Route 53

What is DNS?

- Domain Name System which translates the human friendly hostnames into the machine IP addresses
- www.google.com => 172.217.18.36
- DNS is the backbone of the Internet
- DNS uses hierarchical naming structure

.com

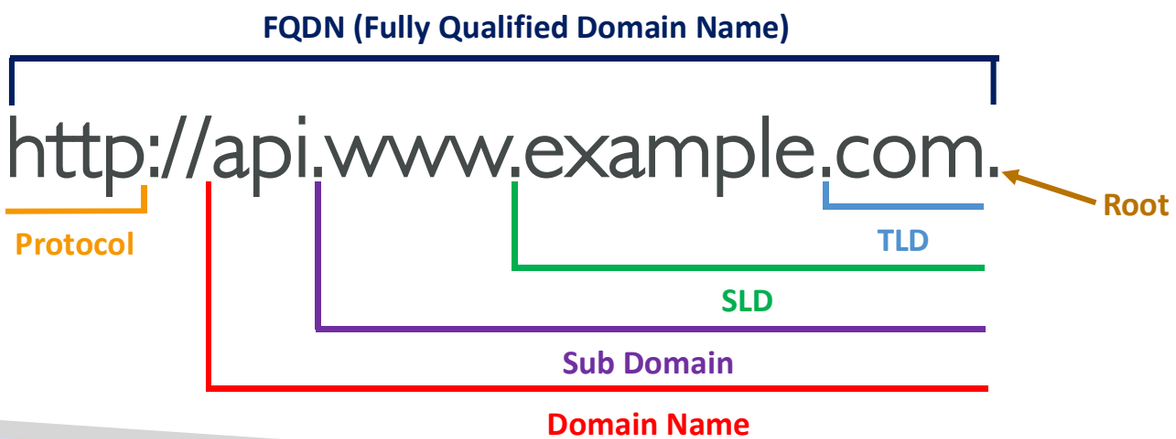
example.com

www.example.com

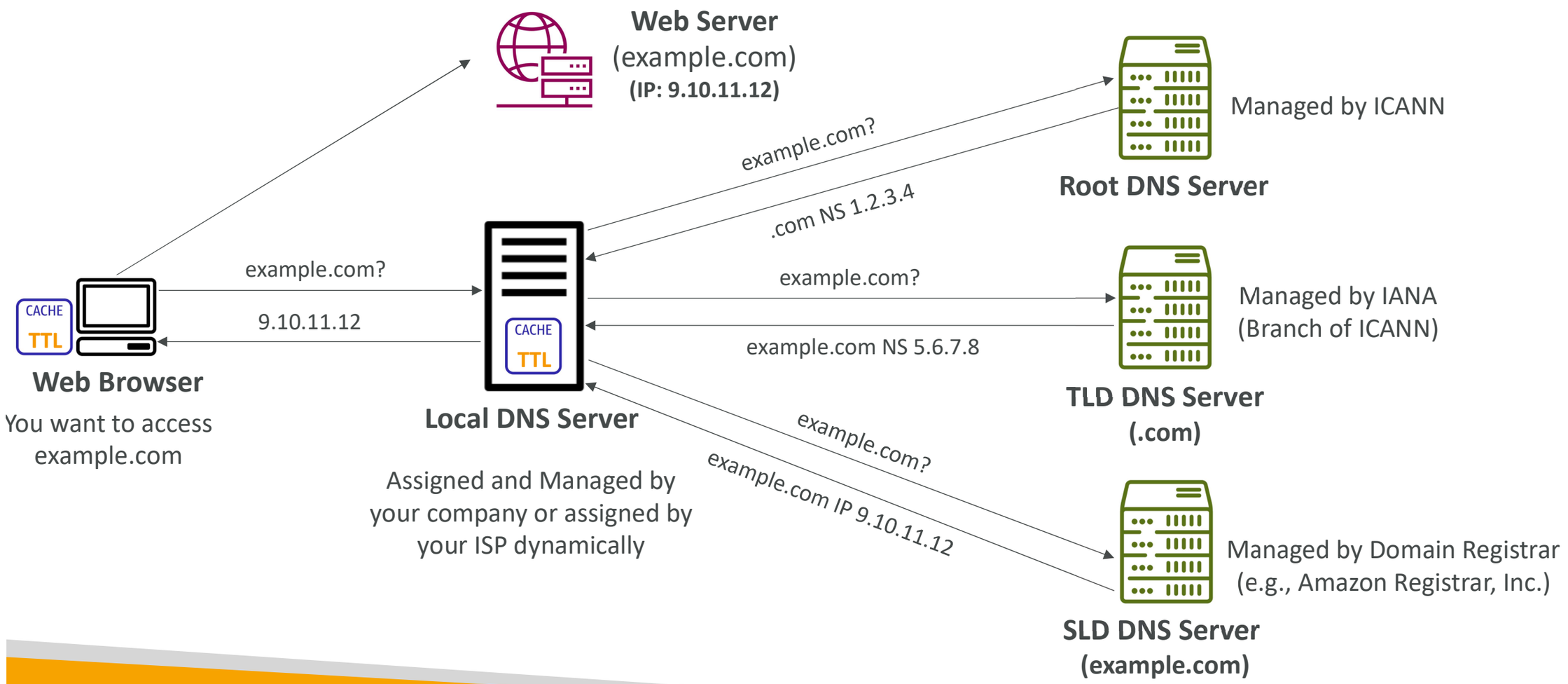
api.example.com

DNS Terminologies

- **Domain Registrar:** Amazon Route 53, GoDaddy, …
- **DNS Records:** A, AAAA, CNAME, NS, …
- **Zone File:** contains DNS records
- **Name Server:** resolves DNS queries (Authoritative or Non-Authoritative)
