

# Can you run a serious website for under \$1/month?

**allaboutdata.eu**

 AWS · Full production platform

VS

**allaboutdata-test.uk**

 Cloudflare · Personal portfolio

*Two independent websites. Two clouds. One question about cost.*

# Two Independent Websites — Two Different Purposes

 allaboutdata.eu

Hosted on AWS

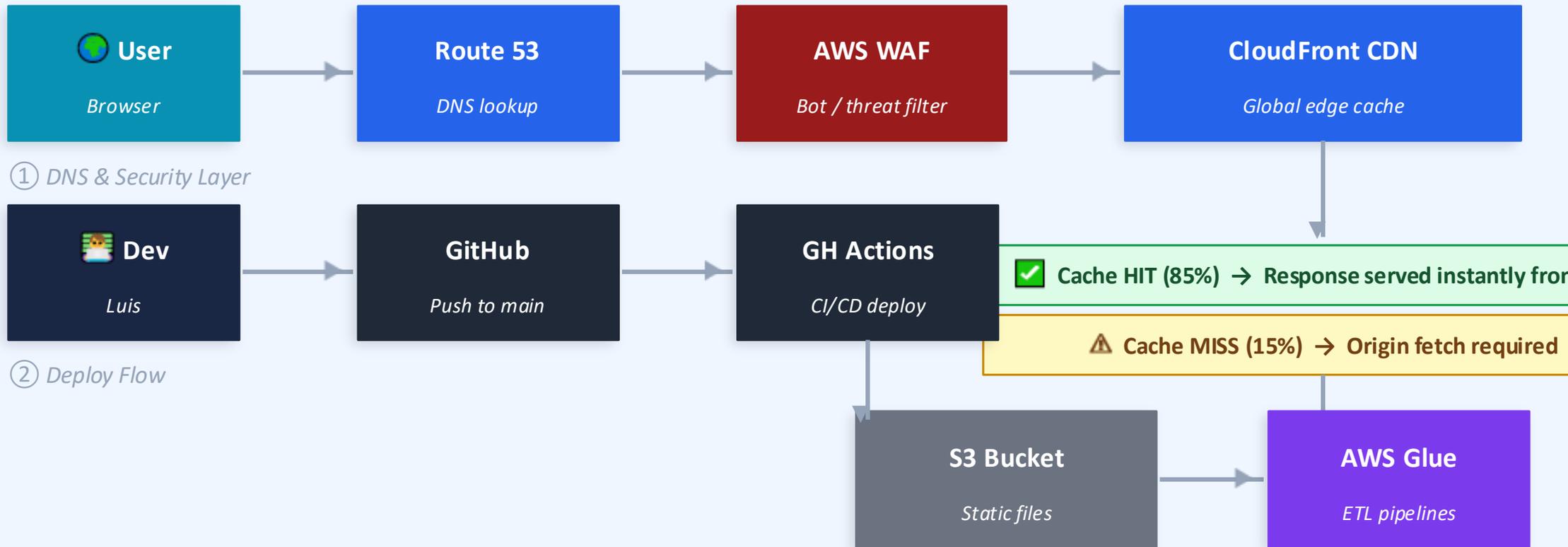
-  Data platform & blog
-  ETL pipelines with AWS Glue
-  WAF + CloudFront CDN
-  S3 static hosting
-  GitHub Actions CI/CD
-  Analytics & data journalism  
*Full production platform*

