

Validate Your Skills with AWS Certification

Achieve professional credibility
and personal satisfaction



Introduction: Staying current in a disruptive world

Certification is one of the best ways to validate your cloud skills. And AWS Certifications, in particular, are industry-recognized credentials that showcase your expertise in the AWS Cloud.

Technology is at the disruptive edge of the job market—a precipice that's in constant change, where it pays to be flexible. Learning new skills is essential, and industry leaders know this.

As a technology professional, you'll want to do everything you can to demonstrate that your skills match the current needs of the market. Training courses can help—and attaining certifications can have a powerful impact.

In addition to potential salary benefits, IT professionals and IT leaders report increased efficiency and recognition:



say their expertise is more sought after within their organization



of IT leaders who employ AWS Certified staff have seen an increase in productivity from employing AWS Certified staff



of IT leaders who employ AWS Certified staff are able to troubleshoot issues faster¹

AWS offers a number of industry-recognized certifications that validate your experience to help you go beyond training and highlight your skills. Earning AWS Certifications allows you to showcase your cloud knowledge and abilities specific to roles or technical domains that help move your career forward.

AWS Certifications are built by AWS experts and updated regularly, so you can be sure the exams highlight current and fresh cloud skills. You can pursue Foundational, Associate, Professional, and Specialty certifications that align to your experience with AWS.

This e-book provides an overview of what you need to know to earn an AWS Certification, acting as your guide throughout the process. It will help you determine which AWS Certifications are right for you and show you how to prepare for and obtain them. You can go straight to the sections that interest you most by using the links on the next page.

¹Source: ESG Research Insights Paper Commissioned by AWS, *Understanding the Value of AWS Certifications to Organizations*, October 2020.

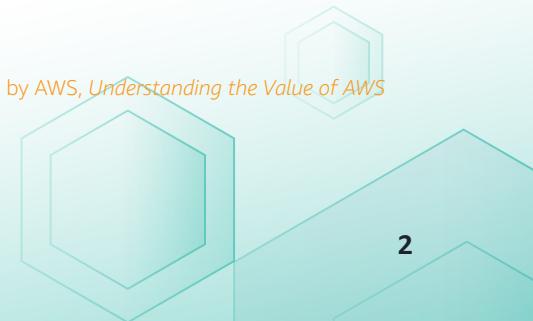


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Recommended knowledge and experience

Knowledge is power—but there's no substitute for experience.

Before attempting to attain certification, AWS recommends that you have practical experience covering the competencies, domains, and objectives found in the content outline for each exam. In the next section, we'll review specific recommended experience and criteria for individual AWS Certification exams.

AWS offers a variety of optional resources—including prep courses, sample questions, whitepapers, and blogs—to supplement your experience and existing knowledge and help you prepare for a certification exam. To learn more, [go to the section on exam preparation](#).



Available AWS Certifications



Available AWS Certifications

You may be wondering, "How do I determine which certifications are right for me?"

To answer that question, you'll need to consider your role and honestly evaluate your existing level of experience and knowledge across various areas of technical and cloud expertise.

AWS offers four categories of certifications, three of which correspond to the amount of experience you have with the AWS Cloud. For Specialty certifications, the amount of recommended experience varies by certification.

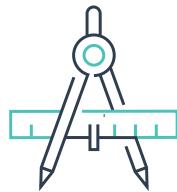
Certification type	Recommended experience
Foundational	Less than 1 year
Associate	1–2 years
Professional	2 or more years
Specialty	Varies

Available AWS Certifications

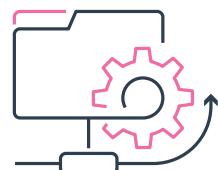
Role-based AWS Certifications are subcategorized according to job title and duties:



Cloud Practitioner



Solutions Architect



SysOps Administrator



Developer



DevOps Engineer

Our Specialty certifications are designed to validate your expertise in a specific domain and/or knowledge area. AWS currently offers Specialty certifications for:



Advanced Networking



Security



Machine Learning



Data Analytics



Database

Practice makes perfect

If you're new to the cloud or work in a nontechnical role, we recommend you begin your training by preparing for and earning the [AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner](#) certification. Use the charts on the following pages to review available AWS Certifications and further determine which ones are appropriate for your areas of expertise, your professional role, and your interests. Before we get into the specifics, let's explore some attributes that are common to all or nearly all AWS Certification exams.

