Hands-on tutorials

# Deliver Content Faster with Amazon CloudFront

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# Deliver Content Faster with Amazon CloudFront: Hands-on tutorials

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# Deliver Content Faster with Amazon CloudFront

| | |
|---|---|
| **AWS experience** | Beginner |
| **Time to complete** | 10 minutes |
| **Cost to complete** | Free Tier eligible |
| **Requires** | • AWS Account<br>**Note**<br>Accounts created within the past 24 hours might not yet have access to the services required for this tutorial.<br>• Recommended browser: The latest version of Chrome or Firefox |
| **Last updated** | July 1, 2022 |

## Overview

In this tutorial, you will learn how to deliver content and decrease end-user latency of your web application using Amazon CloudFront. CloudFront speeds up content delivery by leveraging its global network of data centers, known as edge locations, to reduce delivery time by caching your content close to your end users. CloudFront fetches your content from an **origin**, such as an Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3) bucket, an Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) instance, an Elastic Load Balancing (ELB) load balancer, or your own web server, when it's not already in an edge location. CloudFront can be used to deliver your entire website or application, including dynamic, static, streaming, and interactive content.

In the following steps, you will configure an Amazon S3 bucket as the origin and test your distribution using a web browser to ensure that your content is being delivered.

Everything done in this tutorial is free tier eligible.

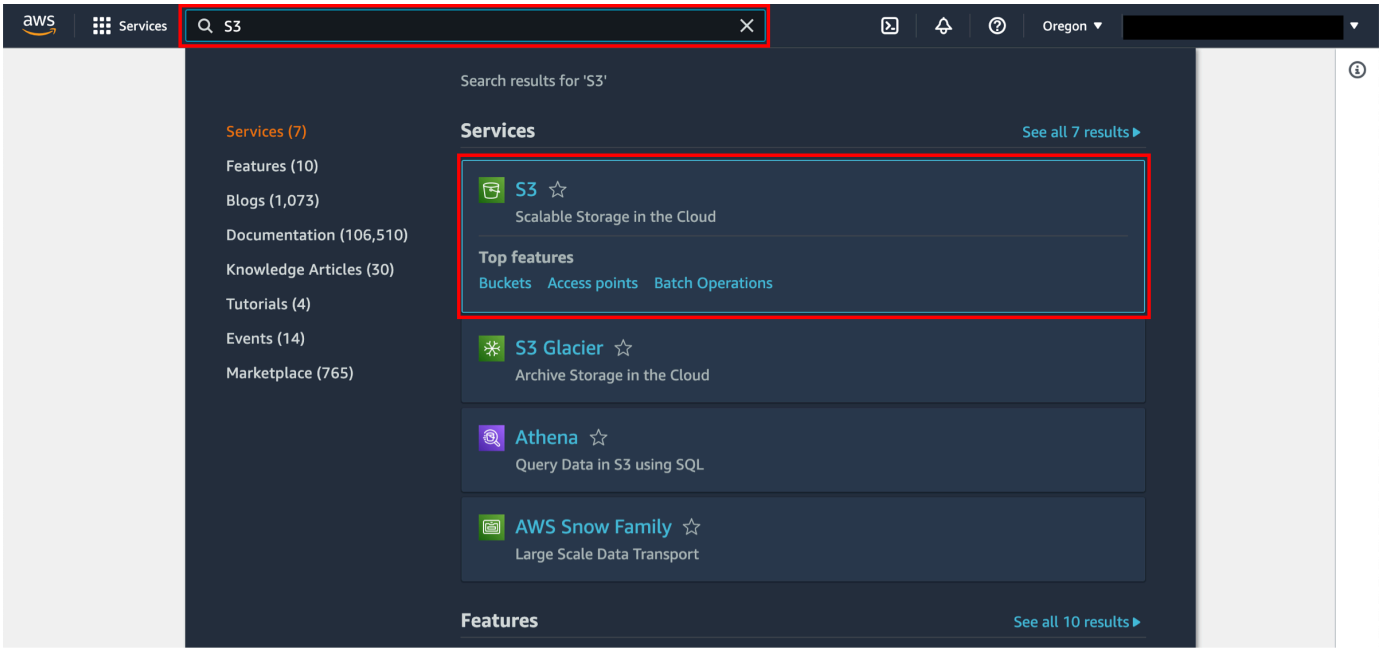
# Implementation

## Step 1: Prepare your content

In this step, we will upload sample static content to an Amazon S3 bucket. In later steps, we will use this bucket as a CloudFront origin. Amazon S3 is a good choice for an Amazon CloudFront origin that includes static content such as images, videos, HTML pages, .css files, and .js files. Create an HTML file.

1. Enter the Amazon S3 console

   When you click here, the AWS Management Console will open in a new browser window. Type **S3** in the search bar and select **S3** to open the console.

