University Question Bank

A compilation of important questions for review

Question 1:

How does cloud computing help to reduce the time to market

Answer: Cloud computing significantly reduces time to market in various ways:

1. Faster Infrastructure Deployment:

* **On-Demand Resources:** Cloud providers offer instant access to computing resources like servers, storage, and networking. This eliminates the need for lengthy hardware procurement and setup processes, allowing businesses to quickly scale up or down as needed.

* **Pre-Configured Environments:** Many cloud platforms provide pre-built environments and templates for common applications and services. This significantly reduces the time and effort required to set up development and testing environments, accelerating the development process.

2. Agile Development and Deployment:

* **Microservices and Containers:** Cloud promotes the use of microservices and containerization technologies, allowing developers to break down applications into smaller,

independent units. This enables faster development cycles and easier deployments.

* **Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery (CI/CD):** Cloud platforms integrate seamlessly with CI/CD tools, allowing for automated testing, building, and deployment of applications. This eliminates manual processes and streamlines the release pipeline, reducing time to market.

3. Enhanced Collaboration and Communication:

* **Collaboration Tools:** Cloud-based collaboration tools like Google Workspace and Microsoft Teams facilitate seamless communication and information sharing among development teams, regardless of location. This fosters faster feedback loops and improves overall productivity.

* **Version Control Systems:** Cloud-hosted version control systems like Git enable teams to work together on code efficiently, track changes, and manage different versions. This streamlines the development process and reduces potential conflicts.

4. Scalability and Elasticity:

* **Automatic Scaling:** Cloud platforms automatically scale resources up or down based on demand, ensuring optimal performance and eliminating the need for manual capacity planning. This allows businesses to quickly adapt to changing market needs and release new features without worrying about infrastructure limitations.

* **Global Reach:** Cloud services offer a global footprint, enabling businesses to reach wider audiences and respond quickly to international market demands.

ost-Effectiveness:**

* **Pay-as-you-go Model:** Cloud computing allows businesses to pay only for the resources

they use, eliminating the need for upfront capital investments. This frees up budget and allows

companies to invest more in development and innovation.

* **Reduced Infrastructure Costs:** By leveraging cloud infrastructure, businesses can avoid

the expenses associated with managing and maintaining their own data centers. This reduces

overall operational costs and allows for faster time to market.

In summary: Cloud computing empowers businesses to launch products and services

faster by offering on-demand resources, agile development tools, enhanced collaboration,

scalable infrastructure, and cost-effectiveness. These factors collectively contribute to a

significant reduction in time to market, giving businesses a competitive edge.

Question 2:

Describe the fundamental features of the economic and business

Answer: ## Fundamental Features of Economics and Business:

Economics:

* **Scarcity:** Resources are limited, while human wants are unlimited. This fundamental

concept drives economic decision-making.

* **Choice:** Due to scarcity, individuals and societies must make choices about how to

allocate resources.

* **Opportunity Cost:** The value of the next best alternative forgone when making a choice.

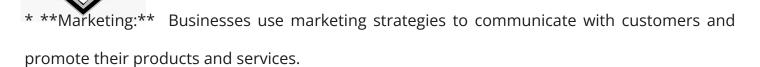
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- * **Efficiency:** Maximizing output from given inputs, minimizing waste and maximizing well-being.
- * **Equity:** Fairness in the distribution of resources and opportunities.
- * **Markets:** Mechanisms where buyers and sellers interact to determine prices and allocate goods and services.
- * **Competition:** The struggle among businesses for customers, resources, and profits, promoting efficiency and innovation.
- * **Government Intervention:** Regulation, taxation, and spending by governments to influence economic activity.
- * **Globalization:** The interconnectedness of economies worldwide, leading to increased trade and interdependence.

Business:

- * **Profit Maximization:** The primary goal of most businesses is to generate profits.
- * **Value Creation:** Businesses strive to create value for customers, employees, and shareholders.
- * **Innovation:** Developing new products, processes, or business models to gain a competitive advantage.
- * **Competition:** Businesses compete for customers, resources, and market share.
- * **Risk Management:** Businesses face uncertainty and must manage risks to ensure their survival and success.
- * **Finance:** Businesses require access to financial resources for investment, operations, and growth.



- * **Human Resources:** Businesses rely on employees to perform various tasks and contribute to their success.
- * **Technology:** Businesses leverage technology to improve efficiency, productivity, and customer experience.
- * **Ethics and Social Responsibility:** Businesses are increasingly expected to operate ethically and responsibly.

