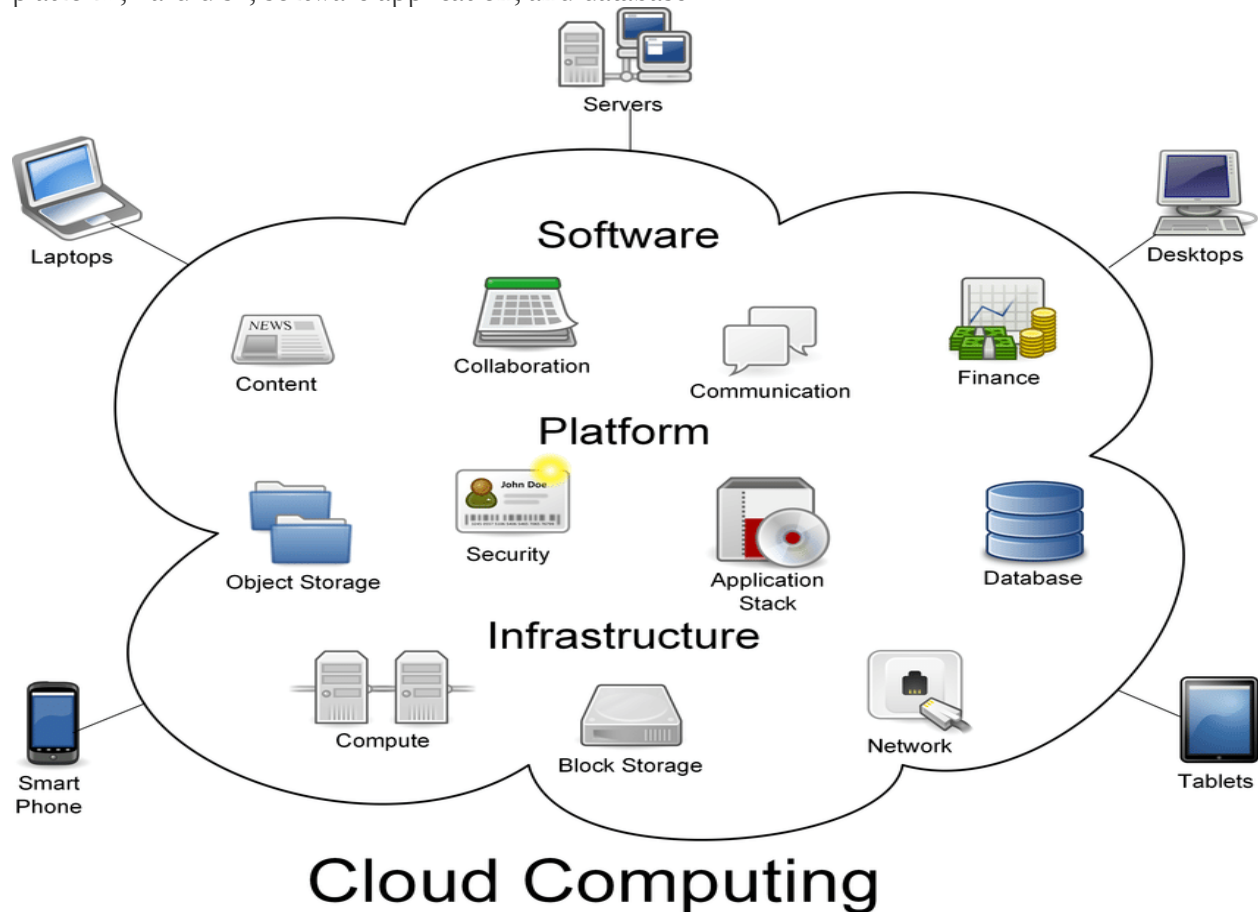


Introduction to Cloud Computing:

Cloud computing is a virtualization-based technology that allows us to create, configure, and customize applications via an internet connection. The cloud technology includes a development platform, hard disk, software application, and database.



