

AWS-SysOps - AWS Certified SysOps Administrator Associate

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1. A user is running one instance for only 3 hours every day. The user wants to save some cost with the instance. Which of the below mentioned Reserved Instance categories is advised in this case?

- A. The user should not use RI; instead only go with the on-demand pricing
- B. The user should use the AWS high utilized RI
- C. The user should use the AWS medium utilized RI
- D. The user should use the AWS low utilized RI

Answer: A

Explanation:

The AWS Reserved Instance provides the user with an option to save some money by paying a one-time fixed amount and then save on the hourly rate. It is advisable that if the user is having 30% or more usage of an instance per day, he should go for a RI. If the user is going to use an EC2 instance for more than 2200-2500 hours per year, RI will help the user save some cost. Here, the instance is not going to run for less than 1500 hours. Thus, it is advisable that the user should use the on-demand pricing.

2. A user has created a VPC with CIDR 20.0.0.0/24. The user has created a public subnet with CIDR 20.0.0.0/25. The user is trying to create the private subnet with CIDR 20.0.0.128/25. Which of the below mentioned statements is true in this scenario?

- A. It will not allow the user to create the private subnet due to a CIDR overlap
- B. It will allow the user to create a private subnet with CIDR as 20.0.0.128/25
- C. This statement is wrong as AWS does not allow CIDR 20.0.0.0/25
- D. It will not allow the user to create a private subnet due to a wrong CIDR range

Answer: B

Explanation:

When the user creates a subnet in VPC, he specifies the CIDR block for the subnet. The CIDR block of a subnet can be the same as the CIDR block for the VPC (for a single subnet in the VPC., or a subset (to enable multiple subnets.. If the user creates more than one subnet in a VPC, the CIDR blocks of the subnets must not overlap. Thus, in this case the user has created a VPC with the CIDR block 20.0.0.0/24, which supports 256 IP addresses (20.0.0.0 to 20.0.0.255.. The user can break this CIDR block into two subnets, each supporting 128 IP addresses. One subnet uses the CIDR block 20.0.0.0/25 (for addresses 20.0.0.0 - 20.0.0.127. and the other uses the CIDR block 20.0.0.128/25 (for addresses 20.0.0.128 - 20.0.0.255..

3. A user has configured Elastic Load Balancing by enabling a Secure Socket Layer (SSL. negotiation

configuration known as a Security Policy. Which of the below mentioned options is not part of this secure policy while negotiating the SSL connection between the user and the client?

- A. SSL Protocols
- B. Client Order Preference
- C. SSL Ciphers
- D. Server Order Preference

Answer: B

Explanation:

Elastic Load Balancing uses a Secure Socket Layer (SSL) negotiation configuration which is known as a Security Policy. It is used to negotiate the SSL connections between a client and the load balancer. A security policy is a combination of SSL Protocols, SSL Ciphers, and the Server Order Preference option.

4. An organization has setup consolidated billing with 3 different AWS accounts. Which of the below mentioned advantages will organization receive in terms of the AWS pricing?

- A. The consolidated billing does not bring any cost advantage for the organization
- B. All AWS accounts will be charged for S3 storage by combining the total storage of each account
- C. The EC2 instances of each account will receive a total of 750*3 micro instance hours free
- D. The free usage tier for all the 3 accounts will be 3 years and not a single year

Answer: B

Explanation:

AWS consolidated billing enables the organization to consolidate payments for multiple Amazon Web Services (AWS) accounts within a single organization by making a single paying account. For billing purposes, AWS treats all the accounts on the consolidated bill as one account. Some services, such as Amazon EC2 and Amazon S3 have volume pricing tiers across certain usage dimensions that give the user lower prices when he uses the service more.

5. A user has setup connection draining with ELB to allow in-flight requests to continue while the instance is being deregistered through Auto Scaling. If the user has not specified the draining time, how long will ELB allow inflight requests traffic to continue?

