Cloud Computing
Chapter 4
Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)
Learning Objectives

• Define and describe IaaS and identify IaaS solution providers.
• Define and describe colocation.
• Define and describe system and storage redundancy.
• Define and describe cloud-based network-attached storage (NAS) devices and identify solution providers.
• Define and describe load balancing and identify cloud-based solution providers.
• Describe the pros and cons of IaaS solutions.
IaaS Defined

• An IaaS provider makes all of the computing hardware resources available, and the customers, in turn, are responsible for installing and managing the systems, which they can normally do, for the most part, over the Internet.
What Data Centers Must Provide

- Access to high-speed and redundant Internet service
- Sufficient air conditioning to eliminate the heat generated by servers and disk storage devices
- Conditioned power with the potential for uninterrupted power supply in the short term and long term through the use of on-site diesel powered generators
- Fire suppression systems
- Administrative staffing to support hardware, networks, and operating systems
Bottom Line: Data Centers are Expensive
Colocated Data Centers

• To reduce the risk of a single point of failure, companies often create a duplicate data center at a remote location.

• Should one of the data centers fail, the other can immediately take over operations.

• Unfortunately, the second data center will increase the company’s costs—essentially doubling them—because there are duplicate servers, storage devices, network equipment, Internet access, and staffing.
Colocated Data Center
What Colocated Systems Accomplish

- Makes the company less susceptible to fire, acts of God, and terrorism
- Improves performance through a distributed workload
- Makes the company less susceptible to downtime due to power loss from a blackout or brownout
Role of a PaaS

- PaaS solutions allow smaller companies to eliminate the need for their own on-site data center.
IaaS Solutions May Support Many Different Companies
Across the web, sites experience a wide range of network traffic requirements. Sites such as Google, Yahoo!, Amazon, and Microsoft experience millions of user hits per day. To handle such web requests, the sites use a technique known as load balancing, to share the requests across multiple servers.
Load balancing uses a server to route traffic to multiple servers which, in turn, share the workload.
Load Balancing and Replicated Databases

- Load balanced systems, for data redundancy, often replicate databases on multiple servers.
- Each database, in turn, will send data updates to the other to maintain data synchronization between the servers.
Cloud-Based Data Replication

- Using cloud-based NAS devices and cloud-based databases, companies can replicate key data within the cloud.

NAS: network-attached storage
Real World: Rackspace IaaS

- Rackspace has emerged as one of the largest players in the IaaS market.
- Rackspace offers a set of solutions that include cloud hosting, managed hosting (including 24/7 data-center like management), and hybrid solutions that combine the cloud and managed services.
- Within minutes, from the Rackspace website an administrator can select a solution that deploys from 1 to 50 servers. Larger configurations are available.
Today Rackspace offers cloud-based solutions to hundreds of thousands of clients. Rackspace houses its data centers at very large facilities located around the world.

With respect to the cloud, Rackspace offers pay as you go scalability, with on-demand storage and load balancing.

Beyond cloud hosting, Rackspace provides solutions for cloud-based e-mail, Exchange hosting, file sharing, backups, and collaboration.
Satisfy your users with highly available and dependable SaaS hosting

Maintain uptime

With Cloud Servers, you can grow your infrastructure as your needs grow. And pay only for what you use. Plus, we can manage it for you, so you don't have to add staff.
Network Attached Storage (NAS)

- Cloud-based NAS devices present cloud-based storage as **mountable devices**, which may be replicated in the cloud to meet a company’s data redundancy needs.
Network-Attached Storage (NAS)
NAS

- Scalability: good
- Availability: as long as the LAN and NAS device work, generally good
- Performance: limited by speed of LAN, traffic conflicts, inefficient protocol
- Management: OK
- Connection: homogeneous vs. heterogeneous
Real World: Nirvanix IaaS

- The Nirvanix IaaS provides cloud-based NAS, which is accessible through the CloudNAS file system.
Product Manager

JOB SUMMARY

The Product Manager is expected to define and work closely with R&D to bring to market new differentiated products and services that deliver on the Nirvanix strategic roadmap. Based on a full understanding of the cloud storage market, customer needs, and competitive products. The goal is profitable and rapid market share gain in key application areas that are heavily dependent on cloud storage.

Key responsibilities include: Product and service definition; product and service packaging, structure, and pricing; target markets; definition and requirements; time-to-market vs. functionality trade-off; resolution in the product and service development process; 3rd party, partner prioritization; customer commitment requests; marketing content for customer and field collateral; product and service evangelizing at public events and with customers; customer and market research.

The position will report to the Engineering and Operations VP.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- Product performance in the market
- Revenue growth and margin contribution, market share gains
- NPD development and accuracy
- Manage the platform roadmap
- On schedule product releases
- Differentiation functionality delivered vs. competition
- Field Enablement & responsiveness to field escalations
- Internal & External Partner roadmap inputs
Advantages of IaaS

• Elimination of an expensive and staff-intensive data center
• Ease of hardware scalability
• Reduced hardware cost
• On-demand, pay as you go scalability
• Reduction of IT staff
• Suitability for ad hoc test environments
• Allows complete system administration and management
IaaS Server Types

- **Physical server**: Actual hardware is allocated for the customer’s dedicated use.
- **Dedicated virtual server**: The customer is allocated a virtual server, which runs on a physical server that may or may not have other virtual servers.
- **Shared virtual server**: The customer can access a virtual server on a device that may be shared with other customers.
Within an IaaS environment, customers can allocate various server types.
### Key Terms

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<th>CloudNAS</th>
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<td>Colocation</td>
<td>Network File System (NFS)</td>
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<td>Common Internet File System (CIFS)</td>
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1. Define and describe IaaS.

2. Define and describe system redundancy. Discuss how you might use IaaS to implement a redundancy plan.

3. Define and describe load balancing. Discuss how you might use IaaS to implement load balancing.
4. Define and describe NAS. Assume you must implement a shared file system within the cloud. What company would you select? Why? What costs should your client expect to pay for cloud-based data on a gigabyte (GB) basis?

5. Define and describe colocation. Discuss how you might use IaaS to implement colocation.

6. Compare and contrast a cloud-based disk storage device (with a file system) with a cloud based database.
7. Compare and contrast physical, dedicated virtual, and shared virtual servers. Search the web for companies that provide each. What cost should a customer expect to pay for each?