

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

There are the following operations that we can do using cloud computing:

- Developing new applications and services
- Storage, back up, and recovery of data
- Hosting blogs and websites
- Delivery of software on demand
- Analysis of data
- Streaming videos and audios

Why Cloud Computing

With increase in computer and Mobile user's, data storage has become a priority in all fields. Large and small scale businesses today thrive on their data & they spent a huge amount of money to maintain this data. It requires a strong IT support and a storage hub. Not all businesses can afford high cost of in-house IT infrastructure and back up support services. For them Cloud Computing is a cheaper solution. Perhaps its efficiency in storing data, computation and less maintenance cost has succeeded to attract even bigger businesses as well.

Cloud computing decreases the hardware and software demand from the user's side. The only thing that user must be able to run is the cloud computing systems interface software, which can be as simple as Web browser, and the Cloud network takes care of the rest. We all have experienced cloud computing at some instant of time, some of the popular cloud services we have used or we are still using are mail services like gmail, hotmail or yahoo etc.

Following are the benefits of cloud computing:

1. Lower IT infrastructure and computer costs for users
2. Improved performance
3. Fewer Maintenance issues
4. Instant software updates
5. Improved compatibility between Operating systems
6. Backup and recovery
7. Performance and Scalability
8. Increased storage capacity
9. Increase data safety

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.

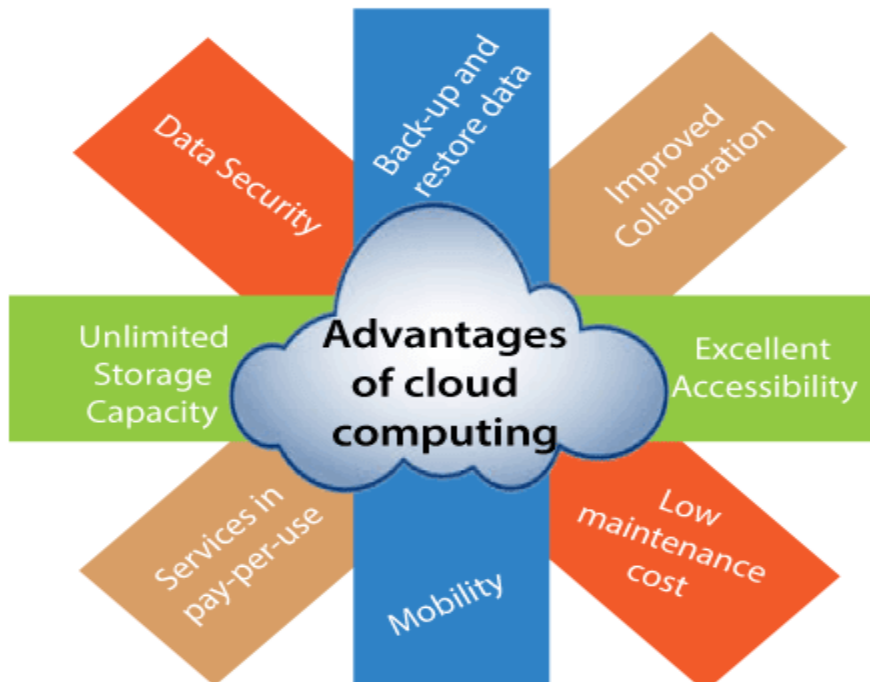
7) Low Cost

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.

