

AWS DevOps Interview Questions (4 Years Experience)

Real-Time Scenario-Based AWS DevOps Questions with Detailed Answers

Q: You deployed a web app to EC2 behind an ALB. Users report intermittent 5xx errors. How do you troubleshoot?

A: Steps:

1. Check ALB target group health status
2. Review CloudWatch Logs and Metrics (ALB, EC2)
3. Inspect application logs on EC2 instance
4. Check Auto Scaling activity (if applicable)
5. Verify security groups and NACLs

Real-time example: 5xx errors were due to app crashes caused by memory leaks. Fixed by increasing EC2 memory and monitoring heap usage via CloudWatch.

Q: A new Lambda function is timing out. How do you debug and fix it?

A: Steps:

1. Check CloudWatch Logs for error messages
2. Enable AWS X-Ray tracing
3. Increase timeout temporarily
4. Validate downstream services (e.g., RDS/SQS/S3) are responsive

Real-time example: Lambda was trying to insert records into RDS, but DB connection pooling wasn't optimized. Resolved by using RDS Proxy and optimizing queries.

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Q: You're deploying a new feature. How do you minimize risk in production?

A: Approaches:

- Use Blue/Green Deployment or Canary strategy
- Enable feature flags for selective rollout
- Monitor using CloudWatch alarms and dashboards

Real-time example: Used CodeDeploy blue/green deployment for a Node.js service. Validated health of new version before switching traffic using ALB.

Q: Your ECS service is not scaling as expected during high load. What could be the issues?

A: Troubleshooting:

- Check scaling policies in ECS Service/Target Tracking
- Verify CloudWatch metrics (CPU, memory)
- Inspect Service Quotas and Task Definition constraints
- Ensure ALB target health is OK

Real-time example: Tasks weren't scaling due to a misconfigured target tracking policy (wrong metric). Fixed by switching to CPU utilization with step scaling.

Q: Developers are deploying directly to production. How do you secure the release process?

A: Secure pipeline:

- Use CodePipeline with role-based access

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- Require PR approvals and review before deploy
- Integrate testing stages (unit, integration, security)
- Use manual approval step in production stage

Real-time example: Production stage of our pipeline required manager approval via CodePipeline before artifact moved to ECS. IAM restricted CLI deploys.

Q: You find an S3 bucket publicly accessible by mistake. What actions do you take?

A: Immediate actions:

1. Use Block Public Access settings to revoke access
2. Review S3 bucket policy and ACLs
3. Use AWS Config to find non-compliant buckets
4. Enable logging and alerts for public access

Real-time example: A backup bucket had public-read. We revoked access, reviewed CloudTrail for data downloads, and implemented SCPs to block future public S3 settings.