

# Study Official Documentation



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# Full Services Documentation

- <https://aws.amazon.com/documentation/>
- Or Google “aws documentation”
- Most authoritative resource (“the final word”)
- Use this to answer your own questions and investigations
- I referred to this frequently when answering questions on the forums
- AWS docs now community-editable via GitHub

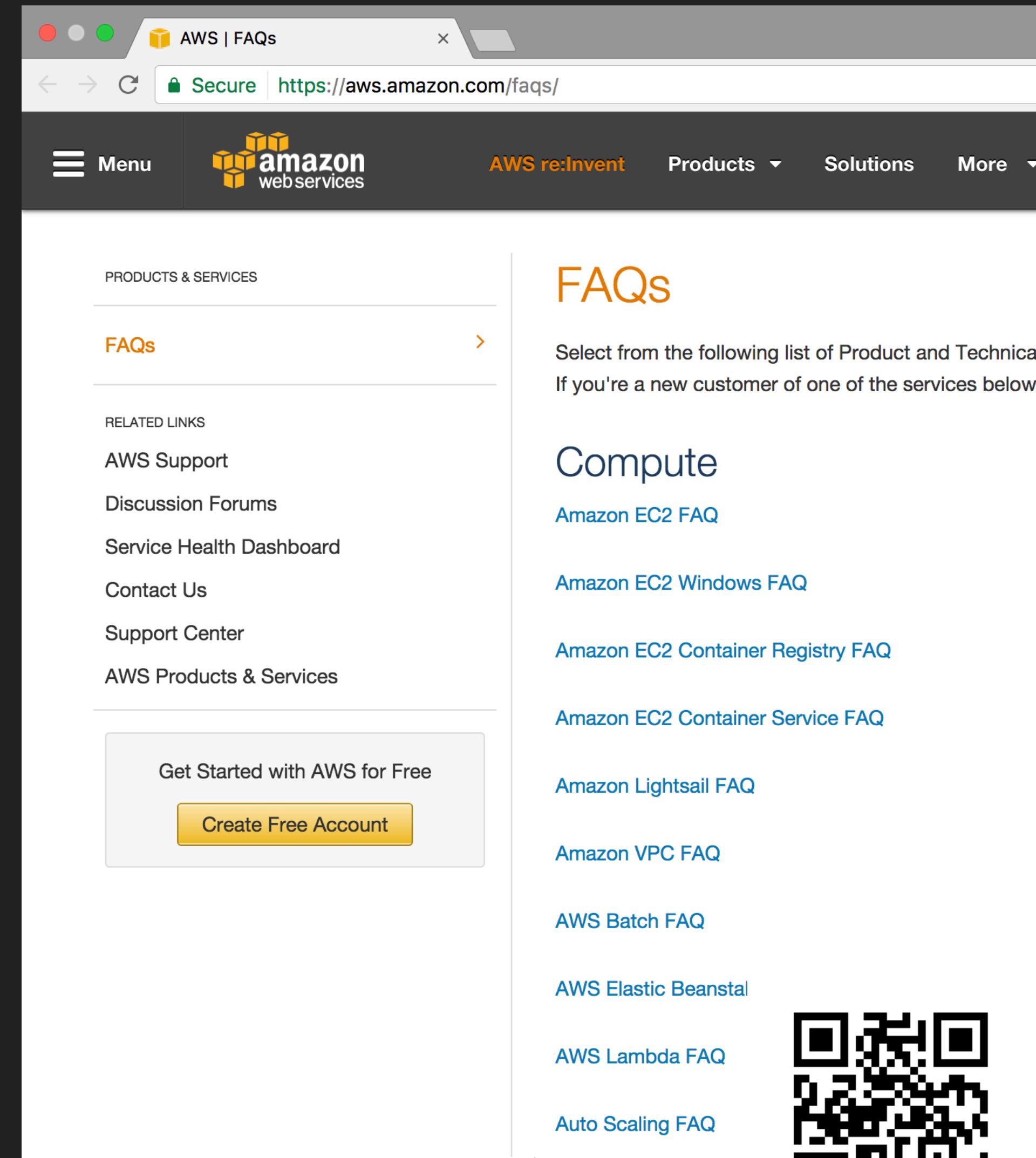
A screenshot of the AWS Step Functions Developer Guide. The page title is "Creating a Lambda State Machine". The top navigation bar includes links for "AWS Step Functions", "Developer Guide", and a search icon. The main content area shows the first few steps of the tutorial.

