National College of Ireland

Configuration Manual

MSc Research Project
MSc Cloud Computing

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Project Submission Sheet
School of Computing

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Configuration Manual

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1 Introduction

To replicate the same objectives as the original work, this configuration manual can be used. It consists of the device configuration that was used during the research, the methods used during the implementation process.

2 System Requirements

The below section as in Table 1 illustrates the hardware configurations, device requirements and the library packages required to reproduce the study.

Feature	**Specification**
Environment	Visual Studio Code, AWS & Alibaba Cloud
Operating System	Windows 11 Pro 64-bit operating system
RAM	32.0 GB
Processor	12th Gen Intel(R) Core (TM) i7-1265U 1.80 GHz
Hard disk Storage	476.92 GB

Table 1: System Specifications

3 Required Software

The below software had been used during the research

- GitHub
- VS code
- Node.js 16.14.2
- XAMPP
- DBeaver
- Apache Jmeter
- AWS services – EC2, S3, AWS RDS
- Alibaba Services – ECS, OSS, PolarDB

The study clones the existing application from GitHub, VS code was the developer environment for the node.js application, XAMPP mirrors production-like environment, Database is managed by DBeaver tool, while Apache Jmeter was the load testing tool that assisted with performance assessment. AWS and Alibaba were the two cloud platforms where the application was migrated to.

4 Application Replication (GitHub repository)

An existing application from GitHub was used during the research to deploy on multiple cloud platforms. Figure 1 a and b show the front-end and back-end application repositories.

GitHub Link:

- `https://github.com/azharakhter/student-portal-backend.git`
- `https://github.com/azharakhter/student-portal-frontend-react-js`

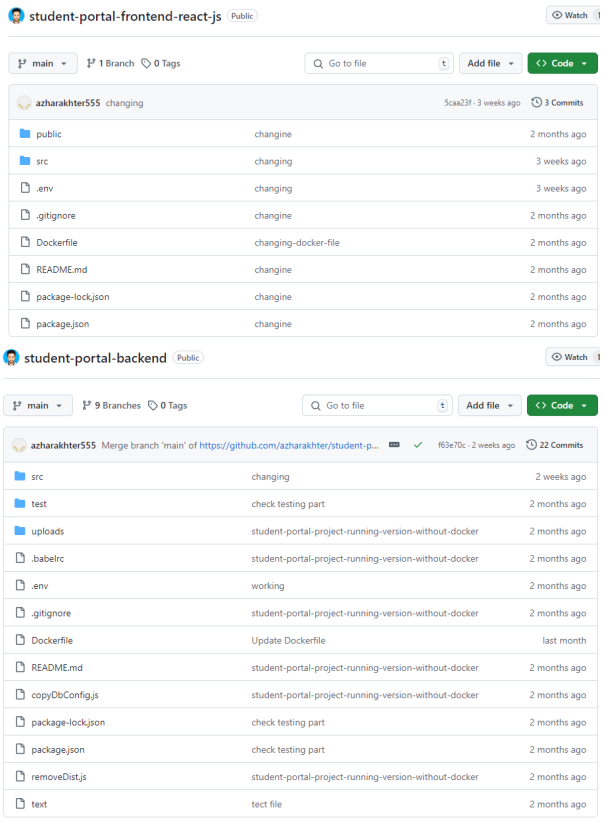

Figure 1: (a) Front-end Repository and (b) Back-end Repository

5 Research Workflow

The steps followed during the study are discussed in this section. A test application, which is the workload, is employed in this migration study. An existing application (Student Hub) is cloned from GitHub to a local setup (laptop). Secondly, the workload is deployed on two cloud environments, AWS and Alibaba. Followed by applying two migration

strategies (Rehosting and Replatforming) to the replicated application to study cloud features that affect the performance of the application. The next step is assessment of key indicators on how these approaches affect performance and cost. Key metrics calculated in the research are Scalability, Response time, Throughput, Bandwidth, Error rate and Cost. Figure 2 shows the workflow on how the research was carried out.

