

MYCLOUDSKILL · CLOUD 101

What is the Cloud?

From a laptop under your desk to
computers all around the world



Presented by Ganesh · TAF Techies community

Let's get to know – Who, What and Why

Ganesh Natarajan – your instructor for this AWS training program

- About me: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ganys/>
- About non-profit org: <https://www.tamilaramfoundation.org/>
- About Tech training: <https://mycloudskill.com/>
 - **Vision:** Make learning fun, practical and easier to remember (short and sweet)
 - **How:** P.O.W.E.R Framework , cohort learning, leaderboard and certification
 - **Covers:** Cloud, AI, Python and more – Necessary skills to survive in the market.
- **About Cloud essentials**
 - We will have 4 live sessions, 60 mins each.
 - 3 lessons – complete exercises
 - Give final exam and get certification
 - Lead the leaderboard – It's for motivation, not for competition.
 - Surprise Gift for 1st 20 leaderboard candidates – we will reveal in final session.

YOU ALREADY USE IT

Used any of these today? Then you've used the cloud



Email



Photo backup



Streaming



Messaging

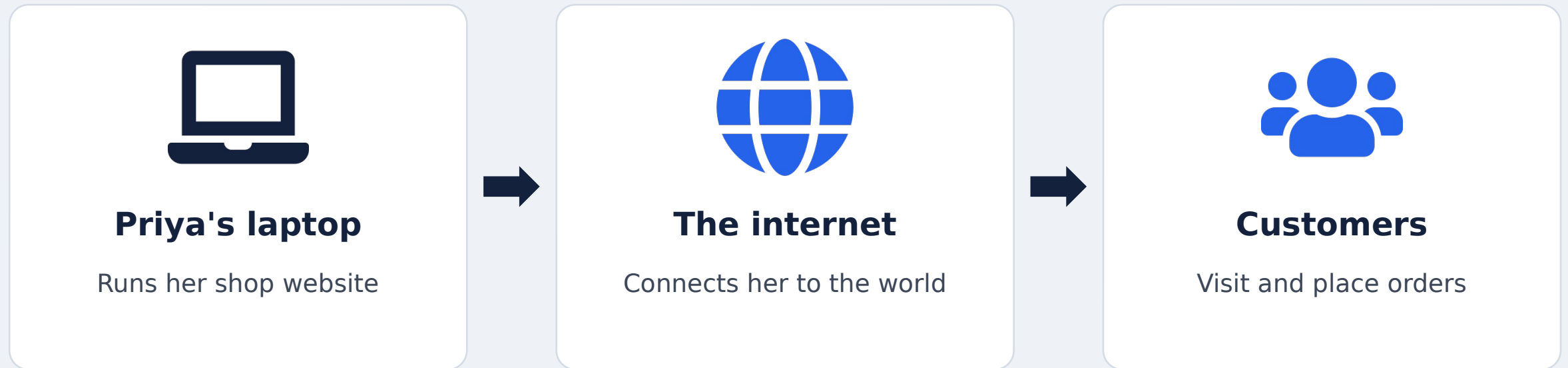


Shopping

Your photos aren't really "on your phone." They live in a building full of computers, somewhere far away. **How did we get here?**

STORY 1 · THE LAPTOP

Priya starts a small business and runs her website from her own laptop



Cheap, simple, and all hers. It works... on a good day.

Then real life happens



Her Diwali sale goes viral

Thousands of visitors at once. The laptop freezes. Customers leave.

NO SCALABILITY



Hackers come knocking

Her laptop sits on the open internet with no guard at the door.

