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DAY 02 | PART 4

Launch a Linux Server on AWS EC2

The simple idea behind Linux on EC2, the launch wizard, and the three ways to connect.

Amazon Linux | ec2-user | SSH port 22

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Launch a Linux Server on AWS EC2

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1. Explain Linux on EC2 in one sentence
2. Launch an Amazon Linux 2023 instance
3. Create a .pem key pair for Linux
4. Allow SSH (port 22) in the security group
5. Compare the three ways to connect

CORE IDEA

Linux on EC2 - the simple idea

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No screen, no mouse

A Linux EC2 is a cloud computer you control by typing commands from your own laptop, using a safe tunnel called SSH.

Think of it like this

Windows = a TV with a remote. Linux = a walkie-talkie: you speak (type commands) and it answers with text.

Amazon Linux

AWS's own Linux, tuned for EC2. Great for beginners. Default user: ec2-user.

SSH

Secure Shell - the safe way to type commands on a remote machine. Uses port 22.

HANDS-ON

Launch the Linux instance

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1. EC2 > Launch instance and name it (for example my-linux-server)
2. AMI: Amazon Linux 2023 (Free tier eligible)
3. Instance type: t2.micro / t3.micro
4. Key pair: create a new RSA pair, format .pem, and download it
5. Network settings: allow SSH traffic (port 22)
6. Launch instance, wait for Running and 2/2 checks passed

PRO TIP Windows keys use RDP 3389; Linux keys use SSH 22 - same console, different door.

COMPARE

Three ways to connect - choose one

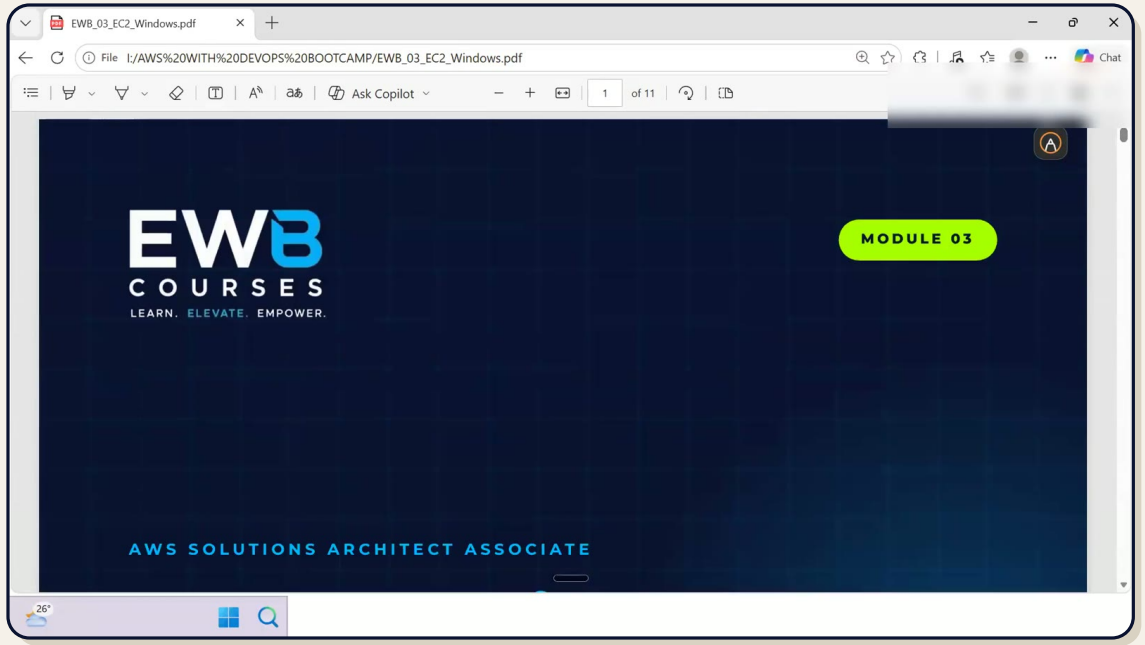
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METHOD	NEEDS KEY FILE?	BEST FOR
A. PuTTY (Windows)	Yes - .ppk	Classroom practice, saved sessions
B. EC2 Instance Connect (browser)	No	Quickest test, no software
C. Command line (CMD / PowerShell / Git Bash)	Yes - .pem	Real-world DevOps habit

