What is SWF Service ? Simple Workflow Service  
  
- Amazon Simple Workflow Service (SWF) is a web service that makes it easy to coordinate work across distributed application components. SWF enable application for a range of use cases, including media processing, web application back-ends, business process workflows, and analytics pipelines, to be designed as coordination of tasks.  
  
-Tasks represents invocations of various processing steps in an application which can be performed by executable code, web service calls, human actions and scripts.  
  
\*\*\*\*\*\*\*SWF vs SQS\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
  
- SQS has retention period of upto 14 days, with SWF workflows execution can lasts upto 1 year.

- Amazon SWF presents task oriented APIs ,whereas amazon SQS offers message oriented APIs.

- Amazon SWF ensures that a task is assigned only once and is never duplicated. With amazon SQS, you need to handle duplicates messages and may also need to ensure that a message is processed only once.

- Amazon SWF keeps track of all the tasks and events in an application. With Amazon SQS, you need to implement your own application level tracking, specially if your application uses multiple queues.  
  
\*\*\*\*\*SWF Actors\*\*\*\*\*  
1-Workflow Starters- an application that can initiate ( start ) A workflow. Could be your e-commerce website following the placement of an order, or an mobile app searching for bus time.  
  
2- Deciders - Control the flow of activity tasks in a workflow executtion . If something has finished (failed) in a workflow, decider decides  what to do next.  
  
3- Activity Workers - Carry out the activity tasks.