

TCSS 562: SOFTWARE ENGINEERING FOR CLOUD COMPUTING

AWS OVERVIEW & Cloud Enabling Technology

Wes J. Lloyd
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University of Washington - Tacoma



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OFFICE HOURS – FALL 2025

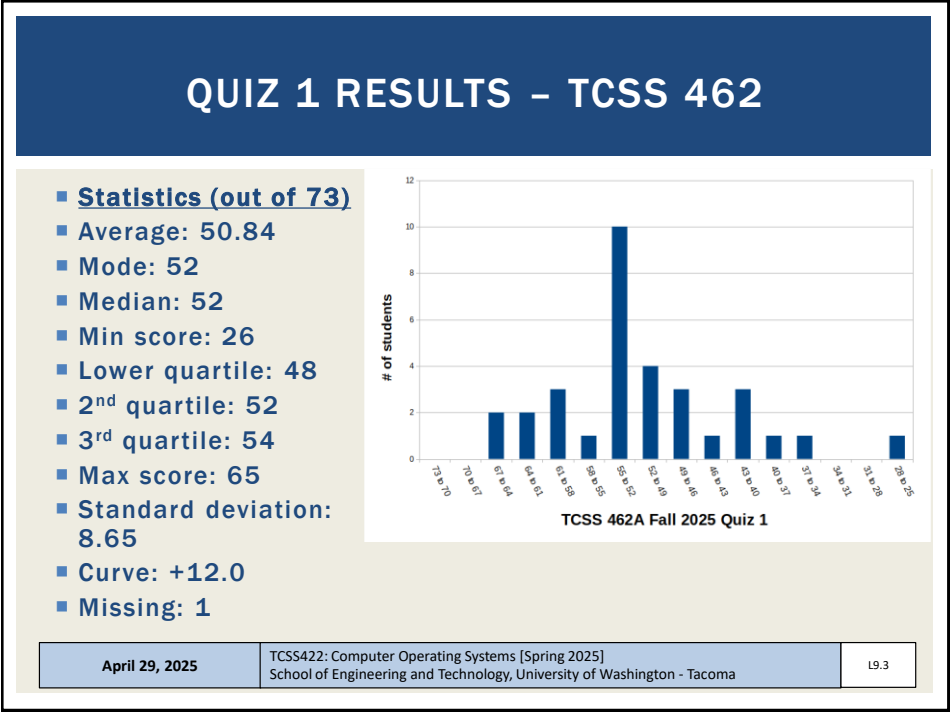
- Thursdays:
 - 6:00 to 7:00 pm - CP 229 & Zoom
- Friday – *** THIS WEEK ***
 - 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm – ONLINE via Zoom
- Or email for appointment

➤ Office Hours set based on Student Demographics survey feedback

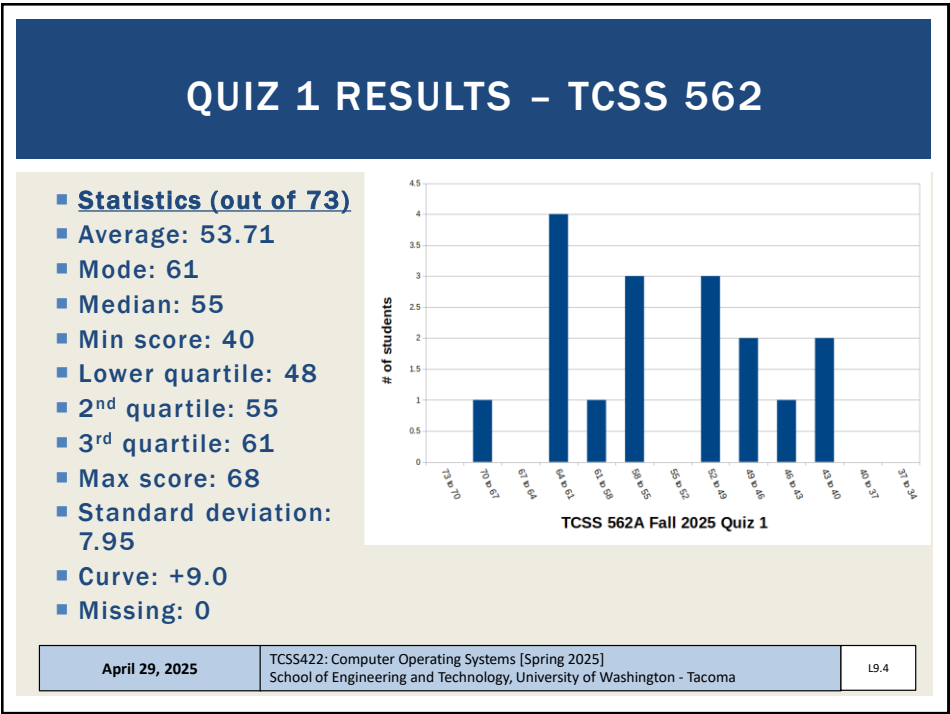
➤ * - Friday office hours may be adjusted or canceled due meeting conflicts or other obligations. Adjustments will be announced via Canvas.

