Cloud Cover

An Unauthorized Biography of EC2

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Elastic

- dynamic provisioning of virtualized machines

Compute

- little units of computation+memory+disk+network

Cloud

- location-agnostic, outsourced infrastructure management

The Good

On-demand computing

Web service

As flexible as a real datacenter

Much simpler than a real datacenter

Cost directly scales with utility

Best firewall you ever saw

Your IT department ==
Clown shoes

Game-changer

The Bad

As flexible as a real datacenter

More expensive than dedicated VPS (per-box)

Must build applications
to scale from start

Off-cloud testing isn't really possible today

Elastic? Yes
Instant? No

Ah, yes... the hidden limit

The Ugly

No persistent disk*

(*) This is <u>being worked on as we speak</u>

First-write penalty

Everyone ends up logging in as root

Difficult to secure from inside attack

Rockin' the lock-in*

(*) This, too, is <u>being worked on as we speak</u>

Annoying transient failures*

(*) Here's a script to grab the SSH keys that's resilient to the above:
http://gist.github.com/3494

What works well?

EC2 + SQS = Win

Independently scalable
components
(Amazon-style)

Hadoop

Trick: think of an EC2 instance as a UNIX process

What doesn't?

MySQL

PostgreSQL

Oracle

Basically: database-backed applications

Data warehousing

EC2 Instance Data

So...

EC2 == **EPIC WIN**...

...but you have to think different

Thanks for not snoring!

Oh yeah: larges are the best value