

# Set the AMI

Aug 2017

## Standard AMI

An AMI is an Amazon Machine Image. This is a list of Operating Systems that you can have automatically installed when you create an EC2 Instance. An AMI can be thought of as an Image of an OS that is applied to your EC2 Instance, rather than going through a scripted installation from scratch. See a small AMI list below:

**Step 1: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)**

An AMI is a template that contains the software configuration (operating system, application server, and applications) required to launch your instance. You can select an AMI provided by AWS, our user community, or the AWS Marketplace; or you can select one of your own AMIs.

**Quick Start**

- My AMIs
- AWS Marketplace
- Community AMIs
- ☒ Free tier only

OS	AMI Name	AMI ID	Root device type	Virtualization type	Architecture
Amazon Linux	Amazon Linux AMI 2017.03.1 (HVM), SSD Volume Type	ami-ed100689	ebs	hvm	64-bit
SUSE Linux	SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 SP2 (HVM), SSD Volume Type	ami-a9eae0cd	ebs	hvm	64-bit
Red Hat	Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.3 (HVM), SSD Volume Type	ami-40a8bf24	ebs	hvm	64-bit
Ubuntu	Ubuntu Server 16.04 LTS (HVM), SSD Volume Type	ami-996372fd	ebs	hvm	64-bit
Microsoft Windows	Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Base	ami-5a80963e	ebs	hvm	64-bit
Microsoft Windows	Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Base with Containers	ami-5c8e9838	ebs	hvm	64-bit

I have not found anywhere that lists all of the available AMIs and their IDs, I can see why because it is a rather long list and AMI numbers change between AZs as well (make note of that, your script will **not work** in any AZ just by changing the region value, you will need the AMI value for that region as well.)

## Custom AMI

As well as the standard AMIs you can use Custom AMIs. A custom AMI can be something you have created, or it can be a community generated AMI. Please investigate carefully what costs might be associated with using a community AMI.

An example of using your own AMI might be that you created an EC2 instance, installed some software on it and did some configuration. This might have taken some time to perform. Well you can select your EC2 and create an AMI from it. You can then use this AMI to create more instances that will have all of the software and settings you want, automatically applied to each new instance, or automatically applied each time the instance is removed and re-created.

For this example, in the London AZ, lets say I am going to use the following AMI.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.3 (HVM), SSD Volume Type - ami-40a8bf24

So my script will contain the following entry:

```
ami = "ami-40a8bf24"
```

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Last update: **2023/03/09 22:35**

