

Cloud Defined: The top 10 benefits - blueAPACHE

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Cloud computing, often referred to as simply 'the cloud', is the delivery of on-demand computing services – everything from applications to data centres – over the Internet on a pay-for-use basis. These services can include software, compute and storage, or computing platforms. Cloud enables companies to consume these services as a utility – similar to electricity or a telephone service – rather than building and maintaining computing infrastructure in-house or in data centres themselves. The accepted official definition comes from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, an agency of the US Department of Commerce; "Cloud computing is a model for enabling ubiquitous, convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction".

Cloud examples

Most of us already use cloud technologies today. Many well-known internet-based services like Gmail and Hotmail, Google Docs, Apple's iCloud, Microsoft 365, Basecamp, Xero, and Salesforce are all cloud-based services. But this is only scratching the surface. Cloud also includes computing resources companies can rent or subscribe to, in addition to or as a replacement for the IT systems they may already have running in their office or data centre. We will delve more into these in another article on the cloud stacks.

Cloud benefits – the top 10

Cloud enables businesses to treat technology as a utility service, using as much as they need when they need without capital investment or the extensive human resources and planning that are normally required. Put simply; cloud offers businesses:

Rapid elasticity and scalability Organisations can quickly and easily increase or decrease their technology usage without the need of costly in-house infrastructure and resources, or time-intensive planning and coordination.

Capital expenditure becomes an operational expense As technology becomes a pay-as-you-go model; capital expenditure on hardware, software and licensing can be diverted away from technology investments into things that can grow the business.

Improved agility Organisations can rapidly change direction or pursue new opportunities with far less concerns about technology investments, resources and financial commitments.

Improved business continuity Organisations can cost-effectively protect themselves from natural and man-made disasters by having their systems and data securely backed up in the cloud, and are able to quickly reinstate their operations to business as usual to minimise downtime and mitigate potential loss of productivity.

Globalise workforces cost effectively Organisations can quickly and easily expand around the country (and the world) by using the cloud to securely deliver software, services and business processes.

Improved accessibility and collaboration Staff can have access anytime, anywhere to cloud-based services meaning securely working remotely and collaboratively becomes a lot easier to facilitate.

Economies of scale Organisations can increase volume output or productivity with fewer technology and human resources enabling them to reduce cost per unit, project or product.

Fewer technology resources Less specialist technology personnel are required in-house, enabling organisations to divert salaries and sourcing efforts to growing their business.

Improved software licensing alignment Organisations no longer need to buy volume blocks of licenses – they can easily ensure their licensing is directly aligned to their business need by paying only for what they need, when they need it.

Automatic updates Time and resource intensive processes like software updates become a managed service that usually happens seamlessly in the background; mitigating resources, planning and loss of productivity.

For more information:

To learn more about private, hybrid and public cloud and how they can benefit your organisation, contact your account management team .

Disclaimer:

We provide our own Australian cloud services to organisations wanting to guarantee data sovereignty in line with the Privacy Act amendments.

What is cloud computing according to this blueAPACHE blog post?

Cloud computing, often called 'the cloud', is the delivery of on-demand computing services—everything from applications to data centres—over the Internet on a pay-for-use basis. These services can include software, compute and storage, or computing platforms, and enable companies to consume them as a utility (similar to electricity or telephone service) rather than building and maintaining computing infrastructure in-house.

What are the top 10 benefits of cloud computing listed in this blueAPACHE article?

The top 10 benefits are: 1) Rapid elasticity and scalability, 2) Capital expenditure becomes an operational expense, 3) Improved agility, 4) Improved business continuity, 5) Globalise workforces cost effectively, 6) Improved accessibility and collaboration, 7) Economies of scale, 8) Fewer technology resources, 9) Improved software licensing alignment, and 10) Automatic updates.

How does cloud computing improve business continuity ?

organisations can cost-effectively protect themselves from natural and man-made disasters by having their systems and data securely backed up in the cloud, allowing them to quickly reinstate operations to business as usual, minimising downtime and mitigating potential loss of productivity.

How does cloud computing affect capital expenditure for businesses?

as technology becomes a pay-as-you-go model, capital expenditure on hardware, software and licensing can be diverted away from technology investments into things that can grow the business—effectively turning capital expenditure into an operational expense.

How does the cloud handle software updates ?

time and resource intensive processes like software updates become a managed service that usually happens seamlessly in the background, mitigating resource use, planning effort, and loss of productivity.

Where can readers get more information about private, hybrid and public cloud ?

We advise readers to contact their account management team via our contact page to learn more about private, hybrid and public cloud and how they can benefit their organisation.