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AWS®

Certified Cloud Practitioner Study Guide

Second Edition



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Certified Cloud Practitioner Study Guide

Foundational (CLF-C02) Exam Second Edition



Ben Piper
David Clinton



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Introduction

Studying for any certification always involves deciding how much of your studying should be practical hands-on experience and how much should be simply memorizing facts and figures. Between the two of us, we've taken more than 20 different IT certification exams, so we know how important it is to use your study time wisely. We've designed this book to help you discover your strengths and weaknesses on the AWS platform so that you can focus your efforts properly. Whether you've been working with AWS for a long time or you're relatively new to it, we encourage you to carefully read this book from cover to cover.

Passing the AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner exam won't require you to know how to provision and launch complex, multitier cloud deployments. But you will need to be broadly familiar with the workings of a wide range of AWS services. Everything you'll have to know should be available in this book, but you may sometimes find yourself curious about finer details. Feel free to take advantage of Amazon's official documentation, which is generally available in HTML, PDF, and Kindle formats.

Even though the AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner Study Guide: CLF-C02 Exam skews a bit more to the theoretical side than other AWS certifications, there's still a great deal of value in working through each chapter's hands-on exercises. The exercises here aren't meant to turn you into a solutions architect who knows how things work but to help you understand why they're so important.

Bear in mind that some of the exercises and figures rely on the AWS Management Console, which is in constant flux. As such, screenshots and step-by-step details of exercises may change. If what you see in the Management Console doesn't match the way it's described in this book, use it as an opportunity to dig into the AWS online documentation or experiment on your own.

Each chapter includes review questions to thoroughly test your understanding of the services you've seen. We've designed the questions to help you realistically gauge your understanding and readiness for the exam. Although the difficulty level will vary between questions, you can be sure there's no "fluff." Once you complete a chapter's review questions, refer to Appendix A for the correct answers and detailed explanations.

The book also comes with a self-assessment exam at the beginning with 25 questions, two practice exams with a total of 100 questions, and flashcards to help you learn and retain key facts needed to prepare for the exam.

Changes to AWS services happen frequently, so you can expect that some information in this book might fall behind over time. To help you keep up, we've created a place where we'll announce relevant updates and where you can also let us know of issues you encounter. Check in regularly to this resource at https://awsccp.github.io.

What Does This Book Cover?

This book covers topics you need to know to prepare for the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Certified Cloud Practitioner exam:

Chapter 1: The Cloud This chapter describes the core features of a cloud environment that distinguish it from traditional data center operations. It discusses how cloud platforms provide greater availability, scalability, and elasticity and what role technologies such as virtualization and automated, metered billing play.

Chapter 2: Understanding Your AWS Account In this chapter, you'll learn about AWS billing structures, planning and monitoring your deployment costs, and how you can use the Free Tier for a full year to try nearly any AWS service in real-world operations for little or no cost.

Chapter 3: Getting Support on AWS This chapter is focused on where to find support with a problem that needs solving or when you're trying to choose between complex options. You'll learn about what's available under the free Basic Support plan as opposed to the Developer, Business, and Enterprise levels.

Chapter 4: Understanding the AWS Environment In this chapter, we discuss how to enhance security and availability, and how Amazon organizes its resources in geographic regions and availability zones. You'll also learn about Amazon's global network of edge locations built to provide superior network performance for your applications.

Chapter 5: Securing Your AWS Resources The focus of this chapter is security. You'll learn how you control access to your AWS-based resources through identities, authentication, and roles. You'll also learn about data encryption and how AWS can simplify your regulatory compliance.

Chapter 6: Working with Your AWS Resources How will your team access AWS resources so they can effectively manage them? This chapter will introduce you to the AWS Management Console, the AWS Command-Line Interface, software development kits, and various infrastructure monitoring tools.

Chapter 7: The Core Compute Services Providing an alternative to traditional physical compute services is a cornerstone of cloud computing. This chapter discusses Amazon's Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2), Lightsail, and Elastic Beanstalk services. We also take a quick look at various serverless workload models.

Chapter 8: The Core Storage Services This chapter explores Amazon's object storage services including Simple Storage Service (S3) and Glacier for inexpensive and highly accessible storage, and Storage Gateway and Snowball for integration with your local resources.

Chapter 9: The Core Database Services Here you will learn about how data is managed at scale on AWS, exploring the SQL-compatible Relational Database Service (RDS), the NoSQL DynamoDB platform, and Redshift for data warehousing.

Chapter 10: The Core Networking Services AWS lets you control network access to your resources through virtual private clouds (VPCs), virtual private networks (VPNs), DNS routing through the Route 53 service, and network caching via CloudFront. This chapter focuses on all of them.

