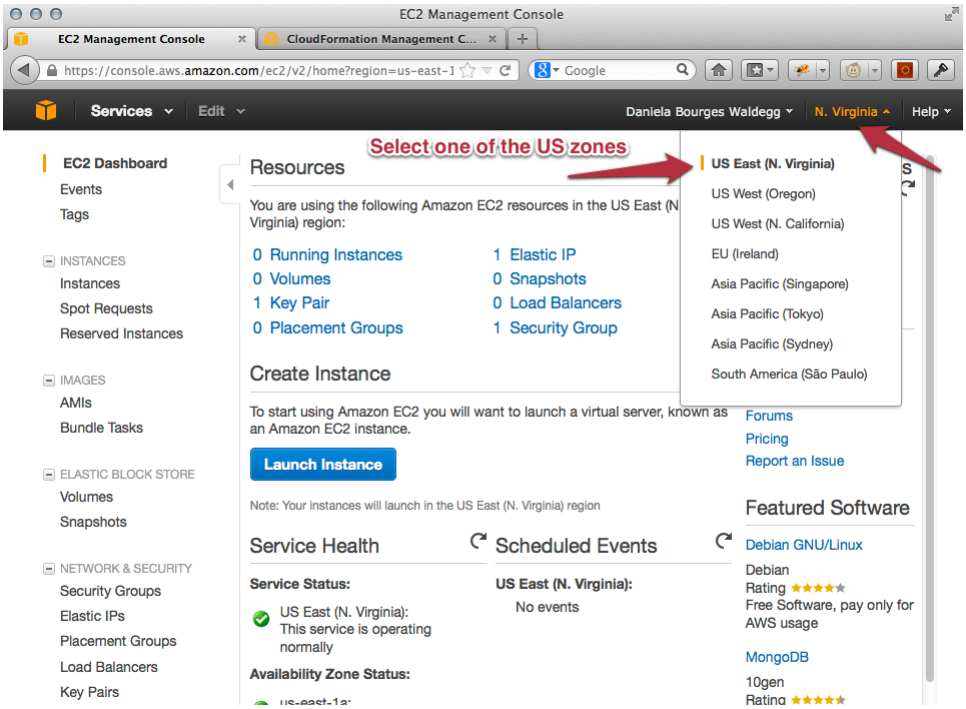
# Allocate EC2 Resources

> ⚠ 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).

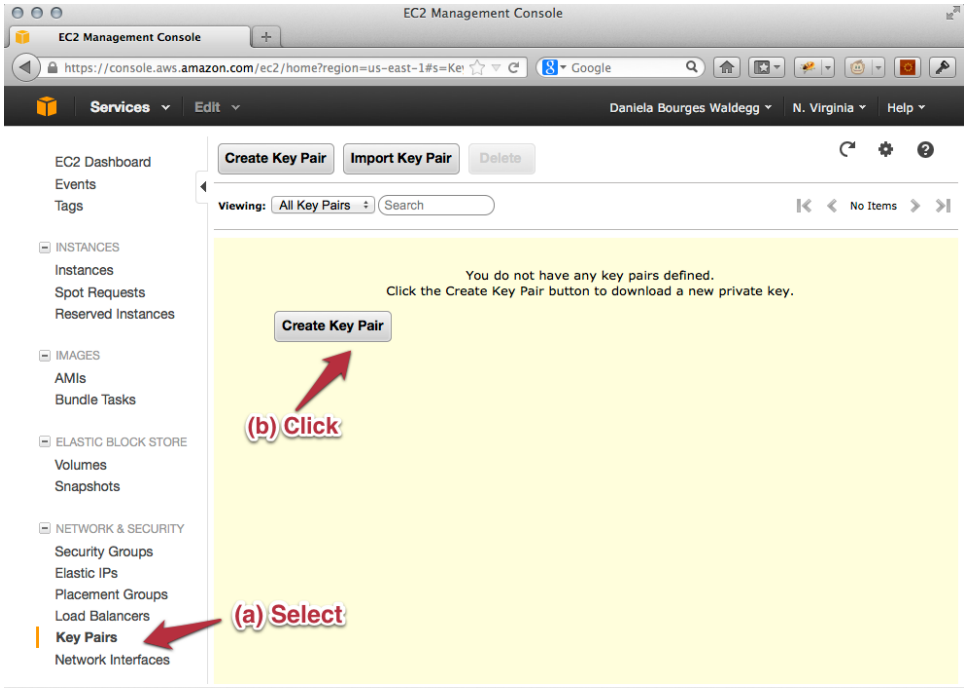
1. Go to your EC2 Dashboard
2. Using the pull down list at the top right hand corner of the dashboard (next to your user name); choose that which is most appropriate to your institution's location.




## 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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Snapshots
NETWORK & SECURITY
Security Groups
Elastic IPs
Placement Groups
Load Balancers
Key Pairs
Network Interfaces
Create Key Pair
Import Key Pair
Delete
Viewing:
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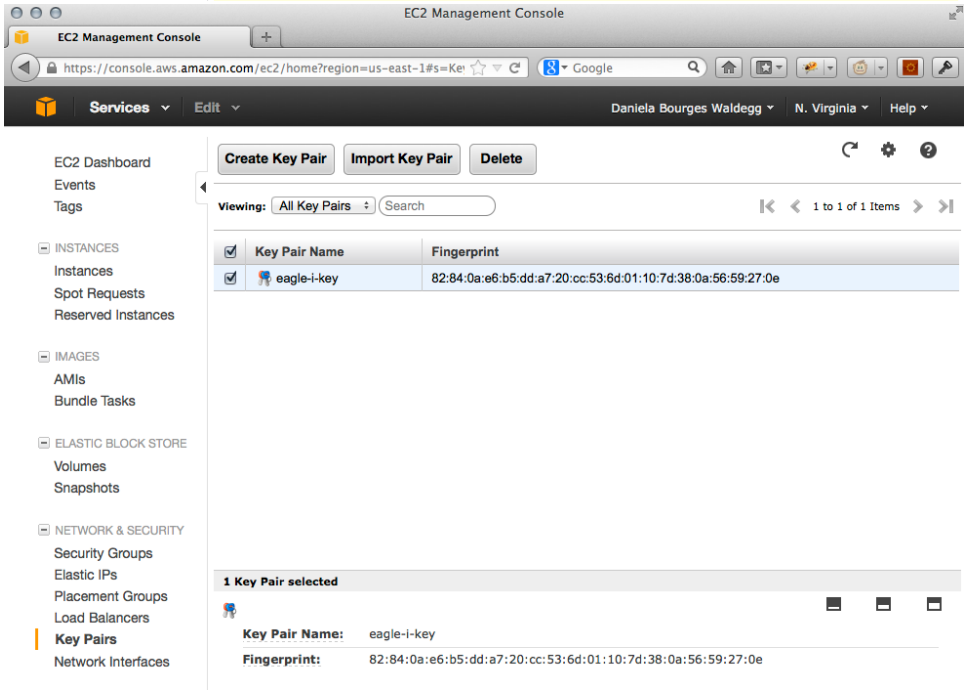
You do not have any key pairs defined.
Click the Create Key Pair button to download a new private key.
Create Key Pair
(b) Click
(a) Select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Key Pair Name
Fingerprint
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82:84:0a:e6:b5:dd:a7:20:cc:53:6d:01:10:7d:38:0a:56:59:27:0e
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