

Hands-on tutorials

# Launch and Configure a WordPress Instance with Amazon Lightsail



# Launch and Configure a WordPress Instance with Amazon Lightsail:

## Hands-on tutorials

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# Launch and Configure a WordPress Instance with Amazon Lightsail

AWS experience	Beginner
Time to complete	10 minutes
Cost to complete	<a href="#">Free Tier</a> eligible
Last updated	August 4, 2022

## Overview

[Amazon Lightsail](#) is one of the easiest ways to get started with AWS. It offers virtual servers, storage, databases, and networking, plus a cost-effective, monthly plan.

This tutorial shows you how to launch and configure a WordPress instance on Lightsail. It includes steps to connect to your instance by using SSH, sign in to your WordPress website, create a static IP and attach it to your instance, create a DNS zone, and map it to your instance.

When you're done with this tutorial, you will have the fundamentals to get your WordPress website up and running on Amazon Lightsail.

[Get started with Lightsail for free.](#)

## Implementation

### Step 1: Create a WordPress instance in Lightsail

Complete the following steps to get your WordPress instance up and running on Lightsail.

#### Note

For more information about creating an instance in Lightsail, see [Create an Amazon Lightsail instance](#) in the Lightsail documentation.

## 1. Create an Amazon Lightsail account

This tutorial is free tier eligible.

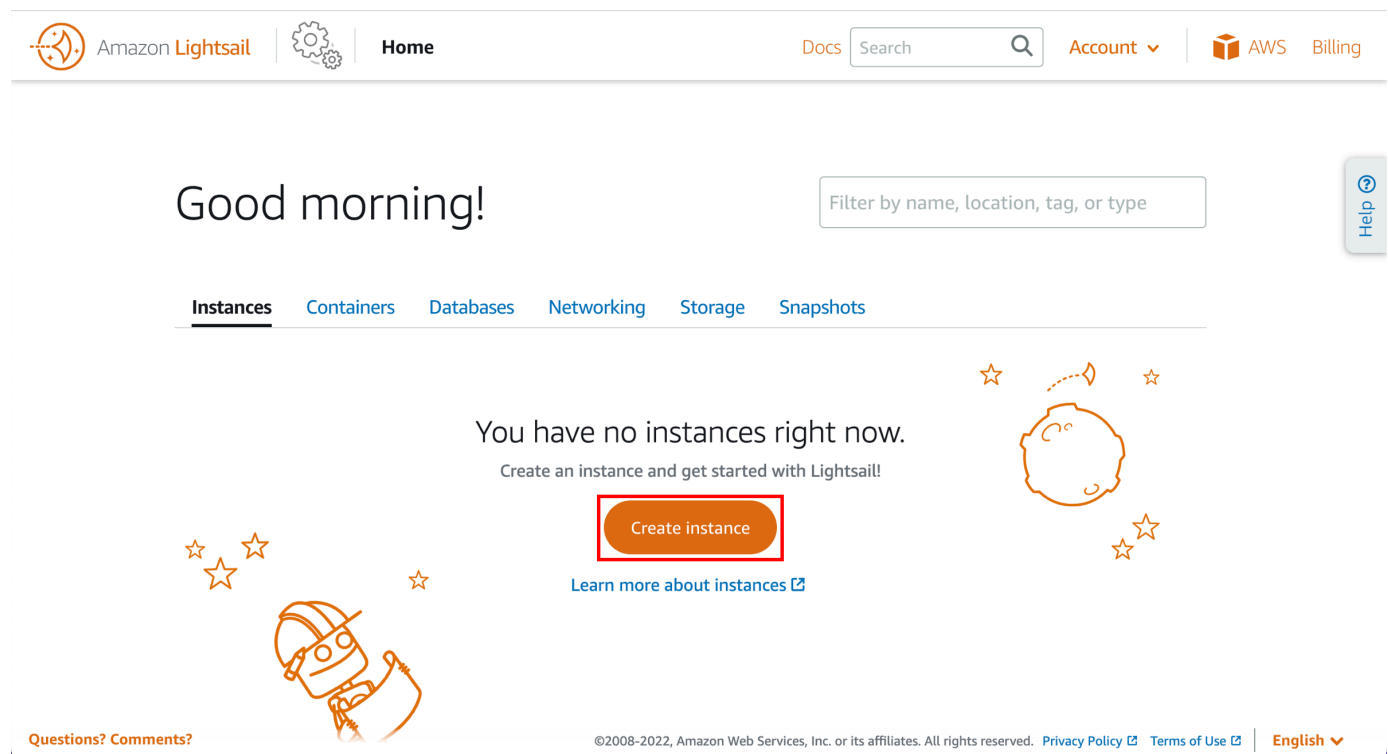
[Sign up for AWS](#)

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

## 2. Create a Lightsail instance

Sign in to the [Lightsail console](#).

On the Instances tab of the Lightsail home page, choose **Create instance**.



## 3. Select a Region

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



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

## Select an Availability Zone ?

Zone A  
us-east-1aZone B  
us-east-1bZone C  
us-east-1cZone D  
us-east-1dZone E  
us-east-1eZone F  
us-east-1f

Help ?

## 4. Choose an image

Choose your instance image.

- Choose **Linux/Unix** as the platform.
- Choose **WordPress** as the blueprint.

The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a settings gear, a 'Home' link, and links for 'Docs', 'Search', 'Account', 'AWS', and 'Billing'. The main content area is titled 'Pick your instance image' with a help icon. Below this, there's a 'Select a platform' section with two options: 'Linux/Unix' (28 blueprints) and 'Microsoft Windows' (4 blueprints). The 'Linux/Unix' option is highlighted with a red box. Below that, there's a 'Select a blueprint' section with two tabs: 'Apps + OS' and 'OS Only'. Under the 'Apps + OS' tab, there's a grid of application blueprints. The 'WordPress 5.9.3-8' blueprint is highlighted with a red box. Other blueprints visible include Joomla, Magento, LAMP (PHP 7), Node.js, GitLab CE, Redmine, MEAN, Drupal, Django, PrestaShop, Nginx, Ghost, Plesk Hosting Stack on Ubuntu, and cPanel & WHM for Linux. At the bottom, there's a footer with 'Questions? Comments?', a copyright notice for 2008-2022 Amazon Web Services, Inc., and links for 'Privacy Policy', 'Terms of Use', and 'English'.

## 5. Select an instance plan

Choose an instance plan.

A plan includes a machine configuration (RAM, SSD, vCPU) at a low, predictable cost, and data transfer allowance. You can try the \$3.50 USD Lightsail plan without charge for three months (up to 750 hours). AWS credits the first three months to your account.

Choose your instance plan ?

**New!** Check out our new 16 GB and 32 GB RAM bundles!

Sort by: Price per month Memory Processing Storage Transfer

First 3 months free!	First 3 months free!	First 3 months free!			
<b>\$3.5</b> USD	<b>\$5</b> USD	<b>\$10</b> USD	<b>\$20</b> USD	<b>\$40</b> USD	
\$3.50 USD	\$5 USD	\$10 USD	\$20 USD	\$40 USD	Price per month
512 MB	1 GB	2 GB	4 GB	8 GB	Memory
1 vCPU	1 vCPU	1 vCPU	2 vCPUs	2 vCPUs	Processing
20 GB SSD	40 GB SSD	60 GB SSD	80 GB SSD	160 GB SSD	Storage
1 TB	2 TB	3 TB	4 TB	5 TB	Transfer

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.](#)

Identify your instance

Your Lightsail resources must have unique names.

Questions? Comments?

