

Introduction to Cloud

By

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On-Premises Server

- **On-premises servers** refer to physical servers that are located within an organization's own facilities or data center. Unlike cloud servers, which are hosted and managed by third-party cloud service providers, on-prem servers are owned and managed by the organization itself.

Key Characteristics of On-Prem Servers

- **Physical Location:**

- **In-House Infrastructure:** On-prem servers are physically located within the organization's premises, such as a data center or server room.
- **Control:** The organization has complete control over the physical and environmental aspects of the servers, including cooling, power, and physical security.

- **Ownership and Management:**

- **Capital Expenditure:** Organizations purchase and own the hardware, which involves a capital expenditure (CapEx) for acquiring and maintaining the equipment.
- **Maintenance:** The organization is responsible for all maintenance tasks, including hardware repairs, upgrades, and replacements.

- **Customization:**
 - **Tailored Configurations:** Organizations can customize hardware and software configurations to meet specific needs or requirements.
- **Security and Compliance:**
 - **Data Security:** Organizations have direct control over physical and network security measures, which can be crucial for compliance with regulatory requirements.
 - **Compliance:** It can be easier to ensure compliance with certain regulatory standards by keeping sensitive data on-premises.
- **Network Latency:**
 - **Local Access:** On-prem servers can offer lower network latency for users accessing applications and data locally within the organization.

Pros -

- **Control and Customization:** Full control over hardware, software, and configurations. Customization to meet specific needs is possible.
- **Security:** Direct control over physical and network security measures, which can enhance security and compliance for sensitive data.
- **Data Privacy:** Full ownership and control over data without relying on third-party providers.

Cons -

- High Initial Costs: Significant capital expenditure for purchasing hardware, licenses, and other infrastructure components.
- Maintenance and Management: Responsibility for ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and troubleshooting. Requires dedicated IT staff and resources.
- Scalability: Limited scalability compared to cloud solutions. Expanding capacity involves purchasing and installing additional hardware.
- Disaster Recovery: Requires planning and investment in backup and disaster recovery solutions. Ensuring high availability and business continuity can be more challenging.

Use Cases for On-Prem Servers

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Organizations that need to comply with strict regulatory or data privacy requirements may prefer on-prem servers to maintain direct control over their data.
- **Sensitive Data:** Companies dealing with highly sensitive or proprietary information may choose on-prem servers for enhanced security and control.
- **Legacy Systems:** Organizations with legacy applications or systems that are not compatible with cloud environments may continue to use on-prem servers.
- **Custom Hardware Needs:** Situations requiring specialized hardware configurations or performance optimizations may benefit from on-premise solutions.



Cloud Computing

- **Cloud computing** is the delivery of computing services—including servers, storage, databases, networking, software, and more—over the internet (“the cloud”). This model allows users to access and manage computing resources on-demand without needing to own or maintain physical hardware.

Core Concepts

- On-Demand Self-Service: Users can provision computing resources as needed without requiring human intervention from the service provider.
- Broad Network Access: Services are accessible over the network from a variety of devices, such as laptops, smartphones, and tablets.
- Resource Pooling: Cloud providers pool computing resources to serve multiple customers using a multi-tenant model. Resources are dynamically allocated and reassigned according to demand.
- **Rapid Elasticity**: Resources can be scaled up or down quickly and efficiently to meet changing demand, providing flexibility and scalability.
- **Measured Service**: Cloud systems automatically control and optimize resource use by leveraging metering capabilities, which provide transparency into resource usage and billing.

Cloud Service Models

- **Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS):**

- **Definition:** Provides virtualized computing resources over the internet. Users can rent virtual machines, storage, and networking components.
- **Examples:** Amazon Web Services (AWS) EC2, Microsoft Azure Virtual Machines, Google Compute Engine.

- **Platform as a Service (PaaS):**

- **Definition:** Offers a platform that allows developers to build, deploy, and manage applications without worrying about the underlying infrastructure.
- **Examples:** Google App Engine, Microsoft Azure App Services, AWS Elastic Beanstalk.

- **Software as a Service (SaaS):**

- **Definition:** Delivers software applications over the internet, on a subscription basis. The service provider manages the infrastructure and platforms.
- **Examples:** Google Workspace, Microsoft Office 365, Salesforce.

