Cloud Computing

Cloud Computing provides us means of accessing the applications as utilities over the Internet. It allows us to create, configure, and customize the applications online.

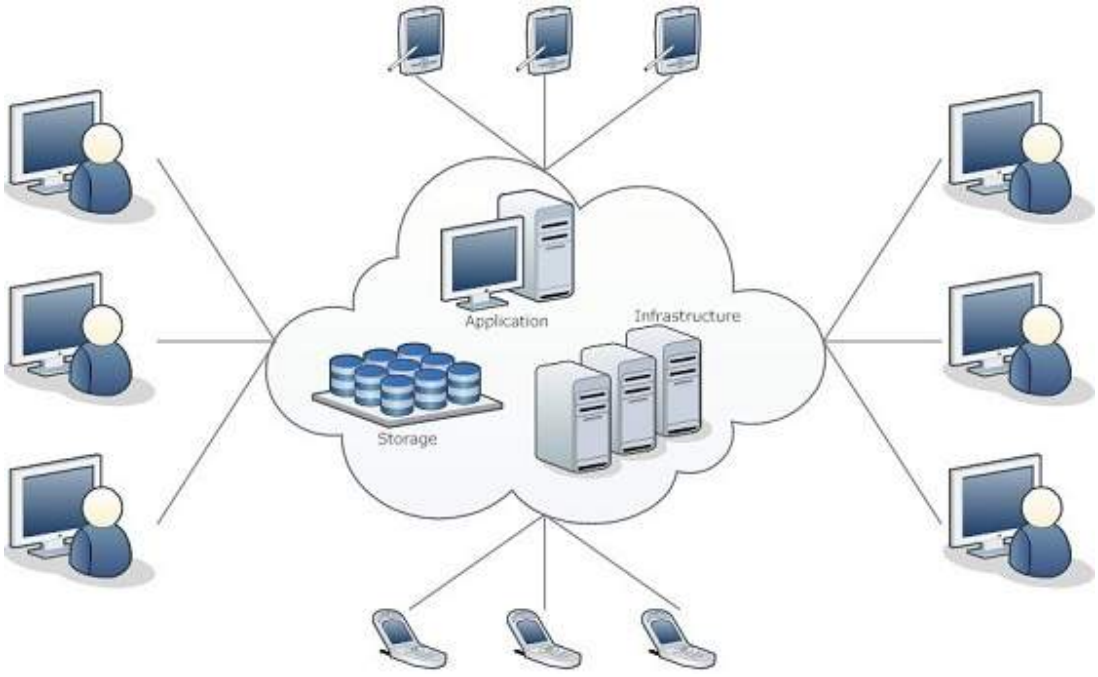
What is Cloud?

The term **Cloud** refers to a **Network** or **Internet.** In other words, we can say that Cloud is something, which is present at remote location. Cloud can provide services over public and private networks, i.e., WAN, LAN or VPN.

Applications such as e-mail, web conferencing, customer relationship management (CRM) execute on cloud.

What is Cloud Computing?

Cloud Computing refers to **manipulating, configuring,** and **accessing** the hardware and software resources remotely. It offers online data storage, infrastructure, and application.



Cloud computing offers **platform independency,** as the software is not required to be installed locally on the PC. Hence, the Cloud Computing is making our business applications **mobile** and **collaborative.**

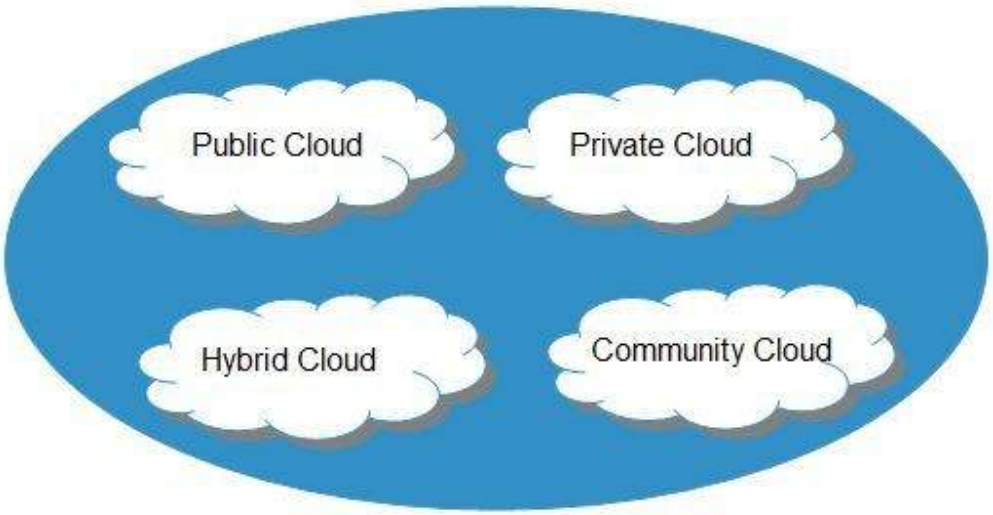
Basic Concepts

There are certain services and models working behind the scene making the cloud computing feasible and accessible to end users. Following are the working models for cloud computing:

- Deployment Models
- Service Models

Deployment Models

Deployment models define the type of access to the cloud, i.e., how the cloud is located? Cloud can have any of the four types of access: Public, Private, Hybrid, and Community.



