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Q: What is AWS Service Catalog?

AWS Service Catalog allows IT administrators to create, manage, and distribute catalogs of approved products to end users, who can then access the products they need in a personalized portal. Administrators can control which users have access to each product to enforce compliance with organizational business policies. Administrators can also setup adopted roles so that End users only require IAM access to AWS Service Catalog in order to deploy approved resources. AWS Service Catalog allows your organization to benefit from increased agility and reduced costs because end users can find and launch only the products they need from a catalog that you control.

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Q: Who should use AWS Service Catalog?

AWS Service Catalog was developed for organizations, IT teams, and managed service providers (MSPs) that need to centralize policies. It allows IT administrators to vend and manage AWS resource and services. For large organizations, it provides a standard method of provisioning cloud resources for thousands of users. It is also suitable for small teams, where front-line development managers can provide and maintain a standard dev/test environment.

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Q: How do I get started with AWS Service Catalog?



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Q: What is a portfolio?

A portfolio is a collection of products, with configuration information that determines who can use those products and how they can use them. Administrators can create a customized portfolio for each type of user in an organization and selectively grant access to the appropriate portfolio. When an administrator adds a new version of a product to a portfolio, that version is automatically available to all current portfolio users. The same product can be included in multiple portfolios. Administrators also can share portfolios with other AWS accounts and allow the administrators of those accounts to extend the portfolios by applying additional constraints. By using portfolios, permissions, sharing, and constraints, administrators can ensure that users are launching products that are configured properly for the organization's needs.

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Q: What is a product?

A product is a service or application for end users. A catalog is a collection of products that the administrator creates, adds to portfolios, and provides updates for using AWS Service Catalog. A product can comprise one or more AWS resources, such as Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) instances, storage volumes, databases, monitoring configurations, and networking components. It can be a single compute instance running AWS Linux, a fully configured multitier web application running in its own environment, or anything in between.



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Yes. AWS Service Catalog is fully regionalized, so you can control the regions in which data is stored. Portfolios and products are a regional construct which will need to be created per region and are only visible/usable on the regions in which they were created.

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Q: In which Regions is AWS Service Catalog available?

For a full list of supported AWS Regions, see the [AWS Region Table](#).

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Q: Are APIs available? Can I use the CLI to access AWS Service Catalog?

Yes, APIs are available and enabled through the CLI. Actions from the management of Service Catalog artifacts through to provisioning and terminating are available. You can find more information in the [AWS Service Catalog documentation](#) or download the latest [AWS SDK or CLI](#).

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Q: Can I privately access AWS Service Catalog APIs from my Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) without using public IPs?



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Q: How do I create a portfolio?

You create portfolios in the AWS Service Catalog console. For each portfolio, you specify the name, a description, and owner.

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Q: How do I create a product?

To create a product, you first create an AWS CloudFormation template by using an existing AWS CloudFormation template or creating a custom template. Next, you use the AWS Service Catalog console to upload the template and create the product. When creating products, you can provide additional information for the product listing, including a detailed product description, version information, support information, and tags.

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Q: Why would I use tags with a portfolio?

Tags are useful for identifying and categorizing AWS resources that are provisioned by end users. You can also use tags in AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) policies to allow or deny access to IAM users, groups, and roles or to restrict operations that can be performed by IAM users, groups, and roles. When you add tags to your portfolio, the tags are applied to all instances of resources provisioned from products in the portfolio.



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Q: Can I share my portfolio with other AWS accounts?

Yes. You can share your portfolios with users in one or more other AWS accounts. When you share your portfolio with other AWS accounts, you retain ownership and control of the portfolio. Only you can make changes, such as adding new products or updating products. You, and only you, can also “unshare” your portfolio at any time. Any products, or stacks, currently in use will continue to run until the stack owner decides to terminate them.

To share your portfolio, you specify the account ID you want to share with, and then send the Amazon Resource Number (ARN) of the portfolio to that account. The owner of that account can create a link to this shared portfolio, and then assign IAM users from that account to the portfolio. To help end users with discovery, you can curate a directory of portfolios.

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Q: Can I customize the experience for end users when they use a product?

Yes. You can tailor a product’s user experience for specific end users. The AWS CloudFormation template contains input parameters that drive the user experience. You can define business-level input parameters (such as “How many users do you need to support?” or “Are you going to store PII data?”) or infrastructure-level input parameters (such as “Which Amazon EC2 instance type?”) depending on the user. When the AWS CloudFormation template is deployed, the user is asked



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Yes. You can subscribe to a product in the AWS Marketplace and use the copy to Service Catalog action to copy your Marketplace product directly to Service Catalog. Also you can use the Amazon EC2 AMI for the product to create an AWS Service Catalog product. To do that, you wrap the subscribed product in an AWS CloudFormation template. For more details on how to copy or package your AWS Marketplace products, please [click here](#).

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Q: How do I control access to portfolios and products?

To control access to portfolios and products, you assign IAM users, groups, or roles on the Portfolio details page. Providing access allows users to see the products that are available to them in the AWS Service Catalog console.

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Q: Can I provide a new version of a product?

Yes. You can create new product versions in the same way you create new products. When a new version of a product is published to a portfolio, end users can choose to launch the new version. They can also choose to update their running stacks to this new version. AWS Service Catalog does not automatically update products that are in use when an update becomes available.

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AWS Service Catalog applies constraints when provisioning a new product or updating a product that is already in use. It always applies the most restrictive constraint among all constraints applied to the portfolio and the product. For example, consider a scenario where the product allows all EC2 instances to be launched and the portfolio has two constraints: one that allows all non-GPU type EC2 instances to be launched and one that allows only t1.micro and m1.small EC2 instances to be launched. For this example, AWS Service Catalog applies the second, more restrictive constraint (t1.micro and m1.small).

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Q: Can I use a YAML language CloudFormation template in Service Catalog?

Yes, we currently support both JSON and YAML language templates.

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Q: Can I connect my ServiceNow instance to AWS Service Catalog?

Yes. The AWS Service Catalog Connector for ServiceNow allows ServiceNow administrators to view AWS Service Catalog portfolios and products, align them to organizational structures such as teams, grant access to users, and connect ServiceNow workflows to provisioning requests. ServiceNow administrators can configure the connector to work with existing or new AWS accounts and roles. ServiceNow users can browse and request provisioning of AWS Service Catalog products,



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You can see which products are available by logging in to the AWS Service Catalog console and searching the portal for products that meet your needs, or you can navigate to the full product list page. You can sort to find the product that you want.

For each product, you can view a Product details page that displays information about the product, including the version, whether a newer version of the product is available, a description, support information, and tags associated with the product. The Product details page might also indicate whether the product will be provisioned using your access permissions (Self) or an administrator-specified role (role-arn).

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Q: How do I deploy a product?

When you find a product that meets your requirements in the portal, choose Launch. You will be guided through a series of questions about how you plan to use the product. The questions might be about your business needs or your infrastructure requirements (such as “Which EC2 instance type?”). When you have provided the required information, you’ll see the product in the AWS Service Catalog console. While the product is being provisioned, you will see that it is “in progress.” After provisioning is complete, you will see “complete” and information, such as endpoints or Amazon Resource Names (ARNs), that you can use to access the product.

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Q: How do I monitor the health of my products?

You can see the products that you are using and their health state in the AWS Service Catalog console.

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AWS CLOUD PRACTITIONER ESSENTIALS





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