The term cloud refers to a network or the internet. It is a technology that uses remote servers on the internet to store, manage, and access data online rather than local drives. The data can be anything such as files, images, documents, audio, video, and more.

There are the following operations that we can do using cloud computing:

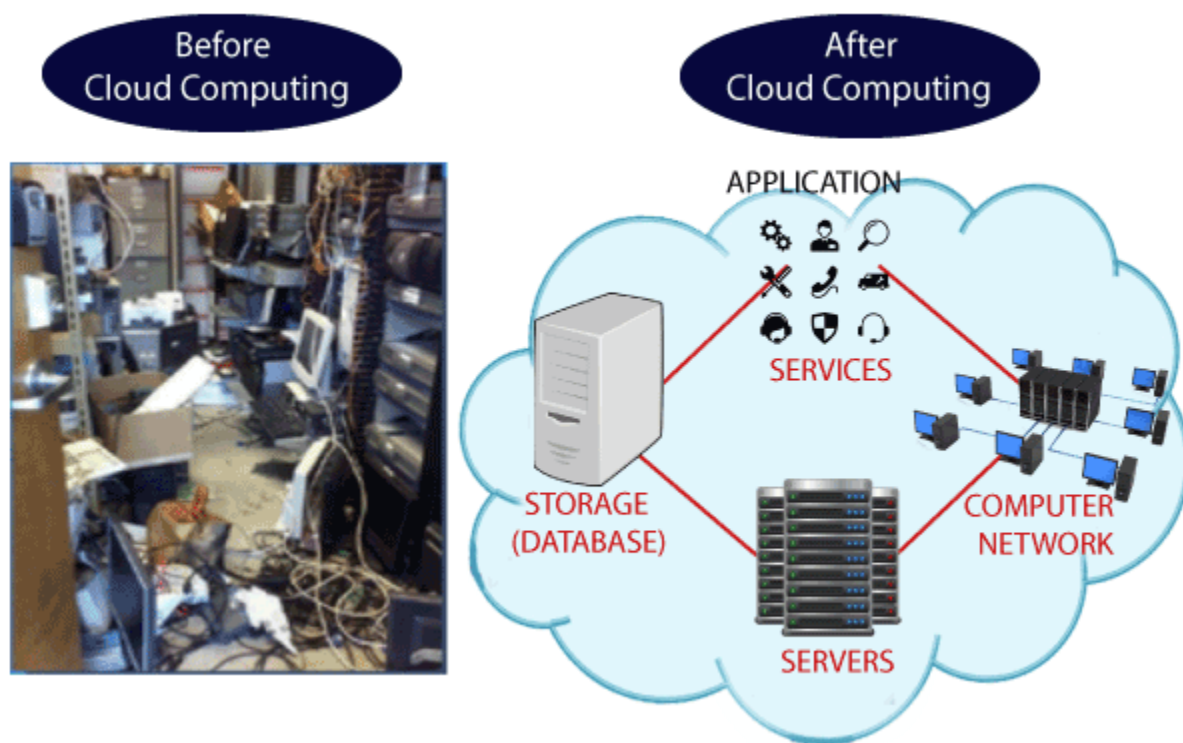
- Developing new applications and services
- Storage, back up, and recovery of data
- Hosting blogs and websites
- Delivery of software on demand
- Analysis of data
- Streaming videos and audios

Why Cloud Computing?

Small as well as large IT companies, follow the traditional methods to provide the IT infrastructure. That means **for any IT company, we need a Server Room that is the basic need of IT companies.**

In that server room, there should be a database server, mail server, networking, firewalls, routers, modem, switches, QPS (Query Per Second means how much queries or load will be handled by the server), configurable system, high net speed, and the maintenance engineers.

To establish such IT infrastructure, we need to spend lots of money. To overcome all these problems and to reduce the IT infrastructure cost, Cloud Computing comes into existence.



Characteristics of Cloud Computing

The characteristics of cloud computing are given below:

1) Agility

The cloud **works in a distributed computing environment**. It shares resources among users and works very fast.

