

# Amazon Web Services Hands-On VPC

# VPC Hands-On Lab

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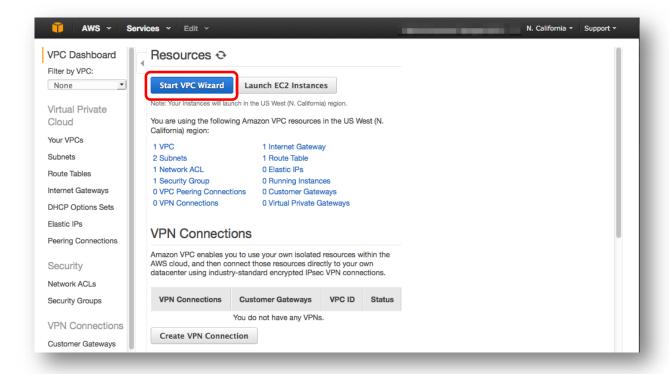
# **Overview**

This lab will walk the user through using the VPC wizard to create a multi-subnet VPC, describe each of the objects created by the wizard, and launch instances into public and private VPC subnets. The following is high-level overview of this lab:

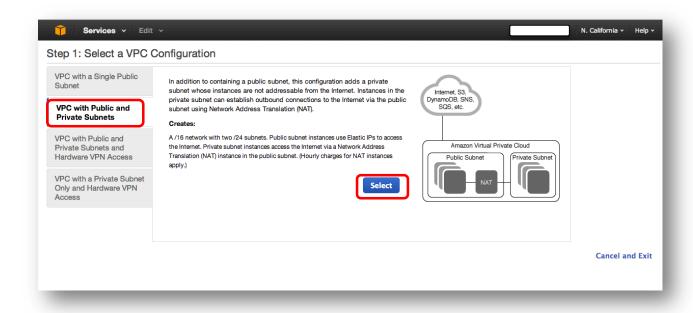
- Create a VPC
- Explore the different VPC objects and what they mean
- Launch EC2 instances into the VPC
- Assign a public IP address (EIP) and test public/private connectivity

# **Create a VPC**

Log into the **AWS Console**, click on **VPC** to go to VPC console and select the **Start VPC Wizard** button to launch the VPC creation wizard.

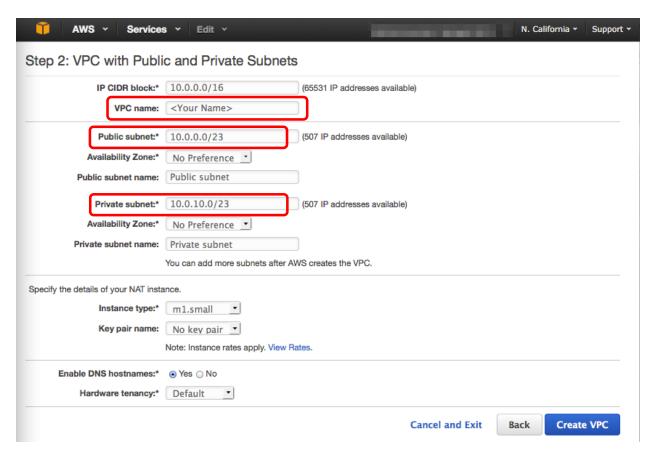


Select the second option to create a **VPC with Public and Private Subnets** and click **Select**. Note in the picture that the wizard will automatically create and launch an EC2 "NAT" instance to serve as a gateway for your private subnets to make client connections to the Internet. We will discuss this instance in more detail later in this lab.

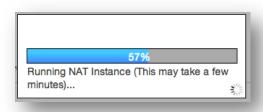


On the summary page, edit the **VPC name** and the default **Public and Private Subnets** as follows, and then click **Create VPC**:

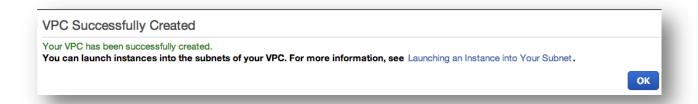
VPC name: <Your Name>
Public Subnet: 10.0.0.0/23
Private Subnet: 10.0.10.0/23



We are modifying the defaults to provide plenty of room to grow within each subnet (507 available IPs) to accommodate the use of additional Amazon Web Services such as ELB or RDS in VPC, as well as providing some room between the "public" and "private" subnet blocks to accommodate expansion to include multiple Availability Zones in the future as well.

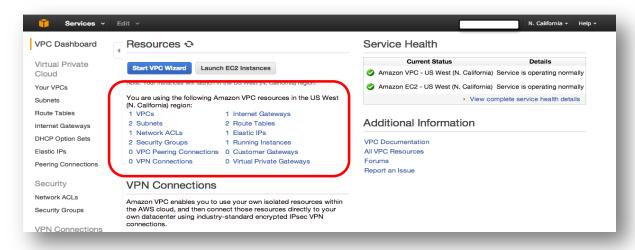


The VPC wizard will create your subnet and let you know when it has been successfully created. Behind the scenes, the wizard is creating and launching the NAT instance. Click OK when it's done



## **VPC Object Walkthrough**

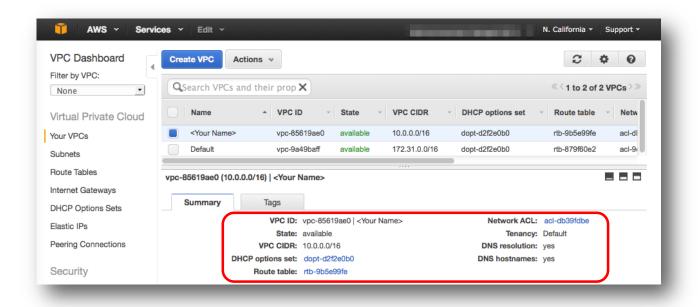
After your VPC was created, you may notice that several things have been created for you as depicted in the screenshot below. The next set of steps will walk you through the various VPC objects and components that were created for you by the VPC Wizard.