 allaboutdata-test.uk

Hosted on Cloudflare

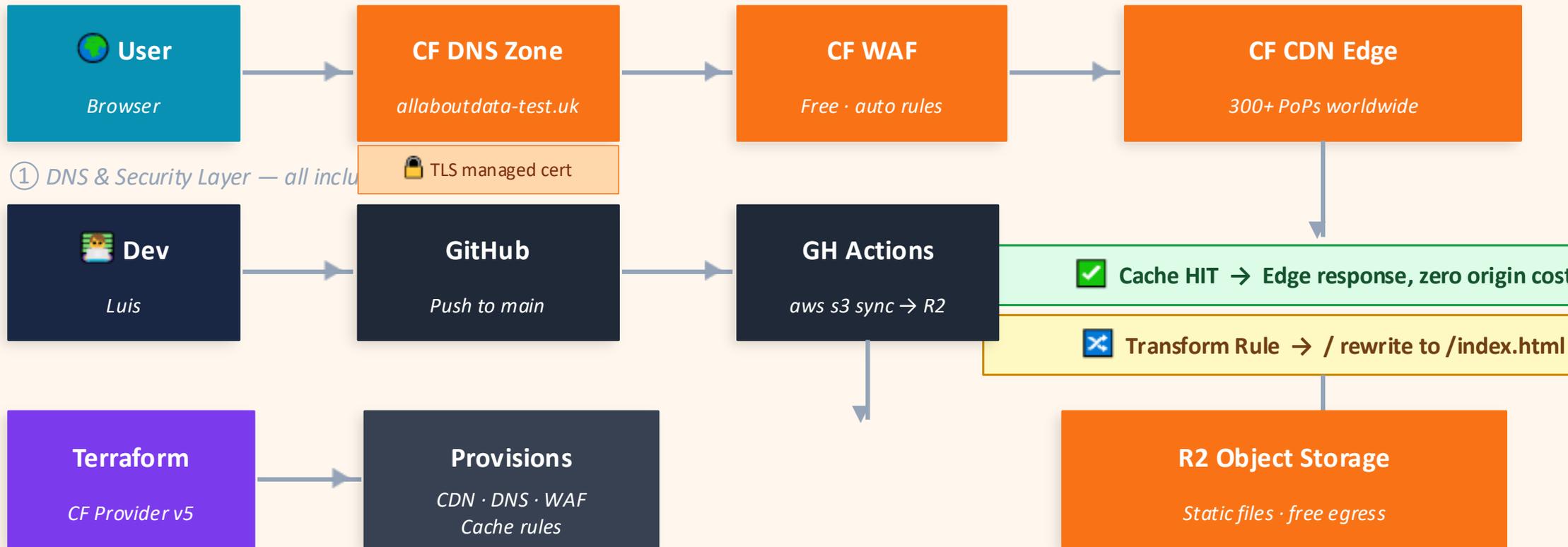
-  Personal portfolio
-  Contact + vCard download
-  Portfolio showcase (WIP)
-  R2 object storage
-  GitHub Actions CI/CD
-  Free WAF + TLS included  
*The \$1/month experiment*

# ⚙️ AWS — User Flow · allaboutdata.eu



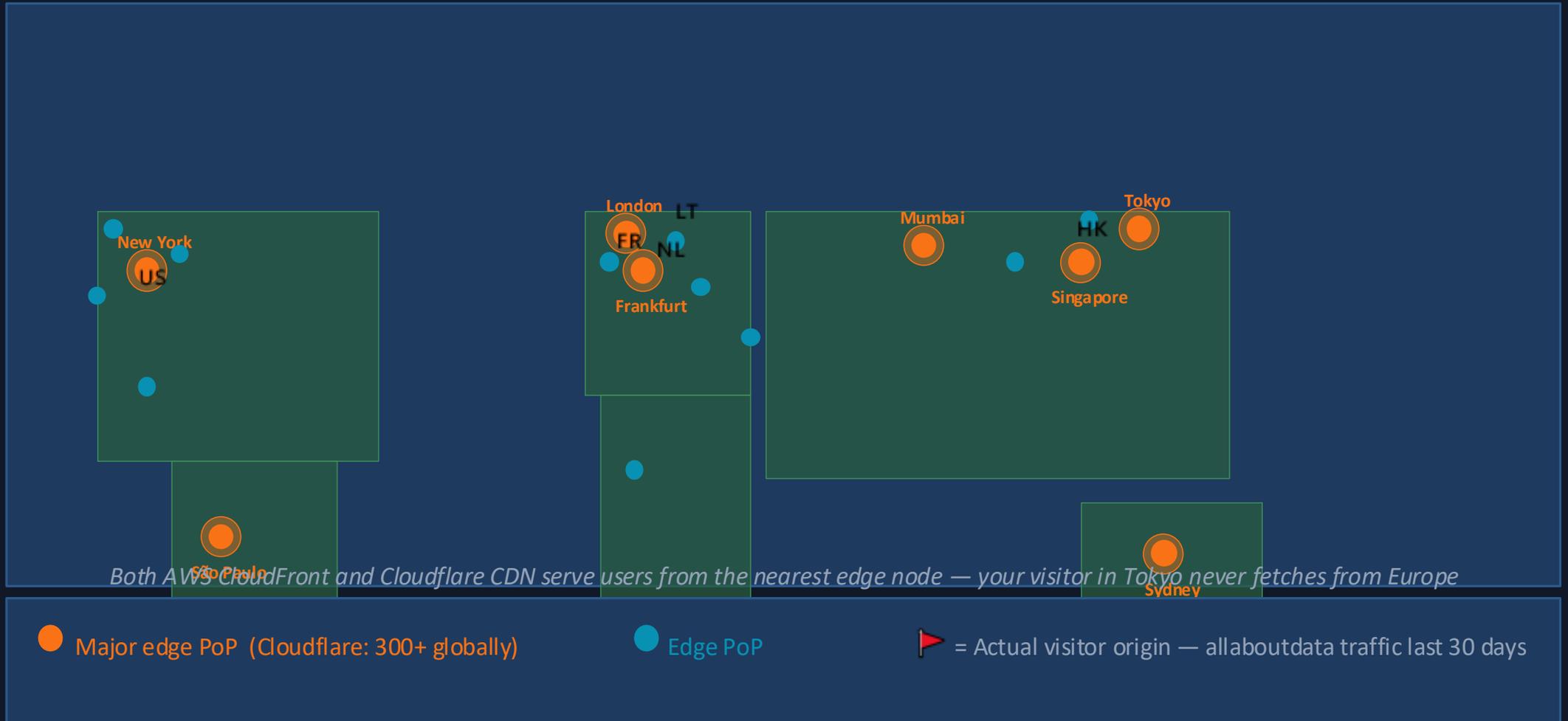
AWS monthly cost: \$46.13 | Includes Business Support+ (\$18.93) · CloudFront (\$12.37) · Glue ETL (\$3.31) · Other services

