

# THE MAGIC WORDS OF THE CLOUD

# What is the “Cloud” ?

“Cloud Computing” (or for simplicity: the “Cloud”) refers to the type of Computing in which large groups of remote servers are networked to allow centralized data storage and online access. We could say in general that the mean of Cloud Computing can involve any service that is hosted over the Internet (software, platforms, infrastructure etc.).

A cloud can be public, private or hybrid.

A **public** Cloud can sell its services to anyone on the internet. A strong example for a public Cloud is Amazon Web services. A **private** Cloud is a data center that can provide services to a limited number of people. **Hybrid** Cloud is a composition of two or more Clouds that remain separate, but they are bound together, providing the benefits of multiple deployment methods.

Public, private or hybrid, the goal of Cloud computing is to provide easy access to computing resources and services.

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLOUD:

- **OnDemand Self-Service:** All computer services (email/applications etc.) are provided without human interaction, through a Web based self-service portal.
- **Broad Network Access:** Cloud computing resources are accessible over the network and can be supported by mobile devices, so your employees have access wherever an access point is available.
- **Resource Pooling:** Employees can have access and use data from the same platform from different location at anytime.
- **Rapid Elasticity:** The Cloud is flexible in order to suit all your business needs.
- **Measured Service:** You pay only for what you use. Cloud Computing resource usage can be measured and controlled not only by the provider, but also by the customer.

# The Magic Words of Cloud Computing

The IT world changes everyday and as a result the terms and the acronyms that we use to explain its services and products change too. Most of the acronyms sound similar, but are substantially different. Below, there is a list of some of the most common Cloud Computing Acronyms:

## ● **IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service)**

IaaS is one of the three main service models of Cloud Computing. It is a model that provides hardware, storage, servers and data center space or a network component. The service provider is responsible for housing, running and maintaining of the equipment it provides to a client.

## ● **SaaS (Software as a Service)**

SaaS is a model of delivering software over the internet as a service. The client doesn't have to install and maintain software, but simply access it via the Internet. Applications run on a server of the SaaS provider. The provider is responsible for access to the applications, security and availability. The clients just need an Internet connection.

## ● **PaaS (Platform as a Service)**

PaaS is a Cloud computing category that provides a platform for the quick and easy creation of Web applications and services without the complexity of buying and maintaining the software. We could say that it is a way to rent hardware, storage and operating systems over the internet.

## ● **MaaS (Monitoring as a Service)**

MaaS is a model that obliges the deployment and development of different services and applications within the Cloud. State monitoring is one of the most common MaaS application, which tracks certain states of applications, networks, systems that may be deployable within the Cloud.

## ● **(U)CaaS (Unified Communication as a Service)**

UCaaS is a combination of different vendor services that facilitate business communication. CaaS can include a variety of communication services, like Voice Over IP (VOIP), instant messaging (chat), call recording and video conferencing. Most of people are familiar with CaaS solutions, like Skype, face messengers etc.

## ● **XaaS (Everything/Anything as a Service)**

This acronym refers to an increasing number of services that are available over the internet via computing. XaaS is the substance of Cloud Computing. The most common examples of XaaS are all the above (SaaS, PaaS, IaaS, MaaS, CaaS).

## ● **BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)**

BYOD is an IT policy that refers to employees who bring their own computing devices, like smart phones, laptops and tablets at their workplace to access enterprise data. Employees feel more comfortable with their devices and they become expert and more productive.

## ● **BYOC (Bring Your Own Cloud)**

BYOC is a trend where the employees can see public or private Cloud service to manage and work with data. It is more convenient for employees to use their existing accounts, but the organization cannot have any control of these services. One of the most famous examples of BYOC is the use of Dropbox.

## ● **DOS (Denial of Service)-DDOS (Distributed Denial of Service)**

DOS is an attempt to make a machine or network resource unavailable to its intended users. A DOS can be a simple ping or something more complex. If the server cannot respond to the large number of simultaneous guests, incoming requests will become queued. This may result a slow time response or no response at all. This means that the DOS has succeeded.

## ● **VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol)**

The definition of VOIP is that it is a voice transmitted over a digital network. It is a technology that allows telephone calls to be made over computer networks (Internet). VOIP can convert analog voice signal into digital data packets. VOIP calls can be made on the

internet using a VOIP service provider.

## ● **IOT (Internet of Things)**

The Internet of Things is a concept that describes a future tendency where physical objects will be connected to the internet and will be able to identify themselves to other devices. IOT describes that the world is becoming a big information system!

Cloud Computing is the result of evolution and adoption of existing technologies. Its goal is to allow users to take benefits from all these technologies without the need of deep knowledge. As with all technological changes, it is sure that day by day more new acronyms will appear in Cloud Computing and in our daily life.

Till that day will come, practise your acronyms skills with Adrian Cronauer: "Excuse me, sir. Seeing as how the V.P. is such a V.I.P., shouldn't we keep the P.C. on the Q.T.? 'Cause of the leaks to the V.C he could end up M.I.A., and then we'd all be put out in K.P."

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