - IPv4	ICMP	All	Anywhere-IPv4 128.198.50.251/32	
sgr-035b7247474d367fd	SSH	TCP	22	My IP 128.198.50.251/32	

Add rule Cancel Preview changes Save rules

Possible Reason 2. Use wrong private key or the app can not find the right private key. Check if the private key you configured is associated with the creation of the related instance. Often we found a wrong private key is used, when there are multiple private keys for multiple instances. For Mac or Linux client, when you use ssh command with -i option, make sure you are in the right directory that contains the related private key.

Possible Reason 3. There is potential Internet outage between you and the AWS region. Make sure you get response from a server in the same AWS region of your instance. In our case, for learners using AWS Academy free service, they can use command “ping -c 2 rds.us-east-1.amazonaws.com” or access web page <https://rds.us-east-1.amazonaws.com> and see if you get response. If not, you can systematically check if it is the network problem between your machine and the AWS region. Starting from ping your local residential gateway such as 192.168.0.1, and see if you can reach a known internet site you often visit.

4. Install LAMP Server Package

Many of our cybersecurity exploit examples can be illustrated with a server system installed with Linux Apache MySQL PHP (LAMP) server package. Follow the following steps in this web page to set up LAMP servers on our new instance. We remote login to our AWS instance to run the related system configuration commands. It will take about 25 minutes to complete the whole process, including the installation of phpMyAdmin to manage the MySQL server through php web pages.

<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/ec2-lamp-amazon-linux-2.html>

Note that in the above web page, it does not provide detailed info in setting up and running a httpd server that supports for HTTPS (HTTP Secure) which protect your data with SSL/TLS encryption. To add that support, please follow the instruction in the web page

<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/SSL-on-amazon-linux-2.html>

Use the following yum command to install the mod_ssl package for HTTPS.

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-84-242 ~]$ yum install mod_ssl.x86_64
```

...

Here we run the four commands in the instance to create and set up certificate and private key for the web server.

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-84-242 ~]$ cd /etc/pki/tls/certs  
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-84-242 certs]$ sudo ./make-dummy-cert localhost.crt  
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-84-242 certs]$ sudo vi /etc/httpd/conf.d/ssl.conf
```

Using the editor we comment out Line 107 by adding # as the first character in that line, similar to the one below.

```
#SSLCertificateKeyFile /etc/pki/tls/private/localhost.key
```

The reason we do that is the localhost.crt combines the certificate and private key created using the make-dummy-cert. In this simple set up, they are combined in a single file. Normally we separate certificate and private key into two separate files and also saved in different directories for better protection.

```
[ec2-user@ip-172-31-84-242 certs]$ sudo systemctl restart httpd
```

A related LAMP installation session was captured and saved in
<http://ciast.uccs.edu/coursera/pub/LAMPInstallationSession.pdf>
for your reference.

5. Create Project Web Page and Verify Access

The AMI Linux instance is installed with Apache web server and the default web site is located in /var/www/html.

Task 1. Create default web page.

For this project and to test the access control of web access to instances, we like to uniquely identify the web server by creating a default web page with the following simple content as /var/www/html/index.html.

```
<h1>This is the Apache web server created by <your email address> for CS5910 Coursera Specialization</h1>
```

where <your email address> is the one you used for your Coursera account. Note that you have control over the access to this web server. Only you and your peer reviewers will have accessed to this web page.

Verify Web Access

Type <https://<your instance IP address>/> in the firefox browser of your local machine to verify if the default web page is up. Here replace the <your instance IP address> with the IP address of the instance you set up. In my case, it is.

Capture the browser image of your default web page as myWebSite.png similar to Figure 19c below.

Deliverable of Project 1a: Submit the above captured firefox browser image of the default web site of the instance as deliverable for Project 1a.

Note that the web browser will warn the web access is not secure, since the certificate presented by the web server is self-signed, not signed by a public Certificate Authority (CA). On firefox browser, click “Advanced” and then “Add Exception...” followed by “Confirmed Security Exception”.

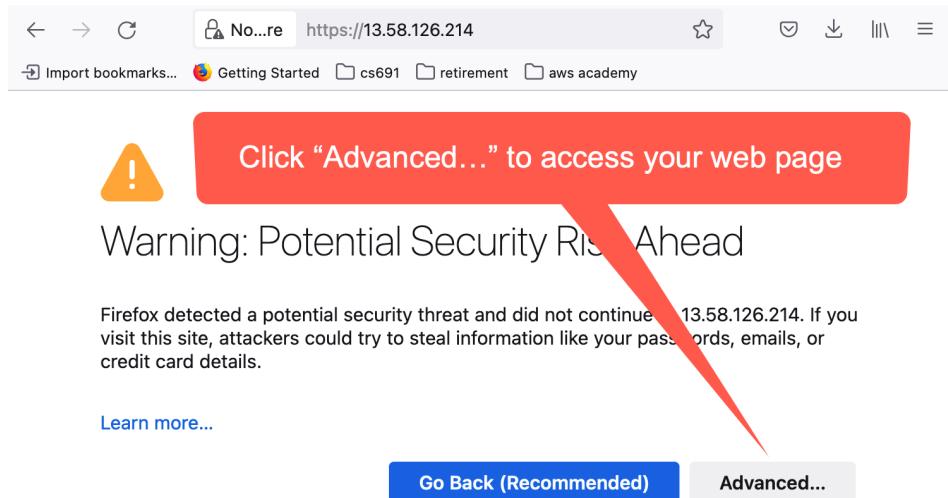


Figure 19a. Brower warns the potential man-in-the middle attack.

