

Elastic IP Address

Jun 2017

Introduction

This guide assumes that you know a few basic things about AWS, that you have logged in and created an instance, and can navigate the AWS menus. If you have not created an instance, check this out: [Creating an Amazon AWS EC2 Instance](#)

From Amazon:

<sxh [text], gutter: false; highlight: 0-0;> An Elastic IP address is a static IPv4 address designed for dynamic cloud computing. An Elastic IP address is associated with your AWS account. With an Elastic IP address, you can mask the failure of an instance or software by rapidly remapping the address to another instance in your account.

An Elastic IP address is a public IPv4 address, which is reachable from the Internet. If your instance does not have a public IPv4 address, you can associate an Elastic IP address with your instance to enable communication with the Internet; for example, to connect to your instance from your local computer. </sxh>

When you create an instance, you are associated an IP Address from a pool of Amazon public addresses. When/if you stop that instance, and restart it you, chances are you will get a different IP Address (as is normal with any DHCP system, depending on lease times of course.)

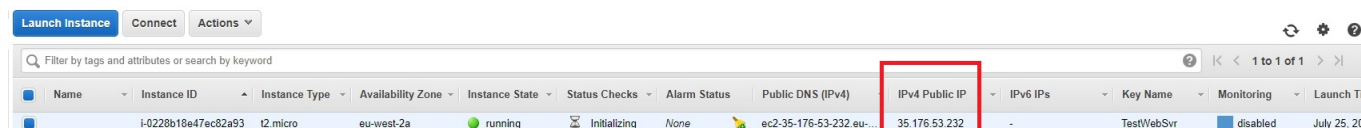
To avoid this we can use a feature called Elastic IP Address. If you are in your first year of free access, you can get the your first Elastic IP Address for free (and I think it stays free, but you have to pay for the instance after one year (or create another account (ssh)).

Your Elastic IP Address has a fixed IP. So no matter how many times you stop/start/restart your instance, you will always have the same Public IP Address, brilliant if you have mapped that to a Domain Name.

WARNING!!! The Elastic IP Address is only FREE if you USE it! If you stop your instance, you start to be charged by the hour for any unused Elastic IP Addresses, so if you don't want to pay for them, release them immediately.

Setup

If your instance is running, it will currently have a dynamic IP Address assigned by Amazon.



The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console interface. At the top, there are buttons for 'Launch Instance', 'Connect', and 'Actions'. Below these is a search bar. The main area displays a table of EC2 instances. The table has columns for Name, Instance ID, Instance Type, Availability Zone, Instance State, Status Checks, Alarm Status, Public DNS (IPv4), IPv4 Public IP, IPv6 IPs, Key Name, Monitoring, and Launch Time. A red box highlights the 'IPv4 Public IP' column, which shows the value '35.176.53.232' for the instance 'ec2-35-176-53-232 eu-west-2a'.

Name	Instance ID	Instance Type	Availability Zone	Instance State	Status Checks	Alarm Status	Public DNS (IPv4)	IPv4 Public IP	IPv6 IPs	Key Name	Monitoring	Launch Time
	i-0228b18e47ec82a93	t2.micro	eu-west-2a	running	Initializing	None	ec2-35-176-53-232 eu-west-2a	35.176.53.232	-	TestWebSvr	disabled	July 25, 2017

If your instance is running, you have to stop the instance to allow the DHCP address to return to the Amazon pool, and to allow assignment of an [Elastic IP Address](#).

Navigate to the [AWS Console](#).

The screenshot shows the AWS Management Console interface. On the left sidebar, the 'EC2 Dashboard' link is highlighted with a red box. The main content area shows the 'Resources' section for the EU West (London) region, listing various EC2 resources. The 'Elastic IPs' count is '0', which is also highlighted with a red box. Below the resources list, there is a 'Create Instance' section with a 'Launch Instance' button. The 'Service Health' section shows that the EU West (London) service is operating normally. The 'Scheduled Events' section shows no events.

Select the **Elastic IPs** Option.

The next page shows your allocated **Elastic IPs** (you probably won't have any.)

The screenshot shows the 'Elastic IP Addresses' page in the AWS Management Console. The 'Allocate new address' button is highlighted with a red box. The page indicates that there are no addresses currently allocated in the region and provides a link to create a new address.

