

Hands-on tutorials

Launch a Windows Virtual Machine in Amazon Lightsail



Launch a Windows Virtual Machine in Amazon Lightsail: Hands-on tutorials

Copyright © 2025 Amazon Web Services, Inc. and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Amazon's trademarks and trade dress may not be used in connection with any product or service that is not Amazon's, in any manner that is likely to cause confusion among customers, or in any manner that disparages or discredits Amazon. All other trademarks not owned by Amazon are the property of their respective owners, who may or may not be affiliated with, connected to, or sponsored by Amazon.

Table of Contents

Launch a Windows Virtual Machine in Amazon Lightsail

i

Overview

1


Implementation

2

Conclusion

13

Launch a Windows Virtual Machine in 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> Note Accounts created within the past 24 hours might not yet have access to the services required for this tutorial.</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommended browser: The latest version of Chrome or Firefox
Last updated	August 23, 2022

Overview

[Amazon 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.

In this tutorial, you create a Windows Server 2019 instance in Amazon Lightsail in seconds. After the instance is up and running, you connect to it via RDP within the Lightsail console using the browser-based RDP client.

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

This three-minute video provides an introduction to the tutorial: [Amazon Lightsail: Launch a Windows Instance](#)

Implementation

Step 1: Create a Windows Server 2019 instance in Amazon Lightsail

1. Create an Amazon Lightsail account

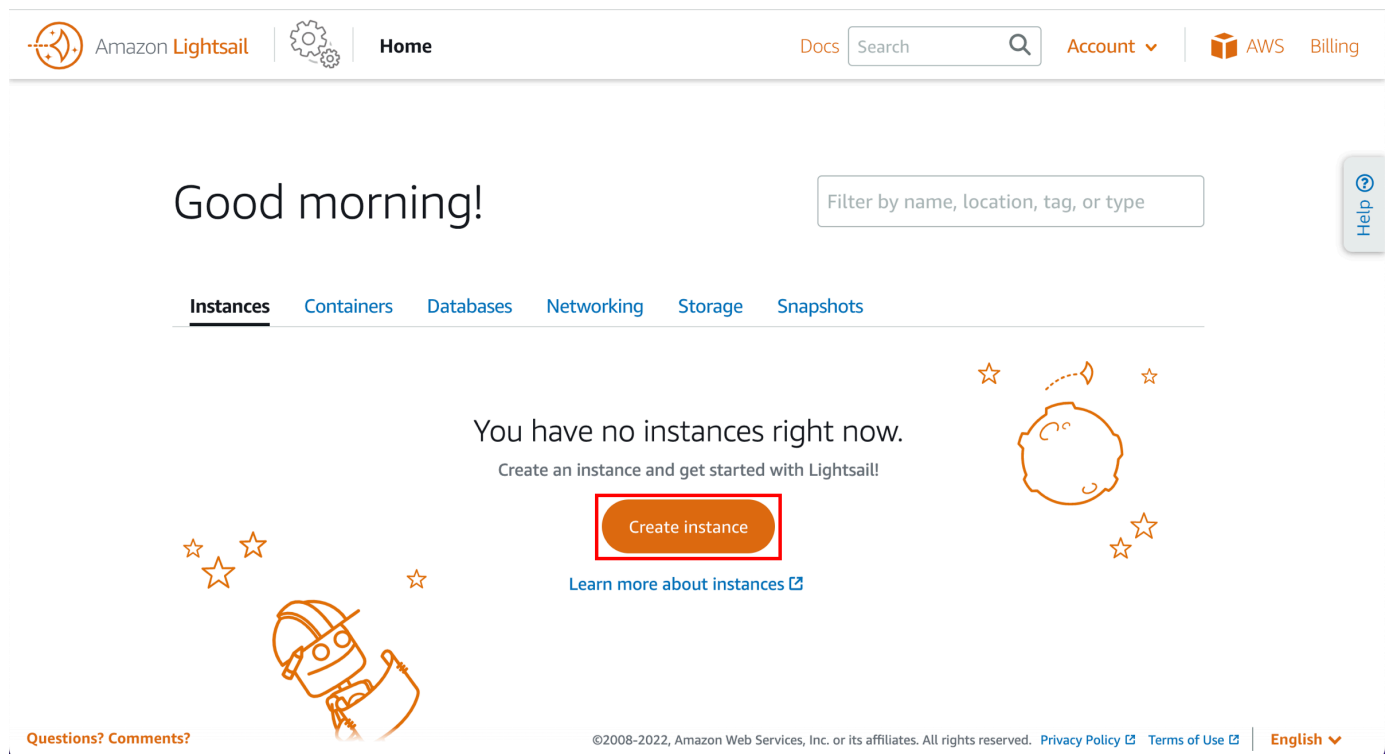
[Sign up for AWS](#)

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

This tutorial is free tier eligible.