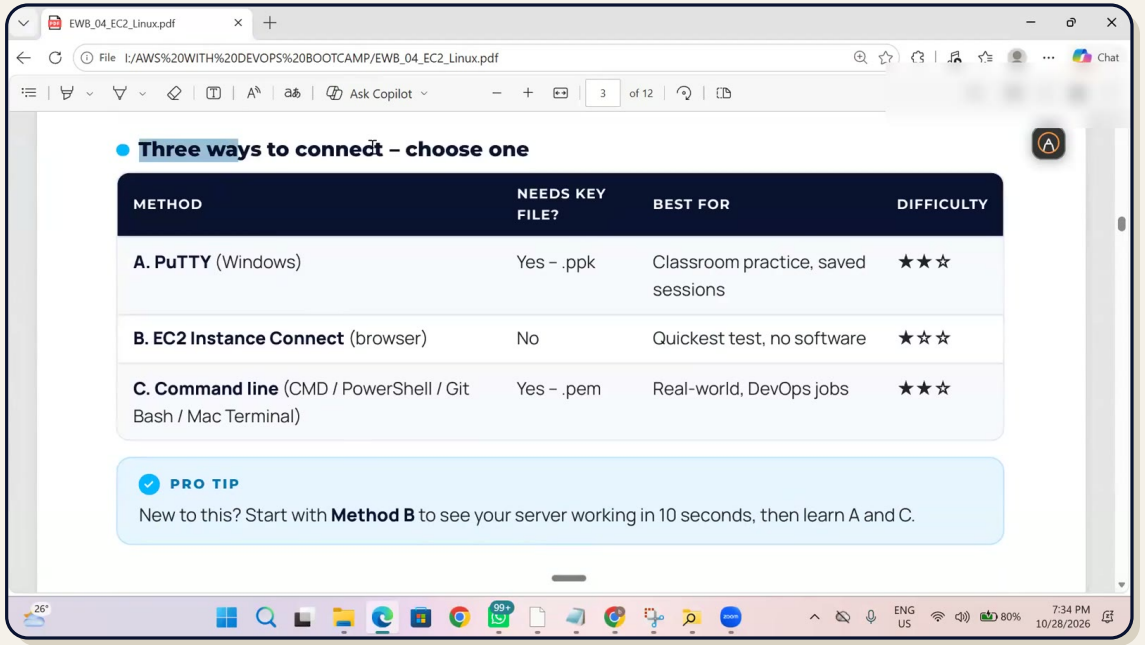
REMEMBER New to this? Start with the browser method to see your server working in 10 seconds, then learn A and C.

