

# Allocate EC2 Resources



Please note that all the EC2 resources described below need to be allocated in the same availability zone

## 1. Select a US availability zone/geographic region

Amazon allocates EC2 resources (IP addresses, virtual hardware) in specific facilities that are meant to cover different geographic regions (also called availability zones). We support three zones: US East (N. Virginia), US West (Oregon) and US West (N. California).

1. Go to your [EC2 Dashboard](#)
2. Using the pull down list at the top right hand corner of the dashboard (next to your user name); choose that which is most appropriate to your institution's location.

The screenshot shows the AWS EC2 Management Console interface. At the top right, the user name 'Daniela Bourges Waldegg' is displayed next to a dropdown menu currently set to 'N. Virginia'. A red arrow points to this dropdown menu, and a red box highlights it with the text 'Select one of the US zones'. The dropdown menu is open, showing a list of regions: US East (N. Virginia), US West (Oregon), US West (N. California), EU (Ireland), Asia Pacific (Singapore), Asia Pacific (Tokyo), Asia Pacific (Sydney), and South America (São Paulo). The main content area shows the 'Resources' section for the US East (N. Virginia) region, listing 0 Running Instances, 0 Volumes, 1 Key Pair, 0 Placement Groups, 1 Elastic IP, 0 Snapshots, 0 Load Balancers, and 1 Security Group. Below this is the 'Create Instance' section with a 'Launch Instance' button. The 'Service Health' section shows that the US East (N. Virginia) service is operating normally. The 'Featured Software' section lists Debian GNU/Linux and MongoDB.

## 2. Create an EC2 key pair and download your private key

For more detailed information on creating and using a key pair with your EC2 instances, please see [AWS Documentation: EC2 Key Pairs](#)

1. Go to your [EC2 Dashboard](#).
2. In the left navigation bar, open the **Network and Security** section.
3. Select **Key Pairs**.
4. Click on the **Create Key Pair** button.
5. Enter a name for your key pair (e.g. eagle-i-key) and select **create**.
6. Your private key will be downloaded to your computer, as a file with the name you specified and the `.pem` extension (you may be prompted by your browser to select a location). Store it in a dedicated directory to which you will come back later, e.g. `/my-home/aws/keys`

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Create Key Pair Import Key Pair Delete

Viewing: All Key Pairs Search

No Items

You do not have any key pairs defined.  
Click the Create Key Pair button to download a new private key.

Create Key Pair

(b) Click

(a) Select

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1 to 1 of 1 Items

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Key Pair Name	Fingerprint
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 eagle-i-key	82:84:0a:e6:b5:dd:a7:20:cc:53:6d:01:10:7d:38:0a:56:59:27:0e

1 Key Pair selected

 **Key Pair Name:** eagle-i-key

**Fingerprint:** 82:84:0a:e6:b5:dd:a7:20:cc:53:6d:01:10:7d:38:0a:56:59:27:0e