Rackspace Glossary

ALPHA

rackspace®

HOSTING

docs.rackspace.com/api

Rackspace Glossary

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This document is intended to be the central glossary for Rackspace Hosting, Inc. The document is for informational purposes only and is provided "AS IS."

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A

API

Stands for Application Programming Interface. An API allows independent programmers to develop newly created application services, using an open application.

Apache

The most common web server software presently being used on the internet.

Applet

A Java program that can be embedded into a web page.

Application Server

A piece of software that makes available another piece of software over a network.

ASPs

An abbreviation for Application Service Providers. These are companies that rent specialized applications that help businesses and organizations provide additional services with less cost.

B

Backup Schedule

A backup schedule can be defined to create server images at regular intervals (daily and weekly). Backup schedules are configurable per server.

Bandwidth

The amount of available data used by communication resources such as the Internet. It refers the amount of data that is used to download things or the amount of data available to download.

Binary

Information that consists solely of ones and zeroes, which is the language of computers.

Bit

Is a single digit number that's in base of 2 (either a zero or one). Bandwidth usage is measured in bits-per-second.

Bit Torrent

A peer-to-peer system that legally shares files such as legal software updates, movies and other resources.

Blog

Refers to an online journal. Blogs can be either personal or professional in tone.

BPS

Stands for bit-per-second, the most universal measurement of how quickly data is transferred from place to place.

Browser
    Any client software that allows a computer or device to access the Internet (Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, etc...).

Byte
    Set of bits that make up a single character there are usually 8 bits to a byte.

C

Certificate Authority
    Issuer of online security certificates that shows if a web site is verified as safe.

Cloud Computing
    Cloud computing is a set of pooled computing resources delivered over the Internet.

Cloudware
    Refers to software that only exists on the Internet. There is no material product that resides on your computer or disks.

Connection Logging
    The connection logging feature allows logs to be delivered to a Cloud Files account every hour. For HTTP-based protocol traffic, these are Apache-style access logs. For all other traffic, this is connection and transfer logging.

Cookie
    Information that web pages save and send back as a way to recognize a user so that on succeeding visits, the users are easily recognized.

Cyberspace
    Refers to the Internet and all the information stored on it.

D

DHTML
    Stands for Dynamic HyperText Markup Language. Used to refer to pages that use HTML, JavaScript. and CCS to allow users to interact with a web page or show simple animation.

Download
    The transfer of data – usually in the form of files – from one computer to another.

DNS
    The Domain Name System (DNS) is a system by which internet domain name-to-address and address-to-name resolutions are determined. All domains and their components, such as mail servers, utilize DNS to resolve to the appropriate locations. DNS servers are usually set up in a master-slave relationship such that failure of the master invokes the slave. DNS servers may also be clustered or replicated such that changes made to one DNS server are automatically propagated to other active servers.

A system by which internet domain name-to-address and address-to-name resolutions are determined. Stands for Domain Name System. DNS helps navigate the Internet by translating the IP address into an address that is easier to remember (for example, translating 111.111.111.1 into www.yahoo.com).

DNS Record

A record that specifies information about a particular domain and belongs to the domain.

Domain

Is a name that identifies a web site and separates it from other sites. Often, the domain name will have 2 or more parts that are separated by dots (i.e. yahoo.com, usa.gov, Harvard.edu or mail.yahoo.com).

A domain is an entity/container of all DNS-related information containing one or more records.

Domain Name System

A system by which internet domain name-to-address and address-to-name resolutions are determined.

Domain Owner

Within Rackspace DNS, the account which creates the domain is the domain owner.

Duck

An aquatic bird.

E

Email

Messages either text or graphical that are sent from one server to another via the internet.

F

Firewall

Software and hardware that communicate with each other to help protect a computer by separating it into two or more parts on a network, making it more difficult to be hacked.

Flash

Technology that is used for Internet animation, originated by Macromedia.

Flavor

A flavor is an available hardware configuration for a server. Each flavor has a unique combination of disk space, memory capacity and priority for CPU time.

FTP

Stands for File Transfer Protocol which is a method of moving files between two separate sites on the internet.

G

Gateway
Hardware or software that translates between two different protocols.

GIF
Stands for Graphic Interchange Format, a type of image file that is commonly used for animated images on webpages.

H

Hacker
An intruder who attempts to enter a site for the purpose of causing intentional damage.

Health Monitor
A health monitor is a feature of each load balancer. It is used to determine whether or not a back-end node is usable for processing a request. The load balancing service supports two types of health monitors: passive and active.