All certifications exams are:

- ✓ Multiple choice, multiple answer
- ✓ Delivered in testing center and via online proctored exam

All exams are available in:

- ✓ English, Japanese, Korean, Simplified Chinese

Exam-specific notes:

- ✓ The AWS Certified SysOps Administrator - Associate will also include exam labs as a possible item type beginning with the SOA-C02 version.
- ✓ The AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner exam is additionally available to take in Indonesian.

Foundational Certification





Foundational Certification

AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner

Intended for:

Individuals who can effectively demonstrate an overall understanding of the AWS Cloud, independent of specific technical roles addressed by other AWS Certifications

Abilities validated:

- For the AWS Cloud, define and describe its:
 - Basic global infrastructure
 - Basic architectural principles
 - Value proposition
 - Key services and common use cases (ex: compute and analytics)
 - Basic security and compliance aspects and the shared security model
 - Billing, account management, and pricing models
- Identify sources of documentation or technical assistance (for example, whitepapers or support tickets)
- Describe basic/core characteristics of deploying and operating in the AWS Cloud

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- At least six months of experience with the AWS Cloud in any role, including technical, managerial, sales, purchasing, or financial
- A basic understanding of IT services and their uses in the AWS Cloud

Time	Cost
90 minutes	100 USD (Practice exam: 20 USD)

Note: Exam available in Indonesian (Bahasa)

[Learn more about AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner »](#)

Associate Certifications





Associate Certifications

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate

Intended for:

Solutions architects with one or more years of practical experience designing available, cost-efficient, fault-tolerant, and scalable distributed systems on AWS

Abilities validated:

- Architecting and deploying secure and robust apps on AWS technologies
- Defining a solution using architectural design principles based on customer requirements
- Providing implementation guidance based on best practices to the organization throughout the life cycle of the project

• Understanding of:

- Recommended best practices for building secure and reliable apps in the AWS Cloud
- Basic architectural principles of building in the AWS Cloud
- AWS global infrastructure
- Network technologies as they relate to AWS
- AWS-provided security features and tools and how they relate to traditional services

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- Practical experience using AWS compute, networking, storage, database, and deployment and management services
- Identify and define technical requirements for an AWS-based app
- Identify which AWS services meet a given technical requirement

Time	Cost
130 minutes	150 USD (Practice exam: 20 USD)

[Learn more about AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate »](#)



Associate Certifications

AWS Certified SysOps Administrator - Associate

Intended for:

Systems administrators in a SysOps role with at least one year of experience in deployment, management, and operations on AWS

Abilities validated:

- Deploy, manage, and operate scalable, highly available, and fault-tolerant systems on AWS
- Implement and control the flow of data to and from AWS
- Select the appropriate AWS service based on compute, data, or security requirements
- Identify appropriate use of AWS operational best practices
- Estimate AWS usage costs and identify operational cost-control mechanisms
- Migrate on-premises workloads to AWS

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- Understanding of:
 - The AWS tenets—architecting for the cloud
 - Network technologies as they relate to AWS
 - Security concepts
 - Virtualization technology
 - Networking concepts (e.g., DNS, TCP/IP, firewalls)
- Practical experience with:
 - The AWS CLI and SDKs/API tools
 - Implementing security controls and compliance requirements
 - Monitoring and auditing systems
- Ability to translate architectural requirements

A new version of the AWS Certified SysOps Administrator - Associate exam is coming in 2021. [Learn more. »](#)

[Learn more about AWS Certified SysOps Administrator - Associate »](#)



Associate Certifications

AWS Certified Developer - Associate

Intended for:

Developers with one or more years of practical experience developing and maintaining an AWS-based application

Abilities validated:

- Understanding of core AWS services, uses, and basic AWS architecture best practices
- Proficiency in developing, deploying, and debugging cloud-based apps using AWS

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- In-depth knowledge of at least one high-level programming language
- Understanding of:
 - Core AWS services, uses, and AWS architecture best practices
 - The AWS Shared Responsibility Model
 - Application life cycle management
 - The use of containers in the development process
- Proficiency in:
 - Developing, deploying, and debugging cloud-based apps using AWS
 - Writing code for serverless applications