NO SECURITY

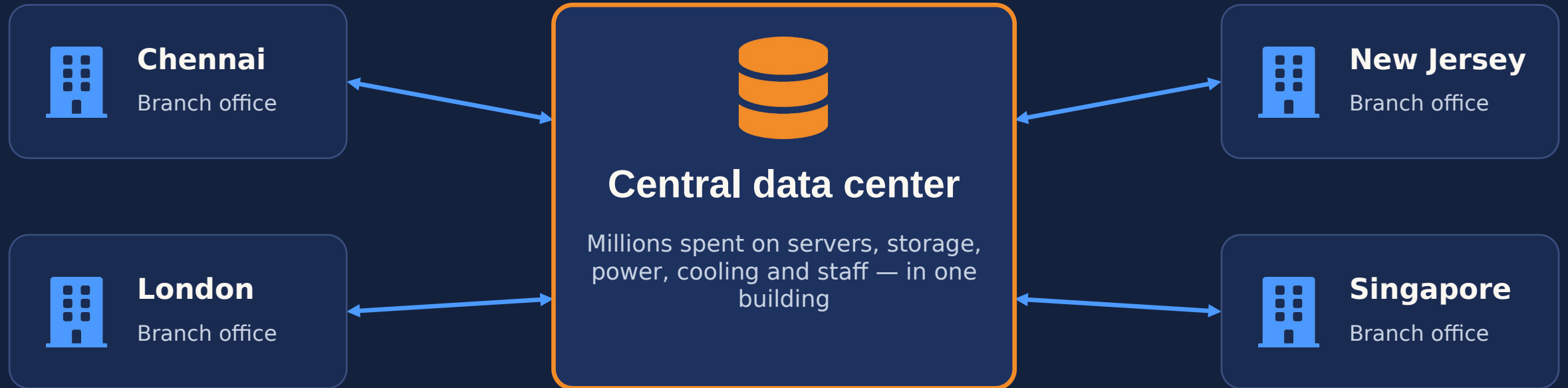


The laptop is stolen

Website, orders, customer list — all gone. There was no backup.

NO RESILIENCY

Big companies did the same thing — just much bigger



As they grew, the same three headaches came back

Problem	Priya's laptop	The company data center
Scalability	Freezes when traffic spikes	Buy servers months ahead, then pay for them sitting idle
Security	No guard at the door	Constant attacks; costly security teams to defend
Resiliency	Stolen laptop, everything lost	A fire, flood or power cut stops the whole business

Different size. **Exactly the same problems.**

Same three problems. One answer.

