**The pillars of the AWS Well-Architected Framework**

| **Name** | **Description** |
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| **Operational Excellence** | The ability to support development and run workloads effectively, gain insight into their operations, and to continuously improve supporting processes and procedures to deliver business value.  The operational excellence pillar focuses on **running and monitoring systems**, and **continually improving processes and procedures**.  Key topics include automating changes, responding to events, and defining standards to manage daily operations. |
| **Security** | The security pillar describes how to take advantage of cloud technologies to **protect data, systems, and assets** in a way that can improve your security posture.   Key topics include confidentiality and integrity of data, managing user permissions, and establishing controls to detect security events |
| **Reliability** | The reliability pillar encompasses the **ability of a workload to perform its intended function** correctly and consistently when it’s expected to. This includes the ability to operate and test the workload through its total lifecycle.  Key topics include distributed system design, recovery planning, and adapting to changing requirements. |
| **Performance Efficiency** | The **ability to use computing resources efficiently** to meet system requirements, and to maintain that efficiency as demand changes and technologies evolve.  The performance efficiency pillar focuses on structured and streamlined allocation of IT and computing resources.  Key topics include selecting resource types and sizes optimized for workload requirements, monitoring performance, and maintaining efficiency as business needs evolve. |
| **Cost Optimization** | The ability to run systems to **deliver business value at the lowest price point**.  The cost optimization pillar focuses on **avoiding unnecessary costs**.  Key topics include understanding spending over time and controlling fund allocation, selecting resources of the right type and quantity, and scaling to meet business needs without overspending. |
| **Sustainability** | The ability to continually **improve sustainability impacts** by reducing energy consumption and increasing efficiency across all components of a workload by maximizing the benefits from the provisioned resources and minimizing the total resources required.  Key topics include a shared responsibility model for sustainability, understanding impact, and maximizing utilization to minimize required resources and reduce downstream impacts. |