CloudFront: Content Delivery Network (CDN)

AWS CloudFront in its essence is a CDN solution. This is a review of the various componets of the CDN architecture.

A content delivery network is a system of distributed servers that deliver web pages and other web content to a user based on the geographical location of the user. The previous architecture diagram in the S3 chapter brushed out CDN.

Edge location: this is the location where content will be cached.

Origin: this is the origin of all the files that the CDN will distribute. This can be either an S3 bucket, EC2 instance, Elastic LB or Route S3

Distribution: this is the name given to the CDN which consists of Edge locations. Amazon CloudFront can be used to deliver your entire content like your website, including dynamic, static, streaming and interactive content using a global network of edge locations.

Requests for your content are automatically routed to the nearest edge location so that content is delivered with the best possible performance Edge can be used to read or white files objects live on the edge based on the TTL set by the user.