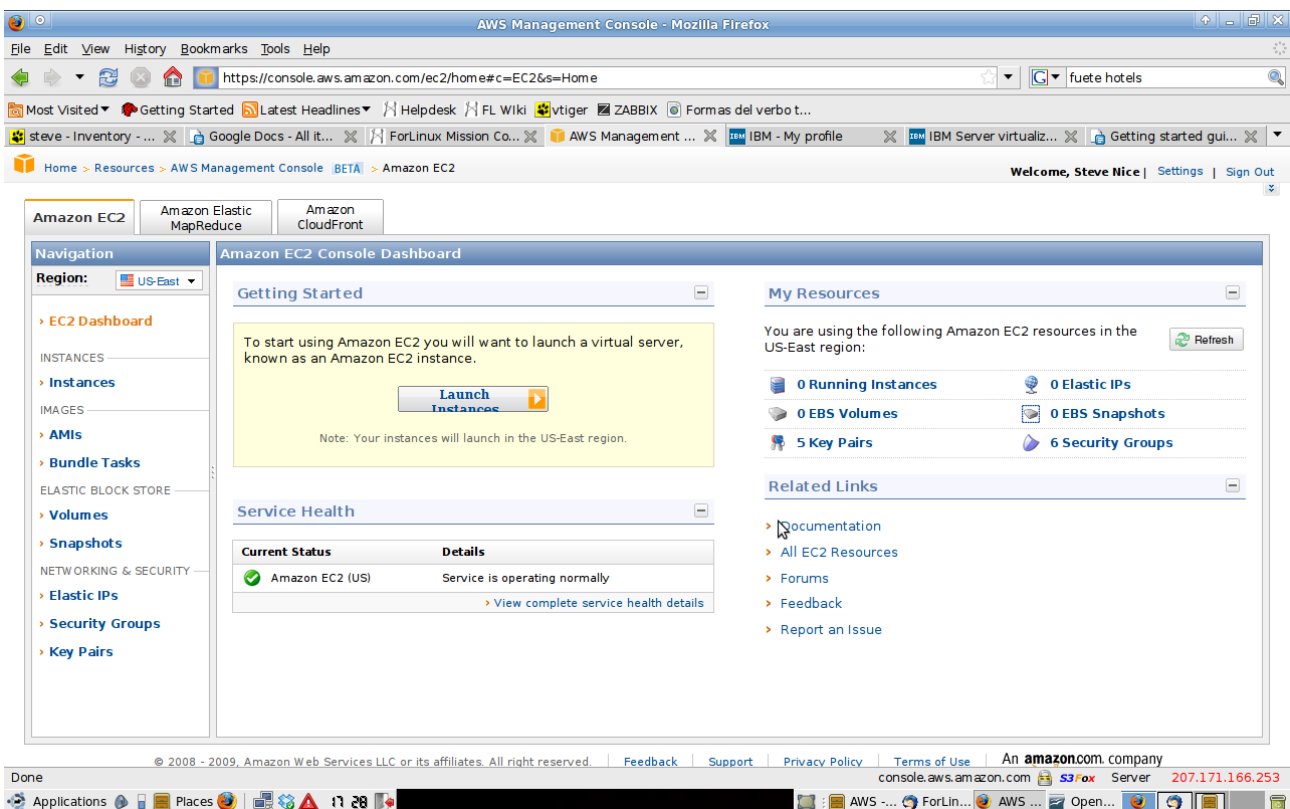


This document will guide you through the creation of a simple web server running in the AWS cloud. You need to have a AWS account already set up have signed up to EC2. We're not going to be creating any permanent storage (EBS or S3) or going to be saving our instance for later use. Everything we do here will be destroyed once you terminate your instance.

