What is Cloud Computing

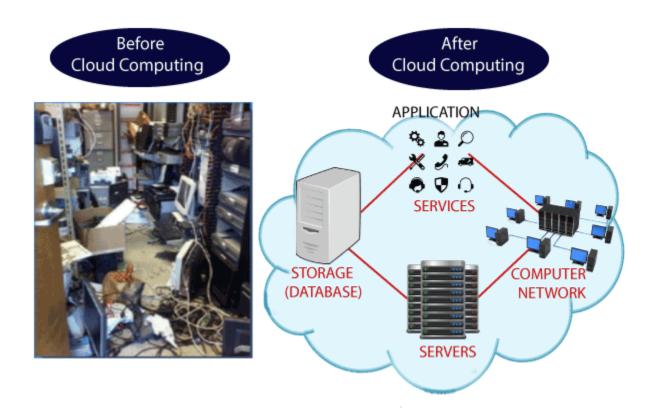
The term cloud refers to a network or the internet. It is a technology that uses remote servers on the internet to store, manage, and access data online rather than local drives. The data can be anything such as files, images, documents, audio, video, and more.

Why Cloud Computing?

Small as well as large IT companies, follow the traditional methods to provide the IT infrastructure. That means for any IT company, we need a Server Room that is the basic need of IT companies.

In that server room, there should be a database server, mail server, networking, firewalls, routers, modem, switches, QPS (Query Per Second means how much queries or load will be handled by the server), configurable system, high net speed, and the maintenance engineers.

To establish such IT infrastructure, we need to spend lots of money. To overcome all these problems and to reduce the IT infrastructure cost, Cloud Computing comes into existence.



Characteristics of Cloud Computing

The characteristics of cloud computing are given below:

1) Agility

The cloud works in a distributed computing environment. It shares resources among users and works very fast.

2) High availability and reliability

The availability of servers is high and more reliable because the **chances of infrastructure** failure are minimum.

3) High Scalability

Cloud offers "on-demand" provisioning of resources on a large scale, without having engineers for peak loads.

4) Multi-Sharing

With the help of cloud computing, multiple users and applications can work more efficiently with cost reductions by sharing common infrastructure.

5) Device and Location Independence

Cloud computing enables the users to access systems using a web browser regardless of their location or what device they use e.g. PC, mobile phone, etc. **As infrastructure is off-site** (typically provided by a third-party) **and accessed via the Internet, users can connect from anywhere**.

6) Maintenance

Maintenance of cloud computing applications is easier, since they do not need to be installed on each user's computer and can be accessed from different places. So, it reduces the cost also.

7) Low Cost

By using cloud computing, the cost will be reduced because to take the services of cloud computing, IT company need not to set its own infrastructure and pay-as-per usage of resources.

8) Services in the pay-per-use mode

Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) are provided to the users so that they can access services on the cloud by using these APIs and pay the charges as per the usage of services.

Advantages of Cloud Computing

As we all know that Cloud computing is trending technology. Almost every company switched their services on the cloud to rise the company growth.

Here, we are going to discuss some important advantages of Cloud Computing-

1) Back-up and restore data

Once the data is stored in the cloud, it is easier to get back-up and restore that data using the cloud.

2) Improved collaboration

Cloud applications improve collaboration by allowing groups of people to quickly and easily share information in the cloud via shared storage

3) Excellent accessibility

Cloud allows us to quickly and easily access store information anywhere, anytime in the whole world, using an internet connection. An internet cloud infrastructure increases organization productivity and efficiency by ensuring that our data is always accessible.

4) Low maintenance cost

Cloud computing reduces both hardware and software maintenance costs for organizations.

5) Mobility

Cloud computing allows us to easily access all cloud data via mobile.

6) IServices in the pay-per-use model

Cloud computing offers Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to the users for access services on the cloud and pays the charges as per the usage of service.

7) Unlimited storage capacity

Cloud offers us a huge amount of storing capacity for storing our important data such as documents, images, audio, video, etc. in one place.

8) Data security

Data security is one of the biggest advantages of cloud computing. Cloud offers many advanced features related to security and ensures that data is securely stored and handled.

Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

A list of the disadvantage of cloud computing is given below -

1) Internet Connectivity

As you know, in cloud computing, every data (image, audio, video, etc.) is stored on the cloud, and we access these data through the cloud by using the internet connection. If you do not have good internet connectivity, you cannot access these data. However, we have no any other way to access data from the cloud.