- A. 600 seconds
- B. 3600 seconds

- C. 300 seconds
- D. 0 seconds

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Elastic Load Balancer connection draining feature causes the load balancer to stop sending new requests to the back-end instances when the instances are deregistering or become unhealthy, while ensuring that inflight requests continue to be served. The user can specify a maximum time (3600 seconds) for the load balancer to keep the connections alive before reporting the instance as deregistered. If the user does not specify the maximum timeout period, by default, the load balancer will close the connections to the deregistering instance after 300 seconds.

6. A user has created an S3 bucket which is not publicly accessible. The bucket is having thirty objects which are also private. If the user wants to make the objects public, how can he configure this with minimal efforts?

- A. The user should select all objects from the console and apply a single policy to mark them public
- B. The user can write a program which programmatically makes all objects public using S3 SDK
- C. Set the AWS bucket policy which marks all objects as public
- D. Make the bucket ACL as public so it will also mark all objects as public

Answer: C

Explanation:

A system admin can grant permission of the S3 objects or buckets to any user or make the objects public using the bucket policy and user policy. Both use the JSON-based access policy language. Generally if the user is defining the ACL on the bucket, the objects in the bucket do not inherit it and vice versa. The bucket policy can be defined at the bucket level which allows the objects as well as the bucket to be public with a single policy applied to that bucket.

7. A user is checking the CloudWatch metrics from the AWS console. The user notices that the CloudWatch data is coming in UTC. The user wants to convert the data to a local time zone. How can the user perform this?

- A. In the CloudWatch dashboard the user should set the local timezone so that CloudWatch shows the data only in the local time zone
- B. In the CloudWatch console select the local timezone under the Time Range tab to view the data as per the local timezone
- C. The CloudWatch data is always in UTC; the user has to manually convert the data

D. The user should have send the local timezone while uploading the data so that CloudWatch will show the data only in the local timezone

Answer: B

Explanation:

If the user is viewing the data inside the CloudWatch console, the console provides options to filter values either using the relative period, such as days/hours or using the Absolute tab where the user can provide data with a specific date and time. The console also provides the option to search using the local timezone under the time range caption in the console because the time range tab allows the user to change the time zone.

8. A user has created a queue named “myqueue” with SQS. There are four messages published to queue which are not received by the consumer yet. If the user tries to delete the queue, what will happen?

- A. A user can never delete a queue manually. AWS deletes it after 30 days of inactivity on queue
- B. It will delete the queue
- C. It will initiate the delete but wait for four days before deleting until all messages are deleted automatically.
- D. I t will ask user to delete the messages first

Answer: B

Explanation:

SQS allows the user to move data between distributed components of applications so they can perform different tasks without losing messages or requiring each component to be always available. The user can delete a queue at any time, whether it is empty or not. It is important to note that queues retain messages for a set period of time. By default, a queue retains messages for four days.

9. A customer is using AWS for Dev and Test. The customer wants to setup the Dev environment with

Cloudformation. Which of the below mentioned steps are not required while using Cloudformation?

- A. Create a stack
- B. Configure a service
- C. Create and upload the template
- D. Provide the parameters configured as part of the template

Answer: B

Explanation:

AWS CloudFormation is an application management tool which provides application modelling, deployment, configuration, management and related activities. AWS CloudFormation introduces two concepts: the template and the stack. The template is a JSON-format, text-based file that describes all the AWS resources required to deploy and run an application. The stack is a collection of AWS resources which are created and managed as a single unit when AWS CloudFormation instantiates a template. While creating a stack, the user uploads the template and provides the data for the parameters if required.

10. A user has configured ELB with three instances. The user wants to achieve High Availability as well as redundancy with ELB. Which of the below mentioned AWS services helps the user achieve this for ELB?

- A. Route 53
- B. AWS Mechanical Turk
- C. Auto Scaling
- D. AWS EMR

Answer: A

Explanation:

The user can provide high availability and redundancy for applications running behind Elastic Load Balancer by enabling the Amazon Route 53 Domain Name System (DNS) failover for the load balancers. Amazon Route 53 is a DNS service that provides reliable routing to the user's infrastructure.

11. A user has enabled the Multi AZ feature with the MS SQL RDS database server. Which of the below mentioned statements will help the user understand the Multi AZ feature better?

