# Transcript: IT Podcast - Ep 45 - AWS Test Strategy

*The following transcript is a verbatim account of the video or audio file accompanying this transcript.*

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

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Speaker #2:

Hi, this is the AWS testing strategy presented to assist you with preparing to take an AWS Associate level exam. The agenda for this is to identify the differences between the testing strategies that you've used with various certifications prior to AWS and some strategies or at least one today that we apply for Associate level exams from AWS. We'll talk about keywords and how we now need to build a story around those. We'll talk about a strategy that you can apply to help you build that story, and we'll walk through a sample question.

So what's the difference? You've taken CompTIA exams, you might have taken a Cisco exams and now you're currently working on an AWS Associate level exam. You might have even taken the AWS Cloud Practitioner. But there is a major difference in how you approach these Associate level exams because it requires you to think a little more. It requires you to take a little bit more depth in the understanding of the content that you're learning. With CompTIA and some of the other certifications that you've taken in the past, you might have used the strategy of find the two answers that look absolutely odd and would not apply, and that leaves you a 50-50 chance with the remaining two. Well, with the Associate level exams, you may have a few questions that that applies. But because the questions are scenario-based, that may not quite work for you, and so we have to dig a little deeper. With CompTIA exams, you might have been able to memorize the content and then apply what you've memorized in a definitive type of manner. For example, the question may ask you the fact, and if you memorize the facts, then it's easy to put two and two together. Well, with the AWS Associate level exams, you have to go beyond just the facts. You have to connect the dots with the facts, and that's something that you don't learn from a learning resource, is something that is applied either from practice or from actual going through and completing labs or practicing with some hard questions on practice exams.

So how do you get beyond the old way of testing? Well, two and two strategies, which you've used in the past. Find the two wrong answers. It leaves you with two possible valid choices and process of elimination. You were also taught or have learned to find key words that is still important. You do need the keywords. But now what we have to do is move from a fact based to a scenario-based style question. So that the keywords that you're finding in the question, you can connect the dots with those keywords and build a story in order to identify exactly what that question is asking you. So basically, you're dissecting this question and weeding and tearing it apart, and that sounds like a lot of work. But once you come up with a strategy, it simplifies that for you.

As I mentioned, your keywords need a story. You have the facts, you have to be able to imply the unknown. They're things that are stated without saying them. For example, you may have a list of words that are given in the question, and there's one key word that would change your perception of what that question is asking, but it never states that keyword because it's implied. You have to be able to connect the dots to tell the story. So let's look at a strategy to help you do that.

The strategy is, you are a consultant. Every single question is your client. What is the first thing you do as a consultant when you meet a new client? You identify what the problem is, what is the issue? There's a reason why you were brought on board. So for the question, what are they trying to address? Is there an issue? Is there a problem or there's something that they're trying to accomplish and do, which is the main theme of the question. Next is, what are the requirements? You have something that you want to accomplish, what are your requirements of me to accomplish this problem or tackle this issue. Then lastly is the wishlist. Wishlist is things that a company may want to do, but don't realize that it doesn't fit or fix the problem and it doesn't fit with the requirements that they're asking for you. If you can pull your key words out of a question and identify where it belongs. Is this the issue? Is this a requirement or is it a wishlist?

Let's walk through an example to put two and two together here. The question states, ABC company needs to move it's data to a Cloud storage solution. The solution needs to allow several servers to mount the store solution at the same time. ABC company would like the most effective or most cost-effective solution. Which of the following AWS storage options can ABC company use? Well, there are a lot of keywords in this question. There are words that if you don't put it in its right place, meaning either requirement or wishlist, it could steer you in the wrong direction as to what the question is really asking for. Perfect example, let's take a look at some keywords here. Number 1, the issues that they want to move to a Cloud storage solution. That's the theme of this question, Cloud storage. Moving forward what else does it say? They want to be able to mount the storage solution at the same time. Remember, early I talked about implied words that you have to pull out from what you are given. This is saying that they want a shared Cloud storage solution. You want to mount the storage solution to several servers at the same time. So it's shared. It doesn't say shared in the question, but it's implied. Other keywords. They want the most cost effective. What is the problem or the issue? The issue is that they want to move to Cloud storage solution. What is the requirement? The requirement is that it must have the ability to share across multiple servers at the same time. It also says, most cost effective solution. Is that a requirement or is that a wishlist? Wishlist, usually are not definitive. They can be vague. There isn't a set number here. So most cost-effective solution is kind of vague. It's saying, we don't want to spend a lot of money. Well, how much is a lot of money? If we stick to the problem in the requirement and narrow down our list based off of those two things, if it's more than one option that's left, then we use the wishlist. Our options here are EBS, EFS, S3, and Glacier. Now, it's very easy to see that last set of keywords, most cost-effective solution. In other words, the cheapest is very easy to choose S3, because out of the ones that actually work, it would be the cheapest. Some might say, Glacier, but Glacier, does it fit the scenario? If you would've marked S3 is the answer, it would have been wrong because it does not solve the problem and it doesn't meet the requirement. The requirement is that you must have the ability to mount this storage solution at the same time to multiple servers. You can't do that with S3. EBS doesn't allow you to do this either. So the best choice out of what we have off of this list of Cloud storage solutions is EFS.

If you notice how we broke this question down based off of the key words, but we gave our key words a meaning, a place that they fit to be able to tell a story. This is how you have to tackle or one way that you can tackle scenario-based questions. When it comes to the AWS Associate level exams, you're expected to be able to go beyond just the facts, which is what you learn. In most of the learning resource is you learn the facts. But then you're expected to be able to build a story or connect the dots. By going through and processing your questions in a manner that you can tell the story, you can weed apart or tear apart if you say or divide the answer choices and then place them in the category that they belong if it fits.

A lot of times with these type of questions, you'll see choices where A, B, C, and D all look correct, and you'll have to be able to process and think critically through those questions, and this is just one method that you can use to apply.

So as usual, if you have any questions, you can feel free to contact us, your course instructors over IT Cloud at WGU.edu. Have a great day.

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

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