

Andrew Breslauer

AWS Exploration Homework

I mostly explored the EC2 instances because they are the most general-purpose instances, and the RDS instances since they are supposed to be used for databases. My EC2 and RDS usage has been both for school (the GUI and DB classes have you implement a webpage on AWS and most people use EC2 and RDS instances) and for personal use (hosting a personal webpage for a brief period, hosting game servers, etc.) on EC2 instances and (for a very brief time) S3 instances. I am most comfortable with EC2 instances because of their flexibility and ease of use.

I have some experience with AWS, so I probably had less difficulty than most with getting it initially set up. Tips for others, AWS is a highly popular service with a large amount of beginner questions answered online somewhere, much in the same way that most coding languages have beginner questions answered somewhere. The fact that it's a full Linux system that you're debugging and not just an ordinary program can freak some people out, but most problems have been solved before if you look. So, in summary, don't freak out if you are forced to change sudo-limited data as long as you make sure not to delete your entire instance (`sudo rm -rf ./*`)

Question 1: Will the growing presence of AWS servers among online services lead to an Amazon domination of the web as a whole?

Question 2: How important is using the specified type instances (RDS, etc) for school-level work compared to just a general purpose EC2?

Question 3: What makes the cost of AWS worth it for average consumers and low-level websites compared to Firebase and other web hosting services?