aws certification exam cost

AWS certification exam cost is a crucial consideration for IT professionals looking to validate their cloud computing skills and enhance their career prospects. As the demand for cloud expertise continues to rise, Amazon Web Services (AWS) certifications have become increasingly popular. However, understanding the various costs associated with these exams is essential for those planning to embark on this certification journey. In this article, we will explore the different AWS certification levels, the associated costs, and factors to consider when budgeting for your certification.

Understanding AWS Certification Levels

AWS offers a range of certifications designed to validate expertise at different levels and roles within cloud computing. The certifications are categorized into four main levels:

1. Foundational Level

- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner: This entry-level certification is designed for individuals who want to demonstrate their overall understanding of AWS cloud services. It is suitable for those in non-technical roles and provides a solid foundation for further AWS certifications.

2. Associate Level

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate
- AWS Certified Developer – Associate
- AWS Certified SysOps Administrator – Associate: These certifications are intended for individuals with some hands-on experience with AWS services. They validate the skills needed to design, develop, and manage applications on the AWS platform.

3. Professional Level

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional
- AWS Certified DevOps Engineer – Professional: These certifications are advanced and require a deeper level of knowledge and experience in AWS services. They are ideal for professionals looking to showcase their skills in complex AWS environments.

4. Specialty Certifications

AWS also offers several specialty certifications that focus on specific technical areas, such as:
- AWS Certified Advanced Networking – Specialty
- AWS Certified Security – Specialty
- AWS Certified Machine Learning – Specialty

AWS Certification Exam Costs

The cost of AWS certification exams varies depending on the level and type of certification. Below is a breakdown of the costs associated with each certification level:

1. Foundational Level

- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner: The exam fee for this certification is typically $100.

2. Associate Level

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate: The exam fee is $150.
- AWS Certified Developer – Associate: The exam fee is $150.
- AWS Certified SysOps Administrator – Associate: The exam fee is $150.

3. Professional Level

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional: The exam fee is $300.
- AWS Certified DevOps Engineer – Professional: The exam fee is $300.

4. Specialty Certifications

- Specialty certification exams typically cost $300 each.

Additional Costs to Consider

While the exam fees are a primary concern, there are additional costs associated with obtaining AWS certifications that candidates should consider:

1. Study Materials and Resources

- Books and eBooks: Many candidates invest in study guides and textbooks

specific to their chosen certification. Prices can range from $30 to $100.
- Online Courses: Platforms like Udemy, Coursera, and A Cloud Guru offer AWS certification courses, often priced between $50 and $300 depending on the depth and duration.
- Practice Exams: Taking practice exams can help candidates prepare effectively. These can cost between $20 and $100.

2. Training and Bootcamps

- Instructor-led Training: AWS offers official training options that can be more expensive, often costing $1,000 or more, depending on the course duration and content.
- Bootcamps: Intensive bootcamp programs can range from $500 to $3,000.

3. Retake Fees

If candidates do not pass the exam on their first attempt, retake fees apply. The retake cost is generally the same as the initial exam fee.

4. Travel Expenses

For those who prefer in-person testing at designated testing centers, travel costs may need to be factored in, including transportation and accommodation.

Budgeting for AWS Certification

When planning to take an AWS certification exam, it's essential to create a budget that encompasses all associated costs. Here's a simple guide to help you budget effectively:

1. **Determine Your Certification Goal**: Identify the specific certification you wish to pursue and note the exam fee.

2. **Research Study Materials**: Investigate and estimate costs for study resources, including books, online courses, and practice exams.

3. **Consider Training Options**: Evaluate whether you will need formal training or if self-study will suffice. Include training costs in your budget.

4. **Account for Retake Fees**: If you are uncertain about passing on your first attempt, set aside funds for retake fees.

5. **Include Travel Costs**: If applicable, include any potential travel expenses for in-person testing.

Conclusion

In summary, understanding the **AWS certification exam cost** is essential for anyone looking to advance their career in cloud computing. While the exam fees vary by certification level, additional costs such as study materials, training, and possible retake fees can significantly impact your budget. By carefully planning and budgeting for these expenses, candidates can better prepare for their AWS certification journey and take a significant step forward in their professional development. Investing in AWS certifications can lead to greater job opportunities, higher salaries, and a robust skill set that is highly sought after in the tech industry.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the average cost of AWS certification exams?

The average cost of AWS certification exams typically ranges from $100 to $300, depending on the specific certification.

Are there any discounts available for AWS certification exams?

Yes, AWS offers discounts for students and members of certain organizations, as well as promotional offers occasionally.

How often do AWS certification exam prices change?

AWS certification exam prices can change periodically; it's advisable to check the official AWS certification website for the most current pricing.

Is there a fee for rescheduling or retaking an AWS certification exam?

Yes, AWS charges a fee for rescheduling or retaking an exam, typically equivalent to the original exam cost.

Do AWS certification exam costs include study materials?

No, the exam fees do not include study materials; candidates need to purchase or access study resources separately.

Can I use AWS training credits to pay for certification exams?

Yes, AWS training credits can be used towards certification exam fees, but they must be used within a specified time frame.

Is there a cost for AWS certification exam practice tests?

Yes, practice tests for AWS certifications typically come at an additional cost, separate from the actual exam fee.

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