Public Cloud

The **public cloud** allows systems and services to be easily accessible to the general public. Public cloud may be less secure because of its openness.

Private Cloud

The **private cloud** allows systems and services to be accessible within an organization. It is more secured because of its private nature.

Community Cloud

The **community cloud** allows systems and services to be accessible by a group of organizations.

Hybrid Cloud

The **hybrid cloud** is a mixture of public and private cloud, in which the critical activities are performed using private cloud while the non-critical activities are performed using public cloud.

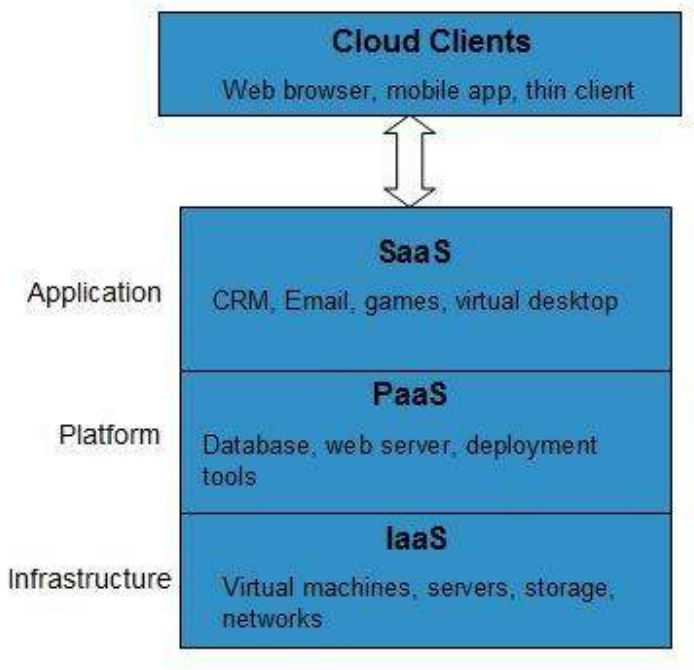
Service Models

Cloud computing is based on service models. These are categorized into three basic service models which are -

- Infrastructure-as–a-Service (IaaS)
- Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS)
- Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)

Anything-as-a-Service (XaaS) is yet another service model, which includes Network-as-a-Service, Business-as-a-Service, Identity-as-a-Service, Database-as-a-Service or Strategy-as-a-Service.

The **Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS)** is the most basic level of service. Each of the service models inherit the security and management mechanism from the underlying model, as shown in the following diagram:



Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS)

IaaS provides access to fundamental resources such as physical machines, virtual machines, virtual storage, etc.

Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS)

PaaS provides the runtime environment for applications, development and deployment tools, etc.

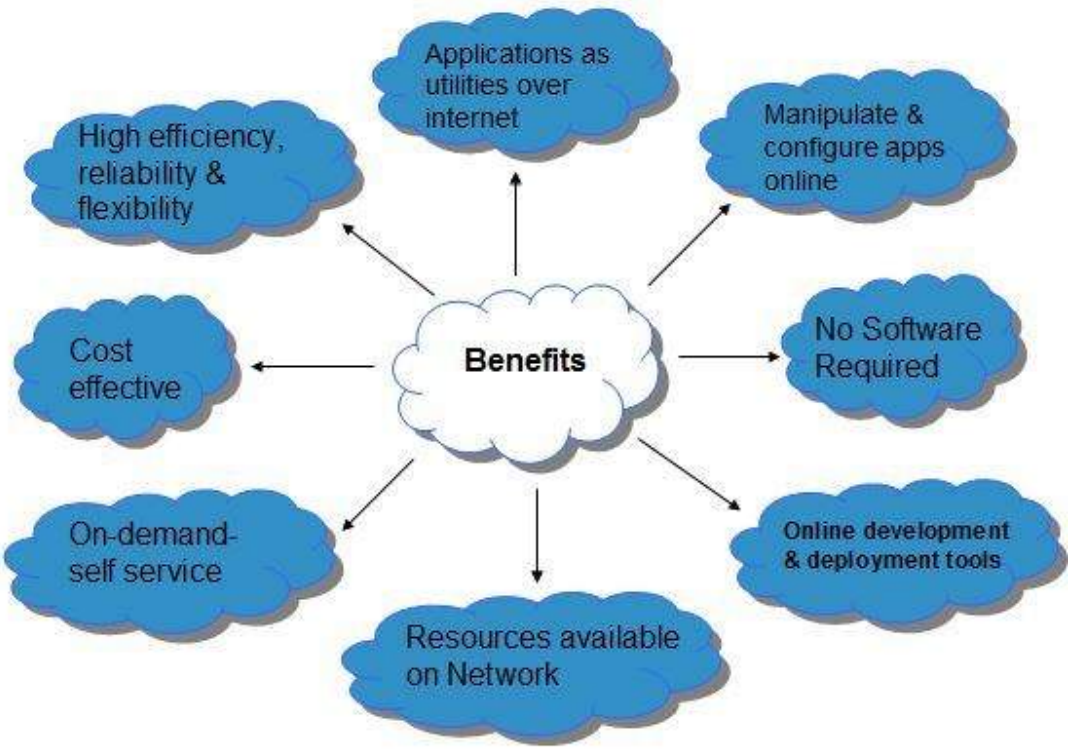
Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)