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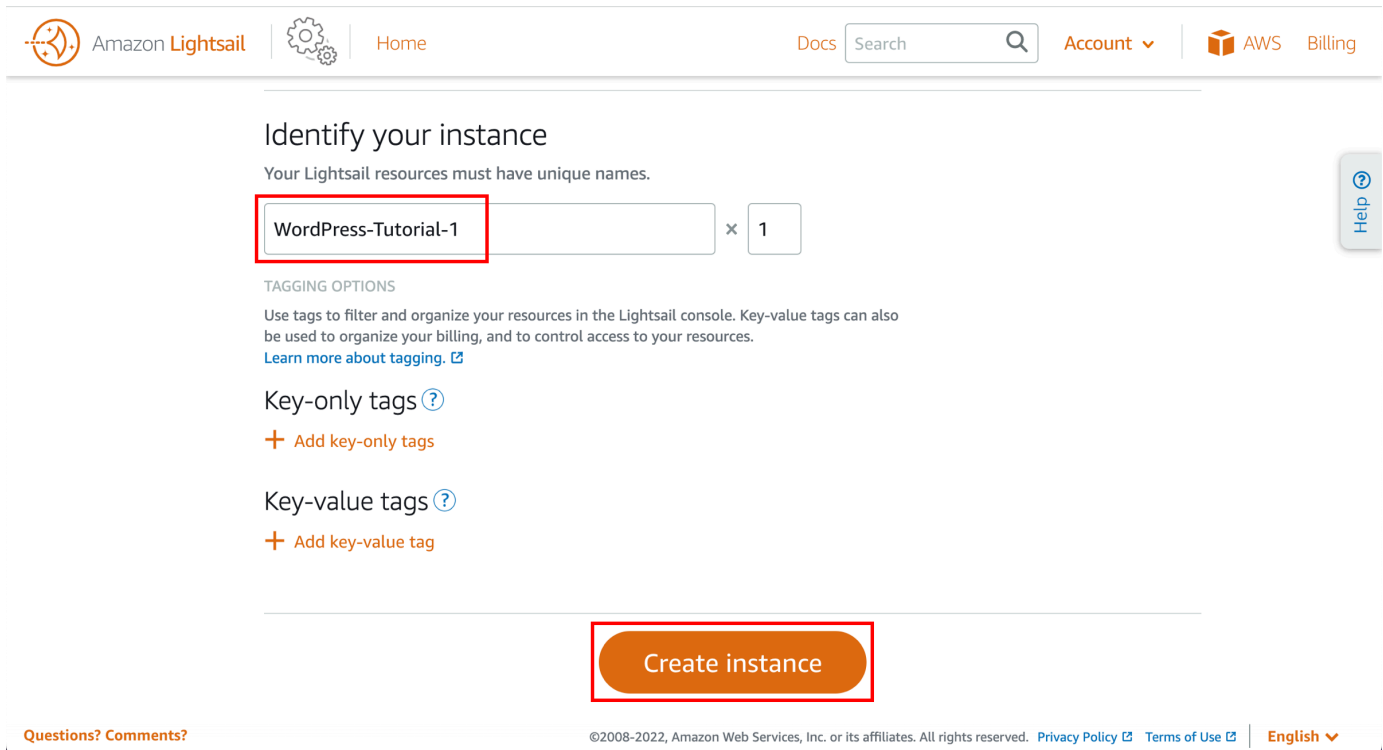
## 6. Create your instance

Enter a name for your instance and choose **Create instance**.

Resource name guidelines:

- Must be unique within each AWS Region in your Lightsail account.
- Must contain 2 to 255 characters.
- Must start and end with an alphanumeric character or number.
- Can include alphanumeric characters, numbers, periods, dashes, and underscores.





Identify your instance

Your Lightsail resources must have unique names.

WordPress-Tutorial-1 × 1

TAGGING OPTIONS

Use tags to filter and organize your resources in the Lightsail console. Key-value tags can also be used to organize your billing, and to control access to your resources.  
[Learn more about tagging.](#)

Key-only tags ?  
+ Add key-only tags

Key-value tags ?  
+ Add key-value tag

Create instance

Questions? Comments?

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## Step 2: Connect to your instance via SSH and get the password for your WordPress website

The default password to sign in to the administration dashboard of your WordPress website is stored on the instance.

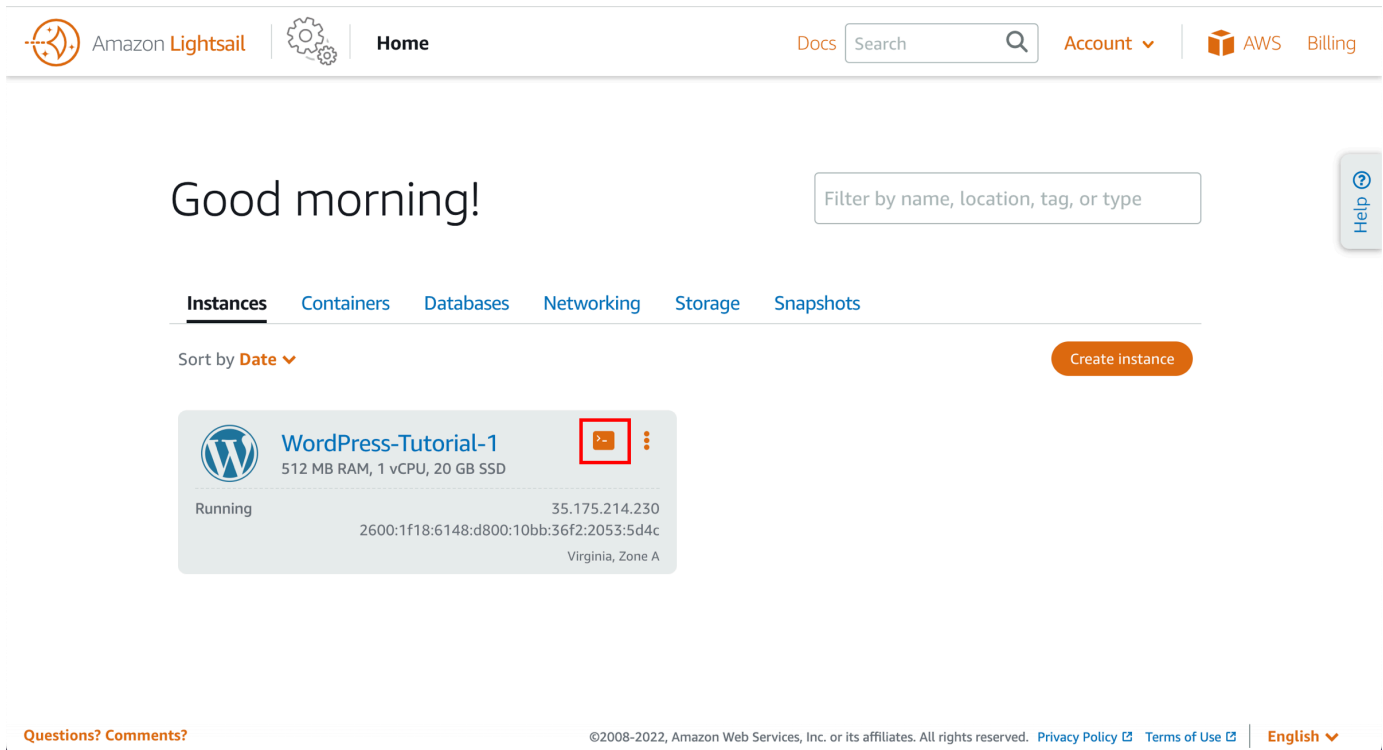
Complete the following steps to connect to your instance using the browser-based SSH client in the Lightsail console, and get the password for the administration dashboard.

### Note

For more information, see [Obtain the default application username and password for Lightsail Bitnami.](#)

### 1. Connect using SSH

On the **Instances** tab of the [Lightsail home page](#), choose the SSH quick-connect icon for your WordPress instance.



The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a 'Home' button, and links for 'Docs', 'Search', 'Account', 'AWS', and 'Billing'. Below the navigation bar, a large 'Good morning!' greeting is displayed. A search bar with the placeholder text 'Filter by name, location, tag, or type' is on the right. A 'Help' button is visible on the far right. The main content area has a tabbed interface with 'Instances' selected. Below the tabs, there's a 'Sort by Date' dropdown and a 'Create instance' button. A single instance, 'WordPress-Tutorial-1', is listed. It has a status of 'Running', 512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, and 20 GB SSD. The instance's IP address is 35.175.214.230. A red box highlights the instance's icon, which is a small orange square with a white 'P' and a red minus sign. The footer contains links for 'Questions? Comments?', copyright information, 'Privacy Policy', 'Terms of Use', and a language selector set to 'English'.

## 2. Retrieve the password

After the browser-based SSH client window opens, enter the following command to retrieve the default application password:

```
cat $HOME/bitnami_application_password
```

## 3. Note the password

Make note of the password displayed on the screen. You use it later to sign in to the administration dashboard of your WordPress website.

```
Linux ip-172-26-3-115 4.19.0-20-cloud-amd64 #1 SMP Debian 4.19.235-1 (2022-03-17) x86_64

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.

      _ _ _ _ _
     | | | | |
     | | | | |
     | | | | |
     | | | | |

*** Welcome to the WordPress packaged by Bitnami 5.9.3-8 ***
*** Documentation: https://docs.bitnami.com/aws/apps/wordpress/ ***
***               https://docs.bitnami.com/aws/ ***
*** Bitnami Forums: https://community.bitnami.com/ ***
bitnami@ip-172-26-3-115:~$ cat $HOME/bitnami_application_password
kqw65VnL88z2
bitnami@ip-172-26-3-115:~$
```



WordPress-Tutorial-1  
35.175.214.230



### Step 3: Sign in to the administration dashboard of your WordPress website

Now that you have the password for the administration dashboard of your WordPress website, you can sign in. In the administration dashboard, you can change your user password, install plugins, change the theme of your website, and more.