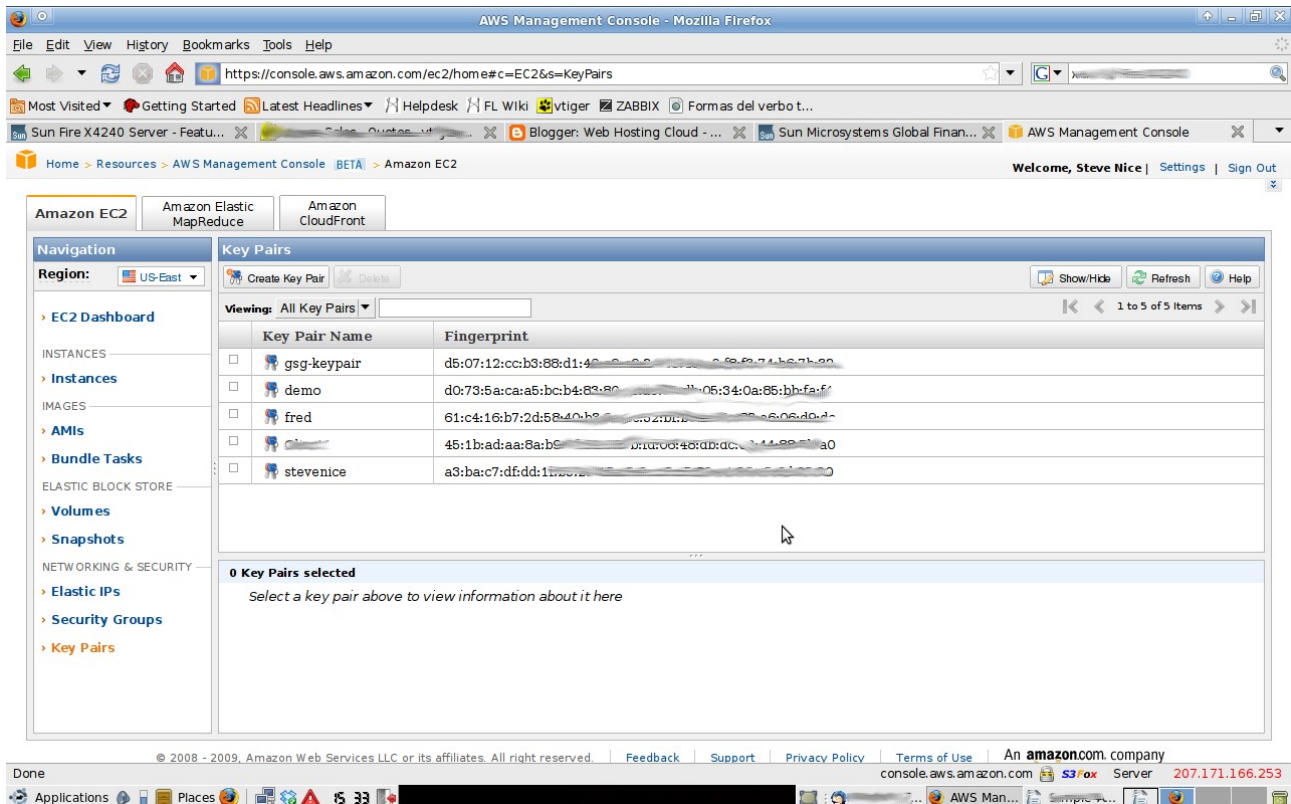
During the sign up, you'll be presented with the security key options. This can be confusing. When creating your account, skip the section on creating a X.509 certificate because for the purpose of this, we are only going to be using the management console and SSH (or PUTTY for Windows users). You'll need to a Access Key identifier if you want to access your account through the command line tools or the API.

Once you created your account, sign in to the management console (<https://console.aws.amazon.com>) .



*Illustration 1: AWS Management Console*

The first thing you need to do is to create a Key Pair. Key pairs are used to authenticate you when connecting to your instance. Once you have create the key pair, keep the private key very safe because without it you will not be able to connect to the instance again as it cannot be regenerated. Click on the Key Pairs link on the right under My Resources. You should get the Key Pairs screen.