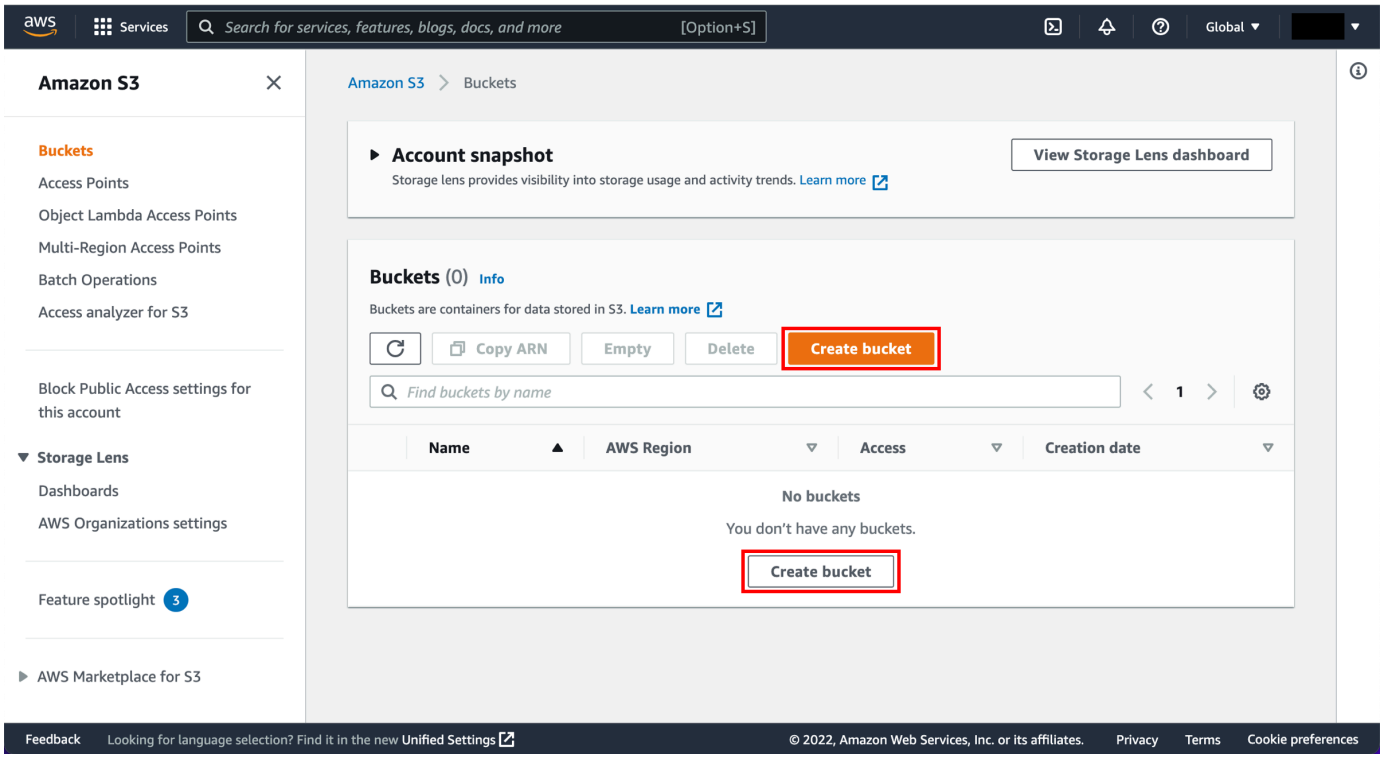



2. Create S3 bucket

   In the S3 dashboard, choose **Create bucket.**

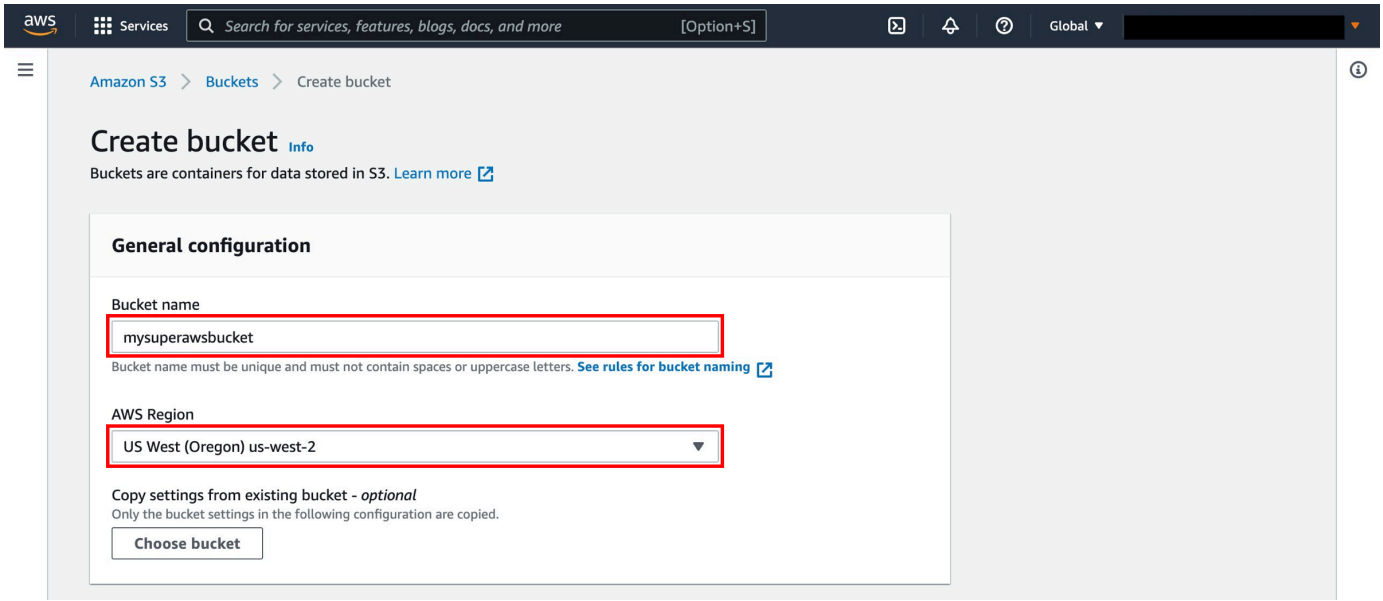
   If this is the first time you have created a bucket, you will see a screen that looks like the image pictured here.

   If you have already created S3 buckets, your S3 dashboard will list all the buckets you have created.



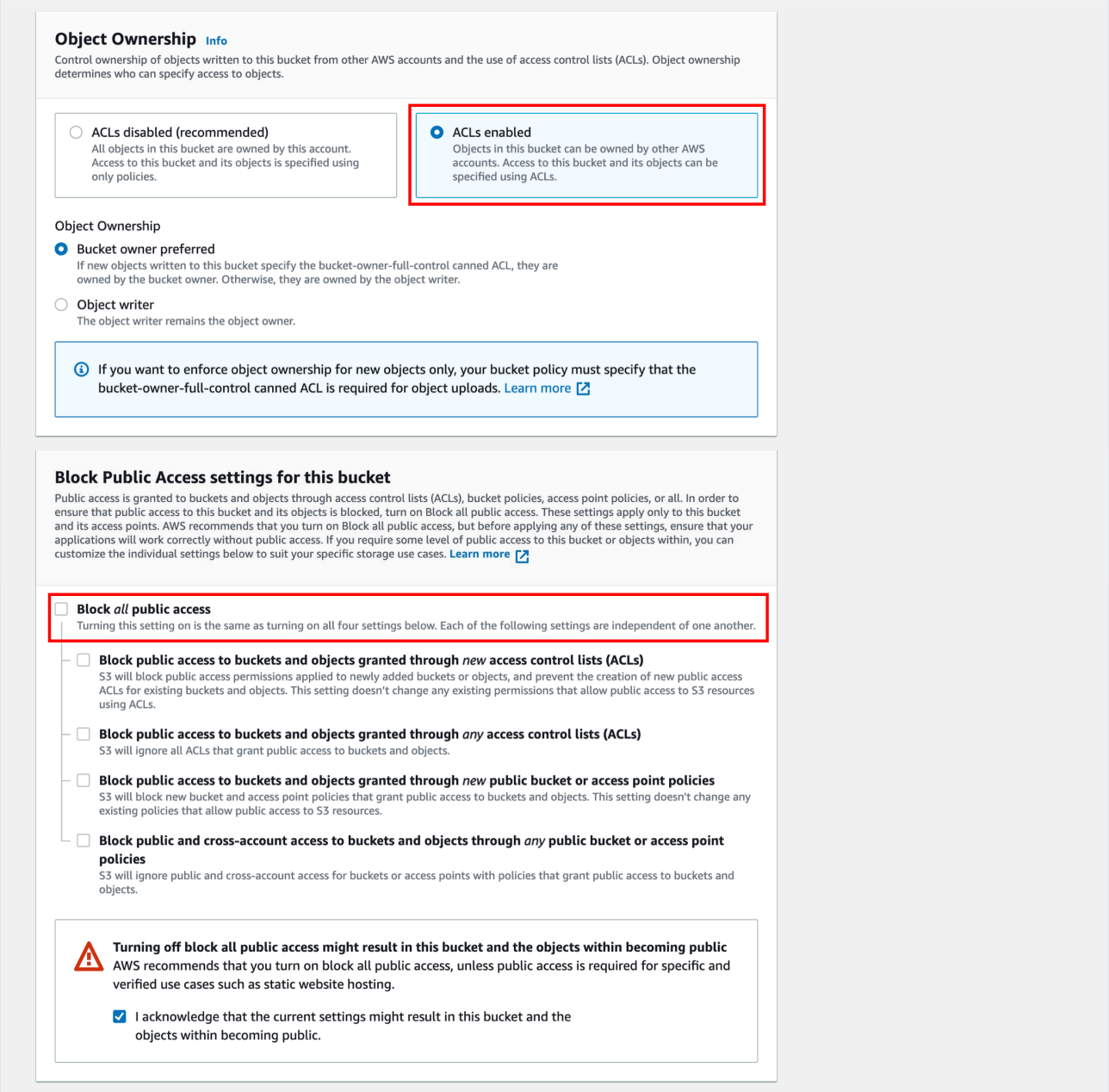

3. Enter bucket name

Enter a unique bucket name. Bucket names must be unique across all existing bucket names in Amazon S3. There are a number of other restrictions on S3 bucket names as well. Then select a Region to create your bucket in.




