



# What Is Cloud Computing?

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Welcome to What is Cloud Computing.

## What you will learn

### At the core of the lesson


You will learn how to:

- Define cloud computing
- Describe different service models of cloud computing
- Distinguish between cloud deployment models



After completing this module, you should be able to:

- Define cloud computing
- Describe different service models of cloud computing
- Distinguish between cloud deployment models



Understanding cloud computing

## Question



What does cloud computing mean to you?

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aws re/start

What does cloud computing mean to you?

Take a moment to provide a quick sentence on what you understand cloud computing to be.

Note: No answers are wrong.

## Answer

### What is cloud computing?

- Cloud computing is the **on-demand** delivery of compute power, database, storage, applications, and other IT resources.
- These resources are delivered through a cloud services platform **via the internet** with **pay-as-you-go** pricing.



Cloud computing is the on-demand delivery of compute power, database, storage, applications, and other IT resources. These resources are delivered through a cloud services platform via the internet, with pay-as-you-go pricing.

In its most basic definition, the *cloud* is a computer that is located somewhere else, accessed via the internet, and used in some way. *Web services* is another name for what people call the cloud.

The cloud comprises server computers in large data centers in different locations around the world. When you use a cloud service like Amazon Web Services (AWS), you use the computers that AWS owns.

The computers contain various technology features and services, which are like building blocks that can be used to assemble solutions. These solutions help users meet their business goals and technology requirements. With cloud computing, organizations can consume on-demand computing and storage resources instead of building, operating, and improving infrastructure on their own.

To learn more, refer to: [What is cloud computing.](#)



## Traditional computing model

### Infrastructure as hardware

Hardware solutions are physical, and they require –

- Space
- Staff
- Physical security
- Planning
- Capital expenditure

You must guess at theoretical maximum peaks:

- Is there enough resource capacity?
- Do you have sufficient storage?

What if your needs change?

- You must go through the time, effort, and cost that's needed to make all the necessary changes



In the traditional computing model, infrastructure is thought of as hardware. Managing hardware takes time and resources that you could be using to improve your architecture and your application. Hardware solutions are physical. They require space, staff, physical security, planning, and capital expenditure.

In addition, you must provide capacity that's based on guessing theoretical maximum peaks. Sometimes, you might not meet your projected maximum peaks—or, you might exceed them. In such cases, you would be paying for expensive resources that are idle, or you would have insufficient capacity to meet your needs.

What if your needs change? You must go through the time, effort, and cost that's needed to handle these changes.

For example, suppose that you want to provision a new website. You must buy the hardware, rack and stack it, put it in a data center, and then manage it or have someone else manage it. This approach is expensive.

## Cloud computing model

### Infrastructure as software

- Cloud computing enables you to **stop thinking of your infrastructure as hardware**, and instead think of (and use) it as software
- If your needs change, your software can change much more **quickly, easily, and cost-effectively** than your hardware



Cloud computing enables you to stop thinking of your infrastructure as hardware, and instead think of it (and use it) as software. Accessing and using your infrastructure as software offers a number of benefits—flexibility, in particular. If your needs change, your software can change more quickly, easily, and cost-effectively than your hardware.

Cloud computing addresses some of the issues in the traditional computing model. One of the most prohibitive aspects of traditional computing is the significant upfront investment of acquiring, provisioning, and maintaining on-premises infrastructure. With cloud computing, your businesses can run with a new solution in place quickly, and with low upfront costs. Then, you can elastically scale up and down in an automated way so that you pay for only what you use.

With cloud computing, you can also select the services that best match your needs. It gives you flexibility, with a wide range of choices and the ability to change your configuration when you want. All of these services are provided on a secured infrastructure.

With AWS, you don't need to anticipate your hardware needs ahead of time, and then order, install, and set it up at your data center. You also don't need to undergo a long procurement cycle. With a few clicks, you can provision exactly what you need, and it is available to you in a few minutes.



You can provision and terminate resources as necessary on AWS, instead of paying for hardware when you are not using it. You can treat resources as temporary and disposable, free from the inflexibility and constraints of a fixed and finite IT infrastructure.

By harnessing the power of AWS, you can be more agile and efficient with change management, testing, reliability, and capacity planning.