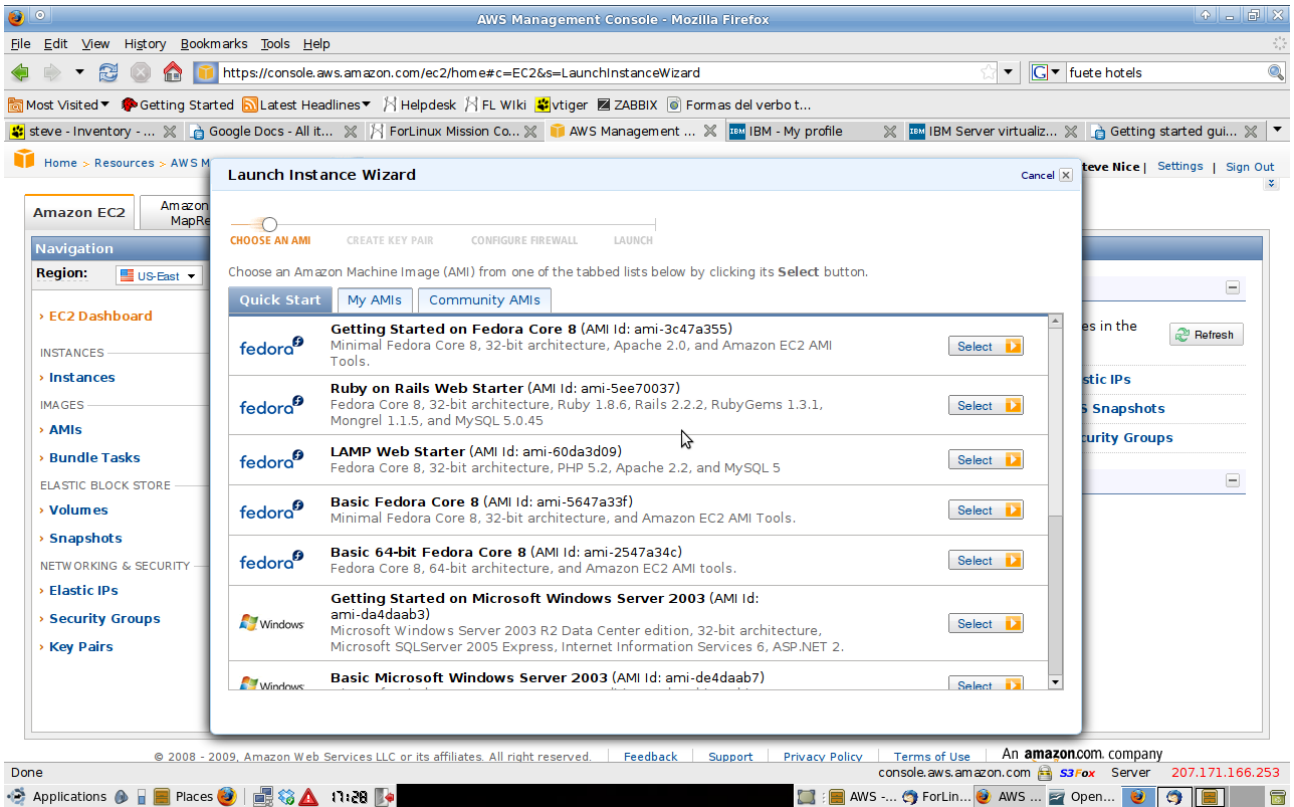


Click on Create Key Pair, enter a meaningful name (this will be a filename) and click create. After a few moments, you'll be prompted to save a .PEM file. This file is the only way you'll be able to access your instance so keep it very safe and back it up! You'll only down the private part of the key. Amazon keep the public part. You should now see the key listed.

