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DAY 02 | PART 1

Launch a Windows Server on AWS EC2

Tour the console, learn the words you will hear every day, and launch your first cloud computer.

Free tier | AMI | Key pair | Security group

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Launch a Windows Server on AWS EC2

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1. Say what EC2 is in plain words
2. Use the words AMI, instance type, key pair, security group and region correctly
3. Pick a Windows AMI and a free-tier instance size
4. Create a key pair and allow the right port
5. Launch the instance and wait for 2/2 checks

CORE IDEA

EC2 in plain words

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EC2 = Elastic Compute Cloud

You rent a computer from Amazon, over the internet, and pay only for the time you use it. No shop visit, no hardware, ready in about two minutes.

Think of it like this

Buying a laptop is buying a house. EC2 is renting a hotel room: book it when you need it, check out when done.

Instance

One running cloud computer (a virtual server). Every time you click Launch you get one instance.

AMI

Amazon Machine Image: the ready-made template with the operating system pre-installed (Windows, Linux...).

CORE IDEA

Words you will hear again and again

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Instance type

How much CPU and RAM. We use t2.micro / t3.micro (1 CPU, 1 GB RAM) because it is free-tier eligible.

Key pair

A lock + key set. AWS keeps the lock; you keep the key file (.pem). It proves you are you.

Security group

A virtual firewall. It lists which ports are open and from where.

Region

The part of the world where your server lives. We use Asia Pacific (Mumbai) - ap-south-1.

HANDS-ON

The big picture: six steps from zero to login

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1. Pick the Region (Asia Pacific - Mumbai) in the top-right of the console
2. Click Launch instance and give the server a name
3. Choose the AMI: Microsoft Windows Server 2022 Base (free-tier eligible)
4. Choose the instance type t3.micro / t2.micro and create or select a key pair
5. Network settings: allow RDP (port 3389) in the security group
6. Click Launch instance and wait for Running and 2/2 checks passed

PRO TIP Windows uses RDP on port 3389. Linux uses SSH on port 22. If the wrong port is open, the connection simply times out.

REFERENCE

Security group rules at a glance

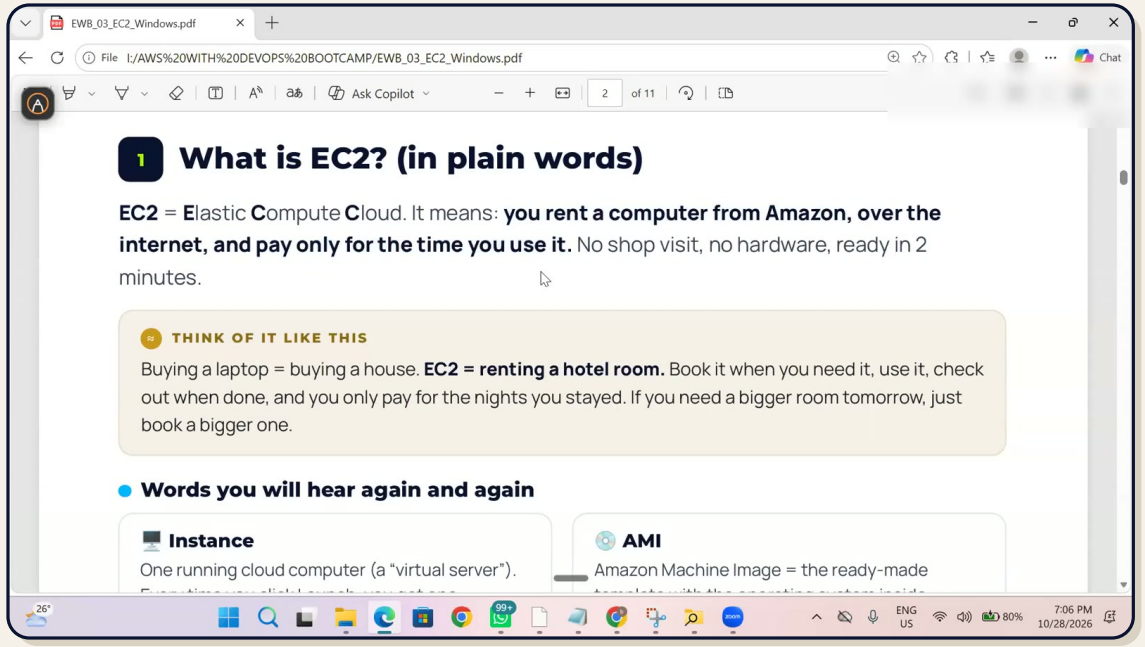
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FIELD	WHAT IT MEANS	VALUE FOR WINDOWS
Type	The protocol shortcut	RDP
Protocol / Port	How the data travels	TCP / 3389
Source type	Who is allowed in	Anywhere (0.0.0.0/0) for practice
Better in real jobs	Limit the door to your own address	My IP only