2) High availability and reliability

The availability of servers is high and more reliable because the **chances of infrastructure failure are minimum.**

3) High Scalability

Cloud offers **"on-demand" provisioning of resources on a large scale**, without having engineers for peak loads.

4) Multi-Sharing

With the help of cloud computing, **multiple users and applications can work more efficiently** with cost reductions by sharing common infrastructure.

5) Device and Location Independence

Cloud computing enables the users to access systems using a web browser regardless of their location or what device they use e.g. PC, mobile phone, etc. **As infrastructure is off-site** (typically provided by a third-party) **and accessed via the Internet, users can connect from anywhere.**

6) Maintenance

Maintenance of cloud computing applications is easier, since they **do not need to be installed on each user's computer and can be accessed from different places.** So, it reduces the cost also.

7) Low Cost

By using cloud computing, the cost will be reduced because to take the services of cloud computing, **IT company need not to set its own infrastructure** and pay-as-per usage of resources.

8) Services in the pay-per-use mode

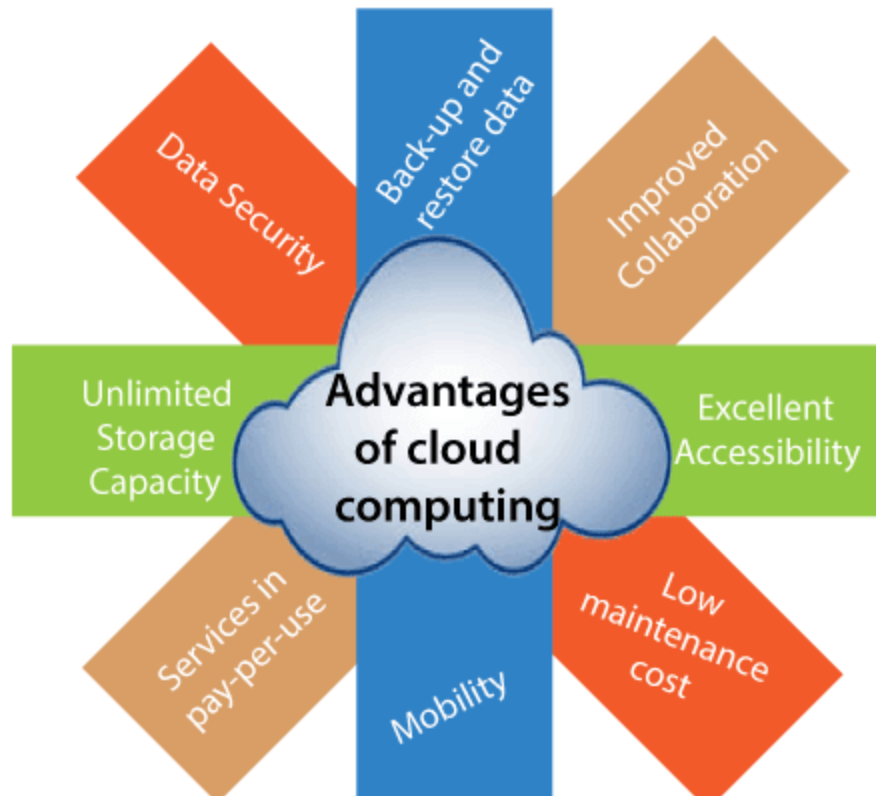
Application Programming Interfaces (**APIs**) **are provided to the users so that they can access services on the cloud** by using these APIs **and pay the charges as per the usage of services.**

Advantages and Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

Advantages of Cloud Computing

As we all know that Cloud computing is trending technology. Almost every company switched their services on the cloud to rise the company growth.

Here, we are going to discuss some important advantages of Cloud Computing-



1) Back-up and restore data

Once the data is stored in the cloud, it is easier to get back-up and restore that data using the cloud.

2) Improved collaboration

Cloud applications improve collaboration by allowing groups of people to quickly and easily share information in the cloud via shared storage.

