

Hands-on tutorials

Launch a Linux Virtual Machine with Amazon Lightsail



Launch a Linux Virtual Machine with Amazon Lightsail: Hands-on tutorials

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Launch a Linux Virtual Machine with Amazon Lightsail

AWS experience	Beginner
Time to complete	10 minutes
Cost to complete	Free Tier eligible
Requires	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AWS account <div data-bbox="862 632 1507 947"><p>Note</p><p>Accounts created within the past 24 hours might not yet have access to the services required for this tutorial.</p></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommended browser: The latest version of Chrome or Firefox
Last updated	Aug 23, 2022

Overview

Lightsail is one of the easiest ways to get started on AWS. It offers virtual servers, storage, databases, and networking, plus a cost-effective, monthly plan. It's designed to help you start small, and then scale as you grow.

In this tutorial, you create an Amazon Linux instance in Amazon Lightsail in seconds. After the instance is up and running, you connect to it via SSH within the Lightsail console using the browser-based SSH terminal.

[Get started with Lightsail for free](#)

Implementation

Step 1: Create an Amazon Lightsail account

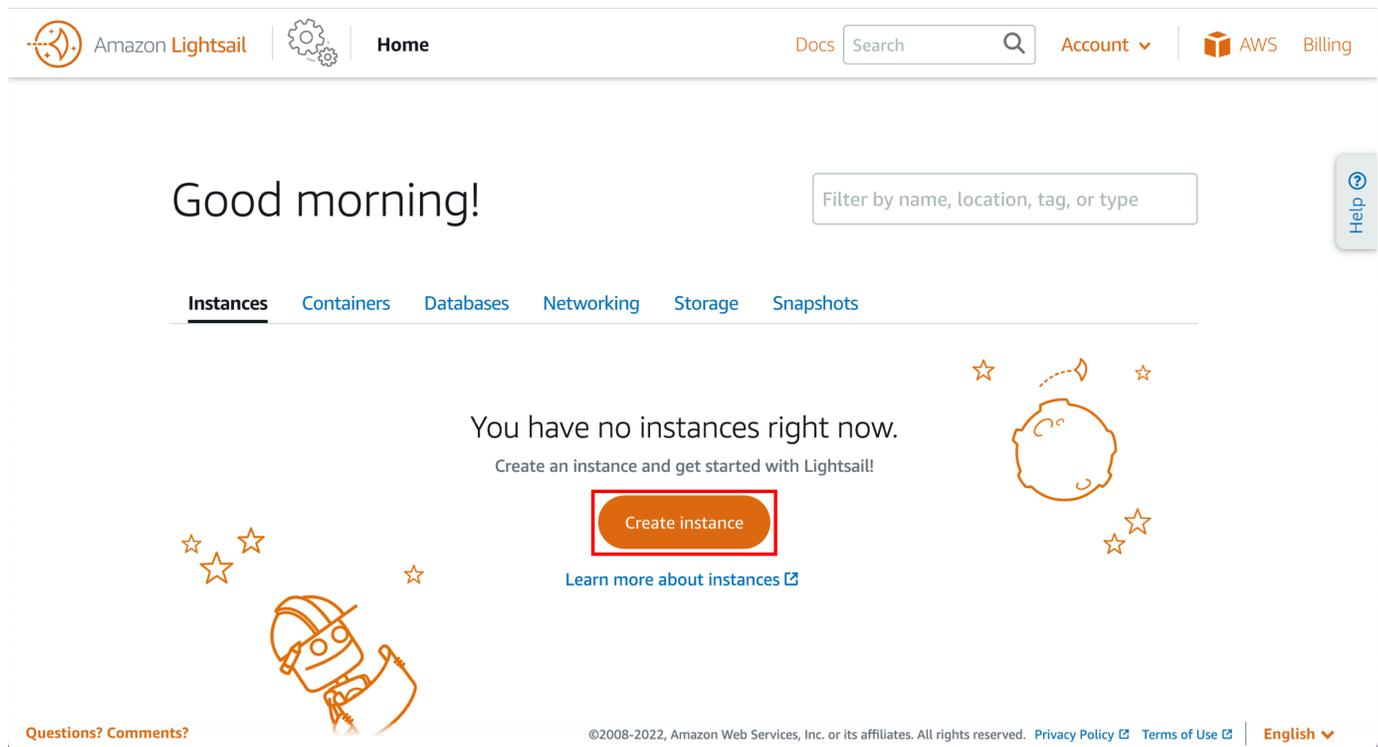
- There are no charges for using Amazon Lightsail for this tutorial.