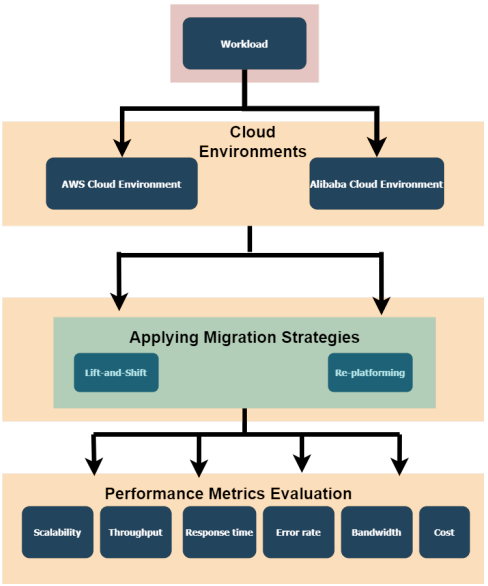

Figure 2: Research Workflow

6 Baseline Deployment- Local Server

- The first step is the replication of an application from GitHub. To replicate the application, the GitHub repository URL is copied. The Node.js application from GitHub is cloned to the local environment.

- Download Visual Studio Code [1], the developer environment chosen for the research, now a folder is created, where the application is to be cloned. The folder is opened in Visual Studio code and proceeded with project replication.

- To replicate the application, the command below is used ensuring that the local copy is identical to the one in GitHub and directed to the parent folder. The repository URL can be found in section 4.

  git clone repo_url

  cd repo_folder

- Once the repository is cloned, the necessary dependencies for the node.js application are to be installed using Node Package Manager (NPM). The below step installs all the packages and library files mentioned in the package.json file that are required for the proper functioning of the application. This is done by the command:

  npm install

[1] `https://code.visualstudio.com/`

- The application is configured to run on local host (The application's code is attached along the code zip files).
  Backend - 8080
  Database - 3306
  Frontend - 3000

- A build file is created for the application for running the tasks using the below command:

  npm run build

- An .env file is created with all the keys, configuration and database credentials, preventing sensitive information from being exposed. Figure 3 shows the commands that were executed to deploy the application on local environment.

- The application is run using the command:

  npm start

- To replicate a production-like atmosphere, XAMPP is used as the local server, Install XAMPP[2] and within XAMPP, Apache (Web server) and MySQL(database) are enabled as shown in figure 4a.

- MySQL acts as the local server database and the PHPMyAdmin tool is utilized to interact with the database. The application's database schema (relationships and tables) was imported into MySQL using the tool as shown in figure 4b, thus mirroring the local environment to production setup (The table schema file is attached along the code zip files).

```
Git clone command : git clone <repo_url>

Direct towards parent folder : cd <repo_folder>

Node packages Installation :  npm install

Build File creation : npm run build

Application start :  npm start
```

Figure 3: Commands for local host deployment

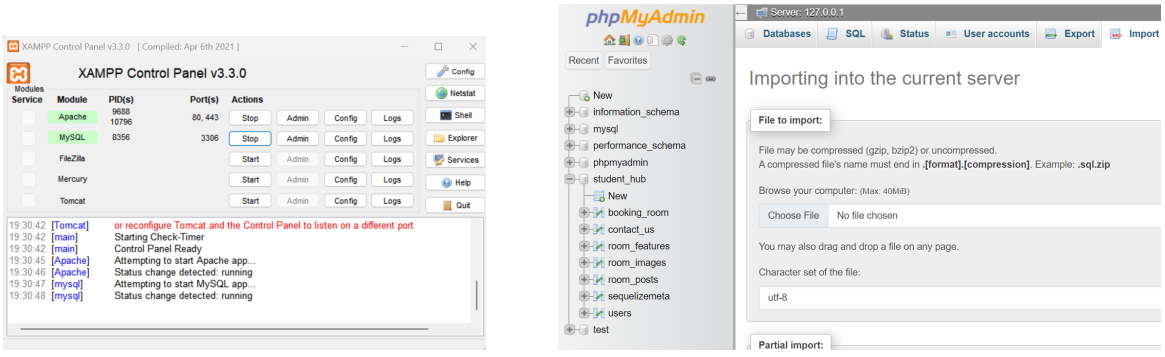

Figure 4: (a) XAMPP: Apache and MySQL (b) Importing Schema to phpMyAdmin

[2] https://www.apachefriends.org/download.html

6.1 Application Connection

The application is configured as below to run on local host (The application's code is attached along the code zip files). The Front-end and back-end deployed in local host is shown in figure 5 a and b.
Backend - 8080
Database - 3306
Frontend - 3000