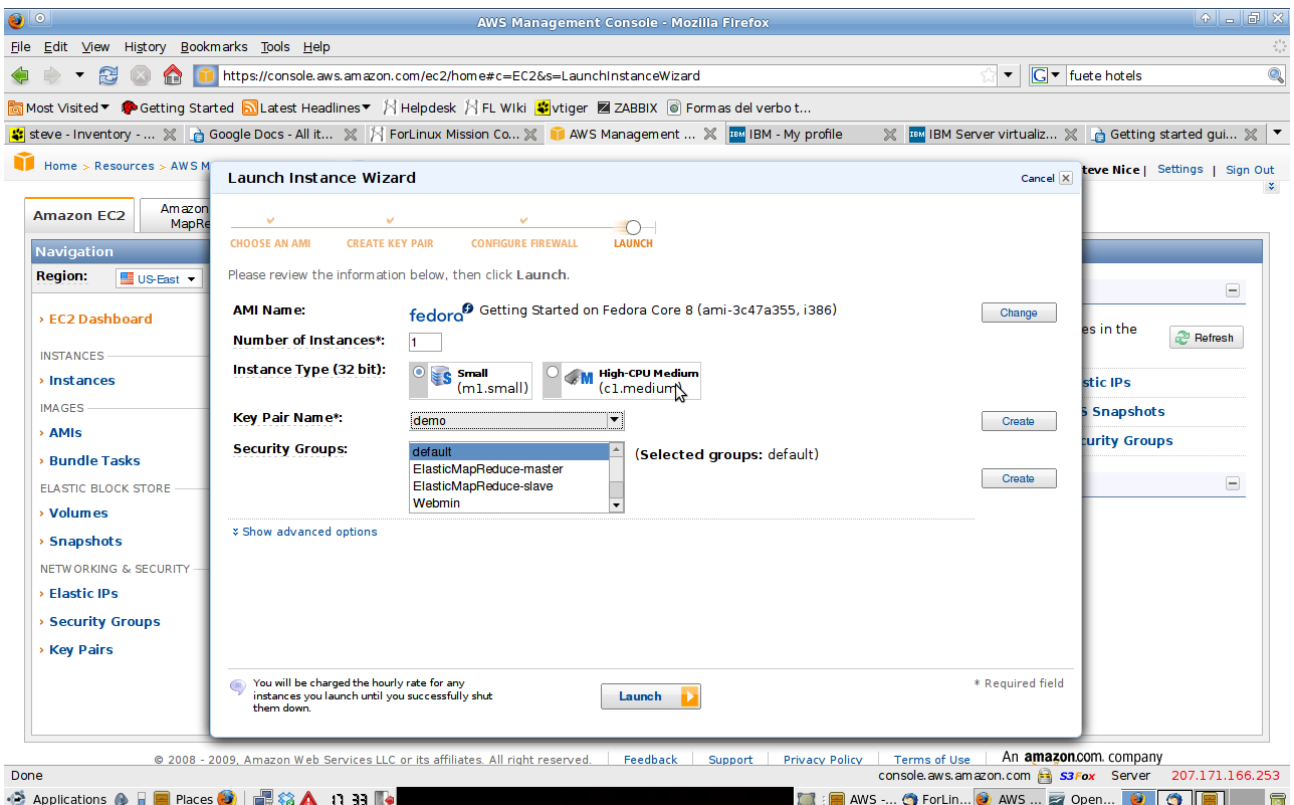
Now you have a key, we'll look at the security groups. A security group is basically a simple firewall configuration. You tell it which ports you want to allow from which IP address. Go back to the EC2 Dashboard and click the Security Groups link. You'll see a preconfigured security group - Default. Clicking on its name will list the default parameters for this group. This should be sufficient to get you started. There's no changes to be made at this stage so click back the the EC2 Dashboard.

Now you are ready to launch your first AWS cloud server. We're not bother at this stage about where the instance is located. However, you can change the location from US to EU using the Region link on the top left. If you do change to EU, you'll be charged more per hour. Click Launch Instances.

