Engineer Platform

Provisioned a second server from code

Automated the provisioning of a second server on a second cloud provider, creating the firewall before the machine so it is born behind one, with both providers' firewalls written directly against their REST APIs to avoid a third-party collection.

September 2026

a second server, born behind its firewall

Situation. A second machine was needed for an application tier, at a different provider from the first, and the first machine's own history was the argument for how to do it: it had been created by hand, and its firewall had been added afterwards, which leaves a window where a fresh host with a default password policy is reachable from the internet.

Task. The machine had to be created from the repository, and it had to be born behind its firewall rather than acquiring one shortly afterwards.

Action. Ordering carried the design. The firewall play runs before the server play, so the rule set exists before there is anything for it to protect; on the other provider, tagging runs before the cloud firewall because a firewall that targets tags needs the tags to exist first. Both providers' firewalls are written directly against their REST APIs through a generic HTTP task rather than through a vendor collection, which removes a dependency and its version drift at the cost of writing the request shapes by hand. The role that creates the machine adopts an existing one rather than duplicating it if it is already there, so re-running is safe. It is also documented, in its own file, as the one role in the repository that spends money — the instance type, the region, the specification and the monthly cost in euros are all written down, because a play that bills someone should say so where they will read it. That play is also the one that cannot be rehearsed the usual way: the generic HTTP task declares no check-mode support, so a dry run skips every task in it. The rehearsal is done against the firewall play instead, which is free and reversible.

Result. A second host can be created, or re-adopted, from the repository, behind a firewall that already exists, at a cost the file states. The one thing dry-run cannot cover is named in the same file rather than left as a surprise.

Bring this experience to your project

Use “Provisioned a second server from code” as a starting point for a similar challenge in your organisation. The services behind this work are available for your project. Servers sized for what you actually use, moved into the cloud or back out of it, with the monthly bill worked out first.

Explore our services Get in touch →

Look behind the result

Read the situation, decisions and result in this example. We can discuss which parts transfer to your constraints and which need another approach. Provisioned a second server from code — a second server, born behind its firewall

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Need a new server built the same way every time?

Talk through your project with the engineer responsible for delivery. We agree the scope, price basis and handover in writing before work begins.

Role context: Infrastructure Automation Engineer. It draws on APIs & Integration, Infrastructure, Cloud, Automation & CI/CD, Security and Python. And while you are here, we are rather good at Cloud Infrastructure & Migration, Infrastructure as Code, Networking & VPN Setup and Security & Access Management.

Get in touch Explore our services

One piece of **a longer record** — and it is all on this site.

Every entry is written the same way: the situation, the task, what we did and what changed.

See the whole record

Define the improvement you need

Bring the deployment path, the operational risks and the people on call. We can scope a change with checks, a recovery route and clear ownership.

See what it costs Get in touch →

Need a new server built the same way every time?

Ask about the decisions behind “Provisioned a second server from code”. You will speak with the people who can explain the work and assess your own project.

Explore our services

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Contact card

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