CloudWatch and Metrics list

Amazon CloudWatch is a monitoring and observability service that provides insights into AWS resources and applications using easily readable dashboards. It collects and tracks metrics, logs, and events, allowing us to monitor performance, detect anomalies, and set alarms for operational issues. CloudWatch creates its dashboards and performs its operations based on something called Metrics, numerical data points that represent the performance of our systems.

Said metrics help us track key performance indicators (KPIs) such as CPU usage, memory utilization, and request counts, enabling us to analyze and optimize the performance of our applications and infrastructure. CloudWatch has three metrics setup by default and another five custom metrics which can be enabled as per our requirement, both of which are worth remembering and noting, especially for cloud administrators.

The three default metrics in CloudWatch are as follows:

- **CPU Utilization of an EC2 instance**
- **Disk Reads activity of an EC2 instance**
- **Network packets out of an EC2 instance**

While the five custom metrics readily available for setup are as follows:

- **Memory utilization**
- **Disk swap utilization**
- **Disk space utilization**
- **Page file utilization**
- **Log collection**