- Ability to:
 - Use the AWS service APIs, AWS CLI, and SDKs to write apps
 - Identify key features of AWS services
 - Use a CI/CD pipeline to deploy apps on AWS
 - Use or interact with AWS services
 - Apply a basic understanding of cloud-native apps to write code
 - Write code using AWS security best practices (e.g., using IAM roles instead of secret and access keys)
 - Author, maintain, and debug code modules on AWS

Time	Cost
130 minutes	150 USD (Practice exam: 20 USD)

[Learn more about AWS Certified Developer - Associate »](#)

Professional Certifications





Professional Certifications

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Professional

Intended for:

Solutions architects with advanced technical skills and two or more years of practical experience designing distributed applications and systems on AWS

Abilities validated:

- Design and deploy (on AWS):
 - Dynamically scalable, highly available, fault-tolerant, and reliable apps
 - Enterprise-wide scalable operations
- Select appropriate AWS services to design and deploy an app based on given requirements
- Migrate complex, multi-tier apps to AWS
- Implement cost-control strategies

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- Two or more years of practical experience designing and deploying cloud architecture on AWS
- Ability to:
 - Evaluate cloud app requirements and make architectural recommendations for implementation, deployment, and provisioning apps on AWS

- Explain and apply the five pillars of the [AWS Well-Architected Framework](#)
- Design a hybrid architecture using key AWS technologies (e.g., VPN, AWS Direct Connect)
- Map business objectives to app/architecture requirements
- Architect a CI/CD process
- Provide best-practice guidance on architectural design across multiple apps and projects
- Familiarity with:
 - AWS CLI, AWS APIs, AWS CloudFormation templates, the AWS Billing Console, and the AWS Management Console
 - At least one scripting language
 - Windows and Linux environments

Time	Cost
180 minutes	300 USD (Practice exam: 40 USD)

[Learn more about AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Professional »](#)

Professional Certifications

AWS Certified DevOps Engineer - Professional

Intended for:

DevOps engineers with two or more years of experience provisioning, operating, and managing AWS environments

Abilities validated:

- Implement and manage continuous delivery systems and methodologies on AWS
- Implement and automate security controls, governance processes, and compliance validation
- Implement systems that are highly available, scalable, and self-healing in the AWS Cloud
- Define and deploy monitoring, metrics, and logging systems on AWS
- Design, manage, and maintain tools to automate operational processes

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- Experience with:
 - Developing code in at least one high-level programming language
 - Building highly automated infrastructures
 - Administering operating systems
- Understanding of modern development and operations processes and methodologies

Time	Cost
180 minutes	300 USD (Practice exam: 40 USD)

[Learn more about AWS Certified DevOps Engineer - Professional »](#)

Specialty Certifications



Specialty Certifications

AWS Certified Advanced Networking - Specialty

Intended for:

Individuals who perform complex networking tasks

Abilities validated:

- Design, develop, and deploy cloud-based solutions using AWS
- Implement core AWS services according to basic architecture best practices
- Design and maintain network architecture for all AWS services
- Leverage tools to automate AWS networking tasks

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- We recommend candidates hold an [AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner](#) or a current Associate-level certification: [AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate](#), [AWS Certified Developer - Associate](#), or [AWS Certified SysOps Administrator - Associate](#)
- Advanced knowledge of AWS networking concepts and technologies
- At least five years of practical experience architecting and implementing network solutions

- Advanced networking architectures and interconnectivity options (e.g., IP VPN, MPLS/VPLS)
- Networking technologies within the OSI model and how they affect implementation decisions
- Development of automation scripts and tools
- CIDR and sub-netting (IPv4 and IPv6)
- IPv6 transition challenges
- Generic solutions for network security features, including WAF, IDS, IPS, DDoS protection, and Economic Denial of Service/Sustainability (EDoS)

Time	Cost
170 minutes	300 USD

[Learn more about AWS Certified Advanced Networking - Specialty »](#)

Specialty Certifications

AWS Certified Security - Specialty

Intended for:

