



Merits & Demerits of Cloud Computing Services: A Survey

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Abstract :

Cloud computing is the development of parallel computing, distributed computing, grid computing and virtualization technologies which define the shape of a new era. Cloud computing is an emerging model of business computing. In this paper, we explore the concept of cloud architecture and compares cloud computing with grid computing. We also address the characteristics and applications of several popular cloud computing platforms. In this paper, we aim to pinpoint the merits and demerits of cloud computing. We discussed several services the cloud computing adoption perspective. However, security and privacy issues present a strong barrier for users to adapt into cloud computing systems.

ISSN : 2348-5612 © URR



Index Terms — Cloud computing, Merits & Demerits, cloud platforms, research issues.

1. Introduction :

In an age of information and globalization, massive computing power is desired to generate business insights and competitive advantage. A traditional way for enterprises to process their data is to use the computing power provided by their own in-house data centers. However operating a private data centre to keep up with rapidly growing data processing requests can be complicated and costly. Cloud computing offers an alternative. ‘Cloud computing’, as a term for Internet-based computing service, was launched by industry giants (e.g. Google, Amazon.com, etc.) in late 2006. It promises to provide on-demand computing power with quick implementation, low maintenance, fewer IT staff, and consequently lower cost. Such appealing promises have made cloud computing a dominant IT press topic over the past three years. As projected by market-research firm IDC, IT cloud-service spending will grow from about USD16 billion in 2008 to about USD42 billion by 2012. The remainder of this article is organized as follows:

2. Cloud Computing Services :

Cloud service models are commonly divided into -

- A. **SaaS** : (Software as a Service)
- B. **PaaS** : (Platform as a Service)
- C. **IaaS** : (Infrastructure as a Service)

It’s helpful to add more structure to the service model stacks. Fig. 1 shows a cloud reference architecture that makes the most important security-relevant cloud components explicit and provides an abstract overview of cloud computing for security issue analysis.

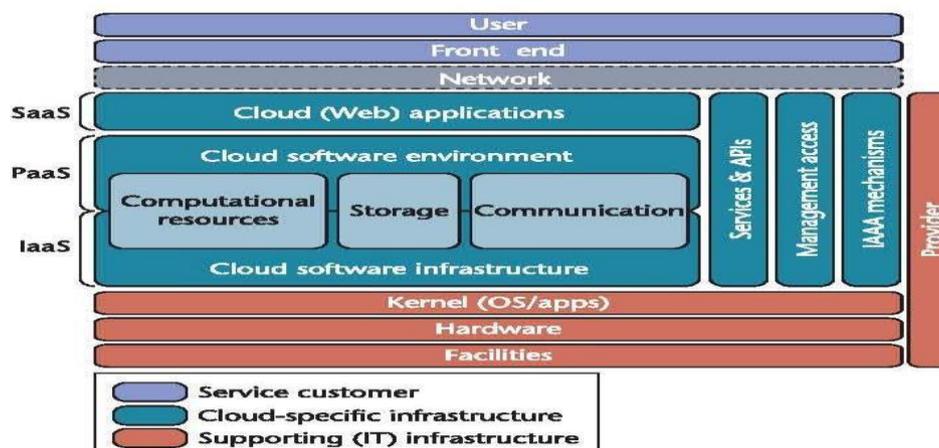


Figure: 1

A. Software as a Service (SaaS) :

Software or an application is hosted as a service and provided to customers across the Internet. This mode eliminates the need to install and run the application on the customer’s local computers. SaaS therefore alleviates the customer’s burden of software maintenance, and reduces the expense of software purchases by on-demand pricing. An early example of the SaaS is the Application Service Provider (ASP). The ASP approach provides subscriptions to software that is hosted or delivered over the Internet. Microsoft’s “Software + Service” 30) shows another example: a combination of local software and Internet services interacting with one another.