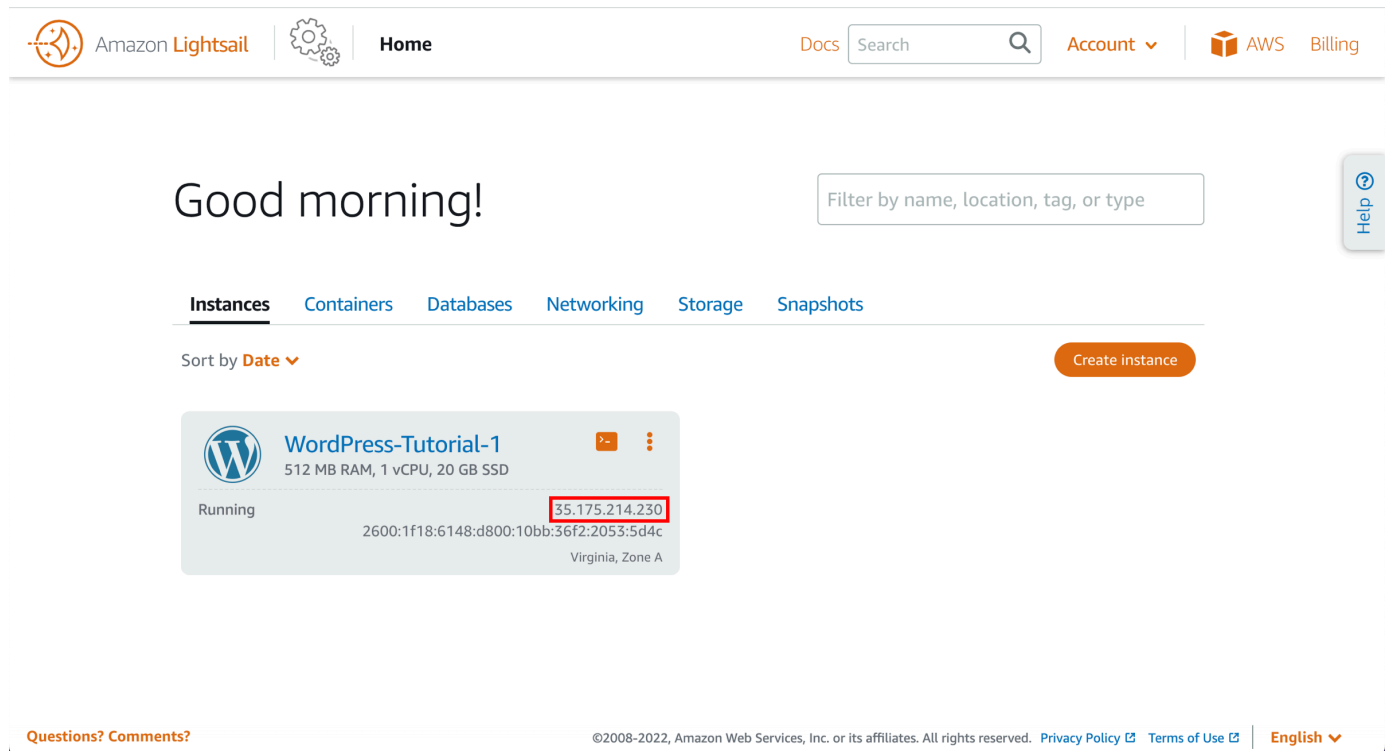
Complete the following steps to sign in to the administration dashboard of your WordPress website.

#### 1. Log in to WordPress

In a browser, go to:

```
http://PublicIpAddress/wp-login.php
```

In the address, replace **PublicIpAddress** with the public IP address of your WordPress instance. You can get your instance's public IP address from the Lightsail console as shown in the image at the right.



## 2. Enter your credentials

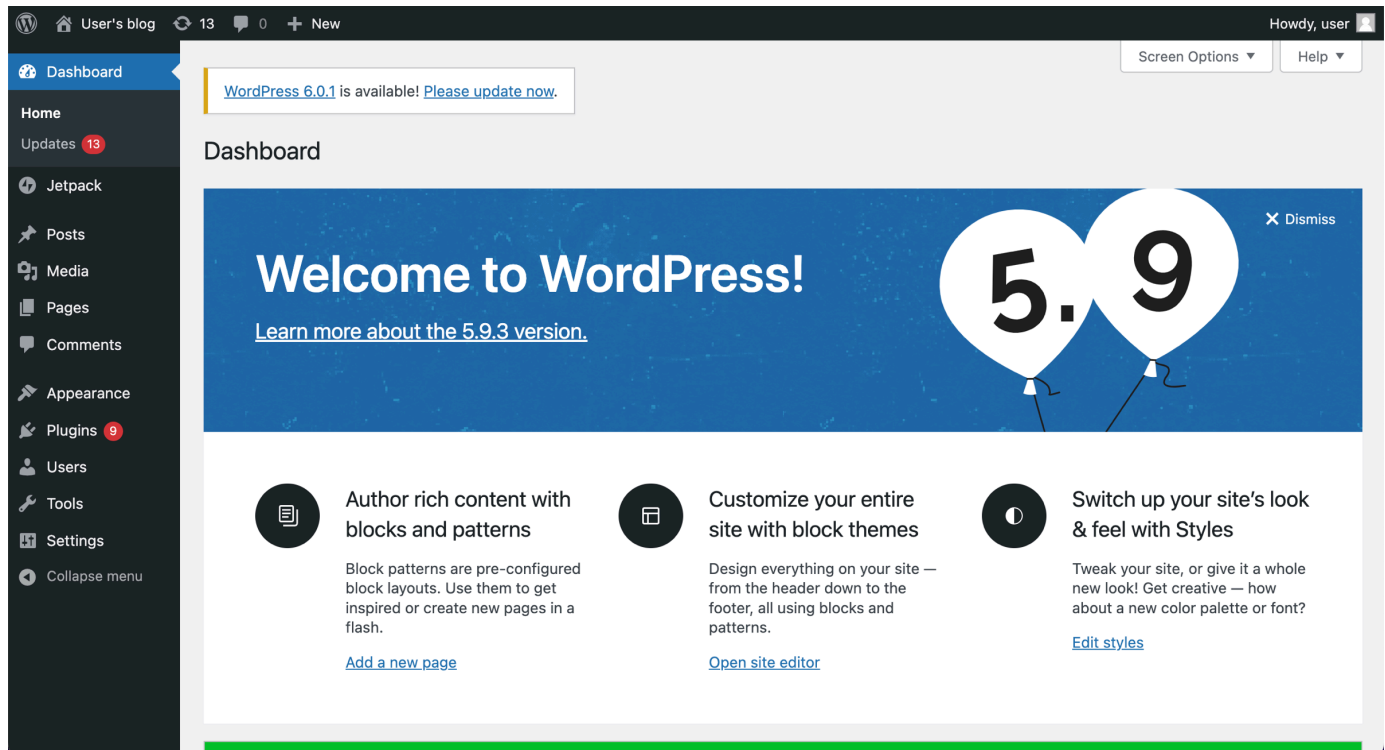
Log in to your instance.

- In the **Username or Email Address** box, enter **user**.
- In the **Password** box, enter the default password obtained earlier in this tutorial.
- Choose **Log in**.



### 3. Manage WordPress

You are now signed in to the administration dashboard of your WordPress website where you can perform administrative actions. For more information about administering your WordPress website, see the [WordPress Codex](#) in the WordPress documentation.



## Step 4: Create a Lightsail static IP address and attach it to your WordPress instance

The default public IP for your WordPress instance changes if you stop and start your instance. A static IP address, attached to an instance, stays the same even if you stop and start your instance.