3) Excellent accessibility

Cloud allows us to quickly and easily access store information anywhere, anytime in the whole world, using an internet connection. An internet cloud infrastructure increases organization productivity and efficiency by ensuring that our data is always accessible.

4) Low maintenance cost

Cloud computing reduces both hardware and software maintenance costs for organizations.

5) Mobility

Cloud computing allows us to easily access all cloud data via mobile.

6) IServices in the pay-per-use model

Cloud computing offers Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to the users for access services on the cloud and pays the charges as per the usage of service.

7) Unlimited storage capacity

Cloud offers us a huge amount of storing capacity for storing our important data such as documents, images, audio, video, etc. in one place.

8) Data security

Data security is one of the biggest advantages of cloud computing. Cloud offers many advanced features related to security and ensures that data is securely stored and handled.

Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

A list of the disadvantage of cloud computing is given below -

1) Internet Connectivity

As you know, in cloud computing, every data (image, audio, video, etc.) is stored on the cloud, and we access these data through the cloud by using the internet connection. If you do not have good internet connectivity, you cannot access these data. However, we have no any other way to access data from the cloud.

2) Vendor lock-in

Vendor lock-in is the biggest disadvantage of cloud computing. Organizations may face problems when transferring their services from one vendor to another. As different vendors provide different platforms, that can cause difficulty moving from one cloud to another.