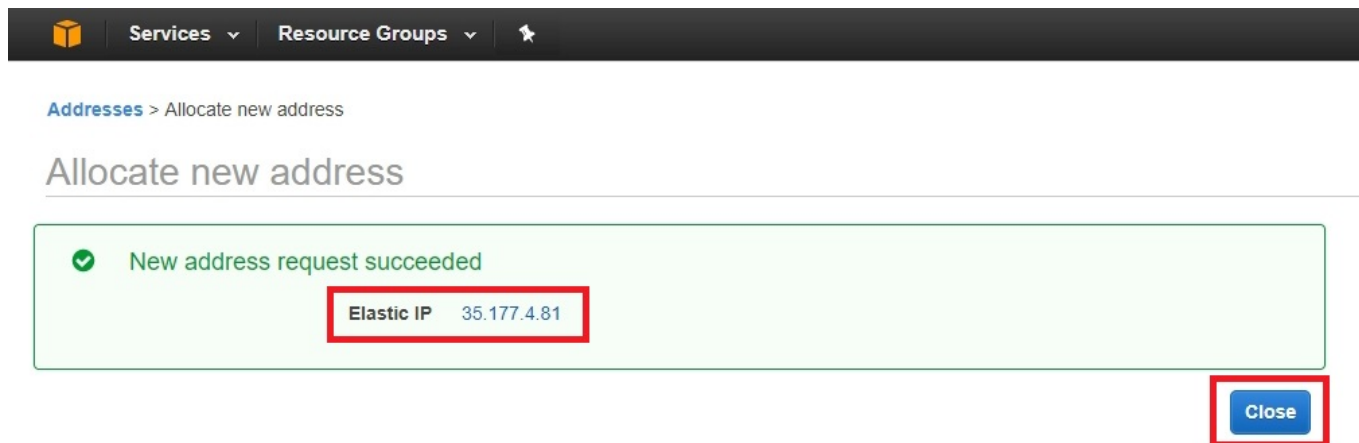
Select **Allocate New Address**.

The next page seems a bit unnecessary.

The screenshot shows the 'Allocate new address' page in the AWS Management Console. The page prompts the user to allocate a new Elastic IP address by selecting the scope in which it will be used. The 'Allocate' button is highlighted with a red box.

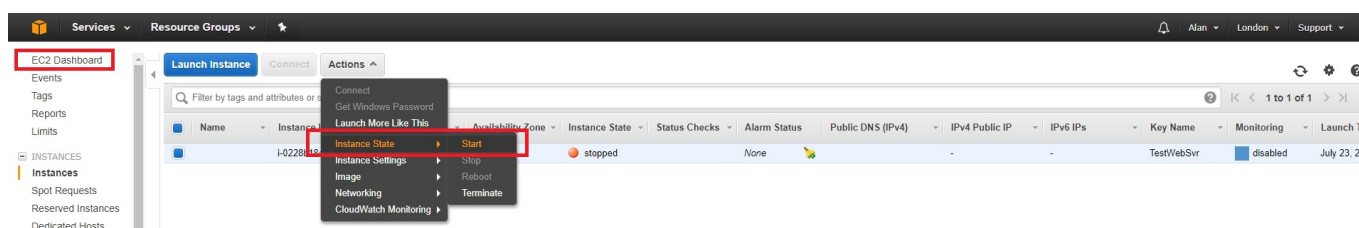
Select **Allocate**.

Next you will see a confirmation page.



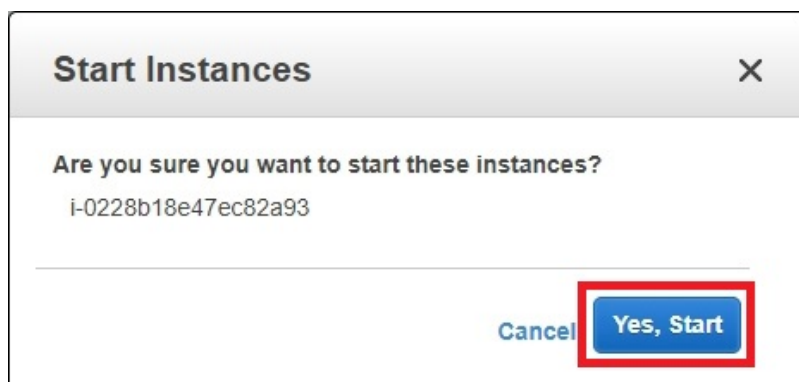
Here you can see the Public Elastic IP Address you have been allocated (this is not associated with your instance yet.) Select Close.

Once back at the EC2 Console. You need to start your instance.



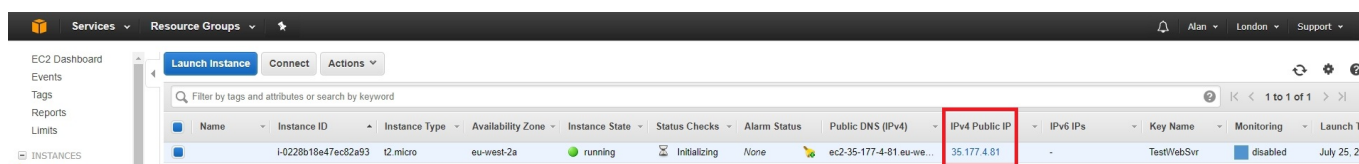
Select Actions, Instance State then Start.