Cloud Deployment Models

- **Public Cloud:**
 - **Definition:** Services are offered over the public internet and shared across multiple organizations. The cloud provider owns and operates the infrastructure.
 - **Examples:** AWS, Azure, Google Cloud Platform (GCP).
- **Private Cloud:**
 - **Definition:** Cloud infrastructure used exclusively by a single organization. It can be hosted on-premises or by a third-party provider.
 - **Examples:** VMware vSphere, Microsoft Azure Stack, OpenStack.
- **Hybrid Cloud:**
 - **Definition:** A combination of public and private clouds, allowing data and applications to be shared between them. It provides flexibility and optimization for different workloads.
 - **Examples:** AWS Outposts, Azure Arc, Google Anthos.
- **Community Cloud:**
 - **Definition:** Cloud infrastructure shared by several organizations with common concerns (e.g., security, compliance). It can be managed by one of the organizations or a third-party provider.
 - **Examples:** Government or healthcare community clouds.

Key Benefits of Cloud Computing

- Cost Efficiency:
 - Pay-as-You-Go: Pay only for the resources you use, reducing capital expenditure and operational costs.
 - Reduced Infrastructure Costs: Eliminate the need for investing in and maintaining physical hardware.
 - Scalability and Flexibility:Elasticity: Scale resources up or down based on demand, allowing for efficient resource utilization and handling of peak loads.
 - Global Reach: Access resources and services from anywhere in the world, with global data centers offering low latency and high availability.
 - Accessibility:Remote Access: Access applications and data from any device with an internet connection, improving collaboration and productivity.
 - Automatic Updates: Cloud providers manage software updates and patches, ensuring you always have access to the latest features and security improvements.
 - Disaster Recovery and Backup:Resilience: Cloud providers often have built-in redundancy and backup solutions, enhancing data protection and disaster recovery capabilities.
 - Innovation:Rapid Deployment: Quickly deploy and test new applications or features without waiting for hardware setup.
 - Access to Advanced Technologies: Utilize cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and big data analytics provided by cloud services.

Cloud Providers and Platforms

- **Cloud providers** offer a range of services and solutions for computing, storage, networking, and more. Here's an overview of some of the major cloud providers and their platforms:

Amazon Web Services (AWS)

- Overview: AWS is one of the largest and most comprehensive cloud service providers. It offers a wide range of services across various domains including compute, storage, databases, networking, AI/ML, analytics, and more.
- Key Services:
 - Compute: Amazon EC2 (Elastic Compute Cloud), AWS Lambda (serverless computing)
 - Storage: Amazon S3 (Simple Storage Service), Amazon EBS (Elastic Block Store)
 - Databases: Amazon RDS (Relational Database Service), Amazon DynamoDB (NoSQL database)
 - Networking: Amazon VPC (Virtual Private Cloud), AWS CloudFront (Content Delivery Network)
 - AI/ML: Amazon SageMaker, AWS Rekognition (image and video analysis)
- Features:
Extensive global infrastructure, broad service offering, flexible pricing models, strong ecosystem of tools and third-party integrations.

Microsoft Azure

- Overview: Azure is Microsoft's cloud computing platform, offering a wide range of services for computing, storage, networking, databases, and more. It integrates well with Microsoft products and enterprise systems.
- Key Services:
 - Compute: Azure Virtual Machines, Azure Functions (serverless computing)
 - Storage: Azure Blob Storage, Azure Disk Storage
 - Databases: Azure SQL Database, Azure Cosmos DB (NoSQL database)
 - Networking: Azure Virtual Network, Azure CDN (Content Delivery Network)
 - AI/ML: Azure Machine Learning, Azure Cognitive Services
- Features: Strong integration with Microsoft products, hybrid cloud capabilities (Azure Arc), extensive global reach, enterprise-grade security and compliance.

Google Cloud Platform (GCP)

- Overview: GCP provides a suite of cloud computing services including compute, storage, databases, and machine learning, leveraging Google's infrastructure and data analytics capabilities.
- Key Services:
 - Compute: Google Compute Engine (VMs), Google Cloud Functions (serverless computing)
 - Storage: Google Cloud Storage, Persistent Disk
 - Databases: Google Cloud SQL, Google Firestore (NoSQL database)
 - Networking: Google VPC, Google Cloud CDN (Content Delivery Network)
 - AI/ML: Google AI Platform, TensorFlow, AutoML
 - Features: Advanced data analytics and AI/ML capabilities, strong global network infrastructure, seamless integration with Google's services and tools.

