AZURE FUNDAMENTALS

UNIT No.: 1 Cloud Concepts

Introduction to Microsoft Azure Fundamentals

Microsoft Azure is a cloud computing platform with an ever-expanding set of services to help you build solutions to meet your business goals. Azure services support everything from simple to complex. Azure has simple web services for hosting your business presence in the cloud. Azure also supports running fully virtualized computers managing your custom software solutions. Azure provides a wealth of cloud-based services like remote storage, database hosting, and centralized account management. Azure also offers new capabilities like artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) focused services.

What is Azure Fundamentals?

- Azure Fundamentals is a series of three learning paths that familiarize you with Azure and its many services and features.
- Whether you're interested in compute, networking, or storage services; learning about cloud security best practices; or exploring governance and management options, think of Azure Fundamentals as your curated guide to Azure.
- Azure Fundamentals includes interactive exercises that give you hands-on experience with Azure. Many exercises provide a temporary Azure portal environment called the sandbox, which allows you to practice creating cloud resources for free at your own pace.
- Technical IT experience isn't required; however, having general IT knowledge will help you get the most from your learning experience.

What is cloud computing

- Cloud computing is the delivery of computing services over the internet. Computing services include common IT infrastructure such as virtual machines, storage, databases, and networking. Cloud services also expand the traditional IT offerings to include things like Internet of Things (IoT), machine learning (ML), and artificial intelligence (AI).

- Because cloud computing uses the internet to deliver these services, it doesn't have to be constrained by physical infrastructure the same way that a traditional datacenter is. That means if you need to increase your IT infrastructure rapidly, you don't have to wait to build a new datacenter—you can use the cloud to rapidly expand your IT footprint.

History of Cloud Computing

- Before emerging the cloud computing, there was Client/Server computing which is basically a centralized storage in which all the software applications, all the data and all the controls are resided on the server side.
- If a single user wants to access specific data or run a program, he/she need to connect to the server and then gain appropriate access, and then he/she can do his/her business.
- Then after, distributed computing came into picture, where all the computers are networked together and share their resources when needed.
- On the basis of above computing, there was emerged of cloud computing concepts that later implemented.
- At around in 1961, John MacCharty suggested in a speech at MIT that computing can be sold like a utility, just like a water or electricity. It was a brilliant idea, but like all brilliant ideas, it was ahead if its time, as for the next few decades, despite interest in the model, the technology simply was not ready for it.
- But ofcourse time has passed and the technology caught that idea and after few years we mentioned that:
- *In 1999,* Salesforce.com *started delivering of applications to users using a simple website*. The applications were delivered to enterprises over the Internet, and this way the dream of computing sold as utility were true.
- *In 2002,* Amazon *started Amazon Web Services*, providing services like storage, computation and even human intelligence. However, only starting with the launch of the Elastic Compute Cloud in 2006 a truly commercial service open to everybody existed.

- *In 2009,* Google Apps *also started to provide cloud computing enterprise applications.*
- Of course, all the big players are present in the cloud computing evolution, some were earlier, some were later. *In 2009,* Microsoft *launched Windows Azure*, and companies like Oracle and HP have all joined the game. This proves that today, cloud computing has become mainstream.

Basic Principle of Cloud Computing:

- **Federation:** A cloud computing environment must be capable of providing federated service providers which means that, these providers, must be capable of collaborating and resource sharing at any point irrespective of their type. This is usually needed when an organization extends its computing paradigm from the private to the public cloud. Moreover, This federation must be kept transparent so that the virtual application can be used on all the sites. This makes the application be handled remotely and allows it to migrate from one site to another. Apart from this, the federation must be carried out in a secure and independent way.
- **Independence:** The user of cloud computing services must be independent of the provider's specific tool and the type of service. According to this principle, a user must be allowed the required virtual resource irrespective of the type of provider. Moreover, it is the responsibility of service providers to handle infrastructure while hiding confidential information.
- **Isolation:** According to this principle, a service provider must ensure the user with respect to the isolation of their data from others. Even the data in the same cloud must be separated from different users and therefore should not be accessed.
- **Elasticity:** The user of cloud computing must be provided with ease of accessing and releasing the resources as required. This is typically referred to as elasticity. The rules associated with elasticity must be included within the contract made between consumers and services providers.
- **Business Orientation:** To develop a more efficient computing environment, an efficient platform must be developed before the

applications are included in the cloud. This typically ensures the quality of services and assist SLA (Service-Level-Agreement).

