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Amazon SOA-C03 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reliability and Business Continuity: This section measures the skills of System Administrators and focuses on maintaining scalability, elasticity, and fault tolerance. It includes configuring load balancing, auto scaling, Multi-AZ deployments, implementing backup and restore strategies with AWS Backup and versioning, and ensuring disaster recovery to meet RTO and RPO goals.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitoring, Logging, Analysis, Remediation, and Performance Optimization: This section of the exam measures skills of CloudOps Engineers and covers implementing AWS monitoring tools such as CloudWatch, CloudTrail, and Prometheus. It evaluates configuring alarms, dashboards, and notifications, analyzing performance metrics, troubleshooting issues using EventBridge and Systems Manager, and applying strategies to optimize compute, storage, and database performance.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deployment, Provisioning, and Automation: This section measures the skills of Cloud Engineers and covers provisioning and maintaining cloud resources using AWS CloudFormation, CDK, and third-party tools. It evaluates automation of deployments, remediation of resource issues, and managing infrastructure using Systems Manager and event-driven processes like Lambda or S3 notifications.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Security and Compliance: This section measures skills of Security Engineers and includes implementing IAM policies, roles, MFA, and access controls. It focuses on troubleshooting access issues, enforcing compliance, securing data at rest and in transit using AWS KMS and ACM, protecting secrets, and applying findings from Security Hub, GuardDuty, and Inspector.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Networking and Content Delivery: This section measures skills of Cloud Network Engineers and focuses on VPC configuration, subnets, routing, network ACLs, and gateways. It includes optimizing network cost and performance, configuring DNS with Route 53, using CloudFront and Global Accelerator for content delivery, and troubleshooting network and hybrid connectivity using logs and monitoring tools.

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Amazon AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate Sample Questions (Q14-Q19):

NEW QUESTION # 14

A SysOps administrator is configuring an Auto Scaling group of Amazon EC2 instances for an application.

The average CPU utilization of the instances in the Auto Scaling group must remain at approximately 40% when the load on the application changes.

Which solution will meet this requirement in the MOST operationally efficient manner?

- A. Configure a step scaling policy. Create an Amazon CloudWatch alarm that enters ALARM state when CPU utilization is greater than 40%. Associate the alarm with the scaling policy.
- B. Create a scheduled scaling action. Configure the action to run at times when the application typically experiences an increase in traffic.
- C. **Configure a target tracking scaling policy. Specify a target value of 40 for average CPU utilization.**
- D. Configure a simple scaling policy. Create an Amazon CloudWatch alarm that enters ALARM state when CPU utilization is greater than 40%. Associate the alarm with the scaling policy.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract of AWS CloudOps Documents:

The correct answer is D because target tracking scaling policies are designed to automatically maintain a specific metric at a desired target value with the least administrative effort. AWS CloudOps documentation states that target tracking works like a thermostat, continuously adjusting capacity to keep the selected metric close to the defined target.

By specifying a target value of 40% average CPU utilization, the Auto Scaling group automatically scales out or in based on real-time demand without requiring manual thresholds, multiple alarms, or predefined scaling steps. This approach is fully managed by AWS and is the most operationally efficient option.

Option A is incorrect because scheduled scaling is based on predictable traffic patterns and cannot respond dynamically to real-time load changes. Option B is incorrect because simple scaling reacts only after an alarm is triggered and does not continuously maintain a target value. Option C is less efficient because step scaling requires additional configuration and tuning of scaling steps.

AWS CloudOps best practices clearly recommend target tracking scaling policies for maintaining steady performance metrics with minimal operational overhead.

References:

Amazon EC2 Auto Scaling User Guide - Target Tracking Policies

AWS SysOps Administrator Study Guide - Auto Scaling and Automation

AWS Well-Architected Framework - Operational Excellence and Performance Efficiency

NEW QUESTION # 15

A company requires the rotation of administrative credentials for production workloads on a regular basis. A CloudOps engineer must implement this policy for an Amazon RDS DB instance's master user password.

Which solution will meet this requirement with the LEAST operational effort?