[Sign up for an AWS account](#)

Already have an account? [Sign-in](#)

Step 2: Create an Amazon Linux instance in Lightsail

- Choose **Create instance** in the **Instances** tab of the Lightsail home page.



The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail home page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a search bar, and links for 'Docs', 'Account', 'AWS', and 'Billing'. Below the navigation bar, the main content area features a 'Good morning!' greeting and a search filter. The 'Instances' tab is selected, and the page displays a message: 'You have no instances right now. Create an instance and get started with Lightsail!'. A prominent orange button labeled 'Create instance' is highlighted with a red box. Below the button is a link to 'Learn more about instances'. The page also includes a 'Help' button on the right and a footer with copyright information and links to 'Privacy Policy', 'Terms of Use', and 'English'.

Step 3: Configure your Amazon Lightsail instance

1. Choose a Region

An AWS Region and Availability Zone is selected for you. Choose **Change AWS Region and Availability Zone** to create your instance in another location.

Note

Static IP addresses can only be attached to instances in the same region.



Amazon Lightsail



Home

Docs

Search



Account ▾



Billing



Create an instance

Help

Select your instance location

Select a Region

The closer your instance is to your users, the less latency they will experience.

[Learn more about Regions](#)

 Oregon us-west-2	 Ohio us-east-2	 Virginia us-east-1	 Montreal ca-central-1
 Tokyo ap-northeast-1	 Seoul ap-northeast-2	 Ireland eu-west-1	 Sydney ap-southeast-2
 London eu-west-2	 Paris eu-west-3	 Frankfurt eu-central-1	 Singapore ap-southeast-1
 Mumbai ap-south-1	 Stockholm eu-north-1		

Select an Availability Zone ?

 A Zone A us-east-1a	 B Zone B us-east-1b	 C Zone C us-east-1c	 D Zone D us-east-1d
 E Zone E us-east-1e	 F Zone F us-east-1f		

Help

2. Choose an instance image

Choose the **Linux/Unix** platform option, and choose **OS Only** to view the operating system-only instance images available in Lightsail.

To learn more about Lightsail instance images, see [Choose an Amazon Lightsail instance image](#).

The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a 'Home' link, a search bar, and links for 'Account' and 'Billing'. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is divided into two sections. The first section, 'Select an Availability Zone', displays six options: Zone A (us-east-1a), Zone B (us-east-1b), Zone C (us-east-1c), Zone D (us-east-1d), Zone E (us-east-1e), and Zone F (us-east-1f). The second section, 'Pick your instance image', is further divided into 'Select a platform' and 'Select a blueprint'. Under 'Select a platform', 'Linux/Unix' (28 blueprints) and 'Microsoft Windows' (4 blueprints) are shown. Under 'Select a blueprint', 'Apps + OS' and 'OS Only' are available. The 'OS Only' option is selected, and the 'Amazon Linux 2' blueprint (2.0.20220719.0) is highlighted with a red box. Other blueprints shown include Amazon Linux, Ubuntu, and Debian. A 'Help' button is visible on the right side of the console.