- **Trust:** To build a successful cloud computing environment, one of the major factors is trust between consumers and service providers. Therefore, effective mechanisms must be included to develop a trustworthy computing environment.

Cloud Computing Architecture

As we know, cloud computing technology is used by both small and large organizations to store the information in cloud and access it from anywhere at anytime using the internet connection.

Cloud computing architecture is a combination of service-oriented architecture and event-driven architecture.

Cloud computing architecture is divided into the following two parts-

- Front End
- Back End

Architecture of Cloud Computing
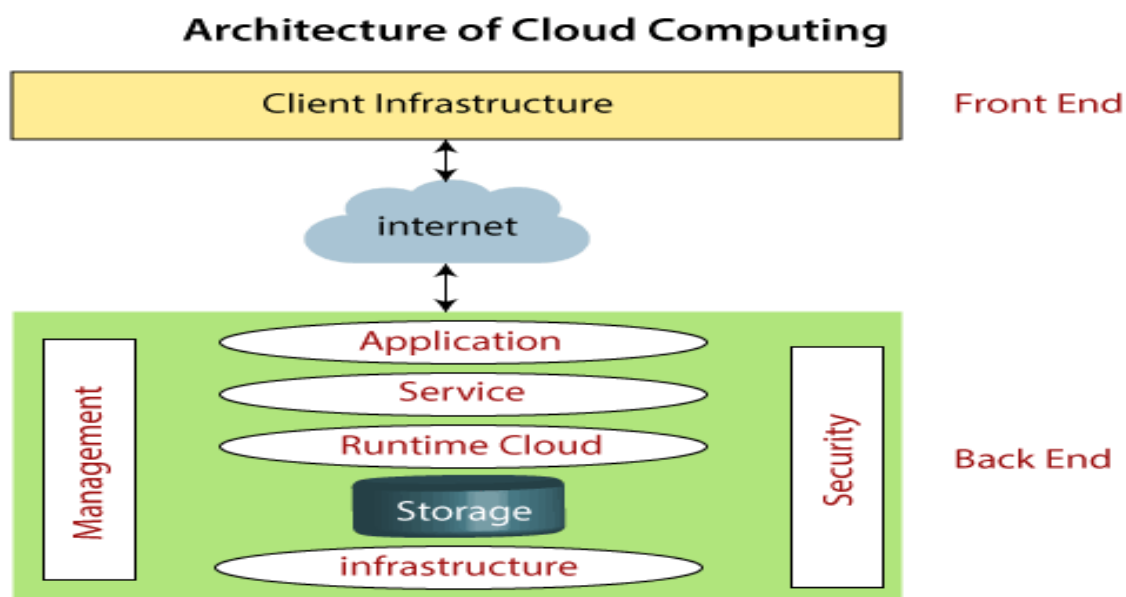
- ❖ <u>FRONT END</u>

The front end is used by the client. It contains client-side interfaces and applications that are required to access the cloud computing platforms. The front end includes web servers (including Chrome, Firefox, internet explorer, etc.), thin & fat clients, tablets, and mobile devices.

❖ <u>BACK END</u>

The back end is used by the service provider. It manages all the resources that are required to provide cloud computing services. It includes a huge amount of data storage, security mechanism, virtual machines, deploying models, servers, traffic control mechanisms, etc.

<u>There are the following components of cloud computing architecture –</u>

1. Client Infrastructure

Client Infrastructure is a Front end component. It provides GUI (Graphical User Interface) to interact with the cloud.