Scalability

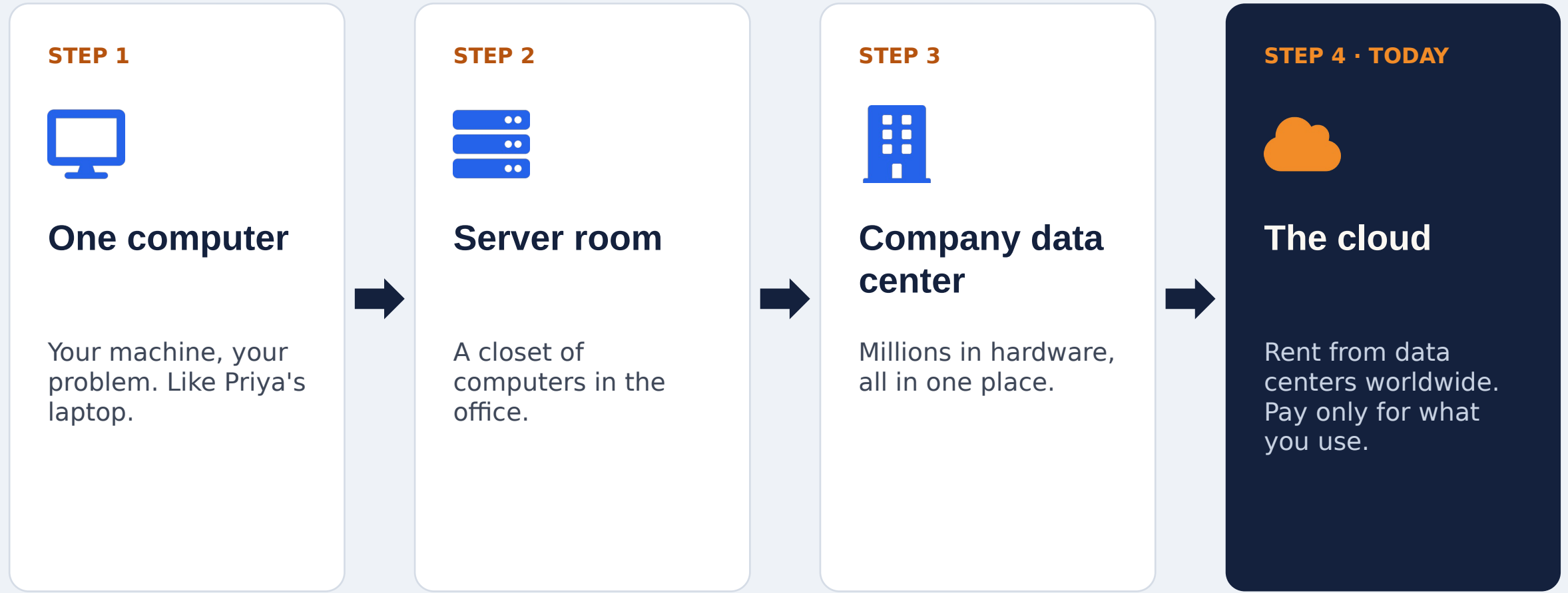
Security

Resiliency

→  **The Cloud**

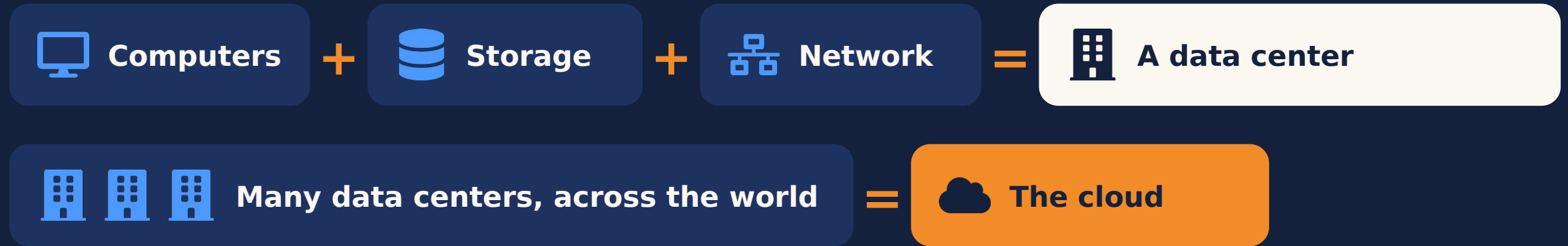
THE JOURNEY

From one computer to the whole world



THE SIMPLE DEFINITION

So what is the cloud, really?



The cloud is **someone else's computers** — lots of them, in many places — that you **rent over the internet**.

Five promises of the cloud



Pay as you go

Like electricity: pay only for what you use. No big upfront bill.



Scale in minutes

One visitor or a million. Add capacity with a click; remove it after.



Secure by design

Guarded buildings, encryption, and experts watching 24/7.



Always on

Copies kept in several places, so one failure doesn't stop you.



Global reach

Serve customers in Chennai and Chicago from data centers near them.

What changes when you move to the cloud

	Before: on your own	With the cloud
Getting servers	Months of planning, big upfront cost	Ready in minutes, pay by the hour
Busy days	Crash, or over-buy "just in case"	Grows and shrinks automatically
Security	Your own small team	Provider's experts plus your settings
Disasters	One building: one fire ends it	Copies across many locations
Going global	Build another data center	Pick a location on a map

WHO RENTS OUT THE CLOUD?

The big three cloud providers

AWS

Amazon Web Services

By Amazon · since 2006

The pioneer — first to rent computing to everyone, and still the largest.

Azure

Microsoft Azure

By Microsoft · since 2010

A natural fit for companies already using Windows and Office.

GCP

Google Cloud

By Google · since 2008

Known for data, analytics and AI — built on Google's own know-how.