## **Your VPCs**

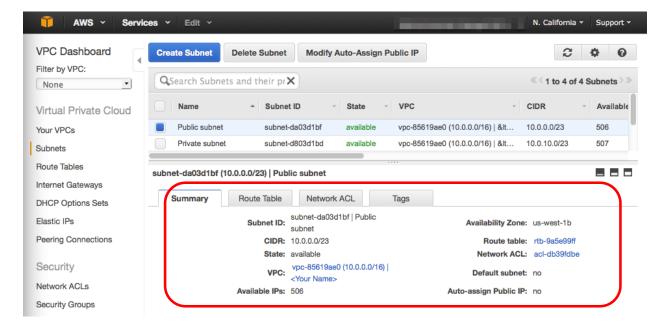
The **Your VPCs** link provides a list of your VPCs and is a good location to obtain the VPC ID for your VPCs. If you create multiple VPCs, they will be listed here. Clicking on the VPC that was just created will bring up details about the VPC like the IP address block (CIDR), DHCP Options Set, Route Table, Network ACL, Hardware Tenancy (whether VPC physical hardware will be shared [default] or dedicated to you) and DNS configuration information.

Also note the presence of a Default VPC listed in the **Your VPCs** display. As of December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, we create a default VPC for you in each region. The default VPC includes a subnet per availability zone, a default security group, an Internet gateway, and other networking elements. For the purposes of this lab, we will ignore the Default VPC and focus on the VPC's created as part of the lab exercise.

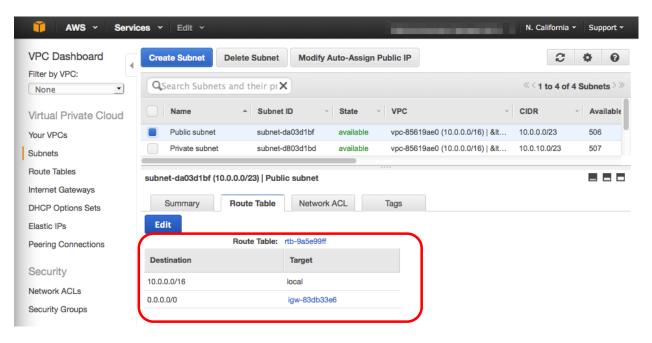


## **Subnets**

The **Subnets** link lists all of your VPC subnets and allows you to create additional subnets within your VPC with the **Create Subnets** button. Notice that two subnets were created because we asked the VPC Wizard to create both a public and private subnet. Clicking on a subnet will bring up subnet details including its subnet address range (CIDR), availability zone, and associated route table and network ACLs. Clicking on tabs underneath brings up relevent info about the subnet. For example, clicking on Route Table tab brings up routing information.

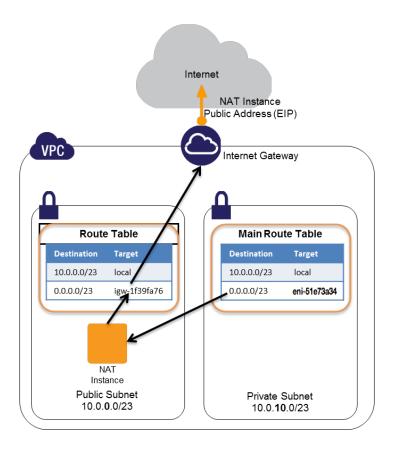


Click on Route Table tab and notice that this subnet's default route (0.0.0.0) is the Internet Gateway (described below in the Internet Gateway section). Internet Gateways can be identified by "igw" prefix in its ID. This route makes this subnet your "public" subnet because it is publically routable through the Internet Gateway.



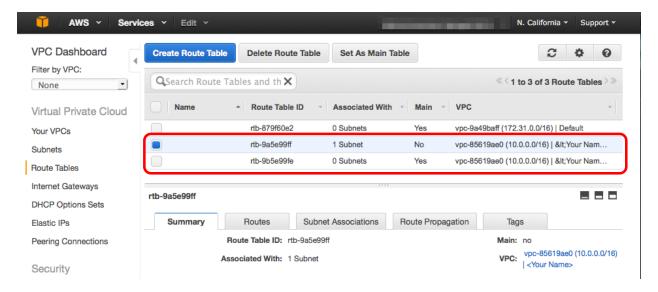
If you click on the second subnet you will notice a different routing table.