A screenshot of the AWS Documentation homepage. The header features the AWS logo and navigation links for "Menu", "AWS re:Invent", "Products", "Solutions", and "More". The main content area is titled "AWS Documentation" and includes a welcome message, a glossary link, and several service icons. At the bottom, there are sections for "Services" and "Getting Started", along with links to various AWS services like Compute, Developer Tools, and Internet.



# Service FAQs

- <https://aws.amazon.com/faqs/>
- Or Google “aws faqs”
- Includes a lot of exam-relevant info
- Value of reading straight through varies by service because some are very long
- Pay attention to exam focus services
  - E.g. DynamoDB before Dev exam
- I read only some all the way through
- I referred to these when answering questions on the forums



The screenshot shows the AWS FAQ page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for "Menu", "AWS re:Invent", "Products", "Solutions", and "More". The main content area has a sidebar on the left with sections for "PRODUCTS & SERVICES" (FAQs, RELATED LINKS: AWS Support, Discussion Forums, Service Health Dashboard, Contact Us, Support Center, AWS Products & Services) and a "Get Started with AWS for Free" button with a "Create Free Account" link. The main content area on the right is titled "FAQs" and lists various service FAQs: Compute (Amazon EC2 FAQ, Amazon EC2 Windows FAQ, Amazon EC2 Container Registry FAQ, Amazon EC2 Container Service FAQ, Amazon Lightsail FAQ), Amazon VPC FAQ, AWS Batch FAQ, AWS Elastic Beanstalk, AWS Lambda FAQ, and Auto Scaling FAQ.



# Whitepapers

- <https://aws.amazon.com/whitepapers/>
- Or Google “aws whitepapers”
- Don’t have to read them all!
  - But do read the overview / big picture ones
  - Add others for weaker areas
  - Best for people who prefer static, visual presentations
- I did read a few of these



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the AWS Whitepapers page. The URL in the address bar is <https://aws.amazon.com/whitepapers/>. The page header includes the AWS logo and navigation links for "Menu", "AWS re:Invent", "Products", "Solutions", and "More". The main content area has a blue header with the text "AWS Whitepaper". Below it, a paragraph explains that the page features a comprehensive list of technical AWS whitepapers, with some being authored by the AWS Team or independent analysts. A link to "click here" is provided for industry analysts. A "Select a Whitepaper Category" button is visible. The main content area lists several whitepapers:

- **Overview of Amazon Web Services** (December 2015) [PDF](#) | [Kindle](#)
  - Overview of all AWS services.
- **AWS Storage Services Overview** (December 2016) [PDF](#) | [Kindle](#)
  - Overview of storage solutions available from AWS.
- **AWS Well-Architected Framework** (November 2016) [PDF](#) | [Kindle](#)
  - Overview of framework to validate your architecture.
- **An Overview of the AWS Cloud Adoption Framework** (October 2016) [PDF](#) | [Kindle](#)
  - Framework to help customers be successful adopting AWS.



# Whitepapers



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- **Read early and study later**
  - “Architecting for the Cloud: AWS Best Practices”
  - “AWS Security Best Practices”
- **Read before exam**
  - “Overview of Amazon Web Services”
  - “Overview of Security Processes”
  - “AWS Storage Services Overview”

The screenshot shows the AWS Whitepapers page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Menu', 'Amazon web services', 'AWS re:Invent', 'Products', 'Solutions', and 'More'. Below the navigation is a large blue header with the text 'AWS Whitepaper' partially visible. A sub-header below the title reads: 'AWS Whitepapers features a comprehensive list of technical AWS whitepapers, covering a wide range of topics. Many of these whitepapers have been authored by the AWS Team, independent analysts, or the AWS Partner Network. You can also view whitepapers from industry analysts [click here](#). This page will be updated regularly with new and updated whitepapers.' To the right of this text is a 'Select a Whitepaper Category' dropdown menu. The main content area is titled 'Introduction to AWS' and lists several whitepapers:

