



## You want to automatically restart an EC2 instance when it crashes. How will you set this up using CloudWatch?

**Answer:**

There are a couple of ways to do this, but one simple way is using a **CloudWatch Alarm** + **EC2 action**:

- Go to CloudWatch → Alarms → Create Alarm
- Choose the **StatusCheckFailed\_Instance** metric for the EC2
- Set the threshold: if the check fails for **2 consecutive minutes**
- In the “Actions” section, choose **EC2 action → Reboot or Recover instance**

🔧 **Note:** Reboot just restarts the instance, while Recover moves it to healthy hardware (only for Nitro-based instances).

**Example:**

For a legacy app on EC2 (not behind ASG), the instance used to freeze due to memory leaks. I set up a StatusCheckFailed\_Instance alarm with an automatic recovery action — this saved us from downtime and manual intervention at night.

What is the main difference between the "**Reboot**" and "**Recover**" actions in a CloudWatch Alarm for EC2?

- A.** Reboot moves the instance to new hardware, Recover just restarts the OS.
- B.** Reboot restarts the OS on the same hardware, Recover moves the instance to healthy hardware if there's a hardware issue.
- C.** Both actions are identical but have different names for historical reasons.
- D.** Reboot deletes the instance and creates a new one, Recover keeps the same instance ID.

**Correct Answer:** ✅ **B**

**Explanation:**

Reboot simply restarts the OS on the same physical host. Recover replaces the underlying hardware if it has failed (only supported on certain instance families like Nitro-based instances), preserving the same instance ID, IP addresses, and metadata.

You set a CloudWatch Alarm with the **Recover instance** action, but during testing, the instance does not recover after a host failure. What is the MOST likely reason?

- A. The instance is not using EBS-backed root volume.
- B. The instance type does not support automatic recovery.
- C. The CloudWatch alarm threshold is set too high.
- D. StatusCheckFailed\_System metric is disabled.

**Correct Answer:**  B

**Explanation:**

Not all EC2 instance types support the automatic recovery feature. For example, older generation or non-Nitro instances may not support recovery. You must check AWS documentation for supported instance types before enabling this feature.