Chapter 11: Automating Your AWS Workloads This chapter covers the AWS services designed to permit automated deployments and close DevOps integration connecting your development processes with your Amazon-based application environments.

Chapter 12: Common Use-Case Scenarios This chapter illustrates some real-world, cloud-optimized deployment architectures to give you an idea of the kinds of application environments you can build on AWS.

Appendix A: Answers to Review Questions This appendix provides the answers and brief explanations for the questions at the end of each chapter.

Appendix B: Additional Services To make sure you're at least familiar with the full scope of AWS infrastructure, this appendix provides brief introductions to many of the services not mentioned directly in the chapters of this book.

Interactive Online Learning Environment and Test Bank

The authors have worked hard to create some really great tools to help you with your certification process. The interactive online learning environment that accompanies this AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner Study Guide includes a test bank with study tools to help you prepare for the certification exam—and increase your chances of passing it the first time! The test bank includes the following:

Sample Tests All the questions in this book are included online, including the assessment test at the end of this introduction and the review questions printed after each chapter. In addition, there are two practice exams with 50 questions each. Use these questions to assess how you're likely to perform on the real exam. The online test bank runs on multiple devices.

Flashcards The online text banks include 100 flashcards specifically written to hit you hard, so don't get discouraged if you don't ace your way through them at first. They're there to ensure that you're really ready for the exam. And no worries—armed with the review questions, practice exams, and flashcards, you'll be more than prepared when exam day comes. Questions are provided in digital flashcard format (a question followed by a single correct answer). You can use the flashcards to reinforce your learning and provide last-minute test prep before the exam.

We plan to update any errors or changes to the AWS platform that aren't currently reflected in these questions as we discover them here: https://awsccp.github.io. Should you notice any problems before we do, please be in touch.

Glossary A glossary of key terms from this book is available as a fully searchable PDF.



Go to www.wiley.com/go/sybextestprep to register and gain access to this interactive online learning environment and test bank with study tools.

Like all exams, the AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner exam certification from AWS is updated periodically and may eventually be retired or replaced. At some point after AWS is no longer offering this exam, the old editions of our books and online tools will be retired. If you have purchased this book after the exam was retired, or are attempting to register in the Sybex online learning environment after the exam was retired, please know that we make no guarantees that this exam's online Sybex tools will be available once the exam is no longer available.

Exam Objectives

According to the AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner Exam Guide, the AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner (CLF-C02) examination is "intended for individuals who have the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively demonstrate an overall understanding of the AWS Cloud, independent of specific technical roles addressed by other AWS certifications" (for example, solution architects or SysOps administrators).

To be successful, you'll be expected to be able to describe the following:

- The AWS Cloud and its basic global infrastructure
- AWS Cloud architectural principles
- The AWS Cloud value proposition
- Key AWS services along with their common use cases (for example, highly available web applications or data analysis)
- The basic security and compliance practices relating to the AWS platform and the shared security model
- AWS billing, account management, and pricing models
- Documentation and technical assistance resources
- Basic characteristics for deploying and operating in the AWS Cloud

AWS recommends that "candidates have at least six months of experience with the AWS Cloud in any role, including technical, managerial, sales, purchasing, or financial." They should also possess general knowledge of information technology and application servers and their uses in the AWS Cloud.

Objective Map

The exam covers four domains, with each domain broken down into objectives. The following table lists each domain and its weighting in the exam, along with the chapters in the book where that domain's objectives are covered.

	Percentage of Exam	Chapters
Domain 1: Design Secure Architectures	30.00%	2,3,4,6,7,12
1.1: Design secure access to AWS resources.		
1.2: Design secure workloads and applications.		
1.3: Determine appropriate data security controls.		
Domain 2: Design Resilient Architecture	26.00%	2,4,5,8,9,10,11
2.1: Design scalable and loosely coupled architectures.		
2.2: Design highly available and/or fault-tolerant architectures.		
Domain 3: Design High-Performing Architectures	24.00%	2,3,4,5,8,9,11
3.1: Determine high-performing and/or scalable storage solutions.		
3.2: Design high-performing and elastic compute solutions.		
3.3: Determine high-performing database solutions.		
3.4: Determine high-performing and/or scalable network		
3.5: Determine high-performing data ingestion and transformation solutions.		
Domain 4: Design Cost-Optimized Architectures	20.00%	2,3,4,5,8,9,13
4.1: Design cost-optimized storage solutions.		
4.2: Design cost-optimized compute solutions.		
4.3: Design cost-optimized database solutions.		

4.4: Design cost-optimized network architectures.

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