Newbies Attendee Guide 2021
Hello! My name is Hiroko Nishimura, and I'm a Technical Instructor and Technical Writer who focuses on teaching introductory cloud computing concepts to people with nontraditional technical backgrounds.

I teach “Introduction to AWS for Non-Engineers” courses at LinkedIn Learning and am the founder of AWS Newbies and Cloud Newbies, which are resources to help people begin learning about the AWS Cloud jargon-free.

I curated the “re:Invent for Newbies” attendee guide for those of you who are a bit overwhelmed by the catalog and are looking for more foundational sessions to attend at AWS re:Invent 2021.
Breakout sessions
Feeling a little overwhelmed at the sheer volume of highly technical workshops and sessions at re:Invent? I've curated a guide for cloud newbies and experienced veterans to learn more about the value propositions of AWS and how companies we've all heard about utilize the AWS Cloud to make magic happen!

**BOA201**

15 years of AWS with Jeff Barr

Jeff Barr, VP and Chief Evangelist at AWS, will discuss with you how AWS came to be and the innovations over the past 15 years that helped keep the AWS Cloud at the top. Need the real introduction to AWS Cloud? This is the breakout session to attend!

**ARC201**

Reliable scalability: How Amazon.com scales in the cloud

Amazon.com is huge. By now, many of us have seen the photograph of Jeff Bezos with the URL spray-painted on the wall. How did it come from there to now, as one of the top websites in the world? In short, how did it scale without breaking? This breakout session will take you back in time to learn about how Amazon.com became what it is today.
Remote workforce cloud migration patterns

We've all experienced COVID-19 and the disruption it brought to work as we used to take for granted. Learn how cloud computing helped to make remote working possible for so many organizations.

The architect elevator: Connecting IT and the boardroom

Explaining the value proposition of new ways of doing things to people who are comfortable with the old ways is difficult. Learn how to make complex technical topics approachable to executives to get the green light to innovate in this breakout session!

HPC on AWS: Innovating without infrastructure constraints

In this breakout session, learn about high performance computing and how cloud computing allows it to become reality by reducing infrastructure capacity constraints.
Finding capable cloud professionals is hard! The demand is so high, and the field is rapidly changing. This session will help you learn about how to hire, keep, and level up great talent to keep up with innovation!

How does innovation in cloud computing and AWS benefit content production in the media and entertainment industries? This breakout session will bring you into the world of high-tech media production via the cloud!

From paper straws to reusable bags, sustainability is something we are grappling with daily as part of the enormous ecosystem we call our home. Sustainability in tech is also an extremely complex yet vital topic that we will need to grapple with for years to come. Learn about how Amazon is paving the way for achieving net-zero carbon by 2040.

With the inevitable shift to remote-first work, virtualization of technology for the workforce quickly became a hot topic. Discover how AWS innovation can help enable the workforce to be productive from anywhere!

Want to build your very own serverless application from scratch? This breakout session is for you!
Interactive sessions
It's easy to get lost at re:Invent, especially if you're new to the AWS Cloud or if it's your first time attending. I've curated a few interactive sessions that “AWS Newbies” can benefit from, ranging from learning about the Cloud Essentials, to exam prep for few of the core certifications, to getting started with building in the AWS Cloud with AWS Lightsail.

**TNC101**

**AWS Cloud Technical Essentials**

Want to get hands-on with the AWS Cloud platform, but have no idea where to begin? Start with the AWS Cloud Essentials bootcamp, which will introduce you to fundamental AWS concepts and services!

**TNC208**

**Exam prep: AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate**

Are you ready to begin studying for the AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate exam? It’s one of the most valuable cloud certifications around, and this bootcamp will help you prepare!

**BTH001**

**AWS Training and Certification information booth**

Not quite sure if AWS certifications are relevant to you? Or want to learn about different ways of preparing for certain exams? Drop by the AWS Training and Certification information booth to chat with AWS experts!
Have you heard of the Amazon Working Backwards method? It's a product development approach that begins with imagining the ready-to-ship product and preparing a press release. Attend this workshop to learn about how Amazon and AWS utilized this development approach for their digital innovations!