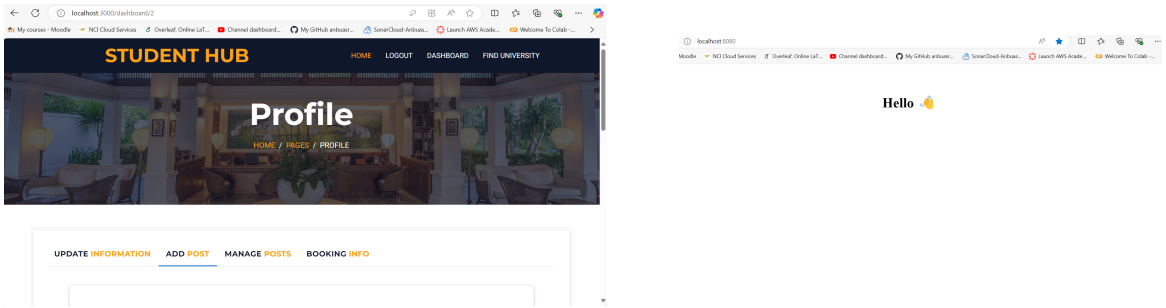

Figure 5: (a) Local Host Front-end (b)Local Host Back-end

7 Database Migration

Database is migrated to AWS and Alibaba Cloud Services using migration scripts. The below steps are followed to migrate the local database to cloud environments.

- Install Sequelize CLI using the below command in VS code for MySQL database drivers.
  npm install sequelize mysql2
- Configure the config.js file including the database endpoint, credentials and port details for AWS, local host and Alibaba cloud individually. An example with Alibaba cloud database details are shown in figure 6.
- The models are created already as shown in figure 7 and is attached along the code zip files.
- Now run the below command to migrate the database using the sequelize scripts.
  npx sequelize-cli db:migrate

Figure 6: Database Migration- Config.js

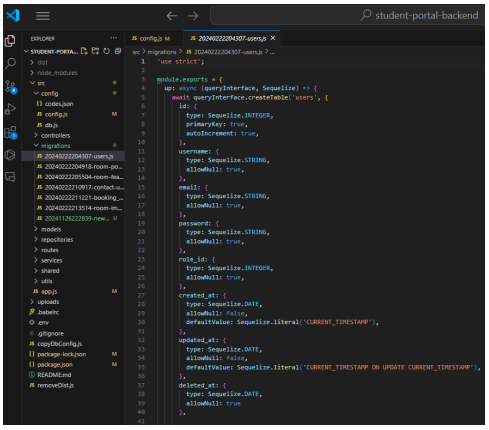

Figure 7: Database Migration- Sequelize Scripts

8 Database Management

DBeaver is used for database management as the study involves multiple databases from AWS and Alibaba. The steps below assist in managing the databases in DBeaver.

- Install DBeaver[3] and start it.
- Create a new connection using the + icon at the top left corner and choose MySQL database.
- Provide the following details for each use case (The details vary with local host, AWS, Alibaba) as shown in figure 8 and click on test connection.
  Host: Database URL
  Port: 3306
  Database: student_hub
  Username: the database username: admin
  Password: the database password: ********
- If the connection succeeds, Click on finish. The tables and data will be now visible within DBeaver as seen in figure 9.
- If the connection fails, make sure the details are entered correct and test again.

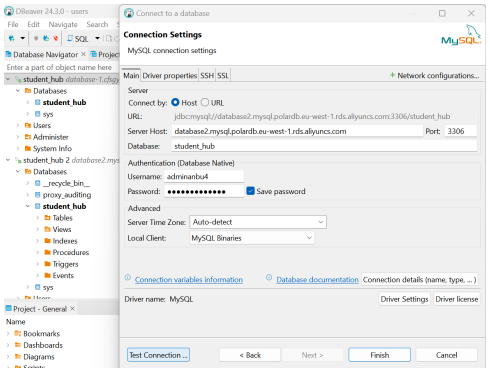

Figure 8: DBeaver- Database Management

[3] `https://dbeaver.io/download/`

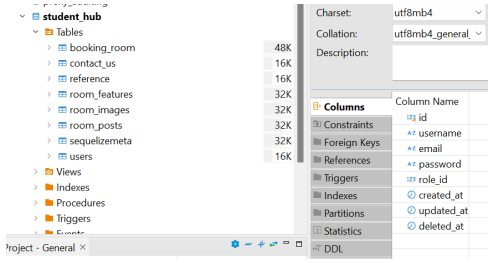

Figure 9: DBeaver- Migrated Tables

9 AWS Deployment

9.1 Rehosting

AWS Rehosting involves 3 cloud services, AWS RDS for database, EC2 for backend and S3 for frontend.

