**Lab. Getting Started with Amazon Web Services (AWS)**

Amazon Web Services (AWS) is a cloud computing platform provided by Amazon.com. Web services can also be understood as cloud services or remote computing services. To make sure the system robust, AWS is geographically diversified into regions. These regions have central hubs in Eastern USA, Western USA, Brazil, Ireland, Singapore, Japan, and Australia.

## Create AWS account

### Sign Up for AWS

When users sign up for Amazon Web Services (AWS), the AWS account is automatically signed up for all services in AWS, including Amazon EC2. Open <http://aws.amazon.com>, then click Sign Up.

### Create a Key Pair

AWS uses public-key crypt to secure the login information for users’ instance. A key pair can be created using Amazon EC2 console.

* Open the Amazon EC2 console.
* From the navigation bar, select a region for the key pair. Then select any region that's available to you. However, key pairs are specific to a region
* Click **Key Pairs** in the navigation pane.
* Click **Create Key Pair**.
* Enter a name for the new key pair in the **Key pair name** field of the **Create Key Pair** dialog box, and then click **Create**.
* The private key file (.pem) can be downloaded and should be saved in a safe place.

## Launch an Amazon EC2 Instance

### Launch a Windows Instance

You can launch a Windows instance using the AWS Management Console as described below. An instance is a virtual server in the AWS cloud. With Amazon EC2, you can set up and configure the operating system and applications that run on your instance.

* Open the Amazon EC2 console.
* From the navigation bar, select the region for the instance.
* On the console dashboard, click **Launch Instance**.
* The **Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)** page displays a list of basic configurations (AMIs) that serve as templates for your instance.
* On the **Choose an Instance Type** page, you can select the hardware configuration for your instance.
* Click **Review and Launch** to let the wizard complete the other configuration settings.
* On the **Review Instance Launch** page, select the security group that you created through following steps:
* Click **Launch**.
* In the **Select an existing key pair or create a new key pair** dialog box, you can select **Choose an existing key pair**, to select a key pair you already created.
* A confirmation page lets you know that your instance is launching. Click **View Instances** to close the confirmation page and return to the console.
* On the **Instances** page, you can view the status of the launch. It takes a short time for an instance to launch. (**pending**🡪**Public DNS**)
* Record the public DNS name for your instance because you'll need it for the next step.

### To connect to your Windows instance

* In the Amazon EC2 console, select the instance, and then click **Connect**.
* In the **Connect To Your Instance** dialog box, click **Get Password**.
* Click **Browse** and navigate to the private key file you created when you launched the instance. Select the file and click **Open** to copy the entire contents of the file into contents box.
* Click **Decrypt Password**. The console displays the default administrator password for the instance in the **Connect To Your Instance** dialog box, replacing the link to **Get Password** shown previously with the actual password.
* Record the default administrator password, or copy it to the clipboard. You need this password to connect to the instance.
* Click **Download Remote Desktop File**. Your browser prompts you to either open or save the .rdp file. Either option is fine. When you have finished, you can click **Close** to dismiss the **Connect To Your Instance** dialog box.
* When prompted, log in to the instance, using the administrator account for the operating system and the password that you recorded previously.