Cloud Basic Abbreviations and Terms Glossary

Abbreviations and Terms	Meaning
API	Application Programming Interface. It is a software intermediary that allows two applications transmit and exchange data between them.
AWS	Amazon Web Services. AWS is a subsidiary of Amazon providing on-demand cloud computing platforms and APIs on a metered pay-as-you-go basis.
Backend-as-a-Service (BaaS)	Backend as a service (BaaS), or mobile backend as a service (mBaaS) is a model of cloud computing in which the vendor provides web and mobile application developers with tools and services to create a cloud backend for their applications.
Cloud agnostic platform	Environment capable of operating with any public cloud provider with minimal disruptions to a business.
Cloud computing	The delivery of computing services—including servers, storage, databases, networking, software, analytics, and intelligence—over the Internet ("the cloud") to offer faster innovation, flexible resources, and economies of scale.
Cloud portability	The ability to move applications and data from one cloud provider to another.
Content delivery network (CDN)	A distributed system consisting of servers in discrete physical locations, configured in a way that clients can access the server closest to them on the network, thereby improving speeds.
Consumer cloud	Cloud computing offerings targeted toward individuals for personal use, such as Dropbox or iCloud.
Container	A small unit of software that holds code for smooth run of one or more applications.
Docker	Open-source software that automates the deployment of applications inside virtualized software containers.
Elasticity	Process by which a cloud provider will provision resources to an enterprise's processes based on the needs of that process by automatically deliver or remove resources in order to provide just the right amount of assets for each project.
External cloud	Public or private cloud services that are provided by a third party outside the organization.
GCP	Google Cloud Platform.
Hybrid Cloud	The combination of a public cloud provider (such as AWS) with a private cloud platform. The public and private cloud infrastructures operate independently of each other and integrate using software and processes that allow for the portability of data and applications.
IaaS	Infrastructure as a Service. Cloud infrastructure services in which a virtualized environment is delivered as a service by the cloud provider.
On-premise cloud (internal)	A private cloud instance provided and supported by an IT department for internal use.

Microsoft Azure	Microsoft's cloud platform that provides a myriad of Platform as a Service (PaaS) and IaaS offerings, including Microsoft-specific and third-party standards, for developers to deploy cloud applications and services.
Multitenancy	The existence of multiple clients sharing resources (services or applications) on distinct physical hardware. Due to the on-demand nature of cloud, most services are multi-tenant.
PaaS	Platform as a Service. Cloud platform services, whereby the computing platform (operating system and associated services) is delivered as a service over the internet by the provider.
Private Cloud	Services offered over the internet or over a private internal network to select users. These services are not available to the general public.
Public Cloud	Services offered over the public internet. These services are available to anyone who wants to purchase the service.
Repository	A central location in which data is stored and managed.
ROI	Return on Investment. It is a financial metric that is used to measure the profitability of an investment.
SaaS	Software as a service. Cloud application services, whereby applications are delivered over the internet by the provider, so the applications don't have to be purchased, installed, and run on the customer's computers.
Scalability (in cloud)	Ability to increase or decrease IT resources as needed to meet changing demand.
Serverless computing	cloud computing execution model in which the cloud provider allocates machine resources on demand, taking care of the servers on behalf of their customers. Serverless computing does not hold resources in volatile memory; computing is rather done in short bursts with the results persisted to storage
Service migration	The act of moving from one cloud service or vendor to another.
Service level agreement (SLA)	A contractual agreement by which a service provider defines the level of service, responsibilities, priorities, and guarantees regarding availability, performance, and other aspects of the service.
Social networking service (SNS)	Used in enterprises for collaboration, file sharing, and knowledge transfer; among the most common platforms are Microsoft's Yammer, and Salesforce's Chatter. Often called enterprise social software to differentiate between "traditional" SNS platforms such as Facebook or LinkedIn.
TCO	Total Cost of Ownership. It is the metric that organizations use to quantify and measure cloud adoption success. This perspective helps you understand the return on investment so that you can prioritize and focus.
Vendor lock-in	Dependency upon a particular cloud vendor and low ability to migrate between vendors due to an absence of support for standardized protocols, APIs, data structures (schema), and/or service models.
Vertical cloud	A cloud computing environment optimized for use and built around the compliance needs of specialized industries, such as healthcare, financial services, and government operations.
Virtual private cloud (VPC)	A private cloud that exists within a shared or public cloud, e.g., the Amazon VPC that allows Amazon EC2 to connect to legacy infrastructure on an IPsec VPN.