

# 1. What is the difference between scalability and elasticity?

Scalability is the ability of a system to increase the workload on its current hardware resources to handle variability in demand. Elasticity is the ability of a system to increase the workload on its current and additional hardware resources, thereby enabling businesses to meet demand without investing in infrastructure up-front.

# 2. What are the different layers of cloud computing?

The three layers are:

- Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)
- Platform as a Service (PaaS)
- Software as a Service (SaaS)

# 3. How to secure your data for transport in cloud?

Ensure that no one can intercept the data as it moves from point A to point B in the cloud and also check that there are no data leaks with the encryption key from any storage in the cloud. You can also segregate your data from other companies' data and then encrypt it by using an approved method. In addition you can ensure the security of older data that remains with a cloud vendor after you have no use for it.

# 4. List out different layers which define cloud architecture?

There are five layers:

- Cloud Controller (CLC)
- Walrus
- Cluster Controller
- Storage Controller (SC)
- Node Controller (NC)

# 5. What are the security laws which are implemented to secure data in a cloud?

The security laws which are implemented to secure data in cloud are:

- Processing
- File

- Output reconciliation
- Input Validation
- Security and Backup

## 6. What uses do API's have in cloud services?

Application Programming Interface (API) has the following uses:

- It eliminates the need to write fully fledged programs
- It provides the instructions to set up communication between one or more applications
- It allows easy creation of applications and links the cloud services with other systems

## 7. How many data centers are deployed for cloud computing? What are they?

There are two datacenters in cloud computing:

- Containerized Datacenters
- Low Density Datacenters

## 8. What is S3? What is it used for? Should encryption be used in S3?

According to Amazon, S3 is storage for the Internet. They define it as a, "simple storage service that offers software developers a highly-scalable, reliable, and low-latency data storage infrastructure at very low costs".

Amazon S3 provides a simple web service interface which you can use to store and retrieve any amount of data, at any time, from anywhere on the web. Using this web service, developers can easily build applications that make use of Internet storage.

Encryption should be considered for sensitive data, as S3 is a proprietary technology developed by Amazon themselves, and yet to be proven from a security standpoint.

## 9. What is Amazon EC2 service?

Amazon describes Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) as a web service that provides resizable compute capacity in the cloud. It is designed to make web-scale cloud computing easier for developers. Amazon EC2's simple web service interface allows developers to obtain and configure capacity with minimal friction.

## 10. What is an AMI?

An Amazon Machine Image (AMI) provides the information required to launch an instance, which is a virtual server in the cloud. You specify an AMI when you launch an instance, and you can launch as many instances from the AMI as you need. You can also launch instances from as many different AMIs as you need. Source: <http://docs.aws.amazon.com>

An AMI includes the following:

- A template for the root volume for the instance ( such as an operating system, an application server, and applications)
- Launch permissions that control which AWS accounts can use the AMI to launch instances
- A block device mapping that specifies the volumes to attach to the instance when it's launched

## 11. What is the relation between Instance and AMI?

An Amazon Machine Image (AMI) is a template that contains a software configuration (for example, an operating system, an application server, and applications). From an AMI, you launch an instance, which is a copy of the AMI running as a virtual server in the cloud.

You can launch different types of instances from a single AMI. An instance type determines the hardware of the host computer used for your instance. Each instance type offers different compute and memory capabilities.

## 12. What automation tools can you use to spinup servers?

Any of the following tools can be used:

- Roll-your-own scripts, and use the AWS API tools. Such scripts could be written in bash, perl or other language or your choice.
- Use a configuration management and provisioning tool like puppet or its successor Opscode Chef. You can also use a tool like Scalr.
- Use a managed solution such as Rightscale.

## 13. What are the different deployment models for Cloud?

The different models are:

- Private Cloud
- Public Cloud
- Hybrid Clouds

## 14. What is auto-scaling? How does it work?

Autoscaling is a feature of AWS which allows you to configure and automatically provision and spinup new instances without the need for your intervention. You can do this by setting thresholds and metrics to monitor. When those thresholds are crossed, a new instance of your choosing will be spun up, configured, and rolled into the load balancer pool.

## 15. What are the Security Best Practices for Amazon EC2?

There are several best practices for secure Amazon EC2. A few of them are given below:

- Use AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) to control access to your AWS resources.
- Restrict access by only allowing trusted hosts or networks to access ports on your instance.
- Review the rules in your security groups regularly, and ensure that you apply the principle of least privilege – only open up permissions that you require.
- Disable password-based logins for instances launched from your AMI. Passwords can be found or cracked, and are a security risk.

