



cloudwithshad

BOOTCAMP

AWS Cloud Practitioner Bootcamp

May 2026 Cohort · 4 Weeks · Free

The free 4-week bootcamp that takes you from [Hello World](#) to [Cloud Architect](#).

Curriculum & Programme Overview

WELCOME

From Hello World to Cloud Architect.

A 4-week AWS Cloud Practitioner Bootcamp — taught the way it should have been taught. Through stories from your own world. Through real builds, not lectures. Through a teacher who once stood exactly where you're standing now.

WHY THIS PROGRAMME EXISTS

Cloud computing is no longer optional — it is the foundation of every modern application, every fintech, every AI startup, every government service rolling out across Africa. And yet, most learners still meet AWS through a wall of acronyms, dry documentation, and intimidating diagrams. I built this bootcamp because I wanted the on-ramp I never had — one that meets you where you are, speaks in stories you already understand, and gets your hands on real infrastructure from Day One.

“The path isn’t always clear — but it clears as you walk. If you’re willing to walk, I’ll walk it with you.”

THREE THINGS THAT MAKE THIS DIFFERENT

Stories before syntax	Build, don't watch	Built for Africa
Trotro stations teach Auto Scaling. Makola Market teaches security. Farmlands teach networking. The cloud will never feel foreign again.	Every week ends with you launching real infrastructure. By Day 7, a live website on AWS. By Day 28, an AI app in the cloud.	Designed around what actually works in West Africa — patchy internet, free-tier accounts, real exam paths. Same skills get you hired anywhere.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

The 4-week journey

Each week is a focused theme. Each week ends with you having shipped something real. By the end, you have a portfolio of AWS projects you can show any employer — and a foundation strong enough to walk into the AWS Cloud Practitioner exam with confidence.

WEEK	THEME	YOU'LL BUILD	SKILL UNLOCKED
1	Foundations & First Cloud Project	Portfolio site on S3 + CloudFront Web app on EC2 with Nginx	Cloud Hosting
2	Networking, Storage & Real Architectures	Two-tier app with VPC + RDS Serverless image resizer (Lambda)	Cloud Architecture
3	Scaling, Automation & DevOps	Auto-scaling app + Load Balancer CI/CD pipeline (GitHub → AWS)	Production Engineering
4	AI & The Capstone	Smart Document Analyzer AI Customer Feedback Hub	Cloud + AI

Format: Two live sessions per week (~90 minutes each) + one guided lab + one independent build + one signature animated story explainer. Total commitment: 5–7 hours per week. All recordings provided.

WEEK ONE

Foundations & Your First Cloud Project

We start at zero. By the end of the first week, you'll have launched a real portfolio website on Amazon S3, served globally via CloudFront, and stood up a live web application on a real EC2 server running Nginx. No theory dumps. No PowerPoint marathons. Just hands on the AWS console from Day One.

WEEK 01

Lab 1 — Portfolio on S3 + CloudFront

Guided in-class build · ~60 minutes

- Create an S3 bucket and configure it for static hosting
- Set up CloudFront for global, low-latency delivery
- Configure bucket policies and basic IAM permissions
- Ship a public URL by the end of class

SKILL UNLOCKED: CLOUD HOSTING

WEEK 01

Lab 2 — EC2 + Nginx Web App

Build-on-your-own · ~75 minutes

- Launch an EC2 instance with the right key pair and security group
- SSH in, install and configure Nginx
- Deploy a custom HTML page and a small Node.js API
- Bonus: serve a JSON endpoint with random AWS facts

SKILL UNLOCKED: COMPUTE

WEEK ONE — STORY EXPLAINERS

The Ghana lens on the foundations

Each week comes with one or two signature animated story pages — full scrollable websites that teach the hardest concept of the week through a Ghanaian analogy you already know in your bones. These pages are yours to keep. Share them. Reference them. They make the cloud feel like home.

WEEK 1 · STORY EXPLAINER

The Stalls of Makola Market

IAM Users · Roles · Policies · Groups · Root

A signature cloudwithshad story — taught through a Ghanaian analogy you already know.

Auntie Ama runs a fabric stall in Makola. Her workers each get their own name badge (IAM Users). She writes rule cards for each role (Policies). She groups workers together for bulk permissions (Groups). When a delivery driver visits, she lends them an apron just for ten minutes (Roles). Her master key stays locked away (Root). By the end of this story, IAM stops being an acronym and starts being something you'd run yourself.

WEEK 1 · STORY EXPLAINER

The Postman of Accra

Regions · Availability Zones · Edge Locations

A signature cloudwithshad story — taught through a Ghanaian analogy you already know.

