

A FLAVORFUL FOUNDATION: Demystifying the Cloud

Just like clouds in the sky, the digital cloud comes in many "flavors." It encompasses a vast range of technologies and services such as remote storage, data processing, and virtual infrastructure.

End-users are on pace to spend **\$180 billion** in 2015 on the cloud. ⁽¹⁾

Who Knows?

Cloud computing makes it easier to implement technologies without knowing how they work. In one 2012 survey: ⁽²⁾

3 in 10
respondents didn't know what "the cloud" was. ⁽²⁾

Only 16%
knew the correct answer ⁽²⁾

Even still, **95%**
used cloud technologies daily. ⁽²⁾

A Cloud for All Seasons

Three important flavors are game changers in understanding how to approach the cloud:

SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE - SAAS

SAAS applications are designed for end-users and deployed online, like email, productivity or CRM (Customer Relationship Management) software. SAAS is ⁽³⁾:

- On-demand and remotely available. ⁽³⁾
- Centrally managed and maintained. ⁽³⁾
- Delivered in a "one to many" model. ⁽³⁾
- May be integrated via API (Application Programming Interfaces) ⁽³⁾

Significant in SAAS:

- First in CRM with over **2.5 million users.** ^(1,4)
- Estimated **630 billion business users.** ⁽⁵⁾
- 4 million small business users.** ⁽⁵⁾

Appropriately Soft

SAAS is suited for:

- Email and productivity. ⁽³⁾
- Software to manage customer interactions. ⁽³⁾
- High availability services. ⁽³⁾
- Accounting and billing software. ⁽³⁾

PLATFORM AS A SERVICE - PAAS

PAAS incorporates middleware - software used to facilitate deployment of applications. Used for rapid prototyping and low-maintenance development, PAAS:

- Is a foundation for web applications. ⁽³⁾
- Consists of web-based UI creation tools. ⁽³⁾
- Enables rapid deployment of apps and services. ⁽³⁾
- Integrates with common web services, databases, and technologies. ⁽³⁾

Popular PAAS Platforms:

- Over **650 million data** transactions per day. ⁽⁶⁾
- App engine has over **200,000 developers** ⁽⁶⁾
- Open source PAAS actively maintained by **2,100 developers.** ⁽⁶⁾

Take a PAAS

Consider Platform As A Service if you:

- Value rapid deployment. ⁽³⁾
- Work in teams. ⁽³⁾
- Use proprietary data sources. ⁽³⁾
- Require accessibility by non-developers. ⁽³⁾

INFRASTRUCTURE AS A SERVICE - IAAS

Infrastructure As A Service provides computing resources like storage and server bandwidth on-demand. IAAS:

- Is scalable resources distributed as a service. ⁽³⁾
- Is highly available through automation. ⁽³⁾
- Uses a utility pricing model. ⁽³⁾
- Sacrifices convenience of SAAS and PAAS for flexibility. ⁽³⁾

METERED MICROPROCESSORS

IAAS products are operational expenses for tax purposes. Shifting IT from assets to expenditures is a major influence in IAAS adoption. ^(3,9)

IAAS by the numbers:

- Owns **35%** of the enterprise market share. ⁽¹⁰⁾
- 5 times larger** than its biggest competitor. ⁽¹¹⁾
- 14 minutes** of downtime in all of 2014. ⁽¹¹⁾

Hard Case

When is IAAS the right choice?

- Unpredictable demand. ⁽³⁾
- Avoid infrastructure spending. ⁽³⁾
- Short term infrastructure. ⁽³⁾
- When migrating into the cloud. ⁽³⁾

Everyone Else is Doing It

Organizations use an average of **545 cloud-based services.** ⁽¹⁾

Cloud spending is growing at a rate of **30%.** ⁽¹⁾

According to a 2015 survey:



93%

of enterprises polled use the cloud for business. ⁽¹³⁾



55%

of companies' non-cloud infrastructure was cloud API-friendly. ⁽¹³⁾



82%

of enterprises have a hybrid cloud strategy. ⁽¹³⁾



7 in 10

enterprises were using IAAS. ⁽¹⁴⁾



Most PAAS subscribers also use IAAS. ⁽¹³⁾

UP:



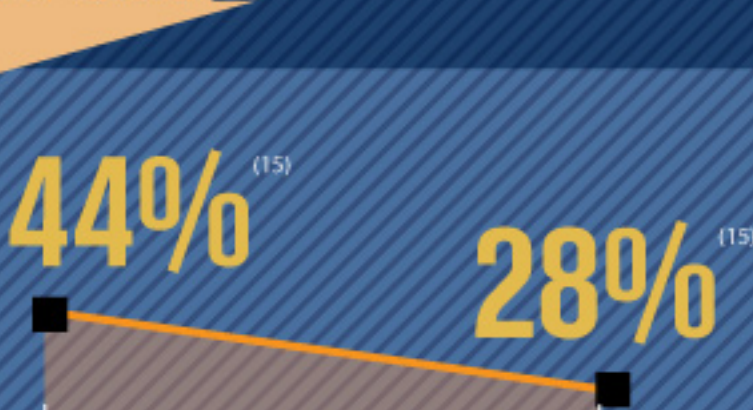
SAAS

2015

2018

By 2018, SAAS Cloud Workloads will hold 59% of the growing cloud marketplace. ⁽¹⁵⁾

DOWN:



IAAS

2013

2018

(projection)

Despite losing market share, the IAAS industry will nearly double in size by 2018. ⁽¹⁵⁾

Making The Right Choice



Calculate the net cost or benefit of any transition to the cloud. ⁽¹⁶⁾



Be mindful of security and risk analysis. ⁽¹⁶⁾



Vet mission critical service providers carefully. ⁽¹⁶⁾



Invest in services that complement your ability to support, or not support them internally. ⁽¹⁶⁾

computersciencezone.org

SOURCES

1. <http://siliconangle.com/blog/2014/01/27/20-cloud-computing-statistics-tc0114>
2. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/joemckendrick/2012/08/29/most-americans-dont-understand-cloud-computing-does-it-really-matter>
3. http://www.rackspace.com/knowledge_center/whitepaper/understanding-the-cloud-computing-stack-saas-paas-iaas
4. <https://www.quora.com/Who-are-the-top-SaaS-companies-in-the-world-by-revenues>
5. <http://www.cbronline.com/news/cloud/aas/head-in-the-clouds-top-10-saas-providers-for-business-4491647>
6. <http://www.networkworld.com/article/2288002/cloud-computing/10-most-powerful-paas-companies.html>
7. <http://www.interoute.com/what-paas>
8. <https://apprenda.com/library/paas/iaas-paas-saas-explained-compared>
9. <http://www.securityweek.com/three-categories-cloud-computing-whats-your-flavor>
10. <http://www.cloudcomputing-news.net/news/2014/may/13/idc-claims-ibm-vendor-choice-us-enterprise-iaas-market/>
11. <http://www.networkworld.com/article/2866950/cloud-computing/which-cloud-providers-had-the-best-uptime-last-year.html>
12. <http://cloudtweaks.com/2013/01/paas-and-iaas-rising-champions-of-cloud-computing/>
13. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/benkpes/2015/03/04/new-stats-from-the-state-of-cloud-report/>
14. <http://www.rightscale.com/blog/cloud-industry-insights/iaas-vs-paas-2015-cloud-trends-state-cloud-survey>
15. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/louiscolombus/2015/01/24/roundup-of-cloud-computing-future-forecasts-and-market-estimates-2015/>
16. <http://www.zdnet.com/article/cloud-computing-demystifying-iaas-paas-and-saas/>