School of Computing Science and Engineering

Course Code: BCSE4067

NIST CLOUD COMPUTING REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE



The Conceptual Reference Model

- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- NIST cloud computing reference architecture, which identifies the major actors, their activities and functions in cloud computing.
- NIST cloud computing reference architecture defines five major actors:
 - cloud consumer
 - cloud provider
 - cloud carrier
 - cloud auditor
 - cloud broker.

Each actor is an entity (a person or an organization) that participates in a transaction or process and/or performs tasks in cloud computing

Cloud Consumer

> Cloud Auditor

Security Audit

Privacy Impact Audit

Performance Audit



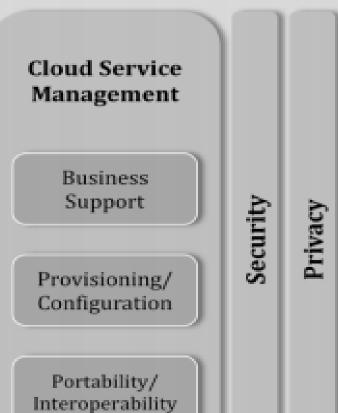
Resource Abstraction and Control Layer

Physical Resource Layer

IaaS

Hardware

Facility



Cloud Broker

Service Intermediation

Service Aggregation

Service Arbitrage

Cloud Carrier

the interactions among the actors

Actor	Definition
Cloud Consumer	A person or organization that maintains a business relationship with, and uses service from, Cloud Providers.
Cloud Provider	A person, organization, or entity responsible for making a service available to interested parties.
Cloud Auditor	A party that can conduct independent assessment of cloud services, information system operations, performance and security of the cloud implementation.
Cloud Broker	An entity that manages the use, performance and delivery of cloud services, and negotiates relationships between <i>Cloud Providers</i> and <i>Cloud Consumers</i> .
Cloud Carrier	An intermediary that provides connectivity and transport of cloud services from Cloud Providers to Cloud Consumers.

Usage SCENARIO 1

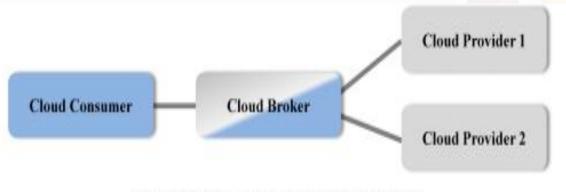


Figure 3: Usage Scenario for Cloud Brokers

Usage SCENARIO 2



Usage SCENARIO 1

A cloud consumer may request service from a cloud broker instead of contacting a cloud provider directly.

The cloud broker may create a new service by combining multiple services or by enhancing an existing service.

The actual cloud providers are invisible to the cloud consumer and the cloud consumer interacts directly with the cloud broker.

Usage SCENARIO 2

- Cloud carriers provide the connectivity and transport of cloud services from cloud providers to cloud consumers.
- A cloud provider participates in and arranges for two unique service level agreements (SLAs), one with a cloud carrier (e.g. SLA2) and one with a cloud consumer (e.g. SLA1).
- A cloud provider arranges service level agreements (SLAs) with a cloud carrier and may request dedicated
 and encrypted connections to ensure the cloud services are consumed at a consistent level according
 to the contractual obligations with the cloud consumers.
- In this case, the provider may specify its requirements on capability, flexibility and functionality in SLA2 in order to provide essential requirements in SLA1.

