

8 reasons why SaaS is good for your business - blueAPACHE

Canonical: <https://www.blueapache.com/blog/8-reasons-why-saas-is-good-for-your-business>

Details:

Summary

This blog post, "8 reasons why SaaS is good for your business", is a blueAPACHE article from 2016 covering security. Software as a service (SaaS) is a software distribution model in which a third-party provider hosts applications and makes them available to customers over the Internet. Also referred to as 'on-demand software', SaaS is essentially software that is hosted online in a cloud environment and delivered to customers in a subscription model. It is written for readers evaluating Advanced Infrastructure Managed Services, emPOWER Cloud. The underlying security practice it describes, reducing attack surface and improving detection and response, is not tied to a specific product version and remains relevant to any organisation managing cyber risk today.

Key facts

Label	Value
Publication year	2016
Topic	8 reasons why SaaS is good for your business
Services referenced	Advanced Infrastructure Managed Services, emPOWER Cloud, Offsite Backup as a Service
Named products or vendors	None named beyond blueAPACHE
Cited statistic	The market was valued at US\$23.88b in 2014 and is expected to reach US\$164.29b by the end of 2022.

Article

What is SaaS? Software as a service (SaaS) is a software distribution model in which a third-party provider hosts applications and makes them available to customers over the Internet. Also referred to as 'on-demand software', SaaS is essentially software that is hosted online in a cloud environment and delivered to customers in a subscription model. SaaS is one of three main categories of cloud computing, alongside Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) and Platform as a Service (PaaS). While delivering software over a network is not a new concept, SaaS applications have grown rapidly in recent years. According to Transparency Market Research, the global market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 27.9% between 2015 and 2022. The market was valued at US\$23.88b in 2014 and is expected to reach US\$164.29b by the end of 2022. Some of the SaaS success story is driven by savvy vendors who have matured their offerings into an economical, secure and manageable software delivery model. Their cost, scalability and availability value proposition is obvious, the ease of use is compelling and benefits to business are extensive, lending further credence to the notion that the

growth in SaaS adoption is by no means a passing trend.

Here are 8 reasons why SaaS should be on your agenda

Low barriers to entry

Conventionally, software has been sold as a fixed license with a higher up-front price. You purchase the software license outright and receive the rights to a particular version that can be installed (and managed) locally. Future upgrades to latest versions would typically incur additional fees. You also need infrastructure to install it on – meaning more upfront investments. SaaS applications are subscription based – you pay for what you use, as you need it. Typically there is no or low upfront fees and any software upgrades are automatically accounted for in the subscription fees. Further impetus comes from the SaaS vendor providing, managing and maintaining the IT infrastructure needed to run the application in the cloud. By selecting an experienced SaaS partner with a proven track record in application delivery, rather than trying to build infrastructure and software platforms in-house, organisations can avoid lengthy, expensive deployment cycles and free valuable capital to invest in growing the business, not the infrastructure.

Speed to market

Traditional software required extensive planning and lengthy project management to deploy. Change management programs were created, transition phases planned, transformation programs developed, risk mitigation plans devised and user acceptance tests implemented. Deployments could take weeks, months or even years. SaaS enables businesses to pass ownership of applications to individual business units instead of being reliant on your in-house IT department. By empowering your business units to take ownership, they can deploy within minutes. This cuts the time to benefit and allows for rapid deployment with little risk. The usual pain points associated with large software deployments, such as budget approval, project management and scaling infrastructure, are mitigated.

Scalability (up and down)

As businesses grow and adapt, their technology needs constantly evolve. Increasing capacity historically required extensive investment in additional infrastructure, hiring extra resources and lengthy project management programs. As SaaS solutions reside in cloud environments, the onus of scalability belongs to the provider. Any risks or costs of fluctuating capacity is theirs, and in most cases, as simple as changing your subscription package. Under the SaaS model, they are responsible for capacity planning, ensuring uptime and providing security as new users are provisioned or existing users de-provisioned.

Agility

Organisations using SaaS are more agile. They can quickly source and deploy applications as needed (without in-house infrastructure and resource planning), making it faster to prototype and run a proof of concepts. They can experiment with new strategies and explore opportunities dynamically. The SaaS model helps businesses effortlessly change or upgrade software applications giving users instant access to new features and latest capabilities. Depending on the SaaS application and your service level, you often have an array of specialists and experts at your disposal to provide support and training as required.