Interrelation between Economics and Business:

Economics provides the theoretical framework for understanding how businesses operate within the broader economic context. Business practices are shaped by economic principles, such as supply and demand, competition, and government policies.

Key Differences:

While economics focuses on the study of the overall economy, business is concerned with the operations and decision-making of individual firms. Economics is a broader field encompassing various disciplines like macroeconomics, microeconomics, and finance, while business is more focused on practical applications.

**Overall, understanding the fundamental features of both economics and business is crucial for effective decision-making, strategic planning, and navigating the complexities of the



Question 3:

What are the main characteristics of a PaaS. L2 CO3

Answer: ## Main Characteristics of a PaaS (Platform as a Service):

1. Abstraction of Infrastructure:

* **No need to manage servers, operating systems, or underlying infrastructure:** PaaS providers handle all the complexities of managing physical hardware and software.

* **Focus on development and deployment:** Developers can concentrate on building and deploying their applications without worrying about infrastructure maintenance.

2. Development Tools and Frameworks:

* **Provides a platform with pre-configured tools and frameworks:** This allows developers to easily build and deploy applications using a variety of programming languages, libraries, and databases.

* **Simplified development workflow:** PaaS often includes integrated development environments (IDEs), code repositories, and deployment tools, streamlining the development process.

3. Scalability and Flexibility:

* **Automatic scaling and resource allocation:** PaaS platforms can automatically adjust

resources based on application demand, ensuring optimal performance and reliability.

* **Flexibility in choosing resources:** Developers can choose the specific resources (e.g., CPU, memory, storage) needed for their application, enabling cost-effective scaling.

4. Managed Services:

- * **Provides managed services for databases, caching, load balancing, and security:** PaaS platforms often offer these services as part of the platform, simplifying application management.
- * **Focus on application development and deployment:** Developers can focus on their core business logic without the hassle of managing infrastructure and supporting services.

5. Pay-as-you-go pricing:

- * **Billing based on resource usage:** Users pay only for the resources they consume, allowing for cost optimization.
- * **Flexibility and scalability:** This pricing model makes it easy to scale applications up or down as needed, without committing to fixed costs.

6. Enhanced Security:

- * **Built-in security features:** PaaS providers typically offer a range of security features, such as firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and data encryption.
- * **Reduced security burden for developers:** This allows developers to focus on their core business logic without having to manage security complexities.

7. Faster Time-to-Market:

* **Reduced setup time and effort:** PaaS simplifies application deployment and

management, enabling faster development and deployment cycles.

* **Focus on business logic:** Developers can focus on building innovative applications,

accelerating the time it takes to bring their products to market.

8. Collaboration and Collaboration Tools:

* **Collaboration tools built into the platform:** PaaS solutions often include features that

enable teams to collaborate effectively on application development and deployment.

* **Improved communication and workflow:** This can lead to faster development cycles and

improved communication among team members.

Overall, PaaS provides a platform that simplifies the development, deployment, and

management of applications, enabling faster time-to-market and reduced costs.

Question 4:

Explain Software as a service. L2 CO3

Answer: ## Software as a Service (SaaS) Explained: L2 CO3

Software as a Service (SaaS) is a cloud-based software delivery model where software is

licensed on a subscription basis and accessed over the internet. Think of it like renting software

instead of buying it outright.

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Here's how it breaks down:

- **1. The Cloud:** SaaS applications reside on servers in a data center, managed by the SaaS provider. This means you don't need to install anything on your own computers.
- **2. Access via the Internet:** You access the software through a web browser or a dedicated mobile app, anywhere with an internet connection.
- **3. Subscription Model:** Instead of a one-time purchase, you pay a recurring fee to access the software. This fee can be monthly, quarterly, or annually and often varies depending on the features and number of users.
- **4. Provider Management:** The provider is responsible for everything updates, security, maintenance, and technical support. You don't have to worry about any of these aspects.
- **Advantages of SaaS:**
- * **Cost-Effective:** Eliminates upfront costs associated with traditional software purchases and reduces IT infrastructure expenses.
- * **Accessibility:** Access your software anytime, anywhere with an internet connection.
- * **Scalability:** Easily add or remove users as your needs change, without needing to purchase new software licenses.
- * **Automatic Updates:** Always have the latest features and bug fixes without manually installing updates.

* **Security:**

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* **Security:** SaaS providers invest heavily in security measures, ensuring your data is protected.