2) Vendor lock-in

Vendor lock-in is the biggest disadvantage of cloud computing. Organizations may face problems when transferring their services from one vendor to another. As different vendors provide different platforms, that can cause difficulty moving from one cloud to another.

3) Limited Control

As we know, cloud infrastructure is completely owned, managed, and monitored by the service provider, so the cloud users have less control over the function and execution of services within a cloud infrastructure.

4) Security

Although cloud service providers implement the best security standards to store important information. But, before adopting cloud technology, you should be aware that you will be sending all your organization's sensitive information to a third party, i.e., a cloud computing service provider. While sending the data on the cloud, there may be a chance that your organization's information is hacked by Hackers.

History of Cloud Computing

Before emerging the cloud computing, there was Client/Server computing which is basically a centralized storage in which all the software applications, all the data and all the controls are resided on the server side.

If a single user wants to access specific data or run a program, he/she need to connect to the server and then gain appropriate access, and then he/she can do his/her business.

Then after, distributed computing came into picture, where all the computers are networked together and share their resources when needed.

On the basis of above computing, there was emerged of cloud computing concepts that later implemented.

At around in 1961, John MacCharty suggested in a speech at MIT that computing can be sold like a utility, just like a water or electricity. It was a brilliant idea, but like all brilliant ideas, it

was ahead if its time, as for the next few decades, despite interest in the model, the technology simply was not ready for it.

But of course time has passed and the technology caught that idea and after few years we mentioned that:

In 1999, Salesforce.com started delivering of applications to users using a simple website. The applications were delivered to enterprises over the Internet, and this way the dream of computing sold as utility were true.

In 2002, **Amazon** started Amazon Web Services, providing services like storage, computation and even human intelligence. However, only starting with the launch of the Elastic Compute Cloud in 2006 a truly commercial service open to everybody existed.

In 2009, **Google Apps** *also started to provide cloud computing enterprise applications.*

Of course, all the big players are present in the cloud computing evolution, some were earlier, some were later. *In 2009*, **Microsoft** *launched Windows Azure*, and companies like Oracle and HP have all joined the game. This proves that today, cloud computing has become mainstream

Cloud Computing Architecture

As we know, cloud computing technology is used by both small and large organizations to **store the information** in cloud and **access** it from anywhere at anytime using the internet connection.

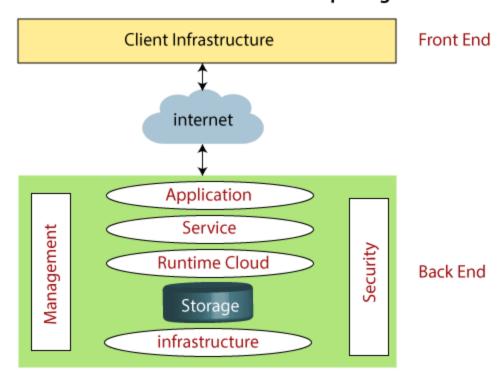
Cloud computing architecture is a combination of service-oriented architecture and event-driven architecture.

Cloud computing architecture is divided into the following two parts -

- Front End
- Back End

The below diagram shows the architecture of cloud computing –

Architecture of Cloud Computing



Front End

The front end is used by the client. It contains client-side interfaces and applications that are required to access the cloud computing platforms. The front end includes web servers (including Chrome, Firefox, internet explorer, etc.), thin & fat clients, tablets, and mobile devices.

Back End

The back end is used by the service provider. It manages all the resources that are required to provide cloud computing services. It includes a huge amount of data storage, security mechanism, virtual machines, deploying models, servers, traffic control mechanisms, etc.

Components of Cloud Computing Architecture

There are the following components of cloud computing architecture -

1. Client Infrastructure

Client Infrastructure is a Front end component. It provides GUI (Graphical User Interface) to interact with the cloud.

2. Application

The application may be any software or platform that a client wants to access.

3. Service

A Cloud Services manages that which type of service you access according to the client's requirement.