- **Top Level Domain (TLD):** .com, .us, .in, .gov, .org, …
- **Second Level Domain (SLD):** amazon.com, google.com, …

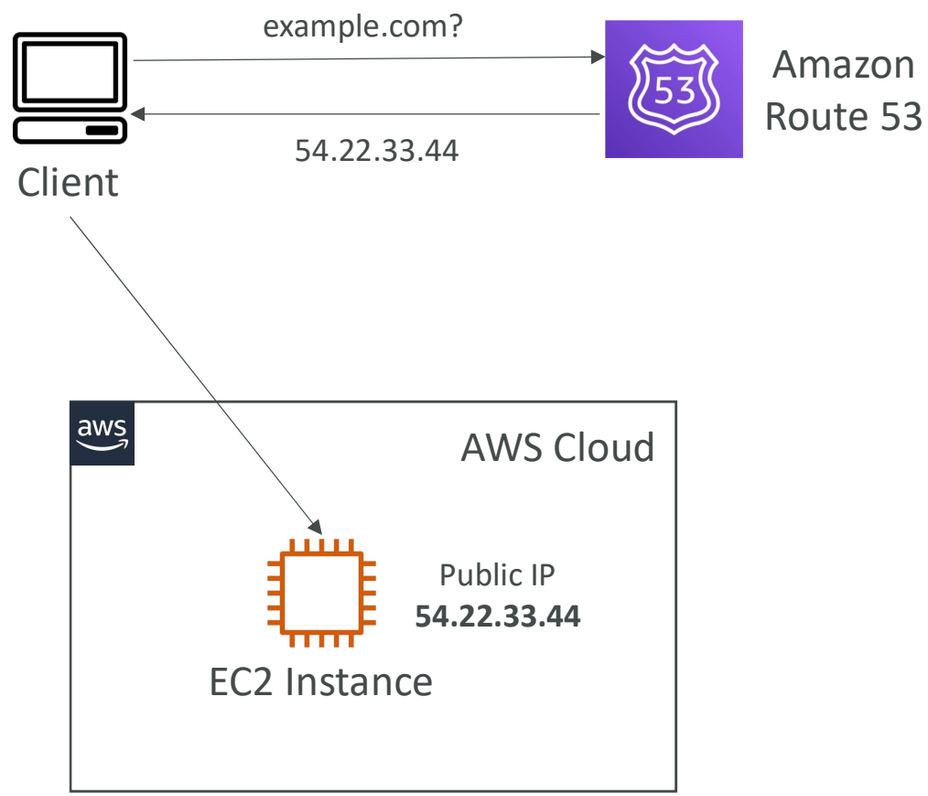


How DNS Works



Amazon Route 53

- A highly available, scalable, fully managed and *Authoritative* DNS
  - Authoritative = the customer (you) can update the DNS records
- Route 53 is also a Domain Registrar
- Ability to check the health of your resources
- The only AWS service which provides 100% availability SLA
- Why Route 53? 53 is a reference to the traditional DNS port