This subnet's default route (0.0.0.0) is another EC2 Instance's Elastic Network Interface (ENI). This EC2 instance is the NAT instance and is described in detail below. The network interface attached to the NAT instance can be identified by the "eni-" prefix in its ID. This route makes this subnet your "private" subnet because it is not publically routable through the Internet Gateway. Instead, all client connections to the Internet are directed to, and proxied by, your NAT instance in the "public" subnet. The following diagram depicts these subnets that were created for you:



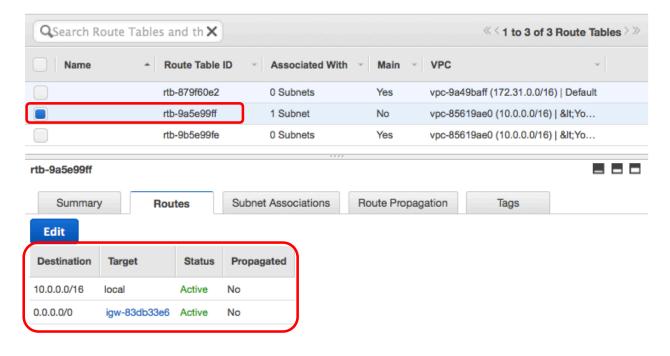
#### **Route Tables**

The **Route Tables** link lists all of your VPC route tables, allows you to modify and associate the route tables to subnets, and allows you to create additional route tables within your VPC with the **Create Route Table** button. Notice that two route tables were created by the VPC Wizard, and these are the same route tables that were displayed in the subnet details in the previous section. Notice the **Main** and **Associated With** columns. The subnet designated as the "Main" subnet (Main = Yes) is the default route table for the listed VPC. This means that all subnets that are not explicitly associated with a more specific route table will use this route table by default. The Associated With column displays number of subnets explicitly associated with the route table.



Notice that only 1 of the 2 subnets created with the VPC is associated with a route table. The second subnet is not explicitly associated with a route table and is therefore using the "Main" route table (rtb-9b5e99fe).

Clicking on a route table will bring up details about the route. Clicking on Routes tab underneath will bring up routing info as well as the ability to modify the route table's routes by clicking on **Edit** button. Similarly you can view or modify Subnet Associations, Route Propagation and Tag information pertaining to the selected route.



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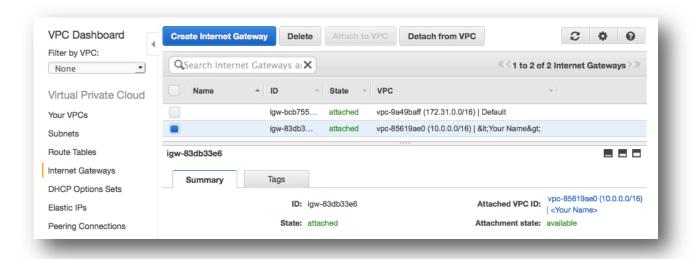
Notice that the selected route table (rtb-9a5e99ff) is NOT the Main route table (Main = No) and its default route (0.0.0.0) is the Internet Gateway (igw-83db33e6). This means your "public" subnet is explicitly associated with this route table (click on the Subnet Associations tab to verify this). If you select the second route table, you will see the default route (0.0.0.0) is your NAT instance.

So what does all this mean? By default, the VPC Wizard created two subnets and two route tables. The "public" subnet is associated with a route table that directs traffic by default out to the Internet. The "private" subnet is not associated with a specific route table and therefore inherits the Main route table rules which directs traffic by default to the NAT instance in the "Public" subnet.

One more thing to note: The rules in the Main route table determine how subnets will be treated by default. Since the Main route table is a "private" route table (it does not route any traffic to the Internet Gateway), all new subnets created in this VPC will be "private" subnets by default. They will remain "private" until they are explicitly associated with a "public" route table (e.g. one that routes traffic directly to the Internet Gateway).

# **Internet Gateways**

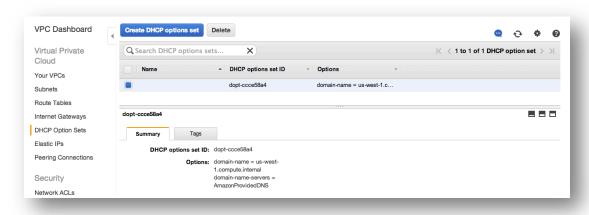
An Internet Gateway provides 1-to-1 static network address translation (NAT) mapping for your VPC instance internal IP addresses to publically routable Elastic IP addresses that you must explicitly associate with your "public" VPC instances. For the purposes of this lab, the VPC Wizard created an Internet Gateway and associated it with your VPC.



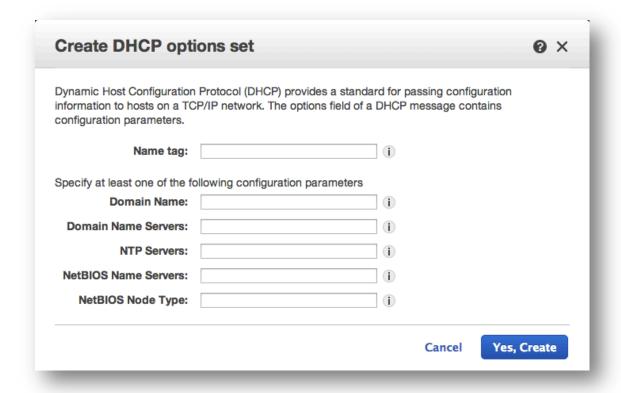
You do not need to do anything specifically with the Internet Gateway in this lab. We point it out here to explain the Internet Gateway that was created for you, and to point out that Internet Gateways can be independently created, attached and detacted to VPCs. This allows you to add or remove the Internet Gateway capabilities to your VPCs after the VPC has been created.

# **DHCP Options Sets**

The **DHCP Options Sets** link allows you to control some DHCP options that the VPC provided DHCP service will present to your instances when they boot. By default the VPC Wizard created a DHCP Options set that tells your VPC instances to use the AWS provided DNS service for domain name resolution.