Cloud computing offers the following three type of services:

i. Software as a Service (SaaS) – It is also known as **cloud application services**. Mostly, SaaS applications run directly through the web browser means we do not require to download and install these applications. Some important example of SaaS is given below –

Example: Google Apps, Salesforce Dropbox, Slack, Hubspot, Cisco WebEx.

ii. Platform as a Service (PaaS) – It is also known as cloud platform services. It is quite similar to SaaS, but the difference is that PaaS provides a platform for software creation, but using SaaS, we can access software over the internet without the need of any platform.

Example: Windows Azure, Force.com, Magento Commerce Cloud, OpenShift.

iii. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) – It is also known as **cloud infrastructure services**. It is responsible for managing applications data, middleware, and runtime environments.

Example: Amazon Web Services (AWS) EC2, Google Compute Engine (GCE), Cisco Metapod

4. Runtime Cloud

Runtime Cloud provides the **execution and runtime environment** to the virtual machines.

5. Storage

Storage is one of the most important components of cloud computing. It provides a huge amount of storage capacity in the cloud to store and manage data.

6. Infrastructure

It provides services on the **host level**, **application level**, and **network level**. Cloud infrastructure includes hardware and software components such as servers, storage, network devices, virtualization software, and other storage resources that are needed to support the cloud computing model.

7. Management

Management is used to manage components such as application, service, runtime cloud, storage, infrastructure, and other security issues in the backend and establish coordination between them.

8. Security

Security is an in-built back end component of cloud computing. It implements a security mechanism in the back end.

9. Internet

The Internet is medium through which front end and back end can interact and communicate with each other.

Types of Cloud

There are the following 4 types of cloud that you can deploy according to the organization's needs

Public Cloud

Public cloud is **open to all** to store and access information via the Internet using the pay-per-usage method.

In public cloud, computing resources are managed and operated by the Cloud Service Provider (CSP).

Example: Amazon elastic compute cloud (EC2), IBM SmartCloud Enterprise, Microsoft, Google App Engine, Windows Azure Services Platform

Advantages of Public Cloud

There are the following advantages of Public Cloud -

- o Public cloud is owned at a lower cost than the private and hybrid cloud.
- Public cloud is maintained by the cloud service provider, so do not need to worry about the maintenance.
- Public cloud is easier to integrate. Hence it offers a better flexibility approach to consumers.
- Public cloud is location independent because its services are delivered through the internet.
- o Public cloud is highly scalable as per the requirement of computing resources.
- o It is accessible by the general public, so there is no limit to the number of users.

Disadvantages of Public Cloud

- o Public Cloud is less secure because resources are shared publicly.
- o Performance depends upon the high-speed internet network link to the cloud provider.
- o The Client has no control of data.

Private Cloud

Private cloud is also known as an **internal cloud** or **corporate cloud**. It is used by organizations to build and manage their own data centers internally or by the third party. It can be deployed using Opensource tools such as Openstack and Eucalyptus.

Advantages of Private Cloud

There are the following advantages of the Private Cloud -

- o Private cloud provides a high level of security and privacy to the users.
- o Private cloud offers better performance with improved speed and space capacity.
- o It allows the IT team to quickly allocate and deliver on-demand IT resources.
- o The organization has full control over the cloud because it is managed by the organization itself. So, there is no need for the organization to depends on anybody.
- It is suitable for organizations that require a separate cloud for their personal use and data security is the first priority.

Disadvantages of Private Cloud

- Skilled people are required to manage and operate cloud services.
- o Private cloud is accessible within the organization, so the area of operations is limited.
- o Private cloud is not suitable for organizations that have a high user base, and organizations that do not have the prebuilt infrastructure, sufficient manpower to maintain and manage the cloud.

Hybrid Cloud

Hybrid Cloud is a combination of the public cloud and the private cloud. we can say:

Hybrid Cloud = Public Cloud + Private Cloud

Hybrid cloud is partially secure because the services which are running on the public cloud can be accessed by anyone, while the services which are running on a private cloud can be accessed only by the organization's users.

Example: Google Application Suite (Gmail, Google Apps, and Google Drive), Office 365 (MS Office on the Web and One Drive), Amazon Web Services.

Advantages of Hybrid Cloud

There are the following advantages of Hybrid Cloud -

- Hybrid cloud is suitable for organizations that require more security than the public cloud.
- o Hybrid cloud helps you to deliver new products and services more quickly.
- o Hybrid cloud provides an excellent way to reduce the risk.
- Hybrid cloud offers flexible resources because of the public cloud and secure resources because of the private cloud.