## 16. How is buffer used in Amazon web services?

Buffer is used to make the system more resilient to burst of traffic or load by synchronizing different components. The components always receive and process the requests in an unbalanced way. Buffer keeps the balance between different components and makes them work at the same speed to provide faster services.

## 17. What is the function of Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud?

Amazon Elastic compute cloud also known as Amazon EC2 is an Amazon web service that provides scalable resources and makes the computing easier for developers. The main functions of Amazon EC2 are:

- It provides easy configurable options and allow user to configure the capacity.
- It provides the complete control of computing resources and let the user run the computing environment according to his requirements.
- It provides a fast way to run the instances and quickly book the system hence reducing the overall time.
- It provides scalability to the resources and changes its environment according to the requirement of the user.
- It provides varieties of tools to the developers to build failure resilient applications.

## 18. What are the different components used in AWS?

The components that are used in AWS are:

- Amazon S3: it is used to retrieve input data sets that are involved in making a cloud architecture and also used to store the output data sets that is the result of the input.
- Amazon SQS: it is used for buffering requests that is received by the controller of the Amazon. It is the component that is used for communication between different controllers.
- Amazon SimpleDB: it is used to store intermediate status log and the tasks that are performed by the user/
- Amazon EC2: it is used to run a large distributed processing on the Hadoop cluster. It provides automatic parallelization and job scheduling.

## 19. Explain Stopping, Starting, and Terminating an Amazon EC2 instance?

- Stopping and Starting an instance: When an instance is stopped, the instance performs a normal shutdown and then transitions to a stopped state. All of its Amazon EBS volumes remain attached, and you can start the instance again at a later time. You are not charged for additional instance hours while the instance is in a stopped state.
  - Terminating an instance: When an instance is terminated, the instance performs a normal shutdown, then the attached Amazon EBS volumes are deleted unless the volume's deleteOnTermination attribute is set to false. The instance itself is also deleted, and you can't start the instance again at a later time.
- 

### 1) Explain what is AWS?

AWS stands for Amazon Web Service; it is a collection of remote computing services also known as cloud computing platform. This new realm of cloud computing is also known as IaaS or Infrastructure as a Service.

### 2) Mention what are the key components of AWS?

The key components of AWS are

- **Route 53:** A DNS web service
- **Simple E-mail Service:** It allows sending e-mail using RESTFUL API call or via regular SMTP

- **Identity and Access Management:** It provides enhanced security and identity management for your AWS account
- **Simple Storage Device or (S3):** It is a storage device and the most widely used AWS service
- **Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2):** It provides on-demand computing resources for hosting applications. It is very useful in case of unpredictable workloads
- **Elastic Block Store (EBS):** It provides persistent storage volumes that attach to EC2 to allow you to persist data past the lifespan of a single EC2
- **CloudWatch:** To monitor AWS resources, It allows administrators to view and collect key metrics. Also, one can set a notification alarm in case of trouble.

### 3) Explain what is S3?

S3 stands for Simple Storage Service. You can use S3 interface to store and retrieve any amount of data, at any time and from anywhere on the web. For S3, the payment model is “pay as you go”.

### 4) Explain what is AMI?

AMI stands for Amazon Machine Image. It's a template that provides the information (an [operating system](#), an application [server](#) and applications) required to launch an instance, which is a copy of the AMI running as a virtual server in the cloud. You can launch instances from as many different AMIs as you need.

### 5) Mention what is the relation between an instance and AMI?

From a single AMI, you can launch multiple types of instances. An instance type defines the hardware of the host computer used for your instance. Each instance type provides different compute and memory capabilities. Once you launch an instance, it looks like a traditional host, and we can interact with it as we would with any computer.



### 6) What does an AMI include?

An AMI includes the following things

- A template for the root volume for the instance
- Launch permissions decide which AWS accounts can avail the AMI to launch instances
- A block device mapping that determines the volumes to attach to the instance when it is launched

#### 7) How can you send request to Amazon S3?

Amazon S3 is a REST service, you can send request by using the REST API or the AWS SDK wrapper libraries that wrap the underlying Amazon S3 REST API.

#### 8) Mention what is the difference between Amazon S3 and EC2?

The difference between EC2 and Amazon S3 is that

| EC2   | S3  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is a cloud web service used for hosting your application</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is a data storage system where any amount of data can be stored</li></ul>    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is like a huge computer machine which can run either Linux or Windows and can handle application like PHP, Python, Apache or any databases</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It has a REST interface and uses secure HMAC-SHA1 authentication keys</li></ul> |

#### 9) How many buckets can you create in AWS by default?

By default, you can create upto 100 buckets in each of your AWS accounts.