2. Application

The application may be any software or platform that a client wants to access.

3. Service

A Cloud Services manages that which type of service you access according to the client's requirement.

<u>Cloud computing offers the following three type of services:</u>

i. Software as a Service (SaaS) – It is also known as cloud application services. Mostly, SaaS applications run directly through the web browser means we do not require to download and install these applications.

There are the following characteristics of SaaS -

- o Managed from a central location
- o Hosted on a remote server
- o Accessible over the internet
- o Users are not responsible for hardware and software updates. Updates are applied automatically.
- o The services are purchased on the pay-as-per-use basis

Example: BigCommerce, Google Apps, Salesforce, Dropbox, ZenDesk, Cisco WebEx, ZenDesk, Slack, and GoToMeeting.

ii. Platform as a Service (PaaS) – It is also known as cloud platform services. It is quite similar to SaaS, but the difference is that PaaS provides a platform for software creation, but using SaaS, we can access software over the internet without the need of any platform.

There are the following characteristics of PaaS -
- o Accessible to various users via the same development application.
- o Integrates with web services and databases.
- o Builds on virtualization technology, so resources can easily be scaled up or down as per the organization's need.
- o Support multiple languages and frameworks.
- o 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.

iii. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) – It is also known as cloud infrastructure services. It is responsible for managing applications data, middleware, and runtime environments.

There are the following characteristics of IaaS -
- o Resources are available as a service
- o Services are highly scalable
- o Dynamic and flexible
- o GUI and API-based access
- o Automated administrative tasks

Example: DigitalOcean, Linode, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, Google Compute Engine (GCE), Rackspace, and Cisco Metacloud.

4. Runtime Cloud
Runtime Cloud provides the execution and runtime environment to the virtual machines.

5. Storage

Storage is one of the most important components of cloud computing. It provides a huge amount of storage capacity in the cloud to store and manage data.

6. Infrastructure

It provides services on the host level, application level, and network level. Cloud infrastructure includes hardware and software components such as servers, storage, network devices, virtualization software, and other storage resources that are needed to support the cloud computing model.

7. Management

Management is used to manage components such as application, service, runtime cloud, storage, infrastructure, and other security issues in the backend and establish coordination between them.

8. Security

Security is an in-built back end component of cloud computing. It implements a security mechanism in the back end.

9. Internet

The Internet is medium through which front end and back end can interact and communicate with each other.

## The shared responsibility model

You'll always be responsible for:

- The information and data stored in the cloud
- Devices that are allowed to connect to your cloud (cell phones, computers, and so on)
- The accounts and identities of the people, services, and devices within your organization

The cloud provider is always responsible for:

- The physical datacenter
- The physical network
- The physical hosts

Your service model will determine responsibility for things like:

- Operating systems
- Network controls
- Applications
- Identity and infrastructure
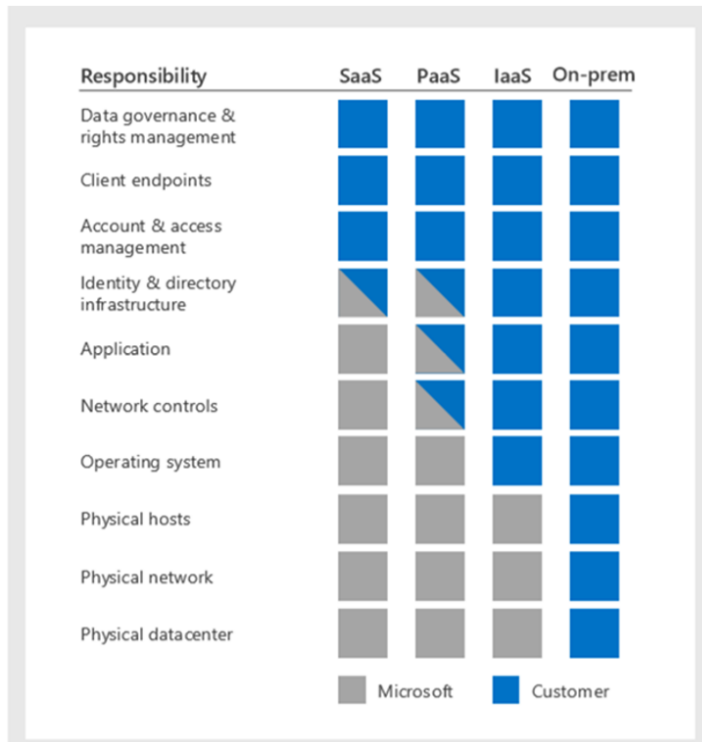
Define cloud models