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Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

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

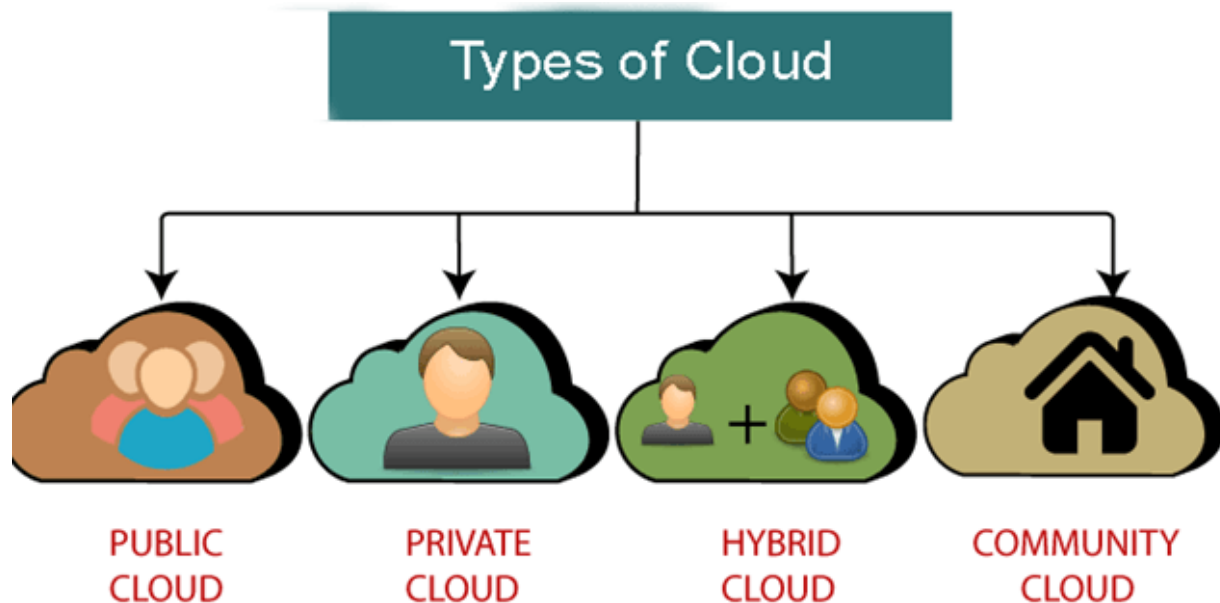
Vendor lock-in is the biggest disadvantage of cloud computing. Organizations may face problems when transferring their services from one vendor to another. As different vendors provide different platforms, that can cause difficulty moving from one cloud to another.

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.



Public Cloud

- Public Cloud provides a **shared platform** that is accessible to the **general public** through an Internet connection.
- Public cloud operated on the **pay-as-per-use model** and administrated by the **third party**, i.e., Cloud service provider.
- In the Public cloud, the same storage is being used by multiple users at the same time.
- Public cloud is **owned, managed, and operated** by businesses, universities, government organizations, or a combination of them.
- Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2), Microsoft Azure, IBM's Blue Cloud, Sun Cloud, and Google Cloud are examples of the public cloud.

Advantages of Public Cloud

1) Low Cost

Public cloud has a lower cost than private, or hybrid cloud, as it shares the same resources with a large number of consumers.

2) Location Independent

Public cloud is location independent because its services are offered through the internet.

3) Save Time

In Public cloud, the cloud service provider is responsible for the manage and maintain data centers in which data is stored, so the cloud user can save their time to establish connectivity, deploying new products, release product updates, configure, and assemble servers.

4) Quickly and easily set up

Organizations can easily buy public cloud on the internet and deployed and configured it remotely through the cloud service provider within a few hours.

5) Business Agility

Public cloud provides an ability to elastically re-size computer resources based on the organization's requirements.

6) Scalability and reliability

Public cloud offers scalable (easy to add and remove) and reliable (24*7 available) services to the users at an affordable cost.

Disadvantages of Public Cloud

1) Low Security

Public Cloud is less secure because resources are shared publicly.

2) Performance

In the public cloud, performance depends upon the speed of internet connectivity.

3) Less customizable

Public cloud is less customizable than the private cloud.

Private Cloud

- Private cloud is also known as an **internal cloud** or **corporate cloud**.
- Private cloud provides computing services to a **private internal network (within the organization)** and **selected users** instead of the general public.

