FHIA WEBSITE
HOW TO CREATE A NEW BITNAMI INSTANCE

These notes are not comprehensive. Creating a new instance is a major task and should be avoided if possible.

The Need for a New Instance

When an update is needed for parts of the Bitnami stack, e.g., PHP, it is not possible to make a partial upgrade. It is necessary to create a new instance and migrate the web site.

GETTING STARTED

Create the new instance within AWS

See: https://lightsail.aws.amazon.com/ls/docs/en_us/articles/how-to-create-amazon-lightsail-instance-virtual-private-server-vps

Connect to Lightsail within AWS:

https://lightsail.aws.amazon.com/ls/webapp/home/instances

Sign in to AWS with personal ID and password:
        User ID: AWS ID
        Password: AWS password

Create the new instance and give it a name:
        Platform: Linux/Unix
        Apps + OS: Wordpress
Otherwise use default parameters.

Wait for the system, then note:
        Temporary public IP address
        AWS zone

Create a static IP address

On the Lightsail home page, select Networking -> Create a static home page.
Record the IP address and the name that you give it.

Connect to Bitnami using SSH

See: https://lightsail.aws.amazon.com/ls/docs/en_us/articles/getting-started-with-wordpress-and-lightsail

On the Lightsail home page, click the orange box. This connects to Bitnami using SSH and opens a bash shell window.

To get the Wordpress password, type the following in Bitnami:
    cat bitnami_application_password

Record the password that is generated.

CONFIGURE THE WORDPRESS SITE

Connect to the Wordpress site

In a new browser tab, type:
    <static IP>/wp-admin/

Note. The Lightsail documentation has the wrong form of this URL (12/30/2021).

Where <static IP> is the the static IP for your web site.

Login:
    User ID: user
    Password: the password generated by Bitnami

This brings you to the Wordpress dashboard.

Create administrator user ID

Go to Users - > Add New and create a new user ID with Administrator privileges.

Activate Theme

The FHIA site uses the Responsive theme. Go to Appearance -> Themes to install and activate the Responsive theme.

Import site content

Login to the old instance. In the Dashboard, go to Tools -> Export -> Export All and save the file that is created.

In the new instance, go to Tools -> Import

This copies the text and menus but not the media library.

The media library

The media library is stored in wp-contents/uploads. It is organized by the Media Library Folders plugin.

Loading files into the media library

Create the files on your own computer, using the highest resolution available.

To create a folder goto 'Media Library Folders" -> 'Add Folder'. There are separate folders for each major section of the website.

Click 'Add File' and drag files from computer to media library folder. (WordPress automatically generates a range of sizes for each image.)

For each image:
    Click on image in folder
    Add text in Caption box
    Click 'Update'

To add a link to the largest image when inserting image 'Link to Media Page'.

Release

To release the new instance, see the separate notes on DNS and SSL.

Tips on formatting the new website

Copy the Custom CSS from the old website. If the theme is changed it may need extensive revision.

To eliminate the breadcrumbs panel, use Appearance -> Responsive Options.

Plugins:

• To display news posting use the plugin Show Posts.

• Configure the 404 page with the 404 plugin.

• Use the Theme my Login plugin to create a login page.

• Use the plugin User Menus to show menu items based on user role (i.e, board officers).

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January 13, 2022