



## Amazon Elastic Container Service

Overview

Features

Pricing

Getting Started

Resources

**FAQs**

### Q: What is Amazon Elastic Container Service?

Amazon Elastic Container Service (ECS) is a highly scalable, high performance container management service that supports Docker containers and allows you to easily run applications on a managed cluster of Amazon EC2 instances. Amazon ECS eliminates the need for you to install, operate, and scale your own cluster management infrastructure. With simple API calls, you can launch and stop container-enabled applications, query the complete state of your cluster, and access many familiar features like security groups, Elastic Load Balancing, EBS volumes and IAM roles. You can use Amazon ECS to schedule the placement of containers across your cluster based on your resource needs and availability requirements. You can also integrate your own scheduler or third-party schedulers to meet business or application specific requirements.

[Show less](#)

### Q: Why should I use Amazon ECS?

Amazon ECS makes it easy to use containers as a building block for your applications by eliminating the need for you to install, operate, and scale your own cluster management infrastructure. Amazon ECS lets you schedule long-running applications, services, and batch processes using Docker containers. Amazon ECS maintains application availability and allows you to scale your containers up or down to meet your application's capacity requirements. Amazon ECS is integrated with familiar features like Elastic Load Balancing, EBS volumes, VPC, and IAM. Simple



## Amazon Elastic Container Service

Overview

Features

Pricing

Getting Started

Resources

**FAQs**

### Q: How is Amazon ECS different from AWS Elastic Beanstalk?

AWS Elastic Beanstalk is an application management platform that helps customers easily deploy and scale web applications and services. It keeps the provisioning of building blocks (e.g., EC2, RDS, Elastic Load Balancing, Auto Scaling, CloudWatch), deployment of applications, and health monitoring abstracted from the user so they can just focus on writing code. You simply specify which container images are to be deployed, the CPU and memory requirements, the port mappings, and the container links.

Elastic Beanstalk will automatically handle all the details such as provisioning an Amazon ECS cluster, balancing load, auto-scaling, monitoring, and placing your containers across your cluster. Elastic Beanstalk is ideal if you want to leverage the benefits of containers but just want the simplicity of deploying applications from development to production by uploading a container image. You can work with Amazon ECS directly if you want more fine-grained control for custom application architectures.

[Show less](#)

### Q: How is Amazon ECS different from AWS Lambda?

Amazon ECS is a highly scalable Docker container management service that allows you to run and manage distributed applications that run in Docker containers. AWS Lambda is an event-driven task compute service that runs your code in response to “events” such as changes in data, website clicks, or messages from other AWS services without you having to manage any compute infrastructure.

[Show less](#)



## Amazon Elastic Container Service

Overview

Features

Pricing

Getting Started

Resources

**FAQs**

No. Docker is the only container platform supported by Amazon ECS at this time.

[Show less](#)

### **Q: I want to launch containers. Why do I have to launch Tasks?**

Docker encourages you to split your applications up into their individual components, and Elastic Container Service is optimized for this pattern. Tasks allow you to define a set of containers that you would like to be placed together (or part of the same placement decision), their properties, and how they may be linked. Tasks include all the information that Amazon ECS needs to make the placement decision. To launch a single container, your Task Definition should only include one container definition.

[Show less](#)

### **Q: Does Amazon ECS support applications and services?**

Yes. The Amazon ECS Service scheduler can manage long-running applications and services. The Service scheduler helps you maintain application availability and allows you to scale your containers up or down to meet your application's capacity requirements. The Service scheduler allows you to distribute traffic across your containers using Elastic Load Balancing. Amazon ECS will automatically register and deregister your containers from the associated load balancer.

The Service scheduler will also automatically recover containers that become unhealthy (fail ELB health checks) or stop running to ensure you have the desired number of healthy containers supporting your application.



## Amazon Elastic Container Service

Overview

Features

Pricing

Getting Started

Resources

**FAQs**

the task to the Application Load Balancer's target group using this port.

[Show less](#)

### Q: Does Amazon ECS support batch jobs?

Yes. You can use Amazon ECS *Run task* to run one or more tasks once. Run task starts the task on an instance that meets the task's requirements including CPU, memory and ports.

[Show less](#)

### Q: Can I use my own scheduler with Amazon ECS?

ECS provides Blox, a collection of open source projects for container management and orchestration. Blox makes it easy to consume events from Amazon ECS, store the cluster state locally and query the local data store through APIs. Blox also includes a daemon scheduler that can be used as a reference for how to use the cluster state server. See the [Blox GitHub page](#) to learn more.