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OBJECTIVES – 11/13

- Questions from 11/6
- Tutorials Questions
- Class Presentations:
Cloud Technology or Research Paper Review
- Ch. 5: Cloud Enabling Technology
- Tutorial 5 Demo

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ONLINE DAILY FEEDBACK SURVEY

- Daily Feedback Quiz in Canvas – Take After Each Class
- Extra Credit for completing

Announcements

Assignments

Discussions

Zoom

Grades

People

Pages

Files

Quizzes

Collaborations

UW Libraries

UW Resources

Upcoming Assignments

Class Activity 1 – Implicit vs. Explicit Parallelism
Available until Oct 11 at 11:59pm | Due Oct 7 at 7:50pm | ~10 pts

Tutorial 1 - Linux
Available until Oct 19 at 11:59pm | Due Oct 15 at 11:59pm | ~20 pts

Past Assignments

TCSS 562 - Online Daily Feedback Survey - 10/5
Available until Dec 18 at 11:59pm | Due Oct 6 at 8:59pm | ~1 pts

TCSS 562 - Online Daily Feedback Survey - 9/30
Available until Dec 18 at 11:59pm | Due Oct 4 at 8:59pm | ~1 pts

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TCSS 562 - Online Daily Feedback Survey - 10/5

Started: Oct 7 at 1:13am

Quiz Instructions

Question 1

0.5 pts

On a scale of 1 to 10, please classify your perspective on material covered in today's class:

12345678910

Mostly Review To MeEqual New and ReviewMostly New to Me

Question 2

0.5 pts

Please rate the pace of today's class:

12345678910

SlowJust RightFast

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MATERIAL / PACE

■ Please classify your perspective on material covered in today's class (50 respondents **100%!!**, 46 in-person, 4 online):

■ 1-mostly review, 5-equal new/review, 10-mostly new

■ **Average – 5.64** (↓ - *previous 6.36*)

■ Please rate the pace of today's class:

■ 1-slow, 5-just right, 10-fast

■ **Average – 4.96** (↓ - *previous 5.19*)

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FEEDBACK FROM 11/6

- Regarding a Cloud Technology Class Presentation, Is a demonstration required ?
 - Yes, a demonstration is required for a cloud technology presentation, though a LIVE demonstration is not required
 - The Assignment description provides some strategies
- Will Quiz 2 be similar to quiz 1 in terms of format, difficulty and/or scope ?
 - It is likely to be similar
 - Quiz 2 will have less new content, and more review, since there are just 4 lectures before December 2nd
 - Lectures 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
 - Tutorials 5, 6, 7

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Don't Forget to Terminate (Shutdown)
all EC2 instances for Tutorials 3

Spot instances:

c5d.large instance @ ~3.2 cents / hour

\$0.78 / day

\$5.48 / week

\$23.78 / month

\$285.42 / year

AWS CREDITS → → → → → → → →



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TUTORIAL 4 – DUE NOV 11

- Introduction to AWS Lambda with the Serverless Application Analytics Framework (SAAF)
https://faculty.washington.edu/wlloyd/courses/tcss562/tutorials/TCSS462_562_f2025_tutorial_4.pdf
- Set up Java development environment
- Introduction to Maven build files for Java
- Create and Deploy “hello” Java AWS Lambda Function
- Create API Gateway REST endpoint
- Sequential testing of “hello” AWS Lambda Function
 - API Gateway endpoint, AWS Lambda CLI Function invocation, AWS Function URL
- Profiling function performance with SAAF
- Concurrent function testing with faas_runner
- Performance analysis using faas_runner reports
- Two function pipeline development task: Caesar Cipher