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**Examples of SaaS applications:**
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- * **Productivity:** Google Docs, Microsoft Office 365
- * **Collaboration:** Slack, Trello
- * **CRM:** Salesforce, HubSpot
- * **Email Marketing:** Mailchimp, Constant Contact
- * **Project Management:** Asana, Jira

CO3 Considerations:

- * **Data Security:** Ensure the provider has robust security measures and complies with relevant data privacy regulations.
- * **Integration:** Confirm if the SaaS application can integrate with your existing systems.
- * **Customization:** Understand the level of customization offered by the provider to meet your specific needs.
- * **Vendor Lock-In:** Be aware of the potential risk of being locked into a particular provider and the difficulty of switching to another.
- **In essence, SaaS simplifies software usage, making it more accessible and cost-effective for individuals and businesses. The model offers several advantages, but it's essential to consider the potential risks and limitations before making a decision.**



Identify the main security threats for the SaaS cloud delivery model

Answer: ## Main Security Threats for SaaS Cloud Delivery Model:

1. Data Security & Privacy:

- * **Data Breaches:** Unauthorized access to sensitive data stored in the cloud, leading to financial loss, reputational damage, and legal issues.
- * **Data Leakage:** Accidental or intentional disclosure of confidential data outside the organization.
- * **Data Integrity:** Modification or tampering of data, resulting in inaccurate information and potential misuse.
- * **Compliance Violations:** Failure to meet regulatory requirements for data protection, leading to fines and penalties.
- **2. Application & Infrastructure Security:**
- * **Application Vulnerabilities:** Exploitable weaknesses in the SaaS application itself, allowing attackers to gain unauthorized access or control.
- * **Infrastructure Attacks:** Targeting the underlying cloud infrastructure, potentially disrupting service availability or compromising data integrity.
- * **Malicious Insider Threats:** Employees or contractors with access to sensitive data intentionally or unintentionally causing harm.
- * **Denial-of-Service (DoS) Attacks:** Overloading the SaaS platform with traffic, disrupting



service availability and impacting business operations.

3. User & Access Management:

- * **Weak Authentication:** Inadequate authentication mechanisms allowing unauthorized access to the SaaS platform.
- * **Credential Theft:** Stealing user login credentials, granting attackers access to sensitive data and applications.
- * **Account Hijacking:** Gaining control of legitimate user accounts, enabling unauthorized actions and data access.
- * **Insufficient Access Controls:** Lack of granular permissions and role-based access control, allowing users to access data or perform actions beyond their authorized scope.
- **4. Shared Responsibility Model:**
- * **Vendor Security:** Lack of robust security measures by the SaaS provider, leaving sensitive data vulnerable to attacks.
- * **Misconfiguration:** Incorrect configuration of cloud services or applications, increasing the risk of security vulnerabilities.
- * **Lack of Visibility and Control:** Limited visibility into the SaaS provider's security practices and infrastructure, making it difficult to assess and manage security risks.
- * **Data Residency and Jurisdiction:** Data storage location and compliance with local data privacy regulations can pose challenges.

5. Emerging Threats:

* **API Security:** Exploiting vulnerabilities in APIs used by SaaS applications to access

sensitive data or disrupt services.

* **Cloud-Native Security:** Specific threats to cloud-native technologies like containers and

serverless functions, requiring specialized security measures.

* **Supply Chain Attacks:** Compromising third-party software or services used by SaaS

applications to gain access to sensitive data.

* **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Security:** Potential for AI and ML

algorithms to be manipulated or used for malicious purposes.

It is crucial for organizations to understand these security threats and implement appropriate

safeguards to protect their data and applications in the SaaS cloud environment. This involves

a collaborative approach between the organization and the SaaS provider, focusing on robust

security controls, continuous monitoring, and ongoing security awareness training.

Question 6:

Compare the benefits and the potential problems due to virtualization

Answer: ## Benefits of Virtualization:

Resource Optimization:

* **Hardware Consolidation:** Run multiple operating systems and applications on a single

physical server, reducing hardware costs and power consumption.

* **Improved Server Utilization:** Maximize server utilization by allocating resources

dynamically to virtual machines based on demand.

* **Reduced Hardware Footprint:** Virtualization eliminates the need for dedicated physical servers for every application, freeing up space and reducing cooling requirements.

Flexibility and Agility:

- * **Rapid Deployment:** Provision and deploy virtual machines quickly and easily, accelerating application deployment cycles.
- * **Disaster Recovery:** Easily create and manage virtual machine backups for disaster recovery, ensuring business continuity.
- * **Testing and Development:** Create isolated virtual environments for software testing and development, allowing for experimentation without affecting production systems.