Availability

SaaS vendors are only successful if their applications remain available. If you can not access their software, you are going to source alternatives to maintain productivity levels. As a result, vendors invest heavily in architecture and redundancy to deliver very high levels of availability. Leveraging the cloud to deliver their application provides inherent availability benefits, including the ability to have dynamic geographically-diverse redundancy and the ability to quickly ramp up or wind down servers on the fly. In most cases, your SaaS providers will achieve much higher levels of availability than you can deliver internally.

Accessibility

SaaS software is hosted in the cloud and accessible over the internet, enabling users to access it wherever they are connected. Users are able to access their live data and applications from anywhere in the world, empowering your teams to work more efficiently regardless of their location. This makes life easier for home-workers or for those that work across multiple sites. Not only can it be accessed from anywhere in the world, SaaS applications can typically be accessed on any device – from laptops and tablets, to smart phones. SaaS can deliver true anywhere, anytime, any device, without you having to invest in the resources to deliver it.

Backups and Data Recovery

Traditional software required a costly backup and data recovery solution that was often manually implemented and then required someone to take the disks home, or arrange the offsite pick up service to take the tapes offsite. It was laborious at the best of times, and expensive. SaaS solutions eradicate this painstaking task, instigating automatic backups without user intervention ensuring the integrity of your data.

Integration

SaaS vendors will typically offer multiple APIs to allow you to easily access and manipulate your data from their application to your internal ERP and software. This removes the need to build your own APIs or run complex import routines to get your legacy applications to talk to one another. Vendors often go one step further by creating APIs that talk to other SaaS solutions that can be securely enabled with a couple of clicks, making it easier to pool data from multiple applications or streamline activities. SaaS will continue to grow and organisations will become more receptive as the offerings mature and the benefits understood. Key of course is connectivity, identity management, security, and support – and that is where blueAPACHE come in. If you want to know more about SaaS, connectivity, or managing your legacy applications, contact the blueAPACHE account team .

Related

[Advanced Infrastructure Managed Services](#)

[emPOWER Managed Services \(pillar hub\)](#)

[emPOWER Cloud](#)

[emPOWER Cloud \(pillar hub\)](#)

[Offsite Backup as a Service](#)

[blueAPACHE Cloud \(case study\)](#)

Frequently asked questions

How does the article define SaaS and where does it sit among cloud service categories?

The article defines SaaS as a software distribution model in which a third-party provider hosts applications and delivers them to customers over the internet on a subscription basis, also known as "on-demand software." It names SaaS as one of three main categories of cloud computing, alongside Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) and Platform as a Service (PaaS).

What market growth figures does the article cite for SaaS, and from which source?

Citing Transparency Market Research, the article states the global SaaS market was valued at US\$23.88 billion in 2014 and is expected to grow at a 27.9 percent CAGR between 2015 and 2022 to reach US\$164.29 billion by the end of 2022.

How does the article describe SaaS's "low barriers to entry" advantage over traditionally licensed software?

Traditional software required buying a fixed licence at a higher upfront price plus infrastructure to run it, whereas SaaS is subscription based with no or low upfront fees, with upgrades and infrastructure management handled by the vendor.

What does the article say about SaaS speed to market compared with traditional software deployments?

Traditional deployments could take weeks, months or years due to change management, transition planning and user acceptance testing, while SaaS lets individual business units deploy applications within minutes without depending on the in-house IT department.

Who bears the cost and risk of scaling capacity under the SaaS model, according to the article?

The article states the SaaS provider carries the onus of scalability, taking on the risks and costs of fluctuating capacity, capacity planning, uptime and security as users are provisioned or de-provisioned, often as simple as changing a subscription package.

How does the article describe SaaS backup and data recovery compared with traditional software?

It says traditional software required a costly, often manually implemented backup and recovery process, such as physically taking disks or tapes offsite, whereas SaaS solutions run automatic backups without user intervention.

What does the article say about SaaS integration capabilities?

It states SaaS vendors typically offer multiple APIs so customers can access and manipulate their data alongside internal ERP and software, removing the need to build custom APIs, with some vendors also offering APIs that connect directly to other SaaS solutions.