2. Create a Windows Server 2019 instance in Amazon Lightsail

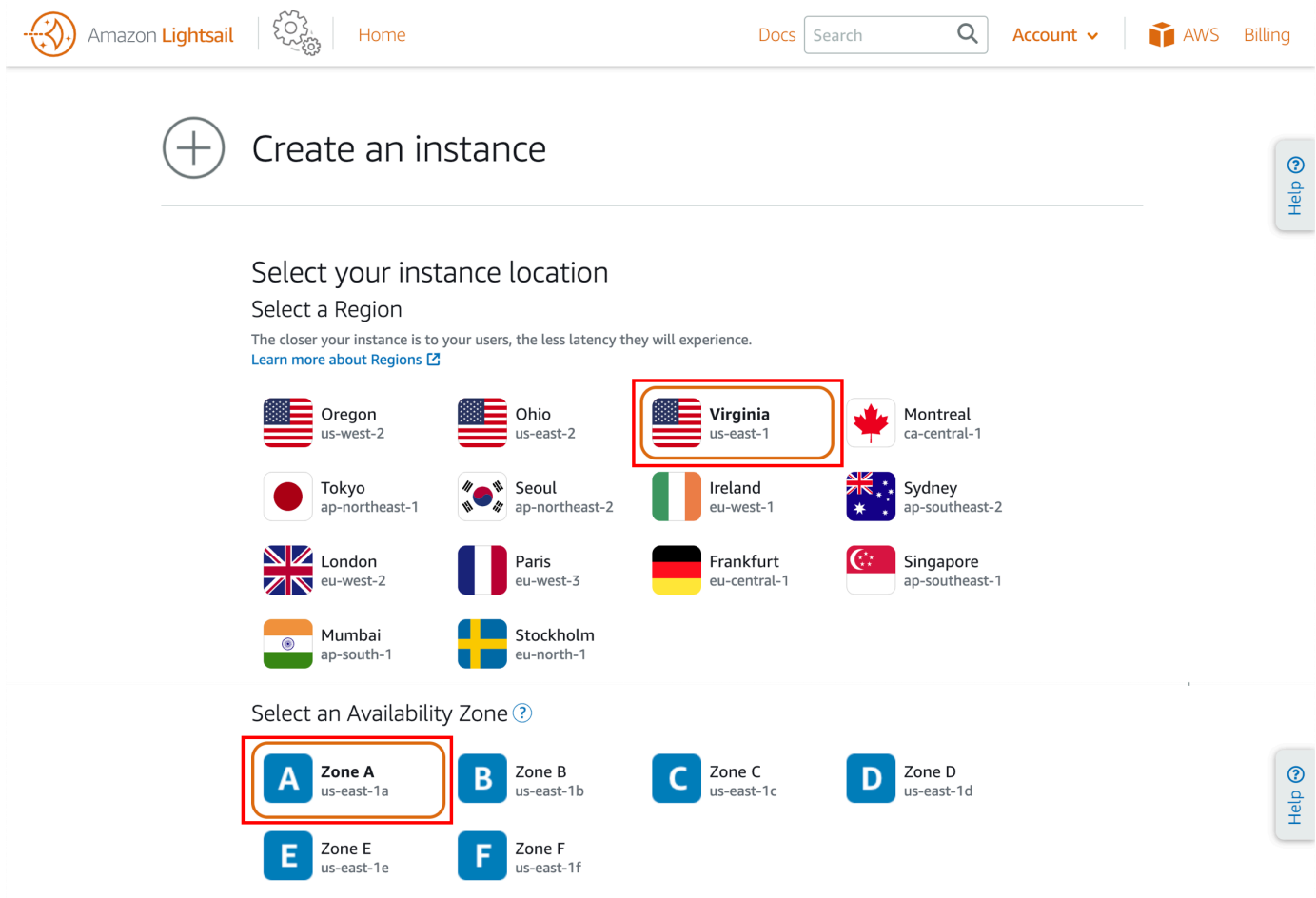
Choose the **Create instance** button on the **Instances** tab of the Lightsail home page.



Step 2: Configure the instance

1. Specify a Region and Availability Zone

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

















Create an instance







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		

2. Choose a platform and image

Choose the **Microsoft Windows** platform option, and choose **OS only** to view the operating system-only instance images available in Lightsail. Select the **Windows Server 2019** image.

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

Pick your instance image ?

Select a platform

- Linux/Unix 28 blueprints
- Microsoft Windows 4 blueprints**

Windows-based instance prices reflect additional licensing fees.

Select a blueprint

- Apps + OS
- OS Only**

- Windows Server 2019 2022.07.13**
- Windows Server 2016 2022.07.13
- Windows Server 2012 R2 2022.07.13

Windows Server 2019 2022.07.13

Amazon Lightsail helps you build, deploy, scale, and manage Microsoft applications quickly, easily, and cost effectively with Windows Server 2019. For business IT applications, Lightsail runs Windows-based solutions in a secure, easily managed, and performant cloud environment. Common Windows use cases include Enterprise Windows-based application

Questions? Comments?

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

3. (Optional) Add a launch script

Choose **Add launch script** to add a PowerShell 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.

4. Select an instance plan

Choose your instance plan.

You can try the \$8 USD Lightsail plan free for three months (up to 750 hours). We'll credit three free months to your account.

Learn more on the Lightsail pricing page.

Lightsail will use the **default** SSH key pair for this Region to retrieve the administrator password for your Windows instance.

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!			
\$8 USD	\$12 USD	\$20 USD	\$40 USD	\$70 USD	
\$8 USD	\$12 USD	\$20 USD	\$40 USD	\$70 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
30 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.](#)

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

5. Enter an instance name

Enter a name for your instance.

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.

