SAA-C01 Q&As

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QUESTION 1

A newspaper organization has an on-premises application, which allows the public to search its back catalogue and retrieve individual newspaper pages via a website written in Java They have scanned the old newspapers into JPEGs (approx 17TB) and used Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to populate a commercial search product. The hosting platform and software are now end of life and the organization wants to migrate Its archive to AWS and produce a cost efficient architecture and still be designed for availability and durability. Which is the most appropriate?

A. Use S3 with reduced redundancy lo store and serve the scanned files, install the commercial search application on EC2 Instances and configure with auto-scaling and an Elastic Load Balancer.

B. Model the environment using CloudFormation use an EC2 instance running Apache webserver and an open source search application, stripe multiple standard EBS volumes together to store the JPEGs and search index.

C. Use S3 with standard redundancy to store and serve the scanned files, use CloudSearch for query processing, and use Elastic Beanstalk to host the website across multiple availability zones.

D. Use a single-AZ RDS MySQL instance lo store the search index 33d the JPEG images use an EC2 instance to serve the website and translate user queries into SQL.

E. Use a CloudFront download distribution to serve the JPEGs to the end users and Install the current commercial search product, along with a Java Container Tor the website on EC2 instances and use Route53 with DNS round-robin.

Correct Answer: C

There is no such thing as "Most appropriate" without knowing all your goals. I find your scenarios very fuzzy, since you can obviously mix-n-match between them. I think you should decide by layers instead:

Load Balancer Layer: ELB or just DNS, or roll-your-own. (Using DNS+EIPs is slightly cheaper, but less reliable than ELB.)

Storage Layer for 17TB of Images: This is the perfect use case for S3. Off-load all the web requests directly to the relevant JPEGs in S3. Your EC2 boxes just generate links to them. If your app already serves it\\'s own images (not links to

images), you might start with EFS. But more than likely, you can just setup a web server to re-write or re-direct all JPEG links to S3 pretty easily. If you use S3, don\\'t serve directly from the bucket - Serve via a CNAME in domain you control.

That way, you can switch in CloudFront easily.

EBS will be way more expensive, and you\\'ll need 2x the drives if you need 2 boxes. Yuck. Consider a smaller storage format. For example, JPEG200 or WebP or other tools might make for smaller images. There is also the DejaVu format

from a while back.

Cache Layer: Adding CloudFront in front of S3 will help people on the other side of the world -- well, possibly. Typical archives follow a power law. The long tail of requests means that most JPEGs won\\'t be requested enough to be in the

cache. So you are only speeding up the most popular objects. You can always wait, and switch in CF later after you know your costs better. (In some cases, it can actually lower costs.) You can also put CloudFront in front of your app, since

your archive search results should be fairly static. This will also allow you to run with a smaller instance type, since CF will handle much of the load if you do it right.

Database Layer: A few options:

Use whatever your current server does for now, and replace with something else down the road. Don\\'t under-estimate this approach, sometimes it\\'s better to start now and optimize later.

Use RDS to run MySQL/Postgres

I\\'m not as familiar with ElasticSearch / Cloudsearch, but obviously Cloudsearch will be less maintenance+setup.

App Layer:

When creating the app layer from scratch, consider CloudFormation and/or OpsWorks. It\\'s extra stuff to learn, but helps down the road. Java+Tomcat is right up the alley of ElasticBeanstalk. (Basically EC2 + Autoscale + ELB). Preventing

Abuse: When you put something in a public S3 bucket, people will hot-link it from their web pages. If you want to prevent that, your app on the EC2 box can generate signed links to S3 that expire in a few hours. Now everyone will be forced to

go thru the app, and the app can apply rate limiting, etc.

Saving money: If you don\\'t mind having downtime:

run everything in one AZ (both DBs and EC2s). You can always add servers and AZs down the road, as long as it\\'s architected to be stateless. In fact, you should use multiple regions if you want it to be really robust. use Reduced

Redundancy in S3 to save a few hundred bucks per month (Someone will have to "go fix it" every time it breaks, including having an off-line copy to repair S3.) Buy Reserved Instances on your EC2 boxes to make them cheaper. (Start with

the RI market and buy a partially used one to get started.) It\\'s just a coupon saying "if you run this type of box in this AZ, you will save on the per-hour costs." You can get 1/2 to 1/3 off easily.

