Next Stop, the Cloud: Understanding Modern Web Service Deployment in EC2 and Azure

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Incomplete view of cloud use



1/3 of daily users

One third of all Internet users will access an Amazon AWS cloud site on average at least once a day.

% of Internet traffic

One percent of all Internet consumer traffic on average is coming or going to Amazon managed infrastructure.



Want a global, in-depth understanding of IaaS cloud usage patterns

Fundamental questions

1. Who is using public clouds?

→ Percentage of cloud-using domains, traffic profile

2. How are Web services using the cloud?

- → Impact of failures; ways to improve availability
- → Design of new systems/services

Datasets

- University packet capture
 - Deep, but local perspective



- Alexa subdomains DNS records
 - Broad, high-level perspective



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Cloud availability and performance issues may impact over 4% of popular web services





Fundamental questions

2. How are Web services using the cloud?

- → Impact of failures; ways to improve availability
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Which front ends are used?

DNS Server	com A 7	2.44.32.1	Image: Second
sub.abc.com	CNAME	abc.elb.aws.com	VM ····
abc.elb.aws.com	A	72.44.42.1	
		·	
sub.abc.com	CNAME	proxy.heroku.com	
proxy.heroku.com	А	72.44.62.1	
DNS records	ring mo on CNAI	atching ME	PaaS Node



Which front ends are used?











Single region failures can take down a large fraction of cloud-using subdomains



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How many and which availability zones are used?

- Latency measurements
 - Low latency => instances are in same zone
 - High coverage, low accuracy (noisy)
- IP address correlation
 - IPs are in the same /16 subnet => instances are in the same zone
 - Higher accuracy, low coverage

zone a zone c zone b zone d









Highlights

- The first comprehensive study of Web service deployment in public clouds
- 4% of popular web services use EC2/Azure
- VMs are the most popular EC2 front end, but value-added features are used by top domains
- Limited region and zone usage (and diversity) makes web services vulnerable to failures