What are cloud models?

The cloud models define the deployment type of cloud resources. The three main cloud models are: private, public, and hybrid.

Private cloud

A private cloud is, in some ways, the natural evolution from a corporate datacenter. It's a cloud (delivering IT services over the internet) that's used by a single entity. Private cloud provides much greater control for the company and its IT department. However, it also comes with greater cost and fewer of the benefits of a public cloud deployment. Finally, a private cloud may be hosted from your on site datacenter. It may also be hosted in a dedicated datacenter offsite, potentially even by a third party that has dedicated that datacenter to your company.

Private cloud is also known as an **internal cloud** or **corporate cloud**. It is used by organizations to build and manage their own data centers internally or by the third party. It can be deployed using Opensource tools such as Openstack and Eucalyptus.

Based on the location and management, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) divide private cloud into the following two parts-

- On-premise private cloud
- Outsourced private cloud

Advantages of Private Cloud

There are the following advantages of the Private Cloud -

- o Private cloud provides a high level of security and privacy to the users.
- o Private cloud offers better performance with improved speed and space capacity.
- o It allows the IT team to quickly allocate and deliver on-demand IT resources.
- o The organization has full control over the cloud because it is managed by the organization itself. So, there is no need for the organization to depends on anybody.
- o It is suitable for organizations that require a separate cloud for their personal use and data security is the first priority.

Disadvantages of Private Cloud

- o Skilled people are required to manage and operate cloud services.
- o Private cloud is accessible within the organization, so the area of operations is limited.

Private cloud is not suitable for organizations that have a high user base, and organizations that do not have the prebuilt infrastructure, sufficient manpower to maintain and manage the cloud.
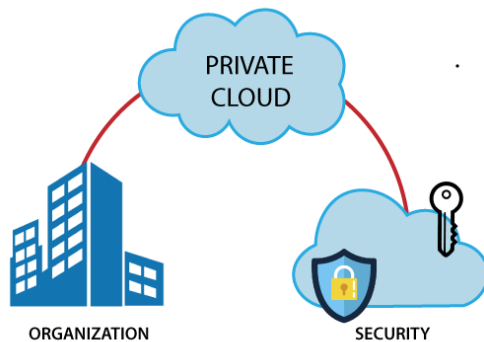
Public cloud

- A public cloud is built, controlled, and maintained by a third-party cloud provider. With a public cloud, anyone that wants to purchase cloud services can access and use resources. The general public availability is a key difference between public and private clouds.
- Public cloud is **open to all** to store and access information via the Internet using the pay-per-usage method.
- In public cloud, computing resources are managed and operated by the Cloud Service Provider (CSP).
- **Example:** Amazon elastic compute cloud (EC2), IBM SmartCloud Enterprise, Microsoft, Google App Engine, Windows Azure Services Platform.

Advantages of Public Cloud

There are the following advantages of Public Cloud -

- o Public cloud is owned at a lower cost than the private and hybrid cloud.
- o Public cloud is maintained by the cloud service provider, so do not need to worry about the maintenance.
- o Public cloud is easier to integrate. Hence it offers a better flexibility approach to consumers.
- o Public cloud is location independent because its services are delivered through the internet.
- o Public cloud is highly scalable as per the requirement of computing resources.