Individuals who perform a security role with at least two years of practical experience securing AWS workloads

Abilities validated:

- Two or more years of production deployment experience using AWS security services and features
- An understanding of:
 - Specialized data classifications and AWS data protection mechanisms
 - Data encryption methods and AWS mechanisms to implement them
 - Secure Internet protocols and AWS mechanisms to implement them
 - AWS security services and features of services
 - Security operations and risk
- Ability to make trade-off decisions with regard to cost, security, and deployment complexity when given a set of application requirements

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- At least two years of practical experience securing AWS workloads
- Security controls for workloads on AWS
- A minimum of five years of IT security experience designing and implementing security solutions

Time	Cost
170 minutes	300 USD (Practice exam: 40 USD)

[Learn more about AWS Certified Security - Specialty »](#)

Specialty Certifications

AWS Certified Machine Learning - Specialty

Intended for:

Individuals who perform a development or data science role and wish to validate their ability to design, implement, deploy, and maintain machine learning (ML) solutions for given business problems

Abilities validated:

- Select and justify the appropriate ML approach for a given business problem
- Identify appropriate AWS services to implement ML solutions
- Design and implement scalable, cost-optimized, reliable, and secure ML solutions

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- One to two years of experience developing, architecting, or running ML/deep learning workloads in the AWS Cloud
- Experience with:
 - ML and deep learning frameworks
 - Performing basic hyperparameter optimization

- The ability to:
 - Express the intuition behind basic ML algorithms
 - Follow model-training best practices
 - Follow deployment and operational best practices

Time	Cost
170 minutes	300 USD (Practice exam: 40 USD)

[Learn more about AWS Certified Machine Learning - Specialty »](#)

Specialty Certifications

AWS Certified Data Analytics - Specialty

Intended for:

Individuals who use AWS services to design, build, secure, and maintain analytics solutions that provide insight from data

Abilities validated:

- Define AWS data analytics services and understand how they integrate with each other
- Explain how AWS data analytics services fit into the data life cycle of collection, storage, processing, and visualization

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- At least five years of experience with data analytics technologies
- At least two years of practical experience working with AWS
- Experience and expertise working with AWS services to design, build, secure, and maintain analytics solutions

Time	Cost
180 minutes	300 USD (Practice exam: 40 USD)

[Learn more about AWS Certified Data Analytics - Specialty »](#)

Specialty Certifications

AWS Certified Database - Specialty

Intended for:

Individuals who have expertise in the breadth of AWS database services in areas including design, migration, deployment, access, maintenance, automation, monitoring, security, and troubleshooting

Abilities validated:

- Understand and differentiate the key features of AWS database services
- Analyze needs and requirements to recommend and design appropriate database solutions using AWS services

Recommended knowledge and experience:

- At least five years of experience with database technologies
- At least two years of practical experience working on AWS
- Experience and expertise working with on-premises and AWS Cloud-based relational and nonrelational databases

Time	Cost
180 minutes	300 USD (Practice exam: 40 USD)

[Learn more about AWS Certified Database - Specialty »](#)



AWS Certification benefits



Exam discount
Get a 50% discount voucher to apply toward recertification or any other exam.



Event recognition
Receive invites to regional Appreciation Receptions and use your digital badge to gain exclusive access to AWS Certification Lounges at AWS re:Invent and select AWS Summit events.



AWS Certified Global Community
Gain access to our AWS Certified community on LinkedIn and network with your peers.



Free practice exams
Prepare for your next AWS Certification with a practice exam voucher.



AWS Certification Store
Unlock access to exclusive AWS Certification merchandise. (Note: The store currently only ships items to the U.S.)



Digital Badges
Showcase your achievement and validate your skills with AWS digital badges.

AWS Certification benefits

In addition to validating your technical skills, earning an AWS Certification provides a number of professional and personal benefits.

Digital badges

With digital badges, you can showcase your AWS Certification achievement on your social media and email signatures—and gain immediate access to exclusive AWS-sponsored certification events.

There are a number of reasons to share your achievement with a digital badge. You can celebrate with your network, establish credibility for your cloud skills, and encourage others to build and validate their cloud skills.



Sharing your digital badge is easy. Just follow these steps:



Earn

We automatically issue a digital badge when you earn an AWS Certification. Digital badges are active as long as your certification is valid.