In this builder’s session, learn how to utilize different AWS services to help create dashboards that can help your team track and ingest data for operations-driven development.

Amazon Lightsail is a great AWS service to begin working with the AWS Cloud for small business owners and freelancers looking to get their presence online quickly and efficiently!

Amazon Lightsail is a great service to begin utilizing the AWS Cloud for your business or hobby. Learn how to set up highly available WordPress websites in this chalk talk!
Other recommendations
Bootcamp for **Newbies**

**TNC101**
AWS Cloud Technical Essentials

New to the cloud? No problem. Learn by doing. You'll cover fundamental AWS concepts related to compute, database, storage, networking, monitoring, and security.

This bootcamp introduces you to essential AWS services and common solutions. The bootcamp covers fundamental AWS concepts related to compute, database, storage, networking, monitoring, and security. It also explores concepts that increase your understanding of AWS services, so you can make more informed business decisions. Throughout the bootcamp, learn how to build, compare, and apply highly available, fault-tolerant, scalable, and cost-effective cloud solutions.

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GameDay for **Newbies**

**GAMEDAY**
Quests Game Night

GameDay’s mission is for customers to learn interactively and have fun in a risk-free environment. Join us to test and grow your AWS skills under light competition and gamification.

GameDay is a collaborative learning exercise that tests skills in implementing AWS solutions to solve real-world problems in a gamified, risk-free environment. This is a completely hands-on opportunity for technical professionals to explore AWS services, architecture patterns, best practices, and group cooperation. GameDay Quests are short, standalone technical challenges that individuals can attempt at their own pace. Quests Game Night is a new night activity for customers to experiment with the quests of their choice, network with other attendees, meet the GameDay team, and grab food and drinks.
Keynotes
Adam Selipsky Keynote

Adam Selipsky is the CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS), the world’s most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud platform. Having previously led AWS Marketing, Sales, and Support for 11 years, from 2005–2016, Selipsky helped launch and grow AWS from a startup into a multi-billion dollar business. Prior to rejoining AWS in 2021, Selipsky was most recently President and CEO of Tableau Software. He led Tableau through its acquisition by Salesforce, in what was the third-largest software industry acquisition at the time. Selipsky has also held various leadership roles at RealNetworks, and before that, was a Principal at strategy consulting firm Mercer Management Consulting. He has an AB in government from Harvard University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.
Peter DeSantis Keynote

Peter DeSantis is the Senior Vice President of AWS Global Infrastructure and Customer Support. In this role, he leads the AWS teams responsible for designing the data centers, servers, and network that underpin our AWS services and for deploying and operating this infrastructure worldwide as well as for the customer-facing organizations providing support for our AWS products.

Live stream sponsored by: stripe

Machine Learning Keynote

Swami Sivasubramanian is Vice President at AWS in charge of all Amazon AI and machine learning services. His team’s mission is “to put machine learning capabilities in the hands of every developer and data scientist.” Swami and the AWS AI and ML organization work on all aspects of machine learning, from ML frameworks (TensorFlow, Apache MXNet, and PyTorch) and infrastructure, to Amazon SageMaker (an end-to-end service for building, training, and deploying ML models in the cloud and at the edge), and finally AI services that make it easier for app developers to incorporate ML into their apps with no ML experience required.

Global Partner Summit Keynote

Join us for the Global Partner Summit keynote, presented by Doug Yeum, Head of AWS Partner Organization, Sandy Carter, Vice President, Worldwide Public Sector Partners and Programs, and Stephen Orban, General Manager of AWS Marketplace and Control Services. You’ll learn about cloud-powered innovation and the opportunity it creates for AWS Partners, as well as how AWS Partners use the AWS Cloud to build innovative solutions and services, differentiate their businesses, and enable customers in virtually every industry to transform their businesses.

