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| Instance Type | Use Case | Variations |
| Dense-Storage Instances (D) | * Parallel Processing * Datawarehouse, Hadoop EMR | * D2 (HDD) |
| Memory Optimized (R) | * Data mining * High performance DB * In-memory DB * Memory Caches * Supports Enhanced Networking | * R3 – Broadwell (SSD) * R4 – Ivy Bridge (EBS) |
| General Purpose (M) | * EBS optimized * Supports Enhanced Networking * Small to mid-size DB, caching etc | * M3 (SSD) * M4 (EBS) |
| Compute Optimized (C) | * Supports Enhanced Networking * Support Clustering * Webservers, batch processing, ad serving, video encoding | * C3 (SSD) * C4(EBS) |
| Accelerated Computing (G) | * Graphics Intensive * 3D app streaming, video encoding | * G2 (SSD) |
| Storage Optimized (I) | * High I/O instances * Supports Enhanced Networking * NVMe SSD * NoSQL DB, DW | * I3 (NVMe SSD) * Network performance 10 Gb * I3.16xlarge – 20Gb |
| Accelerated Computing (F) | * Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA) * Genomics, financial analytics, real-time video, big data * Supports Enhanced Networking | * F1 (NVMe SSD) |
| General Purpose (T) | * Burstable performance * Webservers, sites, micro services | * T2 (EBS) |
| Accelerated Computing (P) | * Machine learning * High perf DB, Genomics * GPU compute workloads * Supports Enhanced Networking * Elastic network Adaptor –upto 20Gbps of aggregate network bandwidth in a placement group | * P2 (EBS) |
| Memory Optimized (X) | * In-memory DB like SAP HANA * Big data * Certified by SAP business warehouse | * X1 ( EBS and SSD ) |