BEYOND THE BIG THREE

...and many more, each with its own strength



Oracle Cloud

Databases and big business apps



IBM Cloud

Large enterprises, mixing on-prem and cloud



Alibaba Cloud

The leader in China and much of Asia



DigitalOcean

Simple and affordable for small teams



Cloudflare

Speed and protection at the edge



Akamai (Linode)

Content delivery and simple servers

Same idea everywhere. **Skills you learn on one transfer to the others.**

WHY LEARN AWS?

The cloud is where the jobs are

How big the market is, who leads it, and what cloud skills pay in the US and India.



THE MARKET

Cloud is now a half-trillion-dollar-a-year market

\$143B

spent on cloud
infrastructure in a single
quarter (Q2 2026)

~\$500B

spent over the last twelve
months

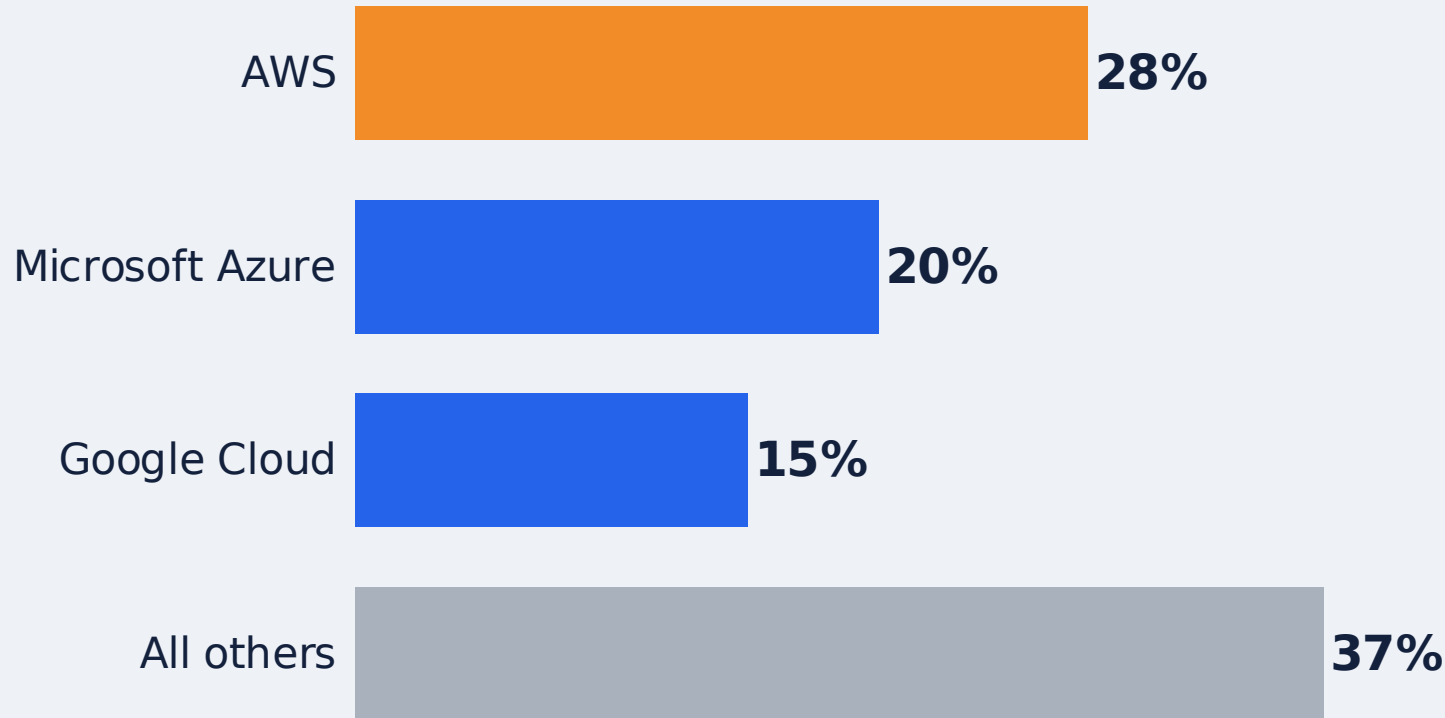
+43%

growth vs a year ago, the
fastest in eight years

The market has **doubled in under three years**, driven largely by AI. Remember Priya and the big company? Millions of businesses made that same move.