SaaS model allows to use software applications as a service to end-users.

Benefits

Cloud Computing has numerous advantages. Some of them are listed below -

- One can access applications as utilities, over the Internet.
- One can manipulate and configure the applications online at any time.
- It does not require installing software to access or manipulating cloud application.
- Cloud Computing offers online development and deployment tools, programming runtime environment through **PaaS model.**
- Cloud resources are available over the network in a manner that provide platform independent access to any type of clients.
- Cloud Computing offers **on-demand self-service.** The resources can be used without interaction with cloud service provider.
- Cloud Computing is highly cost effective because it operates at high efficiency with optimum utilization. It just requires an Internet connection
- Cloud Computing offers load balancing that makes it more reliable.



Risks related to Cloud Computing

Although cloud Computing is a promising innovation with various benefits in the world of computing, it comes with risks. Some of them are discussed below:

Security and Privacy

It is the biggest concern about cloud computing. Since data management and infrastructure management in cloud is provided by third-party, it is always a risk to handover the sensitive information to cloud service providers.

Although the cloud computing vendors ensure highly secured password protected accounts, any sign of security breach may result in loss of customers and businesses.

Lock In

It is very difficult for the customers to switch from one **Cloud Service Provider (CSP)** to another. It results in dependency on a particular CSP for service.

Isolation Failure

This risk involves the failure of isolation mechanism that separates storage, memory, and routing between the different tenants.

Management Interface Compromise

In case of public cloud provider, the customer management interfaces are accessible through the Internet.

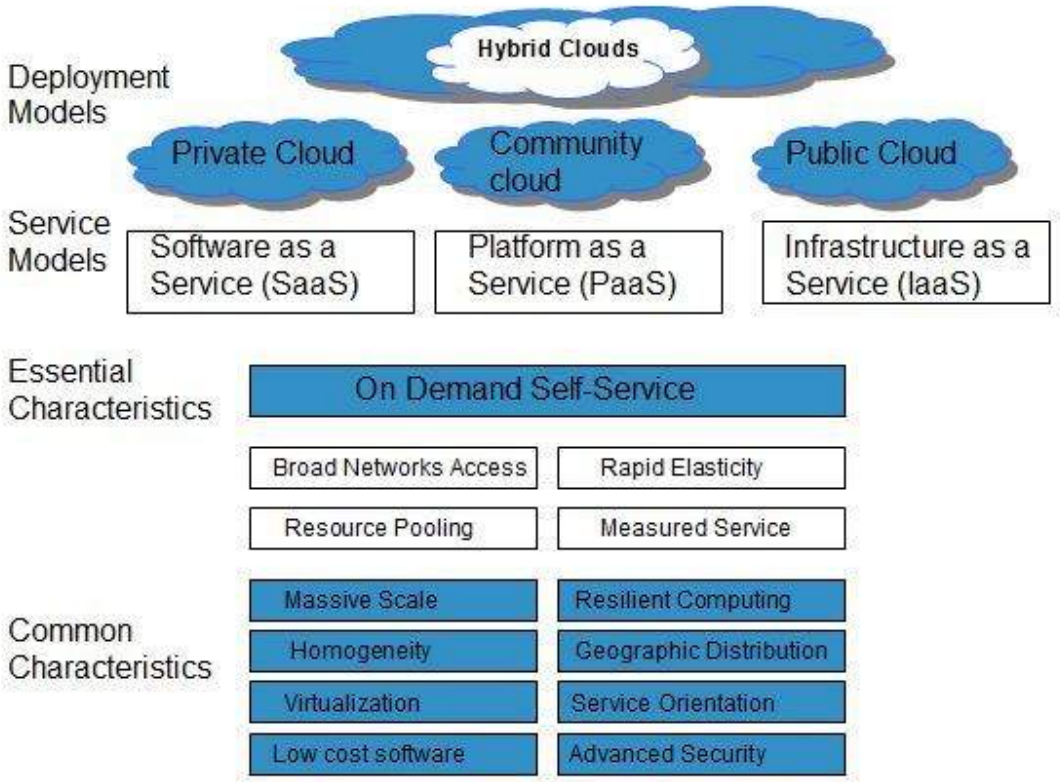
Insecure or Incomplete Data Deletion

It is possible that the data requested for deletion may not get deleted. It happens because either of the following reasons

- Extra copies of data are stored but are not available at the time of deletion
- Disk that stores data of multiple tenants is destroyed.