[Show less](#)

### Q: Can I use my own AMI?

Yes. You can use any AMI that meets the Amazon ECS AMI specification. We recommend starting from the Amazon ECS-enabled Amazon Linux AMI. Partner AMIs compatible with Amazon ECS are



## Amazon Elastic Container Service

Overview

Features

Pricing

Getting Started

Resources

**FAQs**

### Q: How does AWS Fargate work with Amazon ECS?

With [Fargate](#), the concept of server provisioning, cluster management, and orchestration completely goes away. Amazon ECS uses containers provisioned by Fargate to automatically scale, load balance, and manage scheduling of your containers for availability, providing an easier way to build and operate containerized applications.

[Show less](#)

### Q: How should I choose between using AWS Fargate with Amazon ECS or just using ECS?

Amazon ECS supports Fargate technology and customers will be able to choose AWS Fargate to launch their containers without having to provision or manage EC2 instances. AWS Fargate is the easiest way to launch and run containers on AWS. Customers who require greater control of their EC2 instances to support compliance and governance requirements or broader customization options can choose to use ECS without Fargate to launch EC2 instances.

[Show less](#)

## Security and Compliance

### Q: How does Amazon ECS isolate containers belonging to different customers?



## Amazon Elastic Container Service

Overview

Features

Pricing

Getting Started

Resources

**FAQs**

- You can provision your EC2 resources as Dedicated Instances. Dedicated Instances are Amazon EC2 Instances that run on hardware dedicated to a single customer for additional isolation.

[Show less](#)

### **Q: Can I apply additional security configuration and isolation frameworks to my container instances?**

Yes. As an Amazon EC2 customer, you have root access to the operating system of your container instances, enabling you to take ownership of the operating system's security settings as well as load and configure additional software components for security capabilities such as monitoring, patch management, log management and host intrusion detection.

[Show less](#)

### **Q: Can I operate container instances with different security settings or segregate different tasks across different environments?**

Yes. You can configure your different container instances using the tooling of your choice. Amazon ECS allows you to control the placement of tasks in different container instances through the construct of clusters and targeted launches.

[Show less](#)



## Amazon Elastic Container Service

Overview

Features

Pricing

Getting Started

Resources

**FAQs**

[Show less](#)

### Q: With which compliance programs does Amazon ECS conform?

Amazon ECS meets the standards for PCI DSS Level 1, ISO 9001, ISO 27001, ISO 27017, ISO 27018, SOC 1, SOC 2, SOC 3, and HIPAA eligibility.

For more information, visit our [compliance pages](#).

[Show less](#)

### Q: Can I use Amazon ECS for Protected Health Information (PHI) and other HIPAA regulated workloads?

Yes. Amazon ECS is HIPAA-eligible. If you have an executed [Business Associate Addendum \(BAA\)](#) with AWS, you can use Amazon ECS to process encrypted Protected Health Information (PHI) using Docker containers deployed onto the [AWS Fargate](#) launch-type or Amazon EC2 compute instances.

For more information, please visit our page on [HIPAA compliance](#). If you plan to process, store, or transmit PHI and do not have an executed BAA from AWS, please [contact us](#) for more information.

[Show less](#)



## Amazon Elastic Container Service

Overview

Features

Pricing

Getting Started

Resources

**FAQs**

### Q: What does the Amazon ECS SLA guarantee?

Our Compute SLA guarantees a Monthly Uptime Percentage of at least 99.99% for Amazon ECS.

[Show less](#)

### Q: How do I know if I qualify for a SLA Service Credit?

You are eligible for a SLA credit for Amazon ECS under the Compute SLA if more than one Availability Zone in which you are running a task, within the same region has a Monthly Uptime Percentage of less than 99.99% during any monthly billing cycle.

For full details on all of the terms and conditions of the SLA, as well as details on how to submit a claim, please see the [Compute SLA details page](#).

[Show less](#)

## Get started with Amazon ECS

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## Amazon Elastic Container Service ▼

**Overview**

**Features**

**Pricing**

**Getting Started**

**Resources**

**FAQs**

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## Amazon Elastic Container Service

**Overview**

**Features**

**Pricing**

**Getting Started**

**Resources**

**FAQs**

[Digital Media](#)

[Government & Education](#)

[Health](#)

[Financial Services](#)

[Windows on AWS](#)

[Retail](#)

[Power & Utilities](#)

[Oil & Gas](#)

[Automotive](#)

[Blockchain](#)

[Manufacturing](#)

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[Developers](#)

[Java on AWS](#)

[JavaScript on AWS](#)

[Mobile on AWS](#)

[PHP on AWS](#)

[Python on AWS](#)

[Ruby on AWS](#)

[.NET on AWS](#)

[SDKs & Tools](#)

[AWS Marketplace](#)

[User Groups](#)

[Support Plans](#)

[Service Health Dashboard](#)

[Discussion Forums](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Documentation](#)



## Amazon Elastic Container Service

Overview

Features

Pricing

Getting Started

Resources

**FAQs**

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