#### 10) Explain can you vertically scale an Amazon instance? How?

Yes, you can vertically scale on Amazon instance. For that

- Spin up a new larger instance than the one you are currently running
- Pause that instance and detach the root webs volume from the server and discard
- Then stop your live instance and detach its root volume
- Note the unique device ID and attach that root volume to your new server
- And start it again

#### 11) Explain what is T2 instances?

T2 instances are designed to provide moderate baseline performance and the capability to burst to higher performance as required by workload.

**12) In VPC with private and public subnets, database servers should ideally be launched into which subnet?**

With private and public subnets in VPC, database servers should ideally launch into private subnets.

**13) Mention what are the security best practices for Amazon EC2?**

For secure Amazon EC2 best practices, follow the following steps

- Use AWS identity and access management to control access to your AWS resources
- Restrict access by allowing only trusted hosts or networks to access ports on your instance
- Review the rules in your security groups regularly
- Only open up permissions that you require
- Disable password-based login, for instance, launched from your AMI

**14) Explain how the buffer is used in Amazon web services?**

The buffer is used to make the system more robust to manage traffic or load by synchronizing different component. Usually, components receive and process the requests in an unbalanced way, With the help of buffer, the components will be balanced and will work at the same speed to provide faster services.

**15) While connecting to your instance what are the possible connection issues one might face?**

The possible connection errors one might encounter while connecting instances are

- Connection timed out
  - User key not recognized by the server
  - Host key not found, permission denied
  - Unprotected private key file
  - Server refused our key or No supported authentication method available
  - Error using MindTerm on Safari Browser
  - Error using Mac OS X RDP Client
-



# Amazon.com Solution Architect Interview Questions

## Interview Questions

What's a CIDR block and when would you use it?

What is Route 53 and what does the number 53 signify?

Describe a time when you disagreed with a management decision and how you expressed your opinion. What were the results?

Design a highly scalable CDN system and describe how it works.

Tell me about the decision you made that was wrong/right?

## Interview

It was pretty simple straightforward as mentioned in the glassdoor reviews. Applied online and got a call from recruiter 2 telephonic interview in 2 weeks followed by onsite 5 face to face plus one presentation/white boarding session plus one lunch interview. After the onsite interview , the next week they mentioned that they are going to hire me , the next day I got an offer letter followed by background... [Show More](#)

## Interview Questions

The 1st telephonic interview was around technical question from applications to storage. TCP vs UDP , NAS vs SAN , RAID 5 vs 0+1 , Firewalls , Hypervisor , Load Balancer , Containers, Dockers,Pupper Shef , CDN , Map reducer , big data , SQL vs NO SQL , Router , Switch , OSI model , development tools , unix shell scripting , tuning rdbms , running application , tuning...

## Interview

I was a referral and it has been a month since the first phone call from HR. Two HR folks involved which at times is confusing as the left hand does no always seem to know what the right hand is doing. Two interviews thus far, first was technical followed by the Leadership Principles based behavioural one. Still going through the process.

## **Interview Questions**

CI and what that means, JSON vs XML, what is a router? Is VOIP UDP or TCP? What is MPLS and describe it? How to speed up a high latency link/high speed link? RAID - software vs hardware? What is RAID 10? How to derive IOPS and what are they? What is dedupe? How does it differ from WAN optimizer? I was asked to describe an HA architecture and howto design it. then a series of questions related to RDBMS vs NoSQL, Big Data, and Security.

## **Interview**

The recruitment process is poorly managed. The recruiter might as well be a machine, Only email communications based on standard templates, The only modification they have to do is date and time. Nobody explains the process.

## **Interview Questions**

The interviewers have great talent in asking you questions outside your resume and skill sets. It is easy to identify the interviewers background. The questions they ask are around their own skill sets/background and not on the candidates profile or experience. If you want to ask hypothetical questions, you might as well ask random questions around Rocket science or Medicine.

## **Interview**

The Loop=8 hours long--one hour for each interviewer (8 total). Interviewers do not care much about the candidates past rather ability to answer questions that the interviewer feels is pertinent, at the time or within the moment. Little structure besides each candidate representing a specific domain within Amazon. Every interviewer is extremely intelligent and has deep AWS skills (rightly so) so having a deep understanding in technical principles will go... [Show More](#)

## **Interview Questions**

Questions are all around the Amazon Principles. Read and learn up on all of them

## Interview

The Loop=8 hours long--one hour for each interviewer (8 total). Interviewers do not care much about the candidates past rather ability to answer questions that the interviewer feels is pertinent, at the time or within the moment. Little structure besides each candidate representing a specific domain within Amazon. Every interviewer is extremely intelligent and has deep AWS skills (rightly so) so having a deep understanding in technical principles will go... Show More

## Interview Questions

Questions are all around the Amazon Principles. Read and learn up on all of them

### 1. Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in Seattle, WA

No Offer

Neutral Experience

Average Interview

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#### Application

I applied through a recruiter. The process took 6+ weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com(Seattle, WA).