- o It is accessible by the general public, so there is no limit to the number of users.

Disadvantages of Public Cloud

- o Public Cloud is less secure because resources are shared publicly.
- o Performance depends upon the high-speed internet network link to the cloud provider.
- o The Client has no control of data.
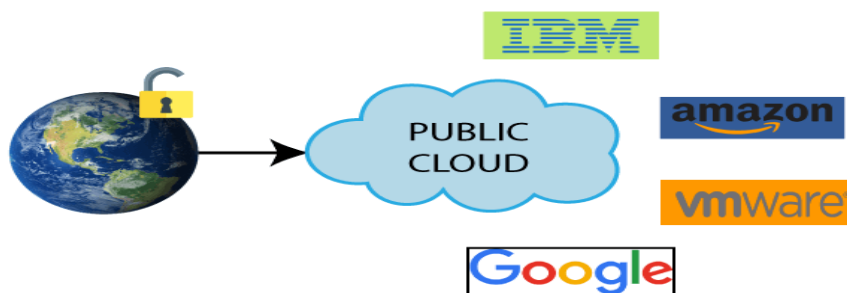
Hybrid cloud

A hybrid cloud is a computing environment that uses both public and private clouds in an inter-connected environment. A hybrid cloud environment can be used to allow a private cloud to surge for increased, temporary demand by deploying public cloud resources. Hybrid cloud can be used to provide an extra layer of security. For example, users can flexibly choose which services to keep in public cloud and which to deploy to their private cloud infrastructure.

Advantages of Hybrid Cloud

There are the following advantages of Hybrid Cloud-

- o Hybrid cloud is suitable for organizations that require more security than the public cloud.
- o Hybrid cloud helps you to deliver new products and services more quickly.
- o Hybrid cloud provides an excellent way to reduce the risk.
- o Hybrid cloud offers flexible resources because of the public cloud and secure resources because of the private cloud.

Disadvantages of Hybrid Cloud

- o In Hybrid Cloud, security feature is not as good as the private cloud.

- o Managing a hybrid cloud is complex because it is difficult to manage more than one type of deployment model.
- o In the hybrid cloud, the reliability of the services depends on cloud service providers.
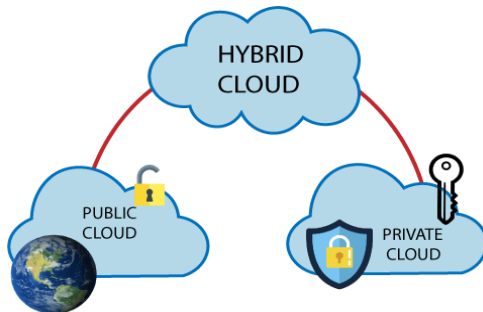
Community Cloud

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

Example: Health Care community cloud

Advantages of Community Cloud

There are the following advantages of Community Cloud -

- o Community cloud is cost-effective because the whole cloud is being shared by several organizations or communities.
- o Community cloud is suitable for organizations that want to have a collaborative cloud with more security features than the public cloud.
- o It provides better security than the public cloud.

- o It provides collaborative and distributive environment.
- o Community cloud allows us to share cloud resources, infrastructure, and other capabilities among various organizations.

Disadvantages of Community Cloud

- o Community cloud is not a good choice for every organization.
- o Security features are not as good as the private cloud.
- o It is not suitable if there is no collaboration.
- o The fixed amount of data storage and bandwidth is shared among all community members.

Cloud models

• Multi-cloud

A fourth, and increasingly likely scenario is a multi-cloud scenario. In a multi-cloud scenario, you use multiple public cloud providers. Maybe you use different features from different cloud providers. Or maybe you started your cloud journey with one provider and are in the process of migrating to a different provider. Regardless, in a multi-cloud environment you deal with two (or more) public cloud providers and manage resources and security in both environments.

• Azure Arc

Azure Arc is a set of technologies that helps manage your cloud environment. Azure Arc can help manage your cloud environment, whether it's a public cloud solely on Azure, a private cloud in your datacenter, a hybrid configuration, or even a multi-cloud environment running on multiple cloud providers at once.