- **Overview of Amazon Web Services** (December 2015) [PDF](#) | [Kindle](#)
  - Overview of all AWS services.
- **AWS Storage Services Overview** (December 2016) [PDF](#) | [Kindle](#)
  - Overview of storage solutions available from AWS.
- **AWS Well-Architected Framework** (November 2016) [PDF](#) | [Kindle](#)
  - Overview of framework to validate your architecture.
- **An Overview of the AWS Cloud Adoption Framework** (October 2016) [PDF](#) | [Kindle](#)
  - Framework to help customers be successful adopting AWS.



# AWS Event Videos



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- <https://www.youtube.com/user/AmazonWebServices/playlists>
- Or Google “aws youtube reinvent <keyword>”
- All re:Invent sessions are viewable for free!
- Focus on foundation videos; ignore new tech
- 400-level likely to be most useful; 200 is intro
- Careful to triage time on a topic
- Good for people who prefer auditory and visual presentations
- Consider changing playback speed
- I watched several before my Pro exams

The screenshot shows the AWS YouTube channel page. The URL in the address bar is <https://www.youtube.com/user/AmazonWebServices/playlists>. The page title is "Amazon Web Services - YouTube". The navigation bar includes "Secure", "Search", "Amazon Web Services", "Videos", and "Playlists" (which is underlined). Below the navigation, there's a "Created playlists" section with thumbnails for "AWS 2017 Videos" (8 VIDEOS) and "AWS re:Invent 2016 DynamoDB Sessions" (14 VIDEOS). There are also sections for "AWS Startups", "re:Invent 2016 Breakout Sessions | World Wide Public Sector" (6 VIDEOS), "re:Invent 2016 Breakout Sessions | Windows" (12 VIDEOS), "re:Invent 2016 Breakout Sessions | Storage" (24 VIDEOS), and "re:Invent 2016 Breakout Sessions | Security & Compliance" (26 VIDEOS). At the bottom, there's a link to "View 100+ more". A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the screenshot area.

# AWS Slideshare

- <http://www.slideshare.net/AmazonWebServices>
- Or Google “aws slides”
- Thousands of presentation slide decks
- Great match to session videos
  - Review slides after watching
  - Preview slides before watching

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the AWS Slideshare profile on SlideShare. The profile page includes the AWS logo, follower count (4708), and bio information about Amazon Web Services (AWS). It also features social media links for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and a QR code at the bottom right.

**Amazon Web Services**

4708 SlideShares  
14,182 Followers  
1 Clipboard

Seattle, United States  
Technology / Software / Internet  
[aws.amazon.com](http://aws.amazon.com)

Amazon Web Services (AWS) delivers a set of services that together form a reliable, scalable, and inexpensive computing platform “in the cloud”.

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)

**Followers (14,182)**

Luis Wang, Guy Farber, Amazon  
1.16.2017

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Solutions

# Architecture Center

- <https://aws.amazon.com/architecture/>
- Or Google “aws reference architectures”
- Describes best practice architectures for relatable scenarios
  - Example: “E-Commerce Website”
- Also many CloudFormation templates to copy
- I did look at some of these to get ideas and test my mental model

The screenshot shows the AWS Architecture Center page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for "Menu", "AWS re:Invent", "Products", "Solutions", and "More". The main content area has a sidebar on the left with sections for "ABOUT AWS" (Architecture Center, AWS Simple Icons, Webinar Program) and "RELATED LINKS" (AWS Well-Architected, AWS Economics Center, Security & Compliance, AWS Products & Services, AWS Solutions, Case Studies). Below the sidebar is a button for "Get Started with AWS for Free" and a "Create Free Account" button. To the right of the sidebar, the main content area features a heading "AWS Architecture Cent" and a paragraph about the center's purpose. Below that is a video player showing two men, one identified as "STEFAN SUMO LOGIC", speaking. The video has a play button icon and a timestamp of "6:04".