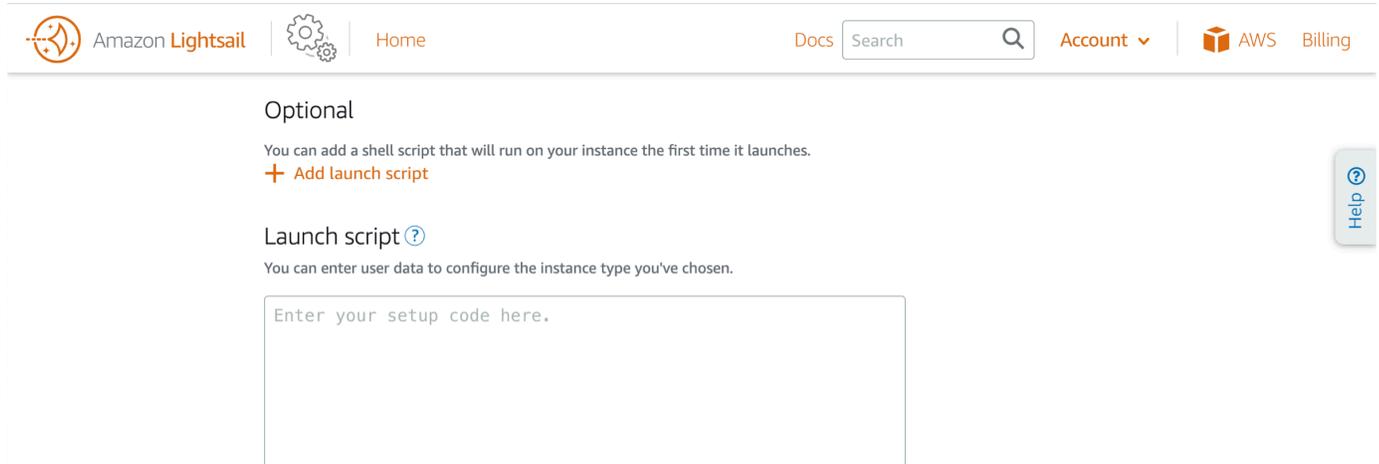
3. Choose the blueprint

Choose the **Amazon Linux 2** blueprint option.

The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface, specifically the 'Select a blueprint' step. The 'OS Only' option is selected. The 'Amazon Linux 2' blueprint (2.0.20220426.0) is highlighted with a red box. Other blueprints shown include Amazon Linux, Ubuntu, Debian, FreeBSD, openSUSE, and CentOS. Below the blueprint selection, a detailed description of the 'Amazon Linux 2 2.0.20220426.0' blueprint is provided. The description states that the Amazon Linux 2 image is a supported and maintained Linux image provided by Amazon Web Services (AWS) for use on Amazon Lightsail. It is designed to provide a stable, secure, and high performance execution environment for applications running on Lightsail. It also includes packages that enable easy integration with AWS, including launch configuration tools and many popular AWS libraries and tools. AWS provides ongoing security and maintenance updates to all instances running the Amazon Linux 2 image. The Amazon Linux 2 image is provided at no additional charge to Lightsail users. A link to learn more about Amazon Linux 2 is provided, along with a link to the provider's End User License Agreement.

4. (Optional) Configure launch script

Choose **Add launch script** to add a shell script that will run on your instance when it launches.



Optional

You can add a shell script that will run on your instance the first time it launches.

[+ Add launch script](#)

Launch script [?](#)

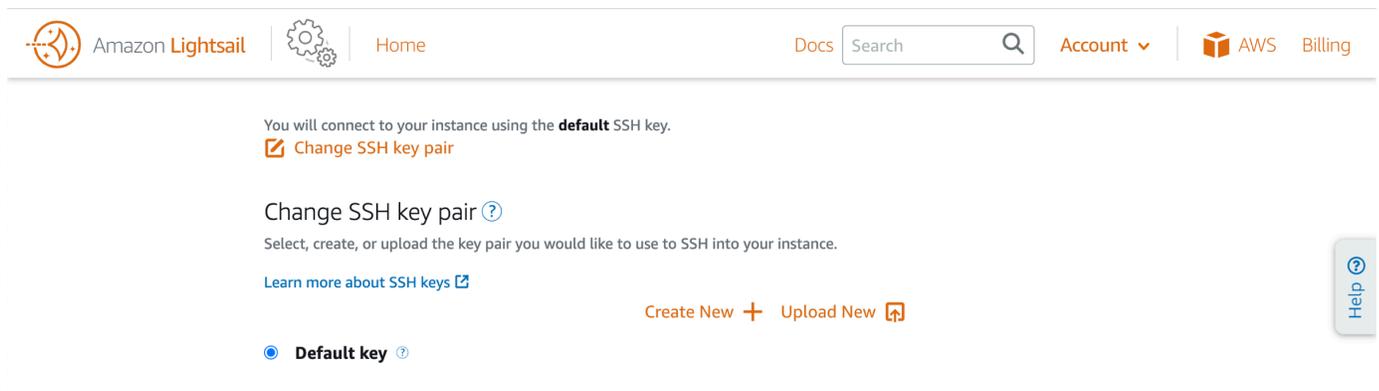
You can enter user data to configure the instance type you've chosen.