Windows_Server_2019-1 × 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

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

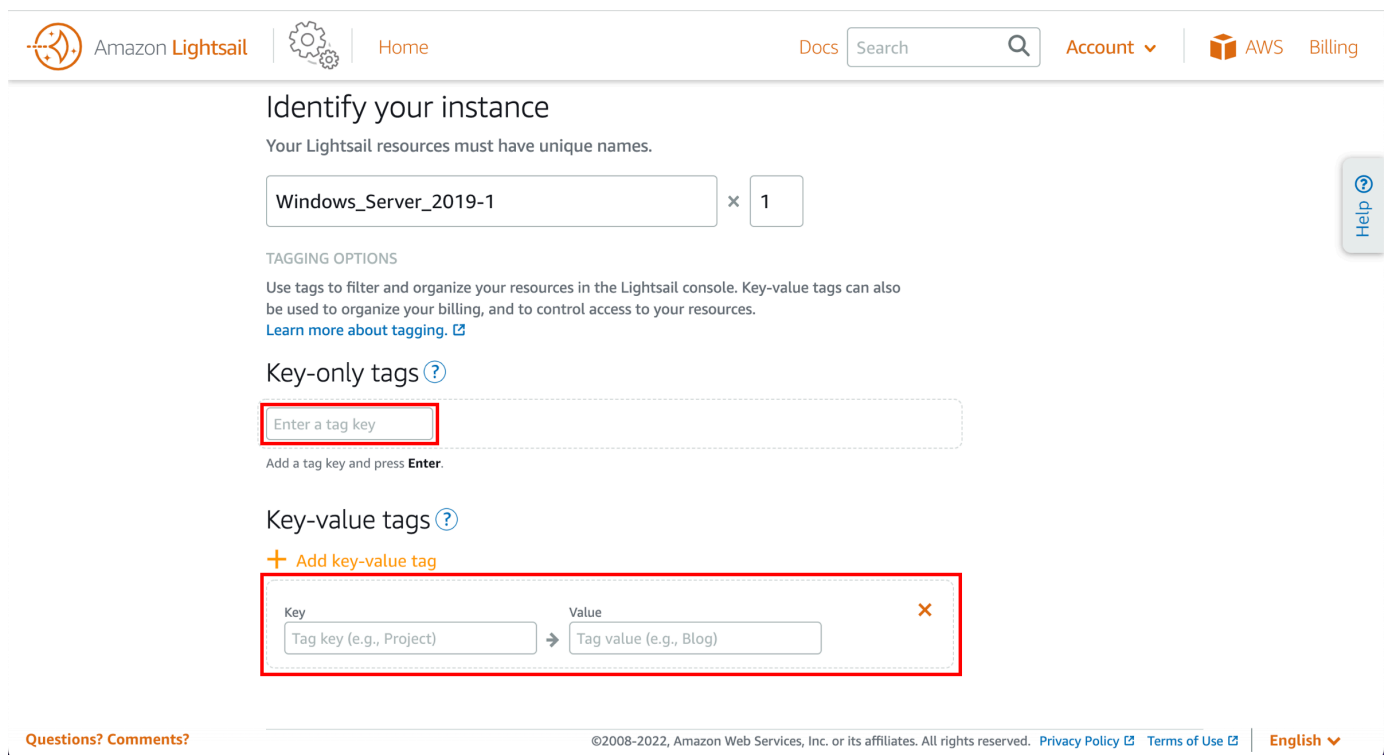
6. (Optional) Add tags

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

- **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.
- **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](#).



Amazon Lightsail

Home

Docs Search Account AWS Billing

Identify your instance

Your Lightsail resources must have unique names.

Windows_Server_2019-1 × 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

Enter a tag key

Add a tag key and press **Enter**.

Key-value tags

+ Add key-value tag

Key	Value
Tag key (e.g., Project)	Tag value (e.g., Blog)

Questions? Comments?