Claim

You'll get an email from Credly's Acclaim platform with instructions for claiming your badge.



Share

Use the sharing features on Credly's Acclaim platform to post on your social media newsfeeds and add your digital badge to your professional profile.



Maintain

Your digital badge verifies whether your AWS Certification is active or not. To maintain your active status, [recertify](#) every three years.

Preparing for an exam

Exam preparation can make all the difference.

As we've said, there's no substitute for experience. We recommend that you have the suggested amount of experience with relevant AWS products and services before attempting an AWS Certification exam.

But experience isn't everything. Proper exam preparation is also critical.

Taking advantage of exam prep materials provided by AWS—including exam guides, sample questions, and whitepapers—can help you succeed. In the [next section](#), you'll find links to these materials broken down by each of the AWS Certifications.

Practice exams and sample questions

Practice exams allow you to test your knowledge in a timed environment. The exam is scored, and information about your performance on the various domains is offered on the practice exam score report. This information may be useful in determining a study plan, but it may not be reflective of actual performance on the certification exam. You can [register](#) for practice exams by creating a free AWS Certification Account or signing into an existing account.

Practice exams are different from sample questions. AWS posts sample questions on the website to provide you with an opportunity to become familiar with the format of questions used on AWS Certification exams.

Exam prep resources

There's no such thing as being "too prepared."

You can browse the latest exam prep resources from AWS by going to

<https://aws.amazon.com/certification/certification-prep/>.

(Note: Looking for links to schedule practice exams and/or certification exams? Go to <https://www.aws.training/certification> to view and/or sign up for all upcoming practice and certification exams. You'll need to create a free AWS Certification Account, if you haven't already.)

Scheduling your exam

We recommend starting your preparation by making a plan and scheduling your exam in advance. Choose a convenient time for your exam appointment and stay motivated by the date on your calendar.

You will need to [create an AWS Certification Account to schedule](#) and take exams, including practice exams. Make sure the first name (given name) and last name (surname) you enter for the account match your first and last name as they appear on the identification (ID) you will present at your exam appointment. Learn more about ID requirements [here](#).

Curious about your options for taking an exam? Check out these resources:

- [Overview of your testing options](#)
- [Tips for taking an online-proctored exam](#)
- [Search for local testing centers](#) (Sign in to your AWS Certification Account and select "Schedule New Exam.")

Definition of terms

Exam guides

- Explore AWS Certification exam guides to learn what is covered on the exam, recommended experience and knowledge, and a breakdown of question types.

Sample questions

- Study sample questions to understand the format of actual exam questions. An answer key is included along with an explanation of the correct answer and relevant references.

Recommended courses

- Leverage training built by the experts as you prepare for an AWS Certification exam. Take recommended courses to learn the knowledge and skills that can advance your career.

Whitepapers

- Get to know AWS services and best practices by exploring the specific AWS whitepapers and technical documentation relevant to your exam.

Self-paced Labs

- Get step-by-step instructions and gain direct experience working through real-world cloud scenarios in a live AWS environment.

FAQs

- Commonly raised issues and questions that will help you understand AWS products, services, and features beyond the scope of your personal experience.

Exam Readiness training

- Learn how to interpret exam questions and allocate your study time more effectively. In these courses, you'll review sample exam questions in each topic area and learn how to interpret the concepts being tested.

Foundational Certification: Preparation Resources





Foundational Certification: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

Recommended courses:

- [AWS Cloud Practitioner Essentials](#) | Classroom
- [AWS Cloud Practitioner Essentials – Second Edition](#) | Digital

[Explore the full Cloud Practitioner learning page »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Whitepapers:

- [Overview of Amazon Web Services](#)
- [How AWS Pricing Works](#)
- [Compare AWS Support Plans](#)

[View all whitepapers »](#)

Exam Readiness training:

- [Live instructor-led webinars](#)

Associate Certifications: Preparation Resources



Associate Certifications: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

Recommended courses:

- [AWS Technical Essentials](#) | Classroom
- [Architecting on AWS](#) | Classroom
- [Architecting on AWS - Accelerator](#) | Classroom

[Explore the full Architect learning page »](#)