Core Cloud Services

- **Compute Services**

- **Virtual Machines (VMs):**

- **Description:** Provide scalable virtualized computing resources. Users can deploy and manage VMs as needed.
 - **Examples:** AWS EC2 (Elastic Compute Cloud), Azure Virtual Machines, Google Compute Engine.

- **Serverless Computing:**

- **Description:** Allows users to run code in response to events without managing servers. Charges are based on the execution time and resources consumed.
 - **Examples:** AWS Lambda, Azure Functions, Google Cloud Functions.

- **Containers and Orchestration:**

- **Description:** Enable the deployment and management of containerized applications. Containers encapsulate an application and its dependencies, while orchestration manages container deployment and scaling.
 - **Examples:** AWS ECS (Elastic Container Service), Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS), Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE).

- **Storage Services**
 - **Object Storage:**
 - **Description:** Provides scalable and durable storage for unstructured data such as files, images, and backups. Access is usually via APIs.
 - **Examples:** AWS S3 (Simple Storage Service), Azure Blob Storage, Google Cloud Storage.
 - **Block Storage:**
 - **Description:** Provides storage volumes that can be attached to VMs for low-latency, high-performance data access.
 - **Examples:** AWS EBS (Elastic Block Store), Azure Managed Disks, Google Persistent Disks.
 - **File Storage:**
 - **Description:** Offers a managed file system for storing and sharing files over a network with standard file system protocols.
 - **Examples:** AWS EFS (Elastic File System), Azure Files, Google Cloud Filestore.
- **Database Services**
 - **Relational Databases:**
 - **Description:** Managed services for relational databases, which use structured query language (SQL) for querying and managing data.
 - **Examples:** AWS RDS (Relational Database Service), Azure SQL Database, Google Cloud SQL.
 - **NoSQL Databases:**
 - **Description:** Managed services for non-relational databases, which are designed for unstructured data and provide high performance and scalability.
 - **Examples:** AWS DynamoDB, Azure Cosmos DB, Google Cloud Firestore.
 - **Data Warehousing:**
 - **Description:** Services for large-scale data storage and analysis, often used for business intelligence and analytics.
 - **Examples:** AWS Redshift, Azure Synapse Analytics, Google BigQuery
- **Networking Services**
 - **Virtual Networks:**
 - **Description:** Provides isolated, secure networking environments within the cloud for deploying and managing resources.
 - **Examples:** AWS VPC (Virtual Private Cloud), Azure Virtual Network, Google Cloud VPC.
 - **Load Balancing:**
 - **Description:** Distributes incoming network traffic across multiple servers to ensure high availability and reliability.
 - **Examples:** AWS ELB (Elastic Load Balancing), Azure Load Balancer, Google Cloud Load Balancing.
 - **Content Delivery Network (CDN):**
 - **Description:** Distributes content to users from locations closer to them to improve performance and reduce latency.
 - **Examples:** AWS CloudFront, Azure CDN, Google Cloud CDN.

- **Identity and Access Management (IAM)**

- **Description:** Manages user identities and access to cloud resources, including permissions, roles, and policies.
- **Examples:** AWS IAM, Azure Active Directory, Google Cloud IAM.

- **Monitoring and Management**

- **Monitoring:**

- **Description:** Provides tools for tracking and analyzing the performance and health of cloud resources and applications.
- **Examples:** AWS CloudWatch, Azure Monitor, Google Cloud Operations Suite.

- **Logging:**

- **Description:** Captures and stores log data for auditing, troubleshooting, and performance analysis.
- **Examples:** AWS CloudTrail, Azure Log Analytics, Google Cloud Logging.

- **Security and Compliance**

- **Encryption:**

- **Description:** Services for encrypting data at rest and in transit to protect against unauthorized access.
- **Examples:** AWS KMS (Key Management Service), Azure Key Vault, Google Cloud Key Management.

- **Security Posture Management:**

- **Description:** Tools for assessing and managing the security posture of cloud resources and configurations.
- **Examples:** AWS Security Hub, Azure Security Center, Google Cloud Security Command Center.