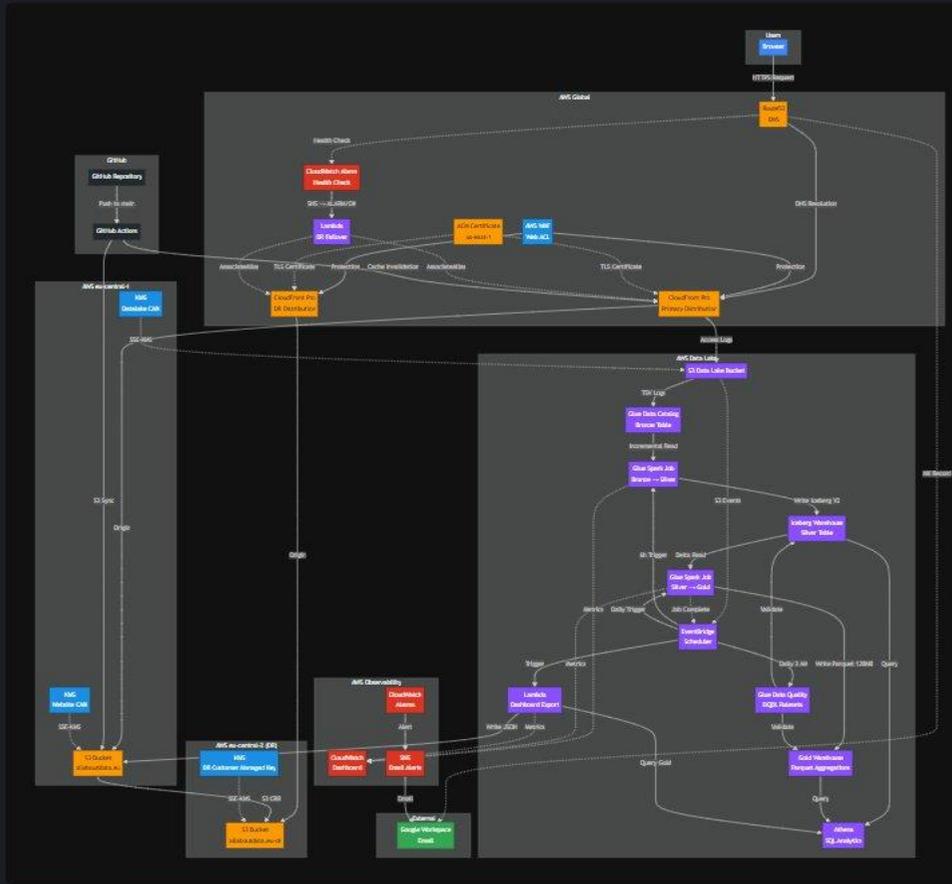
# Cloudflare — User Flow · allaboutdata-test.uk



Cloudflare monthly cost: \$0.00 | R2 storage · CDN · WAF · DDoS · DNS · TLS — all included in free/R2 tier

# 🌐 CDN — Why It Matters: Content Delivered from the Edge





## Developer Workflow

Git push to main · GitHub Actions · Terraform · same IaC discipline

## S3 + CloudFront CDN

S3 static hosting · CloudFront global edge · 85% cache hit rate · ACM TLS certs

## AWS WAF — Advanced Security

**AWS ONLY**

Managed rule groups · bot control · IP reputation · rate limiting — not available on CF free tier

## AWS Glue — ETL Data Pipelines

**AWS ONLY**

Crawlers · Spark jobs · Data Catalog · Bronze→Silver→Gold lakehouse — no Cloudflare equivalent