9.1.1 Backend Setup at EC2

- Launch AWS console[4] and search for EC2 and click on launch Instance.
- Choose the operating system (Linux) and select the instance type based on requirements. (e.g., t2.micro since our application is small).
- Ensure the security groups allow inbound HTTP/HTTPS requests. (port 80/443)
- For SSH access (https) configure key pairs and make a note of the endpoint.
- Now connect to EC2 instance by clicking on Connect option.
- Once the instance is launched, git clone the application's backend using the below command. The repository URL can be found in section 4.
  git clone repo_url
- Install the node packages for the application using the below command.
  npm install
- A build file is created for the application for running the tasks using the below command:
  npm run build
- The application's backend is run using the below command as shown in figure 10.
  npm start
- The application's backend will be running on the EC2 endpoint.
  Endpoint: `http://ec2-18-175-123-129.eu-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com:8080/`

[4] `https://aws.amazon.com/`

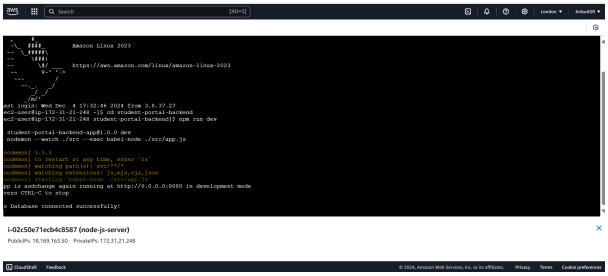

Figure 10: AWS EC2 instance

9.1.2 Frontend Setup at S3

- Launch AWS console[5] and search for S3 and click on Create bucket.
- Enable the option of static Website hosting.
- Upload the build (Static files include HTML, JS, CSS and image files) from the application's frontend folder into the bucket as shown in figure 11a.
- Set the permissions to public-read, ensuring the files are accessible to the public.
- After uploading the files, configure the bucket for static website hosting.
- Set the index.html as index document and error.html as error document.
- The URL to frontend will be provided as follows.
  URL: `http://front-end-student-hub.s3-website.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/`