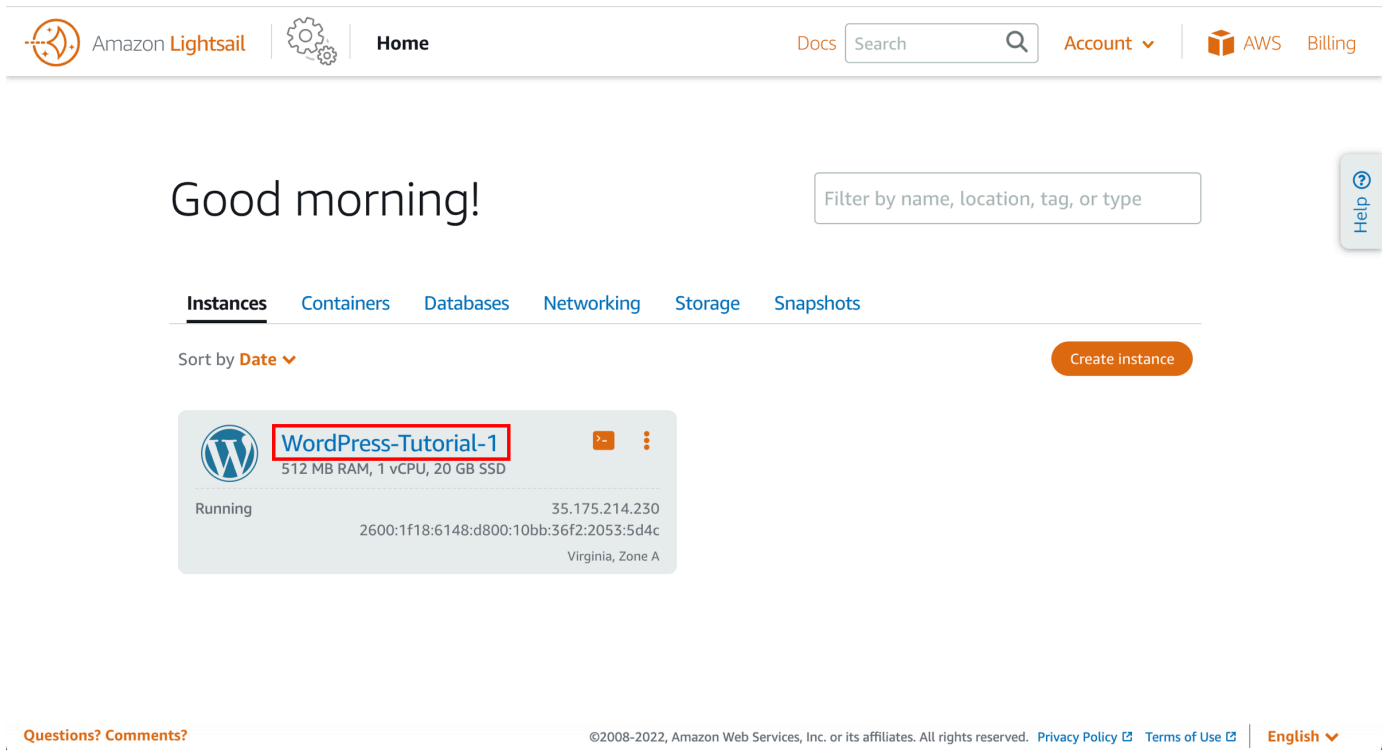
Complete the following steps to create a static IP address and attach it to your WordPress instance.

### Note

For more information, see [Create a static IP and attach it to an instance in Amazon Lightsail](#).

### 1. Choose your instance


On the **Instances** tab of the [Lightsail home page](#), choose your running WordPress instance.



Good morning!

Filter by name, location, tag, or type

**Instances** Containers Databases Networking Storage Snapshots

Sort by **Date**  [Create instance](#)

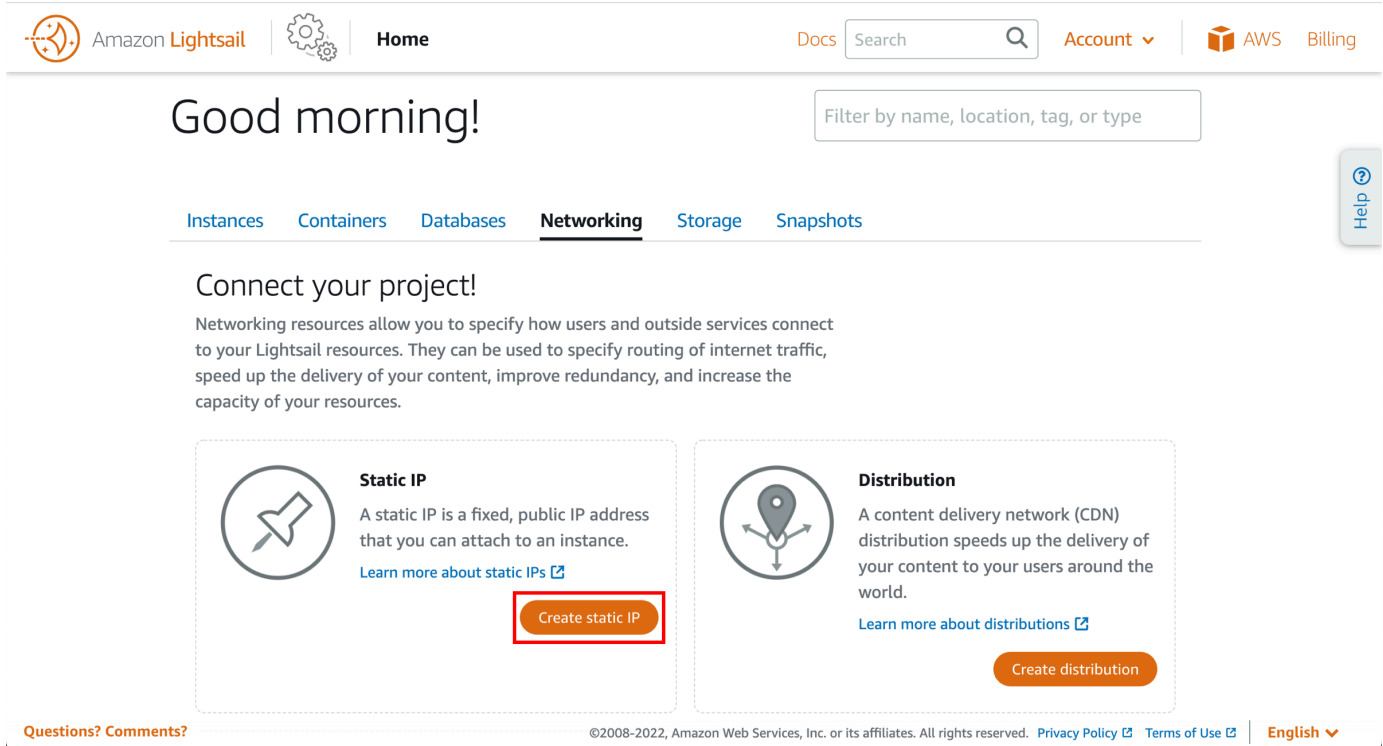
Instance Name	Status	Public IP	Private IP	Location
<b>WordPress-Tutorial-1</b>	Running	35.175.214.230	2600:1f18:6148:d800:10bb:36f2:2053:5d4c	Virginia, Zone A

Questions? Comments?

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## 2. Create a static IP

Choose the **Networking** tab, then choose **Create static IP**.




Good morning!

Filter by name, location, tag, or type

**Instances** Containers Databases **Networking** Storage Snapshots

Connect your project!

Networking resources allow you to specify how users and outside services connect to your Lightsail resources. They can be used to specify routing of internet traffic, speed up the delivery of your content, improve redundancy, and increase the capacity of your resources.




**Static IP**

A static IP is a fixed, public IP address that you can attach to an instance.

[Learn more about static IPs](#)

[Create static IP](#)



**Distribution**

A content delivery network (CDN) distribution speeds up the delivery of your content to your users around the world.

[Learn more about distributions](#)

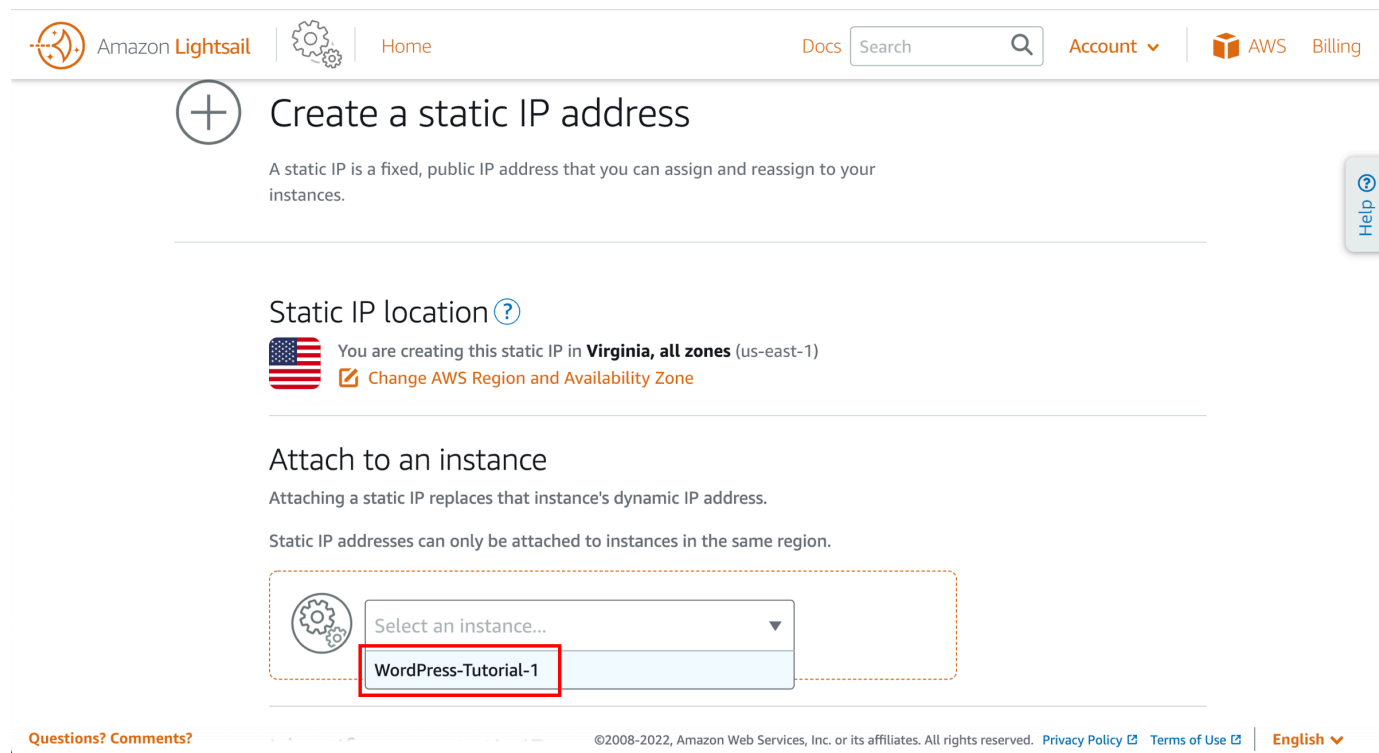
[Create distribution](#)