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TUTORIAL 4 - NOTES

- Sometimes students get unexpected results when adding **Thread.sleep(10000)** to the hello Lambda function:
- It is possible that:
 - Results from the SAAF Report Generator were from a test run before the **Thread.Sleep()** statement was added to the code
 - OR -
 - The **Thread.Sleep()** statement was added in the incorrect location of the code
 - OR -
 - When opening the CSV output from the Report Generator, the file separator characters were set incorrectly.
- The only separator for a CSV file is the comma ","
Be sure to correctly open the CSV file in the spreadsheet.
Columns can be offset resulting in the wrong answers being provided for Question 6.

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TUTORIAL 4 – NOTES - 2

- The sleep statement must go between the **START FUNCTION** and **END FUNCTION** comments in the **handleRequest()** method specified as the AWS Lambda function's handler under runtime settings in the AWS Lambda GUI.

```
//*****START FUNCTION IMPLEMENTATION*****  
try  
{  
    Thread.sleep(10000);  
}  
catch (InterruptedException ie)  
{  
    System.out.println("Interruption occurred while sleeping.");  
}  
//*****END FUNCTION IMPLEMENTATIO N*****
```

- Code must be recompiled and redeployed after modification

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TUTORIAL 4 – NOTES - 3

- **SANITY CHECK:** consider that adding 10 seconds of sleep to your AWS Lambda function will cause the function to run for at least 10 seconds. This will impact the outputs requested for Question 6:
- avg_runtime is the server-side (cloud) runtime of the function
- This is the time it takes for the function to run on AWS Lambda (cloud)
- Adding sleep of 10 seconds should increase a function's avg_runtime
- avg_roundTripTime is the total time for a request from a client (laptop?) to travel to the server (cloud), make the function call, and return.
- If trying to make 50 calls at once on a laptop with a small # of CPU cores this time may be slow
- Adding sleep of 10 seconds should increase a function's avg_roundTripTime

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TUTORIAL 4 – NOTES - 4

- avg_cpuidleDelta time is the amount of time the Lambda function's Firecracker two vCPUs are idle during the function call on the server measured in centiseconds:

100 centiseconds = 1 second
100 centiseconds = 1000 milliseconds
- By default, AWS Lambda functions with 512 MB run in a runtime environment with access to two vCPU cores
- This is the total vCPU idle time for both cores (it is doubled)
- Adding sleep of 10 seconds should increase your function's avg_cpuidleDelta
- How much should avg_cpuidleDelta increase ?

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TUTORIAL 5 – DUE NOV 16

- Introduction to Lambda II: Working with Files in S3, Cloud Trail, and Amazon Event Bridge Rules
- https://faculty.washington.edu/wlloyd/courses/tcss562/tutorials/TCSS462_562_f2025_tutorial_5.pdf
- Customize the Request object (add getters/setters)
 - Why do this instead of HashMap ?
- Import dependencies (jar files) into project for AWS S3
- Create an S3 Bucket
- Give your Lambda function(s) permission to work with S3
- Write to the CloudWatch logs
- Use of CloudTrail to generate S3 events
- Creating Event Bridge rule to capture events from CloudTrail
- Have the Event Bridge rule trigger a Lambda function with a static JSON input object (hard-coded filename)
- **Optional:** for the S3 PutObject event, dynamically extract the name of the file put to the S3 bucket for processing

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TUTORIAL 6 – NOV 23

- Introduction to Lambda III: Serverless Databases
- https://faculty.washington.edu/wlloyd/courses/tcss562/tutorials/TCSS462_562_f2025_tutorial_6.pdf
- Create and use Sqlite databases using sqlite3
- Deploy Lambda function with Sqlite3 database under /tmp
- Compare in-memory vs. file-based Sqlite DBs on Lambda
- Create an Amazon Aurora “Serverless” v2 MySQL database
- Using the AWS CloudShell in the same VPC (Region + availability zone) connect and interact your Aurora serverless database using the mysql CLI app
- Deploy an AWS Lambda function that uses the MySQL “serverless” database

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TUTORIAL 7

- Introduction to Docker
- To be posted
- Must complete using Ubuntu 24.04 (for cgroups v2)
- Use DOCX file for copying and pasting Docker install commands
- Topics:
 - Installing Docker
 - Creating a container using a Dockerfile
 - Using cgroups virtual filesystem to monitor CPU utilization of a container
 - Persisting container images to Docker Hub image repository
 - Container vertical scaling of CPU/memory resources
 - Testing container CPU and memory isolation