• Azure VMware Solution

What if you're already established with VMware in a private cloud environment but want to migrate to a public or hybrid cloud? Azure VMware Solution lets you run your VMware workloads in Azure with seamless integration and scalability.

Describe the consumption-based model

- When comparing IT infrastructure models, there are two types of expenses to consider. Capital expenditure (CapEx) and operational expenditure (OpEx).

- CapEx is typically a one-time, up-front expenditure to purchase or secure tangible resources. A new building, repaving the parking lot, building a datacenter, or buying a company vehicle are examples of CapEx.

- In contrast, OpEx is spending money on services or products over time. Renting a convention center, leasing a company vehicle, or signing up for cloud services are all examples of OpEx.

- Cloud computing falls under OpEx because cloud computing operates on a consumption-based model. With cloud computing, you don't pay for the physical infrastructure, the electricity, the security, or anything else associated with maintaining a datacenter. Instead, you pay for the IT resources you use. If you don't use any IT resources this month, you don't pay for any IT resources.

- This consumption-based model has many benefits, including:

- No upfront costs.

- No need to purchase and manage costly infrastructure that users might not use to its fullest potential.

- The ability to pay for more resources when they're needed.

- The ability to stop paying for resources that are no longer needed.

- With a traditional datacenter, you try to estimate the future resource needs. If you overestimate, you spend more on your datacenter than you need to and potentially waste money. If you underestimate, your datacenter will quickly reach capacity and your applications and services may suffer from decreased performance. Fixing an under-provisioned datacenter can take a long time. You may need to order, receive, and install more hardware. You'll also need to add power, cooling, and networking for the extra hardware.

- In a cloud-based model, you don't have to worry about getting the resource needs just right. If you find that you need more virtual machines, you add more. If the demand drops and you don't need as many virtual machines, you remove machines as needed. Either way, you're only paying for the virtual machines that you use, not the "extra capacity" that the cloud provider has on hand.

Compare cloud pricing models

Cloud computing is the delivery of computing services over the internet by using a pay-as-you-go pricing model. You typically pay only for the cloud services you use, which helps you:

- Plan and manage your operating costs.

- Run your infrastructure more efficiently.

- Scale as your business needs change.

- To put it another way, cloud computing is a way to rent compute power and storage from someone else's datacenter. You can treat cloud resources like you would resources in your own datacenter. However, unlike in your own datacenter, when you're done using cloud resources, you give them back. You're billed only for what you use.

- Instead of maintaining CPUs and storage in your datacenter, you rent them for the time that you need them. The cloud provider takes care of maintaining the underlying infrastructure for you. The cloud enables you to quickly solve your toughest business challenges and bring cutting-edge solutions to your users.

The benefits of high availability and scalability in the cloud

- When building or deploying a cloud application, two of the biggest considerations are uptime (or availability) and the ability to handle demand (or scale).

High availability

- When you're deploying an application, a service, or any IT resources, it's important the resources are available when needed. High availability focuses on ensuring maximum availability, regardless of disruptions or events that may occur.

- When you're architecting your solution, you'll need to account for service availability guarantees. Azure is a highly available cloud environment with uptime guarantees depending on the service. These guarantees are part of the service-level agreements (SLAs).

Scalability

- Another major benefit of cloud computing is the scalability of cloud resources. Scalability refers to the ability to adjust resources to meet demand. If you suddenly experience peak traffic and your systems are overwhelmed, the ability to scale means you can add more resources to better handle the increased demand.

- The other benefit of scalability is that you aren't overpaying for services. Because the cloud is a consumption-based model, you only pay for what you use. If demand drops off, you can reduce your resources and thereby reduce your costs.

- Scaling generally comes in two varieties: vertical and horizontal. Vertical scaling is focused on increasing or decreasing the capabilities of resources. Horizontal scaling is adding or subtracting the number of resources.