4. Set permission settings

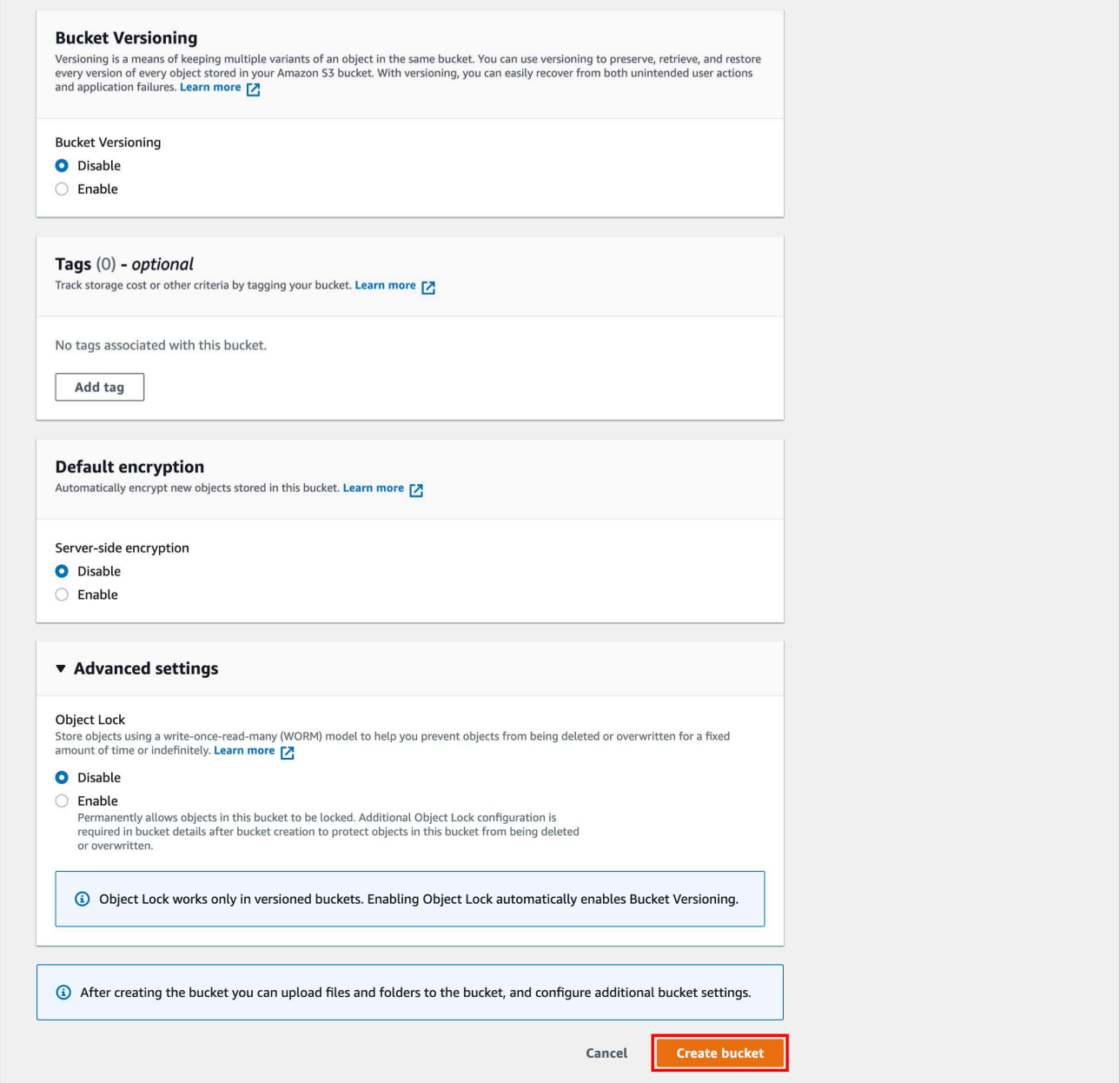
You have the ability to set permission settings for your S3 bucket. By default, S3 objects are set to private. You will need to make your image publicly readable. Select **ACLs enabled** under Object Ownership, deselect "**Block all public access**" and select the checkbox **"I acknowledge that the current settings might result in this bucket and the objects within becoming public."**




5. Create the bucket

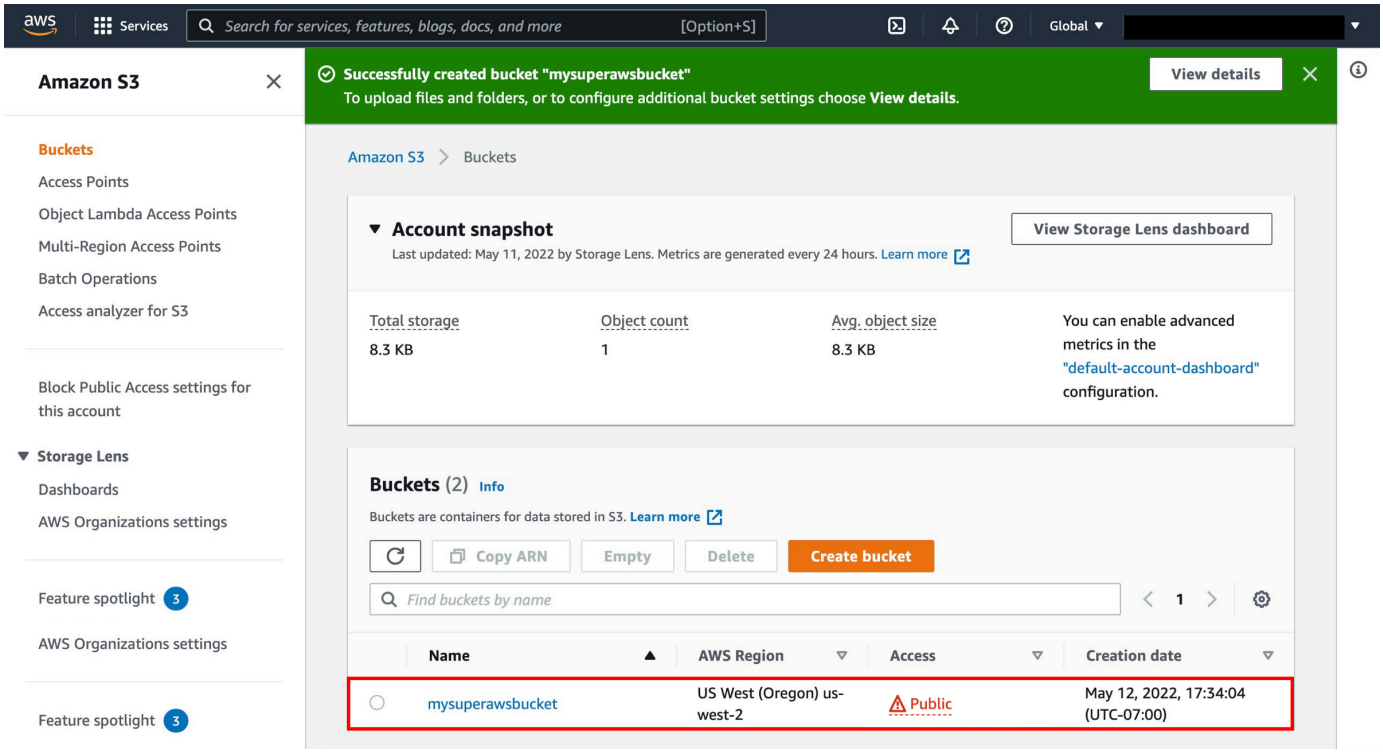
You have many useful options for your S3 bucket including Versioning, Server Access Logging, Tags, Object-level Logging and Default Encryption. We won't enable these features for this tutorial.

Select **Create bucket.**




6. Navigate to the new bucket

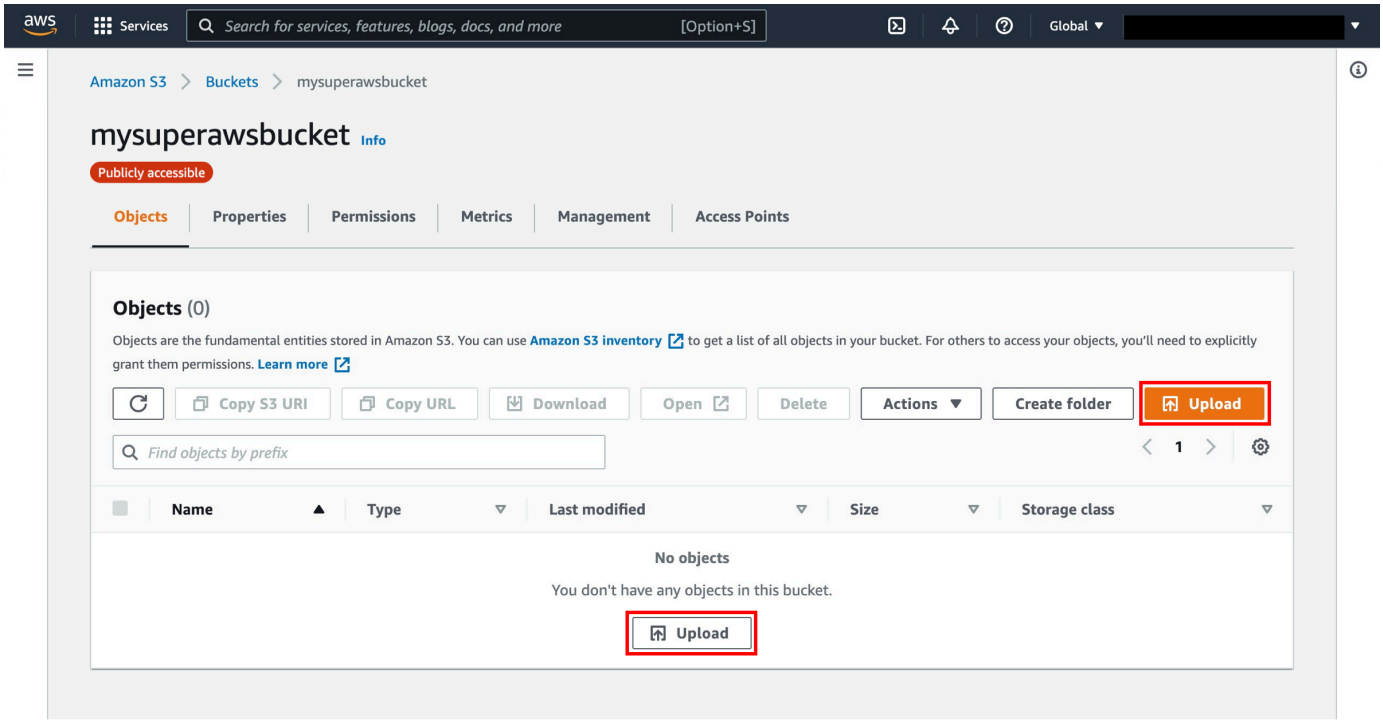
You will see your new bucket in the S3 console. Click on your bucket's name to navigate to the bucket. Your bucket name will not be the same as pictured in the screenshot to the right.