You will get a prompt asking if you wish to start the instance.



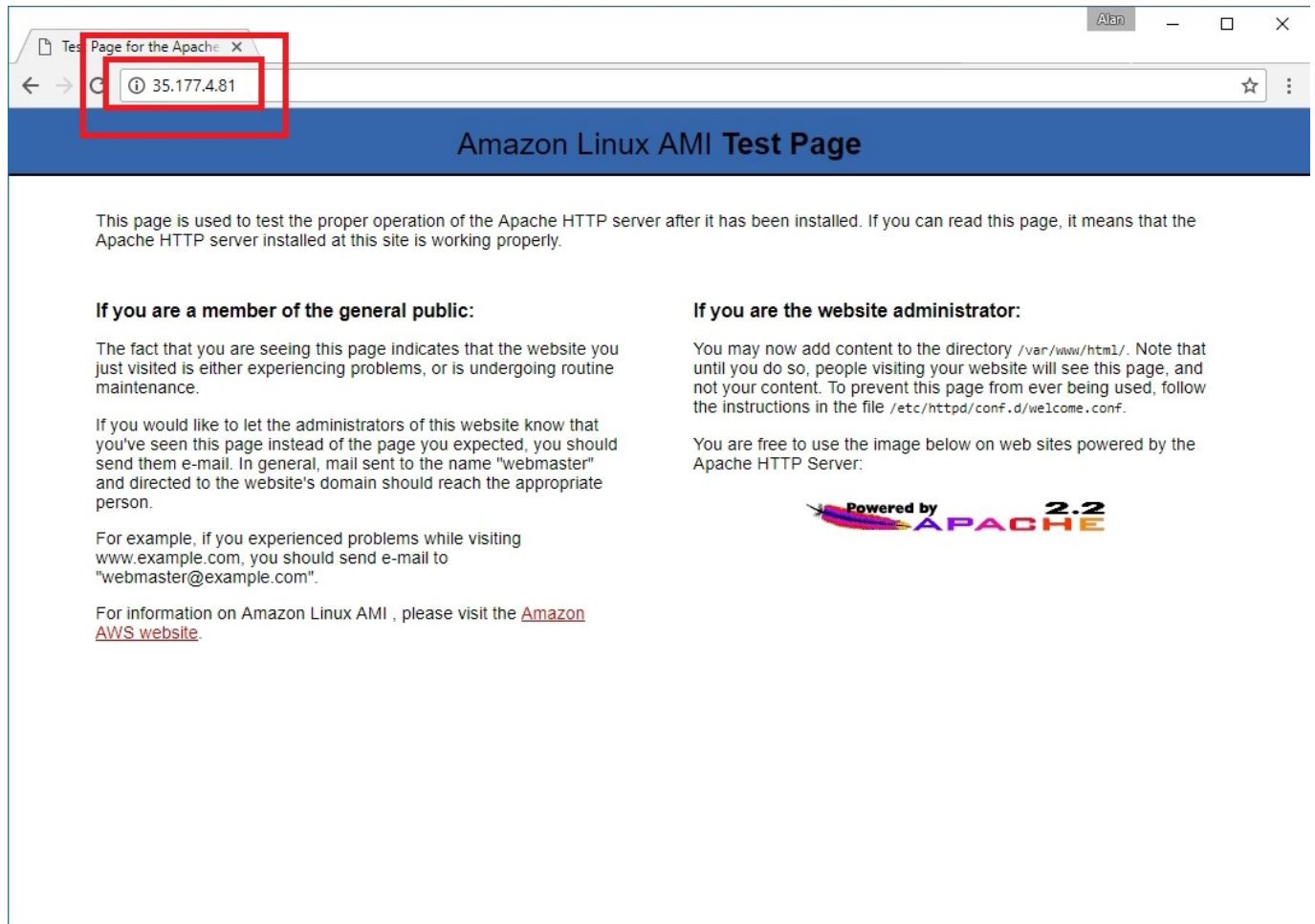
Click Yes, Start.

Back at the EC2 Console you will see your started instance.



The IP Address should match the Elastic IP Address you were allocated when you created it earlier.

That is it, pretty simple really. You can now connect to your AWS EC2 Instance using your new Elastic IP Address.



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Last update: 2023/03/09 22:35