Source: Synergy Research Group, Q2 2026 cloud infrastructure services (IaaS, PaaS, hosted private cloud), released July 30, 2026

AWS is #1, and the big three hold 63% of the market



Read it right

- AWS holds the biggest slice of any single provider, as it has since the market began.
- Azure (+43%) and Google (+82%) grow faster, so share shifts, but AWS revenue still grew 37%.
- Learn one cloud well and the others come quickly.

Source: Synergy Research Group, worldwide cloud infrastructure services share by revenue, Q2 2026. "All others" includes Alibaba, Oracle, IBM and smaller providers.

REVENUE

AWS earns more from cloud than any other provider

AWS

\$169B

annual run rate
\$42.2B in Q2 2026 · +37%
YoY

Microsoft Azure

\$100B+

fiscal year ended June 2026
+43% YoY in the June
quarter

Google Cloud

~\$99B

annual run rate
\$24.8B in Q2 2026 · +82%
YoY

AWS alone made **\$16.6B operating profit in one quarter** (39% margin): cloud is Amazon's profit engine.

Sources: Amazon, Microsoft and Alphabet Q2 2026 earnings (July 2026). Run rate = quarterly revenue × 4. Microsoft reports Azure dollars only annually; Google Cloud includes Workspace.

AWS is the most requested skill in US tech job postings

30%

of all tech job postings ask for AWS, the #1 skill overall

42%

require at least one of AWS, Azure or Google Cloud

15%

ask for AWS and Azure together

14%

ask for Google Cloud

Hiring is up, not down: **Q1 2026 postings were 3.7× the same quarter a year earlier**, even amid AI-driven layoffs.

Source: Oxylabs Research analysis of ~1 million US tech job postings, Jan 2025 – Mar 2026 (reported July 2026)

AWS certifications map to six-figure US salaries

Certification	Typical roles	Average salary
Cloud Practitioner (CCP)	Cloud support, cloud-aware analyst, sales engineer	\$95K
Solutions Architect – Associate (SAA)	Cloud engineer, junior architect, DevOps	\$125K
Solutions Architect – Professional (SAP)	Senior or principal architect, consultant	\$155K

Solutions Architect at Amazon (L5)

\$265K–\$305K

estimated total pay per year:
~\$155K base + ~\$30K bonus + \$80–120K stock

Certified people earn about **26% more on average** than uncertified peers in similar roles.

Sources: StudyTech AWS Certification Salary Report 2026 (averages); Citadel Cloud Management, Q2 2026 (Amazon L5 SA). Pay varies by city, company and experience.

In India, AWS skills grow pay from ₹4 LPA to ₹40+ LPA



At AWS, Microsoft or Google India directly, 5 years' experience pays **₹40–65 LPA**; senior roles at FAANG India reach ₹55–95 LPA.

Sources: K21 Academy and JobRise AWS salary guides 2026; Instahyre, Cloud Engineer Salary in India 2026. LPA = lakh rupees per annum.

MEET AWS

2006

Amazon starts renting its own computing power to the world.

