1. Cloud Computing overview:

* Customers do not own the physical infrastructure. They rent usage from a third-party provider thus avoiding capital expenditure
* Pay-per-use: Consume resources as a service, and pay only for what they use.
* Device and location independence: enables users to access systems using a web browser irrespective of their location or device (e.g., PC, mobile)
* Multi-tenancy: enables sharing of resources and costs across a large pool of users
* Scaleable & Secure.
* Maintenance: cloud computing apps are easier to maintain since they don’t have to be installed on each user’s computer. Easier to support and improve since changes reach the clients instantly.

1. Learning resources
   1. Learn about the basic concept of Windows Azure from this **video** by Ryan Dunn [**http://channel9.msdn.com/posts/dunnry/What-is-Windows-Azure/**](http://channel9.msdn.com/posts/dunnry/What-is-Windows-Azure/)
   2. Overview

[**http://www.slideshare.net/davidcchou/microsoft-cloud-computing**](http://www.slideshare.net/davidcchou/microsoft-cloud-computing) **PowerPoint file**: As part of a learning material, this presentation given by David Chou, Architect, Microsoft, gives an in-depth explanation of the features of Cloud Computing and what makes it the buzz word of today.

* Generalized Cloud Application Model
* Statistics about the Microsoft Cloud and various data centers located around the world
* Scalability and Availability
* Case study of Kelley Blue Book
  1. Digging in:
* The best place for developers:[**http://www.microsoft.com/windowsazure/getstarted/**](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsazure/getstarted/)
* [**http://channel9.msdn.com/learn/courses/Azure/**](http://channel9.msdn.com/learn/courses/Azure/): **Training Kit.** Includes a comprehensive set of technical content including samples, demos, hands-on labs, and presentations that are designed to expedite the learning process for the set of technologies released as part of the Windows Azure Platform.
* [**Developing Applications and databases for Windows Azure and SQL Azure**](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/rampup/ee832799.aspx)**: Articles, tutorials, videos and Labs**

1. Other links

* [**http://www.microsoft.com/windowsazure/**](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsazure/): The **official website** for Windows Azure
* [**http://channel9.msdn.com/posts/Charles/Steve-Marx-Windows-Azure-for-Developers/**](http://channel9.msdn.com/posts/Charles/Steve-Marx-Windows-Azure-for-Developers/): **Video.** Steve Marx discusses what Windows Azure means for developers.
* [**http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cc994380.aspx**](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cc994380.aspx): Learn about Windows Azure Platform at MSDN
* [**http://blogs.msdn.com/windowsazure/**](http://blogs.msdn.com/windowsazure/): **Blog** of the Windows Azure Team. Be updated with what the team is working on, new improvements, enhancements, etc.
* [**Cloud Computing- Software Engineering Fundamentals**](https://www.facultyresourcecenter.com/curriculum/pfv.aspx?ID=8454&Login)**: PowerPoint presentation on Faculty Resource Center**