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TUTORIAL COVERAGE

- Docker CLI → Docker Engine (dockerd) → containerd → runc
- Working with the docker CLI:
 - docker run create a container
 - docker ps -a list containers, find CONTAINER ID
 - docker exec --it run a process in an existing container
 - docker stop stop a container
 - docker kill kill a container
 - docker help list available commands
 - man docker Docker Linux manual pages

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Commands:

attach

Build an image from a Dockerfile

build

Create a new image from a container's changes

commit

Create a new container

cp

Copied files/folders between a container and the local filesystem

create

Deploy a new stack or update an existing stack

deploy

Inspect changes to files or directories on a container's filesystem

diff

Get real time events from the server

events

Run a command in a running container

exec

Export a container's filesystem as a tar archive

export

Show the history of an image

history

List images

images

Import the contents from a tarball to create a filesystem image

import

Display system-wide information

info

Return low-level information on Docker objects

inspect

Kill one or more running containers

kill

Load an image from a tar archive or STDIN

load

Log in to a Docker registry

login

Log out from a Docker registry

logout

Fetch the logs of a container

logs

Pause all processes within one or more containers

pause

List port mappings or a specific mapping for the container

port

List containers

ps

Pull an image or a repository from a registry

pull

Push an image or a repository to a registry

push

Rename a container

rename

Restart one or more containers

restart

Remove one or more containers

rm

Remove one or more images

rmi

Run a command in a new container

run

Save one or more images to a tar archive (streamed to STDOUT by default)

save

Search the Docker Hub for images

search

Start one or more stopped containers

start

Display a live stream of container(s) resource usage statistics

stats

Stop one or more running containers

stop

Create a tag TARGET_IMAGE that refers to SOURCE_IMAGE

tag

Display the running processes of a container

top

Unpause all processes within one or more containers

unpause

Update configuration of one or more containers

update

Show the Docker version information

version

Block until one or more containers stop, then print their exit codes

wait

Docker CLI

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TUTORIAL 7

■ Tutorial introduces use of two common Linux performance benchmark applications

■ stress-ng

■ 100s of CPU, memory, disk, network stress tests

■ Sysbench

■ Used in tutorial for memory stress test

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GROUP PRESENTATION

- TWO OPTIONS:
- *Cloud technology presentation*
- *Cloud research paper presentation*
 - Recent & suggested papers will be posted at:
<http://faculty.washington.edu/wlloyd/courses/tcss562/papers/>
- **Submit presentation type and topics (paper or technology)
with desired dates of presentation via Canvas by:
*Tuesday November 18th @ 11:59pm***
- Presentation dates:
 - Tuesday November 25
 - Tuesday December 2*, Thursday December 4
 - * - day of quiz 2. only 1 presentation slot

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EARN ADDITIONAL AWS CREDITS

- Earn additional \$100 in AWS credits :
- Complete 5 activities from the “Explore AWS Widget”:

Explore AWS info

AI Agent Marketplace ⓘ
Buy and deploy AI agent solutions
with AWS Marketplace

Amazon Quick Suite ⓘ
Agentic AI-powered digital
workflows for business users

OpenAI open weight models...
Build and scale generative AI
applications with OpenAI

- Launch an instance using Amazon EC2
- Use a foundational model in the Amazon Bedrock playground
- Set up a cost budget using AWS Budgets
- Create a web app using AWS Lambda
- Create an Amazon RDS database

- <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/awsaccountbilling/latest/aboutv2/free-tier-plans-activities.html>

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LIST OF TOPICS

■ AWS Management Console

■ Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2)

■ Instance Storage: Virtual Disks on VMs

■ Elastic Block Store: Virtual Disks on VMs

■ Elastic File System (EFS)

■ Amazon Machine Images (AMIs)

■ EC2 Paravirtualization

■ EC2 Full Virtualization (hvm)

■ EC2 Virtualization Evolution

■ (VM) Instance Actions

■ EC2 Networking

■ EC2 Instance Metadata Service

■ Simple Storage Service (S3)

■ AWS Command Line Interface (CLI)

