**IaaS, PaaS and SaaS**

SaaS, PaaS, and IaaS are simply three ways to describe how you can use the cloud for your business.

* **IaaS**: cloud-based services, pay-as-you-go for services such as storage, networking, and virtualization.
* **PaaS**: hardware and software tools available over the internet.
* **SaaS**: software that’s available via a third-party over the internet.

**IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service)**

IaaS businesses offer services such as pay-as-you-go storage, networking, and virtualization.

IaaS gives users cloud-based alternatives to on premise infrastructure, so businesses can avoid investing in expensive on-site resources.

***Advantages***:

* you can buy what you need, as you need it, and purchase more as your business grows.
* highly flexible and highly scalable
* control over the infrastructure back in your hands.
* No longer needed human resource/service company for the maintenance

***Examples***:

AWS EC2, Rackspace, Google Compute Engine (GCE), Digital Ocean, Magento 1 Enterprise Edition\*.

**PaaS (Platform as a Service)**.

A PaaS vendor provides hardware and software tools over the internet, and people use these tools to develop applications. PaaS users tend to be developers.

***Advantages***:

PaaS is primarily used by developers who are building software or applications.

PaaS platforms are:

* Accessible by multiple users.
* Scalable – you can choose from various tiers of resources to suit the size of your business.
* Built on virtualization technology.
* Easy to run without extensive system administration knowledge.

***Examples***:

AWS Elastic Beanstalk, Heroku, Windows Azure (mostly used as PaaS), Force.com, OpenShift, Apache Stratos, Magento Commerce Cloud.

**SaaS (Software as a Service)**.

SaaS platforms make software available to users over the internet, usually for a monthly subscription fee.

***SaaS Advantages***:

* Available over the internet.
* Hosted on a remote server by a third-party provider.
* Scalable, with different tiers for small, medium, and enterprise-level businesses.
* Inclusive, offering security, compliance, and maintenance as part of the cost.

***Examples***:

BigCommerce, Google Apps, Salesforce, Dropbox, MailChimp, ZenDesk, DocuSign, Slack, Hubspot.

