**Exam Tips Based on Student Feedback**

**What is Kinesis?**

* Amazon Kinesis is a fully managed service for real-time processing of streaming data at massive scale. You can configure hundreds of thousands of data producers to continuously put data into an Amazon Kinesis stream.
* For example, data from website clickstreams, application logs, and social media feeds. Within less than a second, the data will be available for your Amazon Kinesis applications to read and process from the stream.
* It is used to consume big data.
* Stream large amounts of social media, news feeds logs, etc. into the cloud.
* Think Kinesis.
* Process large amounts of data;
  + Redshift for business intelligence.
  + Elastic Map Reduce for big data processing.

**EC2 - EBS Backed vs Instance Store:**

* EBS backed volumes are persistent.
* Instance store backed volumes are not persistent (ephemeral)
* EBS Volumes can be detached and reattached to other EC2 instances.
* Instance store volumes cannot be detached and reattached to other instances – they exist only for the life of that instance.
* EBS volumes can be stopped; data will persist.
* Instance store volumes cannot be stopped – if you do this, the data will be wiped.
* EBS Backed = store data long term.
* Instance store = shouldn’t be used for long-term data storage.

**OpsWorks:**

* Orchestration Service that uses Chef.
* Chef consists of recipes to maintain a consistent state.
* Look for the term “chef” or “recipes” or “cook books” and think OpsWorks.

**Elastic Transcoder:**

* Elastic Transcoder in the cloud.
* Convert media files from their original source format into different formats that will play on smartphones, tablets, PC’s, etc.
* Provides transcoding presets for popular output formats, which means that you don’t need to guess about which settings work best on particular devices.
* Pay based on the minutes that you transcode and the resolution at which you transcode.

**SWF Actors:**

* Workflow starters – An application that can initiate (start) a workflow. Could be your e-commerce website when placing an order or a mobile app searching for bus times.
* Deciders – control the flow of activity tasks in a workflow execution. If something has finished in a workflow (or fails) a Decider decides what to do next.
* Activity workers – carry out the activity tasks.

**EC2 – Get Public IP Address:**

* Need to query the instances metadata:
  + Curl <http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/>
  + Wget <http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/>
  + Key thing to remember is that it’s an instance’s META DATA, not user data.