Questions? Comments?

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## 3. Attach to an instance


The static IP location is preselected based on the instance zone that you chose earlier. Select the created WordPress instance from the **Attach to an instance** dropdown.




**Create a static IP address**

A static IP is a fixed, public IP address that you can assign and reassign to your instances.

**Static IP location** ⓘ


 You are creating this static IP in **Virginia, all zones (us-east-1)**

 [Change AWS Region and Availability Zone](#)

**Attach to an instance**

Attaching a static IP replaces that instance's dynamic IP address.

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

 Select an instance... ▼

**WordPress-Tutorial-1**

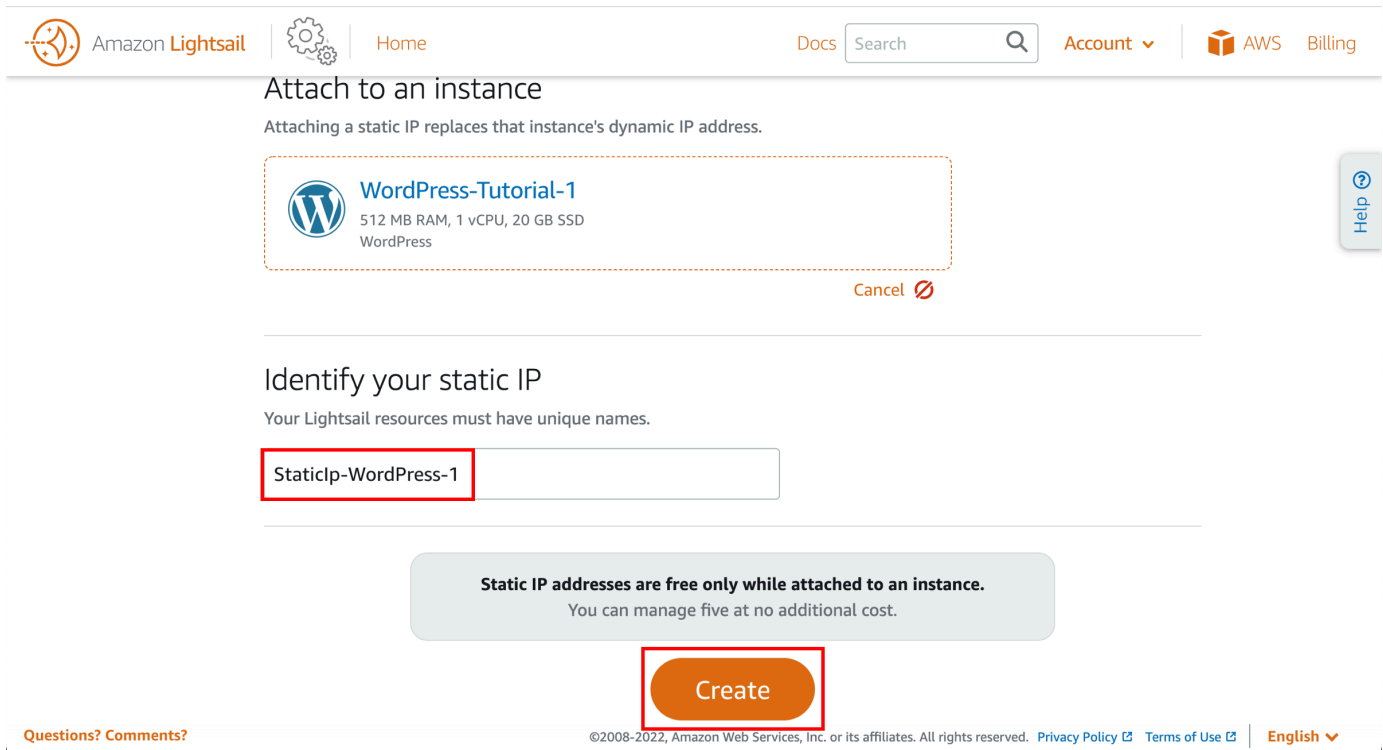
[Questions?](#) [Comments?](#)

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#### 4. Name your static IP

Name your static IP, then choose **Create**.





The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a settings gear, 'Home', 'Docs', a search bar, 'Account', 'AWS', and 'Billing'. The main content area is titled 'Attach to an instance' with a subtext 'Attaching a static IP replaces that instance's dynamic IP address.' Below this, a dashed box contains the instance details: 'WordPress-Tutorial-1' with '512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, 20 GB SSD' and 'WordPress'. A 'Cancel' button with a red 'X' is to the right. Below the dashed box, the section 'Identify your static IP' has the text 'Your Lightsail resources must have unique names.' A text input field contains 'StaticIp-WordPress-1' and is highlighted with a red border. Below the input field is a grey box with the text: 'Static IP addresses are free only while attached to an instance. You can manage five at no additional cost.' At the bottom, an orange 'Create' button is highlighted with a red border. The footer includes 'Questions? Comments?', copyright information, and links for 'Privacy Policy', 'Terms of Use', and 'English'.

## Step 5: Create a Lightsail DNS zone and map a domain to your WordPress instance

Transfer management of your domain's DNS records to Lightsail. This allows you to more easily map a domain to your WordPress instance, and manage more of your website's resources using the Lightsail console.

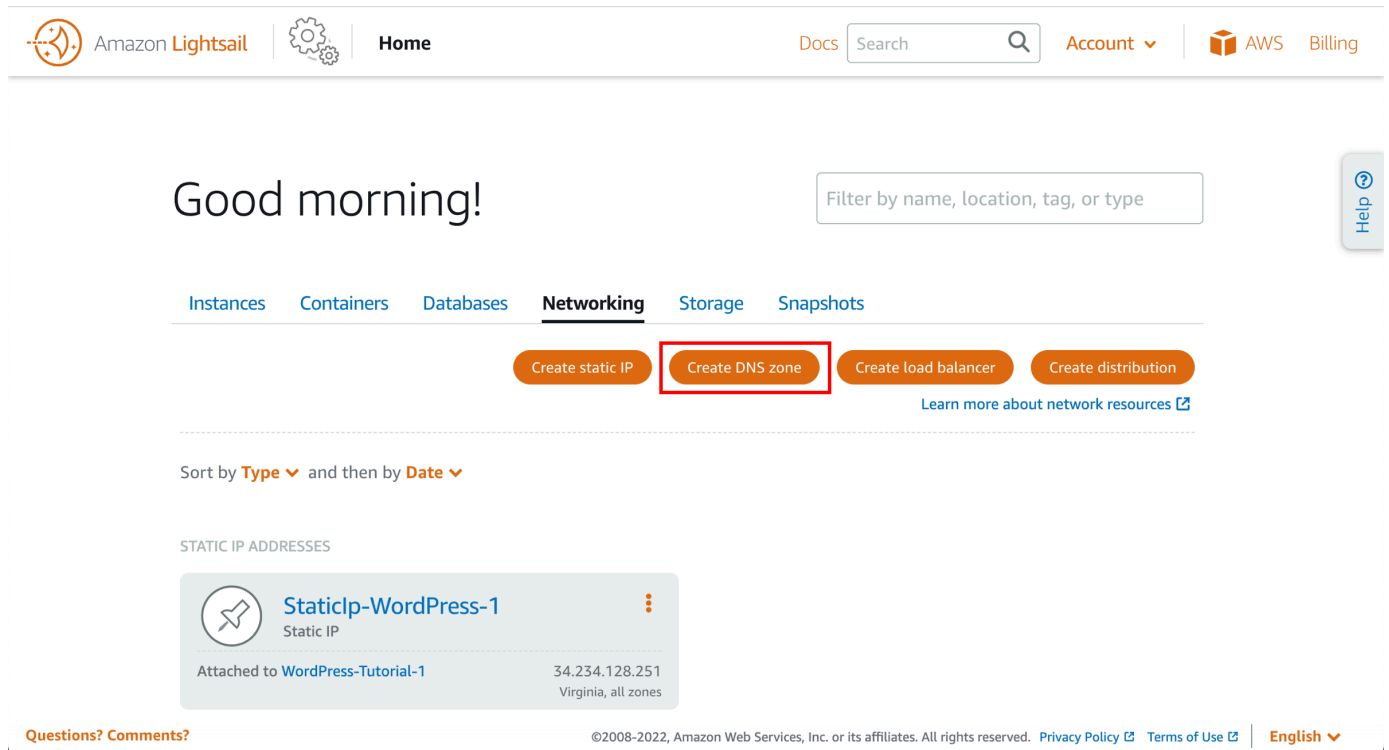
Complete the following steps to create a Lightsail DNS zone and map a domain to your WordPress instance.