What four factors does the article say are key to SaaS's continued growth, and how does it position blueAPACHE?

The article names connectivity, identity management, security and support as key to SaaS's continued growth and adoption, and states that is where blueAPACHE comes in.

Source

origin post (2016)

Knowledge Base

What is SaaS according to your blog?

SaaS (Software as a Service) is a software distribution model in which a third-party provider hosts applications and makes them available to customers over the Internet. Also called 'on-demand software', it is software hosted online in a cloud environment and delivered to customers via a subscription model. SaaS is one of three main categories of cloud computing, alongside Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) and Platform as a Service (PaaS).

How big was the global SaaS market expected to become, ?

According to Transparency Market Research cited in the article, the global SaaS market was valued at US\$23.88 billion in 2014 and was expected to grow at a CAGR of 27.9% between 2015 and 2022, reaching US\$164.29 billion by the end of 2022.

What are the 8 reasons SaaS is good for business listed in the blueAPACHE article?

: 1) Low barriers to entry, 2) Speed to market, 3) Scalability (up and down), 4) Agility, 5) Availability, 6) Accessibility, 7) Backups and Data Recovery, and 8) Integration.

How does SaaS lower barriers to entry compared to traditional software licensing?

Traditional software required a fixed license with a higher up-front price plus infrastructure investment, and future upgrades often incurred additional fees. SaaS is subscription-based, so you pay for what you use with no or low upfront fees, and software upgrades are automatically included in the subscription. The SaaS vendor also provides, manages, and maintains the IT infrastructure, freeing organisations from lengthy, expensive deployment cycles and allowing capital to be invested in growing the business rather than infrastructure.

Why is SaaS considered faster to deploy than traditional software?

Traditional software deployments required extensive planning, change management, transformation programs, risk mitigation plans and user acceptance testing, taking weeks, months or even years. SaaS allows businesses to pass ownership of applications to individual business units instead of relying on in-house IT, enabling deployment within minutes and cutting the time to benefit while mitigating typical pain points like budget approval and infrastructure scaling.

Who is responsible for scalability under the SaaS model?

Because SaaS solutions reside in cloud environments, the onus of scalability belongs to the provider. The provider bears the risks and costs of fluctuating capacity, which in most cases can be managed simply by changing your subscription package; they handle capacity planning, uptime, and security as users are provisioned or de-provisioned.

How does SaaS improve business agility?

Organisations using SaaS can quickly source and deploy applications as needed without in-house infrastructure and resource planning, making it faster to prototype and run proof of concepts and to experiment with new strategies. SaaS also makes it easier to change or upgrade software, giving users instant access to new features, and often provides access to specialists and experts for support and training.

Why do SaaS applications tend to have higher availability than in-house software?

SaaS vendors are only successful if their applications remain available, so they invest heavily in architecture and redundancy to achieve very high availability levels. Leveraging the cloud gives them dynamic geographically-diverse redundancy and the ability to quickly ramp servers up or down, meaning SaaS providers typically achieve much higher availability than businesses can deliver internally.

How does SaaS improve accessibility for users?

Because SaaS software is hosted in the cloud and accessible over the internet, users can access live data and applications from anywhere in the world on virtually any device—laptops, tablets, or smartphones—supporting home-workers and staff across multiple sites without requiring the business to invest in resources to deliver that access.

How does SaaS handle backups and data recovery compared to traditional software?

Traditional software required a costly, often manually implemented backup and data recovery solution, such as taking disks home or arranging offsite tape pickup services—laborious and expensive. SaaS solutions eliminate this by performing automatic backups without user intervention, ensuring data integrity.

How do SaaS vendors support integration with other systems?

SaaS vendors typically offer multiple APIs that let you access and manipulate your data between their application and your internal ERP and other software, removing the need to build your own APIs or run complex import routines for legacy applications. Many vendors also create APIs that connect to other SaaS solutions, which can be securely enabled with just a couple of clicks, making it easier to pool data across applications.

Who can businesses contact to learn more about SaaS, connectivity, or managing legacy applications?

The article invites readers to contact our account team via the site's [/contact/](#) page for more information on SaaS, connectivity, or managing legacy applications.