First services: S3 (storage)

EC2 (computers)

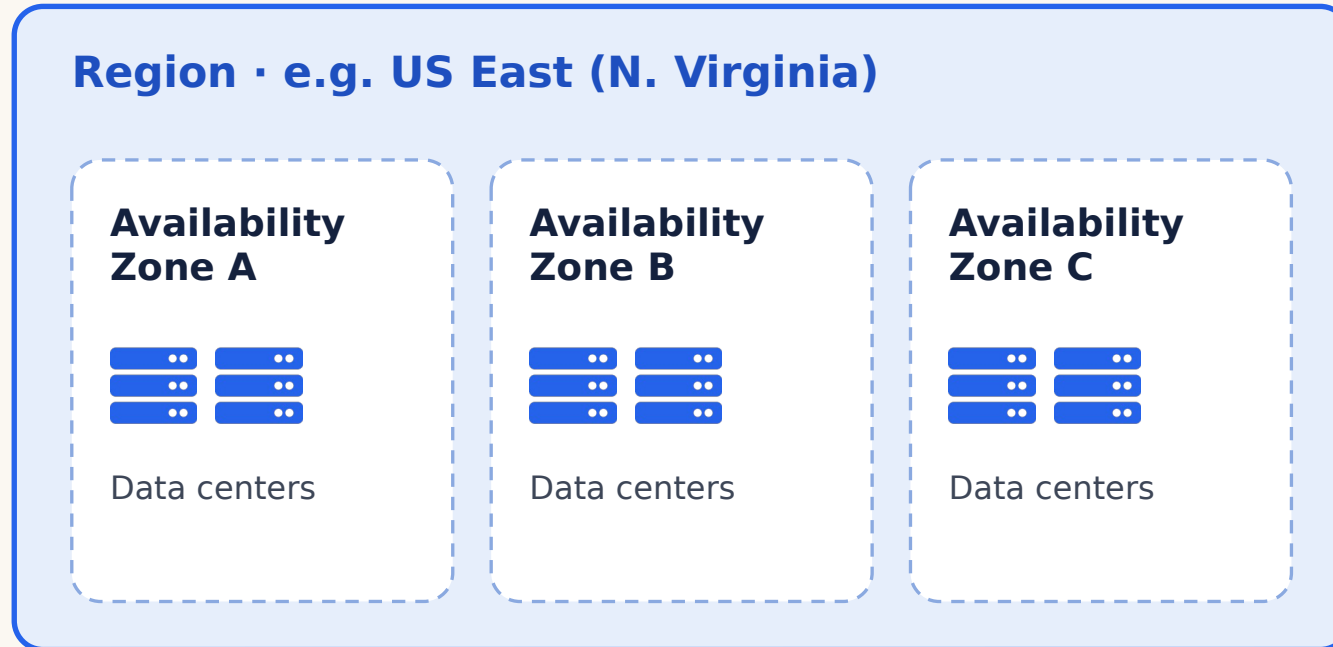


Why "Web Services"?

Every piece — a computer, storage, a database — is a **service you reach over the web**.

Click in a browser or call it from code, from anywhere with internet. No building, no cables, no waiting.

How AWS is organized worldwide



Region

A geographic area, like a city. You choose where your stuff lives.

Availability Zone

Separate buildings with their own power. If one floods, the others keep running.

Edge location

A small "local shop" close to you that delivers videos and pages faster.



Edge locations, in cities near users

Today: 30+ Regions · 100+ Availability Zones · hundreds of edge locations worldwide — and still growing

Three building blocks to start



COMPUTE

Amazon EC2

Rent a computer in the cloud
— any size, by the hour.



STORAGE

Amazon S3

An endless online folder for
files, photos and backups.



NETWORKING

Amazon VPC

Your own private, fenced-off
neighborhood in the cloud.

Priya, on AWS: EC2 runs her website · S3 keeps her product photos · VPC keeps it all private — and the Diwali rush? Just add more EC2.

YOUR PATH

Biggest market. Most jobs. Start with AWS.



Step zero: every path starts with your own free AWS account. Let's create it together, right now.

MYCLOUDSKILL · CLOUD ESSENTIALS · SESSION 1

Create your free AWS account

A step-by-step guide we'll follow together. About 15 minutes.



Have these ready before you start



An email address

One you've never used for AWS before. AWS allows one account per email.



Your phone, in hand

It must receive a text or call in the next few minutes for a verification code.



A credit or debit card

You may be asked for one. A \$1 hold verifies you and drops off in 3-5 days.



