

Quick reference

First EC2 Lab - Desk Reference

Shutterbird goal: inspect one temporary Linux machine; produce evidence; remove it.

Prerequisite: authorized learning identity, MFA, budget visibility, approved default network.

Source check: **2026-09-18**.

Component	Choice / check
Region	One recorded commercial Region
AMI	Amazon-published Amazon Linux 2023 standard, x86_64
Instance	One small compatible type; review current pricing
Subnet	Default public subnet, route to attached internet gateway
Network	Public IPv4 enabled; DNS works; default allow ACL
Security group	No inbound; outbound TCP 443
Machine identity	EC2 role/profile with AmazonSSMManagedInstanceCore
Human identity	Permission to start/manage own Session Manager sessions
Root disk	Small gp3, encrypted, delete on termination
Advanced	IMDSv2 required; T3 Standard credits; no user data

Path: human -> Session Manager service ← outbound HTTPS ← SSM Agent on EC2. Both IAM permission sets matter.

```
whoami          # Linux user
pwd             # Current working directory
cat /etc/os-release # Distribution/version
uname -r        # Kernel
hostname        # Machine name
lsblk           # Block devices
df -h /         # Mounted root filesystem
free -h         # Memory
systemctl is-active amazon-ssm-agent
```

Connection not ready? Check account/Region -> exact instance -> role/profile -> agent -> address/route/DNS/outbound 443/ACL -> human permission. Keep the inbound list empty.

Cost check: EC2 + EBS + public IPv4 + possible data transfer. Account credits vary. A budget notification is not a spending cap and is not immediate.

Before cleanup: save your observations and record instance, volume, security-group, role/profile IDs. End session -> terminate exact lab instance -> verify volume deletion and automatic address release -> delete only dedicated lab security group/role/profile. Preserve shared network and budget. Recheck cost data after it refreshes.

Portfolio evidence: diagram, budget setup, OS observations, one failure diagnosis, cleanup inventory. Tabletop work must be labeled simulated.

Sources: [EC2 launch](#), [Session prerequisites](#), [instance role](#), [human permissions](#), [budgets](#), [termination](#).