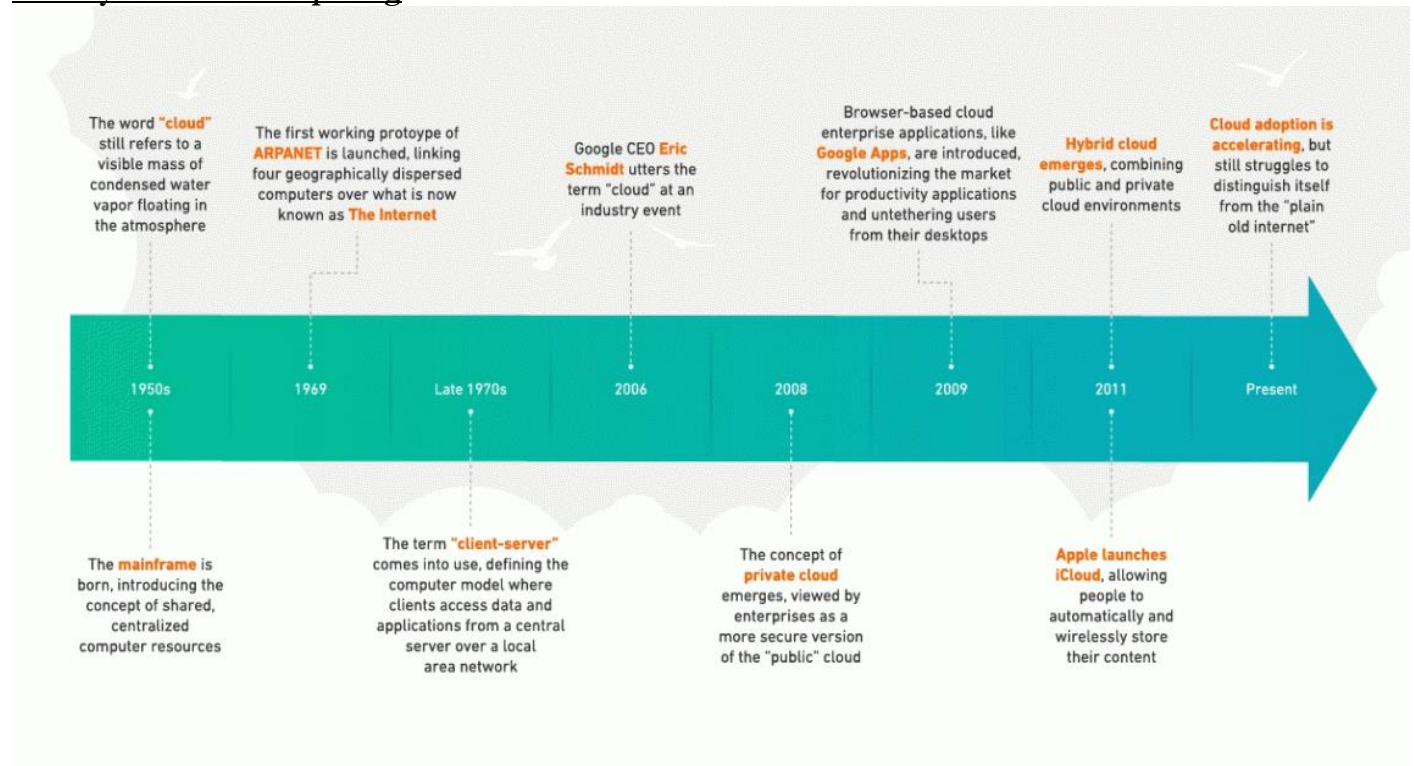
3) Limited Control

As we know, cloud infrastructure is completely owned, managed, and monitored by the service provider, so the cloud users have less control over the function and execution of services within a cloud infrastructure.

4) Security

Although cloud service providers implement the best security standards to store important information. But, before adopting cloud technology, you should be aware that you will be sending all your organization's sensitive information to a third party, i.e., a cloud computing service provider. While sending the data on the cloud, there may be a chance that your organization's information is hacked by Hackers.

History of Cloud Computing



Before emerging the cloud computing, there was Client/Server computing which is basically a centralized storage in which all the software applications, all the data and all the controls are resided on the server side.

If a single user wants to access specific data or run a program, he/she need to connect to the server and then gain appropriate access, and then he/she can do his/her business.

Then after, distributed computing came into picture, where all the computers are networked together and share their resources when needed.

On the basis of above computing, there was emerged of cloud computing concepts that later implemented.

At around in 1961, John MacCharty suggested in a speech at MIT that computing can be sold like a utility, just like a water or electricity. It was a brilliant idea, but like all brilliant ideas, it was ahead if its time, as for the next few decades, despite interest in the model, the technology simply was not ready for it.

But of course time has passed and the technology caught that idea and after few years we mentioned that:

*In 1999, **Salesforce.com** started delivering of applications to users using a simple website.* The applications were delivered to enterprises over the Internet, and this way the dream of computing sold as utility were true.

*In 2002, **Amazon** started *Amazon Web Services*, providing services like storage, computation and even human intelligence. However, only starting with the launch of the Elastic Compute Cloud in 2006 a truly commercial service open to everybody existed.*

*In 2009, **Google Apps** also started to provide cloud computing enterprise applications.*

Of course, all the big players are present in the cloud computing evolution, some were earlier, some were later. *In 2009, **Microsoft** launched *Windows Azure**, and companies like Oracle and HP have all joined the game. This proves that today, cloud computing has become mainstream.

