



AWS Service Delivery Program Consulting Partner Validation Checklist

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Introduction

The goal of the AWS Service Delivery Program is to recognize APN Partners who demonstrate successful customer delivery and expertise in specific AWS services. The AWS Service Delivery Validation Checklist is intended to prepare APN Partners who are interested in applying for AWS Service Delivery. This checklist provides the criteria necessary to achieve the designation(s) under the AWS Service Delivery Program.

Expectations of Parties

Once APN Partners have applied to a designation within AWS Service Delivery, APN Partners undergo a validation of their capabilities known as the technical validation upon applying for any AWS Service Delivery Designation, and every 12 months thereafter. AWS leverages in-house expertise and may leverage a third-party firm to facilitate the review.

AWS reserves the right to make changes to this document at any time. **It is expected that APN Partners will review this document in detail before submitting an AWS Service Delivery application, even if pre-requisites are met.** If items in this document are unclear and require further explanation, please contact your Partner Development Representative (PDR) or Partner Development Manager (PDM) as the first step. Your PDR/PDM will contact the Program Office if further assistance is required.

In order to begin the validation process, please follow the steps outlined below:

- Step #1: Review the Partner Validation Checklist and ensure all requirements are met
- Step #2: Send this completed Validation Checklist with self-assessment to aws-service-delivery@amazon.com
- Step #3: Submit an AWS Service Delivery application through the APN Partner Central
 - Login to the APN Partner Central (<https://partnercentral.awsapartner.com/>)
 - Click "View My APN Account" in left navigation
 - On this page, first submit the following:
 - Your AWS Service Specific AWS Customer Case Study (2) with attached Architecture Diagrams
 - Your AWS Service Specific Consulting Practice
 - Next, scroll to AWS Service Deliveries and select the AWS service you want to apply for
 - Complete the Service Delivery application

Incomplete applications will not be considered and will be declined until all requirements are met.

Once your firm's application has been submitted through the APN Partner Central, the APN Team will review for completeness and for compliance with the prerequisites. Next we send applications to in-house or third-party experts to complete a Technical Validation.

AWS recommends that APN Partners have individuals who are able to 1) provide evidence of compliance and 2) speak in-depth to the technical requirements about the AWS Service during the validation process.

Upon completion of the Technical Validation, APN Partners will receive a final status for the submitted application either confirming or not confirming the APN Partners' acceptance into the Service Delivery Designation. APN Partners may attain one or more AWS Service Delivery Designations. Attaining one designation does not guarantee approval into additional Service Delivery Designations.

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Program Participation and Benefits

In addition to the benefits you receive as an APN member, APN Partners that qualify for the AWS Service Delivery Program will receive a number of valuable benefits including:

- Shared customer opportunities
- Preferred access to Market Development Funds
- Press releases with AWS leadership quotes
- Prioritized access to Amazon Partner Network reference team
- AWS Service Delivery spotlight guest series on APN Blog
- Exclusively showcased on the AWS website
- AWS product pages for attained AWS Service Delivery Designations
- Inclusion and prioritization on [AWS Partner Solution Finder](#)
- APN Partner spotlights
- Included in internal AWS Sales Enablement
- Listed as preferred APN Partners in AWS newsletters
- Preferred access to AWS Service Trainings
- Preferred access to NDA roadmap webinars.

Validation Process and Timing

After the audit, the APN Partner will receive a summary (**within two business days**) from the auditor or Program Office detailing strengths, opportunities for improvement, and action items. APN Partners have **five (5) business days** from receipt of the audit summary to respond to and address any identified action items.

Action Items must be closed out prior to approval of entry into the AWS Service Delivery Program. If the APN Partner is not able to fully close the Action Items in five (5) business days, an action plan detailing how and when the item will be closed must be provided to the AWS Service Delivery Program Manager.

The auditor will submit a final report to AWS after the five (5) business days have passed, and no later than 10 business days after the audit.

The final determination of acceptance into the AWS Service Delivery Partner Program will be made after AWS receives the final audit report and no longer than 20 business days from receipt of the report.

Impact of Merger, Acquisition, and Divestiture Activity

The AWS Service Delivery Program incorporates the use of an audit to validate the APN Partner's technical capabilities, as well as its business and delivery models. These business and delivery models are often significantly impacted in the process of mergers, acquisitions and divestitures. As a result, APN Partners may be required to reapply and complete a new audit based on the resulting businesses from their M&A activity. Please refer to the guidelines below.