FAQs:

- [Amazon EC2](#)
- [Amazon S3](#)
- [Amazon VPC](#)
- [Amazon Route 53](#)
- [Amazon RDS](#)
- [Amazon SQS](#)

[View all FAQs »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Whitepapers:

- [AWS Well-Architected webpage](#) (various whitepapers linked)

Exam Readiness training:

- [Exam Readiness course](#) | Classroom
- [Exam Readiness course](#) | Free digital
- [Live instructor-led webinars](#)

Associate Certifications: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified SysOps Administrator - Associate

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

Recommended courses:

- [AWS Technical Essentials](#) | Classroom
- [Systems Operations on AWS](#) | Classroom

[Explore the full Operations learning page »](#)

FAQs:

- [Amazon EC2](#)
- [Amazon S3](#)
- [Amazon VPC](#)
- [Amazon Route 53](#)
- [Amazon RDS](#)
- [Amazon SQS](#)

[View all FAQs »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Whitepapers:

- [AWS Security Best Practices](#)
- [Amazon Web Services: Overview of Security Processes](#)
- [AWS Well-Architected Framework](#)
- [Development and Test on AWS](#)
- [Backup and Recovery Approaches Using AWS](#)
- [Amazon Virtual Private Cloud Connectivity Options](#)
- [How AWS Pricing Works](#)

[View all whitepapers »](#)

Exam Readiness training:

- [Find classroom training](#)
- [Take free digital training](#)
- [Live instructor-led webinars](#)

Associate Certifications: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified Developer - Associate

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

Recommended courses:

- [AWS Technical Essentials](#) | Classroom
- [Developing on AWS](#) | Classroom
- [Advanced Developing on AWS](#) | Classroom

[Explore the full Developer learning page »](#)

FAQs:

- [Amazon Simple Queue Service](#)
- [Amazon DynamoDB](#)
- [Amazon ElastiCache](#)
- [Amazon Kinesis](#)
- [AWS Lambda](#)
- [Amazon API Gateway](#)
- [AWS Elastic Beanstalk](#)
- [AWS Identity and Access Management](#)
- [AWS Key Management Service](#)

[View all FAQs »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Whitepapers:

- [AWS Security Best Practices](#)
- [AWS Well-Architected Framework](#)
- [Practicing Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery on AWS Accelerating Software Delivery with DevOps](#)
- [Implementing Microservices on AWS](#)
- [Serverless Architectures with AWS Lambda](#)
- [Optimizing Enterprise Economics with Serverless Architectures](#)
- [Running Containerized Microservices on AWS](#)
- [Blue/Green Deployments on AWS](#)

[View all whitepapers »](#)

Exam Readiness training:

- [Find classroom training](#)
- [Take free digital training](#)
- [Live instructor-led webinars](#)

Professional Certifications: Preparation Resources



Professional Certifications: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Professional

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

Recommended courses:

- [Advanced Architecting on AWS](#) | Classroom

[Explore the full Architect learning page »](#)

FAQs:

- [Auto Scaling](#)
- [Elastic Load Balancing](#)
- [AWS Elastic Beanstalk](#)

[View all FAQs »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Whitepapers:

- [Securing Data at Rest with Encryption](#)
- [Web Application Hosting in the AWS Cloud](#)
- [Migrating AWS Resources to a New AWS Region](#)

[View all whitepapers »](#)

Exam Readiness training:

- [Find classroom training](#)
- [Take free digital training](#)
- [Live instructor-led webinars](#)

Professional Certifications: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified DevOps Engineer - Professional

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

Recommended courses:

- [Advanced Developing on AWS](#) | Classroom
- [DevOps Engineering on AWS](#) | Classroom

[Explore the full DevOps learning page »](#)

FAQs:

- [Auto Scaling](#)
- [Elastic Load Balancing](#)
- [AWS Elastic Beanstalk](#)

[View all FAQs »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Whitepapers:

- [Running Containerized Microservices on AWS](#)
- [Microservices on AWS](#)
- [Infrastructure as Code](#)

[View all whitepapers »](#)

Exam Readiness training:

- [Find classroom training](#)
- [Take free digital training](#)
- [Live instructor-led webinars](#)

