

SAA-C03 Service Map

A fast service-to-purpose map for the AWS services that appear most often in architecture questions.

BEST FOR	FOCUS	USE WITH
Matching requirements to services quickly	Compute, storage, data, network, security, ops	Cheat Sheet + Quick Summary

1. Compute

EC2 — VM-based compute with full OS control.

Auto Scaling — Adds or removes EC2 capacity from policies or metrics.

Lambda — Serverless functions for event-driven code.

ECS / Fargate — Container orchestration, with Fargate removing server management.

Elastic Beanstalk — Managed deployment platform for web apps.

2. Storage

S3 — Durable object storage for data lakes, backups, static assets, and logs.

EBS — Block storage attached to EC2 instances.

EFS — Elastic shared file system for Linux workloads.

FSx — Managed file systems such as Windows File Server or Lustre.

S3 Glacier classes — Low-cost archival storage with slower retrieval.

3. Database and analytics

RDS / Aurora — Managed relational databases; Aurora is cloud-optimized.

DynamoDB — Serverless NoSQL key-value/document database.

Redshift — Data warehouse for analytics.

ElastiCache — Redis or Memcached for caching and latency reduction.

Kinesis — Real-time streaming ingestion and processing.

4. Networking and delivery

VPC — Private network boundary for AWS resources.

Subnet — Segment inside a VPC, public or private by routing.

ALB / NLB — Layer 7 vs high-performance Layer 4 load balancing.

Route 53 — DNS, routing policies, and health checks.

CloudFront — Global CDN for caching and edge delivery.

5. Identity and security

IAM — Permissions for users, roles, groups, and policies.

IAM Identity Center — Central workforce access across accounts.

KMS — Managed encryption keys for many AWS services.

Secrets Manager — Store and rotate application secrets.

WAF / Shield — Application-layer filtering and DDoS protection.

6. Monitoring and operations

CloudWatch — Metrics, logs, alarms, and dashboards.

CloudTrail — API activity and governance auditing.

AWS Config — Configuration history and compliance rules.

Systems Manager — Fleet operations, patching, parameters, sessions.

Trusted Advisor — Best-practice checks for cost, security, and limits.