Vertical scaling

- With vertical scaling, if you were developing an app and you needed more processing power, you could vertically scale up to add more CPUs or RAM to the virtual machine. Conversely, if you realized you had over-specified the needs, you could vertically scale down by lowering the CPU or RAM specifications.

Horizontal scaling

- With horizontal scaling, if you suddenly experienced a steep jump in demand, your deployed resources could be scaled out (either automatically or manually). For example, you could add additional virtual machines or containers, scaling out. In the same manner, if there was a significant drop in demand, deployed resources could be scaled in (either automatically or manually), scaling in.

The benefits of reliability and predictability in the cloud

Reliability and predictability are two crucial cloud benefits that help you develop solutions with confidence.

- **Reliability**

Reliability is the ability of a system to recover from failures and continue to function. It's also one of the pillars of the Microsoft Azure Well-Architected Framework.

The cloud, by virtue of its decentralized design, naturally supports a reliable and resilient infrastructure. With a decentralized design, the cloud enables you to have resources deployed in regions around the world. With this global scale, even if one region has a catastrophic event other regions are still up and running. You can design your applications to automatically take advantage of this increased reliability. In some cases, your cloud environment itself will automatically shift to a different region for you, with no action needed on your part.

- Predictability

Predictability in the cloud lets you move forward with confidence. Predictability can be focused on performance predictability or cost predictability. Both performance and cost predictability are heavily influenced by the Microsoft Azure Well-Architected Framework. Deploy a solution that's built around this framework and you have a solution whose cost and performance are predictable.

- Performance

Performance predictability focuses on predicting the resources needed to deliver a positive experience for your customers. Autoscaling, load balancing, and high availability are just some of the cloud concepts that support performance predictability. If you suddenly need more resources, autoscaling can deploy additional resources to meet the demand, and then scale back when the demand drops. Or if the traffic is heavily focused on one area, load balancing will help redirect some of the overload to less stressed areas.

- Cost

Cost predictability is focused on predicting or forecasting the cost of the cloud spend. With the cloud, you can track your resource use in real time, monitor resources to ensure that you're using them in the most efficient way, and apply data analytics to find patterns and trends that help better plan resource deployments. By operating in the cloud and using cloud analytics and information, you can predict future costs and adjust your

resources as needed. You can even use tools like the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) or Pricing Calculator to get an estimate of potential cloud spend.

The benefits of security and governance in the cloud

- Whether you're deploying infrastructure as a service or software as a service, cloud features support governance and compliance. Things like set templates help ensure that all your deployed resources meet corporate standards and government regulatory requirements. Plus, you can update all your deployed resources to new standards as standards change. Cloud-based auditing helps flag any resource that's out of compliance with your corporate standards and provides mitigation strategies. Depending on your operating model, software patches and updates may also automatically be applied, which helps with both governance and security.

- On the security side, you can find a cloud solution that matches your security needs. If you want maximum control of security, infrastructure as a service provides you with physical resources but lets you manage the operating systems and installed software, including patches and maintenance. If you want patches and maintenance taken care of automatically, platform as a service or software as a service deployments may be the best cloud strategies for you.

- And because the cloud is intended as an over-the-internet delivery of IT resources, cloud providers are typically well suited to handle things like distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks, making your network more robust and secure.

- By establishing a good governance footprint early, you can keep your cloud footprint updated, secure, and well managed.

The benefits of manageability in the cloud

Management of the cloud

- Management of the cloud speaks to managing your cloud resources. In the cloud, you can:

- Automatically scale resource deployment based on need.

- Deploy resources based on a preconfigured template, removing the need for manual configuration.

- Monitor the health of resources and automatically replace failing resources.

- Receive automatic alerts based on configured metrics, so you're aware of performance in real time.

- Management in the cloud speaks to how you're able to manage your cloud environment and resources. You can manage these:

- Through a web portal.

- Using a command line interface.

- Using APIs.

- Using PowerShell.