

MIST 315 Assignment 1 - the Internet Project

The Internet has changed the way of communication and doing business, especially with the emerging cloud computing in recent years. The new breed of cloud computing services has grown dramatically with global users. According to a September 2012 Gartner report, the subscription web services market is now forecast to grow 19.6% in 2012 to total \$109 billion worldwide. The leading vendors, such as Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Apple, Salesforce.com, offer a variety of services including Infrastructure as a service (IaaS), Software as a Service (SaaS), Business Process as a service (BaaS), as well as online email and online storage.

In this project, you're requested to pick any cloud computing service or application as your research target and leverage resources on the internet to write a 2-5 page report, which provides description about your selected cloud computing service; discuss its global reach and impact, the benefits and risks of using cloud computing service. The overall grade for the assignment is based on two scores. The first score is based on your ability to demonstrate the impact of globalization within the context of your responses. The second score is based on the comprehension and scope of information gathered and your resulting analysis that leads to the responses submitted.

This project should be written in MS Word, in a research style. It is recommended that your report include a title page, an abstract, the conclusions/recommendations, and the references/bibliography part.

MIST 315 Assignment 1
Internet Project

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- meet project requirements
- Good analysis in general
- no title ?

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Abstract

The Internet and specifically the new generation of cloud computing services have provided individuals, and businesses around the globe to flourish and advance in the technological world. It has given a new definition to the traditional communication forms of the past including television, movies, music, newspapers, books, etc. and allowed services to be provided with little to no cost and the efficiency that keeps up with the fast – paced environment that we live in. This paper talks about the types of cloud computing services, the advantages as well as the disadvantages, and examples of companies we use in our daily lives that provide these services.

The Internet has changed life, as we know it. Looking back to a time where letters were sent by postage which took more than a day to be delivered versus emails that are received instantly, its hard to imagine living life without it. The invention and growth of the Internet has allowed businesses to flourish, education to advance, and has given us the ability to communicate to the ends of the world and back.

While it began as a U.S. Department of Defense network to link scientists and university professors around the world, today it “serves as a global communications system that links millions of private, public, academic and business networks via an international telecommunications backbone that consists of various electronic and optical networking technologies.” (Investintech, 2010) The Internet has redefined many of the traditional means of communication including telephone, music, film, and television. Newspapers are available on the Internet, books are now available in electronic form; blogging and social media have become one of the most popular ways to communicate with people around the world. It’s safe to say that almost anything can be accomplished from the safety of your home with the use of your computer as long as you are connected.

An important aspect of the Internet that has given it such a boost is the new era of cloud computing services. A term that may not sound very familiar to most people is the backbone for many of the programs and websites we use daily. Cloud computing is the use of hardware and software that are delivered immediately as a service over a network, typically the Internet. These services include Information Technology services such as software as a service (SaaS), Infrastructure as a service (IaaS), online storage and online email. However most of these online services are not IT or “computing” at all, they are about shopping, banking, selling, collaborating, communicating, being entertained, etc.

(Gens, 2008) Some of the prominent companies that provide cloud computing services are names that are very familiar to most of us. Amazon, Google, Microsoft, and Apple offer a range of these services.

As I mentioned earlier, SaaS is one of the services that comes along with cloud computing. SaaS can stand for software as a service or storage as a service, both being important features. Software as a service is a software delivery process that provides access to software and its functions as a Web – based service. This allows for access to programs at a lower cost rather than paying for licensed applications. Another perk is that because the software is hosted remotely, there is no need to invest in additional hardware. (webopedia.com, n.d.)

Storage as a service is a term used to describe when a large company rents space in their storage infrastructure to a smaller company or individual. (Rouse, 2009) An example of this is Apple's iCloud where you can easily back up the data on any of your devices wirelessly and access it from anywhere on the web. The advantages of storage as a service are cutting costs, reducing personnel, hardware, and physical storage space.

While these services are extremely beneficial, the greatest benefit of cloud computing is how it improves the business world, especially how it can help launch completely new businesses with little to no up – front money. “And when cloud computing helps launch businesses focused on improving the greater social good – cloud computing can help change the world.” (Vanachek, 2012) One company called MobileWorks has created a mobile web application that allows low income users in seven countries around the world perform simple data entry jobs, web research, content creation and more on a project basis to add-on to their income. Whether you access it

from your phone, tablet, or computers at Internet Cafes, you have the opportunity to be a part of a cyber work force.

Like everything else in existence, cloud computing has its advantages and disadvantages. To summarize the advantages, we know that cloud computing is cost efficient, can provide almost unlimited storage, back up and recovery of data is easy, software integration occurs automatically, you have easy access to information, and most importantly it offers quick and easy functionality. In spite of many benefits, cloud computing unfortunately comes with a lot of disadvantages as well. One main con is technical issues. Although you can access your cloud anytime and anywhere, the system can sometimes malfunction. Just like we have electrical outages, this technology is also prone to outages and other technical issues. Without a very good Internet connection, you will not be able to be logged onto the server at all times. Connection problems are something we all dread and try our best to avoid. The other major issue is security. "Before adopting this technology, you should know that you will be surrendering all your company's sensitive information to a third – party cloud service provider." (Viswanathan, 2012) This could obviously put your company at a huge risk. Choosing the most reliable provider is key. Lastly, storing information on a cloud could put your company at risk for being hacked. As we all know, nothing on the Internet is completely safe, therefore taking the necessary precautions is very important. *How? recommendation/solution?*

Cloud computing is growing and evolving like never before, as companies big and small, and individuals all around the world are adapting to the new technology. It has provided change and help to social, economic, and environmental problems globally. Next time you decide to use your Gmail account, or Google Maps, or do a little shopping

on Amazon, allow yourself to venture into the cloud and take into consideration all the benefits that come with cloud computing and make sure to keep an eye out for the disadvantages and risks that come with it as well.

References

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