Disadvantages of Hybrid Cloud

- o In Hybrid Cloud, security feature is not as good as the private cloud.
- Managing a hybrid cloud is complex because it is difficult to manage more than one type of deployment model.
- o In the hybrid cloud, the reliability of the services depends on cloud service providers.

Community Cloud

Community cloud allows systems and services to be accessible by a group of several organizations to share the information between the organization and a specific community. It is owned, managed, and operated by one or more organizations in the community, a third party, or a combination of them.

Example: Health Care community cloud

Advantages of Community Cloud

There are the following advantages of Community Cloud -

- Community cloud is cost-effective because the whole cloud is being shared by several organizations or communities.
- Community cloud is suitable for organizations that want to have a collaborative cloud with more security features than the public cloud.
- o It provides better security than the public cloud.
- o It provdes collaborative and distributive environment.
- o Community cloud allows us to share cloud resources, infrastructure, and other capabilities among various organizations.

Disadvantages of Community Cloud

- o Community cloud is not a good choice for every organization.
- Security features are not as good as the private cloud.
- o It is not suitable if there is no collaboration.
- The fixed amount of data storage and bandwidth is shared among all community members.

Cloud Service Models

There are the following three types of cloud service models -

- 1. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)
- 2. Platform as a Service (PaaS)
- 3. Software as a Service (SaaS)

Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)

IaaS is also known as **Hardware as a Service** (**HaaS**). It is a computing infrastructure managed over the internet. The main advantage of using IaaS is that it helps users to avoid the cost and complexity of purchasing and managing the physical servers.

Characteristics of IaaS

There are the following characteristics of IaaS -

Resources are available as a service

- o Services are highly scalable
- Dynamic and flexible
- GUI and API-based access
- Automated administrative tasks

Example: DigitalOcean, Linode, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, Google Compute Engine (GCE), Rackspace, and Cisco Metacloud.

Platform as a Service (PaaS)

PaaS cloud computing platform is created for the programmer to develop, test, run, and manage the applications.

Characteristics of PaaS

There are the following characteristics of PaaS -

- o Accessible to various users via the same development application.
- o Integrates with web services and databases.
- Builds on virtualization technology, so resources can easily be scaled up or down as per the organization's need.
- Support multiple languages and frameworks.
- Provides an ability to "Auto-scale".

Example: AWS Elastic Beanstalk, Windows Azure, Heroku, Force.com, Google App Engine, Apache Stratos, Magento Commerce Cloud, and OpenShift.

Software as a Service (SaaS)

SaaS is also known as "**on-demand software**". It is a software in which the applications are hosted by a cloud service provider. Users can access these applications with the help of internet connection and web browser.

Characteristics of SaaS

There are the following characteristics of SaaS -

- Managed from a central location
- Hosted on a remote server

- Accessible over the internet
- Users are not responsible for hardware and software updates. Updates are applied automatically.
- The services are purchased on the pay-as-per-use basis

Example: BigCommerce, Google Apps, Salesforce, Dropbox, ZenDesk, Cisco WebEx, ZenDesk, Slack, and GoToMeeting.

Cloud Computing Security Vulnerabilities

- 1. Misconfigured Cloud Storage
- 2.Insecure APIs
- 3. Loss or Theft of Intellectual Property
- 4. Compliance Violations and Regulatory Actions
- 5. Loss of Control Over End-User Actions
- 6. Poor Access Management
- 7. Contractual Breaches with Customers or Business Partners

Cloud Computing Challenges

Security and Privacy

Security and Privacy of information is the biggest challenge to cloud computing. Security and privacy issues can be overcome by employing encryption, security hardware and security applications.

Portability

This is another challenge to cloud computing that applications should easily be migrated from one cloud provider to another. There must not be vendor lock-in. However, it is not yet made possible because each of the cloud provider uses different standard languages for their platforms.

Interoperability

It means the application on one platform should be able to incorporate services from the other platforms. It is made possible via web services, but developing such web services is very complex.

Computing Performance

Data intensive applications on cloud requires high network bandwidth, which results in high cost. Low bandwidth does not meet the desired computing performance of cloud application.

Reliability and Availability

It is necessary for cloud systems to be reliable and robust because most of the businesses are now becoming dependent on services provided by third-party.

