

Fancy

Short Introduction - concept provides services to clients who are not willing or able to set up these services on their own. The services are usually accessed by the client remotely via the internet, so these services are also referred to as "Cloud Services".

Title

Subtitle Number One

With "Software as a Service" the clients gets a fully set up system like blog software, groupware or almost anything else - the "Software". The client does not need to worry about the underlying software and updates, authentication methods, system or hardware. The provider manages the software platform and infrastructure.

Example for SaaS: a Wordpress hoster - the client gets a Wordpress instance without having to maintain the software, updating or scaling hardware. The client gets the rights to create users, blogs, blog posts, etc. in the software itself as the admin of the Wordpress instance. Another example is Google Drive.

2nd Subtitle

"Platform as a Service" provides clients a defined environment - the "Platform" - to build their own applications with. The client does not need to maintain the underlying hardware or virtual environment. The client just brings program logic and manages the configuration and deployment. The platform provider takes care of the rest like providing enough resources for scaling of the platform and so on.

Example for PaaS: Google's App Engine.

Last Subtitle

With "Infrastructure as a Service" the clients get their hands on the machines themselves: servers, storage, networks - the underlying "Infrastructure". Clients have to maintain and update the machines themselves, including the operating system configuration and patches. Usually IaaS providers use virtual environments based on huge data centers, making it easy to quickly set up hundreds or thousands of new virtual instances with huge storage and a complex network. The costs depend. Some elements to number things:

