



AWS Fully Managed Services vs Unmanaged: Key Differences & Best Options for Your Business



In today's fast-evolving cloud landscape, Amazon Web Services (AWS) offers a range of fully managed and unmanaged services to suit various business needs. Choosing between these two options can have a significant impact on your cloud operations, cost management, and resource allocation.

In this article, we will break down the differences between AWS fully managed services and unmanaged services, provide examples of each, and offer recommendations based on business needs.

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What Are AWS Fully Managed Services?

AWS fully managed services are cloud services that AWS manages on behalf of the user. These services offer end-to-end management, from infrastructure setup to maintenance, security updates, and performance monitoring.

Fully managed services are ideal for businesses looking to offload operational complexities to AWS. The primary advantage is that AWS handles most of the heavy lifting, allowing your team to focus on core business operations instead of managing infrastructure.

Key Features of Fully Managed Services:

- AWS handles infrastructure provisioning and scaling.
- Built-in security and compliance management.
- Automatic updates and patch management.
- Integrated monitoring and disaster recovery.

What Are Unmanaged Services in AWS?

In contrast to fully managed services, AWS unmanaged services require users to handle many aspects of the service operation themselves. This includes provisioning resources, scaling infrastructure, maintaining security patches, and ensuring high availability.

Unmanaged services offer greater flexibility and control over the configuration and maintenance of your infrastructure, but they come with increased complexity and a higher demand for skilled resources.

Key Features of Unmanaged Services:

- Full control over infrastructure and applications.
- Higher customization options.
- Users are responsible for security, updates, and resource management.
- Requires in-house or third-party expertise.

Key Differences Between Fully Managed and Unmanaged Services

Feature	Fully Managed Services	Unmanaged Services
Control	Limited control (AWS manages key aspects)	Full control (User manages everything)
Maintenance	AWS handles updates and patching	Users responsible for updates and patching
Scaling	Automatic scaling managed by AWS	Manual scaling managed by users
Security	Built-in security features, managed by AWS	User must configure and manage security settings
Operational Complexity	Low complexity, AWS manages infrastructure	High complexity, users must manage infrastructure
Cost	Higher due to managed services	Potentially lower, but requires skilled resources

Examples of AWS Fully Managed Services

Here are some popular AWS fully managed services that automate most of the operations:

1. Amazon RDS (Relational Database Service)

AWS manages database engines like MySQL, PostgreSQL, and SQL Server, including tasks like backup, patching, scaling, and availability.

2. Amazon DynamoDB

A fully managed NoSQL database that automatically scales based on demand, with built-in security and high availability.

3. Amazon S3 (Simple Storage Service)

AWS handles everything from storage to data replication and security, allowing users to focus on accessing and storing files.

4. AWS Lambda

A fully managed service that runs your code in response to events and automatically

scales based on the number of requests.

5. **Amazon Elastic Kubernetes Service (EKS)**

AWS manages the Kubernetes control plane, making it easier to deploy, manage, and scale containerized applications.

Examples of Unmanaged Services in AWS

On the other hand, unmanaged services in AWS provide flexibility but require users to manage the infrastructure:

1. **Amazon EC2 (Elastic Compute Cloud)**

EC2 provides resizable compute capacity but leaves users responsible for OS patching, instance scaling, and security.

2. **Amazon VPC (Virtual Private Cloud)**

Users can define their own virtual networks, subnets, and routing rules but must manage connectivity and security configurations.

3. **Amazon EBS (Elastic Block Store)**

EBS offers block storage for EC2 instances, but users are responsible for backups, encryption, and scaling.

4. **Amazon EMR (Elastic MapReduce)**

While AWS manages the Hadoop cluster setup, users are still responsible for tuning, managing clusters, and scaling.

Conclusion

AWS offers both fully managed and unmanaged services, catering to businesses with different needs. Fully managed services reduce the operational burden but come at a higher cost, while unmanaged services offer flexibility and control at the expense of increased complexity.

Whether you choose fully managed or unmanaged services, partnering with an expert like [NIT Infotech](#) ensures your cloud operations run smoothly, helping you focus on what matters most — growing your business.