Task #7 – Cloud Formation

What to read/watch beforehand

- [AWS docs] What is Cloud Formation?
  - read the root article
  - look through the rest of the documentation table of contents – you might want to get back to them while implementing the practical task
- [AWS docs] Getting started with Cloud Formation
- [AWS docs] Cloud Formation best practices
- [video] Simpllearn Cloud Formation tutorial
- [AWS docs] AWS Serverless Application Model (SAM) is an open-source framework

What's given

- your AWS account
- settings for a custom VPC from module 5
- the AMI for EC2 from module 4

What to save money on

- Make sure to remove all the VPC resources manually created in task 4.
- Prefer removing the resources created using the CF template(s) while not working on any practical tasks (the CF template should allow you to quickly re-create them in one shot as needed).

What answers to know

1. What are the benefits of AWS Cloud Formation? [Optional] Compare it with any other infrastructure automation tool (for example, Terraform/Chef/Consul).
2. What are the essential building blocks which Cloud Formation templates do not work without?
3. If you used AWS Cloud Formation on your past/current projects, describe the use cases. What CF use cases do you see in general?
4. What happens when a CF stack is updated?
5. What means of parameterization of Cloud Formation templates do you know?
6. Is it possible to reuse the same configuration pieces across multiple CF templates without copy-pasting them?
7. What is the order of resource creation in CF stacks?
8. What happens with the resources created within a CF stack when that stack is deleted?
9. Can a CF template use AWS resources created outside CF?
10. Is it possible to test CF templates before creating any resources with them?
11. What is CF pricing?