

# Short interview questions on Instance store.

#### Instance Store

- 1. What is Instance Store, and when would you use it over EBS?

  Instance Store provides temporary block-level storage for EC2 instances. It's ideal for temporary data like caches, buffers, or scratch data.
- 2. Which EC2 instance types support Instance Store volumes? Instance types like i3, d2, and h1 offer Instance Store volumes.
- 3. What happens to data stored on Instance Store when an instance is stopped or terminated?

Data is lost when the instance is stopped or terminated.

- 4. How do you ensure data persistence when using Instance Store? Regularly back up data to persistent storage like EBS or S3.
- 5. Can you attach or detach Instance Store volumes from running instances? Explain. No, Instance Store volumes are ephemeral and cannot be detached or reattached.
- 6. **Describe a scenario where using Instance Store is more advantageous than EBS.** For high-speed temporary storage needs, like caching or buffer storage, where data persistence isn't required.
- 7. How do you identify and mount Instance Store volumes on a Linux EC2 instance?

  Use commands like lsblk to list block devices, then format and mount the desired volume.

- 8. What are the limitations of using Instance Store for database storage?

  Data loss upon instance stop or termination makes it unsuitable for persistent database storage.
- 9. How does the performance of Instance Store compare to EBS for temporary storage needs?

Instance Store often offers **lower latency and higher IOPS**, making it suitable for temporary high-performance needs.

10. What are the security considerations when using Instance Store volumes? Since data isn't encrypted by default and is lost upon instance termination, sensitive data should be encrypted and not solely relied upon for storage.

### **✓** Which EC2 instances have Instance Store?

Some EC2 instance families come with **Instance Store (also called ephemeral storage)**. These include:

- Older instance types like:
  - c3, i2, m3, r3
- Current high-performance or storage-optimized types, such as:
  - i3, i4i, d2, d3, h1, z1d
  - Some c5d, m5d, r5d (the "d" suffix means **NVMe-based instance store** is included)

You can check in the instance type details – if it mentions *Instance Store* or *NVMe SSD*, it includes local storage.

# **X** Which instances do NOT have Instance Store?

Instances like t3, t4g, m5, c5, r5 (without "d") do **not** include Instance Store. These rely entirely on **EBS volumes**.

## Why do only some instances have Instance Store?

Because Instance Store is **physically attached** to the host machine. AWS includes it for use cases needing:

- High-speed local storage
- Temporary storage needs
- **Low-latency access** without going over the network (like for caching, temp DB data, scratch space)

But for most general-purpose workloads, **EBS** is **preferred** due to its durability, flexibility, and persistence.

# What happens to the data stored in an Instance Store when the instance is stopped or terminated?

- A) Data is automatically backed up
- B) Data persists permanently
- C) Data is lost
- D) Data is moved to Amazon S3

**Correct Answer:** C

#### MCQ 2:

#### Which of the following best describes Instance Store in AWS?

- A) Network-attached storage that supports snapshots
- B) High-durability storage designed for backups
- C) Temporary block-level storage physically attached to the host
- D) Object storage with unlimited capacity

**Correct Answer:** C