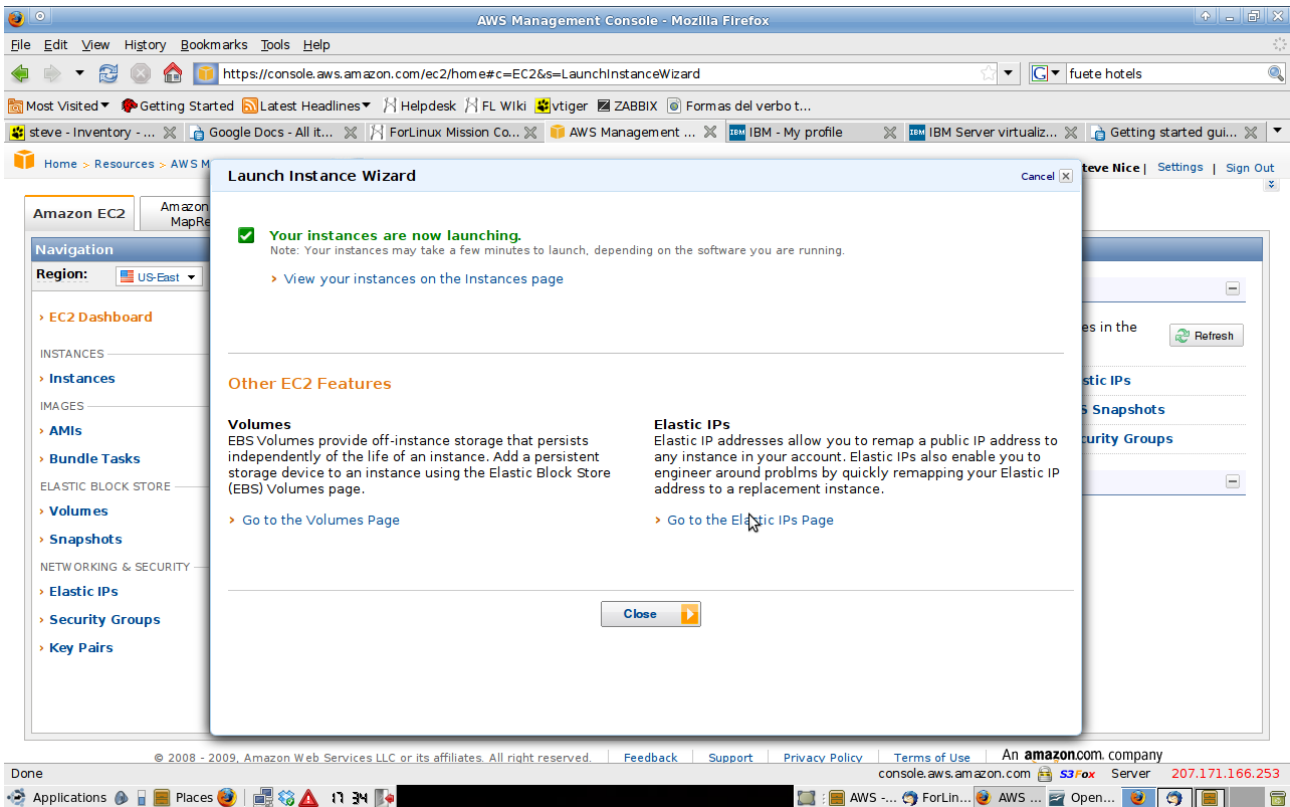
For simplicity you'll create a basic Fedora Core 8 server by selecting the top image.



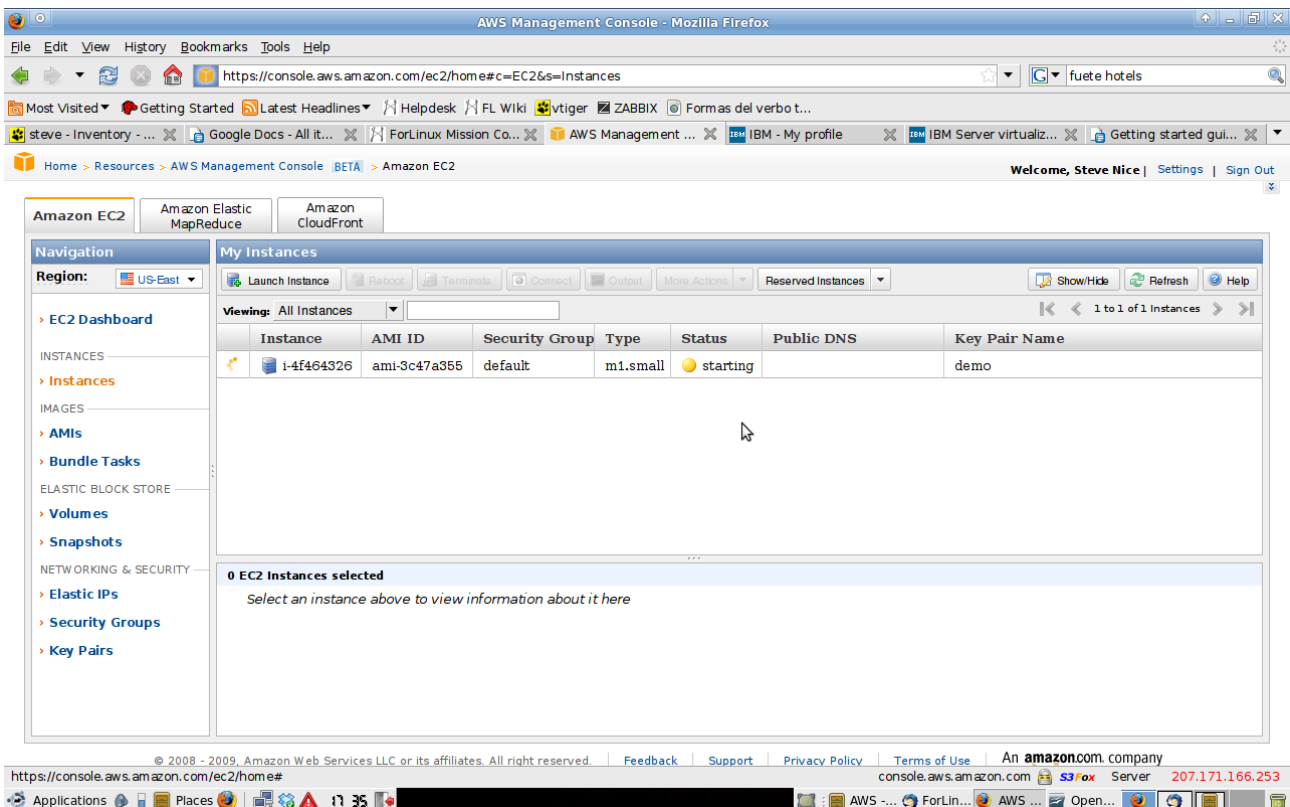
Now you have the option of the number of instances you want to start, which key-pair to use and which security group to use. In this example I've selected just one 32bit small instance, using a key-pair I called demo and the default security group.