Characteristics of Cloud Computing

- There are four key characteristics of cloud computing. They are shown in the following diagram:



- **On Demand Self Service**
- Cloud Computing allows the users to use web services and resources on demand. One can logon to a website at any time and use them.
- **Broad Network Access**
- Since cloud computing is completely web based, it can be accessed from anywhere and at any time.
- **Resource Pooling**
- Cloud computing allows multiple tenants to share a pool of resources. One can share single physical instance of hardware, database and basic infrastructure.
- **Rapid Elasticity**
- It is very easy to scale the resources vertically or horizontally at any time. Scaling of resources means the ability of resources to deal with increasing or decreasing demand.
- The resources being used by customers at any given point of time are automatically monitored.

- **Measured Service**
- In this service cloud provider controls and monitors all the aspects of cloud service. Resource optimization, billing, and capacity planning etc. depend on it.

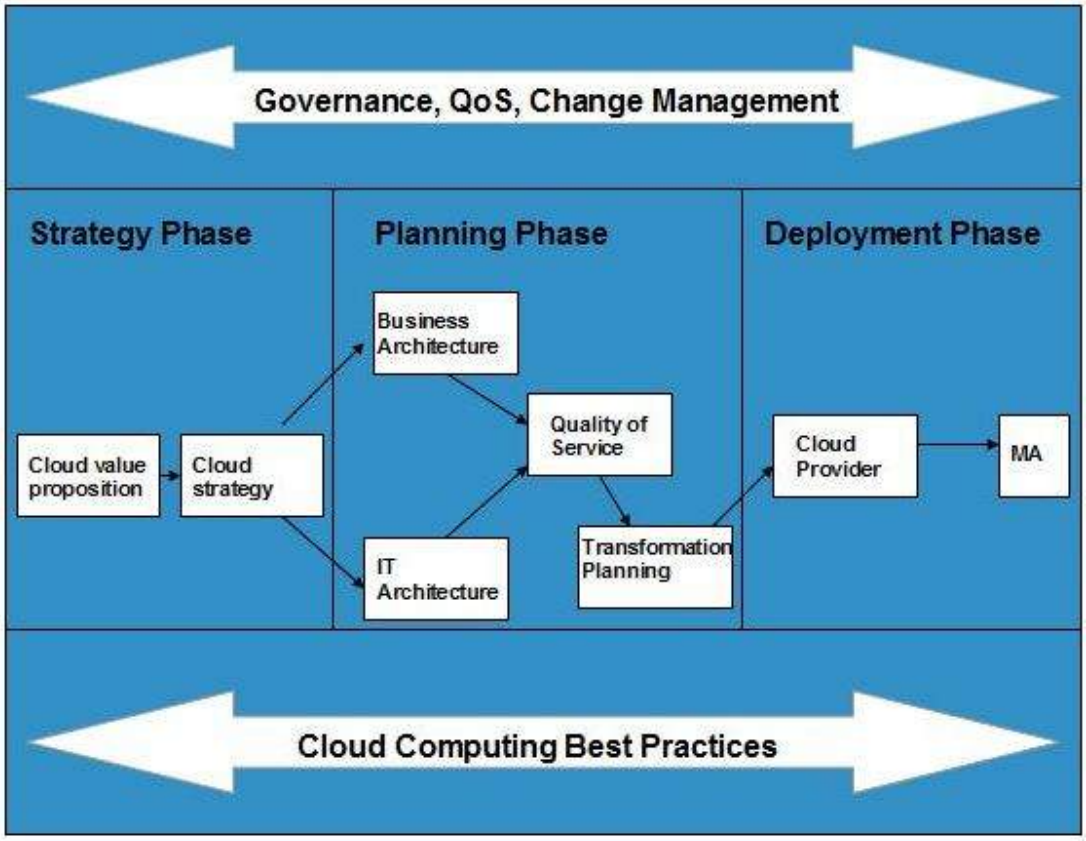
5 Points of SLA by AWS or Microsoft.

