What is Cloud Computing?

Cloud computing is emerging at the convergence of three major trends — service orientation, virtualization and standardization of computing through the Internet. Cloud computing enables users and developers to utilize services without knowledge of, expertise with, nor control over the technology infrastructure that supports them. The concept generally incorporates combinations of the following:

Infrastructure as a service (IaaS) Platform as a service (PaaS) Software as a service (SaaS)

Users avoid capital expenditure (CapEx) on hardware, software, and services when they pay a provider only for what they use. Consumption is billed on a utility (e.g. resources consumed, like electricity) or subscription (e.g. time based, like a newspaper) basis with little or no upfront cost.

Cloud Vendors

There are many companies who are into the market offering various ranges of services on Cloud Computing. The major players are Vmware, Sun Microsystems, Rackspace US, IBM, Amazon, Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo. Cloud services are also being adopted by individual users through large enterprises including Vmware, General Electric, and Procter & Gamble. The vendor hosts and manages the infrastructure required with the respective technology.

Cloud as a Service to Customer

The cloud computing that are evolving as a service in the cloud are being provided by big enterprises with a heavy investment with resource and technology which are accessed by others via the internet. The resources are accessed in this manner as a service – often on a subscription basis. The users of the services being offered often have very little knowledge of the technology being used. The users also have no control over the infrastructure that supports the technology they are using.

There are six different forms that have been consolidated so far to understand how the services are being provided to the customers: