

Comparison of AEM as a Cloud Service (AEMaaS) and AEM on-prem in AWS

1. Architecture & Deployment

AEMaaS:

- Fully managed by Adobe
- Adobe's cloud-native architecture
- Continuous integration & auto-scaling
- Limited to best practices defined by Adobe

AEM on-prem in AWS:

- Self-managed in AWS
- AWS EC2, S3, RDS, etc.
- Manual setup & scaling
- Fully customizable

2. Scalability & Performance

AEMaaS:

- Auto-scaling of Author & Publish instances
- Adobe manages performance tuning
- Built-in Adobe Edge Delivery Service
- Automatically scales to traffic spikes

AEM on-prem in AWS:

- Requires manual scaling (EC2 Auto Scaling can be used)
- Requires manual optimizations in AWS
- Requires AWS CloudFront, Varnish, or Dispatcher setup
- Must configure AWS services like ALB & Auto Scaling

3. Maintenance & Updates

AEMaaS:

- Auto-updated by Adobe
- Managed by Adobe
- Managed by Adobe

- Zero-downtime updates

AEM on-prem in AWS:

- Manual updates & migrations
- Needs manual security patching
- Needs AWS backup & recovery strategies
- Possible downtime during upgrades

4. Cost Considerations

AEMaaS:

- Subscription-based (SaaS)
- Included in Adobe subscription
- No need for infra management

AEM on-prem in AWS:

- License + AWS infrastructure costs
- Pay for EC2, RDS, S3, CloudFront, etc.
- Requires DevOps & AWS management teams

5. Development & Flexibility

AEMaaS:

- Git-based Cloud Manager (CI/CD)
- Minimal (Adobe manages infra)
- Limited to Adobe-supported methods

AEM on-prem in AWS:

- Manual CI/CD (Jenkins, GitHub Actions, etc.)
- High (AWS infra setup, monitoring, etc.)
- Full flexibility with AWS services

6. Security & Compliance

AEMaaS:

- Managed by Adobe
- Adobe handles SOC2, GDPR, HIPAA compliance
- Adobe Identity Management (IMS)

AEM on-prem in AWS:

- Requires AWS security best practices
- Compliance depends on AWS & in-house security
- Custom IAM setup in AWS

7. Use Cases

AEMaaS:

- Best for enterprises needing a fully managed service
- Limited by Adobe's guidelines
- Good for general compliance

AEM on-prem in AWS:

- Best for organizations needing full control over infra
- Fully customizable
- Better for strict data residency needs

Conclusion:

- Choose AEMaaS if you want a fully managed, auto-scaling, and always-updated AEM instance with minimal DevOps overhead.
- Choose AEM on AWS if you need complete control over infrastructure, custom integrations, and full flexibility over deployments and security.