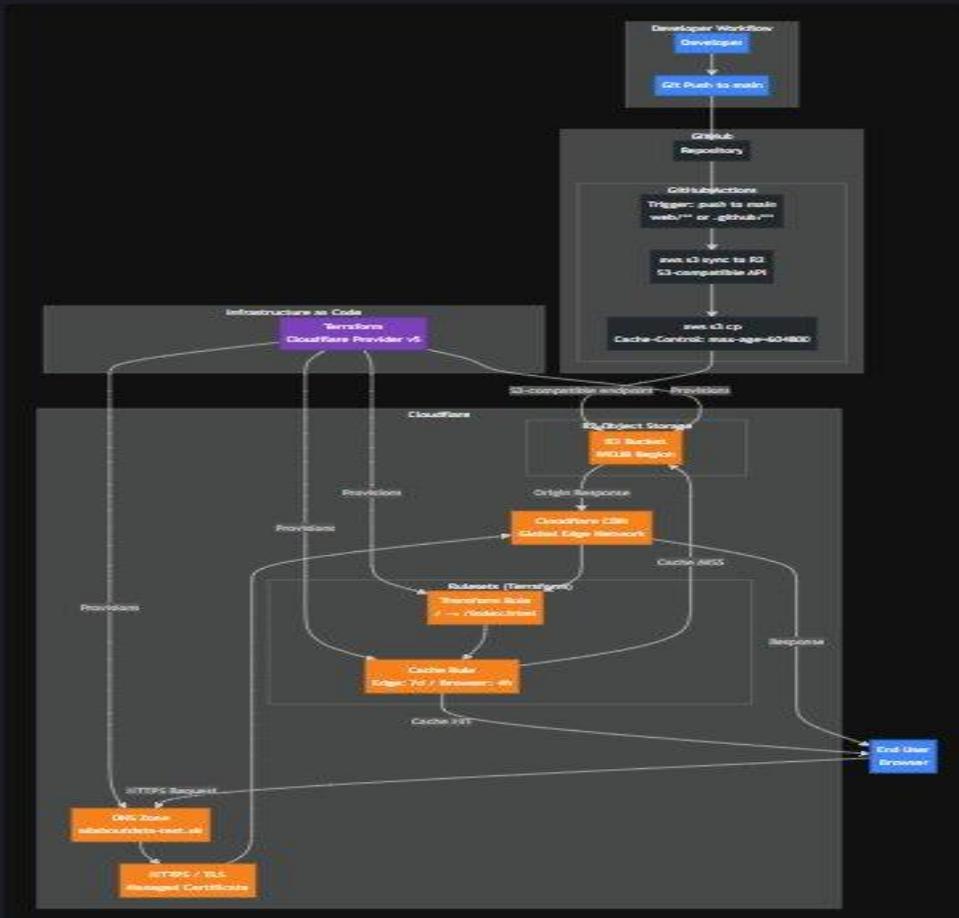
## Observability & Analytics

**AWS ONLY**

CloudWatch dashboards · SNS alerts · Athena SQL · EventBridge scheduler · Lambda exports

# Cloudflare Architecture — allaboutdata-test.uk

## Architecture



## Developer Workflow

Git push to main · GitHub Actions · Terraform CF Provider v5 · same IaC discipline

## R2 + Cloudflare CDN

R2 object storage (S3-compatible) · global edge · Cache Rules 7d/4h · free egress

## Cloudflare WAF — Free Tier

INCLUDED

Bot protection · DDoS mitigation · Transform Rules — all included at no extra cost

## ETL / Data Pipelines

NOT AVAIL

No equivalent to AWS Glue — Cloudflare Workers can run logic, but no managed ETL

## Advanced Observability

NOT AVAIL

Basic analytics only — no equivalent to CloudWatch, Athena, EventBridge, or Lambda

# The Cost Comparison — What Does It Actually Cost?

 AWS — allaboutdata.eu

# \$46.13

per month (Feb 2026)

 Business Support+	\$18.93
▶ CloudFront Flat-Rate	\$12.37
▶ AWS Glue ETL	\$3.31
▶ Other services	\$3.52
▶ S3 / WAF / Lambda	~\$8.00

 Support+ & Glue not needed  
for a pure static site

 Cloudflare — allaboutdata-test.uk

# \$0.00

per month (Feb 2026)

-  R2 storage (10 GB free tier)
-  CDN — global edge delivery
-  WAF + DDoS protection
-  DNS zone management
-  TLS / HTTPS certificates

 All included. No egress fees. No surprises.

# The Verdict

**YES — under \$1/month is not just possible, it's real**

Cloudflare R2 + CDN delivers the full experience: fast, secure, globally distributed



## Full feature parity for static sites

CDN · WAF · DDoS · DNS · TLS · CI/CD — everything AWS offers for delivery, at zero base cost



## Same developer tooling

Terraform IaC · GitHub Actions · S3-compatible API — the learning curve is minimal



## AWS wins on compute & data

Glue ETL, Lambda, advanced analytics — that's what AWS is actually for, and worth the cost



## The smart conclusion

Use Cloudflare for static delivery, keep AWS only for data pipelines & compute, best of both

by @d3vs0 - AWS Data & Compute Policy Club - February 2020