Specialty Certifications: Preparation Resources



Specialty Certifications: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified Advanced Networking - Specialty

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

[Buy the official exam study guide »](#)

Recommended courses:

[Explore the Advanced Networking learning page »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Exam Readiness training:

- [Find classroom training](#)
- [Take free digital training](#)
- [Live instructor-led webinars](#)

Specialty Certifications: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified Security - Specialty

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

Recommended courses:

- [AWS Security Fundamentals \(Second Edition\)](#) | Digital
- [Architecting on AWS](#) | Classroom
- [Security Engineering on AWS](#) | Digital

[Explore the full Security learning page »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Exam Readiness training:

- [Find classroom training](#)
- [Take free digital training](#)
- [Live instructor-led webinars](#)

Specialty Certifications: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified Machine Learning - Specialty

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

Recommended courses:

- [Practical Data Science with Amazon SageMaker](#) | Classroom
- [The Machine Learning Pipeline on AWS](#) | Classroom
- [Process Model: CRISP-DM on the AWS Stack](#) | Digital
- [The Elements of Data Science](#) | Digital
- [Deep Learning on AWS](#) | Classroom

[Explore the full Machine Learning learning page »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Exam Readiness training:

- [Find classroom training](#)
- [Take free digital training](#)
- [Live instructor-led webinars](#)

Specialty Certifications: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified Data Analytics - Specialty

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

Recommended courses:

- [Data Analytics Fundamentals](#) | Digital
- [Big Data on AWS](#) | Classroom

[Explore the full Data Analytics learning page »](#)

FAQs:

- [Amazon Athena](#)
- [Amazon EMR](#)
- [Amazon Redshift](#)
- [Amazon CloudSearch](#)
- [Amazon Kinesis Video Streams](#)
- [Amazon Kinesis Data Streams](#)
- [Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose](#)
- [Amazon Kinesis Data Analytics](#)
- [Amazon ElasticSearch Service](#)
- [Amazon Managed Service for Kafka \(MSK\)](#)
- [Amazon Redshift](#)
- [Amazon QuickSight](#)
- [AWS Data Exchange](#)
- [AWS Glue](#)
- [AWS Lake Formation](#)
- [AWS Data Pipeline](#)

[View all FAQs »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Whitepapers:

- [Amazon EMR Migration Guide: How to Move Apache Spark and Apache Hadoop from On-Premises to AWS](#)
- [Big Data Analytics Options on AWS](#)
- [Lambda Architecture for Batch and Stream Processing](#)
- [Streaming Data Solutions on AWS with Amazon Kinesis](#)
- [Teaching Big Data Skills with Amazon EMR](#)
- [Reference Architecture: SQL Based Data Processing in Amazon ECS](#)

[View all whitepapers »](#)

Exam Readiness training:

- [Take free digital training](#)
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Specialty Certifications: Preparation Resources

AWS Certified Database - Specialty

Exam guide:

- [Download PDF](#)

Recommended courses:

- [AWS Database Offerings](#) | Digital
- [Planning and Designing Databases on AWS](#) | Classroom

[Explore the full AWS Databases learning page »](#)

FAQs:

- [Amazon Aurora](#)
- [Amazon DocumentDB \(with MongoDB Compatibility\)](#)
- [Amazon DynamoDB](#)
- [Amazon ElastiCache](#)
- [Amazon Neptune](#)
- [Amazon Quantum Ledger Database \(QLDB\)](#)
- [Amazon Relational Database Service \(RDS\)](#)
- [Amazon Redshift](#)
- [Amazon Database Migration Service](#)

[View all FAQs »](#)

Sample questions:

- [Download PDF](#)

Whitepapers:

- [Configuring Amazon RDS as an Oracle PeopleSoft Database](#)
- [Determining the IOPS Needs for Oracle Database on AWS](#)
- [Comparing the Use of Amazon DynamoDB and Apache HBase for NoSQL](#)
- [Best Practices for Deploying Microsoft SQL Server on AWS](#)
- [Migrating Oracle Database Workloads to Oracle Linux on AWS](#)
- [Migrating Applications Running Relational Databases to AWS](#)
- [Modernizing the Amazon Database Infrastructure](#)
- [Strategies for Migrating Oracle Databases to AWS](#)
- [AWS Database Migration Service Best Practices](#)
- [Migration Strategy for Relational Databases](#)
- [Best Practices for Running Oracle Database on AWS](#)
- [Deploying Microsoft SQL Server on Amazon Web Services](#)
- [Getting Started with Amazon DocumentDB \(with MongoDB Compatibility\)](#)