Ghana Post HQ is in Accra — but it's actually three buildings (Osu, Tema, Kasoa). When a storm takes one branch down, the others pick up the slack. And in your village, a small drop-off kiosk handles your daily mail close to home. That's exactly how AWS organises Regions, Availability Zones, and Edge Locations across the world.

WEEK TWO

Networking, Storage & Real Architectures

Now we go deeper into how AWS actually thinks. You'll build a proper two-tier application — a public web layer talking to a private database — complete with VPC, subnets, security groups, and an RDS database. Then you'll go serverless, building an image resizer that triggers on S3 uploads via Lambda and exposes a clean API.

WEEK 02

Lab 3 — Two-Tier App with VPC + RDS

Guided in-class build · ~90 minutes

- Design a VPC with public and private subnets
- Configure security groups to reference each other (the SG-to-SG pattern)
- Provision an RDS database in the private subnet
- Connect a public web tier securely to the private data tier

SKILL UNLOCKED: CLOUD ARCHITECTURE

WEEK 02

Lab 4 — Serverless Image Resizer*Build-on-your-own · ~75 minutes*

- Set up an S3 bucket that triggers Lambda on file upload
- Write a Lambda function to resize images automatically
- Expose a clean API via API Gateway
- Wire it all up and test with real uploads

SKILL UNLOCKED: SERVERLESS

WEEK TWO — STORY EXPLAINERS

The Ghana lens on networking and data

WEEK 2 · STORY EXPLAINER

The Farmlands of Nkrumah Valley

VPC · Subnets · NACLs · Security Groups

A signature cloudwithshad story — taught through a Ghanaian analogy you already know.

Kojo Mensah inherited a vast piece of land. He fenced the boundary (VPC), split it into a public farm near the road and a private farm deep inside (subnets), put strict gatekeepers at each section (NACLs), and assigned smart guards to each building (Security Groups). He even taught his guards to recognise his neighbour Ama's escorts (SG referencing another SG). By the end of this story, the most intimidating section of AWS just becomes a well-run farm.

WEEK 2 · STORY EXPLAINER

The Kitchen at Auntie Akos's Chop Bar

RDS · DynamoDB · S3 — Three storage worlds

A signature cloudwithshad story — taught through a Ghanaian analogy you already know.

Auntie Akos serves food three ways: a master chef cooks complex orders to spec (RDS), a buffet counter lets customers grab pre-made dishes by name (DynamoDB), and a back storeroom holds raw ingredients and old photos (S3). By the end of this story, you'll never confuse a relational database with object storage again.

WEEK THREE

Scaling, Automation & DevOps

This is the week your AWS skills cross the line from "I can launch things" to "I can run real production systems." You'll build an auto-scaling web app behind an Application Load Balancer that grows and shrinks with demand. Then you'll wire up a full CI/CD pipeline so your code goes from a GitHub push to live AWS deployment automatically.

WEEK 03

Lab 5 — Auto-Scaling Web App with ALB

Guided in-class build · ~90 minutes

- Create a Launch Template for identical EC2 instances
- Configure an Auto Scaling Group with min/desired/max
- Set up an Application Load Balancer in front of the fleet
- Trigger scale-out with a simulated load test

SKILL UNLOCKED: PRODUCTION ENGINEERING

WEEK 03

Lab 6 — CI/CD Pipeline (GitHub → AWS)*Build-on-your-own · ~90 minutes*

- Connect GitHub to AWS CodePipeline
- Configure CodeBuild for automated testing
- Auto-deploy to your running EC2 fleet on every push
- Add a manual approval gate for production

SKILL UNLOCKED: DEVOPS

WEEK THREE — STORY EXPLAINERS

The Ghana lens on scale and orchestration

WEEK 3 · STORY EXPLAINER

The Trotro Station at Circle

Auto Scaling · Load Balancing · Health Checks

A signature cloudwithshad story — taught through a Ghanaian analogy you already know.

Three trotros at Circle Station. A conductor balances passengers across them. At rush hour, more trotros appear; at noon they vanish. When one breaks down, a replacement gets dispatched. You will never look at Auto Scaling and Load Balancers the same way again.

WEEK 3 · STORY EXPLAINER

The Banking Hall at GCB Plaza

SQS · SNS · EventBridge — Three messaging styles

A signature cloudwithshad story — taught through a Ghanaian analogy you already know.

Walk into a Ghana bank and you'll find three systems: a numbered queue (SQS), a public announcer with a megaphone (SNS), and a smart receptionist who routes you to the right desk (EventBridge). Knowing when to use which is one of the most-tested topics on the AWS exam — and after this story, you'll never confuse them.