Cloud Computing Planning

Before deploying applications to cloud, it is necessary to consider your business requirements. Following are the issues one must consider:

- Data Security and Privacy Requirement
- Budget Requirements
- Type of cloud - public, private or hybrid
- Data backup requirements
- Training requirements
- Dashboard and reporting requirements
- Client access requirements
- Data export requirements

To meet all of these requirements, it is necessary to have well-compiled planning. In this tutorial, we will discuss the various planning phases that must be practiced by an enterprise before migration of the entire business to cloud. Each of these planning phases is described in the following diagram:



Strategy Phase

In this phase, we analyze the strategy problems that customer might face. There are two steps to perform this analysis:

- Cloud Computing Value Proposition
- Cloud Computing Strategy Planning

Cloud Computing Value Proposition

In this, we analyze the factors influencing the customers when applying cloud computing mode and target the key problems they wish to solve. These key factors are:

- IT management simplification
- operation and maintenance cost reduction
- business mode innovation
- low cost outsourcing hosting
- High service quality outsourcing hosting.

All of the above analysis helps in decision making for future development.

Cloud Computing Strategy Planning

The strategy establishment is based on the analysis result of the above step. In this step, a strategy document is prepared according to the conditions a customer might face when applying cloud computing mode.

Planning Phase

This step performs analysis of problems and risks in the cloud application to ensure the customers that the cloud computing is successfully meeting their business goals. This phase involves the following planning steps:

- Business Architecture Development
- IT Architecture development
- Requirements on Quality of Service Development
- Transformation Plan development

Business Architecture Development

In this step, we recognize the risks that might be caused by cloud computing application from a business perspective.

IT Architecture Development

In this step, we identify the applications that support the business processes and the technologies required to support enterprise applications and data systems.

Requirements on Quality of Service Development

Quality of service refers to the non-functional requirements such as reliability, security, disaster recovery, etc. The success of applying cloud computing mode depends on these non-functional factors.

Transformation Plan Development

In this step, we formulate all kinds of plans that are required to transform current business to cloud computing modes.

Deployment Phase

This phase focuses on both of the above two phases. It involves the following two steps:

- Selecting Cloud Computing Provider
- Maintenance and Technical Service

Selecting Cloud Computing Provider

This step includes selecting a cloud provider on basis of Service Level Agreement (SLA), which defines the level of service the provider will meet.

Maintenance and Technical Service

Maintenance and Technical services are provided by the cloud provider. They need to ensure the quality of services.

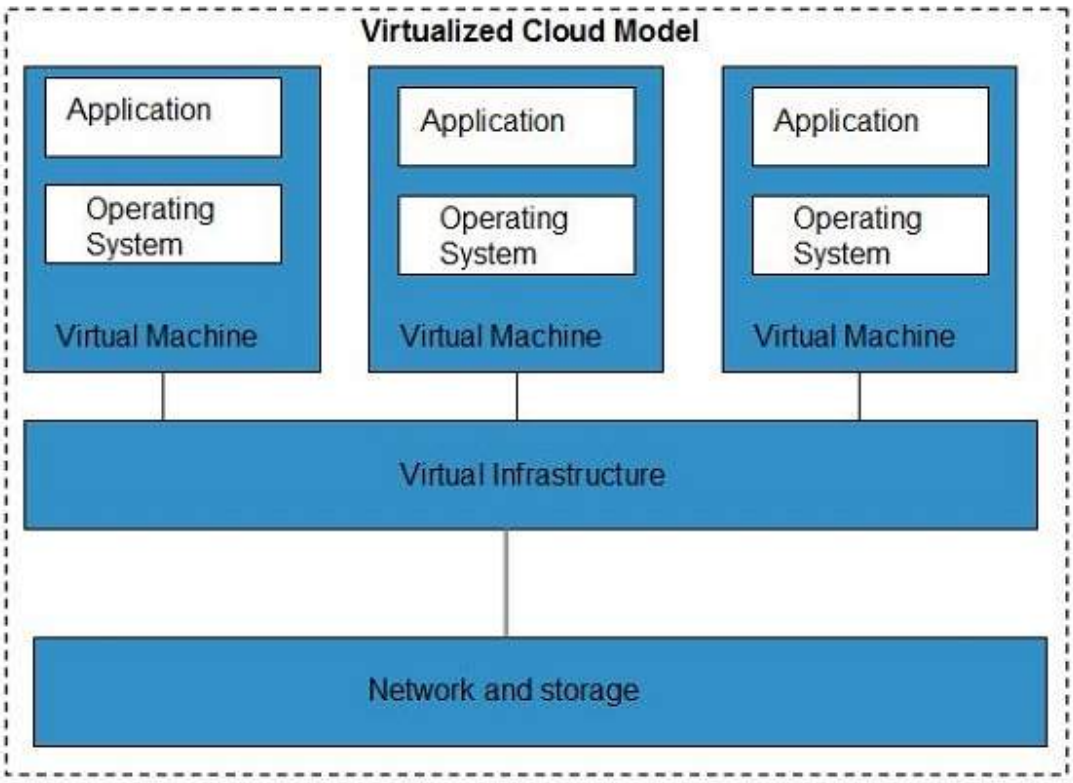
Cloud Computing Technologies

There are certain technologies working behind the cloud computing platforms making cloud computing flexible, reliable, and usable. These technologies are listed below:

- Virtualization
- Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA)
- Grid Computing
- Utility Computing

Virtualization

Virtualization is a technique, which allows to share single physical instance of an application or resource among multiple organizations or tenants (customers). It does this by assigning a logical name to a physical resource and providing a pointer to that physical resource when demanded.