Cost Savings:

- * **Reduced Hardware Costs:** Consolidate hardware, reducing the need for new servers and associated costs.
- * **Lower Operating Costs:** Optimize resource utilization, reducing power consumption and cooling costs.
- * **Simplified Management:** Manage virtual machines centrally, reducing administrative overhead.

Security:

* **Enhanced Security:** Isolate virtual machines from each other, providing an additional layer of security.

* **Improved Patch Management:** Apply security patches and updates to virtual machines centrally.

Potential Problems with Virtualization:

Performance Issues:

* **Resource Contention:** Virtualized environments can experience performance issues if the host server resources are insufficient or oversubscribed.

* **Hypervisor Overhead:** The virtualization software itself adds a small overhead to the system, which can impact performance.

* **Networking Challenges:** Configuring and managing virtual networks can be complex and require specialized knowledge.

Security Concerns:

* **Hypervisor Vulnerabilities:** Vulnerabilities in the hypervisor software can expose the entire virtualized environment to attack.

* **VM Escape:** Attackers may be able to escape the confines of a virtual machine and access the host operating system.

Management Complexity:

* **Learning Curve:** Implementing and managing virtualized environments requires specialized skills and knowledge.

ncreased Complexity:** Virtualization can add a layer of complexity to system

administration.

* **Compatibility Issues:** Not all software applications are compatible with virtualized

environments.

Cost Implications:

* **Initial Investment:** Implementing virtualization requires initial investments in hardware,

software, and training.

* **Maintenance Costs:** Ongoing maintenance and support for virtualization software and

hardware.

* **Licensing Costs:** Virtualization software licenses can be expensive.

**Overall, virtualization offers significant benefits in terms of resource optimization, flexibility,

cost savings, and security. However, potential problems like performance issues, security

concerns, management complexity, and cost implications need to be carefully considered

before implementing virtualization.**

Question 7:

Describe Amazon EC2 and its basic features. L2 CO5

Answer: ## Amazon EC2: A Dive into the Cloud

Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) is a fundamental service within Amazon Web Services

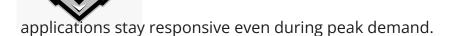
(AWS) that provides **on-demand, scalable computing resources** in the cloud. Imagine

renting virtual servers (instances) with various configurations, operating systems, and software



pre-installed, ready to run your applications.

- **Here are some key features of EC2:**
- **1. Instance Types:** EC2 offers a wide range of instance types catering to different needs:
- * **General purpose:** Ideal for a broad range of workloads.
- * **Compute optimized:** Designed for high-performance computing tasks.
- * **Memory optimized:** Suitable for applications requiring large amounts of memory.
- * **Storage optimized:** For data-intensive workloads with high I/O requirements.
- * **Accelerated computing:** Provides powerful GPUs for machine learning and other graphics-heavy applications.
- **2. Virtualization:** EC2 utilizes virtualization technology to create these virtual servers. Each instance runs on a dedicated portion of a physical server, offering isolation and security.
- **3. Operating Systems:** You can choose from various operating systems, including Linux, Windows, and even specialized distributions tailored for specific workloads.
- **4. Scalability:** EC2's biggest strength lies in its scalability. You can easily add or remove instances based on demand, ensuring your applications have the resources they need at any time.
- **5. Elasticity:** EC2 allows for auto-scaling, automatically adjusting the number of instances running based on defined metrics like CPU usage or network traffic. This helps ensure your



- **6. Networking:** EC2 provides a comprehensive networking infrastructure, allowing instances to communicate with each other and with external resources like the internet. You can create subnets, security groups, and configure network traffic routing.
- **7. Security:** Security is paramount in AWS, and EC2 offers various features to secure your instances, including:
- * **Security Groups:** Act like firewalls, controlling inbound and outbound network traffic.
- * **IAM Roles:** Grant specific permissions to your instances, limiting access to resources.
- * **Encryption:** You can encrypt data both at rest and in transit using encryption services like KMS.
- **8. Management:** EC2 offers various tools to manage your instances, including:
- * **AWS Management Console:** A web-based interface for managing EC2 resources.
- * **AWS Command Line Interface (AWS CLI):** A command-line tool for interacting with AWS services.
- * **AWS SDKs:** Libraries for various programming languages to interact with AWS services.
- **9. Pricing:** EC2 offers flexible pricing models, including:
- * **On-demand:** Pay for the resources you use, ideal for short-term or variable workloads.
- * **Reserved instances:** Commit to a specific instance type for a duration, resulting in



* **Spot instances:** Bid for unused instances, offering the potential for significant discounts.