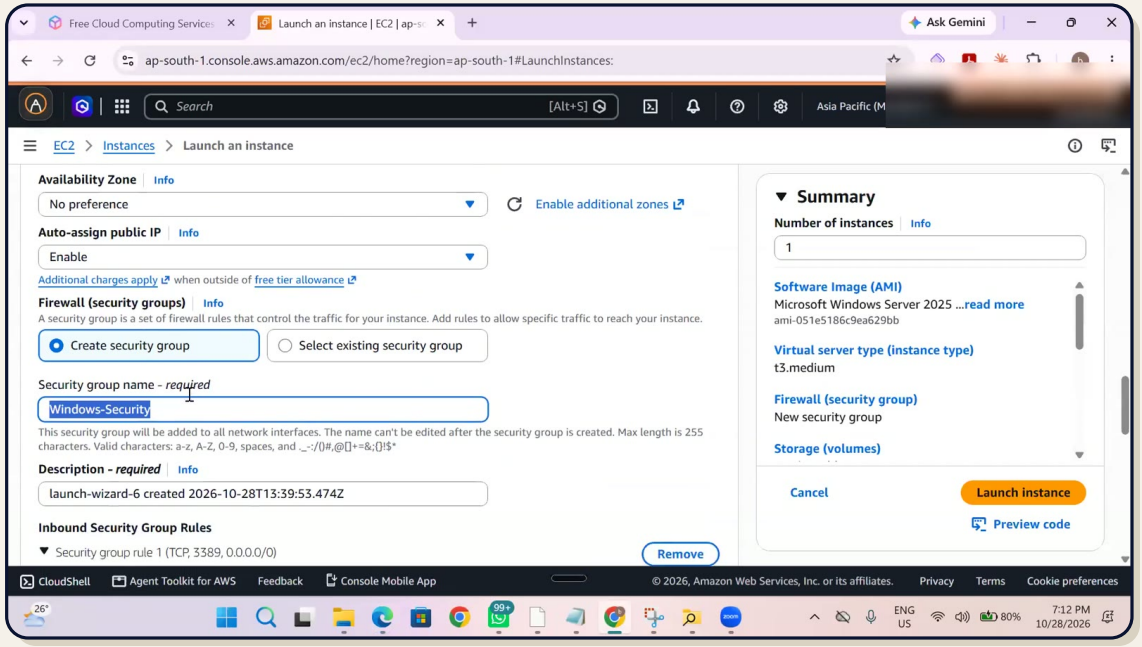
REMEMBER 0.0.0.0/0 means anyone in the world can try to connect. It is fine for a class demo, never for a real production server.