Live stream sponsored by:

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Leadership sessions
Leadership sessions*

LaDavia Drane
Director, Inclusion, Diversity & Equity

Francesca Vasquez
Vice President, Technology

*Sessions are subject to change
Leadership sessions*

AWS Marketplace
Stephen Orban
General Manager, AWS Marketplace

AWS Public Sector
Max Peterson
Vice President, Worldwide Public Sector

AWS Public Sector Partners
Sandy Carter
Vice President, Worldwide Public Sector Partners and Programs

AWS Storage
Mai-Lan Tomsen-Bukovec
Vice President, Worldwide Public Sector Partners and Programs

AI/ML
Bratin Saha
Vice President, Machine Learning

*Sessions are subject to change
Leadership sessions*

Rahul Pathak
Vice President, Analytics

Brian Taptich
Vice President, AWS Worldwide Specialist Organization

Peter Hill
Vice President, Business Applications

Bill Vass
Vice President, Engineering – Storage, Automation, Streaming & Management

David Brown
Vice President, Amazon EC2

*Sessions are subject to change
Leadership sessions*

Containers

Deepak Singh
Vice President, Compute Services

Databases

Jeff Carter
Vice President, Relational Databases

Developer

Ken Exner
Director, AWS Developer Tools

Edge

Bill Vass
Vice President, Engineering – Storage, Automation, Streaming & Management

Enterprise and Migration

Todd Weatherby
Vice President, Professional Services

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IoT
Michael MacKenzie
General Manager, AWS IoT

Networking & Content Delivery
David Brown
Vice President, Amazon EC2

Security, Compliance, and Identity
Stephen Schmidt
Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer

Serverless
David Richardson
Vice President, Serverless

Training & Certification
Maureen Lonergan
Director of AWS Training and Certification

Live stream sponsored by:

*Sessions are subject to change
Choose the learning methods that work for you

**Breakout sessions**
Available from intermediate (200) through expert levels (400), so you can grow your skills, no matter where you are in your career. Select from any track, level, or available session type to tailor your re:Invent experience.

**Workshops**
Workshops are two-hour hands-on sessions where you work in teams to solve problems using AWS services. Workshops organize attendees into small groups and provide scenarios to encourage interaction, giving you the opportunity to learn from and teach each other.

**Chalk talks**
Chalk talks are a highly interactive content format with a small audience. Each begins with a short lecture (10–15 minutes) delivered by an AWS expert, followed by a 45- or 50-minute Q&A session with the audience.

**Builders’ sessions**
These are 60-minute small group sessions with up to six attendees per table, and one AWS expert, who is there to answer questions and provide guidance. It’s just you, your laptop, and the AWS expert.
Choose the learning methods that work for you

Training and Certification
Learn directly from AWS experts and get practical experience with real-world cloud scenarios. Skill up fast with a bootcamp, show your expertise by earning an AWS Certification, and practice your craft with one of our labs.

AWS DeepRacer
Developers of all skill levels can compete in virtual races during re:Invent for a chance to win prizes and glory! Tune in to AWS DeepRacer TV throughout re:Invent to catch the championship action.

Jams and GameDays
Test your skills in implementing AWS solutions by solving real-world problems in a gamified, risk-free environment. Take part in collaborative and interactive learning exercises—and win prizes!

Expo
Learn from AWS experts and partners. The Expo at The Venetian will be host to AWS Village, AWS Partner Network, AWS Marketplace, Builders' Fair, Developer Lounge, a demo theater, Jam Lounge, Startup Central, and sponsor booths.
Once again this year, we will be hosting an AWS-style pep rally to kick off the week and welcome our most dedicated fans. Midnight Madness provides a sneak peek into re:Invent, complete with the first product launch of re:Invent 2021.

Experience Amazon’s unique culture at one (or more!) of our Quirky events. Whether it’s board games, bingo, or a sneak peek of one of your favorite Amazon TV shows, we’ve got something for everyone.