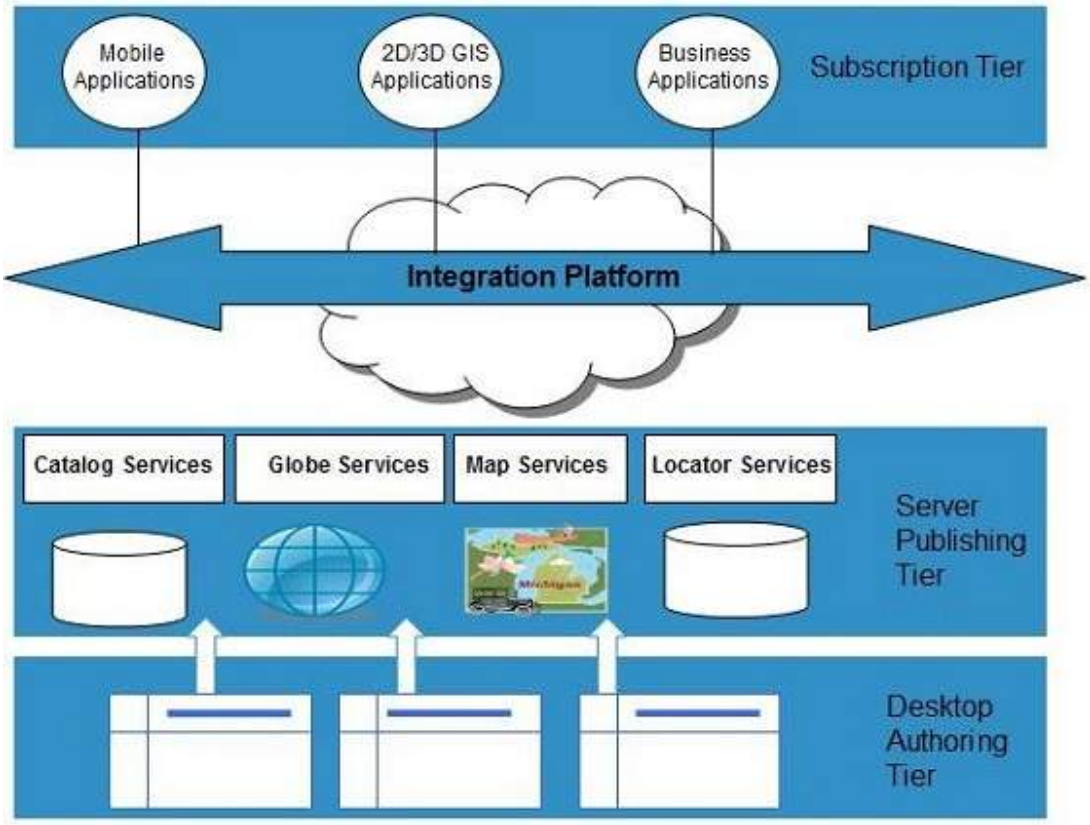


The **Multitenant** architecture offers **virtual isolation** among the multiple tenants. Hence, the organizations can use and customize their application as though they each have their instances running.

Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA)

Service-Oriented Architecture helps to use applications as a service for other applications regardless the type of vendor, product or technology. Therefore, it is possible to exchange the data between applications of different vendors without additional programming or making changes to services.