- A. In a Multi AZ, AWS runs two DBs in parallel and copies the data asynchronously to the replica copy
- B. In a Multi AZ, AWS runs two DBs in parallel and copies the data synchronously to the replica copy
- C. In a Multi AZ, AWS runs just one DB but copies the data synchronously to the standby replica
- D. AWS MS SQL does not support the Multi AZ feature

Answer: C

Explanation:

Amazon RDS provides high availability and failover support for DB instances using Multi-AZ deployments. In a Multi-AZ deployment, Amazon RDS automatically provisions and maintains a synchronous standby replica in a different Availability Zone. The primary DB instance is synchronously replicated across Availability Zones to a standby replica to provide data redundancy, eliminate I/O freezes, and minimize latency spikes during system backups. Running a DB instance with high availability can enhance availability during planned system

maintenance, and help protect your databases against DB instance failure and Availability Zone disruption. Note that the high-availability feature is not a scaling solution for read-only scenarios; you cannot use a standby replica to serve read traffic. To service read-only traffic, you should use a read replica.

12. An organization is setting up programmatic billing access for their AWS account. Which of

the below mentioned services is not required or enabled when the organization wants to use programmatic access?

- A. Programmatic access
- B. AWS bucket to hold the billing report
- C. AWS billing alerts
- D. Monthly Billing report

Answer: C

Explanation:

AWS provides an option to have programmatic access to billing. Programmatic Billing Access leverages the existing Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3) APIs. Thus, the user can build applications that reference his billing data from a CSV (comma-separated value) file stored in an Amazon S3 bucket. To enable programmatic access, the user has to first enable the monthly billing report. Then the user needs to provide an AWS bucket name where the billing CSV will be uploaded. The user should also enable the Programmatic access option.

13. A user has stored data on an encrypted EBS volume. The user wants to share the data with his friend's AWS account. How can user achieve this?

- A. Create an AMI from the volume and share the AMI
- B. Copy the data to an unencrypted volume and then share
- C. Take a snapshot and share the snapshot with a friend
- D. If both the accounts are using the same encryption key then the user can share the volume directly

Answer: B

Explanation:

AWS EBS supports encryption of the volume. It also supports creating volumes from existing snapshots

provided the snapshots are created from encrypted volumes. If the user is having data on an encrypted volume and is trying to share it with others, he has to copy the data from the encrypted volume to a new unencrypted volume. Only then can the user share it as an encrypted volume data. Otherwise the snapshot

cannot be shared.

14. A user is planning to setup notifications on the RDS DB for a snapshot. Which of the below mentioned event categories is not supported by RDS for this snapshot source type?

- A. Backup
- B. Creation
- C. Deletion
- D. Restoration

Answer: A

Explanation:

Amazon RDS uses the Amazon Simple Notification Service to provide a notification when an Amazon RDS event occurs. Event categories for a snapshot source type include: Creation, Deletion, and Restoration. The Backup is a part of DB instance source type.

15. A user has created a web application with Auto Scaling. The user is regularly monitoring the application and he observed that the traffic is highest on Thursday and Friday between 8 AM to 6 PM. What is the best solution to handle scaling in this case?

- A. Add a new instance manually by 8 AM Thursday and terminate the same by 6 PM Friday
- B. Schedule Auto Scaling to scale up by 8 AM Thursday and scale down after 6 PM on Friday
- C. Schedule a policy which may scale up every day at 8 AM and scales down by 6 PM
- D. Configure a batch process to add a instance by 8 AM and remove it by Friday 6 PM

Answer: B

Explanation:

Auto Scaling based on a schedule allows the user to scale the application in response to predictable load changes. In this case the load increases by Thursday and decreases by Friday. Thus, the user can setup the scaling activity based on the predictable traffic patterns of the web application using Auto Scaling scale by Schedule.

16. A user has launched an EC2 instance. The user is planning to setup the CloudWatch alarm. Which of the below mentioned actions is not supported by the CloudWatch alarm?