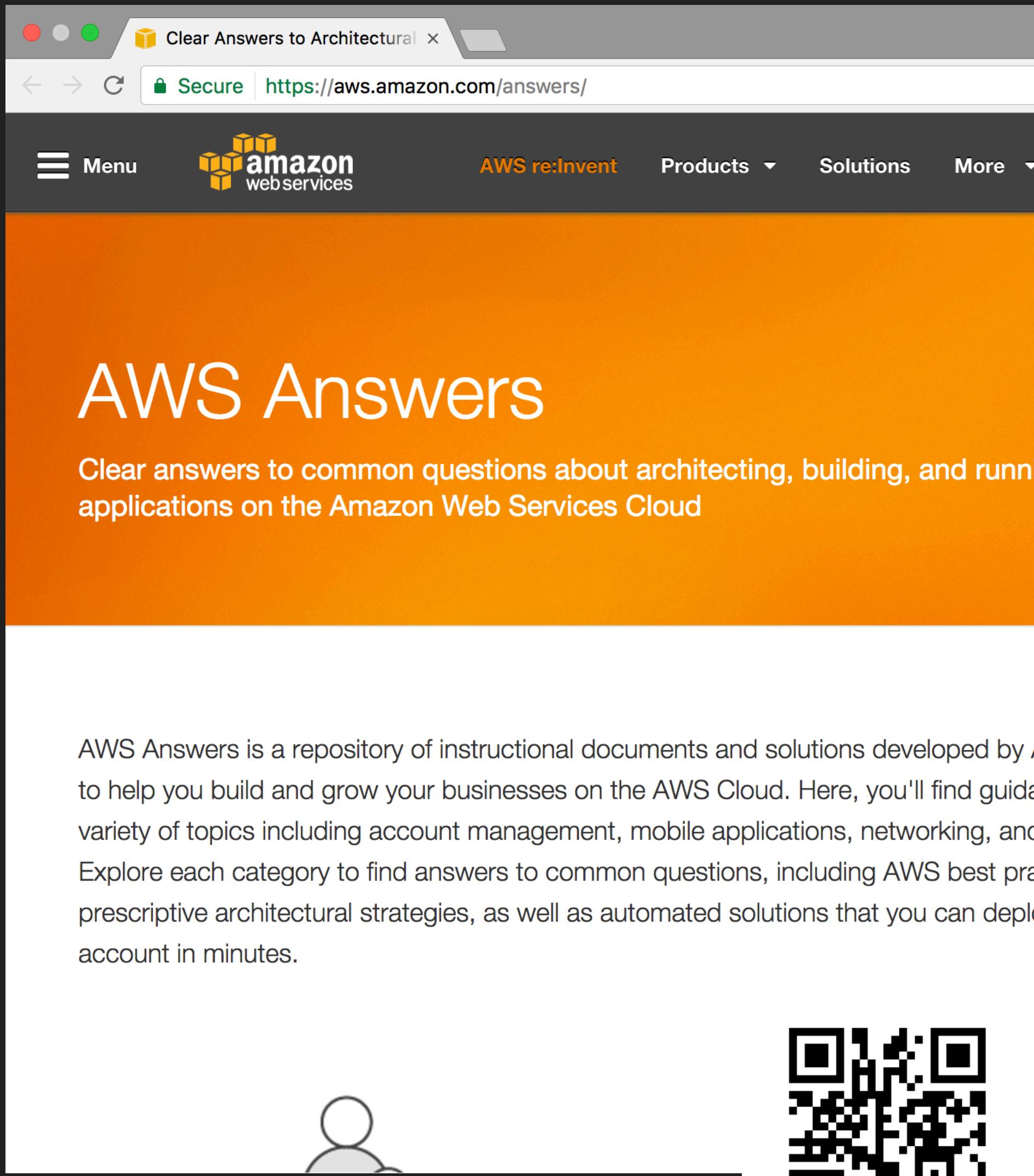
AWS Quick Start Reference

AWS Quick Start ref...  
practices for security  
the architecture and i...  
modify them for your