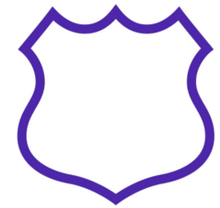
Route 53 – Records

- How you want to route traffic for a domain
- Each record contains:
  - **Domain/subdomain Name** – e.g., example.com
  - **Record Type** – e.g., A or AAAA
  - **Value** – e.g., 12.34.56.78
  - **Routing Policy** – how Route 53 responds to queries
  - **TTL** – amount of time the record cached at DNS Resolvers
- Route 53 supports the following DNS record types:
  - (must know) A / AAAA / CNAME / NS
  - (advanced) CAA / DS / MX / NAPTR / PTR / SOA / TXT / SPF / SRV

Route 53 – Record Types

- A – maps a hostname to IPv4
- AAAA – maps a hostname to IPv6
- CNAME – maps a hostname to another hostname
  - The target is a domain name which must have an A or AAAA record
  - Can't create a CNAME record for the top node of a DNS namespace (Zone Apex)
  - Example: you can't create for example.com, but you can create for www.example.com
- NS – Name Servers for the Hosted Zone
  - Control how traffic is routed for a domain

Route 53 – Hosted Zones

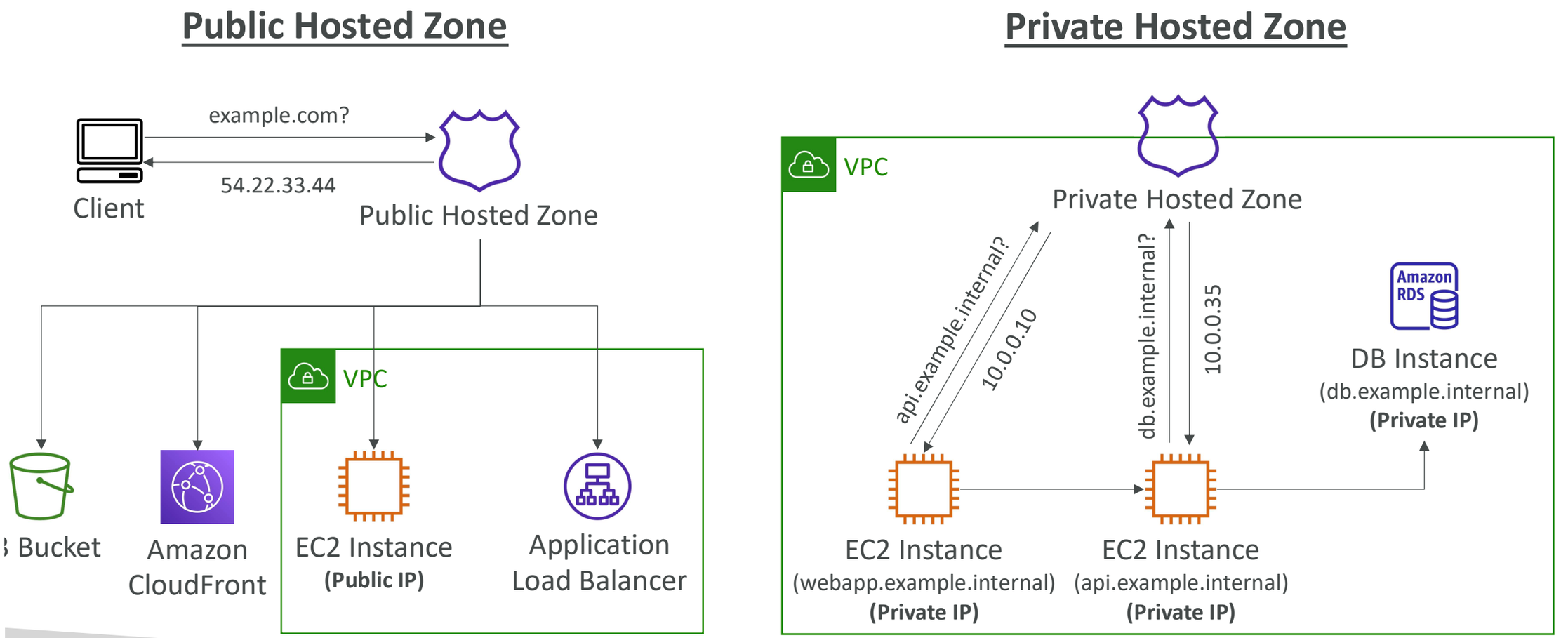


- A container for records that define how to route traffic to a domain and its subdomains

- **Public Hosted Zones** – contains records that specify how to route traffic on the Internet (public domain names)
  application1.mypublicdomain.com
- **Private Hosted Zones** – contain records that specify how you route traffic within one or more VPCs (private domain names)
  application1.company.internal