- A. Create an AWS Lambda function to change the RDS master user password. Create an Amazon EventBridge scheduled rule to invoke the Lambda function.
- B. **Create a new RDS database secret in AWS Secrets Manager. Apply the secret to the RDS DB instance. Configure automatic rotation.**
- C. Create a new SecureString parameter in AWS Systems Manager Parameter Store. Encrypt the parameter with an AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS) key. Configure automatic rotation.

- D. Create a new String parameter in AWS Systems Manager Parameter Store. Configure automatic rotation.

Answer: B

Explanation:

AWS Secrets Manager natively supports credential management and automatic rotation for Amazon RDS master user passwords. When a secret is associated with an RDS instance, Secrets Manager automatically updates the password both in the secret and on the database, without downtime or manual scripting.

AWS documentation confirms:

"AWS Secrets Manager can automatically rotate the master user password for Amazon RDS databases. Rotation is fully managed and integrated, requiring no custom code or maintenance." Option A introduces unnecessary Lambda automation. Option B and C use Parameter Store, which does not provide direct RDS password rotation. Therefore, Option D achieves secure, automatic credential rotation with least operational effort, fully aligned with CloudOps security automation principles.

References (AWS CloudOps Documents / Study Guide):

- * AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate (SOA-C03) Exam Guide - Domain 4: Security and Compliance
- * AWS Secrets Manager - Rotating Secrets for Amazon RDS
- * AWS Well-Architected Framework - Security Pillar
- * Amazon RDS User Guide - Managing Master User Passwords

NEW QUESTION # 16

A company hosts an encrypted Amazon S3 bucket in the ap-southeast-2 Region. Users from the eu-west-2 Region access the S3 bucket through the internet. The users from eu-west-2 need faster transfers to and from the S3 bucket for large files.

Which solution will meet these requirements?

- A. Create an Amazon Route 53 hosted zone with a geolocation routing policy. Choose the Alias to S3 website endpoint option. Specify the S3 bucket that is in ap-southeast-2 as the source bucket.
- B. Create a new S3 bucket in eu-west-2. Copy all contents from ap-southeast-2 to the new bucket in eu-west-2. Create an S3 access point, and associate it with both buckets. Ensure users use the new S3 access point.
- C. Create an S3 access point in eu-west-2 to use as the destination for S3 replication from ap-southeast-2. Ensure all users switch to the new S3 access point.
- **D. Configure and activate S3 Transfer Acceleration on the S3 bucket. Use the new S3 acceleration endpoint's domain name for access.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract of AWS CloudOps Documents:

For users in eu-west-2 transferring large files to/from an S3 bucket in ap-southeast-2 over the public internet, S3 Transfer Acceleration is designed to improve performance by leveraging the AWS global edge network.

With Transfer Acceleration enabled, users access the bucket via the acceleration endpoint. Requests enter AWS at the nearest edge location and then traverse the AWS backbone network to the bucket's Region, which typically reduces latency variability and can improve throughput for long-distance transfers.

Option A is incorrect because access points do not "replicate destinations" in the way described, and an access point in another Region does not move data closer by itself. Option B is incorrect because Route 53 DNS routing does not accelerate data transfers; it only resolves names and (in this case) also incorrectly references S3 website endpoints (not appropriate for general large file transfer APIs). Option C is not valid as written because a single S3 access point cannot be "associated with both buckets," and maintaining two buckets introduces synchronization/consistency overhead; it's not the least-friction acceleration approach for direct internet users.

References:

Amazon S3 User Guide - Transfer Acceleration

AWS SysOps Administrator Study Guide - S3 performance optimization

AWS Well-Architected Framework - Performance Efficiency considerations for data transfer

NEW QUESTION # 17

An application runs on Amazon EC2 instances that are in an Auto Scaling group. A CloudOps engineer needs to implement a solution that provides a central storage location for errors that the application logs to disk. The solution must also provide an alert when the application logs an error.

What should the CloudOps engineer do to meet these requirements?