Cloud Computing Architecture

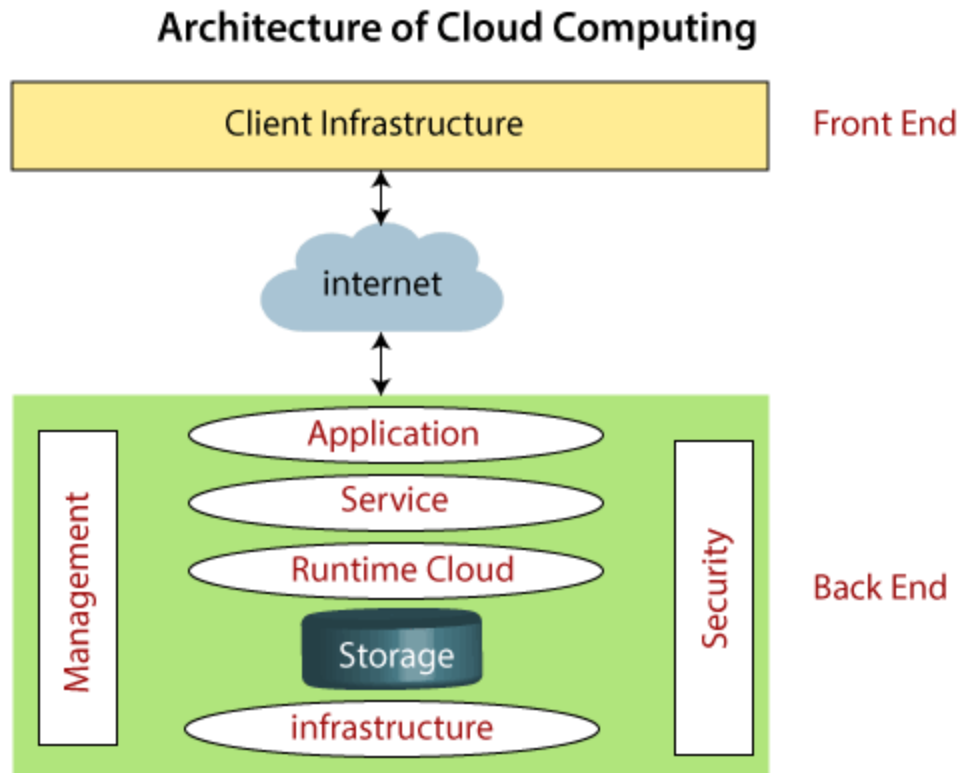
As we know, cloud computing technology is used by both small and large organizations to **store the information** in cloud and **access** it from anywhere at anytime using the internet connection.

Cloud computing architecture is a combination of **service-oriented architecture** and **event-driven architecture**.

Cloud computing architecture is divided into the following two parts -

- Front End
- Back End

The below diagram shows the architecture of cloud computing -



Front End

The front end is used by the client. It contains client-side interfaces and applications that are required to access the cloud computing platforms. The front end includes web servers (including Chrome, Firefox, internet explorer, etc.), thin & fat clients, tablets, and mobile devices.

Back End

The back end is used by the service provider. It manages all the resources that are required to provide cloud computing services. It includes a huge amount of data storage, security mechanism, virtual machines, deploying models, servers, traffic control mechanisms, etc.

Components of Cloud Computing Architecture

There are the following components of cloud computing architecture -

1. Client Infrastructure

Client Infrastructure is a Front-end component. It provides GUI (Graphical User Interface) to interact with the cloud.

2. Application

The application may be any software or platform that a client wants to access.

3. Service

A Cloud Services manages that which type of service you access according to the client's requirement.

Cloud computing offers the following three type of services:

i. Software as a Service (SaaS) – It is also known as **cloud application services**. Mostly, SaaS applications run directly through the web browser means we do not require to download and install these applications.

Example: Google Apps, Salesforce Dropbox, Slack, Hubspot, Cisco WebEx.

ii. Platform as a Service (PaaS) – It is also known as **cloud platform services**. It is quite similar to SaaS, but the difference is that PaaS provides a platform for software creation, but using SaaS, we can access software over the internet without the need of any platform.

Example: Windows Azure, Force.com, Magento Commerce Cloud, OpenShift.

iii. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) – It is also known as **cloud infrastructure services**. It is responsible for managing applications data, middleware, and runtime environments.

Example: Amazon Web Services (AWS) EC2, Google Compute Engine (GCE), Cisco Metapod.

4. Runtime Cloud

Runtime Cloud provides the **execution and runtime environment** to the virtual machines.

5. Storage

Storage is one of the most important components of cloud computing. It provides a huge amount of storage capacity in the cloud to store and manage data.

6. Infrastructure

It provides services on the **host level, application level, and network level**. Cloud infrastructure includes hardware and software components such as servers, storage, network devices, virtualization software, and other storage resources that are needed to support the cloud computing model.