■ Legacy / Service Specific CLIs

■ AMI Tools

■ Signing Certificates

■ Backing up live disks

■ Cost Savings Measures

■ Disk images and S3

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Services by category

Compute

EC2

LightSail

Lambda

Batch

Elastic Beanstalk

Serverless Application Repository

AWS Outposts

EC2 Image Builder

AWS App Runner

AWS Step Functions

Containers

Elastic Container Registry

Elastic Container Service

Elastic Kubernetes Service

Red Hat OpenShift Service on AWS

Storage

S3

EFS

FSx

S3 Glacier

Storage Gateway

AWS Backup

AWS Elastic Disaster Recovery

Database

RDS

ElastiCache

Neptune

Amazon QLDB

Amazon DocumentDB

Amazon Keyspaces

Amazon Timestream

DynamoDB

Amazon MemoryDB for Redis

Migration & Transfer

AWS Migration Hub

AWS Application Migration Service

Application Discovery Service

Database Migration Service

AWS Transfer Family

AWS Snow Family

DataSync

AWS Mainframe Modernization

Networking & Content Delivery

VPC

CloudFront

Route 53

API Gateway

Customer Enablement

AWS IQ

Managed Services

Activate for Startups

Support

Robotics

AWS RoboMaker

Blockchain

Amazon Managed Blockchain

Satellite

Ground Station

Quantum Technologies

Amazon Braket

Management & Governance

AWS Organizations

CloudWatch

AWS Auto Scaling

CloudFormation

Config

OpsWorks

Service Catalog

Systems Manager

Trusted Advisor

Control Tower

AWS License Manager

AWS Well-Architected Tool

AWS Health Dashboard

AWS Chatbot

Launch Wizard

AWS Compute Optimizer

Resource Groups & Tag Editor

Amazon Grafana

Amazon Prometheus

AWS Resilience Hub

Incident Manager

Service Quotas

AWS Proton

CloudTrail

AWS Resource Explorer

AWS User Notifications

AWS Textract

AWS Timestream

Media Services

Kinesis Video Streams

MediaConvert

MediaLive

MediaPackage

MediaStore

Machine Learning

Amazon SageMaker

Amazon Augmented AI

Amazon CodeGuru

Amazon DevOps Guru

Amazon Comprehend

Amazon Forecast

Amazon Fraud Detector

Amazon Kendra

Amazon Personalize

Amazon Polly

Amazon Rekognition

Amazon Transcribe

Amazon Transcribe

Amazon Translate

AWS DeepComposer

AWS DeepLens

AWS DeepRecommender

AWS Panorama

Amazon Monitron

AWS HealthLake

Amazon Lookout for Vision

Amazon Lookout for Equipment

Amazon Lookout for Metrics

Amazon Lex

Amazon Comprehend Medical

AWS HealthOmics

Amazon Bedrock

AWS HealthImaging

Analytics

Athena

Amazon Redshift

CloudSearch

Amazon OpenSearch Service

Kinesis

QuickSight

Data Pipeline

AWS Data Exchange

AWS Lake Formation

MSK

AWS Glue DataBrew

Amazon FinSpace

AWS Glue

EMR

AWS Clean Rooms

Amazon DataZone

AWS Entity Resolution

Managed Apache Flink

Security, Identity, & Compliance

IAM

Resource Access Manager

Cognito

AWS Cost Management

AWS Cost Explorer

AWS Budgets

AWS Marketplace Subscriptions

AWS Application Cost Profiler

AWS Billing Conductor

Billing

Front-end Web & Mobile

AWS Amplify

AWS AppSync

Device Farm

Amazon Location Service

Application Integration

Step Functions

Amazon AppFlow

Amazon EventBridge

Amazon MQ

Simple Notification Service

Simple Queue Service

SWF

Managed Apache Airflow

Business Applications

Amazon Connect

Amazon Pinpoint

Amazon Honeycode

Amazon Chime

Amazon Simple Email Service

Amazon WorkDocs

Amazon WorkMail

AWS Supply Chain

AWS AppFabric

AWS Wicke

Amazon Chime SDK

End User Computing

WorkSpaces

AppStream 2.0

WorkSpaces Web

Internet of Things

IoT 1-Click

IoT Analytics

IoT Device Defender

IoT Device Management

IoT Greengrass

IoT SiteWise

IoT Core

IoT Events

AWS IoT FleetWise

IoT RoboRunner

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AWS EC2

- Elastic Compute Cloud
- Instance types: <https://instances.vantage.sh/>
 - On demand Instance – full price
