

Definitions of Cloud Computing terms

Cloud Computing

Cloud Computing is a style of computing where scalable and elastic information and communications technology related capabilities are provided "as a service" to customers using Internet technologies.

The concept of Cloud Computing builds on general outsourcing and hosting models in which a third party operates an information and communications technology environment on behalf of a customer. The Cloud is characterised by a number of key attributes that differentiate it from what is delivered by traditional external hosted service providers. Cloud Computing services are service-based, elastically scalable, use shared resources, can be metered by use, and use Internet technologies. Moreover, Cloud Computing is not simply about an external party providing some sort of hosting service, it also represents a style of computing that is applied to the creation, deployment, access and management of information technology infrastructure and services.

Types of Cloud Computing

There are four (4) Cloud delivery models which relate to who provides the Cloud services. The Shire may employ one model or a combination of different models in delivery of information systems and business services.

Cloud Type	Description
Private or internal Cloud	Cloud services are provided solely for an organisation and are managed by the organisation or a third party.
Community Cloud	Cloud services are shared by several organisations and support a specific community that has shared concerns (e.g. shared mission, shared security requirements, policy, and compliance considerations).
Public Cloud	Cloud services are available to the public and owned by an organisation selling Cloud services, for example, Amazon and Microsoft's Azure platform.
Hybrid Cloud	An integrated Cloud services arrangement that includes a Cloud model and something else (another Cloud model, Shire's 'back-end' systems, etc.), e.g. data stored in private Cloud or Shire database is manipulated by a program running in the public Cloud.

Cloud Services

The three Cloud service offerings, or layers, as generally accepted are:

Cloud Services	Description
Software as a Service (SaaS)	Offers renting application functionality from a service provider rather than buying, installing and running software yourself. Examples include Salesforce.com, Gmail, OneCouncil and Microsoft Azure.
Platform as a Service (PaaS)	Provides a platform in the Cloud, upon which applications can be developed and executed. Examples include Salesforce.com, through Force.com.

Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)	Vendors offer computing power and storage space on demand. Examples include Amazon Web Services.
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Other Terms

Term	Description
Data Sovereignty	Data sovereignty is the concept that electronic data is subject to the laws of the country in which it is physically located.
Hosting	Hosted services are technology services offered by a provider that hosts the physical servers running that information technology service somewhere else. Access to the service is usually provided through a direct network connection that may or may not run via the Internet.
IS	The Shire's Information Systems.
ICT	Information and Communication Technology.
On-Premise	The installation of ICT and IS physically located in the Shire's Data Centre at 6 Paterson Street, Mundijong, WA 6123.