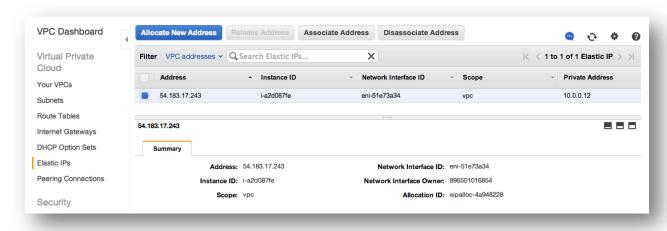


VPC allows you to create and attach new DHCP Options to your VPCs including setting your domain name, domain name (DNS) servers, time (NTP) servers, and Microsoft Windows NetBIOS name servers and node type. The following screenshot depicts how these options can be configured when creating a new DHCP Options Set.



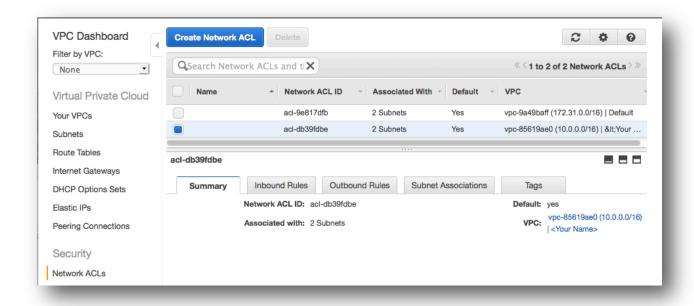
#### **Elastic IPs**

VPC Elastic IPs are static, publically routable IP addresses that you can associate with your VPC Instances. Although you have not launched any VPC instances yet, the VPC Wizard launched a VPC NAT instance, created a public Elastic IP address, and associated the EIP with the NAT instance on your behalf. You can see this EIP and association by clicking on the **Elastic IPs** link and selecting the Address.



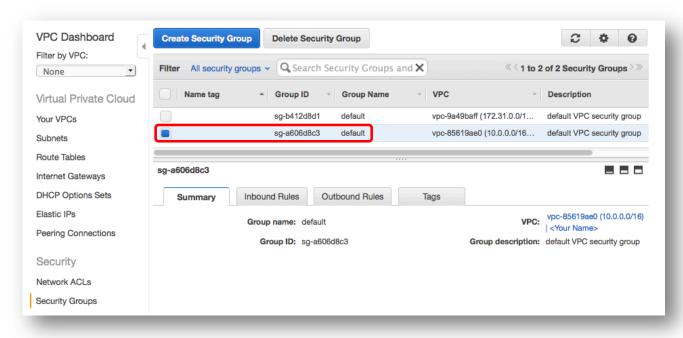
#### **Network ACLs**

Network Access Control Lists (NACLs) act as a subnet *stateless* firewall, controlling ingress and egress for an entire subnet (as a second layer of defense on top of security groups). If you click on the **Network ACLs** link you will see that the VPC Wizard created a single "default" NACL for your VPC with a default Allow ALL rule. Since NACLs are stateless, we recommend using NACLs only when you want to explicitly deny traffic. For example, we never want to use TFTP or "this" subnet should never be able to talk to "that" subnet.



# **Security Groups**

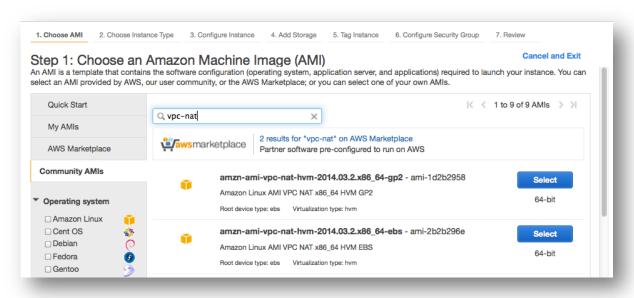
At this point you should already be familiar with EC2 Security Groups and understand the difference between <a href="EC2">EC2 and VPC Security Groups</a>. The **Security Groups** link allows you to see your VPC Security Groups. Notice that the VPC Wizard created Security Group for you called "default".



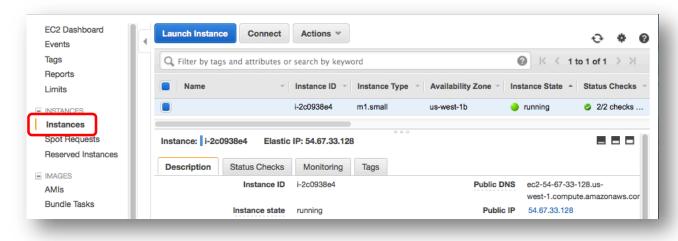
#### **NAT Instance**

So far we have mentioned a NAT instance several times during this walkthrough. In any private network (such as a corporate or home network), Internet clients must pass through a device that will translate "private" (internal, non-Internet routable) addresses to a "public" (external, Internet routable) address for routing over the Internet. At home this is typically some sort of wireless router and at work it is typically a corporate firewall or web monitoring proxy server. At its most basic level, this device or service provides a 1-to-many mapping where many private clients masquerade as a single public address. A NAT instance provides this capability within a VPC, allowing multiple private instances to indirectly make outbound client connections to the Internet without requiring individual public IPs. There is nothing overly special about the VPC Wizard provided NAT instance. Technically it is simply an Amazon Linux instance with IP masquerading enabled using iptables. You can find the most recent AMIs

by searching AWS public AMIs for "VPC-nat".

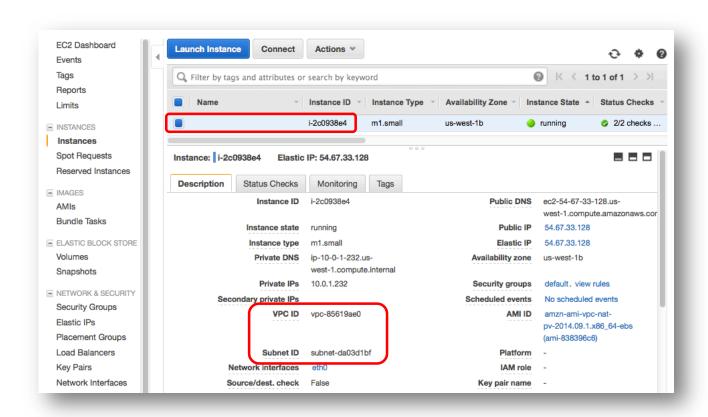


To view the NAT instance, you must unfortunately leave the VPC tab, go to the **EC2 Tab** in the AWS Management Console and click on the **Instances** link.

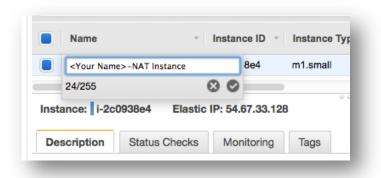


Locate the NAT instance. The most effective way to locate the NAT instance is to search by its instance ID. We discovered this ID previously in the

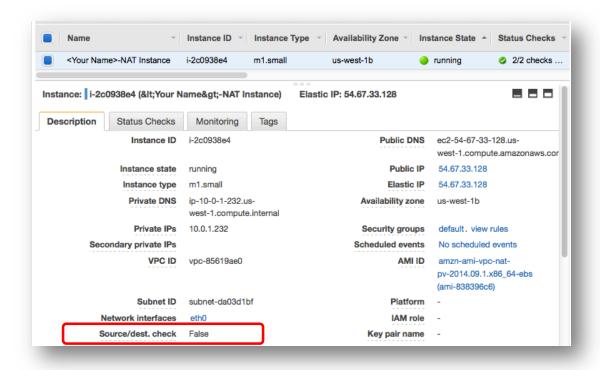
**Subnets** and **Route Tables** sections above. However it is also easy to locate in a new AWS account because it will be the only instance running (or the only instance that has not been given a tag yet). Clicking on the instance will bring up its details, including the VPC and Subnet where the instance is running.



We recommend that you give this instance a Name like **<Your Name>-NAT Instance** to make it easier to identify in the future. You can do this either by clicking on the Tags tab or by putting your mouse over the empty name column, clicking on the pen icon, and entering the name directly.



One last thing to note about this instance – in the instance details, notice that Source/Dest. Check is listed as **False**.

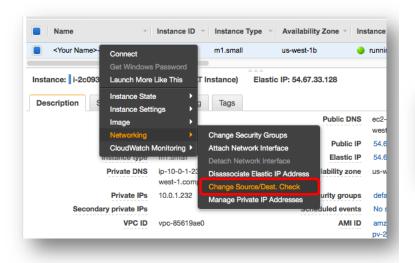


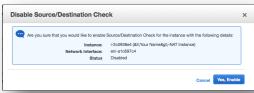
By default, AWS assumes that your VPC instances are network hosts and not routers – meaning that they should only send and receive network traffic addressed to its private IP. This results in AWS performing Source & Destination IP address checking (enabled) to ensure your instances can only send and receive traffic addressed to/from their address. Since a NAT instance's job is to route traffic

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between internal clients and the Internet, it will require this option to be False (which the VPC Wizard already did for you).

To modify this setting in the future (e.g. if you want to allow other instances to similarly route traffic for compliance or security reasons), right-click on an instance, select **Networking** -> **Change Source/Dest Check**, and click the option to "Yes, Enable" or "Yes, Disable" depending on whether the current setting is disabled or enabled.





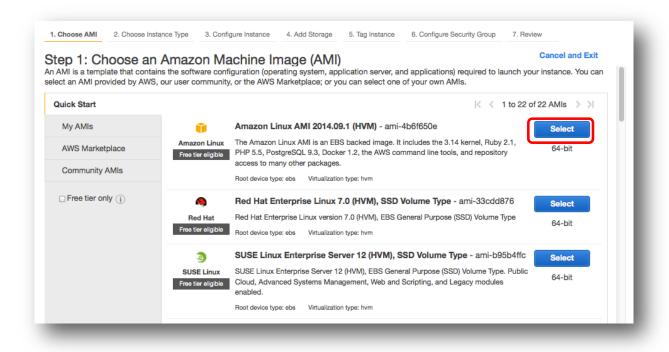
# **Launching VPC Instances**

Walk through launching an instance in the private subnet. Create a security group and allow ICMP requests from the VPC CIDR. Notice how there is no public way to route to the instance (e.g. you can't ping it)?

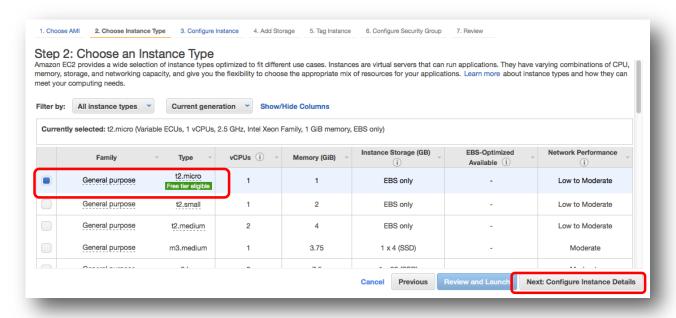
Now launch an instance in the public subnet. Create a new security group and allow ICMP requests from the world. Note how you still can't ping it? Add an EIP. Note how you can now ping the public instance but not the private one. Connect to public instance and ping the private one.

#### Launch a Private Server

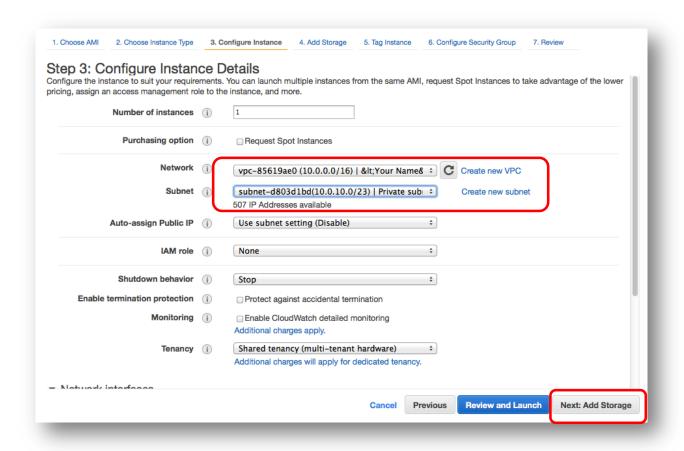
In the AWS Management Console, EC2 tab, click on the Launch Instance button. On Step 1: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) select the latest Amazon Linux AMI.



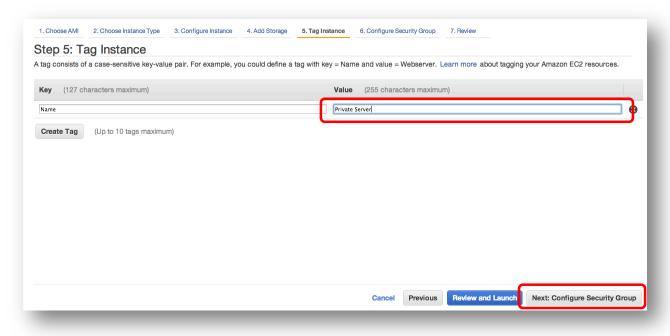
On **Step 2: Choose an Instance Type**, change the instance type to **t2.micro** and click **Next: Configure Instance Details** 



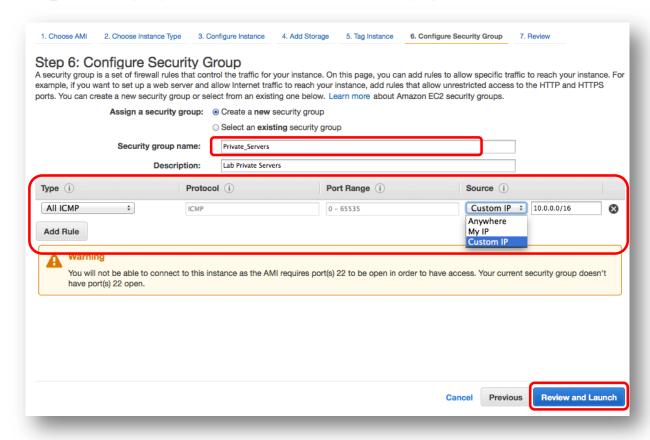
On **Step 3: Configure Instance Details**, select the **VPC** and **Private Subnet** that was created in previous steps and click **Next: Add Storage** 



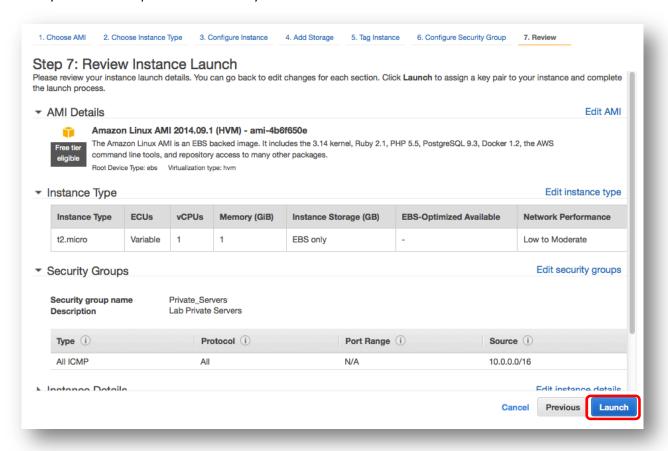
Leave defaults on Step 4. On the next screen, Step 5 (Tag Instance), you can provide a name for your private server (e.g. **Private Server**) and click **Next**.



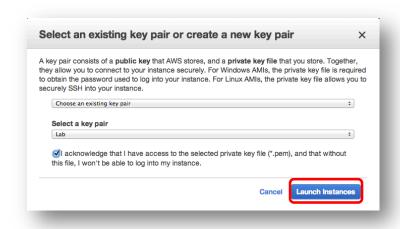
On **Step 6: Configure Security Group**, create a new security group. In this example we call it **Private\_Servers** and give permission for all instances in the VPC to "ping" these servers.