# AWS Answers

- <https://aws.amazon.com/answers/>
- Or Google “aws answers”
- “Clear answers to common questions about architecting, building, and running applications on the Amazon Web Services Cloud”
- “Instructional documents and solutions developed by AWS architects”



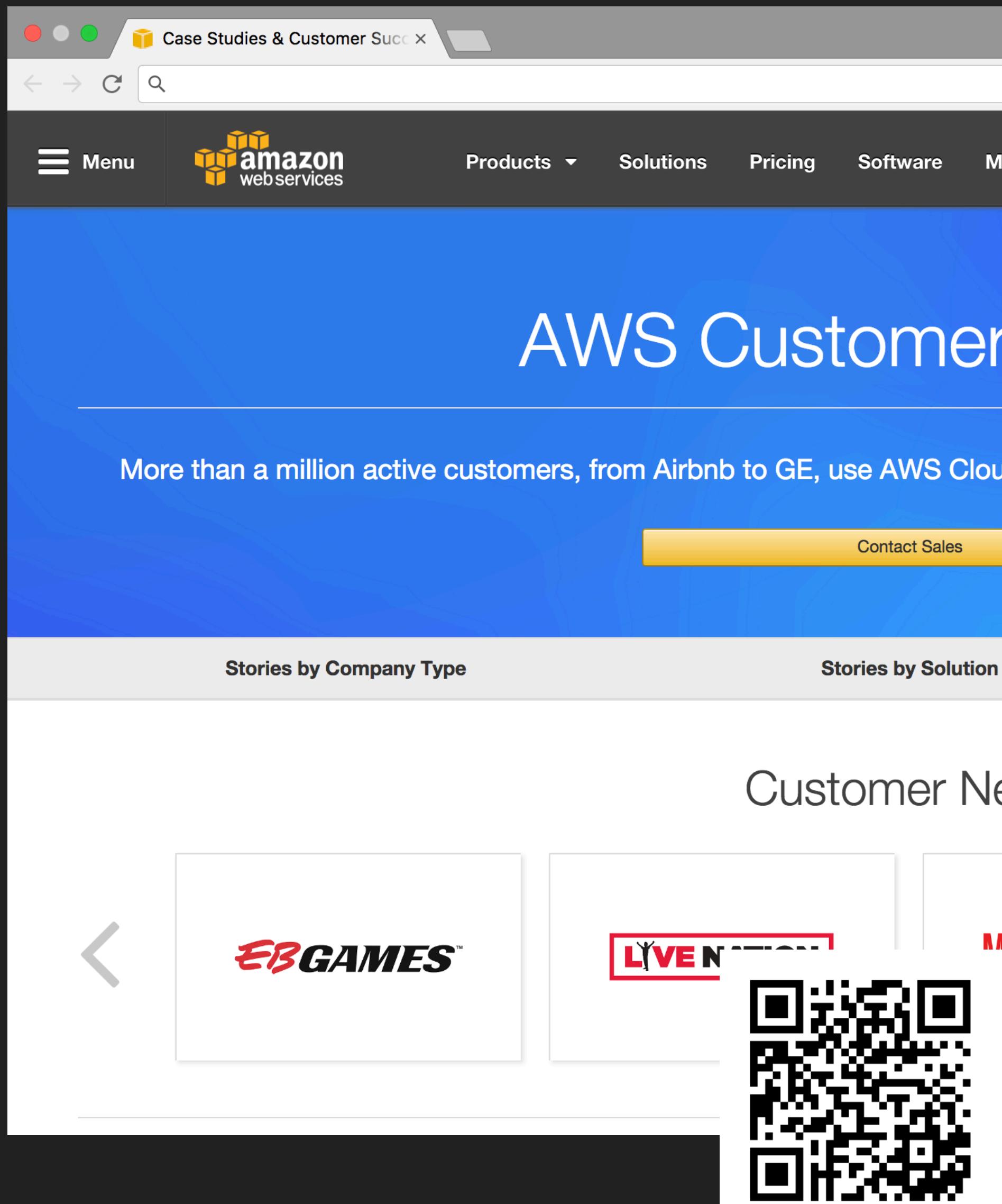
The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the AWS Answers homepage. The address bar shows a secure connection to <https://aws.amazon.com/answers/>. The page header includes the AWS logo and navigation links for Menu, AWS re:Invent, Products, Solutions, and More. The main content area has a yellow background with the title "AWS Answers" and a subtitle "Clear answers to common questions about architecting, building, and running applications on the Amazon Web Services Cloud". Below this, there is descriptive text about the service's purpose and a small icon of a person.