- A. Create a cron job on the EC2 instances to identify errors and push the errors to an Amazon CloudWatch metric filter. Configure the filter to publish to an Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) topic that has an SMS subscription.
- B. Deploy an AWS Lambda function that pushes the errors directly to Amazon CloudWatch Logs. Configure the Lambda function to run every time the log file is updated on disk.
- C. Deploy and configure the Amazon CloudWatch agent on the EC2 instances to log to a CloudWatch log group. Create a metric filter on the target CloudWatch log group. Create a CloudWatch alarm that publishes to an Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) topic that has an email subscription.
- D. Create an Auto Scaling lifecycle hook that invokes an EC2-based script to identify errors. Configure the script to push the error messages to an Amazon CloudWatch log group when the EC2 instances scale in. Create a CloudWatch alarm that publishes to an Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) topic that has an email subscription when the number of error messages exceeds a threshold.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The AWS Cloud Operations and Monitoring documentation specifies that the Amazon CloudWatch Agent is the recommended tool for collecting system and application logs from EC2 instances. The agent pushes these logs into a centralized CloudWatch Logs group, providing durable storage and real-time monitoring.

Once the logs are centralized, a CloudWatch Metric Filter can be configured to search for specific error keywords (for example, "ERROR" or "FAILURE"). This filter transforms matching log entries into custom metrics. From there, a CloudWatch Alarm can monitor the metric threshold and publish notifications to an Amazon SNS topic, which can send email or SMS alerts to subscribed recipients.

This combination provides a fully automated, managed, and serverless solution for log aggregation and error alerting. It eliminates the need for manual cron jobs (Option B), custom scripts (Option D), or Lambda-based log streaming (Option C).

Reference: AWS Cloud Operations & Monitoring Guide - Collecting Application Logs and Creating Alarms Using CloudWatch Agent, Metric Filters, and SNS Notifications

NEW QUESTION # 18

A company hosts a critical legacy application on two Amazon EC2 instances that are in one Availability Zone. The instances run behind an Application Load Balancer (ALB). The company uses Amazon CloudWatch alarms to send Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) notifications when the ALB health checks detect an unhealthy instance. After a notification, the company's engineers manually restart the unhealthy instance. A CloudOps engineer must configure the application to be highly available and more resilient to failures. Which solution will meet these requirements?

- A. Create an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) from a healthy instance. Launch an additional instance from the AMI in the same Availability Zone. Add the new instance to the ALB target group. Create an AWS Lambda function that runs when an instance is unhealthy. Configure the Lambda function to stop and restart the unhealthy instance.
- B. Increase the size of each instance. Create an Amazon EventBridge rule. Configure the EventBridge rule to restart the instances if they enter a failed state.
- C. Create an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) from a healthy instance. Launch additional instances from the AMI in the same Availability Zone. Add the new instances to the ALB target group.
- D. Create an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) from a healthy instance. Create a launch template that uses the AMI. Create an Amazon EC2 Auto Scaling group that is deployed across multiple Availability Zones. Configure the Auto Scaling group to add instances to the ALB target group.

Answer: D

Explanation:

High availability requires removing single-AZ risk and eliminating manual recovery. The AWS Reliability best practices state to design for multi-AZ and automatic healing: Auto Scaling "helps maintain application availability and allows you to automatically add or remove EC2 instances" (AWS Auto Scaling User Guide). The Reliability Pillar recommends to "distribute workloads across multiple Availability Zones" and to "automate recovery from failure" (AWS Well-Architected Framework ?Reliability Pillar).

Attaching the Auto Scaling group to an ALB target group enables health-based replacement: instances failing load balancer health checks are replaced and traffic is routed only to healthy targets. Using an AMI in a launch template ensures consistent, repeatable instance configuration (AWS EC2 Launch Templates). Options A and C keep all instances in a single Availability Zone and rely on manual or ad-hoc restarts, which do not meet high-availability or resiliency goals. Option B only scales vertically and adds a restart rule; it neither removes the single-AZ failure domain nor provides automated replacement. Therefore, creating a multi-AZ EC2 Auto Scaling group with a launch template and attaching it to the ALB target group (Option D) is the CloudOps-aligned solution for resilience and business continuity.

NEW QUESTION # 19

The AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate (SOA-C03) certification is a valuable credential that every Amazon professional should earn it. The AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate (SOA-C03) certification exam offers a great opportunity for beginners and experienced professionals to demonstrate their expertise. With the AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate (SOA-C03) certification exam everyone can upgrade their skills and knowledge. There are other several benefits that the Amazon SOA-C03 exam holders can achieve after the success of the AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate (SOA-C03) certification exam.

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