- Private cloud provides a **high level of security** and **privacy** to data through firewalls and internal hosting. It also ensures that operational and sensitive data are not accessible to third-party providers.
- HP Data Centers, Microsoft, Elastra-private cloud, and Ubuntu are the example of a private cloud.

Advantages of Private cloud

1) More Control

Private clouds have more control over their resources and hardware than public clouds because it is only accessed by selected users.

2) Security & privacy

Security & privacy are one of the big advantages of cloud computing. Private cloud improved the security level as compared to the public cloud.

3) Improved performance

Private cloud offers better performance with improved speed and space capacity.

Disadvantages of Private Cloud

1) High cost

The cost is higher than a public cloud because set up and maintain hardware resources are costly.

2) Restricted area of operations

As we know, private cloud is accessible within the organization, so the area of operations is limited.

3) Limited scalability

Private clouds are scaled only within the capacity of internal hosted resources.

4) Skilled people

Skilled people are required to manage and operate cloud services.

Hybrid Cloud

- Hybrid cloud is a combination of **public** and **private** clouds.
Hybrid cloud = public cloud + private cloud

- The main aim to combine these cloud (Public and Private) is to create a unified, automated, and well-managed computing environment.
- In the Hybrid cloud, **non-critical activities** are performed by the **public cloud** and **critical activities** are performed by the **private cloud**.
- Mainly, a hybrid cloud is used in finance, healthcare, and Universities.
- The best hybrid cloud provider companies are **Amazon, Microsoft, Google, Cisco,** and **NetApp**.

Advantages of Hybrid Cloud

1) Flexible and secure

It provides flexible resources because of the public cloud and secure resources because of the private cloud.

2) Cost effective

Hybrid cloud costs less than the private cloud. It helps organizations to save costs for both infrastructure and application support.

3) Cost effective

It offers the features of both the public as well as the private cloud. A hybrid cloud is capable of adapting to the demands that each company needs for space, memory, and system.

4) Security

Hybrid cloud is secure because critical activities are performed by the private cloud.

5) Risk Management

Hybrid cloud provides an excellent way for companies to manage the risk.

Disadvantages of Hybrid Cloud

1) Networking issues

In the Hybrid Cloud, networking becomes complex because of the private and the public cloud.

2) Infrastructure Compatibility

Infrastructure compatibility is the major issue in a hybrid cloud. With dual-levels of infrastructure, a private cloud controls the company, and a public cloud does not, so there is a possibility that they are running in separate stacks.

3) Reliability

The reliability of the services depends on cloud service providers.

Community Cloud

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

Example: Our government organization within India may share computing infrastructure in the cloud to manage data.

Advantages of Community Cloud

There are the following advantages of Community Cloud -

Cost effective

Community cloud is cost effective because the whole cloud is shared between several organizations or a community.

Flexible and Scalable

The community cloud is flexible and scalable because it is compatible with every user. It allows the users to modify the documents as per their needs and requirement.

Security

Community cloud is more secure than the public cloud but less secure than the private cloud.

Sharing infrastructure

Community cloud allows us to share cloud resources, infrastructure, and other capabilities among various organizations.

Disadvantages of Community Cloud

There are the following disadvantages of Community Cloud -

- Community cloud is not a good choice for every organization.
- Slow adoption to data
- The fixed amount of data storage and bandwidth is shared among all community members.
- Community Cloud is costly than the public cloud.

- Sharing responsibilities among organizations is difficult.

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
- 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

- Accessible to various users via the same development application.
- 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

- 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.

IaaS	Paas	SaaS
It provides a virtual data center to store information and create platforms for app development, testing, and deployment.	It provides virtual platforms and tools to create, test, and deploy apps.	It provides web software and apps to complete business tasks.
It provides access to resources such as virtual machines, virtual storage, etc.	It provides runtime environments and deployment tools for applications.	It provides software as a service to the end-users.
It is used by network architects.	It is used by developers.	It is used by end users.
IaaS provides only Infrastructure.	PaaS provides Infrastructure+Platform.	SaaS provides Infrastructure+Platform +Software.