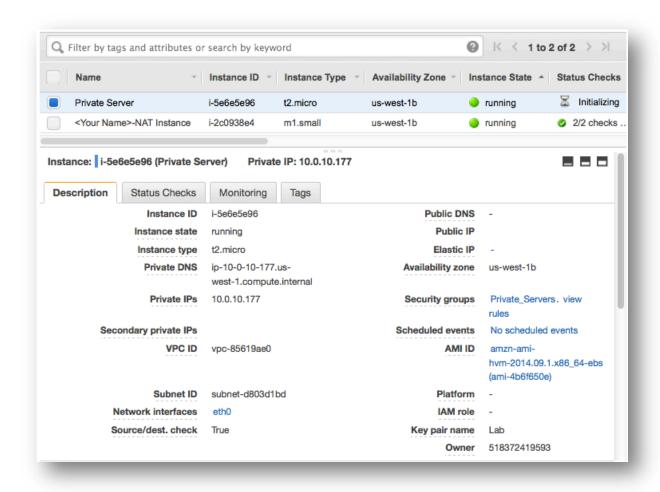
Review your selected options and Launch your instance.



Use your existing key pair, acknowledge that you have access to the selected private key file (\*.pem) and click **Launch Instances**.

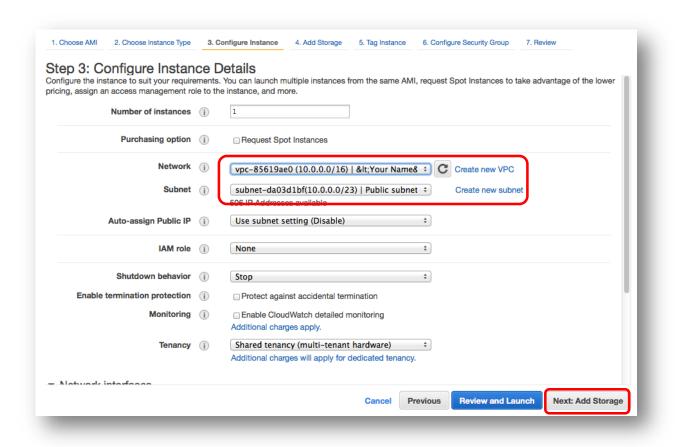


You have now launched a private server in your VPC. Find the new instance in your list of EC2 instances and select it. In the instance description, note that the instance has a private IP address (10.0.10.177 in the screenshot below), but does not have any associated public information for connecting to this instance (e.g. no EIP or Public DNS information). This instance is only locally accessible from within your VPC (theoretically it could also be locally accessible from inside a corporate network if we had established a hardware VPN connection to the VPC from our corporate network).



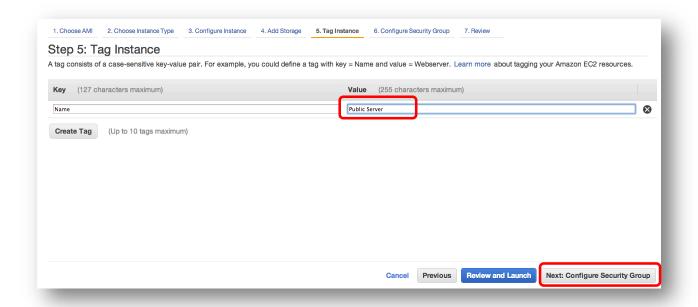
## **Launch a Public Server**

Now that you have a private server, we will launch a public server and differentiate between the two. In the AWS Management Console, EC2 tab, click on Launch Instance button. On Step 1: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) select the 64-bit Amazon Linux AMI. Change the instance type to t2.mirco on Step 2. On Step 3, select the VPC and select the Public subnet (10.0.0.0/23).

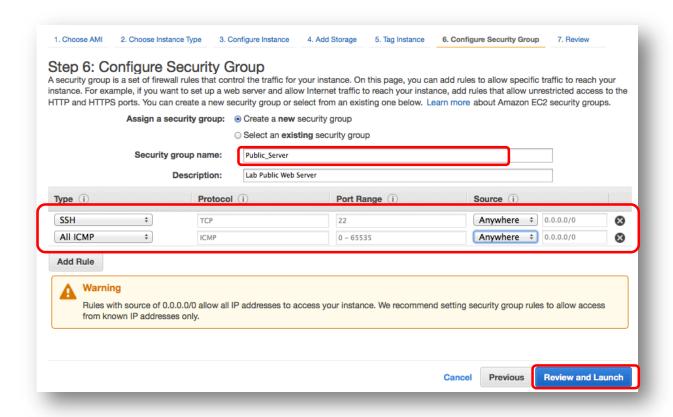


Leave the defaults on Step 4, provide a name for your private server (e.g. Public Server) and click Next.

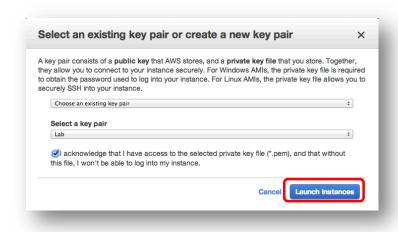
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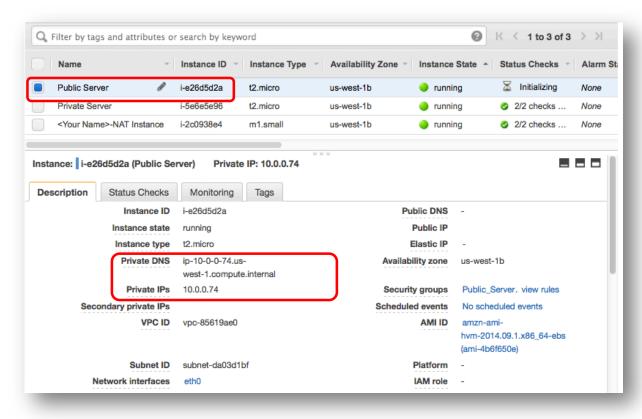
Create a new security group for your public servers. In this example we create a security group called **Public\_Servers**, with rules to allow anyone to "ping" and SSH into the instance.