 - Reserved Instance – contract based where customer guarantees VM rental for a fixed period of time (e.g. 1 year, 3 years, etc.)
Deeper discounts with longer term commitments
 - Spot Instance – portion of cloud capacity reserved for low cost instances, when demand exceeds supply instances are randomly terminated with 2-minute warning
 - Users can make diverse VM requests using different types, zones, regions, etc. to minimize instance terminations
 - Developers can design for failure because often only 1 or 2 VMs in a cluster fail at any given time. They then need to be replaced.
 - Dedicated host – reserved private HW (server)
 - Instance families -
General, compute-optimized, memory-optimized, GPU, etc.

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AWS EC2 - 2

- Storage types
 - Instance storage - ephemeral storage
 - Temporary disk volumes stored on disks local to the VM
 - Evolution: physical hard disk drives (HDDs)
 - Solid state drives (SSDs)
 - Non-volatile memory express (NVMe) drives (closer to DRAM speed)
 - EBS - Elastic block store
 - Remotely hosted disk volumes
 - EFS - Elastic file system
 - Shared file system based on network file system
 - VMs, Lambdas, Containers mount/interact with shared file system
 - Somewhat expensive

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INSTANCE STORAGE

- Also called ephemeral storage
- Persisted using images saved to S3 (simple storage service)
 - ~2.3¢ per GB/month on S3
 - 5GB of free tier storage space on S3
- Requires “burning” an image
- Multi-step process:
 - Create image files
 - Upload chunks to S3
 - Register image
- Launching a VM
 - Requires downloading image components from S3, reassembling them... is potentially slow
- VMs with instance store backed root volumes not pause-able
- Historically root volume limited to 10-GB max– *faster imaging...*

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ELASTIC BLOCK STORE

- EBS provides 1 drive to 1 virtual machine (**1 : 1**) (not shared)
- EBS cost model is different than instance storage (uses S3)
 - ~10¢ per GB/month for General Purpose Storage (GP2)
 - ~8¢ per GB/month for General Purpose Storage (GP3)
 - 30GB of free tier storage space
- EBS provides “live” mountable volumes
 - Listed under volumes
 - Data volumes: can be mounted/unmounted to any VM, dynamically at any time
 - Root volumes: hosts OS files and acts as a boot device for VM
 - In Linux drives are linked to a mount point “directory”
- Snapshots back up EBS volume data to S3
 - Enables replication (required for horizontal scaling)
 - EBS volumes not actively used should be snapshotted, and deleted to save EBS costs...

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EBS VOLUME TYPES - 2

- Metric: I/O Operations per Second (IOPS)
- General Purpose 2 (GP2)
 - 3 IOPS per GB, min 100 IOPS (<34GB), max of 16,000 IOPS
 - 250MB/sec throughput per volume
- General Purpose 3 (GP3 – new Dec 2020)
 - Max 16,000 IOPS, Default 3,000 IOPS
 - GP2 requires creating a 1TB volume to obtain 3,000 IOPS
 - GP3 all volumes start at 3000 IOPS and 125 MB/s throughput
 - 1000 additional IOPS beyond 3000 is \$5/month up to 16000 IOPS
 - 125 MB/s additional throughput is \$5/month up to 1000 MB/s throughput

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EBS VOLUME TYPES - 3

- Provisioned IOPS (IO1)
 - Legacy, associated with GP2
 - Allows user to create custom disk volumes where they pay for a specified IOPS and throughput
 - 32,000 IOPS, and 500 MB/sec throughput per volume MAX
- Throughput Optimized HDD (ST1)
 - Up to 500 MB/sec throughput
 - 4.5 ¢ per GB/month
- Cold HDD (SC1)
 - Up to 250 MB/sec throughput
 - 2.5 ¢ per GB/month
- Magnetic
 - Up to 90 MB/sec throughput per volume
 - 5 ¢ per GB/month

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ELASTIC FILE SYSTEM (EFS)