#### Interview

A few phone interviews, separated by weeks of no communication, then an invitation to interview on-site, then more weeks of nothing, then finally worked out the details to come on-site for an interview. I am really surprised how disorganized Amazon recruiting is. I even think the hiring manager was annoyed at how bad they have become.

Like everyone else, I signed an NDA but if you read most of the reviews here for solution architects you'll get a general feel for how the interview goes. Like most things I'd read here, I though people were exaggerating about the 8 hours of interviews and behavioral questions but they're not. Even lunch is an interview. How many times can you answer the same questions and try and figure out how to answer them based on what this particular person wants. I was particularly annoyed by the top leader(I use that term loosely) who interviewed me. I had the distinct feeling he didn't want to be there

and kept prodding me with sales type behavioral questions that were, in fact, badgering and annoying. You know the type, the executive that wants to show you how smart he is by asking you convoluted questions about artificial scenarios that have nothing to do with your possible role but were something he read, or heard, somewhere.

That said, most of the others I interviewed with were guys from similar teams to the one I was applying for and they were friendly, interested and seemed to pay attention. They all seemed overworked, stressed and in need of staff badly. I felt sorry for them. They joked about work/life balance and seemed to think the whole IT world has none.

I came away from the experience learning a lot about Amazon and AWS, including that I didn't want to work there and burn out. That's why I'm leaving my current employer. Out of the pan and into the fire? No thanks.

I didn't get an offer(kind of relieved) but they didn't even call me to tell me. They sent an email.

Stay classy Amazon.[Show Less](#)

### Interview Questions

- Can you sign this NDA [1 Answer](#)  
Helpful (5)

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[Solutions Architect/Builder](#)

Amazon Web Services, Inc. –Herndon, VA



## [Data Warehouse Solutions Architect](#)

Amazon Web Services, Inc. – Dallas, TX

2. May 22, 2015

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Helpful (10)



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### Solution Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate

No Offer

Negative Experience

Difficult Interview

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#### Application

I applied online. The process took 4 weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com.

#### Interview

As described in previous comments, AWS' interview process is a combination of technical phone screenings and a final onsite interview with 5-6 people from different areas, general presentation, and a whiteboarding session. As per NDA I signed, I can't list questions asked, but I'd recommend going over Storage, Security, Virtualization, Network, etc. 101s.

In my opinion their process (for this SA role) is seriously flawed. Instead of conducting evaluations of real... [Show More](#)

#### Interview Questions

- I signed an NDA. If you're applying to work for a any large technology company, you should be able to answer at least 90% of the multi-domain technical questions. The 40-50 behavioral questions is what you have to try to be prepared for. [Answer Question](#)
- Helpful (10)

*Flag as Inappropriate**Flag as Inappropriate*

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3. Jun 20, 2015

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Helpful (2)



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## Solution Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in Herndon, VA

Declined Offer

Negative Experience

Difficult Interview

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### Application

I applied online. The process took 4+ weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com (Herndon, VA) in May 2015.

### Interview

The entire interview process seems to be designed to be mysterious. You're never quite sure who you're talking to, what their role/influence in the organization is, but you can be sure they are meticulously recording everything you say from their bank of interview questions. Expect it to feel very off-putting that no one seems capable of looking up from their laptops to make eye contact during face-to-face interviews. Expect very... Show More

### Interview Questions

- Expect a thorough examination of how you feel about the leadership principles. [Answer Question](#) Helpful (2)

*Flag as Inappropriate**Flag as Inappropriate*

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4. Apr 28, 2015

Helpful (1)



## Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate

No Offer

Negative Experience

Easy Interview

## **Application**

I applied online. The process took 3 weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com in April 2015.

## **Interview**

Applied on the website. Got an email next day from recruiting co-ordinating saying "if u r interested please send some time slots".

Got scheduled with someone and they only give the first name of the interviewer lest u google or linkedin them. Asked to speak to a recruiter and not a co-ordinator to understand more bout the role. So someone from recruiting called me.

Woman was very rude. Her attitude put me out so much that i almost cancelled the interview(I also did not like that it was a non-commissioned position).

After that i came to glassdoor and read reviews...that put me off even more...no one but one got an offer and leadership principle BS.

After some thought, I recheduled the interview and decided to give it a shot without much preparation(only one hour investment). I really liked my interviewer...he asked around 70 technical questions(from raid to databases to networking to security to memcache)....interwoven with 3-4 non-tech situational questions like describe your toughest customer etc. Interviewers take a lot of notes in between and seems to be a robotic interview process and not a very personal one.

