

AWS Solutions Architect Professional Exam Prep 2026

AWS Solutions Architect Professional 2026. Advanced architecture, hybrid deployments, cost optimization.

IT Certifications Instructor: Nick Williams • 5 sections • 45 lessons • 13.75h total

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About this course

This course prepares you for the AWS Solutions Architect Professional exam for 2026. We cover advanced architecture patterns, hybrid deployments, and cost optimization.

You will work through complex scenarios, hands-on labs, and practice exams. The course includes video lessons and downloadable architecture templates.

Course curriculum

Section 1: Foundations and Exam Strategy

- **Understanding the SAP-C01 Exam Blueprint (12m)**
Learn the exact domains and weightings for the 2026 exam, so you know where to focus your study time effectively.
- **Setting Up Your AWS Exam Environment (8m)**
A step-by-step guide to configuring your AWS account and tools for the hands-on labs and practice exams.
- **Common Exam Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them (15m)**
Real insights from past test-takers on tricky question types and time management strategies.
- **Creating Your Personalized Study Plan (10m)**
Downloadable template to organize your study schedule based on the exam domains and your current knowledge.
- **Key AWS Services You Must Know for 2026 (18m)**
A focused list of services that are heavily tested, with tips on when and how to use them in scenarios.
- **Reading and Interpreting Exam Questions (11m)**
Techniques for breaking down complex scenario-based questions to identify the core requirement.
- **Practice Exam Strategy: Your First Mock Test (9m)**
How to approach your first full-length practice exam to gauge your readiness and identify weak areas.

Section 2: Core Design Principles & Migration

- **Designing for Organizational Complexity (22m)**
Learn to architect solutions across multiple AWS accounts and regions using AWS Organizations and Control Tower.
- **Advanced Migration Strategies: The 6 Rs (25m)**
A deep dive into rehosting, replatforming, and refactoring for complex enterprise migrations.
- **Hybrid Cloud Architectures with AWS (20m)**
Step-by-step guide to designing secure, reliable connectivity between on-premises and AWS.
- **Data Migration Patterns and Tools (19m)**
Real case study analysis of using AWS DMS, Snowball, and Storage Gateway for large-scale data moves.
- **Cost Optimization for Large-Scale Deployments (24m)**
Hands-on session with AWS Cost Explorer and Trusted Advisor to design cost-effective architectures.
- **Designing for High Availability and Disaster Recovery (27m)**
Problem-solving session on multi-AZ and multi-region designs for mission-critical applications.
- **Security and Compliance in Complex Environments (23m)**
How to implement IAM, KMS, and compliance frameworks like HIPAA and PCI in your designs.
- **Networking at Scale: VPC, Direct Connect, and Transit Gateway (28m)**
A practical guide to building scalable, secure networks for enterprise workloads.

- Database Selection and Migration Scenarios (16m)
When to use RDS, Aurora, DynamoDB, or Redshift based on specific application requirements.

Section 3: Advanced Compute and Storage

- Container Strategies: ECS, EKS, and Fargate (21m)
Compare container orchestration options and learn when to choose each for your workloads.
- Serverless Architecture Patterns (20m)
Design event-driven systems with Lambda, SQS, and EventBridge for scalable applications.
- Storage Solutions: S3, EBS, and FSx Deep Dive (18m)
Real-world scenarios for choosing the right storage type based on performance, cost, and access patterns.
- Designing for Performance: EC2, Auto Scaling, and Load Balancing (26m)
Hands-on lab to optimize compute resources for variable traffic loads.
- Advanced S3 Features for Enterprise Use (14m)
Explore S3 Intelligent-Tiering, Object Lock, and cross-region replication for data management.
- Backup and Restore Strategies for Critical Data (17m)
Downloadable checklist for designing backup plans using AWS Backup and native service features.
- Problem-Solving: Cost vs. Performance Trade-offs (23m)
Analyze real exam-style scenarios to decide between different compute and storage options.

Section 4: Security, Governance, and Automation

- Identity and Access Management at Scale (22m)
Best practices for IAM policies, roles, and SSO in a multi-account environment.
- Network Security: WAF, Shield, and VPC Security Groups (19m)
Step-by-step guide to protecting applications from DDoS and common web exploits.
- Data Encryption: KMS, CloudHSM, and Client-Side (20m)
When and how to use different encryption methods for data at rest and in transit.
- Governance with AWS Organizations and SCPs (18m)
How to enforce security and compliance policies across all AWS accounts.
- Monitoring and Logging with CloudWatch and CloudTrail (25m)
Design comprehensive monitoring solutions for operational visibility and security auditing.
- Automating Infrastructure with CloudFormation and CDK (24m)
Real case study on using IaC to manage complex, multi-region deployments.
- CI/CD Pipeline Design for AWS (21m)
Problem-solving session on building secure, automated deployment pipelines with CodePipeline.
- Securing Secrets and Credentials (15m)
Practical guide to using AWS Secrets Manager and Parameter Store for application security.
- Compliance Reporting and Audit Readiness (16m)
How to use AWS Config and Security Hub to demonstrate compliance to auditors.
- Disaster Recovery Automation (17m)
Downloadable template for automating failover and recovery processes.

Section 5: Implementation, Practice, and Next Steps

- **Full Practice Exam: Timed Simulation (35m)**
Take a full-length, timed practice exam to simulate the real test environment.
- **Reviewing Your Practice Exam Results (20m)**
A systematic approach to analyzing your mistakes and creating a targeted review plan.
- **Final Review: Key Concepts Cheat Sheet (14m)**
Downloadable PDF with the most critical formulas, limits, and service limits to remember.
- **Hands-On Lab: Design a Multi-Tier Application (32m)**
Apply all concepts by designing and documenting a secure, scalable application architecture.
- **Question Drill: Complex Scenario Breakdown (28m)**
Work through the most challenging exam-style questions with detailed explanations.
- **Time Management for the Actual Exam (12m)**
Proven strategies to pace yourself and ensure you answer every question.
- **Mindset and Exam Day Preparation (10m)**
Tips for managing stress and what to expect on the day of your SAP-C01 exam.
- **Post-Certification: Career Opportunities and Next Steps (15m)**
How to leverage your new certification and continue your learning journey in AWS.
- **Course Wrap-Up and Final Q&A (8m)**
Recap of the entire course and answers to common questions from students.
- **Access to Updated Practice Questions (2026) (5m)**
Information on how to get access to the latest practice questions as the exam evolves.
- **Building a Portfolio with Your AWS Designs (13m)**
How to document your hands-on labs for your professional portfolio or resume.
- **Joining the AWS Professional Community (7m)**
Resources for connecting with other certified architects for ongoing support.

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