7. Management

Management is used to manage components such as application, service, runtime cloud, storage, infrastructure, and other security issues in the backend and establish coordination between them.

8. Security

Security is an in-built back end component of cloud computing. It implements a security mechanism in the back end.

9. Internet

The Internet is medium through which front end and back end can interact and communicate with each other.

Cloud Computing Technologies

A list of cloud computing technologies are given below -

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

Virtualization

Virtualization is the process of creating a virtual environment to run multiple applications and operating systems on the same server. The virtual environment can be anything, such as a single instance or a combination of many operating systems, storage devices, network application servers, and other environments.

The concept of Virtualization in cloud computing increases the use of virtual machines. A virtual machine is a software computer or software program that not only works as a physical computer but can also function as a physical machine and perform tasks such as running applications or programs as per the user's demand.

Types of Virtualization

A list of types of Virtualization is given below –

- i. Hardware virtualization
- ii. Server virtualization
- iii. Storage virtualization
- iv. Operating system virtualization
- v. Data Virtualization

Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA)

Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) allows organizations to access **on-demand** cloud-based computing solutions according to the change of business needs. It can work without or with cloud computing. The advantages of using SOA is that it is easy to maintain, platform independent, and highly scalable.

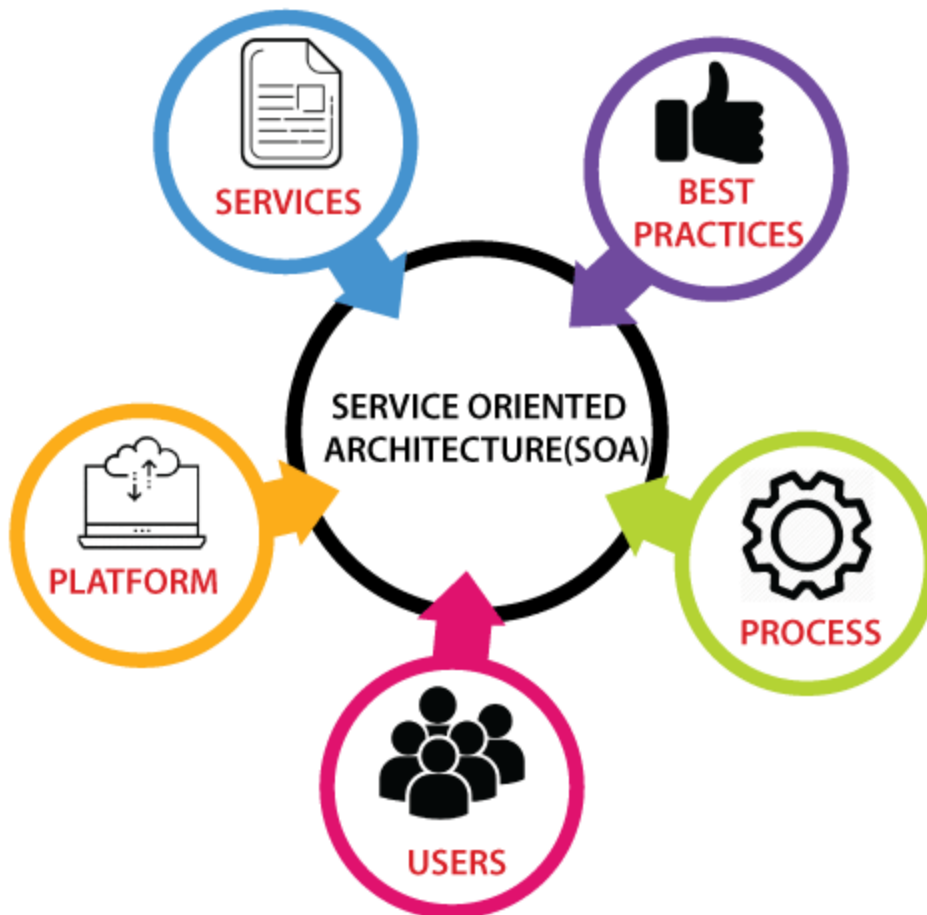
Service Provider and Service consumer are the two major roles within SOA.