Got an email from recruiting co-ordinator the next day to schedule another phone call this type a bridge phone call with 2 people. I asked her wud it be technical or behavioural and she said exactly the same as first one.

Was very busy at my dayjob so all prep i did was listen to the AWS keynote. On D day, only one person showed up on the bridge instead of two. Entire interview turned out to be behavioural and situational. The interviewer was courteous but not friendly. He asked me what AWS work had i done on AWS since my last interview a week ago. I hadnt done much(other than the keynote) so off he took notes again.

He also asked me how he thought the previous round went? I said it went pretty decent(duh...it must have gone decent otherwise how am i on Round2). But obviously Mr interviewer didnt like that as it did NOT meet their Leadership principle of "Self-Critique and learn from errors".

Then he was like what do u think AWS is missing? I did some Product Mgmt SAAS improvements mumbo-jumbo as i had not gone thru all the 17000+ offerings in their marketplace.

He asked some other behavioural questions regarding selling which i think i did a decent job at.

In the end, i like to ask interviewers during the question time(5 minutes are allocated to questions) about next steps. The way he said recruiter will get back to u - I KNEW IT that they wud most likely NOT move forward.

Needed to get back to interviewer on some info he needed( non interview related chat) so emailed recruiter for his email. They said company policy not to give email (I THINK THIS IS CRAP. THEY CAN ALWAYS BLOCK ME FROM THEIR MAIL SERVER IF I SEND ABUSIVE EMAILS), so forward the message.

Of course after that, no-one pinged or followed-up. I finally got curious and emailed the recruiting co-ordinator and got a nice "we are considering other candidates...will keep your resume on file....mumbo-jumbo".

Lessons Learnt:

-Play with the damn AWS before interviewing. They expect u to know it before u take the job(not learn during the job).

-Cater your interview around their 10 leadership mumbo-jumbo.

- Last but not the least, if u live in Silicon valley, work for a SILICON VALLEY company.

These Seattle guys DONT EVEN GIVE AMAZON DISCOUNTS OR AMAZON PRIME MEMBERSHIP!Show Less

### Interview Questions

- what do u think AWS is missing? [Answer Question](#)  
Helpful (1)

*Flag as Inappropriate*Flag as Inappropriate

[Interviews >](#)



## Interview

I applied online. They responded a few days after I submitted my resume and I scheduled the phone interview for a week later. I was sent an email confirmation with the first names of the people I would be on a call with, the call in numbers and a description of what to expect in that it would be a deep technical interview. I didn't think I'd need them, but... Show More

## Interview Questions

- Explain inheritance in object oriented programming.  
Name a web app programming language and tell me about it.  
What is containerization and can you name a product in the field?  
What AWS products have you worked with?  
Why do you want to work for AWS and why as a Solutions Architect? [Answer Question](#)  
Helpful (10)  
*Flag as Inappropriate**Flag as Inappropriate*

## Other Interview Reviews for Amazon.com

1. Feb 26, 2016
- 



### Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in New York, NY

No Offer

Negative Experience

Average Interview

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### Application

I applied online. The process took 4+ weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com (New York, NY) in January 2015.

### Interview

Multiple technical phone screens, then a behavioral phone screen. I didn't make it to the next step which would have been an onsite 5-6 hour session. The whole process was very vague, tightly controlled. As an example I was never given any interviewers last names or contact info. It is against their company policy to give you feedback as to how your interviews went. They also were not willing to tell my why I was not selected. They would not discuss compensation ranges prior to phone screens. Very non-transparent and robotic process. The process was unnecessarily drawn out between phone screens.[Show Less](#)

### Interview Questions

- Tech questions were not overly challenging and they went very broad and occasionally deep. (What is continuous integration, what is object oriented programming, what is JSON and why would you use it, what is a database caching server, what is a cidr, why would you use a cdn, what are reasons you would hash a file, osi layers, how can you optimize data flow over a high bandwidth/high latency link, etc) [Show Less](#)[Answer Question](#)  
Helpful

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### [AWS Solutions Architect](#)

Amazon Web Services, Inc. –Chicago, IL



### [Enterprise Solution Architect](#)

Amazon Web Services, Inc. –Chicago, IL

2. Nov 6, 2014

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Helpful (5)



### Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in New York, NY

No Offer

Neutral Experience

Difficult Interview

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### Application

I applied online. The process took 2+ months. I interviewed at Amazon.com (New York, NY).