### Note

For more information, see [Creating a DNS zone to manage your domain's DNS records in Amazon Lightsail](#).

### 1. Create a DNS zone

On the **Networking** tab of the [Lightsail home page](#), choose **Create DNS zone**.



The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a 'Home' link, and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, the main content area displays a 'Good morning!' greeting and a filter input field. The 'Networking' tab is selected, showing buttons for 'Create static IP', 'Create DNS zone' (highlighted with a red box), 'Create load balancer', and 'Create distribution'. Below these buttons, there's a section for 'STATIC IP ADDRESSES' with a table listing a static IP named 'Staticip-WordPress-1' attached to 'WordPress-Tutorial-1' with the IP address '34.234.128.251' in the 'Virginia, all zones' region. The footer contains links for 'Questions? Comments?', copyright information, and language settings.

Amazon Lightsail | Home | Docs | Search | Account | AWS | Billing

Good morning! Filter by name, location, tag, or type


Instances Containers Databases **Networking** Storage Snapshots

Create static IP **Create DNS zone** Create load balancer Create distribution

[Learn more about network resources](#)

Sort by **Type** and then by **Date**

STATIC IP ADDRESSES

	<b>Staticip-WordPress-1</b> Static IP	
Attached to <b>WordPress-Tutorial-1</b>		34.234.128.251 Virginia, all zones

Questions? Comments? | ©2008-2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#) | English

## 2. Add your domain

Enter your domain, then choose **Create DNS zone**.

**Create a DNS zone**

By creating a DNS zone, you can use your registered domain with Lightsail and easily map it and its subdomains to your resources, such as an instance or load balancer.

DNS zones are **Global** resources. They can reference any instance or load balancer in any Region.

Enter the domain you have registered [?](#)

If you have not registered your domain yet, you must do this using a domain provider such as [Amazon Route53](#).

example.com

**Identify your DNS zone**

**TAGGING OPTIONS**

Use tags to filter and organize your resources in the Lightsail console. Key-value tags can also be used to organize your billing, and to control access to your resources. [Learn more about tagging.](#)

**Key-only tags** [?](#)

+ Add key-only tags

**Key-value tags** [?](#)

+ Add key-value tag

**Next steps** [?](#)

After you choose **Create DNS zone**, you get a set of AWS name servers. To transfer management of your domain's DNS to Lightsail, you must add the name servers to the current DNS hosting provider for your domain. [Learn more about transferring domain management](#)

**Create DNS zone**

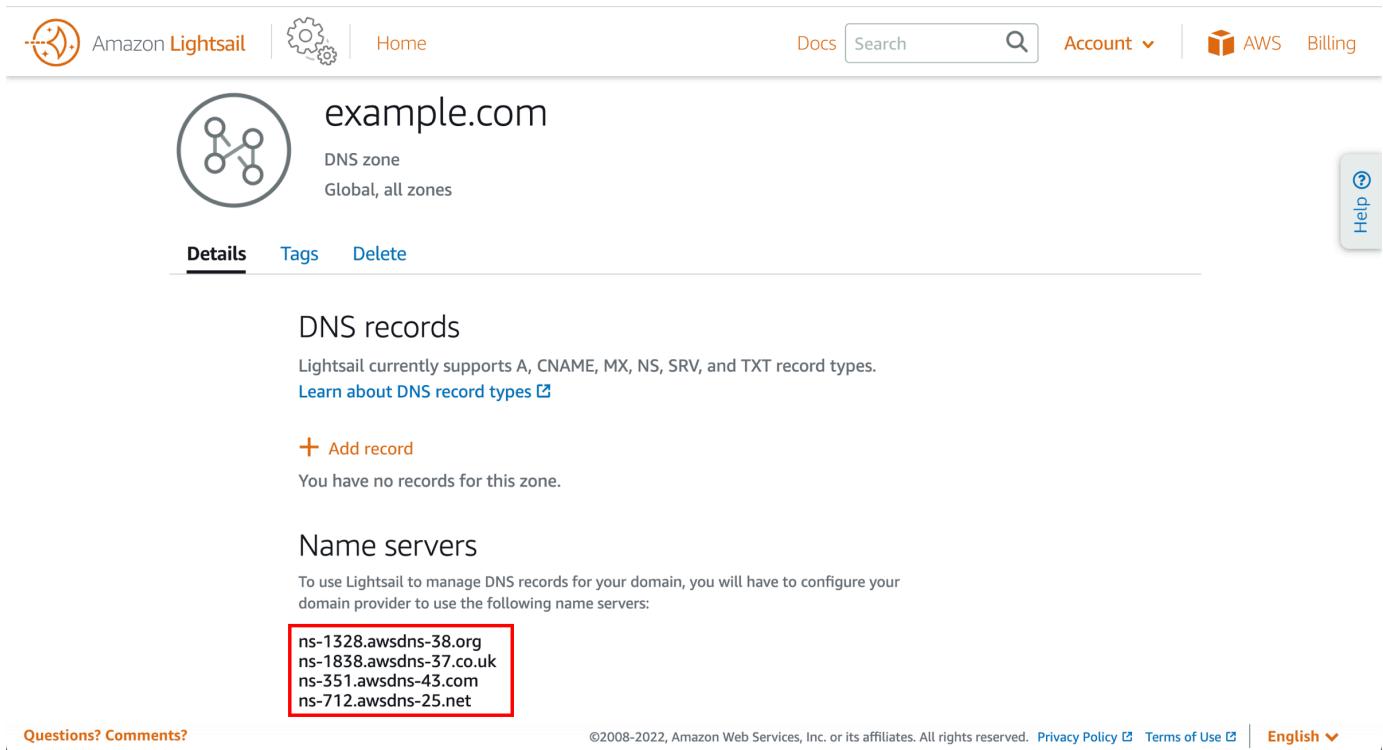
Questions? Comments?

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### 3. Note the name servers

Make note of the name server address listed on the page.

You add these name server addresses to your domain name's registrar to transfer management of your domain's DNS records to Lightsail.



