

# CLOUD COMPUTING

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Tucson Computer Society Pro SIG  
March 18, 2011

Cloud computing is computation, software, data access, and storage services that do not require end-user knowledge of the physical location and configuration of the system that delivers the services. Parallels to this concept can be drawn with the electricity grid where end-users consume power resources without any necessary understanding of the component devices in the grid

required to provide the service.

Cloud computing is a natural evolution of the widespread adoption of virtualization, service-oriented architecture, autonomic and utility computing. Details are abstracted from end-users, who no longer have need for expertise in, or control over, the technology infrastructure "in the cloud" that supports them.[1] Cloud computing describes a new supplement, consumption, and delivery model for IT services based on Internet protocols, and it typically involves provisioning of dynamically scalable and often virtualized resources.[2][3] It is a byproduct and consequence of the ease-of-access to remote computing sites provided by the Internet.[4] This frequently takes the form of web-based tools or applications that

users can access and use through a web browser as if it were a program installed locally on their own computer[5]

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) provides a somewhat more objective and specific definition:

"Cloud computing is a model for enabling convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, applications, and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction."[6]

The term "cloud" is used as a metaphor for the Internet, based on the cloud drawing used in the past to represent the telephone

network,[7] and later to depict the Internet in computer network diagrams as an abstraction of the underlying infrastructure it represents.[8] Typical cloud computing providers deliver common business applications online that are accessed from another Web service or software like a Web browser, while the software and data are stored on servers.

Most cloud computing infrastructures consist of services delivered through common centers and built on servers. Clouds often appear as single points of access for consumers' computing needs. Commercial offerings are generally expected to meet quality of service (QoS) requirements of customers, and typically include service level agreements (SLAs).[9]

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud computing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_computing)

Advantages / Disadvantages to cloud services

Cloud examples:

[mozy](#) and [carbonite](#)

[lastpass](#)

[google docs](#), [gmail](#)

[ninite.com](#)

[gfimax.com](#)

[dropbox.com](https://dropbox.com)