WEEK FOUR

AI & The Capstone

Most cloud bootcamps stop at hosting and storage. We don't. The fastest-growing skill in the world right now is the ability to combine cloud infrastructure with AI services. In Week 4, you'll build a Smart Document Analyzer that uses Textract and Comprehend, then close out with a real capstone project — an AI Customer Feedback Hub that takes voice notes, transcribes them, analyzes sentiment, detects key topics, and emails the results.

WEEK 04

Lab 7 — Smart Document Analyzer

Guided in-class build · ~90 minutes

- Use Amazon Textract to extract text from scanned documents
- Pass extracted text to Amazon Comprehend for entity detection
- Store structured results in DynamoDB
- Expose results via a clean API

SKILL UNLOCKED: CLOUD + AI

WEEK 04

Capstone — AI Customer Feedback Hub*The final build · spans the last 5 days*

- Customers upload voice feedback to S3
- Amazon Transcribe converts it to text automatically
- Comprehend extracts sentiment, key phrases, and entities
- Rekognition processes any uploaded photos
- SES emails a structured summary to the business owner

SKILL UNLOCKED: CAPSTONE COMPLETE

AWS SERVICES YOU'LL WORK WITH

15+ services. Real hands-on experience.

COMPUTE	STORAGE	NETWORKING	DATABASES	AI / ML	DEVOPS
EC2	S3	VPC	RDS	Textract	CodePipeline
Lambda	EBS	Subnets	DynamoDB	Comprehend	CodeBuild
Auto Scaling	CloudFront	Security Groups		Rekognition	CloudWatch
		Route 53		Transcribe	IAM
		ALB		SES	

WHAT YOU WALK AWAY WITH

Six concrete outcomes by Day 28

01

A live portfolio of AWS projects

Public URLs you can put on your CV, LinkedIn, and portfolio site immediately.

02

Hands-on experience with 15+ AWS services

Not theory. Real services you've personally launched, configured, and deployed.

03

Foundation for AWS Cloud Practitioner certification

Everything you need to walk into the CLF-C02 exam with confidence.

04

A community of fellow African cloud builders

A WhatsApp community of peers who started where you started — and a network for life.

05

Direct access to the instructor

I'm in the live sessions. I'm in the chat. I'm reviewing your work.

06

A clear path forward

An optional invitation into the cloudwithshad advanced programme for those ready to go deeper.

WHO THIS IS FOR

An honest filter — both directions

This IS for you if	This is NOT for you if
✓ You've heard "cloud" for years and want to finally understand it ✓ You're a developer, IT person, or career switcher looking to level up ✓ You want a real AWS skill, not just buzzwords ✓ You learn better with stories than with slide decks ✓ You're willing to commit 5–7 hours a week for 4 weeks	✗ You want a magic shortcut to a \$200k job in 2 weeks ✗ You won't open the AWS console even once ✗ You expect us to do the labs FOR you ✗ You're already a senior cloud engineer (you'd be bored) ✗ You can't show up consistently — this works only with weekly momentum

LOGISTICS

The practical details

Cohort start	Friday, 23 May 2026
Duration	4 weeks
Time commitment	5–7 hours per week
Live sessions	Twice weekly (~90 minutes each)
Recordings	Provided for every session
Cost	Free for the May 2026 cohort
Seats available	Limited to 100
Prerequisites	Curiosity. A laptop. Basic computer literacy.
Tools needed	An AWS Free Tier account, a code editor, and a browser
Community	Private WhatsApp group throughout and after the programme

A FINAL WORD FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

See you on the other side.

Before any of this — before the certifications, before the international clients — I stood in front of a classroom of children, teaching basic school. I had no computer science degree. No tech connections. Just a quiet feeling that there was something bigger out there.

I taught myself Python from absolute zero. Hello world. Then a calculator. Then a small data analysis project. I was learning, but I wasn't transforming. So I made the hardest decision of my life — I left teaching, joined a full-time data science bootcamp, and gave it a year with no salary and no safety net.

Today I'm a 6× AWS Certified Senior Data Scientist working with international companies and training the next generation of African cloud engineers. From the outside, it looks fast. From the inside, it was years of quiet, unseen work.

“If you're sitting there thinking ‘I'm not technical enough,’ or ‘cloud is too advanced for someone like me’ — I was you. The only difference is I started. That's the only difference. This bootcamp exists because I want to give you the on-ramp I wished I had.”

The path isn't always clear. But it clears as you walk.

I'll be there at 10:00 AM on Open Day. Then again on Friday, 23 May 2026 for the cohort kickoff. If you're ready, I'm ready.

Shadrack Darku

Founder & Lead Instructor, cloudwithshad

6× AWS Certified · GenAI Developer · Trained 600+ engineers across West Africa