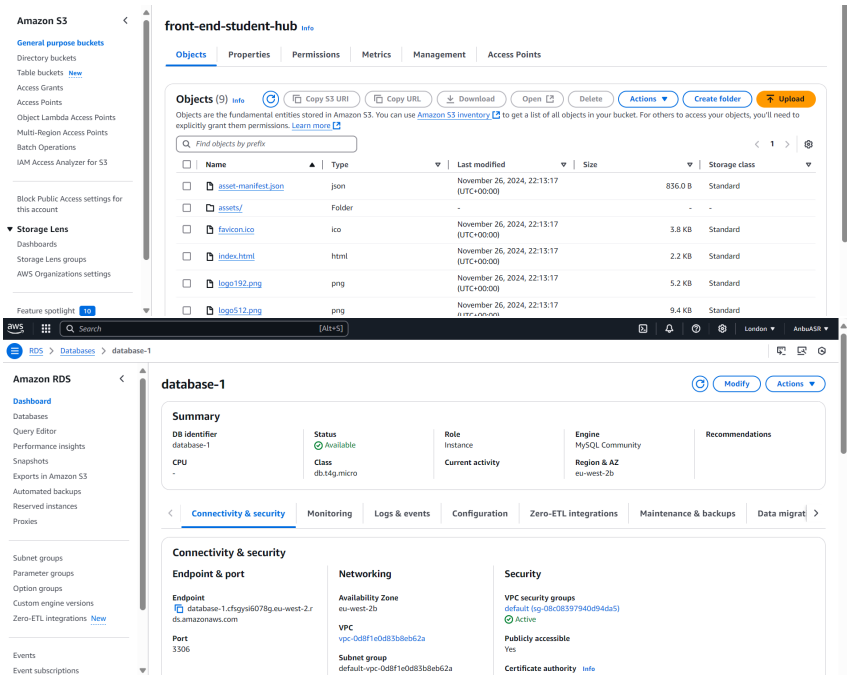

Figure 11: (a) S3 Bucket(b) Amazon RDS database

[5] `https://aws.amazon.com/`

9.1.3 Database Setup at AWS RDS

- Launch AWS console[6] and search AWS RDS and click on Create database.
- Select SQL database and instance type (db.t2.micro)
- Ensure the security groups allow inbound EC2 requests. (port 3306 for MySQL)
- Create a database username and password and note it down for connecting the database with Dbeaver as in section 8.
- The End point can be seen in figure 11b.
  Endpoint: `database-1.cfsgysi6078g.eu-west-2.rds.amazonaws.com`

9.1.4 Application Connection

Now use the above RDS endpoint in backend code of EC2 for database connection and also mention the EC2 endpoint at .env file of Frontend for entire application to work. The Front-end and back-end deployed in AWS are shown in figure 12 a and b.

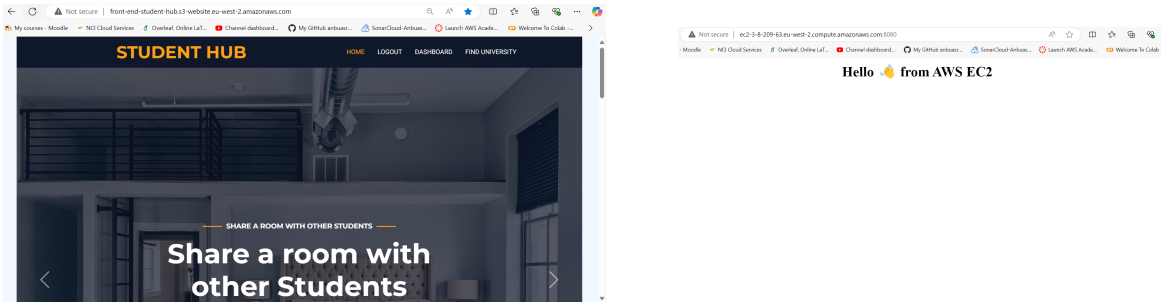

Figure 12: (a) AWS Front-end (b) AWS back-end

9.2 Replatforming

- The application runs on local host, while the database alone is replatformed to AWS by configuring the config.js file with Amazon RDS URL in section 9 as shown in figure 13.
- The application will be running on local host with connection to AWS RDS database on providing the below command in VS code.
  npm start

Figure 13: AWS Replatforming Configuration

[6] `https://aws.amazon.com/`

10 Alibaba Deployment

10.1 Rehosting

Alibaba Rehosting involves 3 cloud services, PolarDB for database, ECS for backend and OSS for frontend.

10.1.1 Backend Setup at ECS

- Launch Alibaba console[7] and search for ECS and click on launch Instance.
- Choose the operating system (Linux) and select the instance type based on requirements. (e.g., t2.micro since our application is small).
- Ensure the security groups allow inbound HTTP/HTTPS requests. (port 80/443)
- For SSH access (https) configure key pairs and make a note of the endpoint.
- Now connect to ECS instance by clicking on Connect option.
- Once the instance is launched, git clone the application's backend using the below command. The repository URL can be found in section 4.
  git clone repo_url
- Install the node packages for the application using the below command.
  npm install
- A build file is created for the application for running the tasks using the below command:
  npm run build
- The application's backend is run using the below command as shown in figure 14.
  npm start
- The application's backend will be running on the ECS endpoint.
  Endpoint: `http://8.208.19.20:8080/`