FROM THE CLASS

From notes to a running Linux server



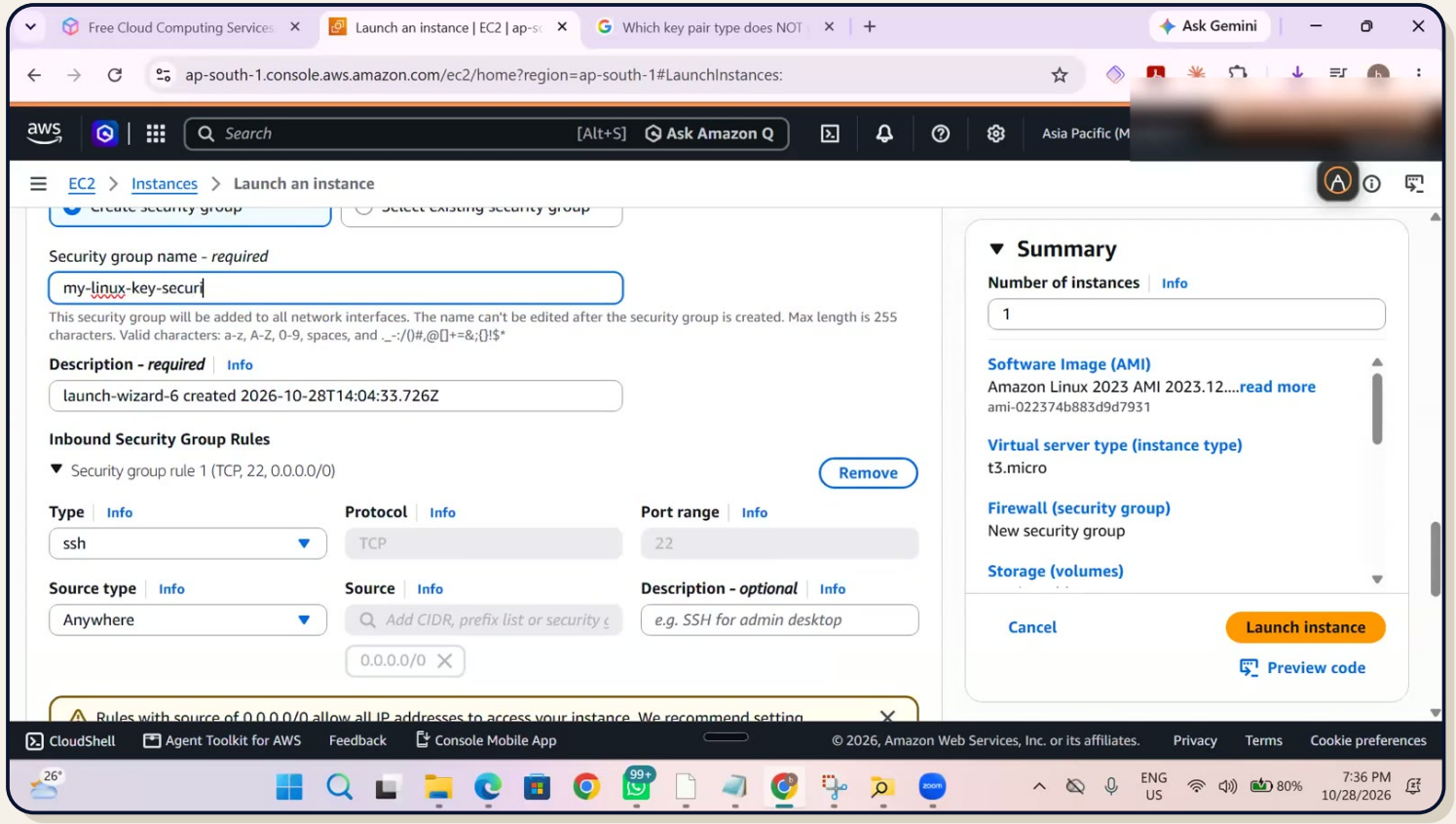
Launch a Linux server - the class notes



Launch instance wizard with the Linux name and AMI

FROM THE CLASS

Choosing how to connect



A moment from the recording for this part.

Browser first

EC2 Instance Connect needs no software or key file - great for a first test.

PuTTY next

Converts the .pem to .ppk and saves your session.

CLI last

Needs the .pem permissions fixed, but is what you will use at work.

QUICK RECAP

What to remember

- Linux EC2 = commands over SSH, no desktop
- Amazon Linux user name is ec2-user
- Open port 22 for SSH
- Three ways to connect: PuTTY, browser, command line

PRACTICE

Practice questions

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Q1 Which port does SSH use?

A. 21
B. 22
C. 80
D. 3389

Q2 What is the default user on Amazon Linux?

A. root
B. admin
C. ec2-user
D. ubuntu

Q3 Which method needs no key file?

A. PuTTY
B. Command line
C. EC2 Instance Connect
D. None

Q4 What file format does PuTTY need?

A. .pem
B. .ppk
C. .txt
D. .zip

PRACTICE

Practice questions - answers

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Q1 Which port does SSH use?

Answer: B. 22

SSH = port 22.

Q2 What is the default user on Amazon Linux?

Answer: C. ec2-user

Amazon Linux uses ec2-user.

Q3 Which method needs no key file?

Answer: C. EC2 Instance Connect

Instance Connect pushes a temporary key for you.

Q4 What file format does PuTTY need?

Answer: B. .ppk

PuTTY uses .ppk (convert with PuTTYgen).