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 being worked on as we speak
First-write penalty
Everyone ends up logging in as root
Difficult to secure from inside attack
Rockin’ the lock-in

(*) This, too, is being worked on as we speak
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)
Trick: think of an EC2 instance as a UNIX process
What doesn’t?
PostgreSQL
Oracle
Basically: database-backed applications
Data warehousing
EC2 Instance Data
So...
...but you have to think different
Thanks for not snoring!
Oh yeah: larges are the best value