## Cloud service models



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aws re/start

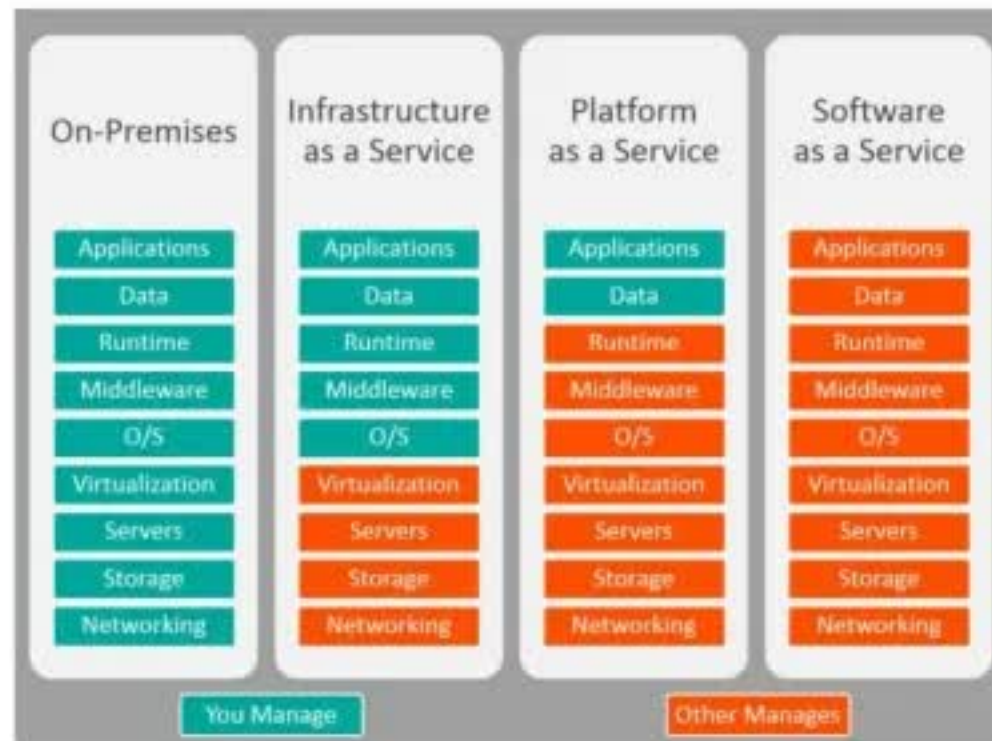
Cloud services fall into one of three primary categories, which are based mainly around how much control and responsibility you have over how the service is configured.

With *infrastructure as a service (IaaS)*, you manage the server, which can be physical or virtual, and the operating system (Microsoft Windows or Linux). In general, the data center provider has no access to your server.

With *platform as a service (PaaS)*, someone else manages the underlying hardware and operating systems. In this way, you can run applications without managing underlying infrastructure (for example, patching, updates, maintenance, hardware, and operating systems). PaaS also provides a framework for developers that they can build on to create customized applications.

With *software as a service (SaaS)*, you manage your files while the service provider manages all data centers, servers, networks, storage, maintenance, and patching. You handle only the software and how you want to use it. You are provided with a complete product that the service provider runs and manages. Facebook and Dropbox are examples of SaaS. You manage your Facebook contacts and Dropbox files, and the service providers manage the systems.

## Cloud service models: Who manages what?



This slide shows the different hardware and software components that are required to run an application. It illustrates how you progressively manage fewer components as you go from the traditional on-premises computing service model to the SaaS model.



Cloud computing deployment models



## Three cloud deployment models



The three main cloud computing deployment models represent the cloud environments that you can deploy your applications in.

*Cloud* (or *all-in cloud*) is a cloud-based application that is fully deployed in the cloud. All parts of the application run in the cloud. Applications in the cloud were either created in the cloud or migrated from an existing infrastructure. Cloud-based applications can be built on low-level infrastructure pieces (for example, networking, compute, or storage). Or they can use higher-level services that provide abstraction from the management, architecting, and scaling requirements of core infrastructure.

A *hybrid deployment* is a way to connect infrastructure and applications between cloud-based resources and existing resources that are *not* in the cloud. The most common method of hybrid deployment is between the cloud and existing on-premises infrastructure. On-premises infrastructure is located in the physical confines of an enterprise, often in the company's data center. A hybrid deployment model is used to extend an organization's infrastructure into the cloud, while it connects cloud resources to an internal system. To learn more about how AWS can help you with a hybrid deployment, refer to: [Hybrid cloud with AWS](#).

