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VPC Endpoints

What?

- A VPC endpoint enables connections between a VPC and supported services, without the need of an internet gateway, NAT device, VPN connection, or AWS Direct Connect connection.
- There are three types of VPC endpoints – Interface endpoints, Gateway Load Balancer endpoints, and Gateway endpoints.

Why?

- VPC endpoints enable you to connect your VPC to services using private IP addresses, as if those services were hosted directly in your VPC. Traffic between a VPC endpoint and an endpoint service is encrypted and stays within the AWS network, without traversing the public internet. Using an endpoint policy, you can control access to the endpoint service.

When?

- Interface endpoints - to access supported AWS services, PrivateLink Ready partner services, AWS Marketplace services, other endpoint services.
- Gateway endpoint - to send traffic to Amazon S3 or DynamoDB.

Where?

- A service provider creates an endpoint service to make their service available in a Region.
- When you create an interface VPC endpoint, AWS creates Regional and zonal DNS names that you can use to communicate with the AWS service from your VPC.

Who?

- VPC endpoints are virtual devices. They are horizontally scaled, redundant, and highly available VPC components..
- A service consumer creates a VPC endpoint to connect their VPC to an endpoint service.

How?

- Interface endpoints and Gateway Load Balancer endpoints are powered by AWS PrivateLink, and use an Elastic Network Interface (ENI) as an entry point for traffic destined to the service.
- Gateway endpoints serve as a target for a route in your route table for traffic destined for the service.

How much?

- For Interface endpoints and Gateway Load Balancer endpoints, you are charged for each hour that your VPC endpoint is provisioned in each AZ. There is no additional charge for using gateway endpoints. Data processing charges apply for each Gigabyte processed through the VPC endpoint regardless of the traffic's source or destination.

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