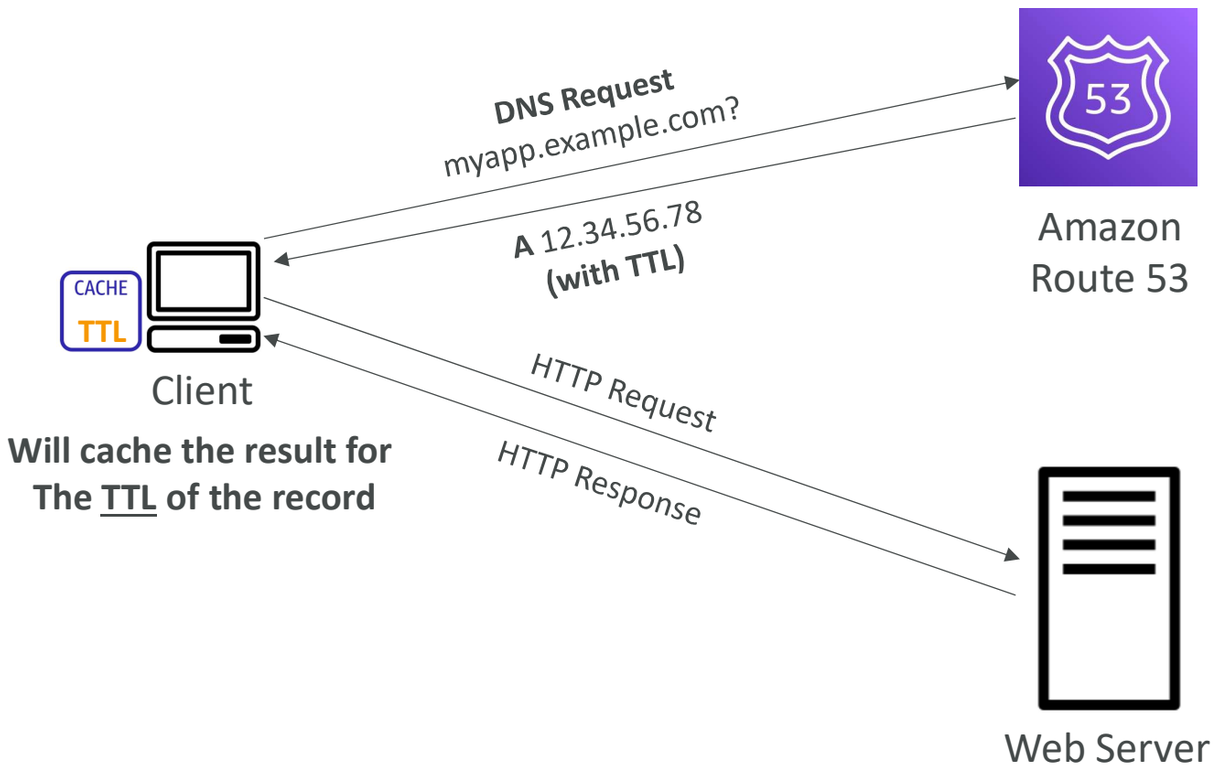
- You pay $0.50 per month per hosted zone

Route 53 – Public vs. Private Hosted Zones



Route 53 – Records TTL (Time To Live)

- High TTL – e.g., 24 hr
  - Less traffic on Route 53
  - Possibly outdated records
- Low TTL – e.g., 60 sec.
  - More traffic on Route 53 ($$)
  - Records are outdated for less time
  - Easy to change records
- Except for Alias records, TTL is mandatory for each DNS record



CNAME vs Alias

- AWS Resources (Load Balancer, CloudFront...) expose an AWS hostname:
  - lb1-1234.us-east-2.elb.amazonaws.com and you want myapp.mydomain.com