7. Select Upload

   You are in your bucket's home page.

   Select **Upload**.

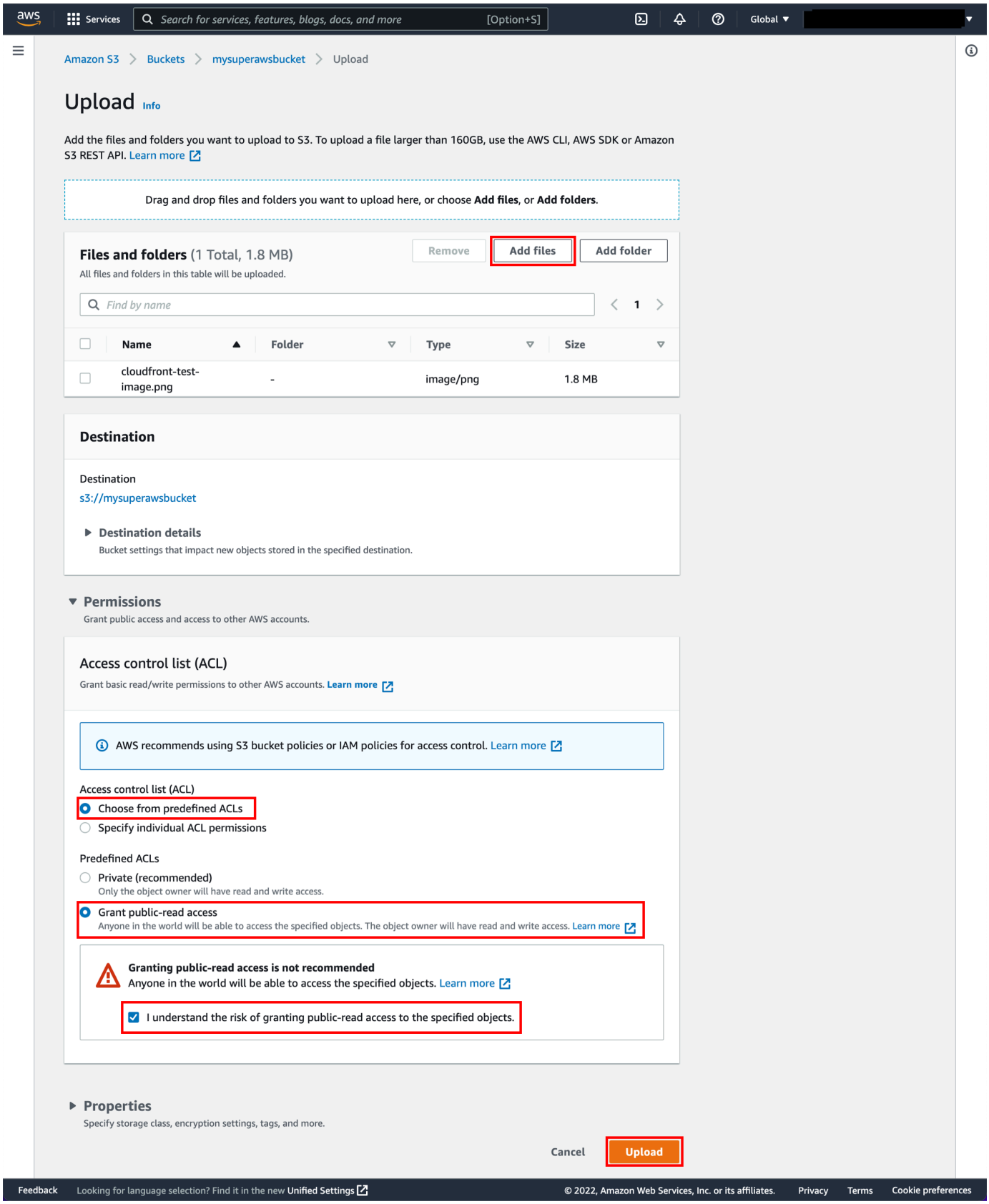


8. Upload sample content

   Upload the **cloudfront-test-image.png** file by selecting **Add files** and selecting the file **or** dragging the **cloudfront-test-image.png** file to the upload box.

   Open the **Permissions** dropdown. Select **Choose from predefined ACLs** and then select **Grant public-read access.** Select the checkbox **"I understand the risk of granting public-read access to the specified objects."**

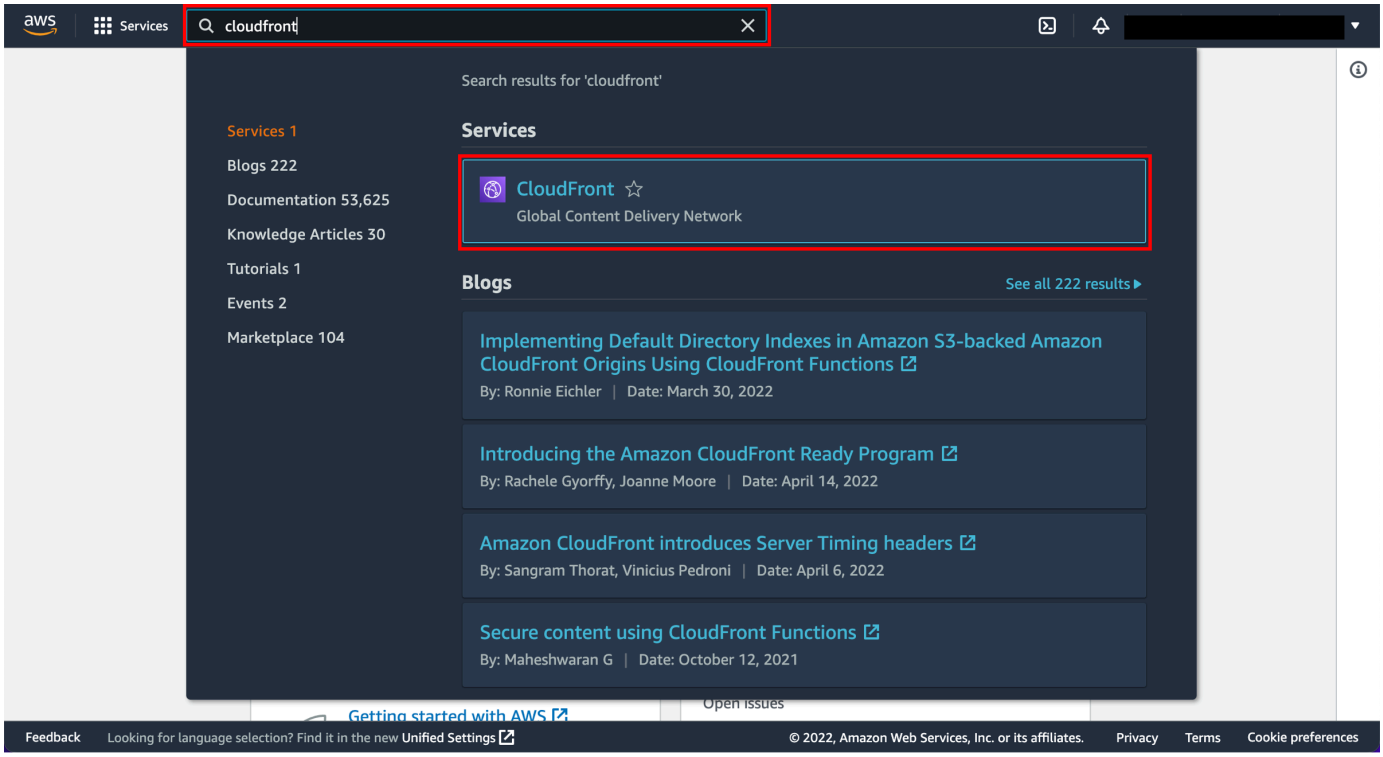
   Select **Upload**.


