AWS: Getting Started with SoftNAS Cloud®

Creating a SoftNAS Cloud POC on AWS

As a first time user, the primary goals are simply to see the product in action, to determine its capabilities, and then to determine the requirements. This document will focus on providing you a functional instance, sharing a CIFS volume, deployable in either a public or a private VPC. It will also provide the additional steps to create a 2nd virtual machine and configure high availability, if you so choose. This basic setup will allow you to test the key features of SoftNAS Cloud Enterprise, while providing a baseline for your production requirements.

The VPC configured for this deployment is designed to allow you to deploy into either a public or a private VPC and subnet. Deploying into a private subnet requires a pre-established method to tunnel and connect to your private instances, such as AWS Direct Connect, or a NAT Gateway or Instance. This guide assumes that your organization has pre-configured a method to connect to your private instances, whether via the cloud or in your hardware environment, if you decide to deploy into a private subnet.

Note: The guidance in the following document applies equally to all editions of SoftNAS Cloud® (Enterprise, Platinum and Essentials), however, bear in mind the limitations of Essentials, notably that Essentials is object storage only, and currently does not provide high availability. However, the process of creating your instance, configuring disks, pools and volumes are the same.

Note: Platinum features are not in scope for this Getting Started Guide, however, the setup presented here will provide a strong foundation for your platinum deployment. Simply remember to select the Platinum Edition if you plan to test or deploy Platinum features.

Planning Your Instance

There are numerous considerations when creating any storage solution, and SoftNAS Cloud® is no exception. Dependent on the use case, the expected performance levels, the platform you select, and much more, one configuration of SoftNAS Cloud® will look much different from the rest. For the purposes of a basic proof of concept (POC), many of these elements might seem irrelevant, but they are not. For a POC to be of value, it must provide insight into not only the product but also what you intend to use it for. If your POC is not designed to provide you a baseline of the functionality you expect in a production environment, then it may be a wasted exercise.

To ensure your instance meets your needs, the following considerations are key:

- **AMI selection** – How much storage does your POC instance require? Will SoftNAS Cloud Essentials meet your needs, or do you wish to emulate a more flexible production environment?
- **Instance Size** – What performance characteristics do you require? A great deal of RAM to handle large-scale data storage? Processing power (vCPU) to handle encryption or compression?
- **Storage** – What performance characteristics do you require from your storage? Is it an infrequently accessed archive? Is it a database serving a demanding application?
- **Network/Throughput** – do you require a great deal of throughput? Does your use case require constant and immediate access to the data in question?

- **Security** – Should data be encrypted? Do you wish to restrict access to a specific IP or IP range? What traffic do you wish to allow?
- **Type of High Availability** – Will you be leveraging SoftNAS' SNAP HA functionality, or is this a stand-alone deployment?

In order to assist you during the creation of the POC, we will be providing information on the key considerations listed above as they arise in the creation process.

- AWS Getting Started - Project Planning
- AWS Getting Started - Creating Your Instances
- AWS Getting Started - Configuring Your Instance
- AWS Getting Started - Configuring High Availability