

VPC (Virtual Private Cloud)

- VPC is a virtual data centre in the cloud
- VPC lets you provision a logically isolated section of the Amazon Web Services cloud where you can launch AWS resources in a virtual network that you define.

Important Points

- VPC consists of IGWs, Route Tables, NACL, Subnets and Security Groups
- 1 Subnet = 1 AZ
- Security Groups are Stateful
- NACLs are Stateless
- Your VPC automatically comes with a default network ACL and by default it allows all outbound and inbound traffic
- You can create a custom network ACL. By default, each custom network ACL denies all inbound and outbound traffic until you add rules.
- Each subnet in your VPC must be associated with a network ACL. If you don't explicitly associated a subnet with a network ACL, the subnet is automatically associated with the default network ACL

- You can associate a network ACL with multiple subnets; however, a subnet can be associated with only one network ACL at a time. When you associate a network ACL with a subnet, the previous association is removed
- A network ACL contains a numbered list of rules that is evaluated in order, starting with the lowest numbers rule
- A network ACL has separate inbound and outbound rules, and each rule can be either allow or deny traffic.

Security Group vs Network ACL

| Security Group | Network ACL |
|--|---|
| Operates at the instance level | Operates at the subnet level |
| Supports allow rules only | Supports allow rules and deny rules |
| Is stateful: Return traffic is automatically allowed, regardless of any rules | Is stateless: Return traffic must be explicitly allowed by rules |
| We evaluate all rules before deciding whether to allow traffic | We process rules in number order when deciding whether to allow traffic |
| Applies to an instance only if someone specifies the security group when launching the instance, or associates the security group with the instance later on | Automatically applies to all instances in the subnets it's associated with (therefore, you don't have to rely on users to specify the security group) |