For our 10th annual re:Play party, we have an amazing lineup, featuring all the classic re:Play activities like dodgeball and office chair grand prix, and we have a very special musical headliner. Stay tuned for more information!

Join the conversation at our vibrant restaurant receptions. Meet people from across the tech world and connect on topics of interest to you at a range of wonderful venues.
Reserved seating
Navigate to the session catalog

After logging in to the event portal, click on the side nav and click “Sessions”.
When viewing the session catalog, there is a set of filters available on the left sidebar of the sessions catalog that shows a variety of filters you can use while browsing. Filters include: price, day of the week, difficulty level, session type, topic, AWS service, and industry.
Using catalog search

At the top of the session catalog, there is a search bar where you can enter freeform text to search the full catalog. The search box searches through all of the displayed text fields of a session, including session ID, title, abstract, and level.
When viewing the session catalog, any session shown in the results has a star icon on it. Clicking that star will mark it as a favorite. To un-favorite it, simply click the star again.
Reserving a session

For events with reserved seating, when a session has available seats, the button on the session card will say “Reserve seat”.

For sessions with a price greater than zero, the button will say “Buy for <price>”. Clicking purchase will open up the purchase form where you can complete your transaction. Once the transaction is complete, that session will show on your reservations list.
RESERVED SEATING WALKTHROUGH

Waitlisting a session

When a session has no seats available, because the capacity has already been met, then the button will say “Join waitlist”. If you join a waitlist for a session, and a seat becomes available in that session, you may automatically be placed in that session and we will notify you via email.

15 years of AWS with Jeff Barr

BOA201

Amazon S3 and Amazon EC2 are turning 15 this year, and Jeff Barr, VP and Chief Evangelist at AWS, has been there since the beginning. Join him as he looks back on how the developer experience has evolved over the years, and how customers keep surprising us with new use cases. From the early days of the web to the emergence of modern cloud-native application development, Jeff shares his insights on how AWS has evolved over the years and how the developer experience has changed. Last but not least, he shares his favorites that provide the most impact in the AWS community and shares lessons on how to best build on AWS. Last but not least, go back in time as Jeff shares his favorite memories from the early days of AWS.

Session type: Breakout Session
Topics: None
Session level: 200 - Intermediate

Join waitlist
Along the top of the catalog page, there are 3 tabs: 1) All sessions, 2) My favorites, and 3) My reservations. Clicking on “My favorites” will show you a list of only sessions you have favorited. Clicking on “My reservations” will show you a list of items you have reserved or waitlisted.
**RESERVED SEATING WALKTHROUGH**

**Cancelling a reservation or waitlist**

When viewing a session, in any tab, if you have reserved or waitlisted, you can cancel that action by simply clicking the button again. It will show a dropdown that says “Cancel reservation” or “Leave waitlist”.

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**Automating content moderation to improve digital safety**

**AIM307**

The volume of user-generated content and third-party content has been exploding in social media, online communities, and other end users, companies need to find a way to review audio, image, video, and text content at scale for potential issues. This chalk talk provides hands-on experience to implement a multimodal AI content moderation solution, including speech (Amazon Transcribe), and text (Amazon Comprehend).

**Session type:** Chalk Talk  
**Topics:** Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning  
**Session level:** 300 - Advanced

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**BOA201**

Amazon S3 and Amazon EC2 are turning 15 this year, and Jeff Barr, VP and Chief Evangelist, revisits where they were born, how the developer experience has evolved over the years, and how customers keep building on S3 and EC2, both within the community and shares lessons on how to best build on AWS. Last but not least, go back to basics and learn about comparing and using S3 and EC2.

