Can you offer any tips/best practices for running SQL Server on an Amazon EC2 Instance?

Asked 15 years, 10 months ago   Modified 13 years, 1 month ago

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Setting up a Windows based web application on Amazon's cloud has definitely been a learning experience. Lots of unexpected hoops to jump through, especially to get around the limitations associated with ephemeral local drives.

I was hoping to tap into the collective wisdom of those who have walked this road ahead of me and get some insight into best practices and/or tips for running SQL server on an Amazon EC2 Instance.

aws   **sql-server**   **amazon-ec2**   **cloud**

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edited Nov 1, 2011 at 22:07

asked Jan 30, 2009 at 19:17

JohnFx

34.9k ● 18 ● 107 ● 166

2 Answers

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Storing web-directory and SQL Server files in EBS is an easy way to get around the flimsyness of local storage.

I've made a script for backing up SQL-Server to S3:

http://friism.com/ec2-sql-server-backup-strategies-and-tactics

Here are some more general thoughts on running ASP.Net websites off EC2:

http://friism.com/rent-vs-buy-or-ec2-vs-building-your-own-iron

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edited Feb 5, 2009 at 20:59

answered Feb 5, 2009 at 19:17

friism

19.3k ● 5 ● 82 ● 116

1 Thanks for the tips. The EBS is definitely a must, but it is a bit painful, especially when you need to attach it before windows starts (for event logs, AD databases, etc). Still fine tuning my approach. – JohnFx Feb 5, 2009 at 19:42

No problem. You don't necessarily have to attach it before Windows starts, Windows has no problems working with volumes attached after boot. – friism Feb 8, 2009 at 20:50

I think you are mistaken based on my experiments. Windows definitely has problems if the AD database is on a drive that is not attached at startup. – JohnFx Feb 18, 2009 at 22:47

@JohnFx, yeah your're right. My experiences are limited to non-AD instances with SQL Server files located on EBS. – friism Feb 21, 2009 at 3:50

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Brent Ozar is very much into cloud computing and I beleive he has a number of articles on his blog pertaining to this.

Have a search through http://www.brentozar.com/ look for the word cloud.

For example, I came across his tutorial on how to setup hosting on Amazon EC2.

http://www.brentozar.com/archive/2008/10/running-sql-server-2005-on-amazon-ec2/

Hope this helps. Cheers.

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edited Jun 20, 2020 at 9:12

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1 ●1

answered Jan 30, 2009 at 20:10

John Sansom
41.8k ●9 ●73 ●87

You're welcome. I would be interested to know how you get on using the platform. – John Sansom Jan 30, 2009 at 21:04

After I get it working I'll probably come back and post my findings. Also thinking about putting up a blog about the whole experience and the things I learned along the way. The documentation for setting up Windows apps is really sparse out there. – JohnFx Jan 30, 2009 at 22:22