* **Utility Computing with it’s Merit and Demerit**

**Ans :**

Utility computing is a service [provisioning](http://searchsoa.techtarget.com/definition/provisioning) model in which a service provider makes computing resources and infrastructure management available to the customer as needed, and charges them for specific usage rather than a flat rate. Like other types of [on-demand computing](http://searchdatacenter.techtarget.com/definition/on-demand-computing) (such as [grid computing](http://searchdatacenter.techtarget.com/definition/grid-computing)), the utility model seeks to maximize the efficient use of resources and/or minimize associated costs.

The word *utility* is used to make an analogy to other services, such as electrical power, that seek to meet fluctuating customer needs, and charge for the resources based on usage rather than on a flat-rate basis. This approach, sometimes known as *pay-per-use* or [metered services](http://searchcio.techtarget.com/definition/metered-services) is becoming increasingly common in enterprise computing and is sometimes used for the consumer market as well, for Internet service, Web site access, [file sharing](http://searchcio-midmarket.techtarget.com/definition/file-sharing), and other applications.

Another version of utility computing is carried out within an enterprise. In a *shared pool* utility model, an enterprise centralizes its computing resources to serve a larger number of users without unnecessary redundancy.

**Advantages of Utility Computing:-**

1. The client doesn't have to buy all the hardware, software and licenses needed to do business. Instead, the client relies on another party to provide these services. The burden of maintaining and administering the system falls to the utility computing company, allowing the client to concentrate on other tasks.

2. Utility computing gives companies the option to subscribe to a single service and use the same suite of software throughout the entire client organization.

3. Another advantage is compatibility. In a large company with many departments, problems can arise with computing software. Each department might depend on different software suites. The files used by employees in one part of a company might be incompatible with the software used by employees in another part. Utility computing gives companies the option to subscribe to a single service and use the same suite of software throughout the entire client organization.

**Disadvantages of Utility Computing:-**

1. Potential disadvantage is reliability. If a utility computing company is in financial trouble or has frequent equipment problems, clients could get cut off from the services for which they're paying.

2. Utility computing systems can also be attractive targets for hackers. A hacker might want to access services without paying for them or snoop around and investigate client files. Much of the responsibility of keeping the system safe falls to the provider