Defining a framework for cloud adoption

How common ground can help enterprises drive success with cloud computing

Elastic scaling, faster service provisioning, greater IT efficiencies and usage-based accounting are driving business interest in cloud computing. To help business and IT executives and service providers work together to develop a successful cloud adoption strategy, IBM has developed a framework for cloud computing adoption. Based on National Institute of Standards and Technology guidelines, the framework defines cloud computing services and delivery models and illustrates key capabilities required for success.

Bringing clarity to cloud computing

As interest in cloud computing gains momentum, confusion about what cloud computing comprises is increasing. IT leaders may see cloud as a way to reduce infrastructure costs, while business executives see a fast way to acquire new capabilities. Some providers use cloud computing to offer compute or storage capacity as a service, while others equate cloud with software as a service.

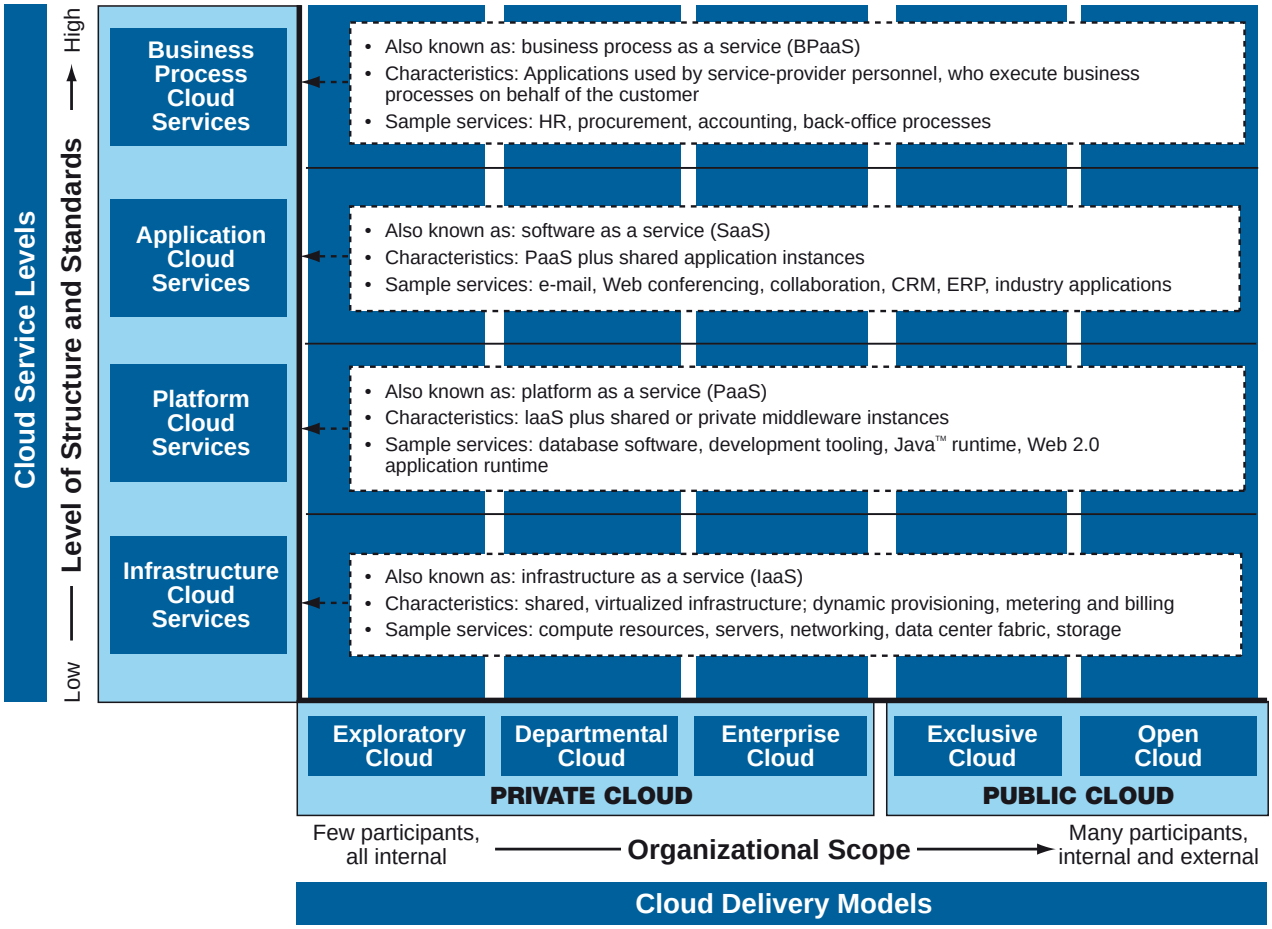
By defining the components of cloud computing across two intersecting dimensions—delivery model and service type—the cloud computing adoption framework from IBM offers a common vocabulary and reference model that reveals available implementation options and their requirements. Organizations can then select the options that best fit each workload they want to deploy in a cloud environment.

Cloud delivery models and service types

The framework defines two primary cloud delivery models—private and public—and subtypes within each (see graphic), which allows for a more targeted discussion of roles and responsibilities for both the provider and the consumer of cloud services. The four service types defined in the framework (see graphic) are layered to represent increasing levels of complexity, with each type building on the structure and standards of the one below it. For example, the metering and billing that enables usage-based charging for infrastructure services must be retooled to meter application services. Success also depends on the consumers of cloud services meeting competency requirements defined by the framework.

Understanding the challenges

With this information, organizations can identify barriers to implementation, such as capability gaps in service management, integration or governance. For example, in an enterprise cloud, users must be able to share both investment costs and usage. In a public cloud, providers must be able to meet service level guarantees.



The cloud computing adoption framework is available for use by any organization. IBM consultants can also use the framework in combination with other IBM intellectual capital to help clients establish a comprehensive roadmap to cloud adoption.

For more information

To learn more about the cloud computing adoption framework or get a copy of the full white paper, please contact your IBM representative or visit the following Web site: **ibm.com**/cloud

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