Snowball Edge vs Snowball

AWS Snowball is a data migration service that uses secure, ruggedized devices to transfer large amounts of data into and out of AWS. Created for the purpose of simplifying and accelerating data migration, and reducing the challenges posed by limited network bandwidth, and is particularly useful for quickly migrating Small to Medium sized enterprises to the cloud for the first time.

AWS Snowball Edge is an offering which extends the functionality of the basic AWS Snowball by adding compute capabilities. The AWS Snowball Edge machines come with built-in storage and compute power, enabling local data processing and analysis before transferring data to AWS with support for running EC2 instances and AWS Lambda functions, enabling complex workflows and custom applications to run on the device. These additional capacities transform the AWS Snowball Edge from a simple storage device to a versatile edge computing machine.

TLDR;

AWS Snowball Edge can run EC2 Instances and lambda functions, allowing for Edge Computing use cases which the normal Snowball cannot. You do pay a little extra for this privilege, however.

A comprehensive, tabular comparison of Snowball and Snowball Edge is presented in the next page. Feel free to utilize the chart when deciding which of the two offerings to utilize.

Feature	AWS Snowball	AWS Snowball Edge
Primary Purpose	Large-scale data migration	Data migration plus edge computing capabilities
Storage Capacity	50 to 80 TB	80TB HDD to 210TB NVMe
Compute Capabilities	No	Yes
Types of Devices	Single configuration	Snowball Edge Storage Optimized, Snowball Edge Compute Optimized, Snowball Edge with Tape Gateway
Local Data Processing	No	Yes
Encryption	256-bit encryption, AWS KMS managed	Same as Snowball
Physical Security	Tamper-resistant, ruggedized, GPS tracking	Same as Snowball
Networking	Standard network interfaces for data transfer	High-speed network interfaces for data transfer and local compute
Supported AWS Services	S3	S3, EC2, Lambda, Tape Gateway
Typical Use Cases	Data migration to AWS	Edge computing, data migration, remote analytics, and processing
Pricing	Relatively low per GB	Relatively higher per GB
Management	Managed via AWS Snow Family Management Console	Same as Snowball
Target Environment	Data centers, enterprises	24/7 Workloads, Remote locations