

IaaS vs PaaS vs SaaS

- **Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS):** You rent IT infrastructure → you control OS & apps.
- **Platform as a Service (PaaS):** You rent a platform to build apps → you control apps & data only.
- **Software as a Service (SaaS):** You rent finished software → provider handles everything.

9-layer service stack

Service/Layer	IaaS	PaaS	SaaS
Applications	User manages	Provider manages	Provider manages
Data	User manages	User manages	Provider manages
Runtime	User manages	Provider manages	Provider manages
Middleware	User manages	Provider manages	Provider manages
Operating System (O/S)	User manages	Provider manages	Provider manages
Virtualization	Provider manages	Provider manages	Provider manages
Servers	Provider manages	Provider manages	Provider manages
Storage	Provider manages	Provider manages	Provider manages
Networking	Provider manages	Provider manages	Provider manages

Difference between the three services

Feature	IaaS	PaaS	SaaS
What it provides	Virtualized infrastructure	Platform & tools for development	Ready-to-use software
User controls	OS, runtime, middleware, apps	Only application & data	None
Used by	Developers, IT admins	App developers	End-users / businesses
Examples	AWS EC2, Azure VM	Google App Engine, Heroku	Gmail, Google Workspace
Purpose	Build and manage infrastructure	Develop & deploy apps	Access software without managing it