Acquisition/Merger

Service Delivery Partner acquires non-Service Delivery Partner: No immediate action required. The Service Delivery Partner should describe any impacts to its AWS Service Delivery practice during any subsequent audit.

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Non-Service Delivery Partner acquires Service Delivery Partner: New application and audit required for acquiring APN Partner to be recognized as an AWS Service Delivery Partner. The new business and delivery models, as well as the integration of the acquired technical capabilities, must be validated through the audit process. We recommend that this be done as soon as possible to ensure continued recognition in the AWS Service Delivery Program.

Service Delivery Partner acquires another Service Delivery Partner: No immediate action required. The consolidated entity will be assessed during the renewal audit for either of the original entities (whichever date is soonest).

Divestiture

Service Delivery Partner divests a portion of its business related to its AWS Service Delivery practice: The divesting business should immediately disclose significant impacts to its AWS Service Delivery practice that would materially impact its standing as a Service Delivery Partner. Depending on the significance of the impact, the APN Partner will either be immediately removed from the program or will be required to highlight impacts to the business during the next renewal audit. The divested business will be required to apply to the Service Delivery Program as a new APN Partner.

Definitions

AWS Service Consulting Practice

AWS Service Delivery Designations are granted to APN Partners orchestrating and deploying a specific AWS service(s) to their customers solving customer need(s).

AWS Case Studies

All APN Partners will need to provide AWS Case Studies detailing completed deployments of an AWS service. An AWS Case Study is a written description of a completed customer project that includes individual customer solutions and outcomes. Case Studies should include an introduction to the customer, overview of the challenge, details about how the APN Partner built and deployed AWS services, and additional 3rd Party tools leveraged, date delivered, and outcomes realized by the customer.

AWS Case Studies should be identified in writing to AWS as being either *public* (can be shared with public audiences) or *non-public* (can only be shared with AWS and its third-party auditor for the purpose of the audit or demonstrating to AWS that Partner meets program requirements). Once approved for an AWS Service Delivery, *public* AWS Case Studies will be used on the AWS website to showcase partner-customer success.

AWS Technical Validation

All APN Partners will undergo an AWS Technical Validation in order to achieve an AWS Service Delivery Designation. Technical Validations are assessments of an APN Partner's service level skills in the context of specific AWS Case Studies. Technical Validations confirm the APN Partner's capabilities in developing and delivering AWS services to AWS customer while conforming to the AWS best-practices for that service. APN Partners demonstrate to in-house or third-party experts what they've done specific to the AWS Case Studies submitted for the Service Delivery Designation.

Requirements for Technical Validations are fully documented in the Service Delivery Technical Validation Checklist below. Each Technical Validation is comprised of two elements:

1. **Documentation Review:** APN Partners will be expected to present technical documentation detailing the Partner Capabilities and each AWS Case Study provided. In-house or third-party experts will use the documentation to confirm alignment with the requirements of the Service Delivery as described in the

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checklist. The documentation is expected to consist of both public information (e.g. on- or offline deployment guides, installation manuals) and non-public information (e.g. architecture diagrams, design documents, and security assessments.) Public information will be assessed for alignment with best practices and the use of APN-approved marketing language. Non-public information may be anonymized at the APN Partner's discretion.

2. **Service Delivery and service-specific technical requirements:** Each Service Delivery Designation is intended to highlight how APN Partners deliver AWS services to address a customer problem. As such, the checklist may include service-specific requirements highlighting specific methodologies and capabilities the APN Partner must provide to customer. Please see the checklist for more information.

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AWS Service Delivery Program Prerequisites

AWS Service Delivery Partners have demonstrated success helping customers evaluate and use AWS services productively, at varying levels of complexity, and at scale by completing the below requirements.

The following items must be met before a Technical Validation review will be scheduled. These items will be validated by the AWS Service Delivery Program Manager; any deficiencies must be addressed prior to scheduling a validation review.