### Interview

Technical interview after a first HR contact. Was a technical interview by phone. It tooks one hour covering many tech questions like cryptography, data replication, type of raid, cloud concepts, data base and some real scenarios, most common problem in data base, virtualization concepts, parallelism, some algorithm, top IP concepts, ports, difference between TCP and UDP etc.

### Interview Questions

- o Difference between QOS and bandwidth control [Answer Question](#)  
Helpful (5)

*Flag as Inappropriate*Flag as Inappropriate

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3. Oct 21, 2014
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Helpful (20)



### Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in Seattle, WA

No Offer

Positive Experience

Difficult Interview

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### Application

I applied through a recruiter. The process took 6 weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com(Seattle, WA) in October 2014.

### Interview

Call came from a recruiter that was very good at getting me to even look at the role. I had a total of six phone calls with Recruiters, Staff & and the Manager which then brought me to the "Loop" interview six people cycle through while you answer the questions over a six hour time frame.

Helpful (20)

*Flag as Inappropriate* Flag as Inappropriate

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Is this helpful? The community relies on everyone sharing – [Add Anonymous Interview Review](#)

4. Aug 9, 2015

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Helpful (5)



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## Solution Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in Seattle, WA

No Offer

Neutral Experience

Average Interview

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### Application

I applied through a recruiter. The process took 2+ months. I interviewed at Amazon.com(Seattle, WA) in November 2014.

### Interview

Read many posts of the AWS process and this was inline with others experiences. First I was contacted by an AWS talent recruiter then did two telephone interviews. Finally brought to Seattle for the AWS Loop. The entire process took a 80 days. The AWS recruiting team was very professional and timely with travel, etc.

After the loop I was not sure sure how well I fared. I was NOT challenged... Show More

### Interview Questions

- Tell me about something you built that was all your own?

Hardest technical questions were: whats a router, load balancing and some DNS stuff specific to AWS.

Some questions about describing yourself as a slogan.

A few questions on my current AWS deployment. My recommendation is to make it sound like you did everything AWS style regardless if it actual is a good fit you the reality of your deployment. Not everyone runs... Show More [Answer Question](#)  
Helpful (5)

*Flag as Inappropriate* Flag as Inappropriate

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5. Oct 23, 2014

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Helpful (11)



## Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in Seattle, WA

No Offer

Neutral Experience

Average Interview

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### Application

I applied through college or university. The process took a week. I interviewed at Amazon.com (Seattle, WA) in October 2014.

### Interview

Contacted by HR after submitting my resume through my university career center. Asked if I would like to do a video interview which is a 1 way interview that is recorded using your video cam. Takes about 15 minutes and there were 8 questions. They asked: (1) Tell me about yourself and Why Amazon? (2) Why a Solutions Architect? (3) TCP/UDP, NAT, etc? (4) What scripting experience do you have?... Show More

### Interview Questions

- I listed all 8 questions above, but the most difficult will be which languages can you program in and what experience do you have with AWS? [Answer Question](#)  
Helpful (11)

*Flag as Inappropriate* Flag as Inappropriate

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6. May 8, 2014

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Helpful (8)



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## Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate

No Offer

Positive Experience

Average Interview

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### Application

I applied through a recruiter. The process took 1 day. I interviewed at Amazon.com.

### Interview

Very detailed phone interview. Spoke with a knowledgeable AWS solutions specialist that quizzed me on both hypothetical customer issues and my general understanding of networking. The interview lasts about an hour, and you have time to ask your own questions of the interviewer. I was nervous and messed up a few answers, but the interviewer was understanding.

### Interview Questions

- Explain TCP vs UDP [Answer Question](#)
- How does a Load Balancer Work? [Answer Question](#)
- Explain NAS vs SAN [Answer Question](#)
- How does a CDN work? [Answer Question](#)

Helpful (8)

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○



[Principal Storage Solutions Architect](#)

Amazon.com – New York, NY

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### [Solutions Architect/Builder](#)

Amazon Web Services, Inc. – Seattle, WA

7. May 30, 2014

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Helpful (2)



### Solution Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in Herndon, VA

No Offer

Positive Experience

Easy Interview

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#### Application

I applied online. The process took 2 weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com (Herndon, VA) in May 2014.

#### Interview

Still in process. Applied online. Contacted within a couple weeks of applying and interview scheduled within a week of that. Still in-process.

Questions followed the general line of those posted on glassdoor (TCP vs UDP, explain how DNS works, horizontal vs verticle scaling, relational vs NoSQL DB pros/cons, CDN, how to make an application redundant, etc

#### Interview Questions

- Did not really have any difficult questions. Was asked about developing large scale solutions (in this case, large scale was greater than a few thousand users which doesn't really seem large scale).