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

7. Create instance

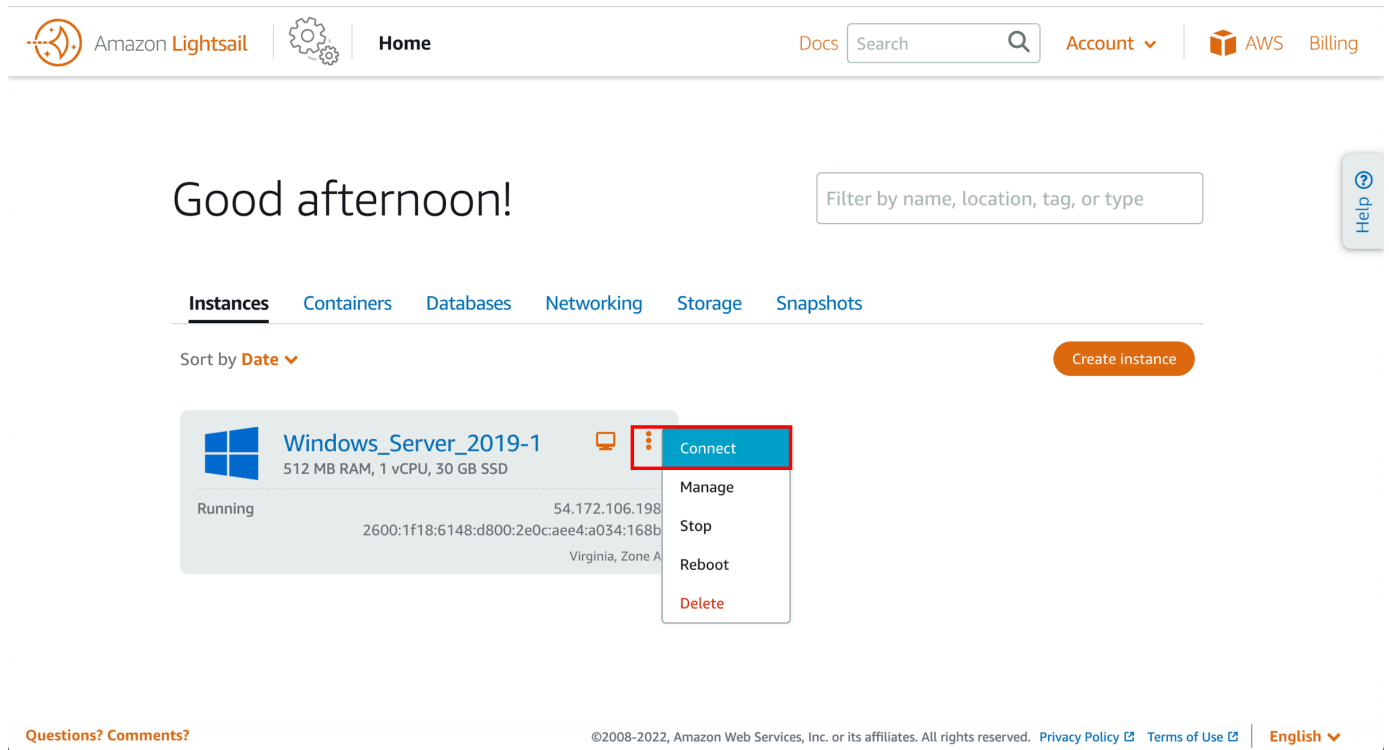
Choose **Create instance**.

The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a 'Home' link, 'Docs', a search bar, 'Account', 'AWS', and 'Billing'. Below the navigation bar, the main content area shows a list of instances with one instance named 'Windows_Server_2019-1' and a count of '1'. Underneath the instance list, there's a 'TAGGING OPTIONS' section. It explains that tags can be used to filter and organize resources. There are two sections for tagging: 'Key-only tags' with a text input field 'Enter a tag key' and a note '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' fields. The 'Key' field contains 'Tag key (e.g., Project)' and the 'Value' field contains 'Tag value (e.g., Blog)'. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a large orange 'Create instance' button, which is highlighted with a red rectangular box. The footer contains links for 'Questions? Comments?', copyright information, 'Privacy Policy', 'Terms of Use', and a language selector set to 'English'.

Step 3: Connect to your instance using the browser-based RDP client in Lightsail

1. Connect using RDP

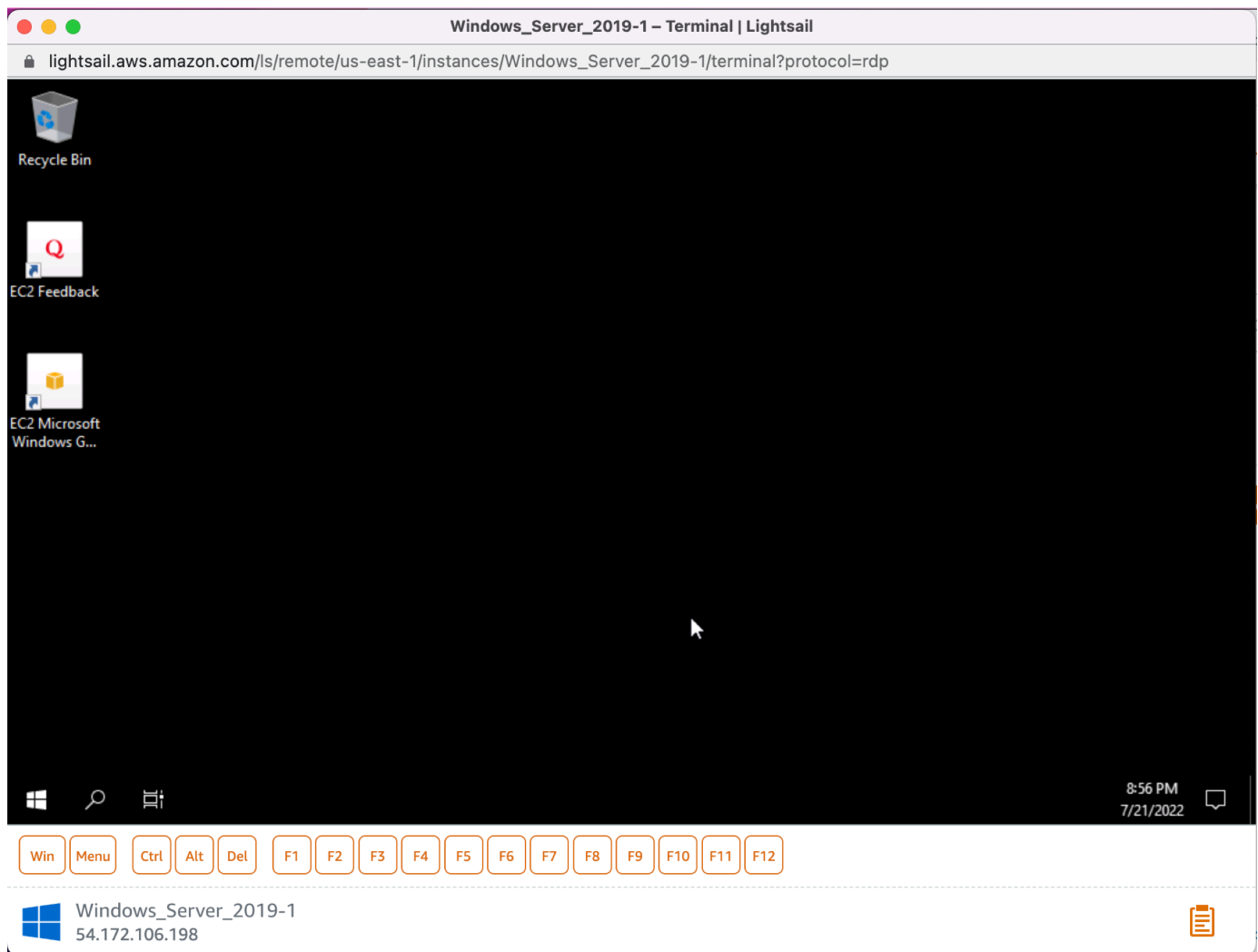
On the Instances tab of the [Lightsail home page](#), choose the RDP icon, or the ellipsis (:) icon next to the Windows Server 2019 instance you just created and choose **Connect**.