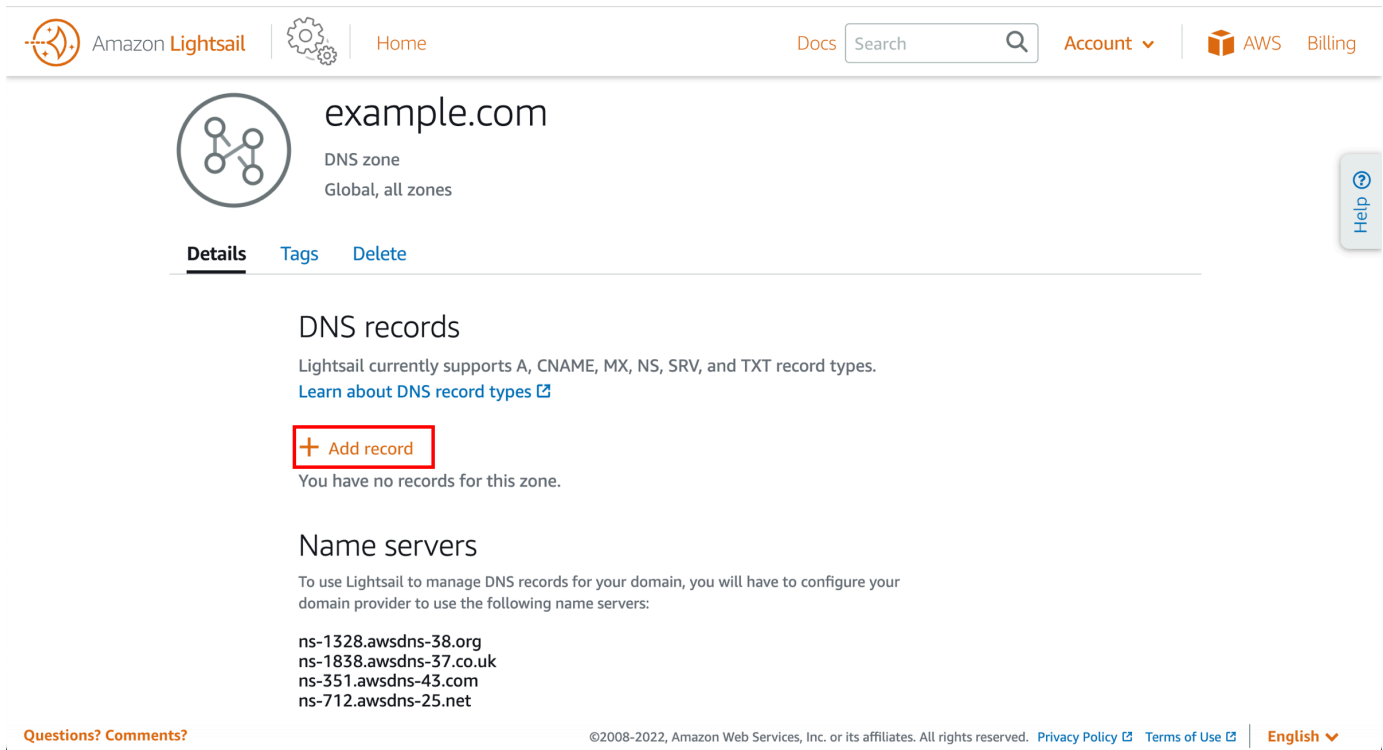
The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a Home link, a Docs link, a search bar, an Account dropdown, and links for AWS and Billing. Below the navigation bar, the main content area displays the DNS zone configuration for 'example.com'. It shows a DNS zone icon, the domain name 'example.com', and the zone type 'Global, all zones'. There are tabs for 'Details', 'Tags', and 'Delete'. Under the 'Details' tab, the 'DNS records' section is active, showing that Lightsail currently supports A, CNAME, MX, NS, SRV, and TXT record types. There is a link to 'Learn about DNS record types'. Below this, there is an '+ Add record' button and a message stating 'You have no records for this zone.' The 'Name servers' section is also visible, explaining that to use Lightsail to manage DNS records, the domain provider must be configured to use the following name servers: ns-1328.awsdns-38.org, ns-1838.awsdns-37.co.uk, ns-351.awsdns-43.com, and ns-712.awsdns-25.net. These name servers are listed in a red-bordered box. At the bottom of the console, there are links for 'Questions? Comments?', a copyright notice for 2008-2022, and links for 'Privacy Policy', 'Terms of Use', and 'English'.

#### 4. Add an A record

After management of your domain's DNS records are transferred to Lightsail, add an A record to point the apex of your domain to your WordPress instance, as follows:

You add these name server addresses to your domain name's registrar to transfer management of your domain's DNS records to Lightsail.

In the DNS zone for your domain, choose **Add record**.



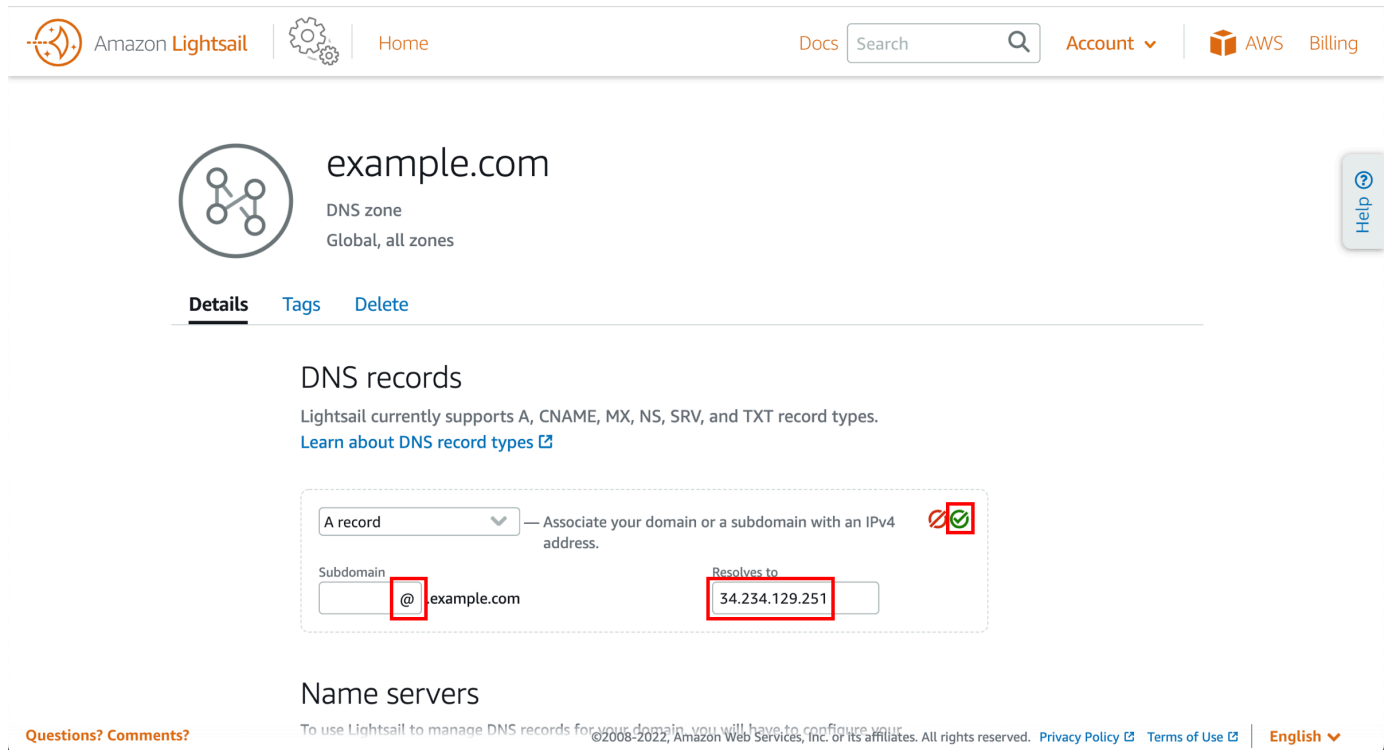
The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a Home link, a Docs link, a search bar, an Account dropdown, and links for AWS and Billing. Below the navigation bar, the main content area displays the DNS configuration for the domain 'example.com'. It shows a DNS zone for 'example.com' with the description 'DNS zone' and 'Global, all zones'. There are tabs for 'Details', 'Tags', and 'Delete'. Under the 'Details' tab, the 'DNS records' section is visible, stating 'Lightsail currently supports A, CNAME, MX, NS, SRV, and TXT record types.' and providing a link to 'Learn about DNS record types'. Below this is a red-bordered button with a plus icon and the text '+ Add record'. Underneath the button, it says 'You have no records for this zone.' The 'Name servers' section follows, explaining that to use Lightsail for DNS, the domain provider must be configured with specific name servers. These are listed as: ns-1328.awsdns-38.org, ns-1838.awsdns-37.co.uk, ns-351.awsdns-43.com, and ns-712.awsdns-25.net. At the bottom of the console, there are links for 'Questions? Comments?', a copyright notice '©2008-2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.', links for 'Privacy Policy' and 'Terms of Use', and a language selector set to 'English'.

## 5. Configure DNS settings

Continue adding the following details to complete pointing the apex of your domain to your WordPress instance:

- In the **Subdomain** box, enter an @ symbol to map the apex of your domain (such as [example.com](#)) to your instance. The @ symbol explicitly symbolizes that you're adding an apex record. It is not added as a subdomain.
- In the **Resolves to** box, choose the static IP that you attached to the WordPress instance in the previous step of this tutorial.
- Choose the green **save** icon.

Allow time for the change to propagate through the internet's DNS before your domain begins routing traffic to your WordPress instance.



The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a 'Home' link, a search bar, and links for 'Docs', 'Account', 'AWS', and 'Billing'. Below the navigation bar, the main content area displays the DNS configuration for 'example.com'. It includes a 'DNS zone' icon and text indicating it's 'Global, all zones'. There are tabs for 'Details', 'Tags', and 'Delete'. The 'DNS records' section explains that Lightsail supports A, CNAME, MX, NS, SRV, and TXT record types, with a link to 'Learn about DNS record types'. Below this, there's a form to add a new A record. The form has a dropdown menu set to 'A record', a description 'Associate your domain or a subdomain with an IPv4 address.', and a status icon. The 'Subdomain' field contains '@example.com' and the 'Resolves to' field contains '34.234.129.251'. Both fields are highlighted with red boxes. The 'Name servers' section is partially visible at the bottom.