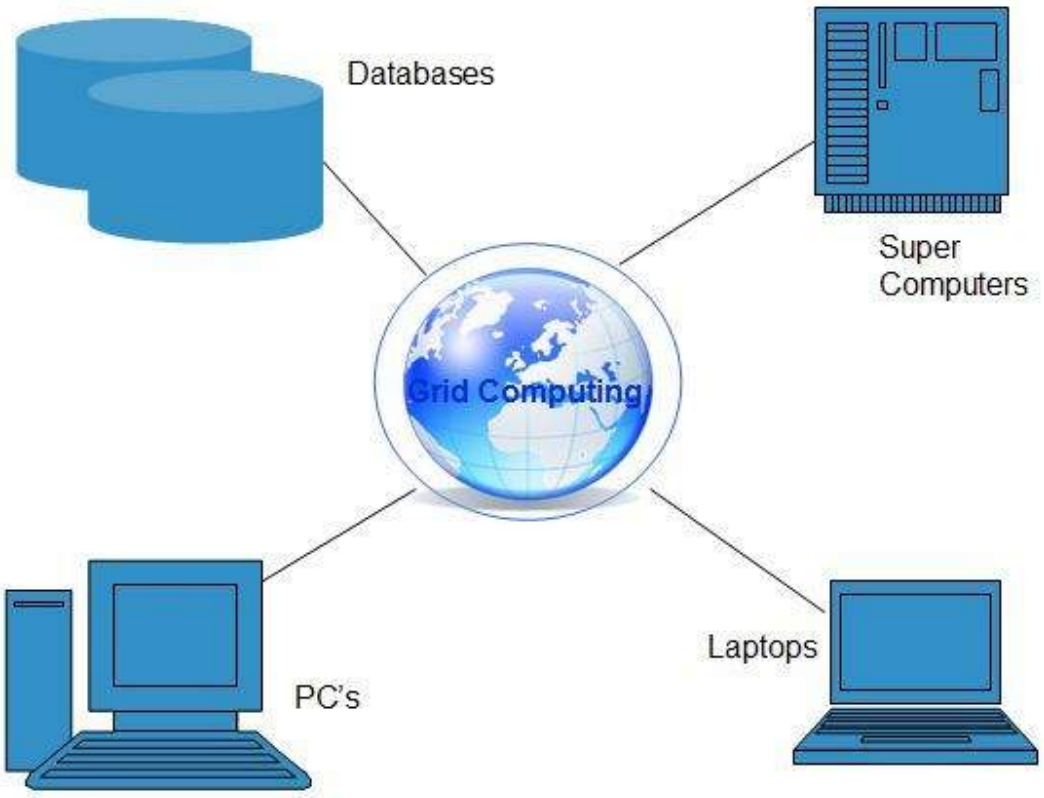
The cloud computing service oriented architecture is shown in the diagram below.



Grid Computing

Grid Computing refers to distributed computing, in which a group of computers from multiple locations are connected with each other to achieve a common objective. These computer resources are heterogeneous and geographically dispersed.

Grid Computing breaks complex task into smaller pieces, which are distributed to CPUs that reside within the grid.



Utility Computing

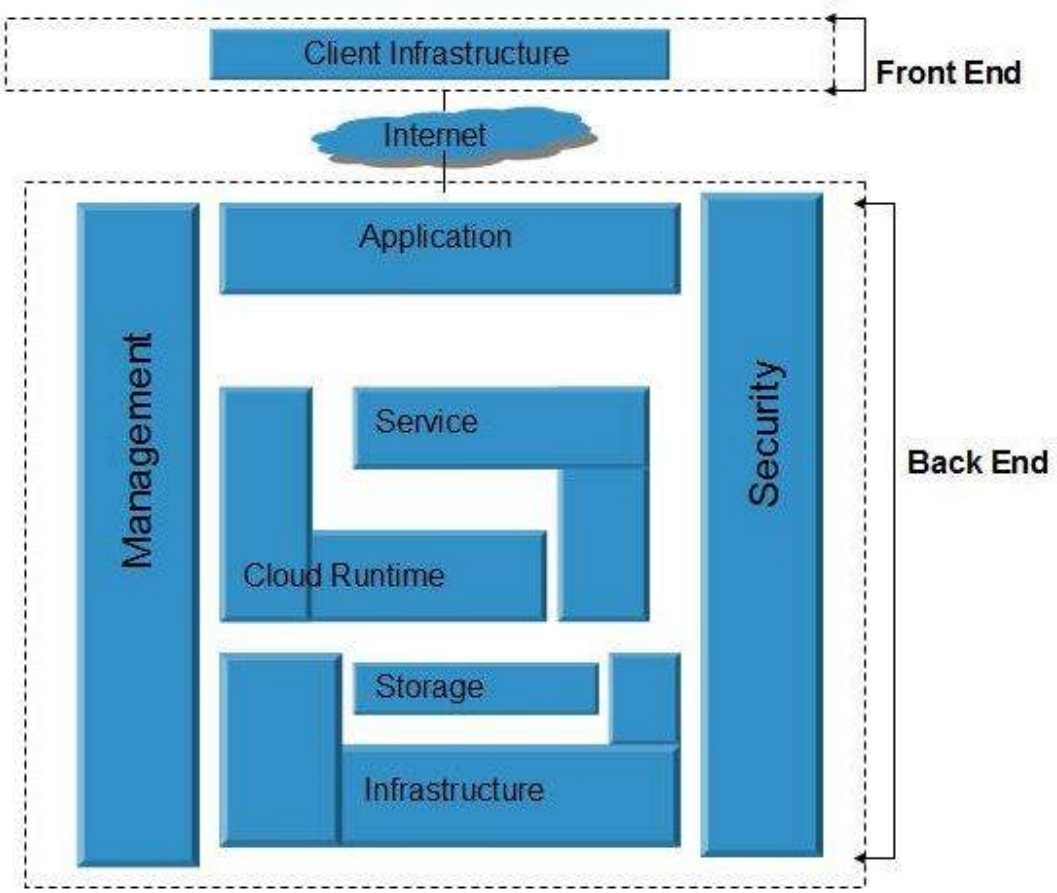
Utility computing is based on **Pay-per-Use model.** It offers computational resources on demand as a metered service. Cloud computing, grid computing, and managed IT services are based on the concept of utility computing.

