# SaaS vs PaaS vs IaaS

| **Feature** | **SaaS (Software as a Service)** | **PaaS (Platform as a Service)** | **IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service)** |
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| Core Offering | Ready-to-use software applications | Development platform and tools | Virtualized hardware and infrastructure |
| Target Users | End-users and businesses | Developers and IT teams | System administrators and IT architects |
| User Control | Minimal (just app settings) | Moderate (app logic and data) | Maximum (OS, storage, networking, etc.) |
| Infrastructure Management | Managed by provider | Managed by provider | Managed by user |
| Development Capability | Not required | Required (for building apps) | Required (for full system setup) |
| Cost Model | Subscription-based | Pay-as-you-go or subscription | Pay-as-you-go |
| Scalability | High (but limited to app capabilities) | High (platform scales with app needs) | Very high (full control over scaling) |
| Maintenance & Updates | Handled by provider | Provider handles platform updates | User handles all updates |
| Examples | Google Workspace, Salesforce, Zoom | Microsoft Azure App Services, Heroku | AWS EC2, Google Compute Engine, Microsoft Azure VMs |
| Use Case | Email, CRM, collaboration tools | App development and deployment | Hosting websites, data storage, custom networks |