Applications of Cloud Computing in real-world:

<u>Cloud Service Providers (CSP)</u> are providing many types of cloud services and now if we sill cloud computing has touched every sector by providing various cloud applications. Sharing and managing resources is easy in cloud computing that's why it is one of the dominant fields of computing. These properties have made it an active component in many fields. Now let's know some of the real-world applications of cloud computing.

1. Online Data

Cloud computing allows storing data like files, images, audios, and videos, etc on the cloud storage. The organization need not set physical storage systems to store a huge volume of business data which costs so high nowadays. As they are growing technologically, data generation is also growing with respect to time, and storing that becoming problem. In that situation, Cloud storage is providing this service to store and access data any time as per requirement.

2. Backup and Recovery

Cloud vendors provide security from their side by storing safe to the data as well as providing a backup facility to the data. They offer various recovery application for retrieving the lost data. In the traditional way backup of data is a very complex problem and also it is very difficult sometimes impossible to recover the lost data. But cloud computing has made backup and recovery applications very easy where there is no fear of running out of backup media or loss of data.

3. Bigdata Analysis

We know the volume of big data is so high where storing that in traditional data management system for an organization is impossible. But cloud computing has resolved that problem by allowing the organizations to store their large volume of data in cloud storage without worrying about physical storage. Next comes analyzing the raw data and finding out insights or useful information from it is a big challenge as it requires high-quality tools for data analytics. Cloud computing provides the biggest facility to organizations in terms of storing and analyzing big data.

4. Testing and development:

Setting up the platform for development and finally performing different types of testing to check the readiness of the product before delivery requires different types of IT resources and infrastructure. But Cloud computing provides the easiest approach for development as well as testing even if deployment by using their IT resources with minimal expenses. Organizations find it more helpful as they got scalable and flexible cloud services for product development, testing, and deployment.

5. Anti-Virus Applications

Previously, organizations were installing antivirus software within their system even if we will see we personally also keep antivirus software in our system for safety from outside cyber threats. But nowadays cloud computing provides cloud antivirus software which means the software is stored in the cloud and monitors your system/organization's system remotely. This antivirus software identifies the security risks and fixes them. Sometimes also they give a feature to download the software.

6. E-commerce Application

Cloud-based e-commerce allows responding quickly to the opportunities which are emerging. Users respond quickly to the market opportunities as well as the traditional e-commerce responds to the challenges quickly. Cloud-based e-commerce gives a new approach to doing business with the minimum amount as well as minimum time possible. Customer data, product data, and other operational systems are managed in cloud environments.

7. Cloud computing in education

Cloud computing in the education sector brings an unbelievable change in learning by providing e-learning, online distance learning platforms, and student information portals to the students. It is a new trend in education that provides an attractive environment for learning, teaching, experimenting, etc to students, faculty members, and researchers. Everyone associated with the field can connect to the cloud of their organization and access data and information from there.

8. E-Governance Application

Cloud computing can provide its services to multiple activities conducted by the government. It can support the government to move from the traditional ways of management and service providers to an advanced way of everything by expanding the availability of the environment, making the environment more scalable and customized. It can help the government to reduce the unnecessary cost in managing, installing, and upgrading applications and doing all these with help of could computing and utilizing that money public service.

9. Cloud Computing in Medical Fields: In the medical field also nowadays cloud computing is used for storing and accessing the

data as it allows to store data and access it through the internet without worrying about any physical setup. It facilitates easier access and distribution of information among the various medical professional and the individual patients. Similarly, with help of cloud computing offsite buildings and treatment facilities like labs, doctors making emergency house calls and ambulances information, etc can be easily accessed and updated remotely instead of having to wait until they can access a hospital computer.

10. Entertainment Applications

Many people get entertainment from the internet, in that case, cloud computing is the perfect place for reaching to a varied consumer base. Therefore different types of entertainment industries reach near the target audience by adopting a multi-cloud strategy. Cloud-based entertainment provides various entertainment applications such as online music/video, online games and video conferencing, streaming services, etc and it can reach any device be it TV, mobile, set-top box, or any other form. It is a new form of entertainment called On-Demand Entertainment (ODE).

With respect to this as a cloud, the market is growing rapidly and it is providing various services day by day. So other application of cloud computing includes social applications, management application, business applications, art application, and many more. So in the future cloud computing is going to touch many more sectors by providing more applications and services.