

Assignment A

Introduction to Cloud Computing Services

Assigned Date: **January 12th, 2010**

Deadline: **January 21st, 2010**

Goals:

1. Getting familiar with different cloud computing services.
2. Developing an understanding of the functionality, characteristics and implementation of the basic cloud computing services.
3. Exploring the services offered by leading vendors and how these services are currently being utilized.
4. Understanding the advantages and disadvantages of these vendors in order to make informed decisions.

Assignment:

Pick one of the major categories of services provided by cloud computing: SaaS, PaaS, IaaS. Write a brief summary (no longer than half a page) explaining the functionality and main characteristics of the service. Before writing your summary, make sure to confirm the service you chose with your TA. It is important for the class benefit to keep the common choices to a minimum so that all three categories are covered by the class.

For the service that you picked, choose three vendors and confirm your choice with your TA. The TA might suggest changing your choices if they do not match the assignment's goals. Write a short (two-page) paper comparing and contrasting the services offered by the three vendors. Your comparison criteria might include but should not be limited to the following points:

- What parameters would you use to describe this service?
- Discuss the service offered by each vendor.
- Discuss how each service can be utilized by a user/company.
- What are the restrictions to using this specific service?
- What are the benefits to using this service?
- List a specific set of criteria to compare the service offered by each vendor (ex: efficiency, cost, compatibility, ease of use, etc.).

- Compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of each vendor using the above criteria.
- Explain when each vendor is a good choice and why?
- Your overall conclusion should be to make a recommendation to a potential user of this service.

Prepare a short presentation (few slides) summarizing your work: description of the service you picked, the vendors chosen, the service offered by each vendor and the comparison between those vendors. You are required to present your work to the class. Make sure that your presentation takes no longer than 5.

Deliverables

- Paper: Two-page ([ACM two-column format](#)) including a title, name, affiliation, abstract, introduction, service description, service offered by each vendor, comparison, results and conclusions. Make sure to add a list of references (papers, articles, URLs, etc...)
- Presentation: few slides that you will use to explain your work and to help initiate a class discussion on the topic.

Submission

- Make sure that your file names follow this naming convention: your paper should be named assignment1_userID_paper.doc. Your slides should be named assignment1_userID_slides.ppt.
- Copy your files to the following afs folder before the deadline:
/afs/qatar.cmu.edu/course/15/319/handin/userID

Note: Do not work in this directory, just copy your files prior to the deadline.

- The presentations will be held on the first lecture after the deadline (January 26th, 2010) of this assignment. However, you are required to submit your files by the deadline (January 21st, 2010).