In Vinton Cerf’s speech (April 28, 2009) on Cloud Computing, he suggests it is in a nascent stage similar to networking technology during the 1960’s. Specifically, there are proprietary structures governing cloud computing and making each cloud a distinct system. Since ach clouds is separate from others, there is no transfer of information between them. Indeed, there is no way to “express the idea of exchanging information between [them] because there is no no way to express the idea of [them]” (Cerf, 2009). It is clear that what he means is that just as IP addresses make network protocols possible for transferring information between real devices, there needs to be a mechanism by which information can be transferred between virtual devices as well. Cerf (2009) briefly discusses that the idea of data linking and how it can be constructive in developing an inter-cloud protocol. However, Cerf also warns that security is a concern that needs to be addressed by any protocol that allows inter-cloud information transfer. Virtualization technologies are already being addressed by government entities (Mell & Grance, 2011) and their security is a large consideration as well (Scarfone, Souppaya, & Hoffman, 2011). If the future of virtualization technology can be compared to the networks of the 1960’s, cloud computing may prove to be a large part of the government’s digital economy. As such, security and governance will be a priority for this new technology.

References

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