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 heading says 'Good afternoon!' with a search filter box on the right. A horizontal menu contains 'Instances', 'Containers', 'Databases', 'Networking', 'Storage', and 'Snapshots'. Under 'Instances', there's a 'Sort by Date' dropdown and a 'Create instance' button. The main content area displays a single instance named 'Windows_Server_2019-1' with specifications '512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, 30 GB SSD'. The instance status is 'Running'. A context menu is open over the instance, showing options: 'Connect' (highlighted with a red box), 'Manage', 'Stop', 'Reboot', and 'Delete'. The instance details include the public IP '54.172.106.198', a private IP, and the location 'Virginia, Zone A'. At the bottom, there are links for 'Questions? Comments?', copyright information, and language settings.

2. Use RDP to manage instance

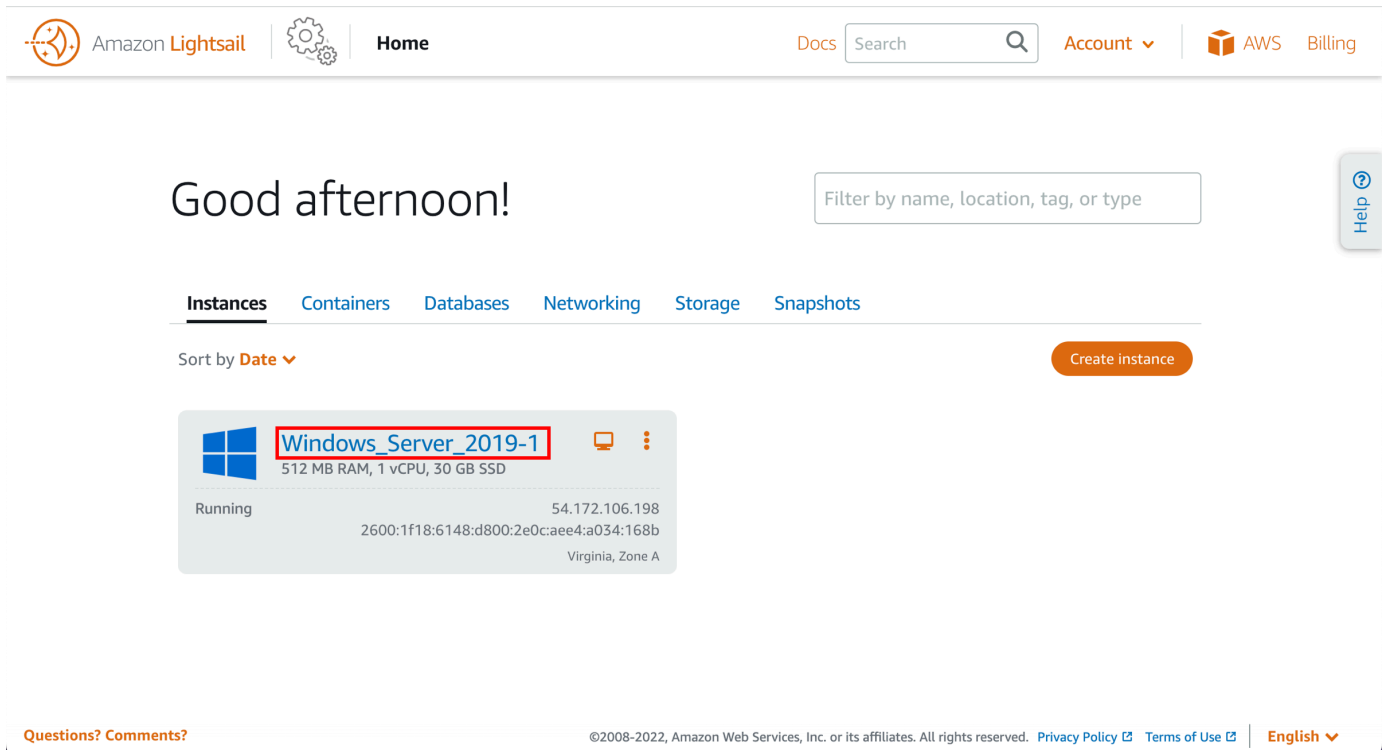
The browser-based RDP client window appears. You can use and manage your instance without configuring a third-party RDP client.