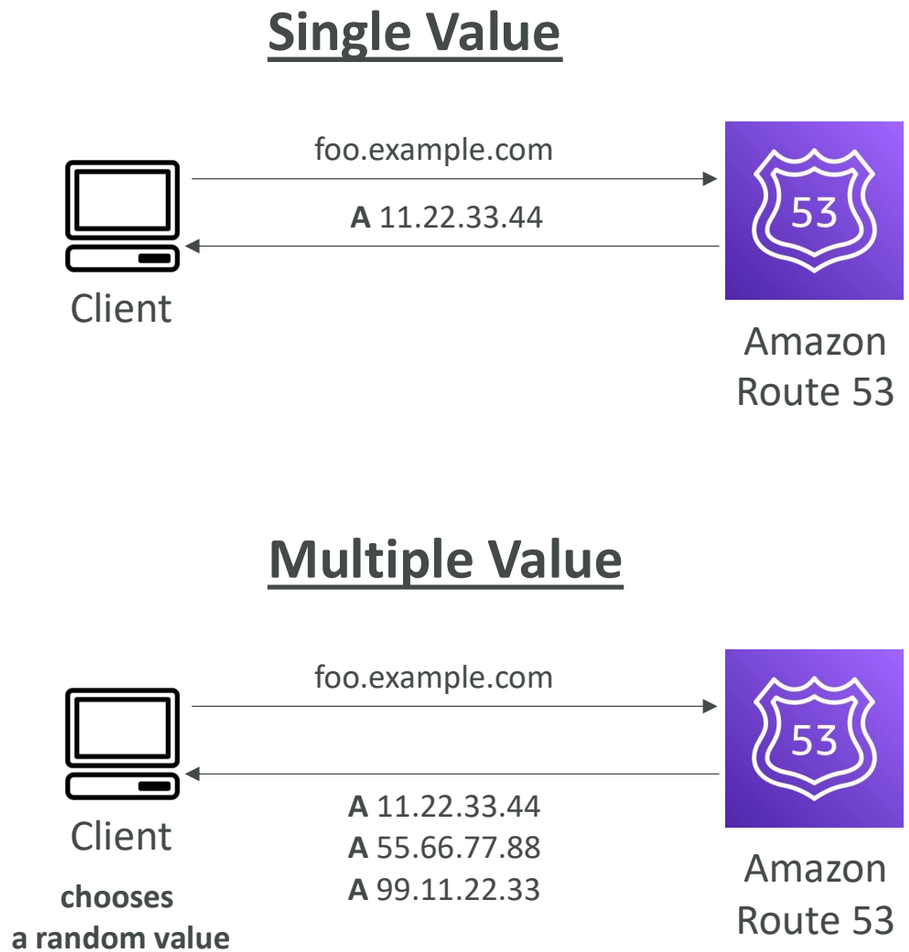
- CNAME:
  - Points a hostname to any other hostname. (app.mydomain.com => blabla.anything.com)
  - ONLY FOR NON ROOT DOMAIN (aka. something.mydomain.com)
- Alias:
  - Points a hostname to an AWS Resource (app.mydomain.com => blabla.amazonaws.com)
  - Works for ROOT DOMAIN and NON ROOT DOMAIN (aka mydomain.com)
  - Free of charge
  - Native health check

Route 53 – Routing Policies

- Define how Route 53 responds to DNS queries
- Don't get confused by the word *"Routing"*
  - It's not the same as Load balancer routing which routes the traffic
  - DNS does not route any traffic, it only responds to the DNS queries
- Route 53 Supports the following Routing Policies
  - Simple
  - Weighted
  - Failover
  - Latency based
  - Geolocation
  - Multi-Value Answer
  - Geoproximity (using Route 53 Traffic Flow feature)