AWS Answers is a repository of instructional documents and solutions developed by AWS architects to help you build and grow your businesses on the AWS Cloud. Here, you'll find guidance and best practices across a variety of topics including account management, mobile applications, networking, and security. Explore each category to find answers to common questions, including AWS best practices, common troubleshooting scenarios, prescriptive architectural strategies, as well as automated solutions that you can deploy to your own account in minutes.



# Case Studies

- <https://aws.amazon.com/solutions/case-studies/>
- Or Google “aws case studies”
- Gives high-level overviews of what customers have achieved with AWS
- I didn’t refer to these, myself



# Cost Calculator



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- <https://calculator.s3.amazonaws.com/index.html>
- Or Google “aws calculator”
- More-easily estimate the cost of your schemes

The screenshot shows the AWS Simple Monthly Calculator interface. At the top, it displays the Amazon Web Services logo and the title "SIMPLE MONTHLY CALCULATOR". Below this, there's a message about the "FREE USAGE TIER: New Customers get free usage tier for first 12 months". A "Services" dropdown menu is open, showing options like Amazon EC2, Amazon S3, Amazon Route 53, Amazon CloudFront, Amazon RDS, Amazon DynamoDB, Amazon ElastiCache, Amazon CloudWatch, Amazon SES, Amazon SNS, Amazon Elastic Transcoder, Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon WorkDocs, AWS Directory Service, and Amazon Redshift. To the right of the services list, there's a table titled "Estimate of your Monthly Bill (\$ 0.00)". The table has columns for Description, Instances, Usage, and Type, with a "Add New Row" button. Below the services list, there are sections for "Compute: Amazon EC2 Instances" and "Compute: Amazon EC2 Dedicated Hosts", each with their own tables for adding new rows. Further down, there are sections for "Storage: Amazon EBS Volumes" and "Elastic IP", each with their own tables. At the bottom right, there's a QR code.

# Official AWS Certification Study Guides



A CLOUD GURU

- Solutions Architect Associate (2016-Oct)
- SysOps Administrator Associate (2017-Oct)
- Advanced Networking Specialty (2018-Mar)
- 400-600 pages; mixed reviews
- Reportedly includes...
  - Practice questions (good)
  - Flashcards (maybe good)
  - Inaccuracies (not so good)
- Missing many recent exam and AWS changes
- Some students really love these

The screenshot shows the product page for the 'AWS Certified Solutions Architect Official Study Guide' on Amazon.com. The page includes the book cover, author information (Joe Baron, Hisham Baz, Tim Bixler, Biff Gaut, Kevin E. Kelly, Sean Senior, John Stamper), a 'Look inside' button, and sections for Kindle (\$28.66), Paperback (\$39.00), and Other Versions. It also features three QR codes at the bottom.

**AWS Certified Solutions Architect Official Study Guide**  
by Joe Baron (Author), Hisham Baz (Author), Tim Bixler (Author), Biff Gaut (Author), Kevin E. Kelly (Author), Sean Senior (Author)  
★★★★★ 51 customer reviews  
[Look inside](#)

**Kindle** \$28.66  
**Paperback** \$39.00  
**Other Se** from \$29.26

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ISBN-10: 1119138558  
[Why is ISBN important?](#)

Have one to sell?





# Finding Stuff

- Links from lessons
- Links from forum posts
- Search for “aws <service> <keyword(s)>”
- Example: “aws s3 naming perf”



# Finding *Trustworthy* Stuff

- Beware incorrect / out-of-date opinions & info!
- Consider including “site:aws.amazon.com” search term
- Always double-check current service docs