Step 4: Get administrator password for your Windows Server 2019 instance

1. Choose the instance

Choose the name of the Windows Server 2019 instance on the Instances tab of the Lightsail homepage.



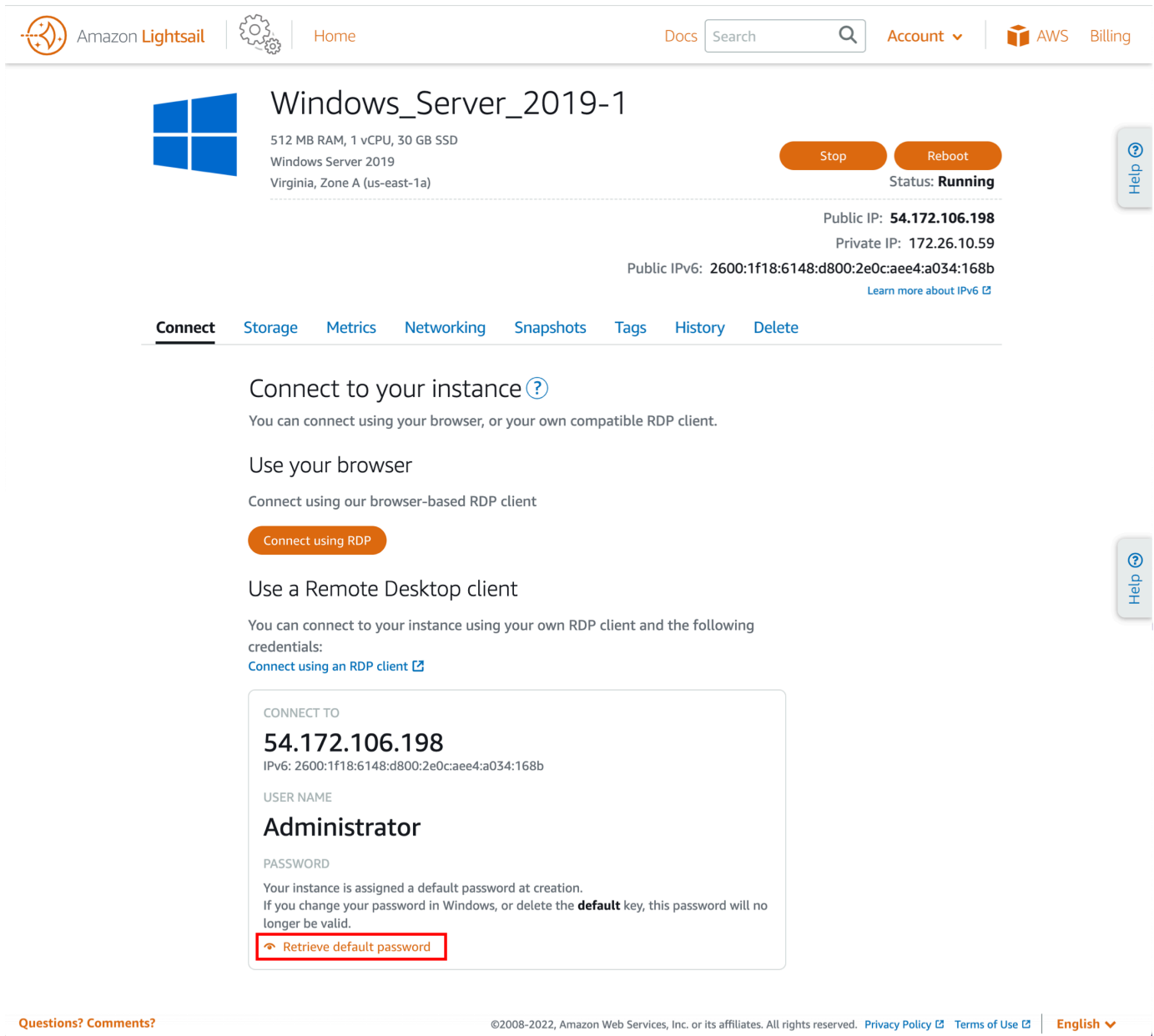
The screenshot shows the Amazon Lightsail console interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Amazon Lightsail logo, a 'Home' button, and links for 'Docs', 'Search', 'Account', 'AWS', and 'Billing'. Below the navigation bar, a large 'Good afternoon!' greeting is displayed. To the right of the greeting is a search filter box labeled 'Filter by name, location, tag, or type'. Below this, there's a horizontal menu with tabs for 'Instances', 'Containers', 'Databases', 'Networking', 'Storage', and 'Snapshots'. The 'Instances' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there's a 'Sort by Date' dropdown and a 'Create instance' button. The main content area displays a single instance card for 'Windows_Server_2019-1'. The card shows the instance is 'Running', has '512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, 30 GB SSD', and provides the public IP address '54.172.106.198' and the private IP address '2600:1f18:6148:d800:2e0c:aea4:a034:168b'. The instance is located in 'Virginia, Zone A'. At the bottom of the console, there's a footer with 'Questions? Comments?' and copyright information.