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Exam details

Test delivery options

- **Testing center** – Take your exam at a public testing center located near you
- **Online proctored exam** – Take your exam in the comfort of your home or office with online proctors

Question styles

- **Multiple choice** – Select the single best answer from a list of possibilities
- **Multiple response** – Select multiple answers from a list of possibilities
- **Exam lab** – Has a scenario composed of a set of tasks to perform in the AWS Management Console or AWS CLI

Cost

- Varies depending on exam
- Ranges between 100–300 USD

Results and next steps

- Exam results are usually available within five business days
- Access results via your AWS Certification Account

Available languages

- **English, Japanese** – All exams
- **Korean, Simplified Chinese** – All exams
- **Indonesian (Bahasa)** – AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner exam only

If you do not pass:

- 14-day waiting period to retake an exam
- No limit on exam attempts

Recertification

Keep your skills and your resume fresh with recertification.

To maintain your AWS Certified status, we require you to periodically validate your knowledge and skills.

AWS Certifications are valid for three years. You must take the current version of the corresponding exam prior to the certification's expiration date to keep it active. We call this process "recertification."

Recertification helps strengthen the overall value of your AWS Certification by demonstrating that you are up to date on the latest knowledge, skills, and best practices. Recertification also ensures you have continued access to your AWS Certification benefits, such as your digital badge, exclusive access to AWS Certification events, a free practice exam, and more.

For Foundational- and Associate-level certifications, you can also satisfy the recertification requirement for a current certification by passing or renewing a higher-level role-based exam. If you're up for the challenge, earn the next certification in your path.

Upon earning an AWS Certification, you will receive a 50%-off exam fee voucher. You can use this voucher to lower the cost of your recertification, or you may use it for the purchase of any future certification exam you wish to take. Vouchers can be found in the benefits section of your [AWS Certification Account](#).

Becoming an SME

We're looking for a few good SMEs.

We are searching for qualified subject matter experts (SMEs) to participate in AWS Certification exam development events. SMEs participate in remote and in-person events that focus on the creation and review of exam content as part of our certification exam development process. At each event, SMEs receive training on relevant certification development tasks. SME activities at AWS Certification workshops may include:

- Establishing the topics an exam will cover
- Developing and evaluating exam questions
- Determining the exam's passing score

Steps to becoming an SME



Apply

[Complete the application form](#) as thoroughly and as accurately as possible. A team member may follow up for more information if needed.

Explore the steps [here](#).



Claim

Take the required [AWS Certification Subject Matter Expert Item Writing](#) course and pass the related assessment.



Accept

If you are selected for an exam development opportunity, a team member will email you an invitation through Lineup, our SME communication system, with event-specific details.



Attend

Participate and collaborate with your peers in an event for a chance to earn exclusive SME swag, vouchers to take AWS Certification exams, and more.

Conclusion: Reaching higher

Becoming AWS Certified isn't always easy. But the benefits are worth it—and AWS is dedicated to giving you everything you need to make certification a reality.

In today's world, technology is changing faster than ever. If you want to remain competitive, you'll need to continuously update your skills through training and practical experience. And when it comes to critical technical and cloud skills, your training isn't complete until you've validated your abilities through AWS Certification.

But pursuing AWS Certification is so much more than just training. It's a valuable experience in and of itself—one that can accelerate your career, bring recognition to you and your team, and help you build skills to unleash your inner creativity and spark innovation.

Earning an AWS Certification has the potential to impact both your professional and personal lives. Professionally, you can improve your job effectiveness while gaining confidence, credibility, and trust. Personally, you can gain a higher sense of satisfaction in your role while enjoying benefits like community networking, discounts, digital badges, and exclusive events and merchandise.

Go to aws.amazon.com/certification and embark on your AWS Certification journey now. It's time to reach higher than you ever thought possible.

[Learn more »](#)

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