- A. Notify the Auto Scaling launch config to scale up
- B. Send an SMS using SNS
- C. Notify the Auto Scaling group to scale down
- D. Stop the EC2 instance

Answer: B

Explanation:

A user can create a CloudWatch alarm that takes various actions when the alarm changes state. An alarm watches a single metric over the time period that the user has specified, and performs one or more actions based on the value of the metric relative to a given threshold over a number of time periods. The actions could be sending a notification to an Amazon Simple Notification Service topic (SMS, Email, and HTTP endpoint), notifying the Auto Scaling policy or changing the state of the instance to Stop/Terminate.

17. A root account owner has created an S3 bucket testmycloud. The account owner wants to allow everyone to upload the objects as well as enforce that the person who uploaded the object should manage the permission of those objects. Which is the easiest way to achieve this?

- A. The root account owner should create a bucket policy which allows the IAM users to upload the object
- B. The root account owner should create the bucket policy which allows the other account owners to set the object policy of that bucket
- C. The root account should use ACL with the bucket to allow everyone to upload the object
- D. The root account should create the IAM users and provide them the permission to upload content to the bucket

Answer: C

Explanation:

Each AWS S3 bucket and object has an ACL (Access Control List) associated with it. An ACL is a list of grants identifying the grantee and the permission granted. The user can use ACLs to grant basic read/write permissions to other AWS accounts. ACLs use an Amazon S3-specific XML schema. The user cannot grant permissions to other users in his account. ACLs are suitable for specific scenarios. For example, if a bucket owner allows other AWS accounts to upload objects, permissions to these objects can only be managed using the object ACL by the AWS account that owns the object.

18. A user has configured ELB with two EBS backed EC2 instances. The user is trying to understand the DNS access and IP support for ELB. Which of the below mentioned statements may not help the user understand the IP mechanism supported by ELB?

- A. The client can connect over IPV4 or IPV6 using Dualstack

- B. ELB DNS supports both IPV4 and IPV6
- C. Communication between the load balancer and back-end instances is always through IPV4
- D. The ELB supports either IPV4 or IPV6 but not both

Answer: D

Explanation:

Elastic Load Balancing supports both Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) and Internet Protocol version 4 (IPv4). Clients can connect to the user's load balancer using either IPv4 or IPv6 (in EC2-Classic). However, communication between the load balancer and its back-end instances uses only IPv4. The user can use the Dualstack-prefixed DNS name to enable IPv6 support for communications between the client and the load balancers. Thus, the clients are able to access the load balancer using either IPv4 or IPv6 as their individual connectivity needs dictate.

19. A user has setup a CloudWatch alarm on an EC2 action when the CPU utilization is above 75%. The alarm sends a notification to SNS on the alarm state. If the user wants to simulate the alarm action how can he achieve this?

- A. Run activities on the CPU such that its utilization reaches above 75%
- B. From the AWS console change the state to 'Alarm'
- C. The user can set the alarm state to 'Alarm' using CLI
- D. Run the SNS action manually

Answer: C

Explanation:

Amazon CloudWatch alarms watch a single metric over a time period that the user specifies and performs one or more actions based on the value of the metric relative to a given threshold over a number of time periods. The user can test an alarm by setting it to any state using the SetAlarmState API (mon-set-alarm-state command). This temporary state change lasts only until the next alarm comparison occurs.

20. An organization has added 3 of his AWS accounts to consolidated billing. One of the AWS accounts has purchased a Reserved Instance (RI) of a small instance size in the US-East-1a zone. All other AWS accounts are running instances of a small size in the same zone. What will happen in this case for the RI pricing?

- A. Only the account that has purchased the RI will get the advantage of RI pricing
- B. One instance of a small size and running in the US-East-1a zone of each AWS account will get the benefit of RI pricing
- C. Any single instance from all the three accounts can get the benefit of AWS RI pricing if they are running in the same zone and are of the same size

D. If there are more than one instances of a small size running across multiple accounts in the same zone no one will get the benefit of RI

Answer: C

Explanation:

AWS consolidated billing enables the organization to consolidate payments for multiple Amazon Web Services (AWS) accounts within a single organization by making a single paying account. For billing purposes, consolidated billing treats all the accounts on the consolidated bill as one account. This means that all accounts on a consolidated bill can receive the hourly cost benefit of the Amazon EC2 Reserved Instances purchased by any other account. In this case only one Reserved Instance has been purchased by one account. Thus, only a single instance from any of the accounts will get the advantage of RI. AWS will implement the blended rate for each instance if more than one instance is running concurrently.