1.0 APN Program Membership		Met Y/N
APN Partner is Standard, Advanced, or Premier APN Consulting Partner (view requirements)		
2.0 AWS Case Studies		
2.1 <u>AWS Customer Case Studies</u>	APN Partner has two (2) case studies demonstrating successful delivery of the AWS service(s) that are in production to their customers, rather than in pilot or proof of concept stage. <i>Note: Public-facing references are encouraged over private references, as they may be used by AWS for marketing purposes. Evidence of a publicly referenceable case study must be provided in the form of a case study, white paper, blog post, or equivalent, and must be easily discoverable on the APN Partner's website.</i>	
	APN Partner provides for each reference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Name of the customer ▪ AWS Account ID (Will be used to verify AWS service usage) ▪ Problem statement/definition ▪ What you proposed ▪ How AWS services were used as part of the solution ▪ Third party applications or solutions used ▪ Start and end dates of project ▪ Outcome(s)/results ▪ Lessons Learned 	
3.1 <u>Architectural Diagrams</u>	Submitted case studies must include architectural diagrams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Architectural diagrams must detail how the solution interacts with the AWS Cloud; specifically, what AWS tools and services are used in the solution ▪ Diagrams must also include evidence of AWS best practices for architecture and security 	
4.1 <u>Partner Practice Landing Page</u>	APN Partner must have an AWS-branded microsite that is related to or specific to AWS service. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence must be provided in the form of a public reference to the APN Partner's solution, practice, or service-specific webpages. ▪ APN Partner microsite must be accessible from APN Partner home page; Home page is not acceptable as a microsite. 	

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AWS Service Delivery Program Requirements

In preparation for the validation process, APN Partners should become familiar with the items outlined in this document, and prepare objective evidence, including but not limited to: prepared demonstration to show capabilities, process documentation, and/or actual customer examples.

AWS Amazon RDS Approval Criteria

The AWS Service Delivery Program is guided by [AWS best practices](#) and [Well Architected Framework](#).

Amazon RDS Validation Checklist		Detailed Description of Evidence	Met Y/N
1.0 Case Study Requirements	<p>Two case studies per database engine are provided. APN Partner may apply for more than one engine, but must provide two customer references per engine to receive a designation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amazon Aurora MySQL ▪ Amazon Aurora PostgreSQL ▪ Amazon RDS for PostgreSQL ▪ Amazon RDS for MySQL ▪ Amazon RDS for MariaDB ▪ Amazon RDS for Oracle ▪ Amazon RDS for Microsoft SQL Server. 	Customer implementation description or documentation	
	<p>For engagements where the customer will have responsibility for managing the database, details on guidance that was provided to the customer in order to enable them to meet their Recovery Time Objective (RTO) and Recovery Point Objective (RPO). This guidance should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to use the point in time restore functionality that is provided by Amazon RDS. ▪ How to recover in the same AWS region and in a different AWS region. This would involve techniques such as creating snapshots and replicating snapshots. ▪ Use cases where snapshots and point and time recovery can be used. This would include, but not be limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recovery due to unavailability of a region. ○ Recovery and research due to operator error and application bugs. ○ Recovery due to unexpected data loss or corruption. ▪ How to perform periodic testing of the customer's recovery/restore process to confirm that processes and procedures are known and proved to work in advance of actually needing them. 	Customer implementation description, documentation, and proof in Architecture Diagrams.	
	<p>For engagements where the partner will be managing the customer's database, provide details on what is in place to enable the customer to meet their Recovery Time Objective (RTO) and Recovery Point Objective (RPO).</p>		