Discussed a past project experience. [Answer Question](#)

Helpful (2)

*Flag as Inappropriate* *Flag as Inappropriate*

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8. Aug 11, 2014

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## Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate

No Offer

Positive Experience

Difficult Interview

---

### Application

I applied online. The process took 2 weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com in May 2014.

### Interview

First interview - HR reviewed your personal information. This was a very position process. HR did a great job making you feel comfortable. Lastly about 30 minutes.

Second interview - Technical interview over the phone. This interview is schedule for 1 hour so be specific and timely. If you know know your stuff this will be straight for but note they want specific answers. The interviewer will tell you that they... [Show More](#)

### Interview Questions

- Be well rounded, they asked about networking, programming, database, windows, unix and systems. [Answer Question](#)  
Helpful

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9. Apr 2, 2014

Helpful (10)



## Solution Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate

No Offer

Neutral Experience



## Interview

After phone screening with recruiter, there were two very detailed phone interviews. First one was very technical, and the second one was mostly behavioral. Then I was invited to Seattle for a series of in-person interviews. Before in-person interviews there was also some work samples they assigned to me on AWS that I had to complete within 48 hours. During in-person interview I met with 5 people one after the... Show More

## Interview Questions

Why did you switch jobs in your career.

## Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in Seattle, WA

No Offer

Neutral Experience

## Application

I applied through other source. The process took 2 weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com(Seattle, WA) in April 2014.

## Interview

This was for AWS.

Connected with recruiter over LinkedIn.

2 phone screens - 1 technical and 1 business oriented. Questions were either very easy (Linux / Chef / Nagios stuff) or in the did not know category (AWS specifics).

Then another 4 rounds in Seattle with largely similar rounds and general questions. One technical person was a bit confrontational about technology. Other than that, it was fine.

Helpful (1)

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## Other Interview Reviews for Amazon.com

1. Apr 2, 2014
-

Helpful (6)



## Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate

No Offer

Negative Experience

Average Interview

---

### Application

I applied online. The process took 5 days. I interviewed at Amazon.com in March 2014.

### Interview

After applying to this position online I was contacted by a recruiter and told that there was interest by the hiring manager and a recruiting coordinator would be in touch with me to setup the interview. Red Flag #1, no one contacted me for several days until I again inquired about the interview. Four days later an interview was setup for five days later. Red Flag#2, On the day of... Show More

### Interview Questions

- What do you tell a client when there is no technical solution ? [Answer Question](#)

Helpful (6)

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[AWS Solutions Architect](#)

Amazon Web Services, Inc. –Chicago, IL



[Enterprise Solution Architect](#)

Amazon Web Services, Inc. –Chicago, IL

2. Jan 25, 2014

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Helpful (31)



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## Solution Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate

No Offer

Neutral Experience

Difficult Interview

---

### Application

I applied through a recruiter. The process took 1+ week. I interviewed at Amazon.com in January 2014.

### Interview

after posting my resume online I was contacted by a recruiter. My interview was scheduled for almost a week after first contact and then rescheduled the day of the interview due to a conflict. The interviewer that was supposed to conduct it ultimately didn't even on the rescheduled date, making me think they guy that I spoke with was a last second fill-in. This likely impacted the interview in a... Show More

### Interview Questions

- Describe how to best organize a data mart database [1 Answer](#)  
Helpful (31)

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3. Oct 21, 2013

---

Helpful (7)



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## Solution Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate

No Offer

Negative Experience

Average Interview

---

### Application

I applied online. The process took 2 weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com in October 2013.

### Interview

I had a phone interview with a current Solution Architect. The interview itself was fine and the process for applying and scheduling the interview was fine, but there was no follow-up afterwards, and no response to my thank you email. Obviously I didn't get the job, but if I take time away from my job to spend 90 minutes on the phone with you, you could do me the courtesy... Show More

### Interview Questions

- Difference between horizontal and vertical scaling [1 Answer](#)  
Helpful (7)

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Is this helpful? The community relies on everyone sharing – [Add Anonymous Interview Review](#)

- 4. Aug 29, 2013
- 

Helpful (14)



### Solution Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in New York, NY

No Offer

Positive Experience

Difficult Interview

---

### Application

I applied through a recruiter. The process took 2 weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com (New York, NY) in August 2013.

### Interview

Recruiter called me & asked me some basic question about experience..etc He felt I was a great fit. He was very laid back in responding to emails..etc Didn't know if this was common with Amazon. Finally I had an tech interview for almost an hr. He started w some basic structure of AWS & regular job description ..etc

Diff between

TCP vs UDP

4 adv of Cloud

NAS vs SAN

Any 5 Unix commands

httpd vs... Show More

### Interview Questions

- Difference between NAS vs SAN [1 Answer](#)  
Helpful (14)

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5. Feb 11, 2013

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Helpful (10)



### Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate

No Offer

Positive Experience

Average Interview

---

### Application

I applied online. The process took 2 weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com.

