1. Provide a brief description of the AWS Snowball and Snowmobile devices. When would you use them and how much would it cost to transfer 100 TB of data?

AWS Snowball is a security/convenience solution for large data transfers. Companies second guessing their network infrastructure, transfers time and security transferring highly sensitive data online can now utilize AWS’s Snowball device to transfer their data to the device. Then Amazon will pick that device and transfer it to their datacenters. Lastly, it is just up to the company to simply connect to AWS’s data center to start accessing their data back again.

The best possible time to use a Snowball device would be as a back up of records and as an initial step towards cloud migration. If a company is in sensitive location say Florida. Then more than likely that company will face Hurricanes, flooding, and any number of natural disasters; of which their data could potentially erase. As for the group who is migrating to a cloud service, a Snowball device could potentially save the company a great hassle and headache from having to send their data over an internet connect and potentially open themselves for a cyber-attack.

The interesting fact about AWS Snowball their prices are very upfront. There is a service fee per data transfer job along with a shipping cost. The service fee covers the first ten days of onsite usage and an extra fee is tackle on for any extension. Then of course after the device is done with and ship back to Amazon and its contents transfer over to an AWS server for the customer to use afterwards. Going back to the original question, how much would it cost for a data transfer of 100 TB?

Well the most cost-effective cost would be to use two Snowball 50 TB devices where each cost about 200 dollars. Thus, for only 400 dollars we are looking to transfer 100 TB of data.

However, keep in mind that there are many what if scenarios with this question, thus in this article a link with AWS FAQ and pricing page are posted below.

<https://aws.amazon.com/snowball/faqs/>

<https://aws.amazon.com/snowball/pricing/>

1. Provide a brief description of the Azure equivalent of AWS Snowball devices.

Microsoft responded to AWS Snowball with their Azure Data Box. While, the name might a bit different, its prices and utilities are not any different. Azure’s Data Box is similarly priced as AWS Snowball and in fact Azure’s website provide upfront cost for shipping and usage for each device. In addition, they provide with an upscale and downscale version of their Data Box. What does this mean? Well, the Azure wants to give companies an option to either utilize a bigger or smaller version of the Data Box. There is Data Box Disk that only handles 40 TB of Data. Databox Heave that handles 1PB. Overall, the price, service and performance are the save as AWS Snowball. The best way to choose between these two devices would be by further analyzing the prices of using their cloud service.

Personally, I believe to attract the greatest number of clients Microsoft wants to match up with AWS Snowball devices and offer smaller and bigger options in order to market to those companies who just want a one-way stop to get their data secure.

<https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/pricing/details/databox/heavy/>

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/databox/data-box-overview>

<https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/databox/data/>