

How does S3 Multi-Part Upload work? When should you use it?

Amazon S3 Multi-Part Upload allows you to upload large files in parts, which are then assembled by S3 into a single object. It improves upload performance, resiliency, and control over large file uploads.

How It Works

1. Initiate Upload

You send a CreateMultipartUpload request to get an UploadId.

2. Upload Parts (in parallel or sequence)

- You divide the file into parts (each part is typically 5MB to 5GB).
- Each part is uploaded with UploadPart using the UploadId.
- You can upload parts in parallel (good for speed).

3. Complete Upload

- After all parts are uploaded, you call CompleteMultipartUpload.
- S3 assembles them in order and creates the final object.

4. Abort Upload (if needed)

• If upload fails or is canceled, you can call AbortMultipartUpload to avoid paying for partial uploads.

When Should we Use It?

Use Case

Why Use Multipart Upload

Uploading large files (>100 MB, especially >5 GB)

Standard upload fails or times out. Multi-part is more resilient

Unreliable network or long uploads

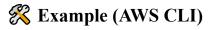
Each part is independent. Failures don't require restarting

Use Case	Why Use Multipart Upload
	the whole upload.
Improving performance	You can upload multiple parts in parallel (multi- threading, multiprocessing).
Automated pipelines or backup tools	Easily control, resume, and retry uploads in CI/CD or backup jobs.
Large log archives, backups, or DB	Often very large files that benefit from chunked upload.

Advantages

dumps

- **Parallelism** = Faster uploads using threads/processes.
- **Resumability** = Recover from part failure without restarting.
- **Efficiency** = Only upload what's needed if interrupted.
- Automation = Works great with scripts using AWS SDK, Boto3, AWS CLI.



bash

```
aws s3api create-multipart-upload --bucket my-bucket --key bigfile.zip
aws s3api upload-part --bucket my-bucket --key bigfile.zip --part-number 1 --
upload-id <ID> --body part1
aws s3api complete-multipart-upload --bucket my-bucket --key bigfile.zip --
upload-id <ID> --multipart-upload file://parts.json
```

***** Key Points to Remember

Use S3 Multi-Part Upload when:

- Uploading files >100MB
- Need faster, parallel uploads
- Require upload resiliency and retries
- Working with automated systems that generate large artifacts/logs/backups
- Mandatory for objects larger than 5 GB

Node.js (AWS SDK v3)

```
javascript
// npm install @aws-sdk/client-s3 @aws-sdk/lib-storage
const { S3Client } = require("@aws-sdk/client-s3");
const { Upload } = require("@aws-sdk/lib-storage");
const fs = require("fs");
const s3 = new S3Client({ region: "us-east-1" });
const uploadFile = async () => {
 const fileStream = fs.createReadStream("./large-video.mp4");
 const upload = new Upload({
   client: s3,
   params: {
     Bucket: "your-bucket-name",
     Key: "videos/large-video.mp4",
     Body: fileStream,
   },
  });
 upload.on("httpUploadProgress", (progress) => {
   console.log(`Uploaded ${progress.loaded} bytes out of ${progress.total}`);
  });
 try {
   const result = await upload.done();
   console.log("Upload complete:", result);
  } catch (err) {
   console.error("Upload failed:", err);
};
uploadFile();
```

This approach uses the @aws-sdk/lib-storage which automatically handles multi-part uploads behind the scenes for large files.

Python (boto3)

```
print("Upload complete.")
   except Exception as e:
       print("Upload failed:", e)
# Optional: Progress bar
import os, sys
class ProgressPercentage:
   def init (self, filename):
        self. filename = filename
        self. size = float(os.path.getsize(filename))
       self. seen so far = 0
   def call (self, bytes amount):
        self. seen so far += bytes amount
       percentage = (self. seen so far / self. size) * 100
       sys.stdout.write(f"\r{self. filename} {self. seen so far:.0f} /
{self. size:.0f} bytes ({percentage:.2f}%)")
       sys.stdout.flush()
upload file()
```

The TransferConfig and upload_file method handle the splitting and reassembling for you automatically.

Summary

Feature Node.js Python (boto3)

Library Used @aws-sdk/lib-storage boto3.s3.transfer

Handles retry/parts ✓ ✓

Custom control Yes (via low-level API) Yes (via MultipartUpload API too)

Good for large files ✓

What is the minimum size (in MB) for each part in an S3 Multi-Part Upload (except the last part)?

- A) 1 MB
- B) 5 MB
- C) 10 MB
- D) 50 MB
 - **✓** Correct Answer: B Minimum part size is 5 MB, except for the last part.

Which of the following is a key benefit of using S3 Multi-Part Upload?

- A) Reduces storage cost
- B) Encrypts each part separately
- C) Allows parallel upload of parts for faster and more reliable uploads
- D) Automatically deletes incomplete uploads
 - Correct Answer: C

When should you definitely use Multi-Part Upload for S3?

- A) When uploading text files
- B) When uploading files larger than 100 MB
- C) When uploading files larger than 5 GB
- D) When downloading files from S3
 - **✓ Correct Answer:** C Multi-part upload is **required** for files larger than 5 GB.