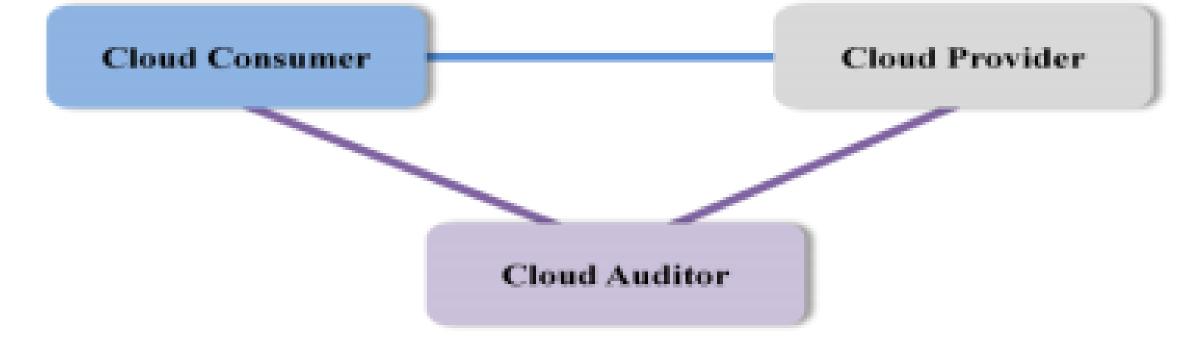


Figure 5: Usage Scenario for Cloud Auditors

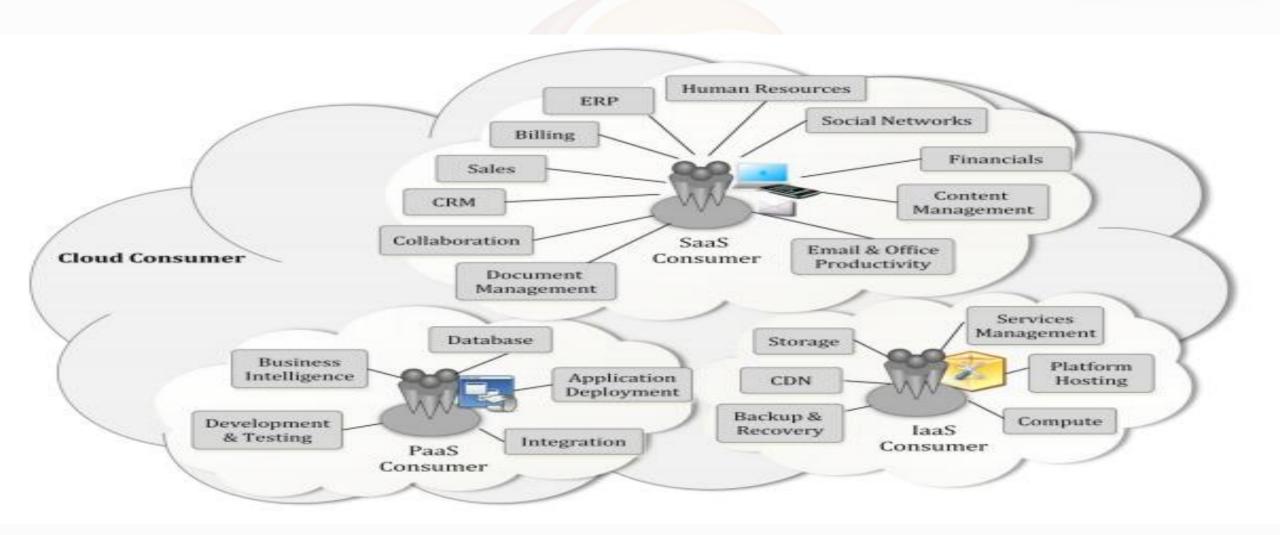
Usage SCENARIO 3:

For a cloud service, a cloud auditor conducts independent assessments of the operation and security of the cloud service implementation. The audit may involve interactions with both the Cloud Consumer and the Cloud Provider.

Cloud Consumer

- The cloud consumer is the <u>principal stakeholder</u> for the cloud computing service.
- A cloud consumer represents a person or organization that maintains a business relationship with, and uses the service from a cloud provider.
- A cloud consumer browses the service catalog from a cloud provider, requests the appropriate service, sets up service contracts with the cloud provider, and uses the service.
- The cloud consumer may be billed for the service provisioned, and needs to arrange payments accordingly.
- Cloud consumers need SLAs to specify the technical performance requirements fulfilled by a cloud provider.
- SLAs can cover terms regarding the quality of service, security, remedies for performance failures.
- A cloud provider may also list in the SLAs a set of promises explicitly not made to consumers, i.e. limitations, and obligations that cloud consumers must accept.
- A cloud consumer can freely choose a cloud provider with better pricing and more favorable terms. Typically a cloud provider"s pricing policy and SLAs are non-negotiable, unless the customer expects heavy usage and might be able to negotiate for better contracts.

Services Available to a Cloud Consumer



Cloud Provider

- A cloud provider is a person, an organization; it is the entity responsible for making a service available to
- interested parties. A Cloud Provider acquires and manages the computing infrastructure required for
- providing the services, runs the cloud software that provides the services, and makes arrangement to
- deliver the cloud services to the Cloud Consumers through network access.
- For Software as a Service, the cloud provider deploys, configures, maintains and updates the operation of
- the software applications on a cloud infrastructure so that the services are provisioned at the expected
- service levels to cloud consumers.

Cloud Provider Cloud Provider Cloud Services Service Service Security Privacy Deployment Orchestration Management Figure 7: Cloud Provider - Major Activities

Cloud Auditor

- A cloud auditor is a party that can perform an independent examination of cloud service controls with the intent to express an opinion thereon.
- Audits are performed to verify conformance to standards through review of objective evidence.
- A cloud auditor can evaluate the services provided by a cloud provider in terms of security controls, privacy impact, performance, etc.
- Auditing is especially important for federal agencies as "agencies should include a contractual clause enabling third parties to assess security controls of cloud providers"
- an auditor can be tasked with ensuring that the correct policies are applied to data retention according to relevant rules for the jurisdiction.
- The auditor may ensure that fixed content has not been modified and that the legal and business data archival requirements have been satisfied.
- A privacy impact audit can help Federal agencies comply with applicable privacy laws and regulations governing an individual"s privacy, and to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability of an individual"s personal information at every stage of development and operation.

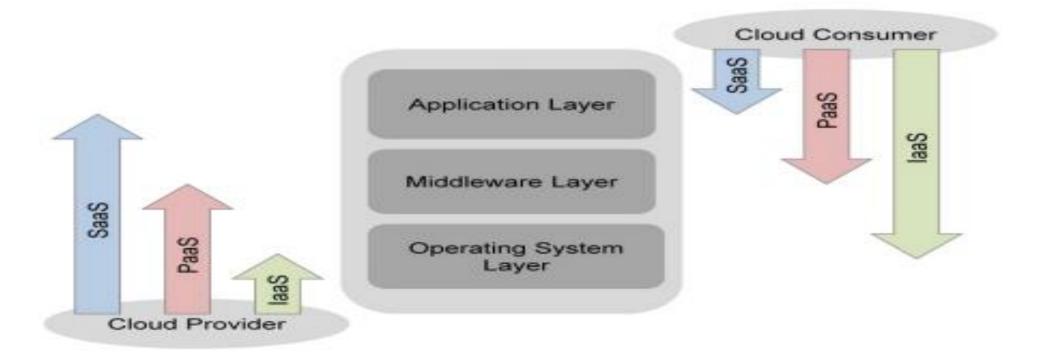
Cloud Broker

- A cloud consumer may request cloud services from a cloud broker, instead of contacting a cloud provider directly. A cloud broker is an entity that manages the use, performance and delivery of cloud services and negotiates relationships between cloud providers and cloud consumers.
- Service Intermediation: A cloud broker enhances a given service by improving some specific capability and providing value-added services to cloud consumers. The improvement can be managing access to cloud services, identity management, performance reporting, enhanced security, etc.
- Service Aggregation: A cloud broker combines and integrates multiple services into one or more new services. The broker provides data integration and ensures the secure data movement between the cloud consumer and multiple cloud providers.
- Service Arbitrage: Service arbitrage is similar to service aggregation except that the services being aggregated are not fixed. Service arbitrage means a broker has the flexibility to choose services from multiple agencies. The cloud broker, for example, can use a credit-scoring service to measure and select an agency

Cloud Carrier

- A cloud carrier acts as an intermediary that provides connectivity and transport of cloud services between cloud consumers and cloud providers.
- Cloud carriers provide access to consumers through network, telecommunication and other access devices.
- The distribution of cloud services is normally provided by network and telecommunication carriers or a transport agent, where a transport agent refers to a business organization that provides physical transport of storage media such as high-capacity hard drives.
- Note that a cloud provider will set up SLAs with a cloud carrier to provide services consistent with the level of SLAs offered to cloud consumers, and may require the cloud carrier to provide dedicated and secure connections between cloud consumers and cloud providers.

Scope of Control between Provider and Consumer



The Cloud Provider and Cloud Consumer share the control of resources in a cloud system. The different service models affect an organization so control over the computational resources and thus what can be done in a cloud system.

- The application layer includes software applications targeted at end users or programs. The applications are used by SaaS consumers, or installed/managed/ maintained by PaaS consumers, laaS consumers, and SaaS providers. The middleware layer provides software building blocks (e.g., libraries, database, and Java virtual machine) for developing application software in the cloud.
- The middleware is used by PaaS consumers, installed/managed/maintained by laaS consumers or PaaS providers, and hidden from SaaS consumers.
- The OS layer includes operating system and drivers, and is hidden from SaaS consumers and PaaS consumers. An IaaS cloud allows one or multiple guest OS"s to run virtualized on a single physical host. Generally, consumers have broad freedom to choose which OS to be hosted among all the OS"s that could be supported by the cloud provider. The IaaS consumers should assume full responsibility for the guest OS"s, while the IaaS provider controls the host OS.

Thank You

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