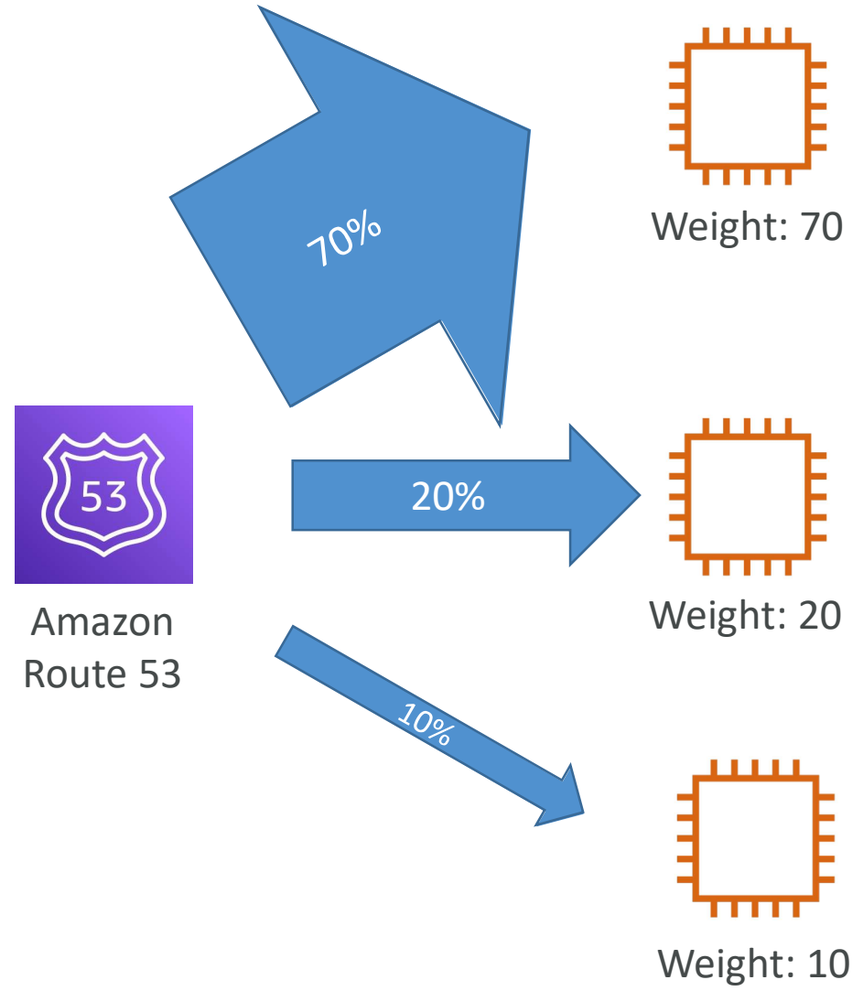
Routing Policies – Simple

- Typically, route traffic to a single resource
- Can specify multiple values in the same record
- **If multiple values are returned, a random one is chosen by the client**
- When Alias enabled, specify only one AWS resource
- Can't be associated with Health Checks



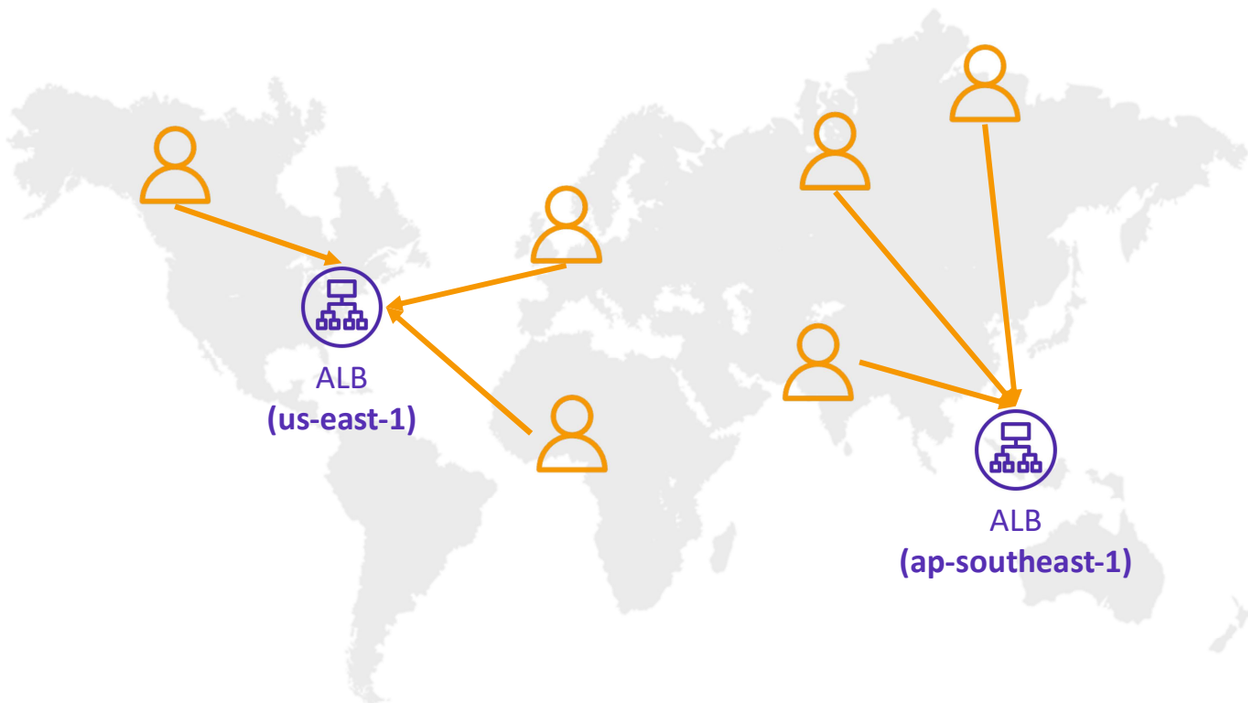
Routing Policies – Weighted

- Control the % of the requests that go to each specific resource
- Assign each record a relative weight:
  - $traffic\ (\%) = \frac{Weight\ for\ a\ specific\ rec}{Sum\ of\ all\ the\ weights\ for\ all\ records}$
  - Weights don't need to sum up to 100
- DNS records must have the same name and type
- Can be associated with Health Checks
- Use cases: load balancing between regions, testing new application versions…
- Assign a weight of 0 to a record to stop sending traffic to a resource
- If all records have weight of 0, then all records will be returned equally