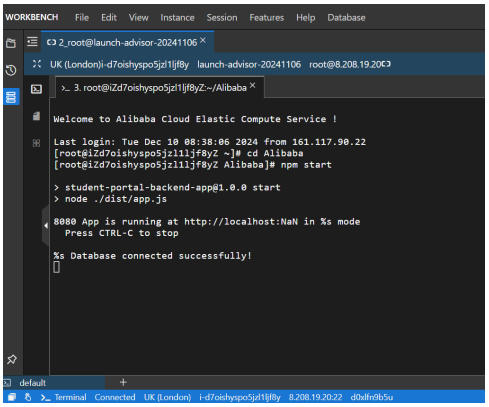

Figure 14: Alibaba ECS instance

[7] `https://account.alibabacloud.com/`

10.1.2 Frontend Setup at OSS

- Launch Alibaba console[8] and search for OSS and click on Create bucket.
- Enable the option of static Website hosting.
- Upload the build files (Static files include HTML, JS, CSS and image files) from the application's frontend folder into the bucket as shown in figure 15a.
- Set the permissions to public-read, ensuring the files are accessible to the public.
- After uploading the files, configure the bucket for static website hosting.
- Set the index.html as index document and error.html as error document.
- The URL to frontend will be provided as follows.
  URL: `http://studenthubanbu.xyz/`

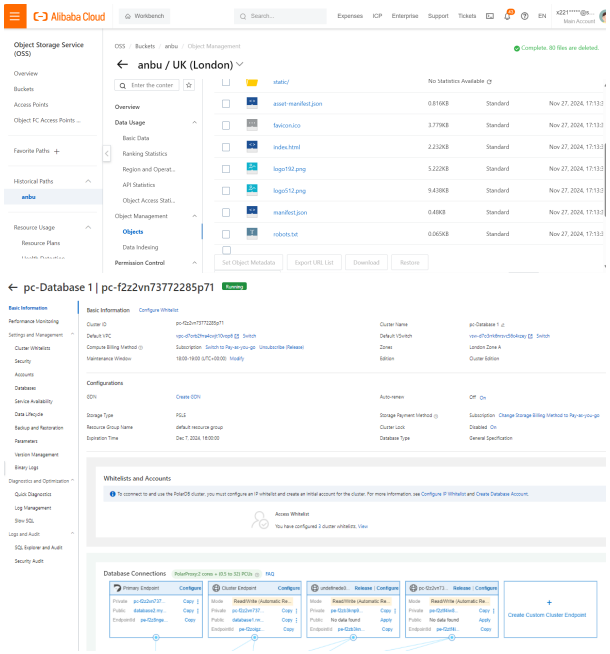

Figure 15: (a) OSS Bucket(b) PolarDB database

10.1.3 Database Setup at PolarDB

- Launch Alibaba console and search PolarDB and click on Create database.
- Select SQL database and instance type (db.t2.micro)
- Ensure the security groups allow inbound ECS requests. (port 3306 for MySQL)
- Create a database username and password and note it down for connecting the database with Dbeaver as in section 8.
- The End point can be seen in figure 15b.
  Endpoint: `database2.mysql.polardb.eu-west-1.rds.aliyuncs.com`

[8] `https://account.alibabacloud.com/`

10.1.4 Application Connection

Now use the above PolarDB endpoint in backend code of ECS for database connection and mention the ECS endpoint at .env file of Frontend for entire application to work. The Front-end and back-end deployed in Alibaba is shown in figure 16 a and b.

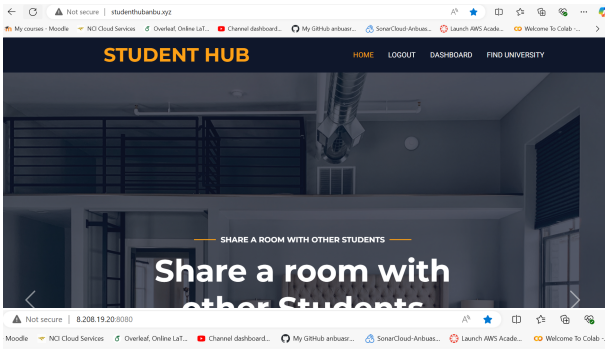

Figure 16: (a) Alibaba Front-end (b) Alibaba back-end

10.2 Replatforming

- The application runs on local host, while the database alone is replatformed to Alibaba by configuring the config.js file with PolarDB URL in section 10 as shown in figure 17.
- The application will be running on local host with connection to Alibaba PolarDB database on providing the below command in VS code.
  npm start

```
development: {
    replication: {
      read: [
        {
          username:'adminanbu4',
          password:'[redacted]',
          database:'student_hub',
          host:'database2.mysql.polardb.eu-west-1.rds.aliyuncs.com',

        }
      ],
      write:  {
        username:'adminanbu4',
          password:'[redacted]',
          database:'student_hub',
          host:'database2.mysql.polardb.eu-west-1.rds.aliyuncs.com',npm star

      }
```

Figure 17: Alibaba Replatforming Configuration

11 Performance Evaluation

Finally, the performance is monitored using the load testing tool called Apache Jmeter. The GET requests will be monitored to evaluate the performance indicators. The following steps below is followed to assess the performance indicators like response time, error rate, bandwidth and throughput.

