Software as a Service, or SaaS,

is probably the most overused term when it comes to modern tech startups.

It's a term that implicitly includes both IaaS and PaaS,

and it is built on top of those.

Normally,

it has to do with providing a service via a managed, rented software service,

such as Stripe for credit card payments, Gmail for emails,

or QuickBooks for accounting.

You don't own the software,

but you pay an access fee to use it, or it might even be free.

That removes any maintenance you might have to do,

and you always have the latest features. From Microsoft in general,

their most common SaaS offering is Office 365. The App Services,

Azure SQL Server,

and Azure Active Directory are all examples of SaaS offerings on Azure.

A strength of Azure is hosting and building SaaS applications using the features

of the cloud platform.