- EFS provides 1 volume to many client (1 : n) shared storage
- Network file system (based on NFSv4 protocol)
- Shared file system for EC2, Fargate/ECS, Lambda
- Enables mounting (sharing) the same disk “volume” for R/W access across multiple instances at the same time
- Different performance and limitations vs. EBS/Instance store
- Implementation uses abstracted EC2 instances
- ~ 30 ¢ per GB/month storage – **default burstable throughput**
- **Throughput modes:**
- Can modify modes only once every 24 hours
- **Burstable Throughput Model:**
 - Baseline – 50kb/sec per GB
 - Burst – 100MB/sec per GB (for volumes sized 10GB to 1024 GB)
 - Credits - .72 minutes/day per GB

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ELASTIC FILE SYSTEM (EFS) - 2

- **Burstable Throughput Rates**
 - Throughput rates: baseline vs burst
 - Credit model for bursting: maximum burst per day

Information subject to revision

File System Size (GiB)	Baseline Aggregate Throughput (MiB/s)	Burst Aggregate Throughput (MiB/s)	Maximum Burst Duration (Min/Day)	% of Time File System Can Burst (Per Day)
10	0.5	100	7.2	0.5%
256	12.5	100	180	12.5%
512	25.0	100	360	25.0%
1024	50.0	100	720	50.0%
1536	75.0	150	720	50.0%
2048	100.0	200	720	50.0%
3072	150.0	300	720	50.0%
4096	200.0	400	720	50.0%

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ELASTIC FILE SYSTEM (EFS) - 3

- **Throughput Models**
- **Provisioned Throughput Model**
- For applications with:
 - high performance requirements, but low storage requirements
- Get high levels of performance w/o overprovisioning capacity
- \$6 MB/s-Month (Virginia Region)
 - Default is 50kb/sec for 1 GB, .05 MB/s = 30 ¢ per GB/month
- If file system metered size has higher baseline rate based on size, file system follows default Amazon EFS Bursting Throughput model
 - No charges for Provisioned Throughput below file system's entitlement in Bursting Throughput mode
 - Throughput entitlement = 50kb/sec per GB

Information subject to revision

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ELASTIC FILE SYSTEM (EFS) - 4

	Amazon EFS	Amazon EBS Provisioned IOPS
Per-operation latency	Low, consistent latency.	Lowest, consistent latency.
Throughput scale	10+ GB per second.	Up to 2 GB per second.

	Amazon EFS	Amazon EBS Provisioned IOPS
Availability and durability	Data is stored redundantly across multiple AZs.	Data is stored redundantly in a single AZ.
Access	Up to thousands of Amazon EC2 instances, from multiple AZs, can connect concurrently to a file system.	A single Amazon EC2 instance in a single AZ can connect to a file system.
Use cases	Big data and analytics, media processing workflows, content management, web serving, and home directories.	Boot volumes, transactional and NoSQL databases, data warehousing, and ETL.

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EC2

- **EC2 Spot Instance Advisor:**
 - <https://aws.amazon.com/ec2/spot/instance-advisor/>
 - Provides sortable list of ec2 instance types with interruption (termination) frequencies
 - Helps you choose an instance type that is less likely to be terminated
- **Best practices for using spot instances:**
 - <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/whitepapers/latest/cost-optimization-leveraging-ec2-spot-instances/spot-best-practices.html>

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EC2 - 2

- **On Amazon EC2, what is a “metal” Instance?**
- A bare metal server is not shared with anyone
- There is no virtualization hypervisor
(*program the contextualizes and hosts virtual machines*)
- The operating system is installed directly on the root disk and the machine is booted directly like a laptop or desktop computer
- The user can install any operating system and make configurations changes to the machine's base operating system
- The user can then install and control a virtualization hypervisor on bare metal servers
- Bare metal servers were offered on AWS starting in ~2017

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AMAZON MACHINE IMAGES



- AMIs
 - Unique for the operating system (root device image)
 - Two types
 - Instance store
 - Elastic block store (EBS)
 - Deleting requires multiple steps
 - Deregister AMI
 - Delete associated data - (*files in S3*)
 - Forgetting both steps leads to costly “orphaned” data
 - No way to instantiate a VM from deregistered AMIs
 - Data still in S3 resulting in charges

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EC2 VIRTUALIZATION HYPERVERSORS