Amazon Lightsail | Home | Docs | Search | Account | AWS | Billing

example.com  
DNS zone  
Global, all zones

Details Tags Delete

DNS records

Lightsail currently supports A, CNAME, MX, NS, SRV, and TXT record types.  
[Learn about DNS record types](#)

A record — Associate your domain or a subdomain with an IPv4 address.

Subdomain: @example.com Resolves to: 34.234.129.251

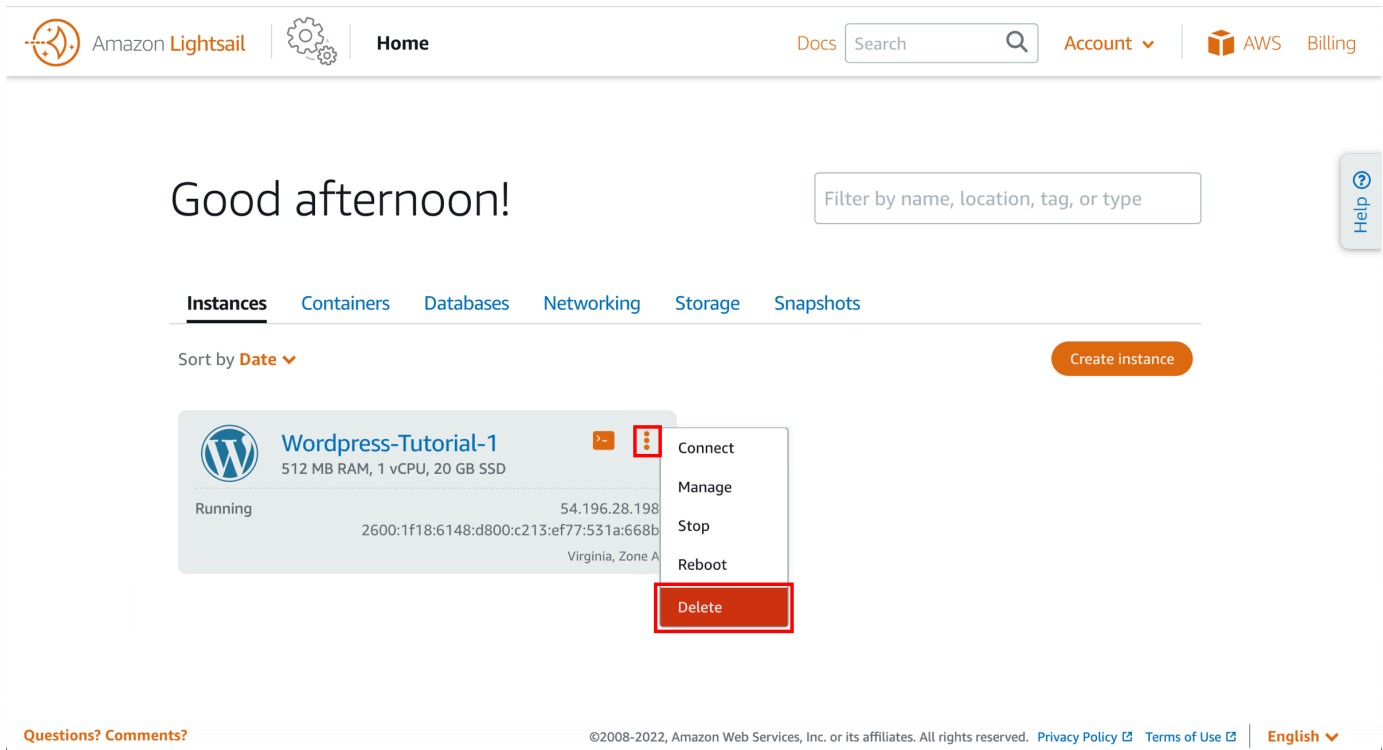
Name servers

Questions? Comments? To use Lightsail to manage DNS records for your domain, you will have to configure your...  
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## Clean up resources

### 1. Delete instance

On the **Instances** tab of the [Lightsail home page](#), choose the ellipsis (:) icon next to the WordPress instance you just created and choose **Delete**.



Good afternoon!

Filter by name, location, tag, or type

**Instances** Containers Databases Networking Storage Snapshots

Sort by **Date** ▼ Create instance

**Wordpress-Tutorial-1**  
512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, 20 GB SSD

Running

54.196.28.198  
2600:1f18:6148:d800:c213:ef77:531a:668b  
Virginia, Zone A

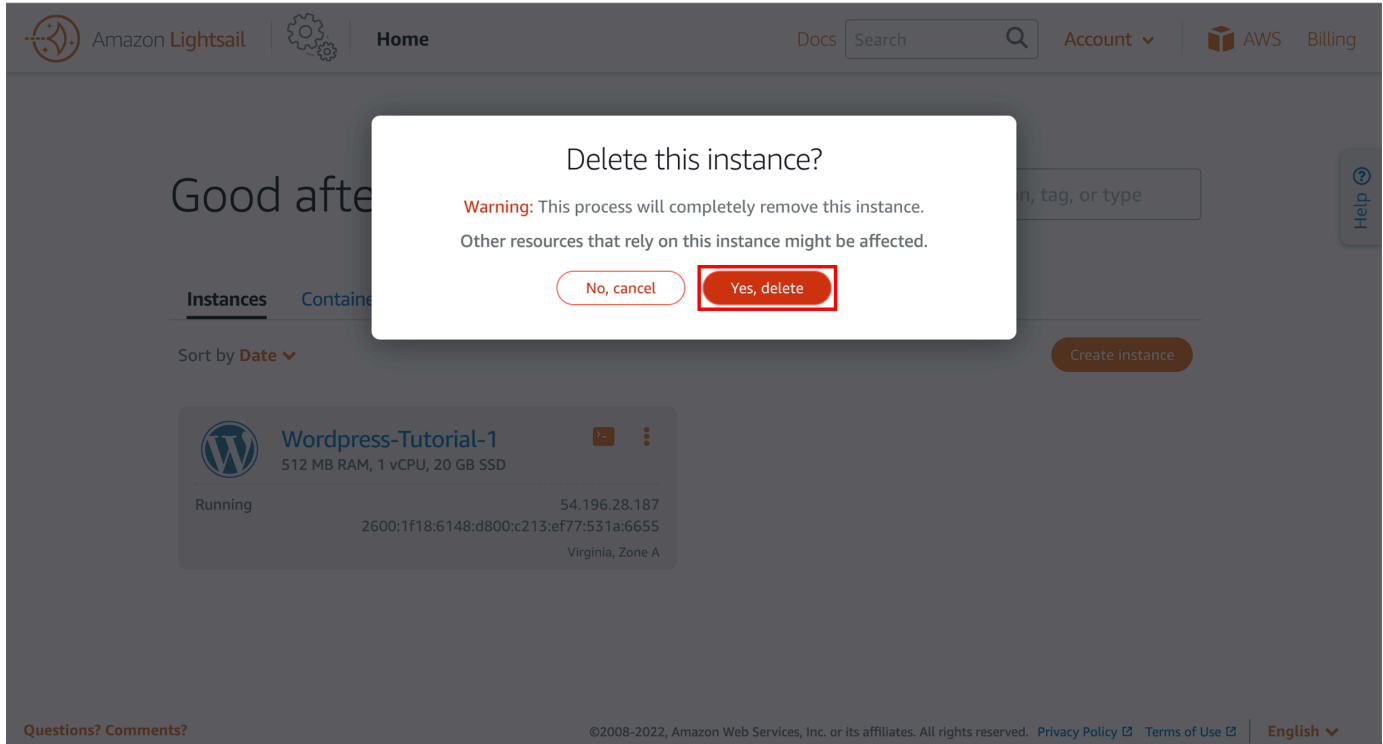
Connect  
Manage  
Stop  
Reboot  
**Delete**

Questions? Comments?

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## 2. Confirm deletion

Choose **Yes, delete** from the prompt.



Good afternoon!

Filter by name, location, tag, or type

**Instances** Containers Databases Networking Storage Snapshots

Sort by **Date** ▼ Create instance

**Wordpress-Tutorial-1**  
512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, 20 GB SSD

Running

54.196.28.187  
2600:1f18:6148:d800:c213:ef77:531a:6655  
Virginia, Zone A

Delete this instance?

**Warning:** This process will completely remove this instance.  
Other resources that rely on this instance might be affected.

No, cancel **Yes, delete**

Questions? Comments?

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# Congratulations

Congratulations! You have used Amazon Lightsail to launch and deploy a WordPress instance.

Amazon Lightsail is a great choice to develop, build, and deploy a variety of applications like WordPress, websites, and blog platforms.