Enter your setup code here.

Help [?](#)

5. (Optional) Choose an SSH key pair

Choose **Change SSH key pair** to select, create, or upload the key pair you would like to use to SSH into your instance.



You will connect to your instance using the **default** SSH key.

[Change SSH key pair](#)

Change SSH key pair [?](#)

Select, create, or upload the key pair you would like to use to SSH into your instance.

[Learn more about SSH keys](#)

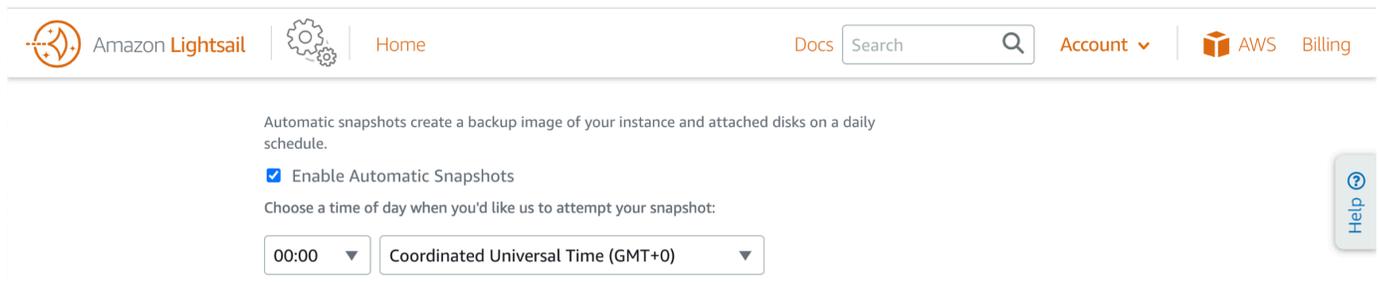
[Create New](#) + [Upload New](#)

Default key [?](#)

Help [?](#)

6. (Optional) Configure automatic snapshots

Choose **Enable Automatic Snapshots** to automatically create a backup image of your instance and attached disks on a daily schedule.



Automatic snapshots create a backup image of your instance and attached disks on a daily schedule.

Enable Automatic Snapshots

Choose a time of day when you'd like us to attempt your snapshot:

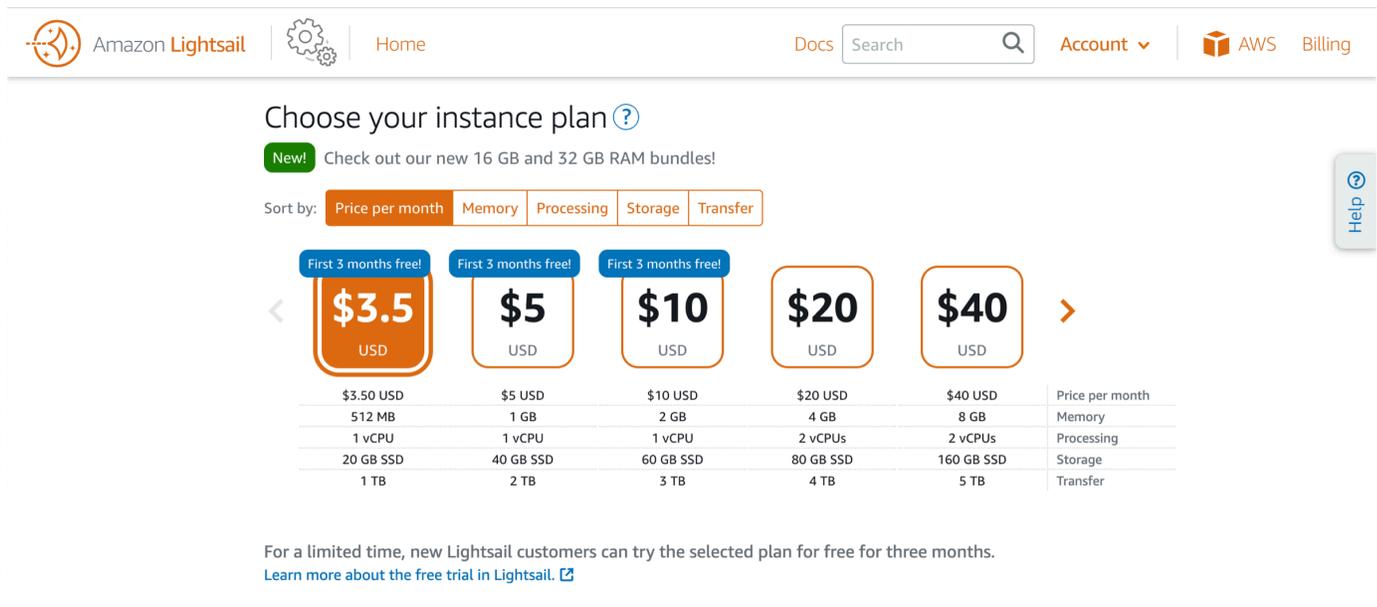
00:00 [▼](#) Coordinated Universal Time (GMT+0) [▼](#)