**Session type:** Breakout Session  
**Topics:** None  
**Session level:** 200 - Intermediate
RESERVED SEATING WALKTHROUGH

Viewing your calendar

In the main navbar on the left of the session catalog, you will see a link that says “My calendar”.
RESERVED SEATING WALKTHROUGH

Viewing your calendar

If you navigate to the calendar, you will see all of your favorites, reserved seats, and waitlisted seats on the corresponding days that those sessions are scheduled.
Make a plan
Breakout sessions are lecture-style and one hour long. Sessions are delivered by AWS experts, customers, and partners, and they typically include 10–15 minutes at the end for Q&A.

Chalk talks are one hour long and contain expert-level content presented by AWS experts. The goal is to foster a technical discussion around real-world architecture challenges.

Workshops organize attendees into small groups and provide scenarios to encourage interaction, giving you the opportunity to learn from and teach each other.

These are 60-minute small group sessions with up to six attendees per table, and one AWS expert, who is there to answer questions and provide guidance.

PRO TIP:
Breakout sessions should make up the bulk of your plan. You can find customers directly speaking about their real-world experiences of using AWS products and services in sessions!
Building your agenda

PRO TIPS:

• Make sure to watch the leadership sessions that are most relevant to your areas of interest to get the most strategic updates.

• Be sure to not miss out on all the keynotes, as that's where you'll catch the biggest AWS launches.

• re:Invent always tries to feature many customers directly speaking about their real-world experiences of using AWS products and services. You'll find them in many breakout sessions, as well as keynotes.

• Think about topics that are currently mission critical to your team, and topics you're interested in learning more about.

• Breakout sessions will be available to watch virtually, even if you are registered for in-person re:Invent.

• Make an extensive list of sessions to watch! Favorite lots of sessions so when reserved seating goes live, you have lots of options.
Got free time on your schedule?

There are many learning opportunities across the re:Invent campus in Las Vegas that require no reservation. Drop by the Expo, visit a content hub, or practice your craft in one of our labs.

**Expo**
Learn from AWS experts and partners. The Expo at The Venetian will be host to AWS Village, AWS Partner Network, AWS Marketplace, Builders’ Fair, Developer Lounge, a demo theater, Jam Lounge, Startup Central, and sponsor booths. Come by and see all that the Expo has to offer!

**Content hubs**
Breakout session repeats will take place all week in all re:Invent venues, along with overflow sessions in our content hubs (centralized overflow rooms in every venue). We will also stream live content to the content hubs as the sessions fill up.

**Labs**
Practice your craft in a live AWS sandbox environment. Try any of our 100+ self-paced labs on your own, or reserve time with an AWS expert who can coach and guide you. Whether you’re just starting out or honing your technical skills, learn by doing with labs.
Your re:Invent checklist

- Register for re:Invent / Book your hotel / Book your travel reservations / Upload your badge photo
- If attending in person, review the [health measures](#) in place for this year’s re:Invent
- Visit the [re:Invent website](#) to stay up to date on announcements
- Add all five [keynotes](#) to your agenda
  - **Pro Tip:** This is where you’ll catch the biggest AWS launches
- Add your favorite leadership sessions to your agenda
- Get ready for reserved seating: favorite the learning sessions of interest to you
- Familiarize yourself with sponsors in the [Expo](#), along with the Expo map
- If you’re attending with a team, connect with your colleagues to plan how to conquer the many hours of content
  - **Pro Tip:** Don’t forget to find time to reconvene with your team and debrief on everyone’s learnings
- Check out the [Play](#) activities and add them to your agenda
- Watch all the [How to re:Invent](#) videos to prepare for the week
- Follow Amazon Web Services on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter
Useful resources
How to re:Invent
Everything you need to know about how to re:Invent. Insider tips, planning advice, and interviews with re:Invent experts. Stay tuned for more episodes on the road to re:Invent!

Health measures
The health and safety of our customers, partners, and employees remains our top priority. Review our updated COVID-19 vaccination requirements for attending re:Invent in Las Vegas.

FAQs
Get all the info you need on topics such as health and safety, registration, accessibility, and much more.
Thank you!