In summary: Amazon EC2 provides a robust, scalable, and flexible computing platform for various applications. Its features cater to both developers and businesses looking to utilize the power and flexibility of the cloud.

Question 8:

What are the differences between Amazon Simple DB and Amazon

Answer: It seems you are asking about the differences between Amazon SimpleDB and another Amazon service. However, you have not specified the second service.

To provide a useful answer, please clarify which Amazon service you would like to compare SimpleDB with. Some possibilities include:

- * **Amazon DynamoDB:** This is a NoSQL database service that is often compared to SimpleDB.
- * **Amazon RDS (Relational Database Service):** This allows you to run various relational databases like MySQL, PostgreSQL, etc., in the cloud.
- * **Amazon Redshift:** A data warehouse service for analyzing large datasets.

Once you specify the service you want to compare, I can provide a detailed explanation of the differences between SimpleDB and that service.

Question 9:

What are the development technologies currently supported by App

Answer: Please clarify your question! "App" is too general. To give you a helpful answer about development technologies, I need to know what kind of app you're interested in.

For example, are you asking about:

* **Mobile Apps:** Android or iOS?

* **Web Apps:** Front-end and back-end technologies?

* **Desktop Apps:** Windows, macOS, or Linux?

* **Game Development:** Specific game engines like Unity or Unreal Engine?

Once you provide more context, I can give you a detailed list of currently popular and supported development technologies.

Question 10:

Describe the core components of App Engine. L2 CO5

Answer: ## Core Components of App Engine (L2 CO5)

Google App Engine (GAE) provides a platform for developing and deploying web applications. It offers a set of core components that make up its functionality. Here's a breakdown of these components:

1. Runtime Environment:

- * **Flexible Environment:** Provides a more flexible and customizable runtime environment, allowing you to choose your own operating system and dependencies. This offers greater control over the environment your application runs in.
- * **Standard Environment:** Offers a simpler and more managed runtime environment, focusing on ease of deployment and scaling. This environment is ideal for applications that don't require the flexibility of the flexible environment.

2. Services:

- * **App Engine Services:** This is the core functionality of GAE, enabling you to host your web applications on Google's infrastructure. You can choose from different service types like:
 - * **Standard Environment:** This is designed for scalable web applications and APIs.
- * **Flexible Environment:** Offers more control over the environment for advanced applications and custom configurations.
- * **Datastore:** A fully managed, scalable NoSQL database specifically designed for App Engine applications. It provides high availability and automatic scaling, simplifying data management.
- * **Cloud SQL:** A managed relational database service that allows you to run MySQL, PostgreSQL, and SQL Server instances on Google Cloud.
- * **Cloud Storage:** A robust object storage service that provides storage for images, videos, and other files.
- * **Cloud Functions:** A serverless computing platform that lets you execute code in response to events without managing servers.
- * **Cloud Pub/Sub:** A fully managed real-time messaging service that allows you to send and receive messages asynchronously.



3. Development Tools:

- * **App Engine SDK:** Provides tools and libraries to develop and test your applications locally.
- * **Cloud SDK:** Offers a suite of tools for interacting with Google Cloud Platform services.
- * **Google Cloud Console:** A web-based interface for managing your App Engine applications and other Google Cloud resources.
- **4. Deployment and Management:**
- * **Automatic Scaling:** App Engine handles scaling your application up or down based on demand, ensuring your application is always available and performs optimally.
- * **Load Balancing:** App Engine automatically distributes traffic across multiple instances of your application, ensuring high availability and minimizing latency.
- * **Logging and Monitoring:** App Engine provides built-in logging and monitoring capabilities, allowing you to track the performance of your application and troubleshoot any issues.

5. Security:

- * **Access Control:** App Engine offers granular access control mechanisms, allowing you to restrict access to your applications and data.
- * **Data Encryption:** App Engine provides secure data encryption at rest and in transit, ensuring the confidentiality of your data.

* **Authentication and Authorization:** App Engine integrates with Google Cloud Identity and Access Management (IAM) to provide secure authentication and authorization for your applications.

By leveraging these core components, App Engine provides a powerful and efficient platform for building and deploying web applications. This platform simplifies development, management, and scaling, allowing developers to focus on their core business logic.