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th generation → XEN-based
- 5th+ generation Instances → AWS Nitro virtualization
- XEN (pre-nitro) - two virtualization modes:
- XEN **Para-virtualization (PV)** “paravirtual”
 - 10GB Amazon Machine Image – base image size limit
 - Addressed poor performance of old XEN HVM mode
 - I/O performed using special XEN kernel with XEN paravirtual mode optimizations for better performance
 - Requires OS to have an available paravirtual kernel
 - PV VMs: use common **AKI** files on AWS – **Amazon kernel image(s)**

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EC2 VIRTUALIZATION - HVM

- **XEN HVM (hardware virtualization) mode:**
 - HVM just meant that virtualization used CPU extensions (Intel VT-x or AMD-V) to run an unmodified OS directly on the VM
 - Today HVM usually implies there is more than just native-CPU virtualization support, but also I/O-device support, etc.
 - Full virtualization – no special OS kernel required (no AKI)
 - Computer entirely simulated (... *i.e.* *slow*)
 - MS Windows pre-nitro ran in “HVM” mode
 - Allows work around: 10GB instance store root volume limit
 - Kernel is on the root volume (under /boot)
 - No AKIs (kernel images)
 - Commonly used today (*EBS-backed instances*)

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XEN PV VS HVM ON EC2

Feature	Paravirtual (PV)	Hardware Virtual Machine (HVM)
Guest OS Modification	Requires the guest OS to be modified (aware of the hypervisor).	Allows the use of unmodified guest OS, as if running on bare metal hardware.
Boot Method	Boots with a special boot loader called PV-GRUB, which then chain loads the kernel.	Boots by executing the master boot record of the root block device, like a physical machine.
Hardware Access	Relies on a patched kernel and specialized drivers (hypercalls) for I/O operations and direct communication with the hypervisor.	Emulates a full set of hardware and takes advantage of hardware virtualization extensions (Intel VT-x, AMD-V) for fast access to the underlying physical hardware.
Performance (Historically)	Historically offered better performance than early HVM instances due to the use of direct drivers for network/storage I/O.	Early HVM had more overhead due to hardware emulation.
Performance (Modern Legacy)	Performance is limited and lacks modern enhancements.	With the availability of PV drivers for HVM AMIs and hardware advancements, HVM instances provide better or superior performance for most workloads.
Feature Support	Does not support modern features like enhanced networking or GPU processing.	Required for advanced features such as enhanced networking, GPU instances, and specific instance types (e.g., i2 instances).

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EC2 VIRTUALIZATION - NITRO

- Nitro based on Kernel-based-virtual-machines
 - Stripped down version of Linux KVM hypervisor
 - Uses KVM core kernel module
 - I/O access has a direct path to the device
- Goal: provide indistinguishable performance from bare metal
- There are 5 Nitro versions (v2 to v6)
- Article describes features and provides links to instance families (m, c, r, etc.) where it is possible to check the Nitro version for specific instance types to understand feature evolution
- <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/ec2/latest/instancetypes/ec2-nitro-instances.html>

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EVOLUTION OF AWS VIRTUALIZATION

- From: <http://www.brendangregg.com/blog/2017-11-29/aws-ec2-virtualization-2017.html>

AWS EC2 Virtualization Types

Importance: Most → Least

CPU, Memory, Network I/O, Local Storage I/O, Remote Storage I/O, Interrupts, Timers, Motherboard, Boot

#	Tech	Type	With	CPU, Memory	Network I/O	Local Storage I/O	Remote Storage I/O	Interrupts, Timers	Motherboard, Boot
1	VM	Fully Emulated		VS	VS	VS	VS	VS	VS
2	VM	Xen PV 3.0	PV drivers	P	P	P	P	VS	VS
3	VM	Xen HVM 3.0	PV drivers	VH	P	P	P	P	VS
4	VM	Xen HVM 4.0.1	PVHVM drivers	VH	P	P	P	P	VS
5	VM	Xen AWS 2013	PVHVM + SR-IOV(net)	VH	VH	P	P	P	VS
6	VM	Xen AWS 2017	PVHVM + SR-IOV(net, stor.)	VH	VH	VH	P	P	VS
7	VM	AWS Nitro 2017		VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VS
8	HW	AWS Bare Metal 2017		H	H	H	H	H	H
		Bare Metal		H	H	H	H	H	H

VM: Virtual Machine, HW: Hardware.
VS: Virt. in software, VH: Virt. in hardware, P: Paravirt. Not all combinations shown.
SR-IOV(net): igbena driver, SR-IOV(storage): nvme driver.

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QUESTIONS



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