

Cloud 101- What is the cloud?

Working locally

When you work on your laptop or desktop, your compute, and storage resources are contained in your computer.

For example - if you run out of storage, you will need an external disk (or use storage on the cloud!).



Working “on the cloud”

When you use cloud computing, **all of the hardware and software is provided as a service by a company** (i.e. Microsoft Azure). And you access these services over the internet.

Your computer works as a messenger to “another computer” that lives in a data centre. Therefore, **your computer does almost none of this work.**



Managed



All the services are managed by the cloud provider. So you do not have to spend time or money buying, assembling, upgrading or maintaining hardware.

These services are physically located in large data centres all over the world. **But you do not need to worry about which exact computer in the data centre your resources are coming from.**

On-demand



The cloud follows a “pay as you go” model. Which means that you only pay for the resources that you use.

This works perfectly with the **ability to scale up and scale down your resources based on your demand** (while paying only for what you actually need).

Secure



Using cloud computing and services is entirely secure.

Not only you are getting reliable compute resources but also world-class expertise in keeping your data, apps and infrastructure safe.

In brief, cloud computing is

A model that describes a **shared pool of computing resources** that can be rapidly configured and utilized with minimal user effort or interaction.



* National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Where “is” the cloud?

There are data centres all over the world (well almost). So technically, the cloud is everywhere. You can access resources across the globe - as long as you have an internet connection.



Map shows Azure data centres locations: find more at <https://cda.ms/1fy>

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It is not



An app



The internet



Inside your computer