

AWS Services Cheat Sheet

Quick reference for 30+ AWS services

Category	Service	What It Does	When to Use
Compute	EC2	Virtual servers	Full control, custom apps
Compute	Lambda	Serverless functions	Event-driven, short tasks (<15 min)
Compute	ECS Fargate	Serverless containers	Docker without managing servers
Compute	EKS	Managed Kubernetes	K8s workloads, microservices
Storage	S3	Object storage	Files, backups, static sites
Storage	EBS	Block storage	EC2 disk, databases
Storage	EFS	Shared filesystem	Multiple EC2s share files
Storage	Glacier	Archive storage	Rarely accessed, cheapest
Database	RDS	Managed SQL	MySQL, PostgreSQL production
Database	DynamoDB	NoSQL key-value	High scale, low latency
Database	ElastiCache	In-memory cache	Redis, sessions, caching
Database	Aurora	Cloud-native SQL	High perf MySQL/Postgres
Network	VPC	Virtual network	Always - isolate your infra
Network	Route 53	DNS	Domain routing, health checks
Network	CloudFront	CDN	Static assets, global delivery
Network	ALB	L7 load balancer	HTTP/HTTPS distribution
Network	NLB	L4 load balancer	TCP/UDP, ultra-low latency
Security	IAM	Access control	Always - users, roles, policies
Security	KMS	Encryption keys	Encrypt EBS, S3, RDS

Security	Secrets Mgr	Store secrets	DB passwords, API keys
Security	WAF	Web firewall	Block SQLi, XSS, bots
CI/CD	ECR	Container registry	Store Docker images
Monitoring	CloudWatch	Metrics + logs	Default AWS monitoring
Monitoring	CloudTrail	API audit logs	Security, compliance
Monitoring	X-Ray	Distributed tracing	Microservice debugging
Messaging	SQS	Message queue	Decouple services, async
Messaging	SNS	Pub/sub	Fan-out, alerts, email/SMS
Messaging	EventBridge	Event bus	Event-driven architecture