# Introduction

## Cloud Computing

Computing and technology continuously advance in the Information Technology industry to improve processes that assist in meeting business and consumer objectives and improving consumer satisfaction. However, innovated resources do tend to have higher upfront costs. Therefore, not many businesses or consumers can afford to purchase these resources. In addition, with the emergence of the internet in this generation, the expense of storage as well as the consumption of power by computing components has increased (Duman et al., 2016). Thus, research into the idea of utilizing resources from an innovative and powerful vacant computer remotely immerged. This concept was referred to as Cloud Computing.

Cloud Computing according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is a computing model that exists for the enablement of “ubiquitous, convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, applications, and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction” (Mell & Grance, 2011). In hindsight, cloud computing can be viewed as applications that are delivered through the internet as a service to the consumer as well as the reference to hardware and software of data centers that supply these services (Armbrust et al., 2010). The services are categorized into the following different models according to NIST (Mell & Grance, 2011):

* Software as a service (SAAS), is applied through either a program interface or a web browser to use the supplier’s applications that are running on the infrastructure of the cloud.
* Platform as a Service (PaaS), is applied where the consumer deploys a consumer-created application that is supported by the supplier, whereby the user has control of application configuration.
* Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), is applied when the consumer is equipped with deployment and running of arbitrary software and can, therefore, control the deployed software and storage, in addition, can also have limit control to network components.

For the purpose of this paper, we will look at Software as a Service in closer detail.

Cloud computing model is subdivided into 4 deployed infrastructures:

* Public Cloud, exists in the premises of a cloud provider which is open to use of the general public.
* Private Cloud, can exist in either the premises of an exclusive organization or off on a third party organization, which is used exclusively by a single organization or jointly with a third party organization. As long as it's not open to use by the public.
* Community Cloud, is utilized by organizations that share common interests, security or concerns. The environment exists either on the premise of either of the organizations or a third party organization rendering the cloud services to this community of organizations.
* Hybrid Cloud, is the combination of either of the previously stated deployed infrastructures distinctively.

The public cloud is of particular interest to the purpose of this paper, especially when looking into the commercial service platform that exists in the public cloud such as Google, Amazon and Microsoft. The public cloud service infrastructure has rapidly grown, therefore has also brought forth an increase in unavoidable security issues. In essence, cloud security is a vital vulnerability that is of great concern, and thus even today we still find many organizations, that have not utilized the available cloud services. According to Gartner, a researcher that conducted an investigation around information security issues that are considered in cloud computing, listed that privileged access is one of the issues highlighted that public cloud vendors need to consider (Shaikh & Haider, 2011). For the end consumer, sensitive data should only be available to them however cloud vendor administrators should have access to cloud environment for maintainability and security of environment. Thus sensitive data may also need to be available to administrators.

## Impersonation

To enable the availability to end user, Cloud computing service needs to provide an identity management. This is however a great concern in the public cloud environment as the cloud providers identity management are not consistently integrating their platforms with identity services (Brodkin, 2010). This is also due to the constant evolution of SaaS. This opens to a renowned cyber crime attack that is probable in exposing the vulnerability. This crime is known as imperson

# Problem Statement

# Literature Review

# Aim of this study

# Methodology

# Planning

# References