**A Guide to AWS Certifications**

AWS currently offers eight certifications: a foundational certification, three associate-level certifications, two professional-level certifications, and two specialty certifications.

* AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner
* AWS Certified Developer – Associate
* AWS Certified SysOps Administrator – Associate
* AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate
* AWS Certified DevOps Engineer – Professional
* AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional
* AWS Certified Big Data – Specialty
* AWS Certified Advanced Networking – Specialty

**How much does an AWS Certification exam cost?**

-The Cloud Practitioner exam is 100 USD.

- Associate-level exams are **150 USD**.

- Professional-level and Specialty exams are 300 USD.

**https://aws.amazon.com/certification/faqs**

**Foundational Certification: AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner**

The AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner is AWS’s newest certification. This entry-level certification is designed to validate a candidate’s overall understanding of the AWS cloud.

* Pre-requisites: At least six months of general AWS cloud experience in any role (technical, managerial, sales, etc.) is recommended.
* Format: Multiple-choice questions
* Length: 90 minutes
* Cost: $100

Areas Covered

* Understanding of basic AWS architectural principles
* The value proposition of the AWS cloud
* Key AWS services and their common use cases
* Basic security and compliance, the shared responsibility model for security
* Core deployment and operating principles

**Associate-Level Certification**

**AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate**

The AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate exam is designed for those with some experience in designing distributed applications. Candidates will need to be able to demonstrate their ability to design, manage, and implement applications using tools and services on the AWS platform. This exam was updated in February 2018 to include more AWS services and best practices. The original exam will be available through August 12, 2018.

* Format: Multiple-choice, multiple-answer
* Time: 130 minutes (based on the new exam)
* Cost: $150

Areas Covered

* Network technologies and how they work in AWS
* How AWS-based applications work and how client interfaces connect to the AWS platform
* How to build secure and reliable applications on the AWS platform
* Deploying hybrid systems – those with an on-premises data center as well as AWS components
* The exam domains include the design of highly available and scalable systems, (requires familiarity with AWS infrastructure and concepts), implementation and deployment in AWS, AWS-related data security practices, disaster recovery techniques, and troubleshooting

**AWS Certified Developer – Associate**

The AWS Certified Developer – Associate exam is all about developing and maintaining AWS-based applications. You will need to know how to write actual code that uses AWS software to access AWS applications from within your custom business applications.

* Format: Multiple-choice, multiple-answer
* Time: 80 minutes
* Cost: $150

Areas Covered

* Understanding of the basic AWS architecture and the core AWS services
* Hands-on experience designing, developing, deploying, and maintaining applications
* Working knowledge of applications that utilize key AWS services such as AWS databases, notifications, workflow services, and services for storage and change management services

**AWS Certified SysOps Administrator – Associate**

The AWS Certified SysOps Administrator – Associate exam is the only certification that is fully geared toward system administrators. Passing this exam requires both technical expertise and conceptual knowledge of the operational aspects of the AWS platform. Previous experience as a Linux or Windows administrator will be a plus.

* Format: Multiple-choice, multiple-answer
* Time: 80 minutes
* Cost: $150

Areas Covered

* Deploying applications to the AWS platform
* Sending and receiving data between data centers and AWS
* Selecting the appropriate AWS services to meet an organization’s needs
* Provisioning, managing, and securing systems in an AWS environment

**Professional-level Certification**

**AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional**

A professional AWS architect is someone who can evaluate an organization’s requirements and make architectural recommendations for implementing and deploying applications on AWS. The Certified Solutions Architect Professional certification requires a high degree of technical skill and experience designing AWS-based applications.

* Prerequisites: Status as AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate.
* Two years of hands-on experience designing and deploying cloud architecture on AWS and best practice knowledge of multi-application architectural design is recommended.
* Format: Multiple-choice, multiple-answer
* Time: 170 minutes
* Cost: $300

Areas Covered

* Best practices for architecting the designing applications on AWS
* Selecting the right AWS service for the requirements of an application
* Migration of complex application systems to AWS
* Knowledge of cost optimization strategies

**AWS Certified DevOps Engineer – Professional**

The DevOps Engineer certification is all about provisioning, operating, and managing applications on the AWS platform. This exam focuses heavily on continuous delivery (CD) and automation of processes, two fundamental concepts of the DevOps movement.

* Prerequisites: Status as AWS Certified Developer – Associate or AWS Certified SysOps Administrator – Associate. Experience in provisioning and managing AWS-based applications, as well as a firm understanding of modern application development such as the agile development methodology is recommended.  
  Format: Multiple-choice, multiple-answer  
  Time: 170 minutes  
  Cost: $300

Areas Covered

* The basics of modern Continuous Delivery methodologies
* How to implement CD systems
* Set up, monitoring, and logging systems on AWS
* How to implement highly available and scalable systems on AWS
* How to design and manage tools that enable automation of production operations
* Specialty Certification

AWS specialty certifications are designed to validate a candidate’s skills in big data and networking.

* Prerequisites: Current associate-level certification and a minimum of five years of relevant experience
* Format: Multiple-choice, multiple-answer
* Time: 3 hours
* Cost: $300

**AWS Certified Big Data – Specialty**

The AWS Certified Big Data – Specialty certification is for those with a background in data analytics and experience using AWS services for designing and architecting big data solutions. It is designed to validate a candidate’s experience in extracting value from data using AWS services.

Areas Covered

* Architecting best practices for implementing core AWS big data services
* Designing and maintaining big data
* AWS tools for automating data analysis
* Security best practices for big data solutions
* AWS services covered include: Kinesis, Athena, Quicksight, and Rekognition

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**AWS Certified Advanced Networking – Specialty**

The AWS Certified Advanced Networking – Specialty certification is designed to validate a candidate’s skills and experience in connection with performing complex networking tasks on AWS and hybrid IT networking architecture at scale. Candidates should have a background in architecting and implementing network solutions and advanced knowledge of networking on AWS.

Areas Covered

* Designing, developing, and deploying cloud solutions with AWS
* Implementing core services according to architectural best practices
* Automation for AWS tasks for network deployments
* Security and compliance design and implementation
* Network optimization and troubleshooting