Homepage
This phrase either refers to the first page browser loads when it opens or the main page for any website.

Host
A computer and/or network facility that stores data that is available to be accessed by other computers.

HTML
Stands for HyperText Markup Language, the coding that creates documents for use on the Internet.

HTTP
Stands for HyperText Transfer Protocol, the protocol that tells browsers where to go to find information.

Hypertext
Any kind of text that contains a link to some other site, commonly found in documents where clicking on a word or words opens up a different web site.

I

Image
An image is a collection of files used to create or rebuild a server. Rackspace provides a number of pre-built OS images by default. You may also create custom images from cloud servers you have launched. These custom images are useful for backup purposes or for producing "gold" server images if you plan to deploy a particular server configuration frequently.

IP Address
Number that's unique to every computer system on the Internet.

ISP
> Refers to Internet Service Provider, which is any business that provides Internet access to individuals or businesses.

J

Java
> A programming language that is used to create systems that involve more than one computer by way of a network.

Javascript
> A programming language used in web pages.

K

L

Load Balancer
> A load balancer is a logical device which belongs to a cloud account. It is used to distribute workloads between multiple back-end systems or services, based on the criteria defined as part of its configuration.

M

N

Node
> A node is a back-end device providing a service on a specified IP and port.

P

Q

R

Rackspace Cloud DNS
> A Domain Name System (DNS) available to Rackspace Cloud customers. Interactions with Rackspace Cloud DNS occur programmatically via the Rackspace Cloud DNS API as described in this Cloud DNS Developer Guide.

Reboot
> The reboot function allows for either a soft or hard reboot of a server. With a soft reboot, the operating system is signaled to restart, which allows for a graceful shutdown of all processes. A hard reboot is the equivalent of power cycling the server.

Rebuild
> The rebuild function removes all data on the server and replaces it with the specified image. Server ID and IP addresses remain the same.

Record
> A DNS record belongs to a particular domain and is used to specify information about the domain. There are several types of DNS records. Each record type contains particular information used to describe that record's purpose. Examples include mail exchange (MX) records, which specify the mail server for a particular domain, and name server (NS) records, which specify the authoritative name servers for a domain.

Resize
> The resize function converts an existing server to a different flavor, in essence, scaling the server up or down. The original server is saved for a period of time to allow rollback if there is a problem. All resizes should be tested and explicitly confirmed, at which time the original server is removed. All resizes are automatically confirmed after 24 hours if they are not confirmed or reverted.

RESTful
> A kind of web service API that uses REST, or Representational State Transfer. REST is the style of architecture for hypermedia systems that is used for the World Wide Web.

S

Server
> Computer that provides explicit services to the client software running on that system, often managing a variety of computer operations.

> A server is a virtual machine instance in the Cloud Servers system. Flavor and image are requisite elements when creating a server.

Session Persistence
> Session persistence is a feature of the load balancing service. It attempts to force subsequent connections to a service to be redirected to the same node as long as it is online.

Shared IP Address
> Public IP addresses can be shared across multiple servers for use in various high availability scenarios. When an IP address is shared to another server, the cloud network restrictions are modified to allow each server to listen to and respond on that IP address (you may optionally specify that the target server network configuration be modified). Shared IP addresses can

be used with many standard heartbeat facilities (e.g. keepalived) that monitor for failure and manage IP failover.

Shared IP Group

A shared IP group is a collection of servers that can share IPs with other members of the group. Any server in a group can share one or more public IPs with any other server in the group. With the exception of the first server in a shared IP group, servers must be launched into shared IP groups. A server may only be a member of one shared IP group.

Social Networking

Joining groups and websites where you will find people with similar interests. Individuals and businesses use social networks such as Facebook, Myspace and Twitter to Share online experiences with others.

subdomain

A domain within a parent domain. Subdomains cannot be registered. Subdomains allow you to delegate domains. Subdomains can themselves have subdomains, so third-level, fourth-level, fifth-level, and deeper levels of nesting are possible.

Subdomains are domains within a parent domain, and subdomains cannot be registered. Subdomains allow you to delegate domains. Subdomains can themselves have subdomains, so third-level, fourth-level, fifth-level, and deeper levels of nesting are possible.

T

U

V

Virtual IP

A virtual IP is an Internet Protocol (IP) address configured on the load balancer for use by clients connecting to a service that is load balanced. Incoming connections are distributed to back-end nodes based on the configuration of the load balancer.

Virus

Harmful piece of computer programming that interferes with normal computer and internet operations.

W

X

Y

Z