### Interview

Several phone screens with team members. All were friendly and cordial. In addition to the standard questions on your background, why are you looking for a new role, etc. they asked a variety of technical questions and situational questions.

What's the difference between TCP and UDP?

How does DNS work?

What are some examples of DNS record types?

Explain an instance of a challenging situation at your current job and what was the resolution?

How... Show More

### Interview Questions

- Why do they call it Amazon Web Services vs. Amazon Web Hosting? [1 Answer](#)  
Helpful (10)

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6. Jul 22, 2013

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Helpful (19)



### Solution Architect Interview

Anonymous Employee in Seattle, WA

Accepted Offer

Negative Experience

Difficult Interview

---

### Application

I applied through other source. The process took 4+ months. I interviewed at Amazon.com(Seattle, WA) in September 2012.

### Interview

These guys have the skill to make an easy process difficult.. They wont share the person's name, it felt like interrogation, not an interview.. and they do a lot of it.. Why did I agree to go through it? Because my impression of AWS was it would be like Amazon is to customers..

### Interview Questions

- Everything revolves around some stupid leadership principles.. what i found it is everyone makes up garbage to get in, when you get in you see the vessel is full of Micro\$oft rats..That is when I knew, this was a disaster.. [1 Answer](#)  
Helpful (19)

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[Principal Storage Solutions Architect](#)

Amazon.com – New York, NY

○



[Solutions Architect/Builder](#)

Amazon Web Services, Inc. – Seattle, WA

7. May 31, 2016

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## Architect Solutions Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in São Paulo, São Paulo (Brazil)

No Offer

Positive Experience

Difficult Interview

---

### Application

I applied through an employee referral. The process took 2 weeks. I interviewed at Amazon.com (São Paulo, São Paulo (Brazil)) in May 2016.

### Interview

The interview process has many phases, first of all we need response many qualification questions, but phases occurs very fast the HR return with the schedule in some days for interview by phone screen.

The interview time is along 2 hours +/- , with many technical questions about the datacenter tiers including applications questions and services concerns.

## Interview Questions

- Many questions , very technical [1 Answer](#)  
Helpful

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8. May 11, 2016

---

Helpful (2)



## Solution Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate

No Offer

Negative Experience

Difficult Interview

---

## Application

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## Interview

2 x Telephone interviews (One with another SA, and the other with the SA Director for UK), 1 small technical assignment, followed by the loop (5 interviews).

It felt like a real slog in the loop

## Interview Questions

- Every general IT question under the sun from describing how HTTPS works through to the business benefits of cloud computing. When you get to the face to face stage it becomes a mindless churn of questions based on the Amazon leadership principles. [Answer Question](#)  
Helpful (2)

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9. May 3, 2016





## Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in Melbourne (Australia)

No Offer

Negative Experience

Easy Interview

### Application

I applied through a recruiter. I interviewed at Amazon.com (Melbourne (Australia)) in January 2016.

### Interview

Was scheduled for a F2F interview that was changed to a telephonic interview on very last day which wasn't impressive. Interview was done by manager soln architecture. It went good as I am concerned as there were no indications during the interview otherwise. It was a good 2 way discussion on experience, solution architecture, technologies. Big companies should give feedback as to what they didn't find as usually its a... [Show More](#)

### Interview Questions

- about my experience [Answer Question](#)
  - how to design fault tolerant, load balanced video stream service [Answer Question](#)
  - rate yourself on middleware,integration,architecture etc [Answer Question](#)
- Helpful

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## Solutions Architect Interview

Anonymous Interview Candidate in Seattle, WA

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Neutral Experience

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Helpful (1)

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### Interview Questions

- What do you tell a client when there is no technical solution ? [Answer Question](#)

Helpful (6)

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[AWS Solutions Architect](#)

Amazon Web Services, Inc. –Chicago, IL

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[Enterprise Solution Architect](#)

Amazon Web Services, Inc. –Chicago, IL

2. Jan 25, 2014

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Helpful (31)



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Helpful (31)

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- 3. Oct 21, 2013
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Helpful (7)



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- 4. Aug 29, 2013
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Helpful (14)



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5. Feb 11, 2013

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6. Jul 22, 2013

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Helpful (19)



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[Principal Storage Solutions Architect](#)

Amazon.com – New York, NY

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[Solutions Architect/Builder](#)

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7. May 31, 2016

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Helpful

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8. May 11, 2016

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Helpful (2)



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Helpful (2)

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9. May 3, 2016



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Helpful

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