Finally, review your settings, click **Launch** and use your existing key pair, acknowledge that you have access to the selected private key file (\*.pem) and click **Launch Instances**.

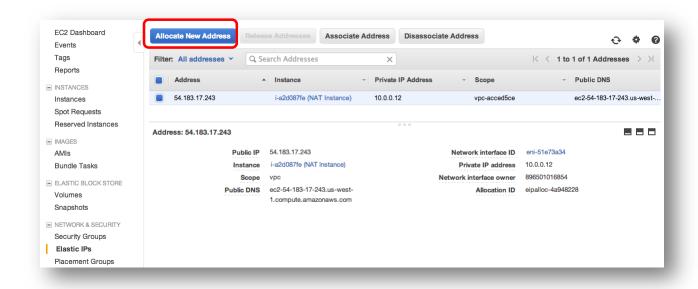


You have now launched a server in your public subnet; however it is still not publicly accessible. Find the new instance in your list of EC2 instances and select it. In the instance description, note that the instance has a private IP address (10.0.1.79 in the screenshot below), but does not have any associated public information for connecting to this instance (e.g. no EIP or Public DNS information) – just like your private instance.



To make this instance publically accessible, we need to assign the server a public Elastic IP address. In the **EC2** console, click on the **Elastic IPs** link. You will see that the VPC Wizard already created an EIP and assigned it to your NAT Instance. Click on the **Allocate New Address** button.

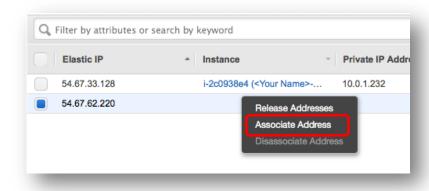
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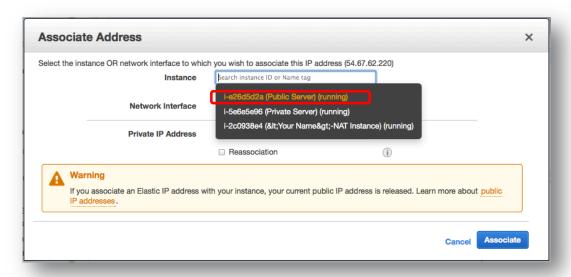
# Click Yes, Allocate.



Next right-click on the new EIP that was allocated and select **Associate Address**.



Select your **Public Server** from the Instance dropdown and click **Associate**.



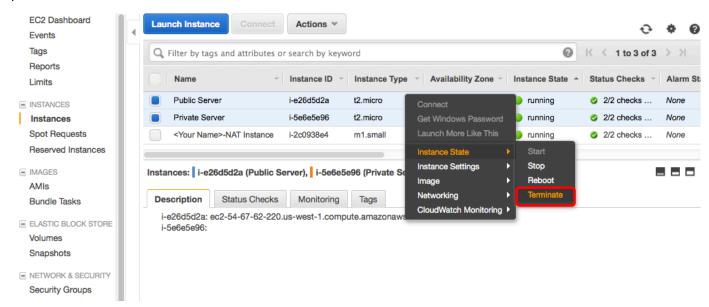
You should now be able to connect to your public server using its new Elastic IP address. In the example screenshot below, we demonstrate this connectivity by simply "pinging" the server.

```
> ping 54.67.62.220
PING 54.67.62.220 (54.67.62.220): 56 data bytes
64 bytes from 54.67.62.220: icmp_seq=0 ttl=52 time=136.657 ms
64 bytes from 54.67.62.220: icmp_seq=1 ttl=52 time=137.813 ms
64 bytes from 54.67.62.220: icmp_seq=2 ttl=52 time=331.257 ms
64 bytes from 54.67.62.220: icmp_seq=3 ttl=52 time=135.134 ms
64 bytes from 54.67.62.220: icmp_seq=4 ttl=52 time=135.407 ms
64 bytes from 54.67.62.220: icmp_seq=5 ttl=52 time=139.768 ms
AC
--- 54.67.62.220 ping statistics ---
6 packets transmitted, 6 packets received, 0.0% packet loss
round-trip min/avg/max/stddev = 135.134/169.339/331.257/72.428 ms
> ■
```

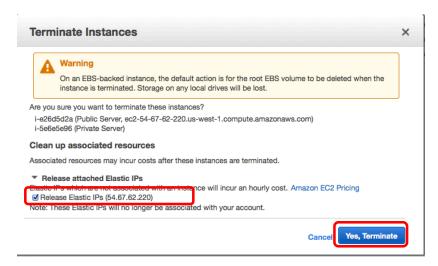
You have now successfully created public and private servers in a VPC. Feel free to explore the instance details for both instances to see the EIP assignment to your public server and examine the differences between the two instances.

# **Terminate Billable Services**

You will not be able to delete your VPC until all instances using the VPC have been terminated. At this point feel free to terminate the Public and Private Servers that we created in this lab.



Check the box to Release the EIP along with instance termination so that you don't incur Idle EIP charges and click **Yes, Terminate**.



Finally, to completely delete the VPC, first terminate the NAT instance and release its EIP, then go to the **VPC** console, Click on Your **VPCs** link, select your VPC, and click on the **Delete** button.

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