Help [?](#)

7. Select a pricing plan

Choose your instance plan. You can try the \$3.50 USD Lightsail plan free for the first three months (up to 750 hours). We'll credit the first three months to your account.

Learn more on our [Lightsail pricing page](#).



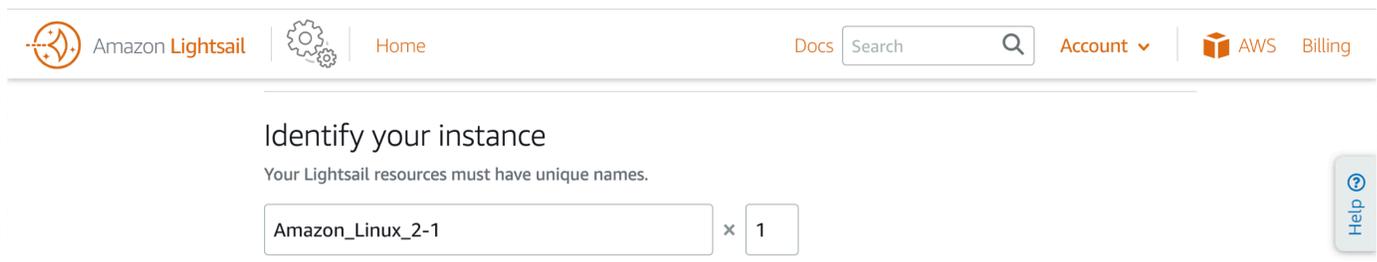
The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail pricing page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a search bar, and links for Docs, Account, AWS, and Billing. The main heading is "Choose your instance plan" with a help icon. Below this, there's a "New!" banner and a "Sort by:" section with tabs for Price per month, Memory, Processing, Storage, and Transfer. The "Price per month" tab is selected, showing five plans: \$3.50 USD, \$5 USD, \$10 USD, \$20 USD, and \$40 USD. Each plan has a "First 3 months free!" badge. Below the plans is a table with columns for Price per month, Memory, Processing, Storage, and Transfer.

Price per month	Memory	Processing	Storage	Transfer
\$3.50 USD	512 MB	1 vCPU	20 GB SSD	1 TB
\$5 USD	1 GB	1 vCPU	40 GB SSD	2 TB
\$10 USD	2 GB	1 vCPU	60 GB SSD	3 TB
\$20 USD	4 GB	2 vCPUs	80 GB SSD	4 TB
\$40 USD	8 GB	2 vCPUs	160 GB SSD	5 TB

For a limited time, new Lightsail customers can try the selected plan for free for three months. [Learn more about the free trial in Lightsail.](#)

8. Specify the instance name

Enter a name for your instance.



The screenshot shows the "Identify your instance" page in Amazon Lightsail. It has the same navigation bar as the previous screenshot. The main heading is "Identify your instance" with a note: "Your Lightsail resources must have unique names." Below this, there is a text input field containing "Amazon_Linux_2-1" and a quantity selector set to "1".