- Download Apache Jmeter[9] and run to start the GUI.
- Create a test plan, with Thread Groups, Sampler and Listeners.
- A thread group is created defining the following:
  Threads: 20
  Ramp-Up time : 60
  Loop Count: infinite
- Simulate the user requests for each use case individually by providing the backend URL(local host, AWS rehosting and replatforming, Alibaba rehosting and replatforming).
- Configure the URL (Use case:1 - local host), request type (GET) and port number as shown in figure 18.
  Server name: localhost
  Port number: 8080
  Path: /api/room/get-room?page=1&per_page=50
- Collect the performance indicators information by adding Listeners for all 5 use cases individually (Listeners Used: Summary Report, Response Time Graph, View Results Tree).
- Save the plan and click on run.

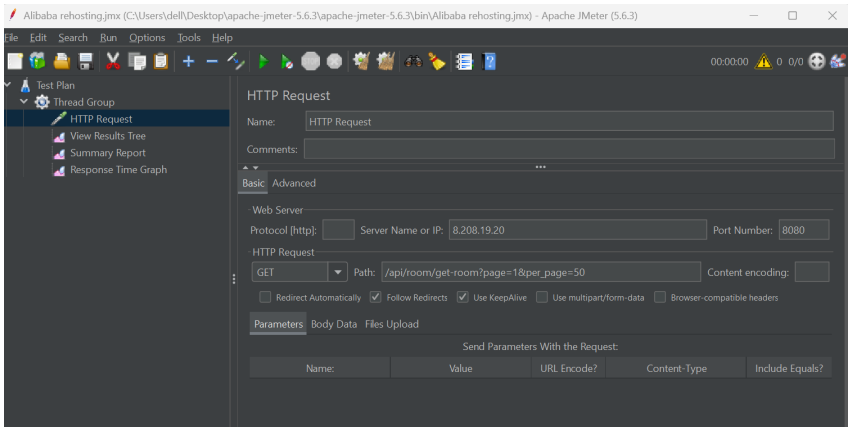

Figure 18: Apache Jmeter Performance Evaluation

[9] `https://jmeter.apache.org/download_jmeter.cgi`

12 Cost Assessment

The Cost is assessed by the pricing calculators offered by AWS [10] and Alibaba Cloud vendors [11]. Figure 19 shows the pricing calculator of AWS and Alibaba cloud.

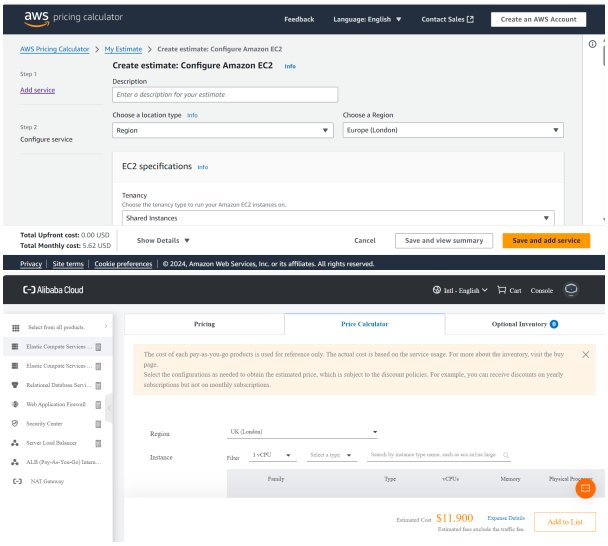

Figure 19: (a)AWS Pricing Calculator (b) Alibaba Pricing Calculator

[10] https://calculator.aws/

[11] https://www.alibabacloud.com/en/pricing-calculator/