2. Get the password

Select the **Connect** tab, scroll down to the **Default login credentials** section of the page, and choose **Retrieve default password**.

Important

If you changed the administrator password after signing in to your Windows Server 2019 instance, then the administrator password displayed in the Lightsail console is no longer valid.



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 links for 'Docs', 'Search', 'Account', 'AWS', and 'Billing'. Below the navigation bar, the main content area displays the details of a Windows Server 2019 instance named 'Windows_Server_2019-1'. The instance is in the 'Running' status. It has 512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, and 30 GB SSD. The operating system is Windows Server 2019, and it's located in the Virginia, Zone A (us-east-1a) region. The public IP address is 54.172.106.198, and the private IP address is 172.26.10.59. The public IPv6 address is 2600:1f18:6148:d800:2e0c:ae4:a034:168b. There are 'Stop' and 'Reboot' buttons. Below the instance details, there's a 'Connect' section with tabs for 'Connect', 'Storage', 'Metrics', 'Networking', 'Snapshots', 'Tags', 'History', and 'Delete'. The 'Connect' tab is active, showing options to 'Connect to your instance'. It includes instructions on how to connect using a browser or a Remote Desktop client. A 'Connect using RDP' button is visible. Below that, it shows the public IP address 54.172.106.198 and the private IPv6 address. The user name is 'Administrator'. The password section states that the instance has a default password and provides a link to 'Retrieve default password'.

Amazon Lightsail

Home

Docs Search Account AWS Billing

Windows_Server_2019-1

512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, 30 GB SSD

Windows Server 2019

Virginia, Zone A (us-east-1a)

Stop Reboot

Status: **Running**

Public IP: **54.172.106.198**

Private IP: 172.26.10.59

Public IPv6: 2600:1f18:6148:d800:2e0c:ae4:a034:168b

Learn more about IPv6

Connect Storage Metrics Networking Snapshots Tags History Delete

Connect to your instance

You can connect using your browser, or your own compatible RDP client.

Use your browser

Connect using our browser-based RDP client

Connect using RDP

Use a Remote Desktop client

You can connect to your instance using your own RDP client and the following credentials:

Connect using an RDP client

CONNECT TO

54.172.106.198

IPv6: 2600:1f18:6148:d800:2e0c:ae4:a034:168b

USER NAME

Administrator

PASSWORD

Your instance is assigned a default password at creation. If you change your password in Windows, or delete the **default** key, this password will no longer be valid.

Retrieve default password

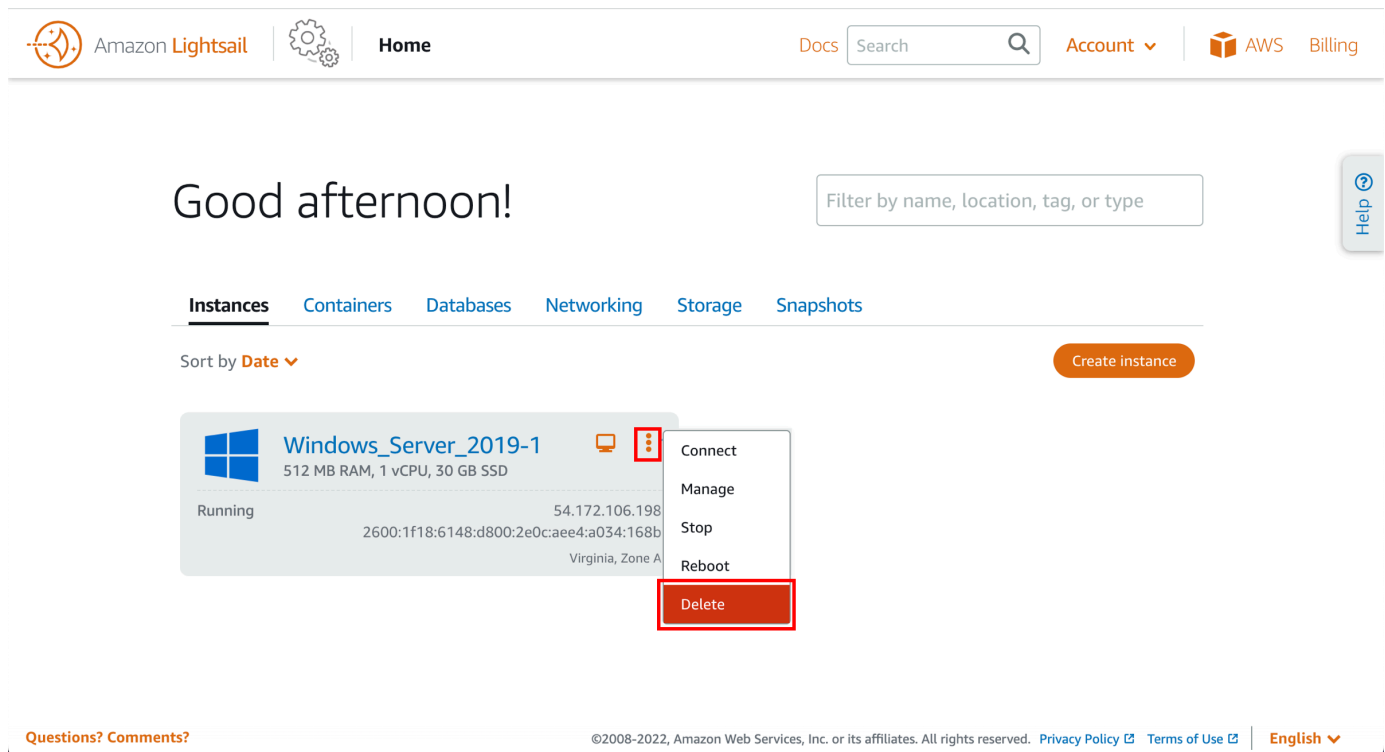
Questions? Comments?