9. (Optional) Add instance tags

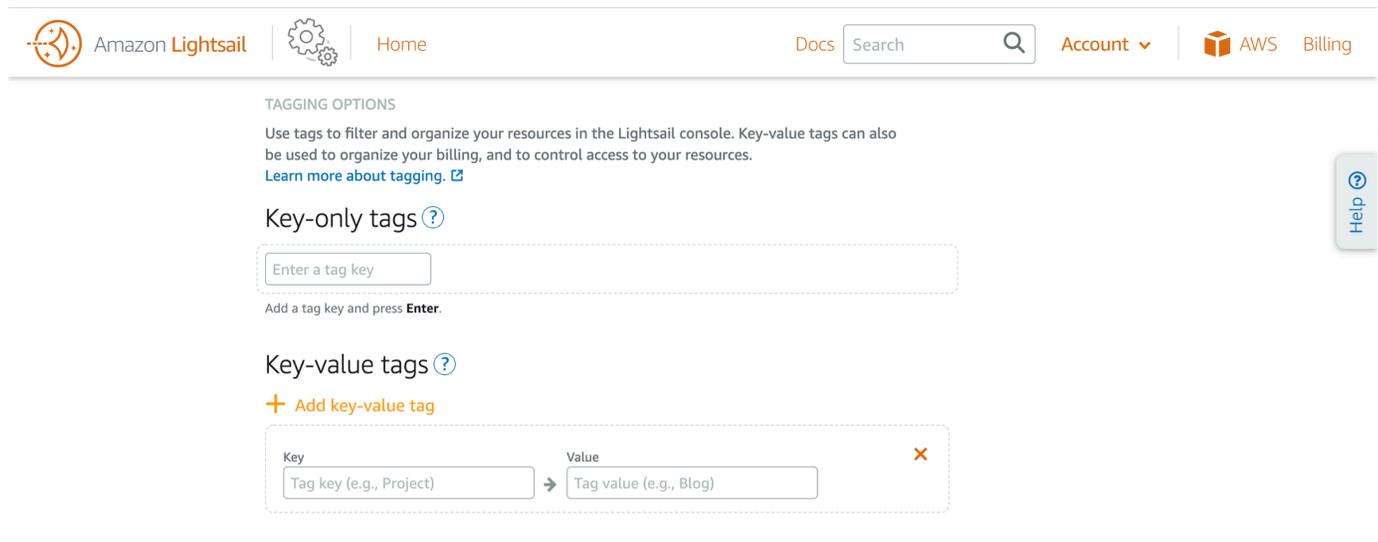
Choose one of the following options to add tags to your instance:

(Optional) Add key-only tags — Enter your new tag into the tag key text box, and press **Enter**. Choose **Save** when you're done entering your tags to add them, or choose **Cancel** to not add them.

(Optional) Create a key-value tag — Enter a key into the **Key** text box, and a value into the **Value** text box. Choose **Save** when you're done entering your tags, or choose **Cancel** to not add them.

Key-value tags can only be added one at a time before saving. To add more than one key-value tag, repeat the previous steps.