When you run a cloud infrastructure from your own data center, it is called an *on-premises cloud* (or *private cloud*). Although this kind of deployment lacks many of the benefits of cloud computing, it does provide dedicated resources. It's a popular choice for organizations that must meet certain compliance standards. In most cases, this deployment model is the same as legacy IT infrastructure, but it uses application management and virtualization to increase resource utilization.



## Cloud infrastructure versus on-premises infrastructure



Cloud

- No upfront investment
- Low ongoing costs
- Focus on innovation
- Flexible capacity
- Speed and agility
- Global reach on demand



Hybrid



Private cloud  
(on-premises)

- Large initial purchase
- Labor, patches, and upgrade cycles
- Systems administration
- Fixed capacity
- Long procurement cycle and setup
- Limited geographic regions

To summarize:

- With the cloud solution, you have no upfront investment. Thus, you can avoid the large capital purchases that are needed for an on-premises solution. You have immediate access to resources. You don't need to procure, install, and configure hardware in a physical location that has appropriate facilities, such as cooling and power. Instead, cabling, racks, servers, and storage are provided for you remotely. You click to order and pay for the resources that you need, which are available almost immediately.
- Cloud computing helps you reduce ongoing IT costs in multiple ways. AWS continually lowers prices due to massive economies of scale and continual improvements. Multiple pricing options also help you optimize costs based on your unique workloads. You pay only for what you use on a variable, monthly basis. On-premises solutions typically require upgrades on 1-year, 3-year, or 5-year cycles.
- Cloud computing can also provide you with managed IT resources on demand, at a fraction of the cost of traditional infrastructure. This cost savings empowers organizations to shift resources toward innovative new projects that grow their business by focusing on *apps*, *not ops*.
- It's a complex process to predict how customers will adopt your new application, which makes it difficult to estimate your infrastructure capacity needs. Flexible capacity means that your resources are dynamic. You can quickly provision resources

as demand goes up, and remove the resources that you don't need as demand declines.

- Cloud computing's speed and agility make it possible for you to respond to changing market conditions. With AWS, resources can be provisioned as needed. This self-service environment changes how you develop and deploy applications, enabling your team to experiment more quickly and more frequently. The amount of time it takes to get a server procured, delivered, and running becomes expensive in a traditional infrastructure.
- With on-premises infrastructure, it's difficult to deliver great performance to a distributed user base. The initial purchase is large. It's also labor-intensive, and it includes patches, upgrade cycles, and systems administration with fixed capacity. Long procurement cycles and setup cause companies to focus on one geographic region to save costs and time. Without geographical limitations, you can deploy your application in any AWS Region around the world, with lower latency and at minimal cost.



## What can you do in the cloud?

### You can use cloud computing for:

- Application hosting
- Backup and storage
- Content delivery
- Websites
- Enterprise IT
- Databases



You can use cloud computing platform for:

- Application hosting for an on-demand infrastructure that hosts internal or SaaS applications
- Backup and storage capability to store data and build dependable backup solutions
- Content delivery to distribute content worldwide, with high data transfer speeds
- Hosting static and dynamic websites
- Enterprise IT to host internal-facing or external-facing IT applications in the AWS Cloud
- Various scalable database solutions, from hosted enterprise database software to non-relational database solutions

## Key takeaways



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- Cloud computing is the on-demand delivery of IT resources online, with pay-as-you-go pricing
- Cloud computing enables you to think of (and use) your infrastructure as software
- The three cloud service models are infrastructure as a service (IaaS), platform as a service (PaaS), and software as a service (SaaS)
- The three cloud deployment models are cloud, hybrid, and private (or on-premises) cloud
- Almost anything that you can implement with traditional IT can also be implemented as an AWS Cloud computing service



Some key takeaways from this lesson include:

- Cloud computing is the on-demand delivery of IT resources via the internet, with pay-as-you-go pricing
- Cloud computing enables you to think of (and use) your infrastructure as software
- The three cloud service models are IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS
- The three cloud deployment models are cloud, hybrid, and private (or on-premises) cloud
- Many AWS service analogs are available for the traditional, on-premises IT space