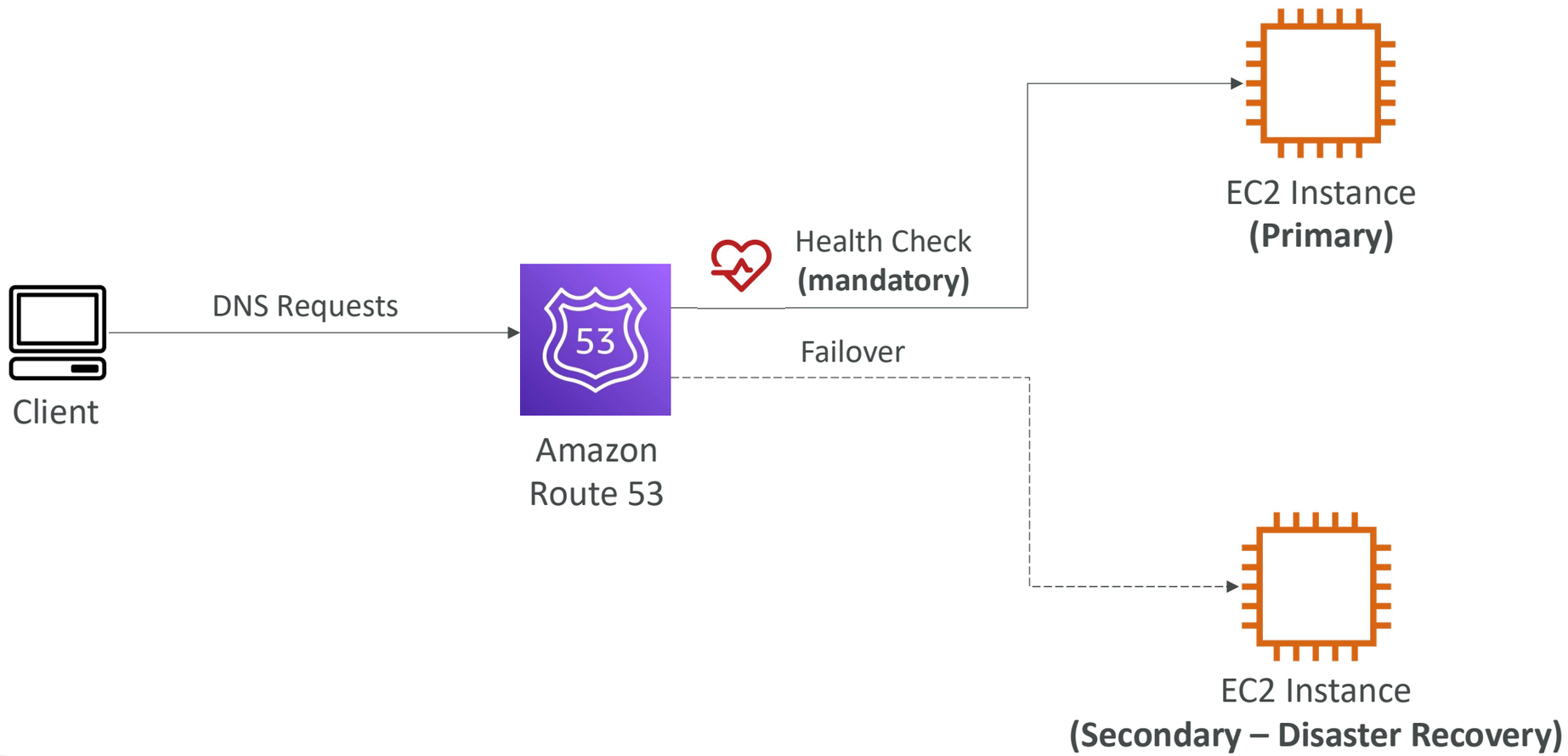


Routing Policies – Latency-based

- Redirect to the resource that has the least latency close to us
- Super helpful when latency for users is a priority
- **Latency is based on traffic between users and AWS Regions**
- Germany users may be directed to the US (if that's the lowest latency)
- Can be associated with Health Checks (has a failover capability)