©2008-2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Privacy Policy Terms of Use English

Clean up resources

1. Delete the instance

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



Amazon Lightsail Home

Docs Search Account AWS Billing

Good afternoon!

Filter by name, location, tag, or type

Instances Containers Databases Networking Storage Snapshots

Sort by Date Create instance

Windows_Server_2019-1
512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, 30 GB SSD

Running 54.172.106.198
2600:1f18:6148:d800:2e0c:ae4:a034:168b
Virginia, Zone A

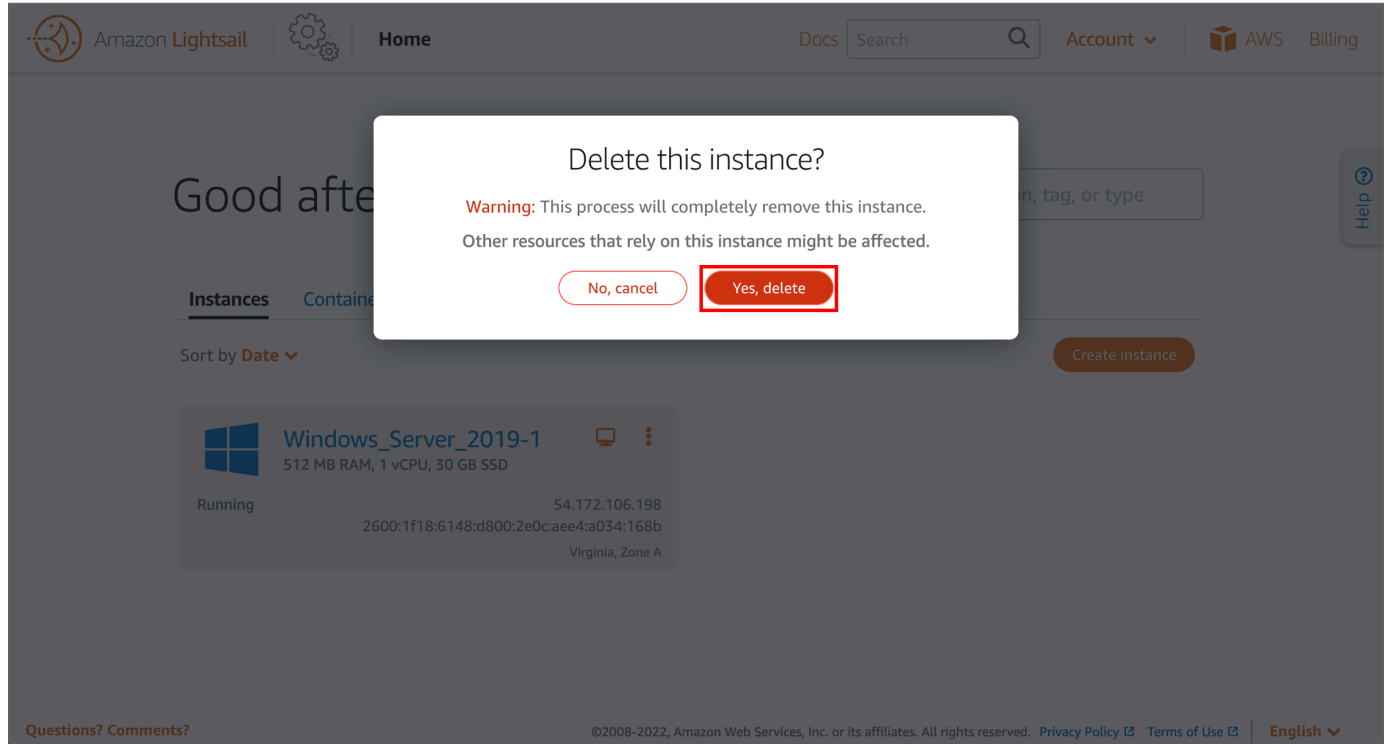
Connect
Manage
Stop
Reboot
Delete

Questions? Comments?

©2008-2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Privacy Policy Terms of Use English

2. Confirm deletion

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



Amazon Lightsail Home

Docs Search Account AWS Billing

Good afternoon!

Filter by name, location, tag, or type

Instances Containers Databases Networking Storage Snapshots

Sort by Date Create instance

Windows_Server_2019-1
512 MB RAM, 1 vCPU, 30 GB SSD

Running 54.172.106.198
2600:1f18:6148:d800:2e0c:ae4:a034:168b
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?

©2008-2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Privacy Policy Terms of Use English

Conclusion

Congratulations! You used Amazon Lightsail to spin up and configure a Windows 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; monitor your resources; and so much more in a managed way.