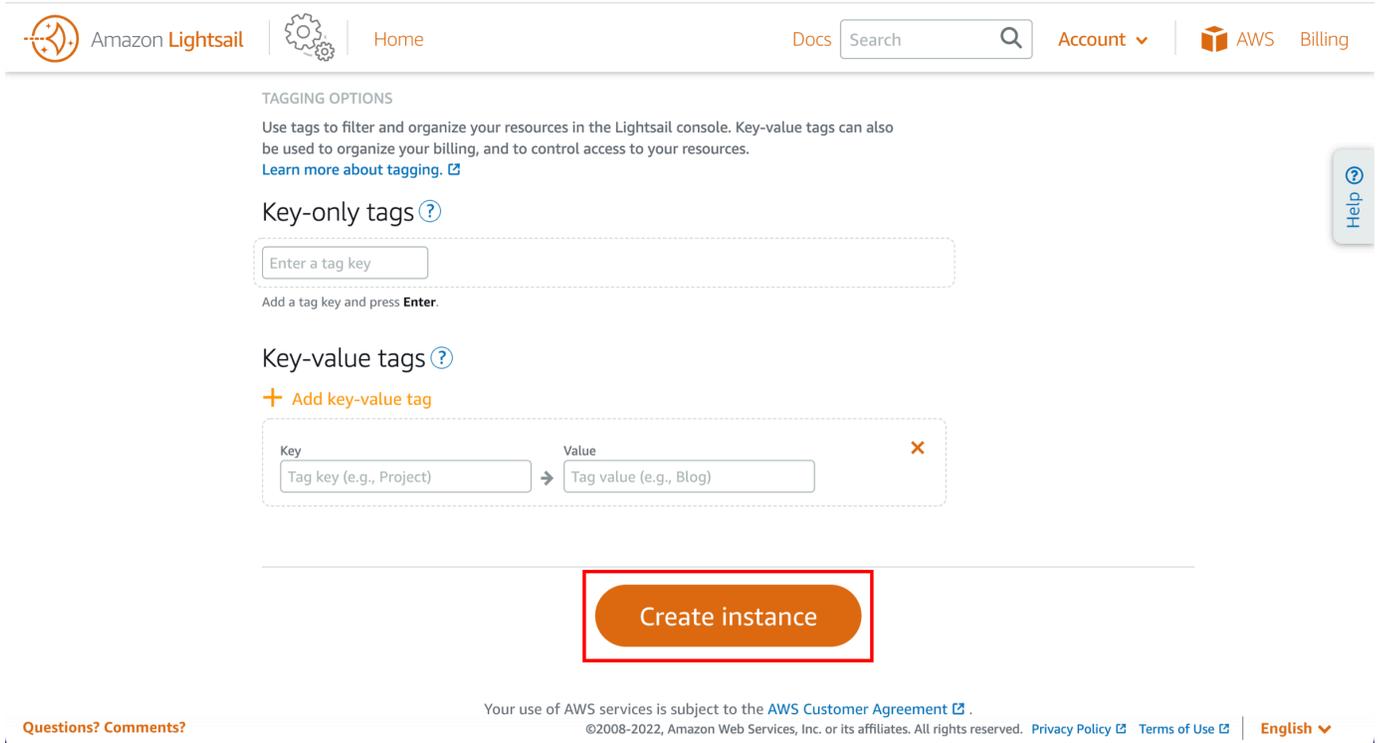
For more information about key-only and key-value tags, see [Tags in Amazon Lightsail](#).



The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a search bar, and links for Docs, Account, AWS, and Billing. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled "TAGGING OPTIONS". It contains a paragraph explaining that tags are used to filter and organize resources, and a link to "Learn more about tagging". There are two sections: "Key-only tags" with a text input field labeled "Enter a tag key" and a note to "Add a tag key and press Enter."; and "Key-value tags" with a "+ Add key-value tag" button and a form with two input fields: "Key" (with placeholder "Tag key (e.g., Project)") and "Value" (with placeholder "Tag value (e.g., Blog)"). A red "X" icon is visible in the top right corner of the key-value tag form. A vertical "Help" button is located on the right side of the console.

10. Launch the instance

Choose **Create instance**.



The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a 'Home' link, 'Docs', a search bar, 'Account', 'AWS', and 'Billing'. Below the navigation bar, the 'TAGGING OPTIONS' section is visible. It contains a paragraph explaining that tags can be used to filter and organize resources, and a link to 'Learn more about tagging'. There are two sections: 'Key-only tags' with a text input field labeled 'Enter a tag key' and a note to 'Add a tag key and press Enter.'; and 'Key-value tags' with a '+ Add key-value tag' button and a form with 'Key' and 'Value' input fields. Below these sections is a large orange 'Create instance' button. At the bottom of the console, there is a footer with 'Questions? Comments?', a disclaimer about AWS services, and a language selector set to 'English'.

