Amazon Elastic File System Gets Production-Ready

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Amazon announces the Elastic File System (EFS) is now production-ready in the EU (Ireland) region, providing AWS users with another means of cloud-based storage.

EFS differs from the likes of S3, Glacier and Elastic Block Store (EBS) by being more straightforward to use. It essentially replicates on-premise storage servers, only within EC2 instances on the Amazon cloud. As such, users can create POSIX-compliant file systems on EC2 instances via NFS, without need to pre-provision storage space or bandwidth.

The system automatically scales up or down according to how much storage files require, and since it usues the standard NFSv4 protocol it should be compatible with most existing apps.

"Many AWS customers have asked us for a way to more easily manage file storage on a scalable basis," Amaon says. "Some of these customers run farms of web servers or content management systems that benefit from a common namespace and easy access to a corporate or departmental file hierarchy. Others run HPC and Big Data applications that create, process, and then delete many large files, resulting in storage utilisation and throughput demands that vary wildly over time."

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