

# Allocate EC2 Resources

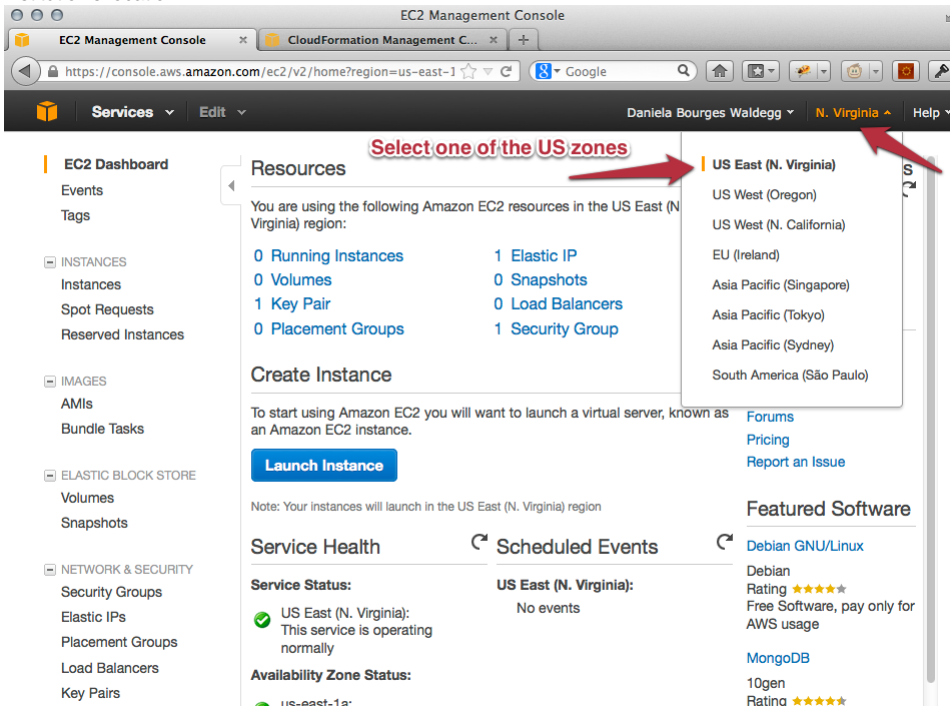


Please note that all the EC2 resources described below need to be allocated in the same availability zone

## 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