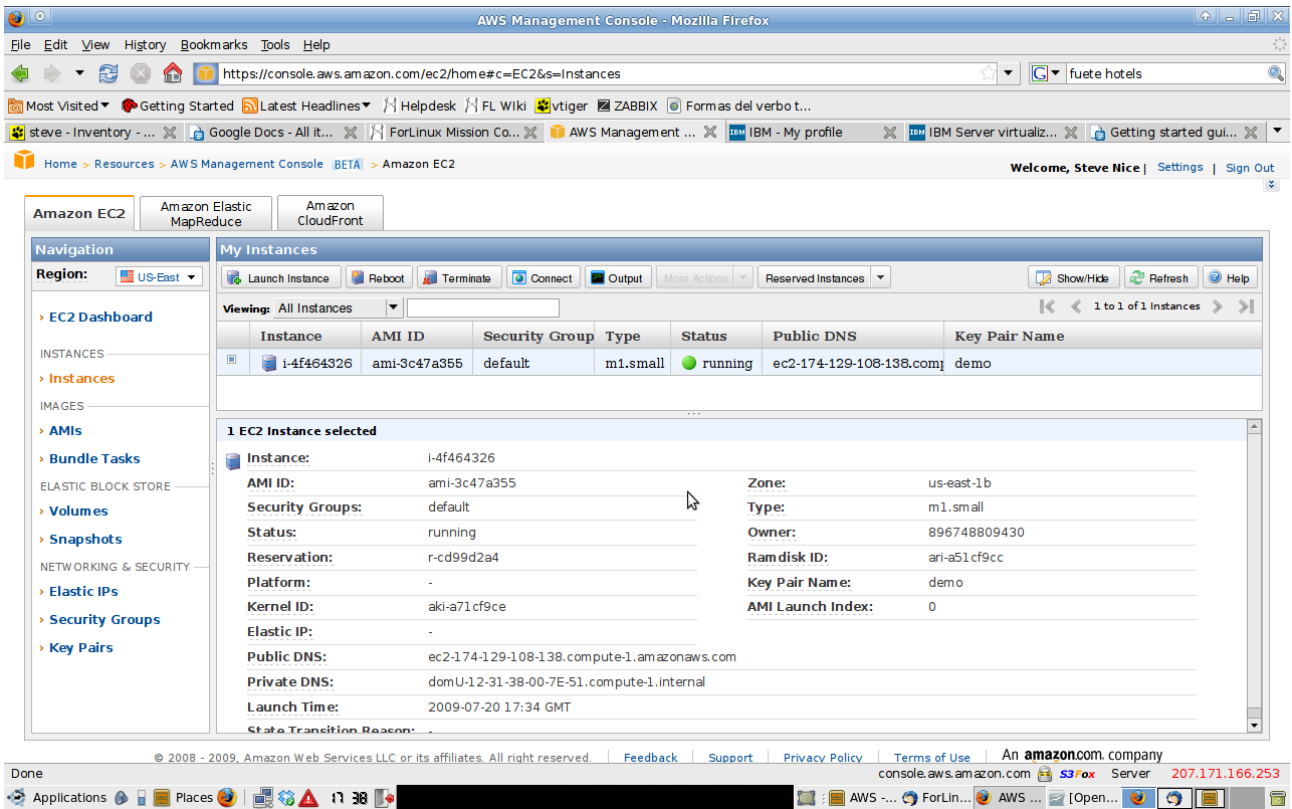
Click Launch and then close



You should be back at your EC2 Dashboard. Clicking refresh should tell you that you've got 1 Instance Running. Now click Instances on the left navigation to take you to your Instances screen.

