Rollback & Recovery Recipes

Practical, copy/paste playbooks for undoing bad deploys fast.

Golden Rules

- Never delete the previous working artifact; always keep at least the last 3.
- Automate the rollback in the same pipeline that did the deploy.
- Log every rollback with who/when/why for auditability.

A. EC2 / VM: Re-deploy Previous Artifact

1. Keep `` `app-<gitsha>.zip` `` in `` `/var/www/releases/` `` and symlink `` `/var/www/current` `` to the active release.
2. To roll back, repoint the symlink and restart the service.

```
# on the server
cd /var/www
ln -sfn releases/app-<PREV_GITSHA>.zip current
systemctl restart httpd || systemctl restart nginx || true
```

B. AWS CodeDeploy: Redeploy Previous Revision

- Use `` `aws deploy list-deployments` `` to find the last successful deployment ID and redeploy it.

```
aws deploy list-deployments --application-name YOUR_APP --deployment-group-name
YOUR_DG --include-only-statuses Succeeded --max-items 1
aws deploy get-deployment --deployment-id d-XXXXXXXX
# Reuse that revision (S3 key) in a new create-deployment call
```

C. Azure Web App: Swap Slots

3. Deploy to the staging slot first.
4. Swap slots to promote staging → production.
5. To roll back, swap back.

```
az webapp deployment slot swap --resource-group RG --name APP --slot staging --
target-slot production
```

D. GCP Cloud Run: Shift Traffic Back

6. Each deploy creates a new revision.
7. Move traffic back to the last known-good revision.

```
gcloud run services update-traffic SERVICE --to-revisions REVISION_NAME=100 --
region REGION --platform managed
```

E. Database Change Rollbacks (Minimize Risk)

- Prefer additive migrations; avoid destructive schema changes during business hours.
- Wrap data migrations in idempotent scripts with checkpoints and backups.
- For SQL Server/MySQL/Postgres, test down-migrations in staging before prod.

F. Post-Rollback Checklist

- Confirm /health and key user paths.
- Announce status in Slack/Teams and create an incident note.
- Open a follow-up ticket to root-cause the failure and add a guardrail test.