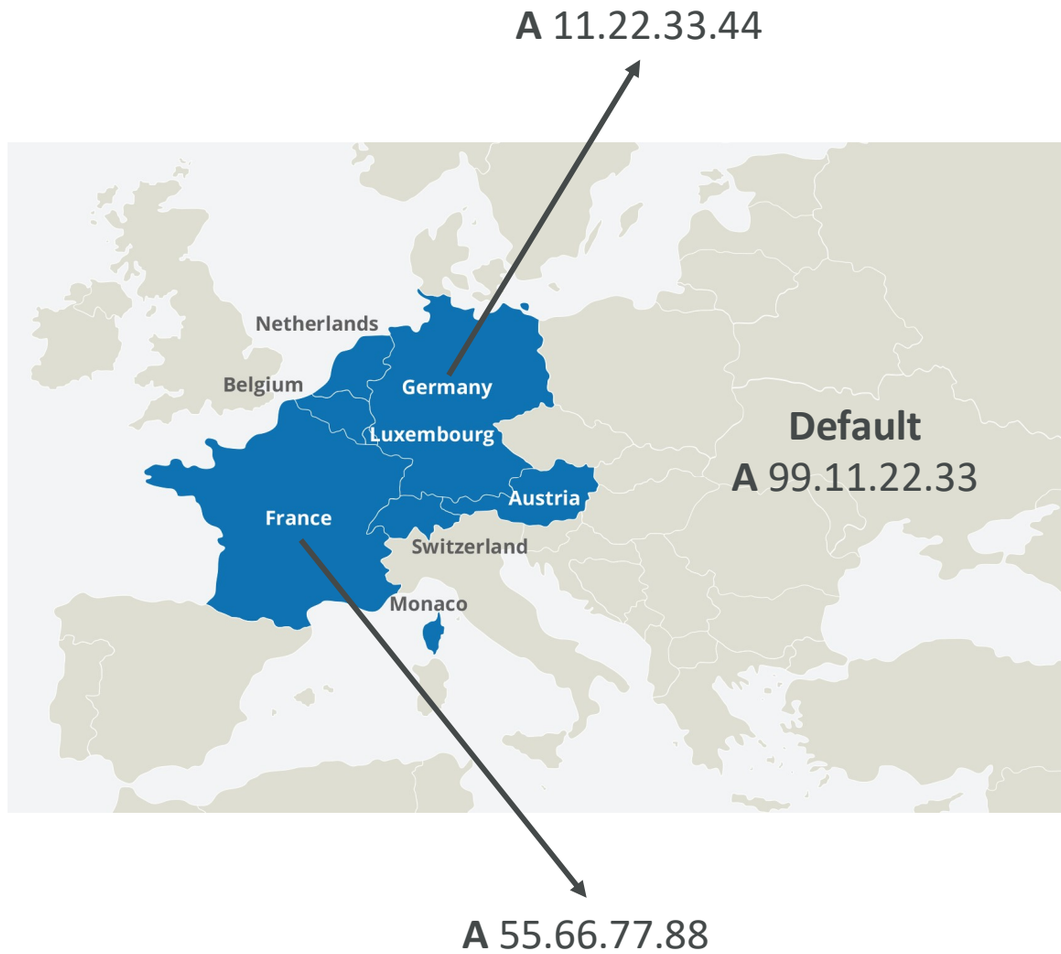


Routing Policies – Failover (Active-Passive)



Routing Policies – Geolocation

- Different from Latency-based!
- **This routing is based on user location**
- Specify location by Continent, Country or by US State (if there's overlapping, most precise location selected)
- Should create a **"Default"** record (in case there's no match on location)
- Use cases: website localization, restrict content distribution, load balancing, …
- Can be associated with Health Checks



Routing Policies – Multi-Value

- Use when routing traffic to multiple resources
- Route 53 return multiple values/resources
- Can be associated with Health Checks (return only values for healthy resources)
- Up to 8 healthy records are returned for each Multi-Value query
- Multi-Value is not a substitute for having an ELB

Name	Type	Value	TTL	Set ID	Health Check
www.example.com	A Record	192.0.2.2	60	Web1	A
www.example.com	A Record	198.51.100.2	60	Web2	B
www.example.com	A Record	203.0.113.2	60	Web3	C