

### 1. What is Cloud Computing?

Cloud Computing is a new infrastructure in which computing resources are provided as a utility to cloud users in the pay-as-you-go manner. By integrating techniques such as Service Oriented Architecture (SOA), virtualization, distributed computing and etc, cloud computing offers elastic, on-demand and measured services to cloud users anytime anywhere whenever Internet is available.

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### 2. What is Cloud Computing?

The services provided by the cloud can be at different levels of the system stack, which can be described by the terminology of "X as a service (XaaS)" where X could be Software, Infrastructure, Hardware, Platform and etc. For example, Amazon EC2 provide Infrastructure as a service and allow cloud users to manage virtual machine instances and control almost the entire software stack above the OS kernel;

### 3. What is Cloud Computing?

Although the benefits of cloud computing are obvious, it is not trivial to provide a concrete definition for cloud computing due to its intrinsic complexity. To the date when this book is written, there is no standardized definition of the term cloud computing except several attempts by leading institutions and standard organizations.

### 4. What is Cloud Computing?

A research group from the University of California at Berkeley defines cloud computing as below: Cloud Computing refers to both the applications delivered as services over the Internet and the hardware and systems software in the datacenters that provide those services. The services themselves have long been referred to as Software as a Service (SaaS). The datacenter hardware and software is what we will call a Cloud.