A laptop and 15 minutes

Use a desktop browser, not a phone. Don't rush the forms.

How the AWS Free plan works

\$100

in credits the moment your account is created

+\$100

more by finishing short activities in the Explore AWS widget

6 mo

of use, or until credits run out — whichever comes first



You won't be charged on the Free plan. When it ends, AWS suspends the account and keeps your data 90 days, so you can upgrade if you want to continue.

Which signup page do you see?

AWS is rolling out a new signup page, so your screen may differ from your neighbor's.

PATH A · NEW PAGE

Buttons to continue with Google, GitHub, Apple or Amazon

Creates a personal Builder ID and your first project. Go to slide 29.

PATH B · CLASSIC PAGE

Asks for "Root user email address" and "AWS account name"

Creates a standard AWS account with a root user. Go to slide 30.

PATH A

New signup page

- 1 Go to **aws.amazon.com/free** and click **Create account**
- 2 Type your email, or choose **Google, GitHub, Apple or Amazon** login
- 3 Enter your name and click **Continue**
- 4 Enter the **verification code** sent to your email → **Continue**
- 5 Create a **strong password** (rules on slide 32) → **Continue**
- 6 Fill in your **contact details** → **Continue** (add a card only if asked)
- 7 AWS sets up your first **project** and opens the **AWS Console**. Done!

PATH B

Classic signup, part 1

- 1 Go to **aws.amazon.com/free** and click **Create account**
 - 2 Enter your **root user email** and an **AWS account name** → **Verify email address**
 - 3 Type the **code** from your email → **Verify**
 - 4 Create and confirm your **root user password** → **Continue**
- 5 Choose your account plan: select **Free plan**. This is the step that keeps you from being charged.

PATH B

Classic signup, part 2

- 6 Choose **Personal**, enter contact info, accept the **AWS Customer Agreement**
- 7 Add **billing info**: a valid card is required on this page
- 8 Verify your phone: enter number → **Send SMS** → type the code
- 9 Support plan: choose **Basic** (free)
- 10 Click **Complete sign up**



Watch for the **activation email**. Usually minutes, sometimes up to 24 hours. Check spam.

Password and naming rules



Your password must

- Be 8 to 128 characters long
- Mix at least 3 of: uppercase, lowercase, numbers, symbols
- Not match your email or account name

Save it in a password manager now.



Account name tip

Use first name, last name and purpose so it's easy to recognize later:

priya-kumar-learning

You can rename it later.

Do these 3 things right after you sign in

1

Turn on MFA

Use an authenticator app on your phone.

Path A: Manage projects → AWS Settings → MFA

Path B: account menu → Security credentials → Assign MFA device

2

Check your credits

On Console Home, the **Cost and Usage** widget shows your credit balance and days left on the Free plan.

3

Earn more credits

Open the **Explore AWS** widget and filter by **Earn AWS credits** for up to \$100 more.

Never share your password, or post screenshots that show access keys.

Stuck? Common fixes

If this happens...	Try this
Verification email never arrives	Check spam and promotions, wait 2 minutes, then resend the code
Not offered the Free plan	That email had an AWS account before. Use a new email, or ask the instructor
Card is declined	Try another card and make sure online payments are enabled
No SMS code	Check the country code (+1 for US), request again, or use another number
Can sign in but can't use services	Account is still activating. Wait for the email (up to 24 hours)

You're ready when...

- ✓ You can sign in to the AWS Console
- ✓ You see your \$100 credit and you're on the Free plan
- ✓ MFA is turned on
- ✓ Your password is saved somewhere safe

Next session: launch a server (EC2) and store files (S3), hands-on.

What's in Next Session?

- ✓ We are going to learn cloud using AI.
- ✓ We understand what AI and how it evolved, how GenAI works
- ✓ How to install Claude and setup to create AWS resources

WHAT'S NEXT

From curious to cloud-certified

Join the MyCloudSkill Cloud Essentials cohort with TAF Techies. No IT background needed.

mycloudskill.com

Questions?