21. A user has enabled termination protection on an EC2 instance. The user has also set Instance initiated

shutdown behaviour to terminate. When the user shuts down the instance from the OS, what will happen?

A. The OS will shutdown but the instance will not be terminated due to protection

B. It will terminate the instance

C. It will not allow the user to shutdown the instance from the OS D. It is not possible to set the termination protection when an Instance initiated shutdown is set to Terminate

Answer: B

Explanation:

It is always possible that someone can terminate an EC2 instance using the Amazon EC2 console, command line interface or API by mistake. If the admin wants to prevent the instance from being accidentally terminated, he can enable termination protection for that instance. The user can also setup shutdown behaviour for an EBS backed instance to guide the instance on what should be done when he initiates shutdown from the OS using Instance initiated shutdown behaviour. If the instance initiated behaviour is set to terminate and the user shuts off the OS even though termination protection is enabled, it will still terminate the instance.

22. An organization is measuring the latency of an application every minute and storing data inside a file in the JSON format. The organization wants to send all latency data to AWS CloudWatch. How can the organization achieve this?

A. The user has to parse the file before uploading data to CloudWatch

B. It is not possible to upload the custom data to CloudWatch

C. The user can supply the file as an input to the CloudWatch command

D. The user can use the CloudWatch Import command to import data from the file to CloudWatch

Answer: C

Explanation:

AWS CloudWatch supports the custom metrics. The user can always capture the custom data and upload the data to CloudWatch using CLI or APIs. The user has to always include the namespace as part of the request. If the user wants to upload the custom data from a Amazon AWS-SysOps : Practice Test file, he can supply file name along with the parameter -- metric-data to command put-metric-data.

23. A user has created an Auto Scaling group using CLI. The user wants to enable CloudWatch detailed monitoring for that group. How can the user configure this?

- A. When the user sets an alarm on the Auto Scaling group, it automatically enables detail monitoring
- B. By default detailed monitoring is enabled for Auto Scaling
- C. Auto Scaling does not support detailed monitoring
- D. Enable detail monitoring from the AWS console

Answer: B

Explanation:

CloudWatch is used to monitor AWS as well as the custom services. It provides either basic or detailed monitoring for the supported AWS products. In basic monitoring, a service sends data points to CloudWatch every five minutes, while in detailed monitoring a service sends data points to CloudWatch every minute. To enable detailed instance monitoring for a new Auto Scaling group, the user does not need to take any extra steps. When the user creates an Auto Scaling launch config as the first step for creating an Auto Scaling group, each launch configuration contains a flag named InstanceMonitoring.Enabled. The default value of this flag is true. Thus, the user does not need to set this flag if he wants detailed monitoring.

24. A user has configured ELB with two EBS backed instances. The user has stopped the instances for 1 week to save costs. The user restarts the instances after 1 week. Which of the below mentioned statements will help the user to understand the ELB and instance registration better?

- A. There is no way to register the stopped instances with ELB
- B. The user cannot stop the instances if they are registered with ELB
- C. If the instances have the same Elastic IP assigned after reboot they will be registered with ELB
- D. The instances will automatically get registered with ELB

Answer: C

Explanation:

Elastic Load Balancing registers the user's load balancer with his EC2 instance using the associated IP address. When the instances are stopped and started back they will have a different IP address. Thus, they will not get registered with ELB unless the user manually registers them. If the instances are assigned the same Elastic IP after reboot they will automatically get registered with ELB.

25. A user has granted read/write permission of his S3 bucket using ACL. Which of the below mentioned options is a valid ID to grant permission to other AWS accounts (grantee. using ACL?)

- A. IAM User ID
- B. S3 Secure ID
- C. Access ID
- D. Canonical user ID

Answer: D

Explanation:

An S3 bucket ACL grantee can be an AWS account or one of the predefined Amazon S3 groups. The user can grant permission to an AWS account by the email address of that account or by the canonical user ID. If the user provides an email in the grant request, Amazon S3 finds the canonical user ID for that account and adds it to the ACL. The resulting ACL will always contain the canonical user ID for the AWS account, and not the AWS account's email address.