aws
Services
Search for services, features, blogs, docs, and more [Option+S]
Global
Amazon S3 > Buckets > mysuperawsbucket > Upload
Upload Info
Add the files and folders you want to upload to S3. To upload a file larger than 160GB, use the AWS CLI, AWS SDK or Amazon S3 REST API. Learn more
Drag and drop files and folders you want to upload here, or choose Add files, or Add folders.
Files and folders (1 Total, 1.8 MB)
All files and folders in this table will be uploaded.
Remove
Add files
Add folder
Find by name
1
Name
Folder
Type
Size
cloudfront-test-image.png
-
image/png
1.8 MB
Destination
Destination
s3://mysuperawsbucket
Destination details
Bucket settings that impact new objects stored in the specified destination.
Permissions
Grant public access and access to other AWS accounts.
Access control list (ACL)
Grant basic read/write permissions to other AWS accounts. Learn more
AWS recommends using S3 bucket policies or IAM policies for access control. Learn more
Access control list (ACL)
Choose from predefined ACLs
Specify individual ACL permissions
Predefined ACLs
Private (recommended)
Only the object owner will have read and write access.
Grant public-read access
Anyone in the world will be able to access the specified objects. The object owner will have read and write access. Learn more
Granting public-read access is not recommended
Anyone in the world will be able to access the specified objects. Learn more
I understand the risk of granting public-read access to the specified objects.
Properties
Specify storage class, encryption settings, tags, and more.
Cancel
Upload
Feedback
Looking for language selection? Find it in the new Unified Settings
© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates.
Privacy
Terms
Cookie preferences

## Step 2: Enter the CloudFront console

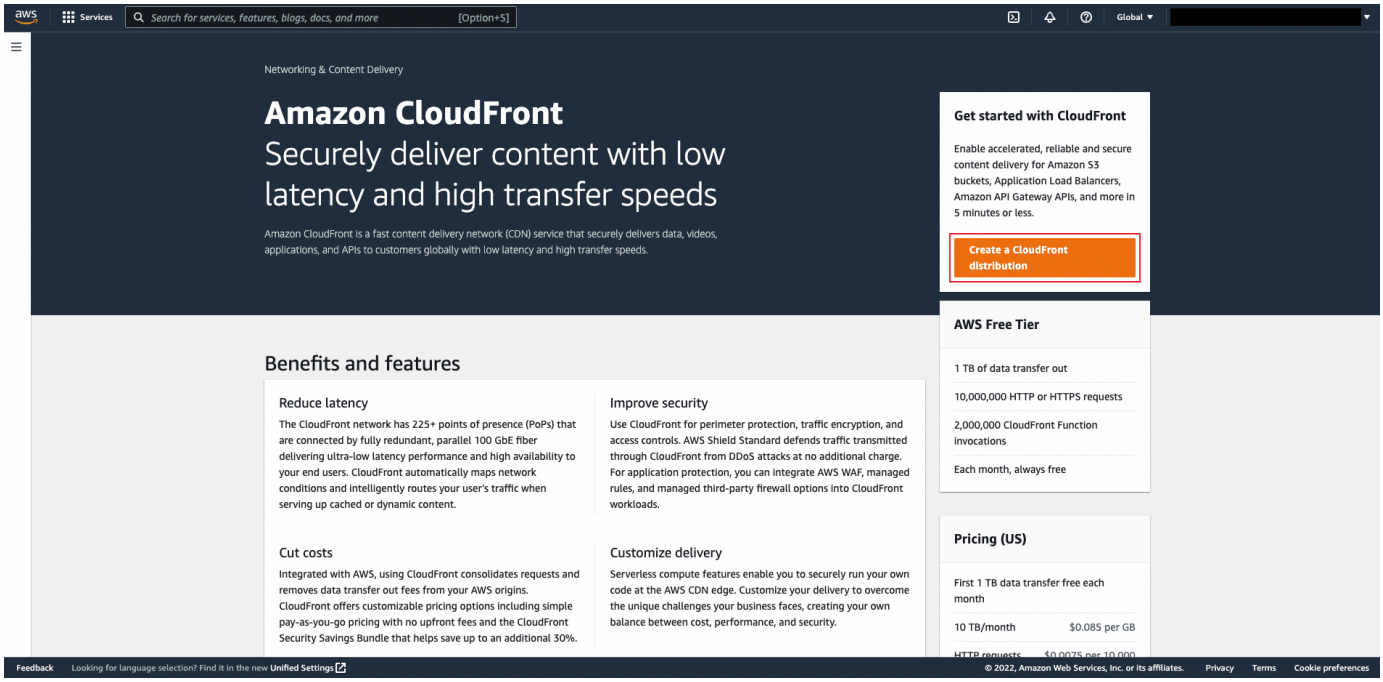
1. Open the CloudFront console

   When you click here, the AWS Management Console will open in a new browser tab. Type **CloudFront** in the search bar and select **CloudFront** to open the console.




2. Create a CloudFront distribution

   Select **Create a CloudFront distribution.**




## Step 3: Configure a Standard distribution

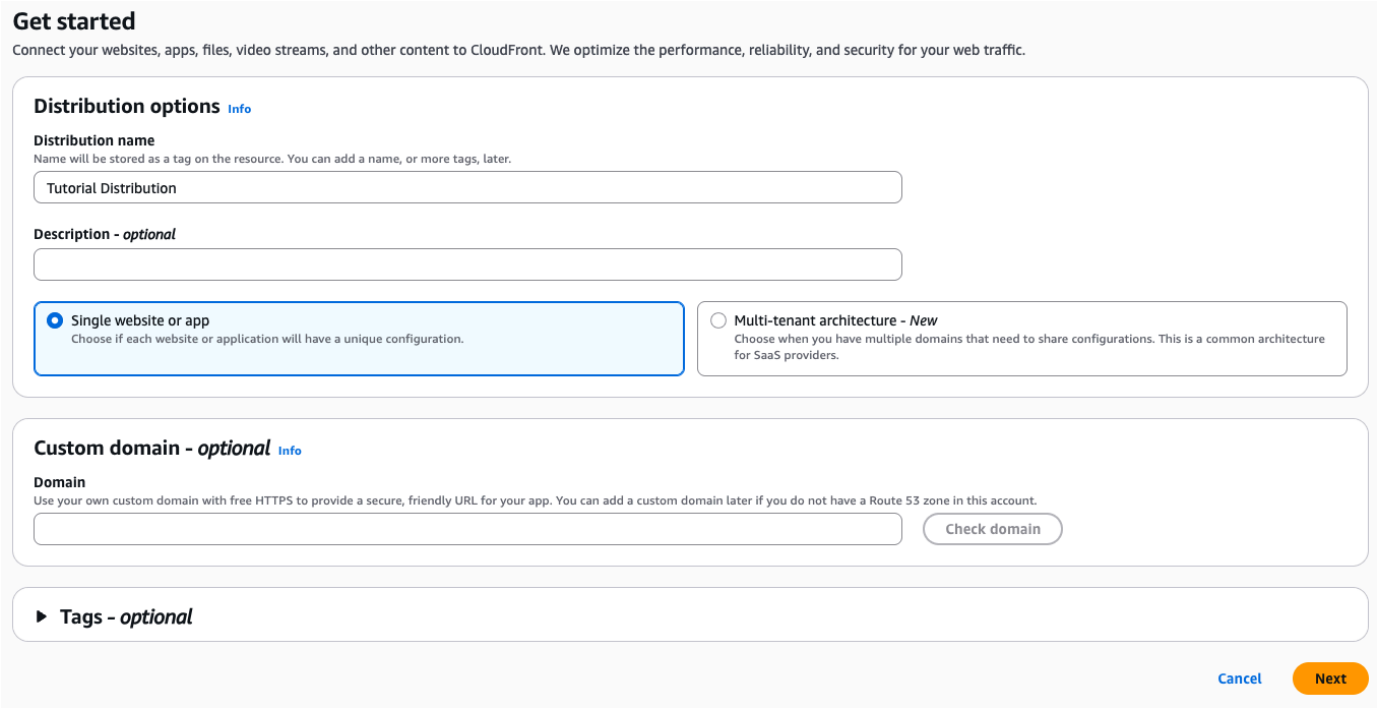
1. Get Started

   Connect your websites, apps, files, video streams, and other content to CloudFront. We optimize the performance, reliability, and security for your web traffic.