Cloud Computing Architecture

Cloud Computing architecture comprises of many cloud components, which are loosely coupled. We can broadly divide the cloud architecture into two parts:

- Front End
- Back End

Each of the ends is connected through a network, usually Internet. The following diagram shows the graphical view of cloud computing architecture:



Front End

The **front end** refers to the client part of cloud computing system. It consists of interfaces and applications that are required to access the cloud computing platforms, Example - Web Browser.

Back End

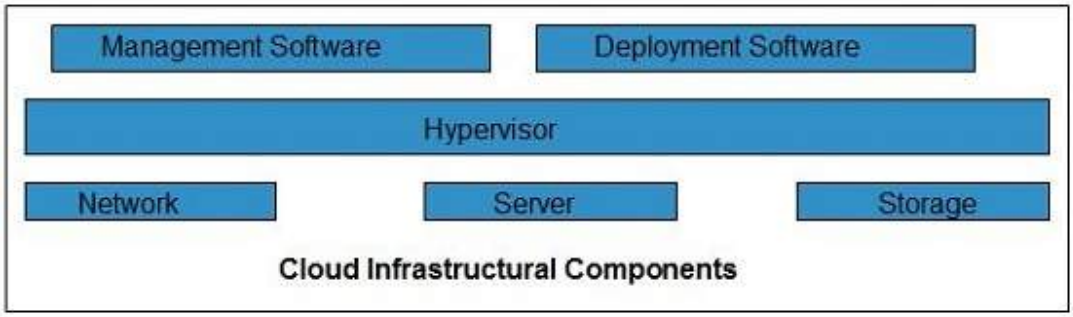
The **back End** refers to the cloud itself. It consists of all the resources required to provide cloud computing services. It comprises of huge data storage, virtual machines, security mechanism, services, deployment models, servers, etc.

Note

- It is the responsibility of the back end to provide built-in security mechanism, traffic control and protocols.
- The server employs certain protocols known as middleware, which help the connected devices to communicate with each other.

Cloud Computing Infrastructure

Cloud infrastructure consists of servers, storage devices, network, cloud management software, deployment software, and platform virtualization.



Hypervisor

Hypervisor is a **firmware** or **low-level program** that acts as a Virtual Machine Manager. It allows to share the single physical instance of cloud resources between several tenants.

Management Software

It helps to maintain and configure the infrastructure.

Deployment Software

It helps to deploy and integrate the application on the cloud.

Network

It is the key component of cloud infrastructure. It allows to connect cloud services over the Internet. It is also possible to deliver network as a utility over the Internet, which means, the customer can customize the network route and protocol.

Server

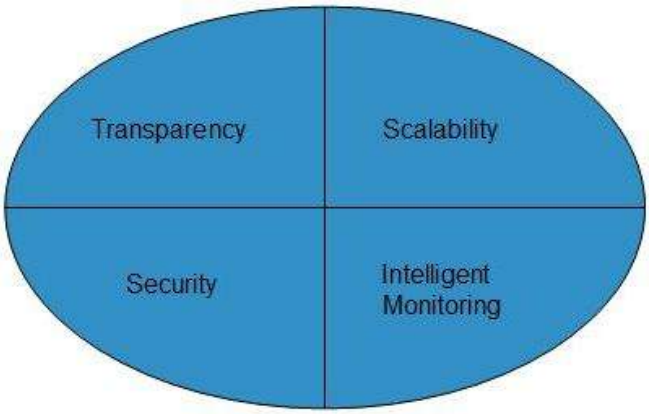
The **server** helps to compute the resource sharing and offers other services such as resource allocation and de-allocation, monitoring the resources, providing security etc.

Storage

Cloud keeps multiple replicas of storage. If one of the storage resources fails, then it can be extracted from another one, which makes cloud computing more reliable.

Infrastructural Constraints

Fundamental constraints that cloud infrastructure should implement are shown in the following diagram:



Transparency

Virtualization is the key to share resources in cloud environment. But it is not possible to satisfy the demand with single resource or server. Therefore, there must be transparency in resources, load balancing and application, so that we can scale them on demand.

Scalability

Scaling up an application delivery solution is not that easy as scaling up an application because it involves configuration overhead or even re-architecting the network. So, application delivery solution is need to be scalable which will require the virtual infrastructure such that resource can be provisioned and de-provisioned easily.

Intelligent Monitoring

To achieve transparency and scalability, application solution delivery will need to be capable of intelligent monitoring.

Security

The mega data center in the cloud should be securely architected. Also the control node, an entry point in mega data center, also needs to be secure.

Thank You