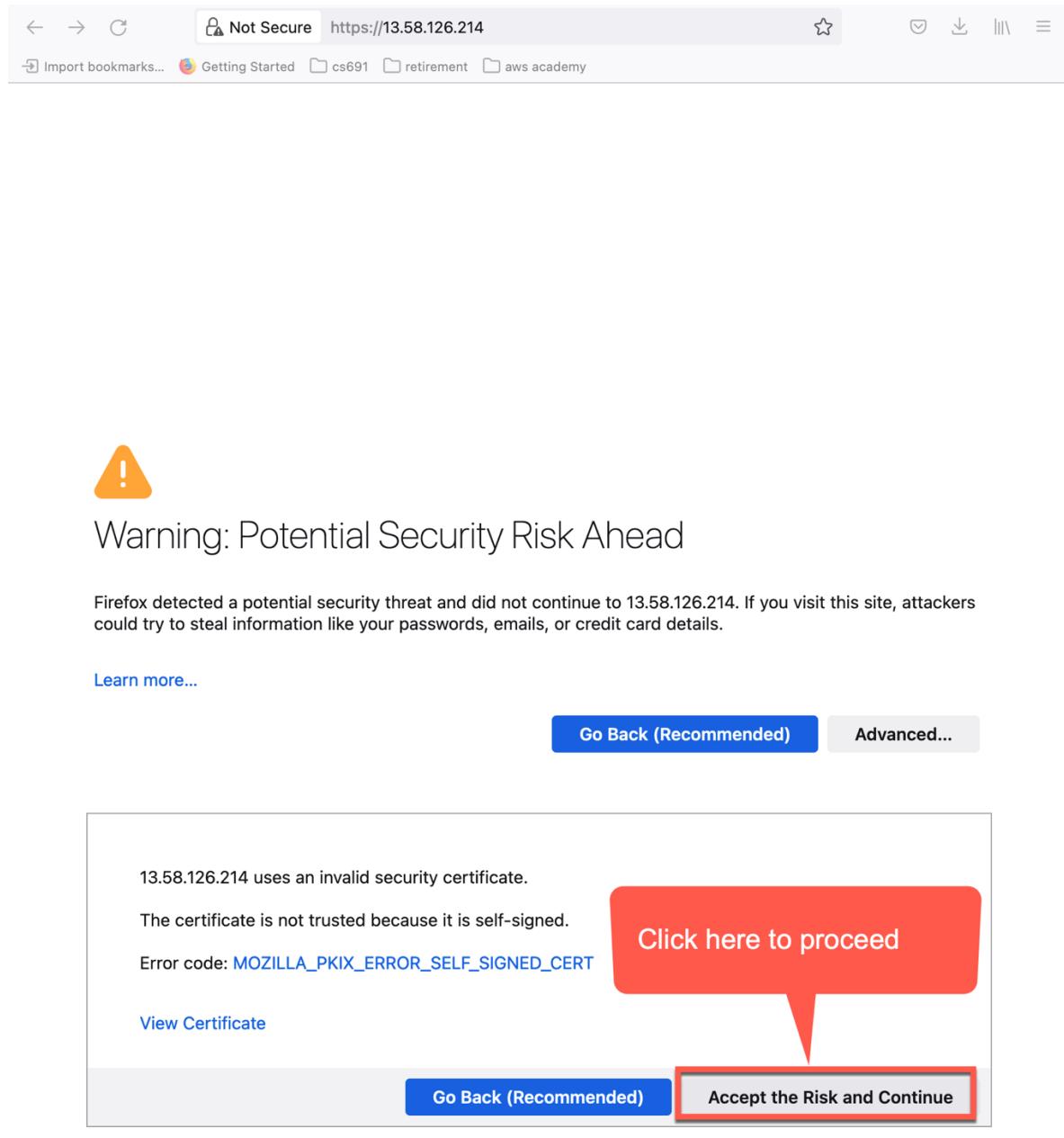


Figure 19b. Choose to access the default web page even with warning.



Figure 19c. Https access to the default web page with warning.

Make sure you finish your session by clicking the “End Lab”. The results is to shutdown the AWS session. The green icon to the right of “AWS” button will be changed to red color.