26. A user is trying to create a PIOPS EBS volume with 8 GB size and 200 IOPS. Will AWS create the volume?

- A. Yes, since the ratio between EBS and IOPS is less than 30
- B. No, since the PIOPS and EBS size ratio is less than 30
- C. No, the EBS size is less than 10 GB
- D. Yes, since PIOPS is higher than 100

Answer: C

Explanation:

A provisioned IOPS EBS volume can range in size from 10 GB to 1 TB and the user can provision up to 4000 IOPS per volume. The ratio of IOPS provisioned to the volume size requested should be a maximum of 30; for example, a volume with 3000 IOPS must be at least 100 GB.

27. A sys admin is using server side encryption with AWS S3. Which of the below mentioned statements helps the user understand the S3 encryption functionality?

- A. The server side encryption with the user supplied key works when versioning is enabled
- B. The user can use the AWS console, SDK and APIs to encrypt or decrypt the content for server side encryption with the user supplied key
- C. The user must send an AES-128 encrypted key
- D. The user can upload his own encryption key to the S3 console

Answer: A

Explanation:

AWS S3 supports client side or server side encryption to encrypt all data at rest. The server side encryption can either have the S3 supplied AES-256 encryption key or the user can send the key along with each API call to supply his own encryption key. The encryption with the user supplied key (SSE-C. does not work with the AWS console. The S3 does not store the keys and the user has to send a key with each request. The SSE-C works when the user has enabled versioning.

28. A user has created a VPC with CIDR 20.0.0.0/16. The user has created one subnet with CIDR 20.0.0.0/16 by mistake. The user is trying to create another subnet of CIDR 20.0.0.1/24. How can the user create the second subnet?

- A. There is no need to update the subnet as VPC automatically adjusts the CIDR of the first subnet based on the second subnet's CIDR
- B. The user can modify the first subnet CIDR from the console
- C. It is not possible to create a second subnet as one subnet with the same CIDR as the VPC has been created
- D. The user can modify the first subnet CIDR with AWS CLI

Answer: D

Explanation:

A Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) is a virtual network dedicated to the user's AWS account. A user can create a subnet with VPC and launch instances inside the subnet. The user can create a subnet with the same size of VPC. However, he cannot create any other subnet since the CIDR of the second subnet will conflict with the first subnet. The user cannot modify the CIDR of a subnet once it is created. Thus, in this case if required, the user has to delete the subnet and create new subnets.

29. A user has launched a Windows based EC2 instance. However, the instance has some issues and the user wants to check the log. When the user checks the Instance console output from the AWS console, what

will it display?

- A. All the event logs since instance boot
- B. The last 10 system event log error
- C. The Windows instance does not support the console output
- D. The last three system events' log errors

Answer: D

Explanation:

The AWS EC2 console provides a useful tool called Console output for problem diagnosis. It is useful to find out any kernel issues, termination reasons or service configuration issues. For a Windows instance it lists the last three system event log errors. For Linux it displays the exact console output.

30. A user has created a VPC with CIDR 20.0.0.0/16 using the wizard. The user has created public and VPN only subnets along with hardware VPN access to connect to the user's data centre. The user has not yet launched any instance as well as modified or deleted any setup. He wants to delete this VPC from the console. Will the console allow the user to delete the VPC?

- A. Yes, the console will delete all the setups and also delete the virtual private gateway
- B. No, the console will ask the user to manually detach the virtual private gateway first and then allow deleting the VPC
- C. Yes, the console will delete all the setups and detach the virtual private gateway
- D. No, since the NAT instance is running

Answer: C

Explanation:

The user can create subnets as per the requirement within a VPC. If the user wants to connect VPC from his own data centre, he can setup a public and VPN only subnet which uses hardware VPN access to connect with his data centre. When the user has configured this setup with Wizard, it will create a virtual private gateway to route all traffic of the VPN subnet. If the virtual private gateway is attached with VPC and the user deletes the VPC from the console it will first detach the gateway automatically and only then delete the VPC.

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