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	<p>This recovery plan should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of the Amazon RDS point in time restore functionality. ▪ Techniques being used to recover in the same AWS region or a different AWS region, based on customer requirements. ▪ Outline how testing of the recovery and restore process is done and how frequently this testing is performed for each customer. <p>For engagements where the customer will have responsibility for managing the database, details on customer enablement to allow the customer to use and evolve the solution over time. This customer enablement information should include at least the following evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training and reference materials provided to the customer to ensure that they understand the Amazon RDS service. ▪ Training and reference materials provided to the customer to demonstrate how they are able to operate and evolve the Amazon RDS service to meet their current and future requirements. ▪ Training and reference materials that show the customer how to measure the performance of their Amazon RDS service as well as how to evaluate the current cost of their cluster(s). ▪ Training and reference materials that show the customer how to make adjustments to their Amazon RDS service based on performance and cost measurements. <p>For engagements where the partner is providing case references utilizing the Amazon RDS Oracle database engine, details on guidance that was provided to the customer in regards to Oracle licensing including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences between Oracle Enterprise Edition, Standard Edition, Standard Edition One, and Standard Edition Two and the implications in regards to Amazon RDS. • Difference in licensing costs and coverage between Amazon RDS BYOL (Bring-Your-Own-License) and RDS License-Included. • Oracle License Portability to AWS including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Server-based licenses ○ Enterprise License Agreements (ELA) ○ Unlimited License Agreements (ULA) ○ Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) ○ Oracle PartnerNetwork (OPN) ○ Named User Plus <p>For engagements where the partner is providing case references utilizing the Amazon RDS SQL Server database engine, details on guidance that was provided to the customer in regards to Microsoft licensing including:</p>		
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- Difference in licensing costs and coverage between Amazon RDS BYOL (Bring-Your-Own-License) and RDS License-Included.
- The License Mobility benefit available to Microsoft customers with eligible server applications covered by active Microsoft Software Assurance.

Details of a properly sized Amazon RDS architecture based on the customer’s non-AWS architecture or requirements for a new application being developed. The purpose of this information is to show the ability to match up customer requirements and usage patterns with what can be done in Amazon RDS. Details should include:

Existing Architecture:

- Non-AWS architecture and what its performance and availability characteristics were.
- High Availability and Recovery model of the existing architecture.
- Shortcomings of the existing architecture.
- Final Amazon RDS architecture, how it lines up against the previous architecture, and how it meets or exceeds the current customer implementation in regards to cost, operations, and performance.

New Application:

- Requirements for the new application and what the database needs were. Details should include: availability needs, regional or multi-regional access needs, transactions per second, database initial size, and expected growth rate of the size of the database.
- Final Amazon RDS architecture and details on how the final architecture lines up with the application requirements.

Details on what the customer was provided in relation to implementing database security related to their Amazon RDS service. This would include such items as:

- How to implement password policies for their database (password strength, rotation policies, etc.)
- How to implement secure password storage, retrieval, and rotation for human and application access to the database.
- How to capture and analyze available log files for potential security events related to their database.
- Encryption options for data at rest or at the column level.
- Relevant AWS security features:
 - Identity and Access Management configuration.
 - Configuration of the VPC and overall network containing the database and applications interacting with the database.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access controls to the database and database subnets via security groups and Access Control Lists. <p>Details on what assistance was provided to the customer on how their application could be architected to take advantage of functionality that exists within Amazon RDS. This would include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing the application to utilize concurrent connections to the Amazon RDS database engine. • Changing their application to utilize the different read and write endpoints of the Amazon RDS service • Changing of other applications or processes to utilize the read endpoint of the Amazon RDS service to enable reporting or data warehouse operations. 		
<p>2.0 AWS Service Requirements</p>	<p>2.1 Solution Characteristics: Each submitted customer reference includes and describes in detail the approach, implementation, and customer acceptance testing for at least one the following use cases. While at least one use-case is needed, please highlight all the use cases that applied to the customer reference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross-regional replication or another cross-regional DR setup. ▪ Use of a master instance and one or more read replicas with the primary fail over read replica located in a different availability zone from the master instance. ▪ Use of AutoScaling for Read Replicas. ▪ Use of encryption in the database (either server side or client side). ▪ A migration to Amazon RDS from a non-AWS environment. ▪ Utilization of read replica failovers with different priorities to enable automated failover to the correct read replica. ▪ Zero downtime, automated re-sizing of master and read replica instances based on performance metrics being exhibited on those instances. Enabling the customer to maintain adequate performance and a cost-effective architecture. 		
	<p>2.2 Solution Complexity: Each submitted customer reference is for a database at least 25GB in size. Please provide the following characteristics of the database:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial size of the database. ▪ Expected yearly growth of the database. ▪ Number of tables in the database. ▪ Anticipated number of concurrent requests during peak use of the database. ▪ Anticipated percentage of read operations against the entire database during peak usage. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Anticipated percentage of write operations against the entire database during peak usage.		
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Useful links:

<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonRDS/latest/UserGuide/Welcome.html>

<https://aws.amazon.com/rds/getting-started/>

<https://aws.amazon.com/rds/faqs/>

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