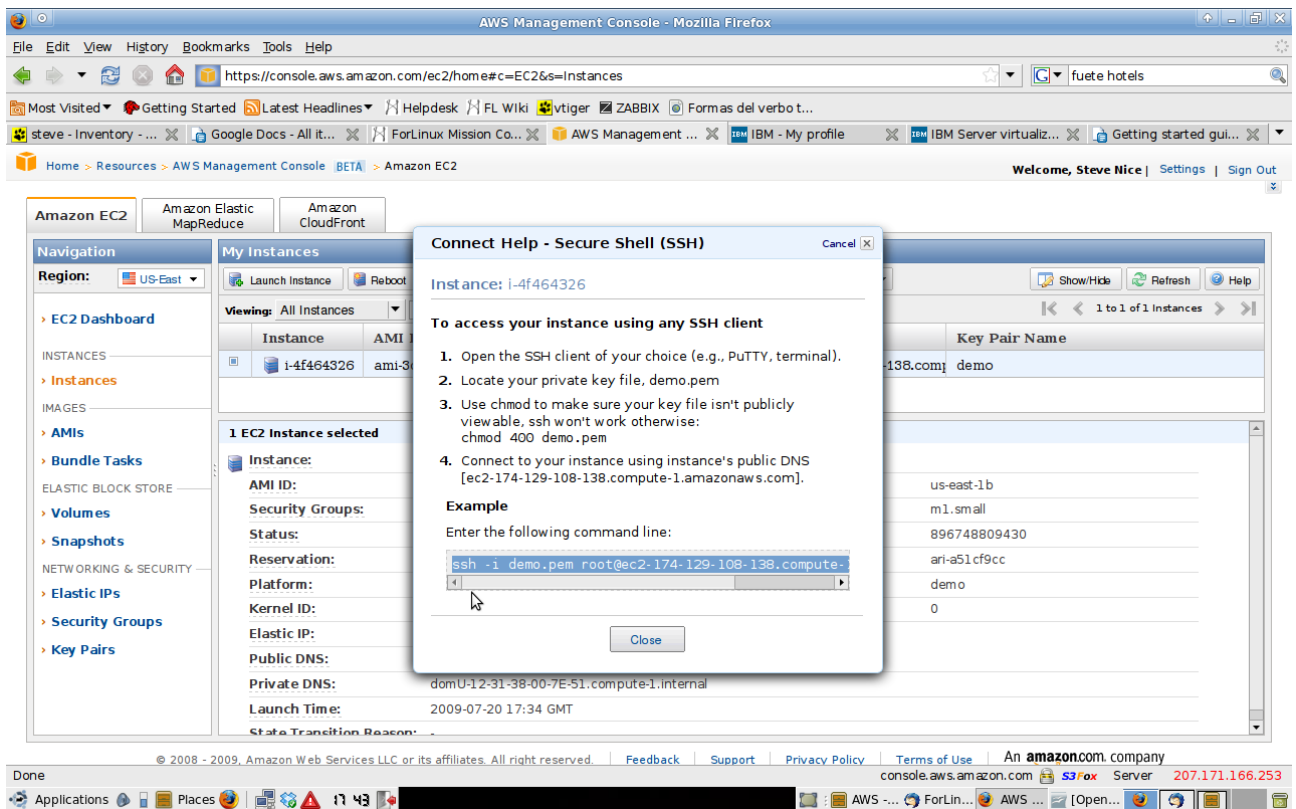


Here you'll see the Instance status as starting or running depending on how long you took. Click on the instance name and you get more information about it.