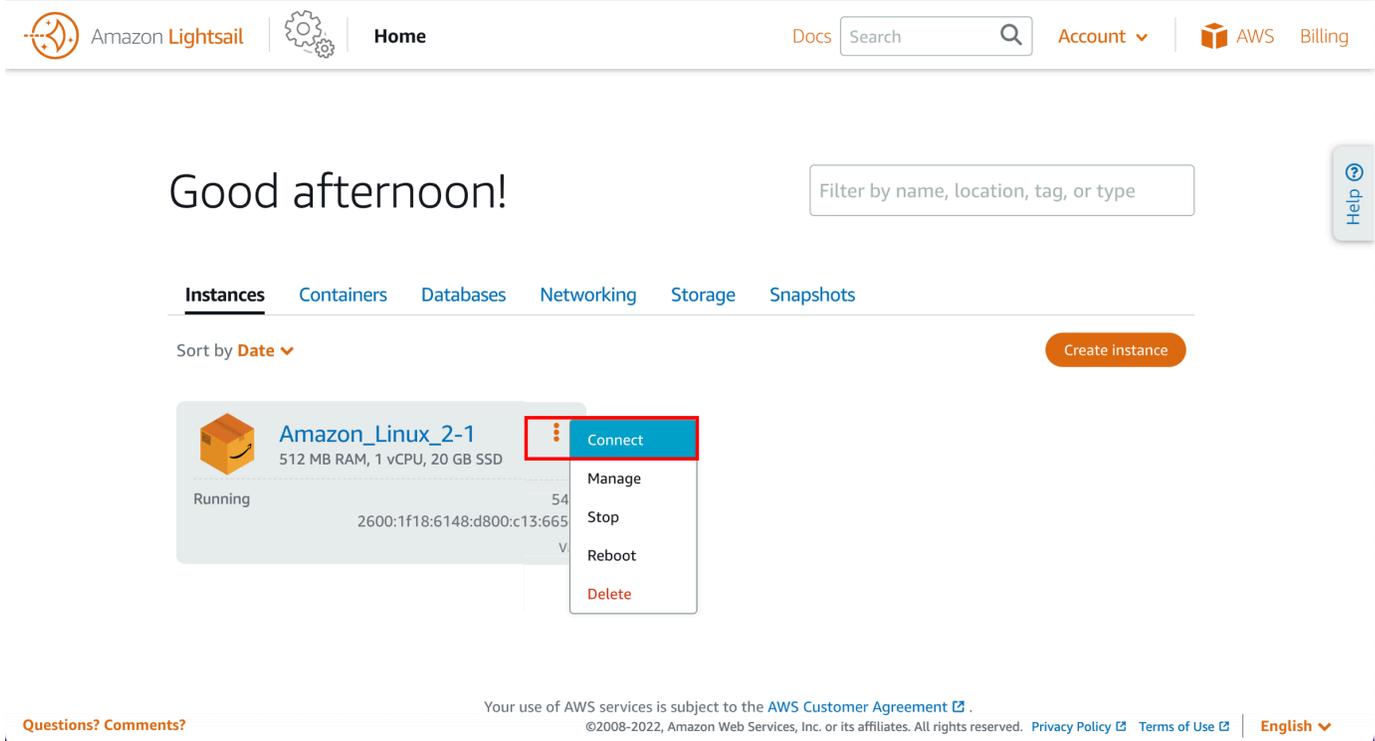
Step 4: Connect your instance

Connect to your instance using the browser-based SSH terminal in Lightsail.

- Connect to the instance terminal

In the **Instances** tab of the [Lightsail home page](#), choose the terminal icon, or the ellipsis (:) icon next to the Amazon Linux instance you just created.

The browser-based SSH terminal window appears. You can type Linux commands into the browser terminal, and manage your instance without configuring an SSH client.



The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a search bar, and links for Docs, Account, AWS, and Billing. Below the navigation bar, a greeting "Good afternoon!" is displayed next to a filter input field. The main content area features a tabbed interface with "Instances" selected. A "Sort by Date" dropdown and a "Create instance" button are visible. A single instance, "Amazon_Linux_2-1", is shown with details: 512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, 20 GB SSD, and a status of "Running". A context menu is open over the instance, listing actions: Connect, Manage, Stop, Reboot, and Delete. The footer contains a "Questions? Comments?" link, a copyright notice, and a language selector set to "English".

Congratulations

Congratulations! You used Amazon Lightsail to easily spin up and configure a Linux instance.

Amazon Lightsail is great for developers, web pros, and anyone looking to get started on AWS in a quick and cheap way. You can launch instances, databases, and SSD-based storage; transfer data; and monitor your resources, and so much more in a managed way.

Whether you're an individual developer creating a project or a blogger creating a personal website, Amazon Lightsail is a great way for you to get started.