   Under Distribution Options, enter a **Distribution name** for the standard distribution and optionally provide a description.

   Make sure you select **Single website or app.**

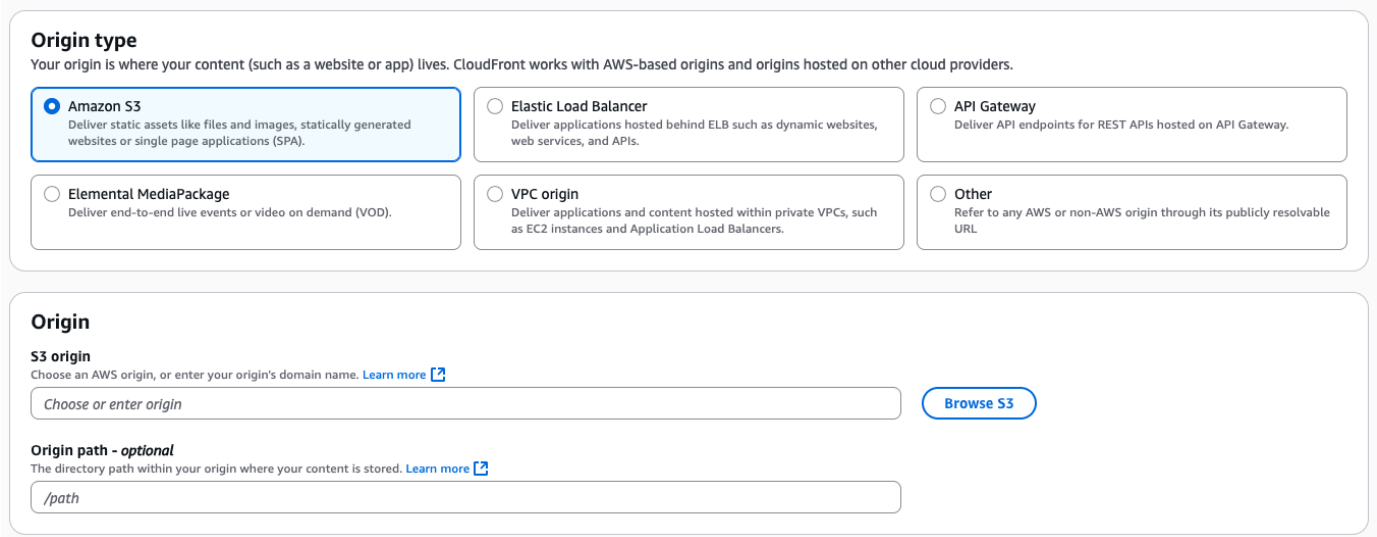
   For the purpose of this tutorial we will skip the **Custom domain** and **Tags** setup. Leave both of these optional fields blank.




2. Specify Origin

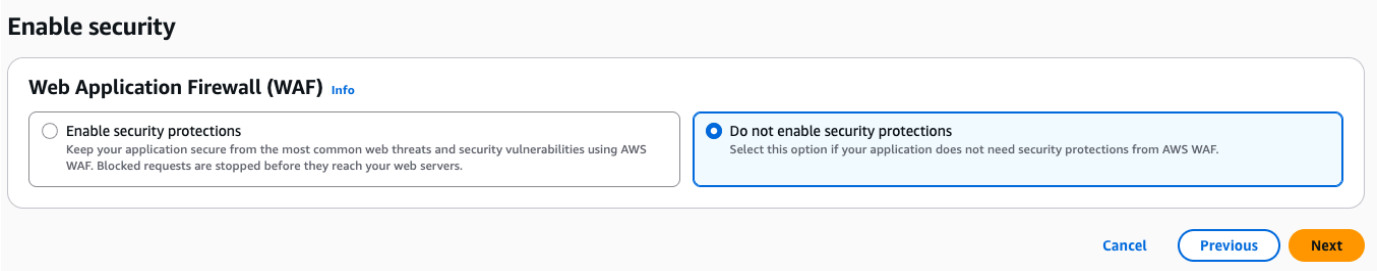
Under Origin type, select **Amazon S3** (which should be the default value). Under the Origin section, click the **Browse S3** button and select the name of the S3 bucket you stored the cloudfront-test-image.png in.

You can leave the rest of the settings on this page unchanged. This will setup your distribution with the correct settings for caching content from S3 automatically.




3. Enable Security

For the purposes of this tutorial we will choose **Do not enable security protections**. It is highly recommended to enable security protections for non-tutorial workloads which you will keep running on CloudFront.




## Step 4: Review Your Changes

- Review your changes to ensure everything is setup correctly and then click **Create Distribution.**

  After CloudFront creates your distribution, the value of the **Status** column for your distribution will change from **Deploying** to the date and time that the distribution is deployed.

> **Note**
>
> This can take a few minutes to complete.