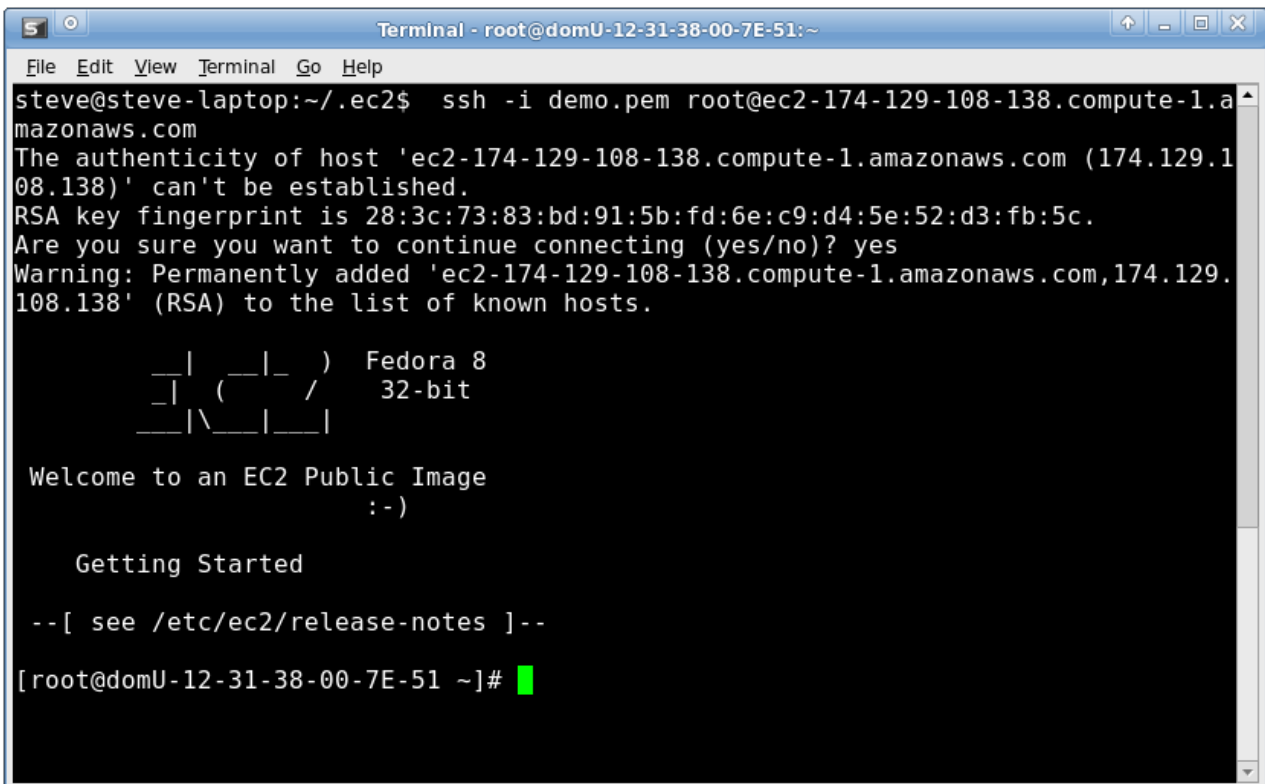


Beware, you are now being billed by the hour for the Instance.

Once the Instance is running, you can connect to it using SSH (or PUTTY) by specifying the key pair you created. Using SSH you have to specify the key pair name via the `-i` switch. Click on the Connect button to get a pop up box with the actual SSH command which you can cut and paste into your terminal.



Note the points in the help - you have to chmod the .PEM file. Also, you may need to specify the full path to it.



SSH into the Instance's host name with the -i switch and you should be asked to accept the key and be logged in.

Each Instance has a public DNS name. Put this DNS name into a browser and you should see a congratulations message.

You now have a web server running on the AWS cloud.

If you want to have a public IP to the instance, you'll need to assign an Elastic IP address. You can then use this to set your DNS A record to it.

Go back to the EC2 Dashboard and terminate your instance once you've finished otherwise you'll have a large bill.