- **Application Development and Deployment**

- **Development Tools:**

- **Description:** Services and tools for developing, testing, and deploying applications in the cloud.
- **Examples:** AWS CodeBuild, Azure DevOps, Google Cloud Build.

- **Application Hosting:**

- **Description:** Managed platforms for hosting web applications and services, including scaling and management.
- **Examples:** AWS Elastic Beanstalk, Azure App Services, Google App Engine.

Difference between On-Prem and Cloud

Infrastructure Ownership and Management

- **On-Premises:**
 - **Ownership:** The organization owns and maintains the physical hardware and infrastructure.
 - **Management:** The organization is responsible for all aspects of infrastructure management, including hardware, software, and networking.
- **Cloud:**
 - **Ownership:** The cloud provider owns and manages the physical hardware and infrastructure.
 - **Management:** The cloud provider handles the management of hardware, software updates, and networking, while the organization manages the configuration and deployment of applications.

Cost Structure

- **On-Premises:**
 - **Capital Expenditure (CapEx):** Significant upfront investment in hardware, software licenses, and data center facilities.
 - **Operational Costs:** Ongoing costs for maintenance, power, cooling, and staffing.
- **Cloud:**
 - **Operational Expenditure (OpEx):** Pay-as-you-go or subscription-based pricing models, with costs based on resource usage and consumption.
 - **Cost Management:** Flexibility to scale resources up or down as needed, potentially reducing costs compared to maintaining excess capacity.

Scalability and Flexibility

- **On-Premises:**
 - **Scalability:** Scaling requires purchasing and installing additional hardware, which can be time-consuming and costly.
 - **Flexibility:** Limited flexibility to adapt to changing needs without additional investments in infrastructure.
- **Cloud:**
 - **Scalability:** Easily scale resources up or down based on demand, with minimal delay and without needing physical hardware adjustments.
 - **Flexibility:** High flexibility to quickly deploy and adjust applications, adapt to changing business requirements, and experiment with new technologies.

Performance and Availability

- **On-Premises:**
 - **Performance:** Performance depends on the capacity and configuration of the organization's hardware and network.
 - **Availability:** Requires investment in redundancy and failover solutions to ensure high availability and disaster recovery.
- **Cloud:**
 - **Performance:** Generally offers high performance with access to a global network of data centers and advanced infrastructure.
 - **Availability:** Cloud providers offer built-in redundancy and high availability features, often backed by SLAs (Service Level Agreements).

Security and Compliance

- **On-Premises:**
 - **Security:** Direct control over physical and network security, allowing for customized security measures.
 - **Compliance:** Easier to ensure compliance with specific regulatory or data privacy requirements by controlling the entire infrastructure.
- **Cloud:**
 - **Security:** Shared responsibility model where the cloud provider manages security of the underlying infrastructure, while the organization manages security of data and applications.
 - **Compliance:** Cloud providers often have certifications and compliance measures in place, but organizations must ensure that their usage aligns with regulatory requirements.

Maintenance and Upgrades

- **On-Premises:**
 - **Maintenance:** Organizations are responsible for maintaining hardware, software updates, and troubleshooting.
 - **Upgrades:** Requires planning and investment to upgrade hardware and software.
- **Cloud:**
 - **Maintenance:** The cloud provider handles maintenance, updates, and patches for infrastructure and services.
 - **Upgrades:** Regular updates and new features are provided automatically by the cloud provider.

Disaster Recovery and Backup

- **On-Premises:**
 - **Disaster Recovery:** Requires investment in backup solutions and disaster recovery plans, which can be complex and costly.
 - **Backup:** Managed internally, with the need for physical storage solutions and redundancy.
- **Cloud:**
 - **Disaster Recovery:** Cloud providers often include disaster recovery solutions and backup services as part of their offerings, simplifying recovery processes.
 - **Backup:** Managed by the provider, with options for automated backups and data replication.

Deployment Speed

- **On-Premises:**
 - **Deployment Speed:** Setting up and deploying new infrastructure can be time-consuming due to procurement and installation processes.
- **Cloud: Deployment Speed:** Rapid deployment of resources and services, often within minutes, allowing for quick experimentation and scaling.

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