## Step 5: Create a distribution

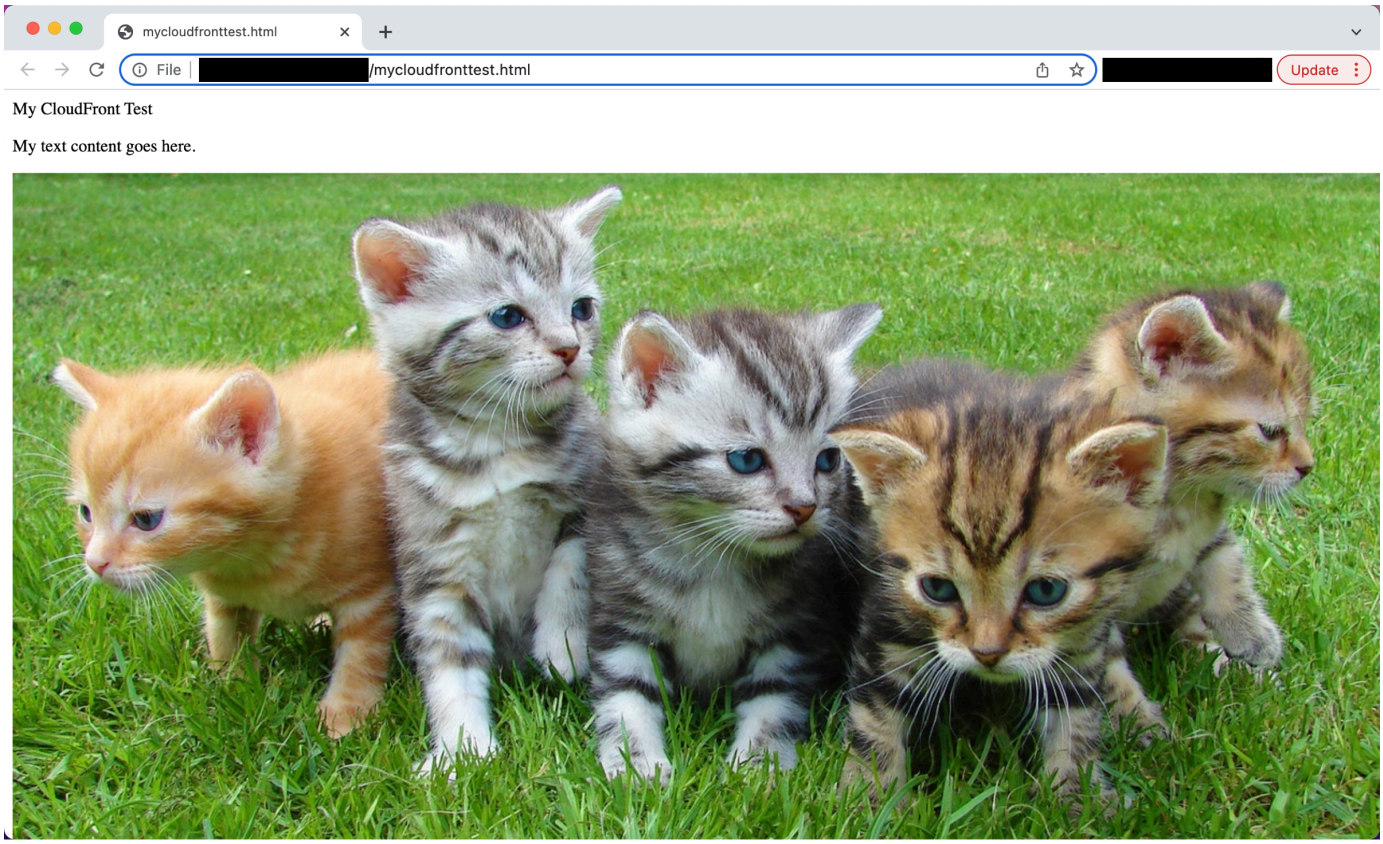
- Create an HTML file

  Open a text editor on your computer. Copy and paste the following HTML code:

```
<html>
<head>My CloudFront Test</head>
<body>
<p>My text content goes here.</p>
<p><img src="http://domain name/object name" alt="my test image">
</body>
</html>
```

- Replace **domain name** with the domain name that CloudFront assigned to your distribution, such as **d111111abcdef8.cloudfront.net**.
- Replace **object name** with the name of your image file in the Amazon S3 bucket - in our case, **cloudfront-test-image.png.**
- Save the text in a file as **mycloudfronttest.html**.

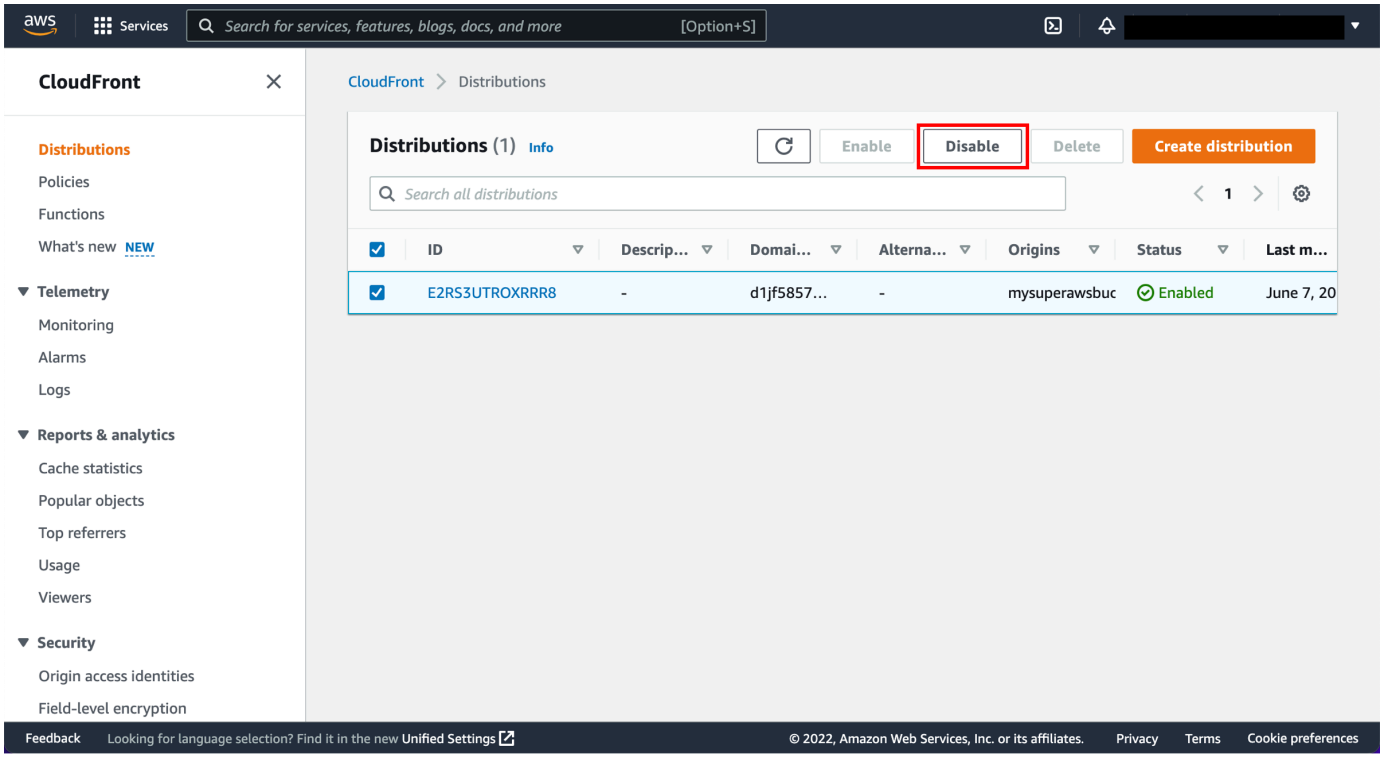
Open your HTML file in a web browser to verify that the link works.




## (Optional) Disable and delete your distribution

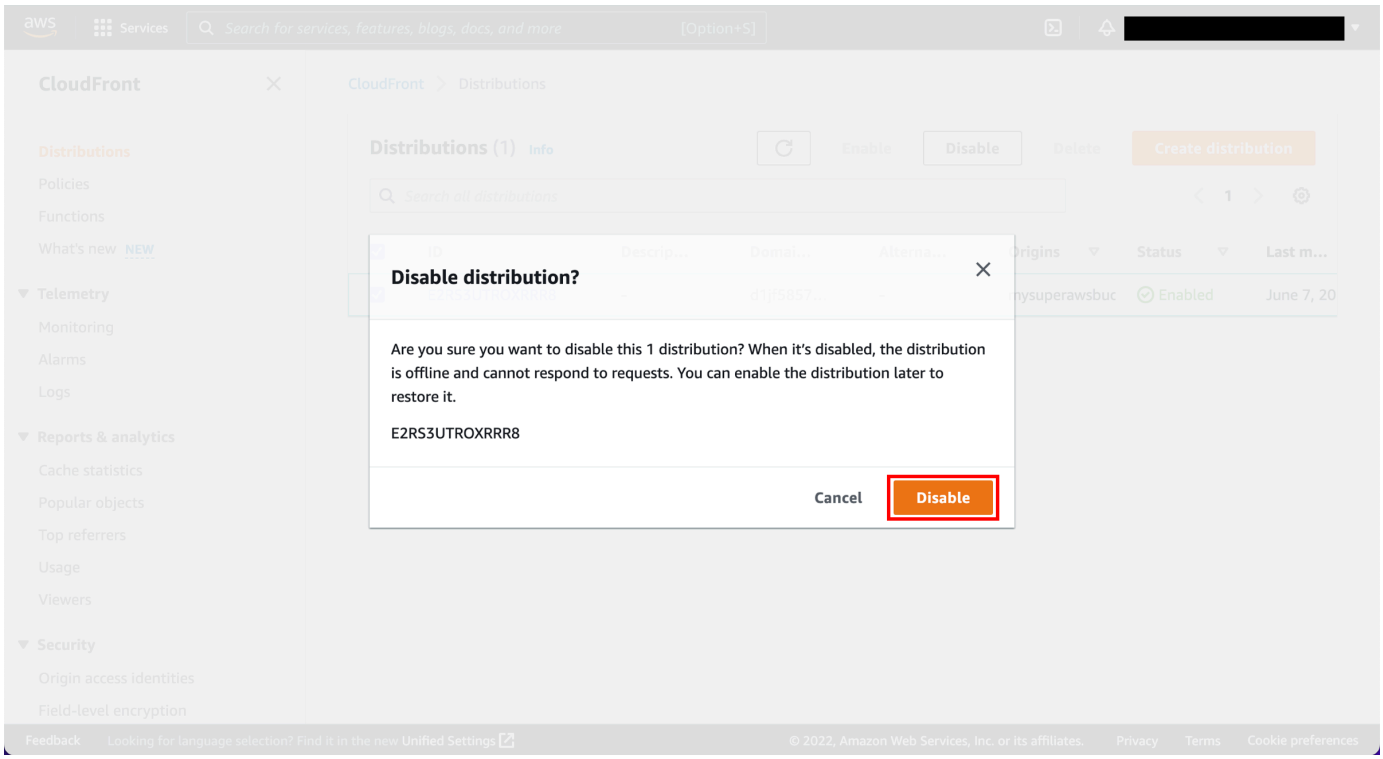
1. Select the distribution to disable

   Select the checkbox next to the distribution you created and choose **Disable**.



