Name	Type	What it represents	Key Features / Use Cases
Application Load Balancer (ALB)	Layer 7 (Application Layer)	Operates at Layer 7 of the OSI model (HTTP/HTTPS). It routes traffic based on the content of the request (e.g., URL path, host header, query parameters).	Ideal for microservices, containerized applications (ECS, EKS), and web applications. Supports path-based routing, host-based routing, authentication, WebSockets, HTTP/2.
Network Load Balancer (NLB)	Layer 4 (Transport Layer)	Operates at Layer 4 of the OSI model (TCP/UDP/TLS). It routes traffic based on IP addresses and ports. Designed to handle millions of requests per second with extremely low latency.	Ideal for high-performance, low-latency, high-availability applications such as gaming, IoT, and telecommunications. Supports static IP address, preserves client IP.
Gateway Load Balancer (GWLB)	Layer 3 (Network Layer)	Operates at Layer 3 of the OSI model (IP). It makes it easy to deploy, scale, and manage virtual network appliances like firewalls, intrusion detection/prevention systems (IDS/IPS), and other deep packet inspection devices.	Ideal for integrating and scaling network virtual appliances for security and inspection. Works with IP packets.
Classic Load Balancer (CLB)	Layer 4 & 7 (Legacy)	An older type of load balancer. It can operate at both Layer 4 and Layer 7, but lacks many of the advanced features of ALB and NLB. Supports both HTTP/HTTPS and TCP/SSL load balancing.	Legacy service. AWS recommends using ALB or NLB for new applications. May be used for older applications or those that don't require advanced features.