UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Cloud-Computing

SaaS

The last one is SaaS, which is also known as cloud application services. SaaS is the most used service within the cloud market. SaaS platforms make software available to users over the internet, usually for a monthly subscription fee. They are typically ready to use and run from a user's web browser, which allows businesses to skip any additional downloads or application installations. SaaS is delivered through the internet as a fully functional service, accessible via any web browser. With SaaS, vendors manage the data, servers, and storage, ultimately eliminating the need for IT review and streamlining business processes.

SaaS platforms are: Available over the Internet. Hosted on a remote server by a third-party provider. Ideal for small businesses or startups who cannot develop their software applications. Scalable, with different tiers for small, medium, and enterprise-level businesses. Inclusive, offering security, compliance, and maintenance as part of the cost.

With SaaS, we don't need to install and run software applications on our computers. Everything is available over the internet when we log in to your account online. we can usually access the software from any device, anytime if there is an internet connection available. All staff will have personalised logins suitable to their access level. We no longer need to engage an IT specialist to download the software onto multiple computers throughout our office or worry about keeping up-to-date software on every computer. It's all taken care of in the Cloud, which is great, isn't it? Additionally, another key advantage is the payment structure. Most SaaS providers operate a subscription model with a fixed, inclusive monthly account fee. We know precisely how much the software will cost and can budget accordingly without worrying about hidden surprises.

Like IaaS and PaaS, there are limitations and concerns about SaaS, including 1) Data Security: With data primarily located in off-premises servers, security could potentially become an issue. Ensure that we have the right security solutions in place and are comfortable with whichever SaaS service we are using. 2) Interoperability: Integrations with existing applications and services can be a concern since many SaaS apps are not designed for open integrations. Finding a service with integration capabilities can be difficult and attempting to create our own can be worse.