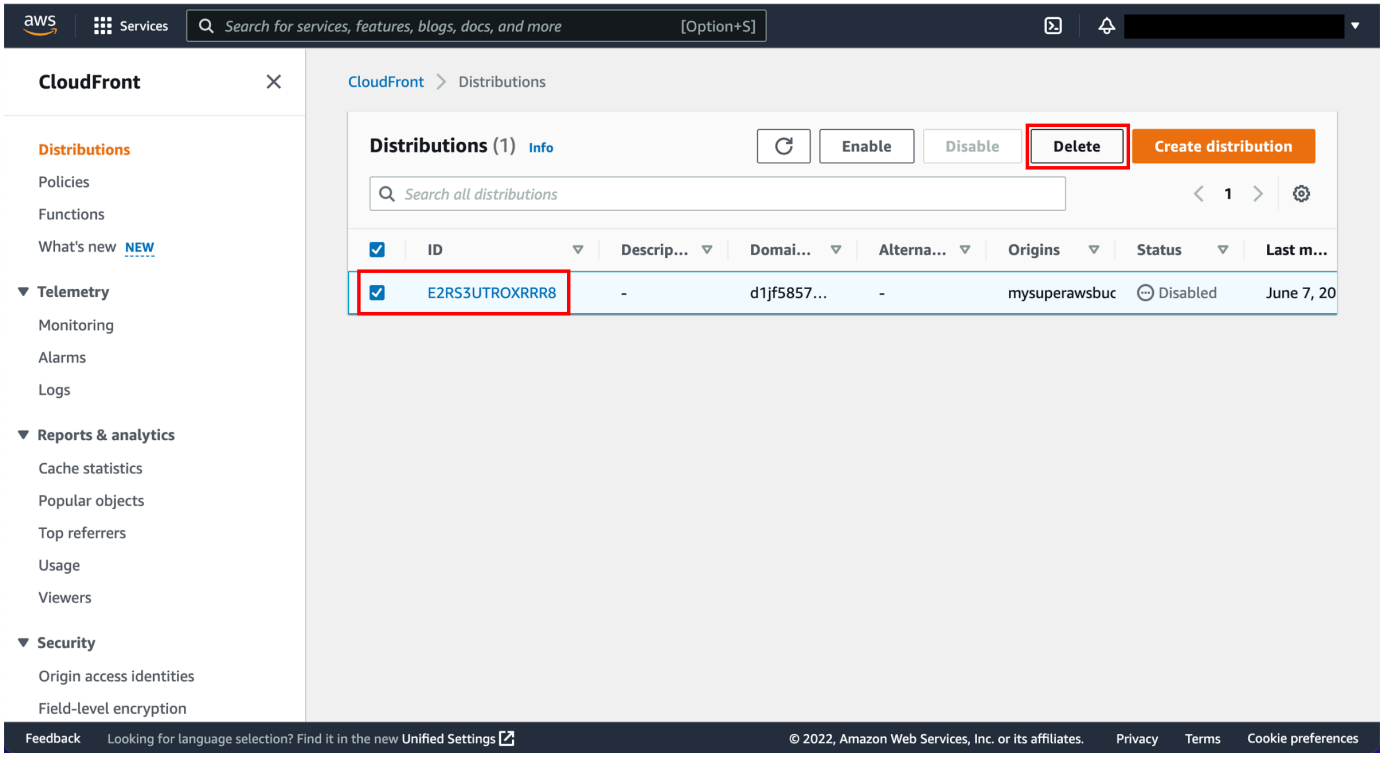

2. Confirm disabling the distribution

   You will be asked to confirm. Choose **Disable**.



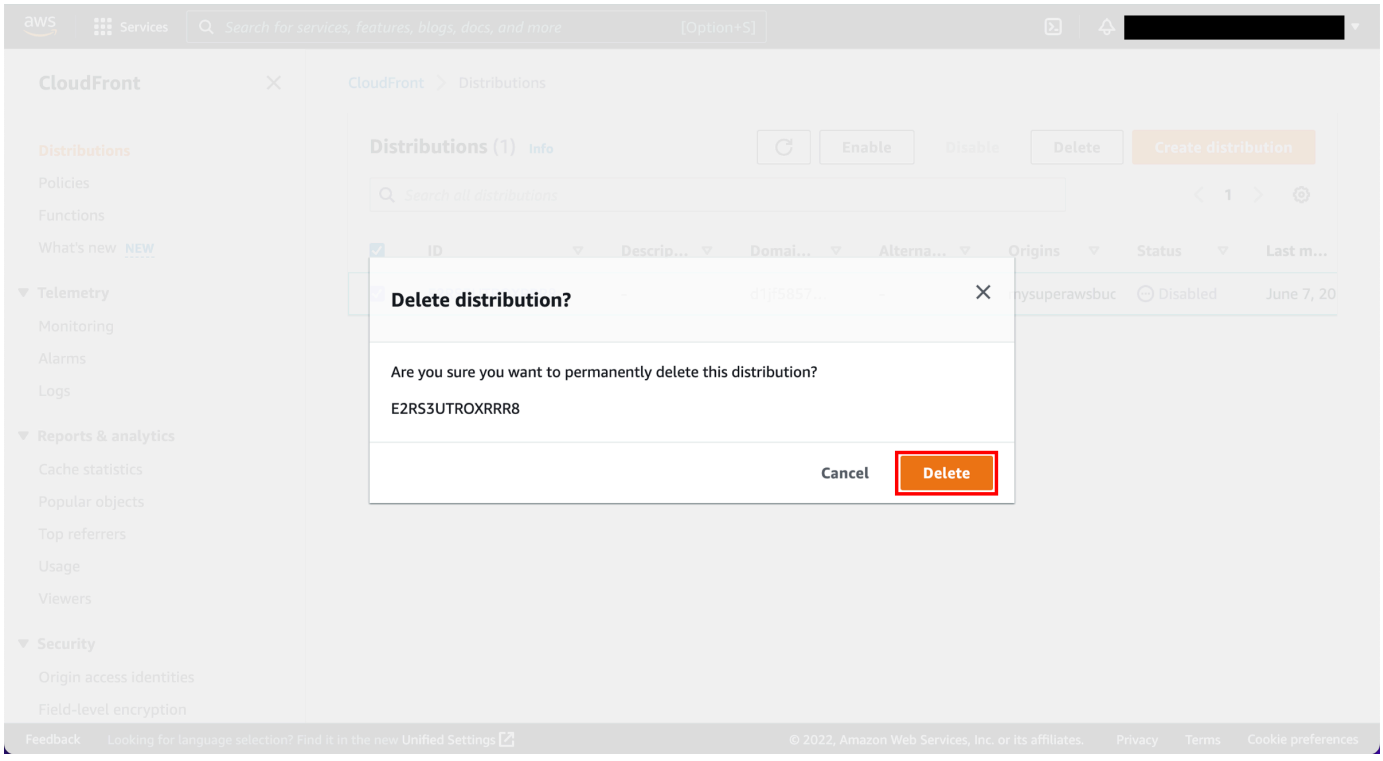

3. Select the distribution to delete

Select the checkbox next to the distribution you created and choose **Delete.**




4. Confirm deleting the distribution

You will be asked to confirm. Choose **Delete**.



# Conclusion

You created your first Amazon CloudFront web distribution and delivered a piece of static content hosted in the cloud through Amazon S3. With a few configuration changes, you can use CloudFront to deliver dynamic content, live events such as a meeting, conference, or concert, in real time over HTTP or HTTPS. Use Amazon Cloudfront to speed delivery of your entire website or application, including dynamic, static, streaming, and interactive content.