Rewrite the application to use less memory and CPU - that way you can run on fewer/smaller boxes.

(May or may not be worth the investment.)

If your app will be used very infrequently, you will save a lot of money by using Lambda. I\\'d be worried that it would be quite slow if you tried to run a Java application on it though. We\\'re missing some information like load, latency expectations

from search, indexing speed, size of the search index, etc. But with what you\\'ve given us, I would go with S3 as the storage for the files (S3 rocks. It is really, really awesome). If you\\'re stuck with the commercial search application, then on

EC2 instances with autoscaling and an ELB. If you are allowed an alternative search engine, Elasticsearch is probably your best bet. I\\'d run it on EC2 instead of the AWS Elasticsearch service, as IMHO it\\'s not ready yet. Don\\'t autoscale

Elasticsearch automatically though, it\\'ll cause all sorts of issues. I have zero experience with CloudSearch so ic an\\'t comment on that. Regardless of which option, I\\'d use CloudFormation for all of it.

QUESTION 2

An organization regularly backs up their application data. The application backups are required to be stored on Amazon

S3 for a certain amount of time. The backups should be accessed instantly in the event of a disaster recovery. Which of the following Amazon S3 storage classes would be the MOST cost-effective option to meet the needs of this scenario?

A. Glacier Storage Class

B. Standard Storage Class

C. Standard - Infrequent Access (IA)

D. Reduced Redundancy Class (RRS)

Correct Answer: C

Reference: https://aws.amazon.com/s3/features/

QUESTION 3

A Solutions Architect is designing the storage layer for a production relational database. The database will run on Amazon EC2. The database is accessed by an application that performs intensive reads and writes, so the database requires the LOWEST random I/O latency.

Which data storage method fulfills the above requirements?

A. Store data in a filesystem backed by Amazon Elastic File System (EFS).

B. Store data in Amazon S3 and use a third-party solution to expose Amazon S3 as a filesystem to the database server.

C. Store data in Amazon Dynamo DB and emulate relational database semantics.

D. Stripe data across multiple Amazon EBS volumes using RAID 0.

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 4

A customer is running a critical payroll system in a production environment in one data center and a disaster recovery (DR) environment in another. The application includes load-balanced web servers and failover for the MySQL database. The customer\\'s DR process is manual and error-phone. For this reason, management has asked IT to migrate the application to AWS and make it highly available so that IT no longer has to manually fail over the environment.

How should a Solutions Architect migrate the system to AWS?

A. Migrate the production and DR environments to different Availability Zones within the same region. Let AWS manage failover between the environments.

B. Migrate the production and DR environments to different regions. Let AWS manage failover between the environments.

C. Migrate the production environment to a single Availability Zone, and set up instance recovery for Amazon EC2. Decommission the DR environment because it is no longer needed.

D. Migrate the production environment to span multiple Availability Zones, using Elastic Load Balancing and Multi-AZ

Amazon RDS. Decommission the DR environment because it is no longer needed.

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 5

A company has two different types of reporting needs on their 200-GB data warehouse:

Data scientists run a small number of concurrent ad hoc SQL queries that can take several minutes each to run.

Display screens throughout the company run many fast SQL queries to populate dashboards.

Which design would meet these requirements with the LEAST cost?

A. Replicate relevant data between Amazon Redshift and Amazon DynamoDB. Data scientists use Redshift. Dashboards use DynamoDB.

B. Configure auto-replication between Amazon Redshift and Amazon RDS. Data scientists use Redshift. Dashboards use RDS.

C. Use Amazon Redshift for both requirements, with separate query queues configured in workload management.

D. Use Amazon Redshift for Data Scientists. Run automated dashboard queries against Redshift and store the results in Amazon ElastiCache. Dashboards query ElastiCache.

Correct Answer: D

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