Applications of Service-Oriented Architecture

There are the following applications of Service-Oriented Architecture -

- It is used in the healthcare industry.
- It is used to create many mobile applications and games.
- In the air force, SOA infrastructure is used to deploy situational awareness systems.

The service-oriented architecture is shown below:



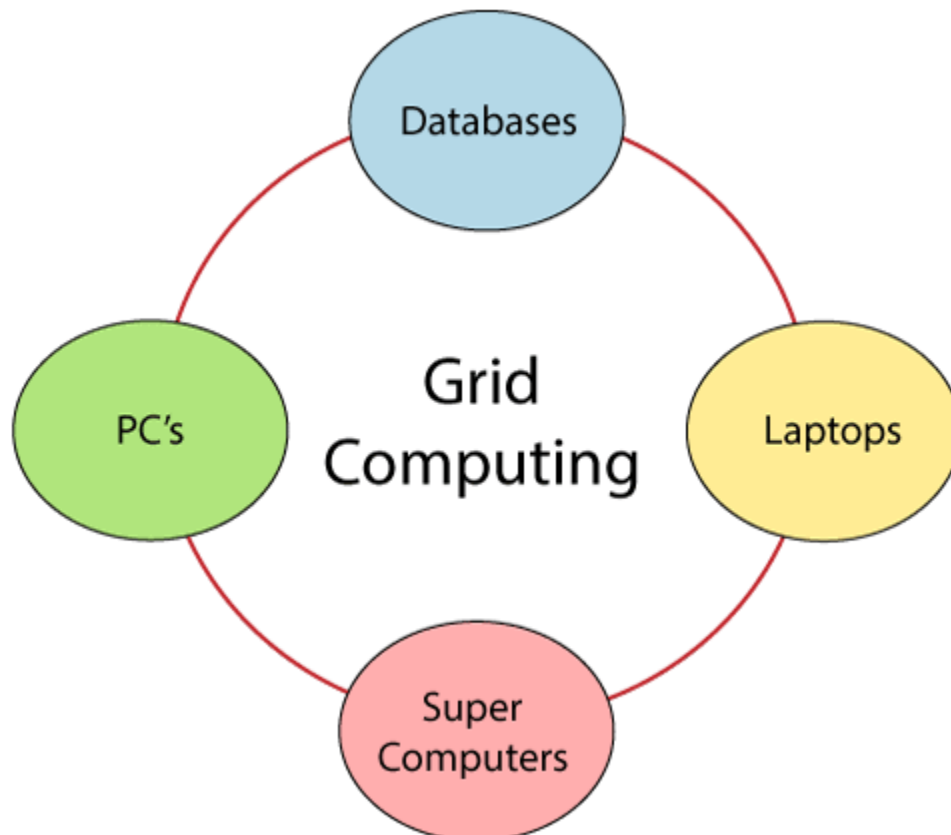
Grid Computing

Grid computing is also known as **distributed computing**. It is a processor architecture that combines various different computing resources from multiple locations to achieve a common goal. In grid computing, the grid is connected by parallel nodes to form a computer cluster. These computer clusters are in different sizes and can run on any operating system.

Grid computing contains the following three types of machines -

1. **Control Node:** It is a group of servers which administrates the whole network.
2. **Provider:** It is a computer which contributes its resources in the network resource pool.
3. **User:** It is a computer which uses the resources on the network.

Mainly, grid computing is used in the **ATMs, back-end infrastructures, and marketing research.**



Utility Computing

Utility computing is the most trending IT service model. It provides on-demand computing resources (computation, storage, and programming services via API) and infrastructure based on the **pay per use** method. It minimizes the associated costs and maximizes the efficient use of resources. The

advantage of utility computing is that it reduced the IT cost, provides greater flexibility, and easier to manage.

Large organizations such as **Google** and **Amazon** established their own utility services for computing storage and application.