FROM THE CLASS

From the console to a running server



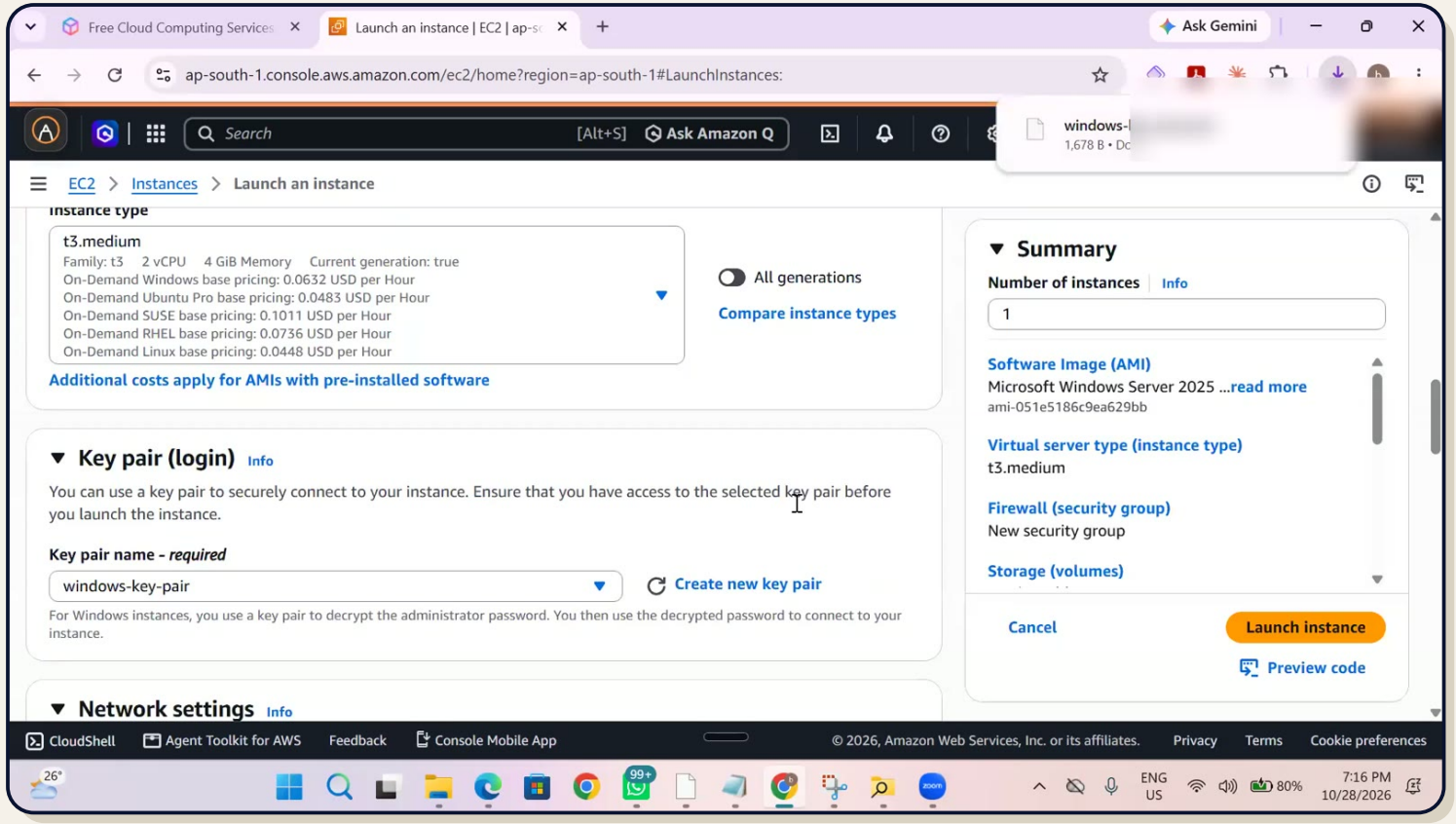
The EC2 'What is EC2?' notes opened next to the console



Launch instance wizard: name, AMI and instance type

FROM THE CLASS

Key pair and launch settings



A moment from the recording for this part.

Key pair

Create it once, download the .pem, and keep it safe - AWS will not show it again.

Free-tier label

Look for 'Free tier eligible' beside the AMI and instance type before you click Launch.

Summary panel

The right-hand panel repeats your choices. Read it before launching.

QUICK RECAP

What to remember

- EC2 is a rented computer; an instance is one running copy
- An AMI is the template, the instance type is the size
- The key pair proves your identity; the security group controls the doors
- Windows = RDP port 3389, Linux = SSH port 22
- Always check the Free tier eligible label

PRACTICE

Practice questions

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Q1 Which port must be open for a Windows EC2 instance?

A. 22
B. 80
C. 3389
D. 443

Q2 What does the AMI provide?

A. Network speed
B. The operating system template
C. The key file
D. The bill

Q3 What is a key pair used for?

A. Billing
B. Proving who you are
C. Cooling the server
D. Choosing Region

Q4 Which size is used for the free tier in class?

A. m5.large
B. t2.micro / t3.micro
C. c5.xlarge
D. r5.large

PRACTICE

Practice questions - answers

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Q1 Which port must be open for a Windows EC2 instance?

Answer: C. 3389

Windows uses RDP on port 3389. Port 22 is SSH for Linux.

Q2 What does the AMI provide?

Answer: B. The operating system template

An AMI is the ready-made template with the OS installed.

Q3 What is a key pair used for?

Answer: B. Proving who you are

AWS keeps the public lock, you keep the private key.

Q4 Which size is used for the free tier in class?

Answer: B. t2.micro / t3.micro

t2.micro / t3.micro has 1 vCPU and 1 GB RAM and is free-tier eligible.